THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July/August 2014 Volume XVII, Issue VI

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

Calendar of Events

July 2       Wednesday
50th Anniversary – Civil Rights Act signed into law.

July 3       Thursday
7 pm        Workshop performance by the Royalston Shakespeare Company of Much Ado about Nothing at town hall. Produced by the Friends of the Library. All welcome.

6:30 - 8:30 pm  Library closed

July 4       Friday    Independence Day

July 7       Monday
10 am        Pre-school Summer Reading program begins at the library with Bubbles Galore. Programs continue Monday mornings throughout July.

July 10      Thursday
1:30 pm      Summer Reading Program for school aged children begins with Animal Adventures at Town Hall. Continues every Thursday in July. See page 5 for details or call the library.

July 12      Saturday
7:25 a.m.    Full Buck Moon

July 13      Sunday
3 pm         Ladies’ Benevolent Society family potluck on Packard Pond. Eat around 5:30 pm. All welcome. Call 249-0358 for directions.

July 18      Friday
7 pm         Historical Society Summer Meeting at the museum, Old School House #1. All welcome. Desserts served.

7:30        Night sky program using the library’s new telescope with expertise from the Massachusetts Aldrich Astronomical Society. Meet behind the library. Free.

July 20      Sunday
11 am        MusicFest! in Bullock Park. For more information please call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

July 21      Monday
4:30 pm      Library Book Group meets. All welcome.

July 22      Tuesday
2:16 p.m.    Full Buck Moon

July 29 - August 1  Help Restore the Grand Drape. Volunteers to assist the conservation team and give carpentry help to remove and install the painted curtain in Town Hall needed. If interested, please contact Gary Winitzer at 249-8957 or the Selectmen’s office at 249-9641.

July 27       Wednesday
Idul Fitri, Ramadan ends

July 30       Wednesday
predawn       Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower. Watch the southeastern skies for shooting stars at a rate of 1 or 2 every five minutes

July 31       Thursday
6:15 pm       Ice cream social and Little Red Wagon Touring Theatre Group Show at Town Hall. After an ice cream, enjoy The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County & Other Twain Tales by the University of New Hampshire’s Little Red Wagon Touring Theatre Group. Noah Dawson of town is one of the performers. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

August 3      Sunday
2 pm         Exploring Mushroom and Lichen Dyes for Silk with Alissa Allen at Town Hall. Cost: $15 – One silk scarf included, additional scarves available for $3-10 with 4 mycopigment colors to choose from. Contact the library to register.

August 9      Saturday
“8:30 a.m.    On the Common Yard Sale (Set up for the participants will begin at 6:30 a.m). Space costs $5.00 for 8ft. x 10ft. Send a check to 250th Committee per required spaces needed: P. O. Box 29 Royalston, Mass. 01368.

August 10     Sunday
2:09 p.m.     Full Sturgeon Moon, closest moon of 2014

August 11     Monday
The Perseid Meteor Shower begins in the early morning hours today and continues through Wednesday. Look to southern skies.

August 25     Monday
10:13 a.m.    New Harvest Moon

August 26     Tuesday
Woman’s Equality Day

Save the date:
September 6     Saturday
Plant an extra row for the local foods supper coming in mid Sept. If you’d like to donate or prepare local food, call Beth 9-0358.

Outdoor movie coming to Royalston in September: The newly restored and remastered PBS film, “THE NAVIGATORS: Pathfinders of the Pacific” will be shown on the Common. The filmmakers, film director/cinematographer Boyd Estus and anthropologist/producer/writer Sam Low, will be present to answer questions.
Select Board Notes

Christine Long, Member

Animal Control: The towns of Royalston, Orange and, perhaps, Petersham will soon be entering into an intermunicipal agreement with the town of Athol, to create the North Quabbin Regional Animal Control Program. The Athol Animal Control Officer, Jennifer Arsenault of Royalston, will become the regional ACO.

Expanded coverage will be available because of this agreement, as well as access to a more complete animal shelter. For now, however, residents needing animal control should call Royalston police dispatch at 978-249-4211. If possible, please call only in emergencies, not for nuisance issues. When the regional agreement goes into effect, the Select Board will publish details via the town website and other media.

