Calendar of Events

September 4   Friday
No School ARRSID
6 pm       CodeRED test. see p. 6

September 5   Saturday
10 am - noon   Explore Chase Forest on September 5 with naturalist Christine Long. Meet at the forest on the west side of Rte. 68 between the center and the south village. **Walks to celebrate the beautiful nature of Royalston continue on Saturdays throughout Sept and Oct.** See p. 3.

September 7   Monday             Labor Day

September 11 - 13
5 pm       **Royalston’s 250th anniversary celebration.** See full schedule of events inserted in this newsletter to take full advantage.

September 14   Monday
Rosh Hashannah

September 15   Monday
4:30 pm       Library book discussion group. All welcome.

September 23   Wednesday
Yom Kippur
4:21 am       Autumnal Equinox

September 27   Sunday
2 pm       Award-winning electric cellist and vocalist Jami Sieber in a fundraising house concert at The Maples, 17 On The Common, to benefit the Historical Society restoration of Old School House #1. Suggested donation $20. **Contact Patience at (978) 249-6081 or Diane at (978) 249-4796 to reserve your seat.**

September 28   Sunday
Sukkot
10:52 pm       **Full Harvest Moon**

**Happy 250th Anniversary Royalston!**

September 11, 12, and 13. Fun for all. Years in the making. Don’t miss it!

50 years ago, the Bicentennial Belles, showing off their homemade frocks, and winners of Brothers of the Brush beard growing contest were among the citizens celebrating the Town’s 200th anniversary. Now it is our turn. Come out for the town’s 250th celebration this month. A full schedule of events is enclosed. These photos courtesy of the Dunham family, Rene Lake and Linda Alger. If you get any good pics of the 250th, send them along to the RCN. Soon enough, your pictures will be history too.
**Select Board Notes: Celebrate 250!**

*Christine Long, chair*

The planning has gone on for years – now it’s time to celebrate! This town has a rich history, fantastic residents, and gorgeous geography – let’s revel in our riches!

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the complete schedule of events for the weekend of Friday, September 11 through Sunday, September 13 – there’s something for everyone!

Also, you’ll find a description of walks organized by the Open Space and Recreation Committee in September through early October to some of Royalston’s outdoor gems. One is a potential addition to conservation, the 144-acre Eagle Reserve on Winchendon Rd. that Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and the town are working together to protect.

On the Common, you’ll find some of the fruits of the work of the Department of Public Works and the Common Restoration Committee, planned at least partly in anticipation of the 250th. From the DPW comes service roads that are beautiful and actually usable and, in conjunction with the Community Preservation Committee and voters, a restored cupola on town hall and a restoration of Firehouse #1. From the CRC and donors come five new benches and new trees – an American elm, a native hackberry, and a couple more to be planted this fall.

The CRC has also been instrumental in the restoration of the badly deteriorated WWII monument on the Common. That work is not complete, and the CRC must do more fundraising to arrange for a finial for the monument. Also not complete is the restoration of an historic weight box once used with a scale on the smaller circle on the east side of the Common. That work is being donated by a resident.

The Select Board wishes to thank these departments, committees and donors, as well as all the other people instrumental in making our 250th joyous – the Cultural Council, the Ladies Benevolent Society, and the local musicians, craftspeople, farmers and volunteers who are making some of the festivities possible.

Most of all, the Select Board wishes to thank Geoffrey Newton and all the members of the 250th Committee, who have been working, scheming, and planning for years to make this a memorable event.

The town owes them a debt of gratitude, one that can best be paid by coming out and reveling in the fruits of their labors.

It’s time to celebrate US – the people, the places and the history of Royalston!

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**Board of Health News**

*Phil Leger, chair*

A reminder that the transfer station will be closed Saturday, Sept.12, the day of the 250th parade and events and open Friday Sept.11, 8 am -3pm. Please plan accordingly. The RBOH has purchased with earned incentive funding from MADEP, recycling containers to capture bottles and cans during public events. They will be used at the 250th celebration weekend. There will be blue 55 gallon containers with a 4 hole top for cans and bottles set up at multiple locations during the weekend. Look for the flagged stations for your trash and recycling needs. Please do your part and deposit materials in the proper container. Remember, “if it’s in your hand, put it in the right can”. This will help cut some of the cost of sponsoring this event. These containers will be available to any organization moving forward. See Phil, RBOH for info concerning their use.

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**Celebrate Our 250th by Joining the 21st Century!**

**High Speed Broadband Update**

*Jon Hardie, project lead*

We just got $50,000 to start our High Speed Wireless Broadband Network, test/demo in the South Village. We are now beginning installation, testing and completing signups for this demo/pilot network. It will initially serve 50 premises, plus the Village Store & 7 town offices in Whitney Hall. We’ll connect 20 more in the first 5-6 months, as we engineer and fund our own town-wide network buildout early next year.

The Village Store and Whitney Hall will be on the Network at 25 Mbps down & 5 Mbps up, with no data caps and no penalties. We will offer both higher & lower speed Internet, or Internet plus phone packages. We’re sure one package will be just the right balance for you … none with data limits.

**Come Test and Tryout the Network Free in 2 Ways:**

First, try it in your own home for free for the 30 days, and then if you love it, sign up for one of our one-year packages … Alternatively, coming soon, you can test the network for free at the Village Store, on your smartphone, tablet or laptop, and learn all the details about the network.

ATT, Verizon, Hughes, etc., charge you for every drop of data you use – data speed not so much. Folks tell us they’re upset at phantom data charges, periods of awful speed in the evening … and, when it rains. Our powerful high speed wireless internet network is not the same low power wifi you have in your home, Starbucks or McDonalds. Once you connect with our powerful high speed network, you will also have high speed wifi internet, available in your house from your very own fast wireless router.

**How Does it Work?** Our wireless network sends data to Access Points near your home. You connect to the Access Point from a small box called a CPE. The CPE converts the network data & sends it through an Ethernet cable, inside to your home, to your own wireless router. Like This: Network >> Access Point >> CPE >> Your Wireless Router. It’s clean, simple, straight forward … Powerful, Fast and Amazing!

**How Can I Get on the Map?** Complete the Royalston Broadband Survey on the Town Website or at the library or soon, at the Village Store.

**Do you have Questions