Kinder-Morgan Pipeline: The board has been in contact with Kinder-Morgan, who asked us to schedule an information session about the proposed pipeline. By press time, however, the company had failed to confirm a date. Again, we will keep you posted via the website.

Stretch Code Article did not Pass at the Reconvened Annual Town Meeting

There were 132 people in attendance; the final vote was 56-69, defeating Royalston’s bid to become a Green Community.

Also, along with other articles, a motion correcting mathematical errors in the budget from the annual town meeting was corrected and approved. The amount of money to be raised and appropriated for town services was increased for the next fiscal year.

Royalston Energy Committee

The Royalston Energy Committee is grateful to all who worked on the Stretch Code campaign to help Royalston become a Green Community. In particular, we want to thank some of the young (under 20 - politically involved) Royalstonians who helped us to get the word out on this important issue: Caleb Chase designed our road sign/campaign logo, working under a tight deadline as he was preparing for a trip to Scotland! Marnie Anair and Owen MacPhee woke up early to give up their Saturday morning (!) to help with outreach and awareness at the dump. Grady MacPhee gave us two of his precious Saturdays to help with our informational outreach at the dump.

On behalf of the Energy Committee, I want to thank all those citizens who were willing to patiently listen and respectfully consider this issue. I know that people have better things to do on a Saturday morning than to listen to me talk about Stretch Code and Green Communities. For my part, I learned a great deal about my neighbors and their concerns. It was a great opportunity to make new acquaintances and re-acquaint with old friends.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim MacPhee, Royalston Energy Committee member

Cultural Council News

Royalston MusicFest - Sunday, July 20th, 11-5 pm

Get set for this year’s MusicFest, to be held on Sunday, July 20th beginning at 11 am (note change of time) at Bullock Field behind the Historical Museum/Post Office. The Royalston Cultural Council’s most popular annual event begins with the Millers River All Stars; Melanie and the Blue Shots; Nobody’s Fat; Linq; Sandra Bruso; and Crawdade, followed by headliner Northern Company at 4 pm.

Yummy food from the Fire Dept. grill; ice cream and fried dough from the 250th Committee; watermelon and collectible MusicFest t-shirts from the Cultural Council; games, balloons and face painting for the kids; raffles; and dancing for all complete the fun to be had. Did we mention there will also be a fortune teller?

This event is free and in case of rain will be held at the Town Hall. We will provide some canopies and you are welcome to bring your own, along with your chairs and blankets.

Table space is available for $10.00 (non-profits free) - bring your own table.

The Royalston Cultural Council is pleased to once again be bringing this wonderful event to you! For more information, please call Deb Nunes at 978-249-4000.

Dept. of Public Works

Supt. Keith R. Newton

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation Bridge Inspection Team found conditions of deterioration to a lateral culvert structure just North of Putney Mill on North Fitzwilliam Road. The plan is to secure a temporary bridge deck to place over that culvert area. When in place, the scheduled bridge replacement located further south before the Mill will continue.

After this bridge is completed, the culvert will be worked on. The funding is anticipated to come from the same project allotment. All this leads to road closures and many disruptions for residents and in particular the daily work schedules of Putney Mill.

All measures for public safety have been carefully thought through and plans put in place to continue services to those affected. The Royalston Dept. of Public Works request full cooperation through this process and would remind those traveling in this area to use caution and demonstrate good judgement while these roadblocks and detours are in place.

North East Fitzwilliam Road is now our detour route around this project. A reminder to all those using this roadway that people walking dogs, riding horses and driving the other direction need to share this street with you. Please drive with care and remember “line of sight” is very challenging in this location.

Thank you for your full cooperation.
250th Celebration Committee

Summer Events

Geoff Newton, chair

July 10 at 7 pm in Town Hall The next meeting of the 250th Celebration Committee. All are welcome to join in.

July 20th Musicfest at Bullock Park The committee will be selling ice cream and fried dough. This is a great community outing of music and fun. Let’s make it the best show ever. Next year (the 250th celebration) it should be “A GRAND BONANZA” of entertainment to remember........

August 9 The “ON THE COMMON YARD SALE”. Set up for the participants will begin at 6:30 a.m. and will be open to the public at 8:30 a.m. I would like to see the common jam packed with as many vendors as possible to beat a record of past years. (No numbers were recorded, but there was room left). Space will cost $5.00 and that space will be 8ft. x 10ft. Send a check to 250th Committee in the amount of $5.00 per required space: P.O. Box 29 Royalston, Mass. 01368.

September 6 Local Foods Supper. We again will appreciate the many neighbors that produce, cook, and attend this great meal. The varieties of vegetables and meat dishes are overwhelming and absolutely delicious. Please make a valiant effort to attend. If you would like to cook or contribute produce, please contact Beth Gospodarek 978-249-0358.

Lastly, in September, we will be set up at Royalston Fish and Game Club for its second annual “Fall Frenzy”. This is a great fund raising event to sponsor youths to a Massachusetts Conservation Camp. All of the residents of Royalston, please show support to community groups to help them achieve their goals.

School Committee News in the Athol-Royalston Regional Schools

Mary C. Barclay

A new Face Book page entitled, “Celebrating Schools in Athol and Royalston School District” is up and running, with well over 300 “likes,” hundreds of pictures of students, teachers and parents from year-end activities, and lots of positive comments.

A lot of good goes on every day in our schools, even in times of major change, but it is undeniable the fall will bring many adjustments at RCS. Royalston’s former principal, Mike Leander, has accepted a position in another school district. Jan Williams will not be coming to Royalston as planned. In the fall, there will be a wave of unfamiliar teachers flowing to RCS and some trusted favorites ebbing from RCS.

Residents who feel strongly about having a voice in building a more stable future for the Royalston Community School need to collaborate with community groups, the school committee and school officials to create and then act upon a unified vision.

Royalston Emergency Management News

EMD Jim Barclay – ema@Royalston-ma.gov – 978-249-2904

CodeRED is a system for authorized Town officials to disseminate emergency, hazardous or urgent information on situations affecting the safety, health, welfare or property of residents. If you did NOT receive a call about the North Fitzwilliam Road closure or the test in May, you are NOT in the data base! If you wish to register your home phone, cell phone, e-mail accounts or VoIP lines for CodeRED alerts (in voice and/or text) or if you would like an informational brochure, please contact the Royalston Emergency Management Agency at 978-249-2904 or ema@Royalston-ma.gov.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

The Board of Health is in the process of registering the lower area of the transfer station as a compost area. Once this is done, we will discuss taking in leaf and yard waste and possibly brush up to 12 inches in diameter. We have to examine the cost and need prior to allowing access. In the meantime, the area is closed off.

Someone has dumped several loads of broken chimney block and tile. Anyone take down a chimney lately? We now have to deal with this material in some manner. Stay tuned for further developments concerning this area.

New windshield stickers are due by July 1st. Please see transfer station attendant to purchase yours. First vehicle is $15 and subsequent same family vehicles are $5. This fee helps keep recycling free.

A new syringe take-back kiosk is available in the front entry of the town hall. Please do not put loose syringes in the kiosk. Red box containers are available on top of town mailboxes adjacent to kiosk. If red box isn’t available, it is ok to put a syringe in a coffee can or plastic jug with screw top and tape shut. Also, a Med take-back kiosk will be available at the police department as soon as registered with the DEA.

Opposition to the proposed pipeline continues. Pat Worth recently spoke against this proposed project on Channel 4 News. Photo: Rene Lake
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

Donations to the Friends
Pat Worth and Michael Young

Thank you!
Tom Musco for an entertaining and informative program on Japanese Woodblock Prints and to ‘his assistant.’ Deb D’Amico.

Maureen Blasco, Beth Gospodarek, and Patti Stanko for the delicious baked goods for the program.
Allison Bergquist for her help preparing books for circulation.

Summer Events at your Library

Library Book Group meets at 4:30 the 3rd Monday of most months, (the fourth if it’s a holiday). All welcome for cozy literary chat and a cuppa with a couple of cookies. On July 21, the book group will discuss Jesus Land, a memoir by Julia Scheeres.

Exploring Mushroom and Lichen Dyes
dye some amazing silk scarves using fungus-based dyes
with Alissa Allen
When: Sunday, August 3rd 2 - 4 pm
Where: Town Hall
Cost: $15 – One silk scarf included, additional scarves available for $3-10

Many wild mushrooms and lichens contain permanent, intensely colored dyes. Join us for a hands on mushroom and lichen dye workshop taught by Alissa Allen of mycopigments.com. In this 2-hour class, you will learn about two commonly found dye mushrooms, one that makes green or yellow dye, and another that makes sienna dye. We will also use a lichen that makes an incredible magenta dye. Ecological niches, habitats, and how to ethically harvest will be discussed. Learn the simple steps to extract dyes, and how to use household items to create beautiful and unique shibori inspired patterns. Cost includes all supplies and a choice of either one 8”x54” silk chiffon scarf; two 6”x16” child sized scarves or two 12”x12” solid silk hankies. Additional silk scarves will be available for purchase ($3-10).

Astronomy Program
John Root and Jim Zebrowski, of the Aldrich Astronomical Society, will be on hand to introduce participants to the new telescope at the library. They will present the basics of backyard astronomy beginning with a guide to the night sky above on Friday, July 18, at 7:00 p.m. Jim Zebrowski, the president of the Society, will discuss the Aldrich Adopt-a-Library telescope program. This family program will take place in and outside the library. In case of bad weather the program will be held inside with instructions on how to use the telescope and a power point presentation of the night sky. Library card holders over 18 and in good standing will be able to borrow the telescope beginning in August.
@ The Phinehas S. Newton Library

Fizz, Read, Boom! Summer Programs – For All Ages – 1:30p.m. @ the Library, July 31st – 6:15 p.m.

July 10th - Animal Adventures of Bolton, MA will be bringing an assortment of exotic animals, from an alligator to giant snakes to pink skunks for a fun and educational program. In case of rain or cold weather this program will be held at the Town Hall.

July 17th – Birch Hill Dam Tour: We will be traveling to Birch Hill Dam (or you can join us there) to meet up with Army Corps of Engineers ranger Bill Mehr. He will be showing us around the facility and telling us about the dam, its purpose, and its history.

July 24th – Kaleidoscopes: Kathy Morris will lead a kaleidoscope making workshop. Each participant will see how a few mirrors can be used to make an endless supply of unique designs.

July 31st - 6:30 p.m., Town Hall – Ice Cream Sundaes and Theatre Performance: – Enjoy ice cream sundaes before the UNH Little Red Wagon. Touring Theatre performance of Jumping Frog of Calaveras County & Other Twain Tales.

Fizz, Read, Boom! Preschool Programs – Mondays in July at 10:00a.m. @ the Library

July 7th – Bubbles Galore: Make giant bubbles with Paula Pralinsky!

July 14th – Native American Stories and Music Hear Native American stories and music performed by Michael Young.

July 21st – Balloon Bonanza: Norma Butterworth will be making extraordinary creations with balloons!

July 29th – Hoppin’ Poppin’ Ice Cream: Rolling our ice cream makers around and around and cranking ice cream are only part of the fun on this last preschool summer program.

Special Family Summer Program – Night Sky of Royalston
On Friday, July 18th at 7:30 p.m. we will put our new telescope to work behind the Library. John Root, from the Aldrich Astronomical Society, will be teaching us how to use our new telescope. He will also be pointing out what we are viewing in the beautiful night sky above Royalston!

Special Adult Summer Program – Mushroom Dyed Silk Scarves
On Sunday, August 3rd at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Alissa Allen will host a mycopigment dyeing workshop tinting silk scarves. Using mushroom dyes participants will transform white silk to colorful artistic creations. Space is limited, call the Library, 978-249-3572 to register. There is a $10 program fee for supplies.

Fizz, Boom, Read! is sponsored by your local library, The Royalston Academy, the Friends of the Library, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.
Local Arts Scene

Lydia Musco and Josh Doub will be exhibiting their art work at the Petersham Art Center from June 29 - August 7. Lydia is a sculptor working with abstract forms and influenced by nature. The show will feature her paper and concrete sculptures as well as a large outdoor concrete sculpture. Josh will display his abstract landscape oil paintings. For hours, call 978-724-3415.

Melanie and The Blue Shots Summer Tour
- July 18th Barb Richardson’s mom’s party
- July 20th Royalston Music Fest
- August 2nd Philstock 40
- August 23rd Fitzwilliam Inn
- August 25th Gardner Ale House

LBS Scholarship Recipients 2014:
The Ladies Benevolent Society awards annual scholarships to residents of all genders pursuing higher education. Congratulations to: Colleen Demboske, awarded the Nancy S. Bolton Scholarship, Laniney Wright, awarded the Dorothy B. Corser Scholarship, and Eric Duffin, awarded the Patricia C. Poor Scholarship.

July Music Series at the 1794 MEETINGHOUSE in New Salem

Saturday July 12th 7:30 PM: Moonlight & Morning Star with Miro Sprague on piano – Unique interpretations of soul, gospel, jazz, blues, and more.

Sunday July 13th 4:00 PM: Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards – Alternative country, folk, and familiar traditional melodies provide foot-stomping entertainment.

Thursday July 17th 7:30 PM: Richard Chase & Friends – Well-known local singer-songwriter will involve additional talented performers and friends as guests.

Sunday July 20th 4:00 PM: Elan Sicroff – Juilliard-trained classical pianist and world-renowned interpreter of music written by Russian composer Thomas de Hartmann.

Thursday July 24th 7:30 PM: Tall Heights – the duo performs with just a cello and guitar – stunning harmonies, exquisite musicianship, and memorable songwriting.

Saturday July 26th 7:30 PM: Mitch Chakour & Friends – Rocking out the Grand Finale Performance in style with world-renowned musical director, pianist, guitarist and vocalist Mitch Chakour! Champagne reception at 6:45 PM.

More information is available at www.1794meetinghouse.org
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. Graduates (and graduates’ moms): it is not too late to give a shout out in the newsletter. Send info along by 8/22.

Recent Royalston Graduates:
Athol High School: Amber Bushee, Micheal Campos, and John Divoll


Mount Wachusett Community College: Marquita R. Day, Samantha K. Hutchins and Corey M. Baker

Owen Glen MacPhee graduated from The Chicken Coop School at Maggie’s Farm in North Orange. He is looking forward to being a part of the Royalston Shakespeare Company again this year and playing catcher, first base, and pitcher for the Athol/Orange Senior League All-Stars. Owen will be attending Deerfield Academy in the fall.

Patrick Scribner, son of John (Charlie) and Mary Ellen Scribner of Royalston, and grandson of Kathleen Krustapentus of Athol, graduated summa cum laude from Johnson and Wales University with a bachelor of science degree from the College of Culinary Arts and the Hospitality College. During his four years at JWU Patrick was able to maintain a 3.95 GPA. He was one of the first students to take labs in the new Cuisine Art Culinary Center of Excellence. During his senior year he was chosen by Marriott International for its Voyage Manager in Training program. He is now employed as assistant sous chef at the Marriott Boston Copley.

Michael Demboske recently graduated with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from UMass Lowell

Noah Dawson

Devin Bates

Eric Duffin

Owen’s Eagle Scout Project: On June 21, 2014 Troop 8 Court of Honor held at the Bullock Park Pavilion in Royalston, John Douglas Knight, 16, of Royalston, was formally recognized as an Eagle Scout by the BSA Nashua Valley Council Commissioner, Rodney Fagan. John is the 40th scout in Troop 8’s 28 year history to achieve Eagle Scout, the highest rank of the Boy Scouts of America. To become an Eagle Scout, a Life Scout must have earned 21 merit badges throughout his scouting career, served actively in a position of responsibility within the troop, and have planned, developed and given leadership to an Eagle Scout Service Project that benefits a religious institution, a school or the community. In 2013, around 7 percent of all Boy Scouts achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

Joining in 2006, John began scouting with Athol Cub Scout Pack 18. He has been a member of Boy Scout Troop 8 since 2009, held the positions of Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. He currently serves as Troop 8’s Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. He has earned 25 merit badges.

John’s Eagle Scout Service Project involved meeting with Royalston boards over several months securing permits. The Town of Royalston approved the project and financing at Town Meeting. John led a group of Scouts over multiple weekends, erecting a 20x40ft Pavilion at Bullock Park for the Town’s people to enjoy. The project involved over 300 volunteer hours.

As an incoming junior at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School, John studies house carpentry, and will participate this fall on the football team. During his freshman year at Quabbin Regional High School he played varsity football as a defensive tackle. He also participated in the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps achieving the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class.

Dean’s List at Mount Wachusett Community College: Garrett Hall and Michael Persson

Dean’s List at Fitchburg State: Dylan Bates, Noah I. Dawson, and Christine Sawyer

4th quarter academic honor rolls at RCS:
High Honors: Anthony Divoll, Ava LeBlanc, Brian Nano, Jr., Jack Sonnabend, Julianne Trenga, Mariah Valliere, Maria Bianchi, Krystal McCulley, Noah Michelson, Sadie Wright, and Haley Wrigley

Honors: Sara Gibbons, Camden Gould, Catherin Michna, Aliyah Neale, Elliot Gould, Isabella Cooke, Dominic Cassarino, Ashley Hadmack, Jayce Lajoie, John Mahony and Matthew Willhite
Recipe of the Month

Fran's creamed onions
A special Mother's Recipe
Fran Hamilton lived in Royalston until her death at home on February 21, 2011. She would make the creamed onions for the holidays. As time went on, her home became known as Camp Fran to many of us where we would gather to socialize, watch the birds, deer, and other wildlife. On occasions, the Fine family would visit, and we would rehydrate as we watched the beautiful sunset overlooking Tully or check the weather. The legacy of the famous creamed onions lives on in Royalston. We thank Fran for our special times!! Submitted by Karol and Danny Monette

3lb small white onions
6 TBS no salt butter
6 TBS flour
1 ½ cups cream
salt and pepper
¼ cup chopped parsley
1 slice white sharp cheddar cheese ¼ in. thick
3 cups bread crumbs, ¾ cup grated parmesan cheese mixed for the top
1 ½ cup water to cook the onions in

Peel onions. Boil until tender. Keep reserved water for below. Melt butter in sauce pan; add flour; whisk. Bring cream to boil. Then, add it to butter and flour mixture. Add reserved cooking water to cream, butter and flour mixture. Add salt, pepper, parsley. Put into a casserole dish. Add the mixed bread crumbs and parmesan cheese on top.
Bake at 375 degrees until it boils

Ladies Benevolent Society Family Potluck on Packard Pond 6/13
Bring a dish to share, your family and friends, and a swimsuit for the annual LBS summer picnic. Swimming, boating and LBS-style chillin begins around 3 pm. Estimated eating time around 5:30. Grill and stovetop available. No oven. All welcome. Call Beth 978-249-0358 for directions.

Royalston Historical Society
Stephen Chase, Vice President
The Society’s Summer Meeting is 7 pm on July 18 at the museum, Old School House #1. New members sought. Desserts served.

Preservation Pre-development Grant received: The Village Improvement and Historical Society of Royalston, Inc. has been awarded a pre-development grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Projects Fund. This grant will allow the society to hire consultants to help the society prepare an application for a much larger grant which will be needed to do the actual work on Schoolhouse Number One, located on the common. The awards ceremony in Boston was attended by society member Marie-Claire Humblet, who was surprised to see a projected image of our schoolhouse as the opening backdrop. She soon found out that our application was the number one application recommended for approval. This is testimony to the hard work and skill of our grant writer, Pierre Humblet, and to those who assisted in assembling this 68 page volume.

Ongoing fund raising will be needed as the Mass. grants require matching funds. A grant from the Royalston Community Preservation Fund in the amount of $17,000.00 was recommended by the C.P. Committee and approved by the townspeople at the annual town meeting. These funds, earmarked for bell tower restoration, may also be counted toward matching funds.

A web site will be up and running soon thanks to Mark Smith and his firm - inConcert, Inc. - of Gardner Mass. News, events, and images from the collection will be displayed along with an easy electronic way to pay membership dues and tax deductible donations.

Society president, Peter Kranak, has been busy cleaning, rearranging and putting together an exhibit of past Centennial Celebrations in time for the upcoming 250th Celebration of the incorporation of our town, which will take place next year. The museum will be open many Saturdays during the warm months. Please come in for a visit and support the society and its beautiful museum building.

Lions Club on-going breakfasts The next two Lions’ Club fundraising breakfasts take place Saturday, July 19 and August 16 from 7:30 – 11 a.m. at the Phillipston Center Church. Breakfasts to order are available with any style eggs, sausage, home fries, toast/French toast and beverages. The July special is a $7 Summertime Omelet filled with your choice of fresh veggies and cheese, along with home fries, toast and beverages. The August special is Creamed Chipped Beef on Texas-style toast, again with homefries and beverages. Breakfasts are $7/adults; $6/seniors; $5/under 12 – add $1 for omelets. The Phillipston-Area Lions’ Club could use more Royalston members – contact Junior Whitney at 978-249-3566.

Royalston Fish and Game
Luann Simula
If there are any local performers out there who would be willing to donate an hour or so of their time to provide entertainment at the Fall Frenzy, please contact the club at 978-249-3004, or contact any club member...
Thank you so much! We appreciate you supporting the community!!
Community School News

Their View

Noah Michelson and RCS students

Throughout this year, I have been talking an awful lot about how I see things at the school, so I decided that I would interview students from each class, asking them what they really enjoyed throughout the year; and the final article would be “Their View”.

Students as a whole told me they really enjoyed their “specials!!! (art, computers, gym and music). Many said they really enjoyed having buddies who had helped them learn how to read at an improved level from the beginning of the year. Some mentioned they loved field day because it was a new experience. Students liked morning “share” time and snacks and lunch. One said he was thrilled about getting his own desk for the first time in second grade. Another said, “math” if you can believe it; I do. I loved learning math myself.

Other favorite things were: making pasta from scratch, learning all about Tomie de Paola, studying science, reading Tuck Everlasting, and practicing new multiplication and reading strategies. (This is true. These really were answers.)

Everything about museums and special displays were popular, including the wax museum here at school and visiting museums like the Eric Carle. Other field trips and the Nature’s Classroom trip, of course, were considered great too. Students liked visits to see plays and having plays visit our school. They liked having their very own Art Show, assemblies, walkathons, and graduation.

Last, but in no way least, TEACHERS were listed as many students favorite parts of last year!

This is some of Their View. I would like to say thank you for this honor and opportunity to write and share my view with you in the newsletter. (Thank you too for the very nice words at the end of last months article, it meant a lot to me)

Monty Tech News

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

Congratulations to Royalston’s Taryn Swan, a sophomore in Monty Tech’s House Carpentry program who earned the President’s Volunteer Service Award from SkillsUSA and attended the National Conference in Kansas City, MO with 18 other talented classmates. Taryn is an industrious young lady who has given and continues to generously give many, MANY Saturday hours to MASK-9, the Massachusetts Association of Air-Scenting K-9s, a volunteer Search & Rescue organization under the direction of Royalston Police Officer Sherry A. Miner and Sergeant Roland G. Hamel.

Four Royalston students applied for freshmen seats for this coming year. Two have been accepted and will fill our two quota seats; the other two applicants are waitlisted. Now is a very good time to mention that Royalston had 22 students in last year’s class, far more than the eight quota seats to which we are entitled. Students wait listed are selected in order of intake scores to fill any unused quota seats in our 18 communities. Such a high number indicates Royalston students are not only passing math and English, but have very high attendance, are well-behaved, have decent grades and exhibit enthusiastic when interviewing for a seat.

What’s Happening at the Village School in summer?

Rise Richardson, director

Thank you to everyone who participated in Saturday Morning on Royalston Common on May 31st. It was a glorious day, and a significant contribution was made to the project for the new Village School building at Camp Caravan. Also, thank you, Royalston Cultural Council, for sponsoring Tim Ricardis’ Birds of Prey presentation. You could hear a pin drop as he brought out live owls, hawks, eagles and more.

Openings in the Village School for Fall 2014

There are openings in preschool, kindergarten and 3rd grade. Call the school at 249-3505 to apply. The first day of school is Wednesday, September 3rd.

Summer Programs for Children at the Village School

Go to www.village school ma.org to get the PDF brochure of the Summer Programs, which run from July 7 to July 25, for children from 4 to 14. Programs include Nature Arts and Play for ages 4-8, Woodworking for Kids for ages 8 and up, and the Science and Art Experience, ages 8 and up. Discounts are given to Royalston families, courtesy of Royalston Academy. Brochures are at the Post Office and the library.

Summer Music Program at the Village School

Summer instrumental music lessons will take place at the Village School from July 7th through August 22nd. Lessons are open to ALL AGES – even adults! Students may begin cello, violin and piano at age 4, recorder, guitar and ukulele at age 6, and flute at age 9. Group and private lessons are available. Flexible schedule: Just sign up for the weeks when you’re home – you won’t be charged for lessons when you’re on vacation!

Why sign up for summer lessons?

Try out a new instrument, Continue to build skills or take on new challenges; Flexible schedule; Explore music from different time periods & places! Private lessons help students to build confidence and deepen their love of music. Summer lessons are fun! For more information, and for a registration form, go to www.villageschoolma.org

Summer Ensemble Band Practice for kids

Royalston resident and ARRSD music teacher, James Mercier, is running a band program for kids one night per week for 6 weeks. Practices are held at Pleasant Street School in Athol. Program culminates in a performance. Call 978-249-4312 for more information.

RCS Poet Wins Boston College Prize

Cassidy Cochran was a first place winner in the Boston College Science Poetry contest this spring. Her poem was entitled Blue Bunting. Poets: a new Town Poet Laureate will be soon chosen to serve during Royalston’s 250th anniversary year. Watch for information in the fall.
Garden Notes

June 22, 2014

My June garden is not exactly a bed of roses (except, of course, the roses, which began blooming a week ago). Multiple plantings of carrots and beets emerge and quickly disappear (consumed by insects I have yet to discover), the first time this has occurred. It wasn’t enough that the brassicas, cucurbits, and corn were enveloped by row covers; now I am obliged to cover the carrots and beets as well. Observing a good chunk of my garden under white, spun polyester cloth is a jarring blow to my sense of aesthetics. The hot weather crops languish, awaiting, obviously, hot weather. The basil seedlings were wretched when I set them out on the ninth. Two weeks later they remain wretched. Then there is the matter of the porcupines. Once there were none, now we have a resident population. Once they satisfied themselves in the orchard, consuming apples and peaches and raspberries. Some years thereafter, they developed an appetite for corn, winter squash, and brassicas as well. This year, they’ve discovered spinach and lettuce. I used less-than-perfect (read: peppered with holes) row covers over the late broccoli and cauliflower. The flea beetles found their way in, and the seedlings were decimated. There is no guarantee they will recover.

That is the half-empty-glass view of things. From a half-full perspective, the peas are flowering, the potatoes are thriving, the garlics are approaching maturity, and the beans appear untouched by insect or beast. In spite of the inroads of the porcupines, there are plentiful quantities of spinach and lettuce. Supplemented with radishes, garlic greens, and asparagus, topped with grated cheese (Chase Hill Farm, Warwick) or ground beef (Prospect Hill Farm, Royalston), tossed with home-made dressing, the salad becomes the dominant feature of most of our meals.

At least part of the week is settling into a routine. Friday is market prep day: picking, washing, and packaging the produce and picking and arranging flower bouquets. Perennial plants travel as mulch. Spinach is pulled in early July, garlic a week or two later, and peas by month end, opening up six beds for a second crop. Beans, cucumbers, beets, summer squash, and greens will all mature before frost. The expected frost. But experience has taught me, if nothing else, to expect the unexpected. And so I will.

Larry Siegel

June 28, late breaking news: The beans have been touched aplenty (by porcupines). The glass is a bit less than half full.
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Wildlife Sightings

Bears Everywhere: Lynn Anair saw a bear on Norcross Rd.; Erin Girourd tried to keep dogs back from a bear at the same spot Jim Putney observed a bear from his school bus at the junction of Frye Hill and NE Fitzwilliam Rds.; Becky Divoll nearly collided with a bear in her drive way, James Taylor spotted one crossing Warwick Rd.; and Larry Siegel has had two bear sightings on N. Fitzwilliam Rd.; Savannah & Skyla Basso saw the bear in this photo on June 3rd. It was walking down the Doane’s Hill near the top falls entrance, and they were able to follow it all the way down to Tully Campground. It then wandered into the woods after the campground sign.

Jackie Fletcher reminds drivers, “I live on Bliss Hill Rd. and commute to work on Rt. 32. Every year at this time, there is a fox that has a litter of baby kits. These kits are so beautiful and they often play together by the side of the road. One year, my daughter actually got a picture of one and submitted it to the newsletter in a photo contest. She won an honorable mention. Last year all 3 of her babies were killed on 32 by cars. It was the most heartbreaking sight! It is baby fox season again, and I have seen the mama fox many times now along the side of the road and a couple times at night I have had one baby fox dart across the street in front of my car. I just don’t want to see another repeat of last year. Please slow down!”

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

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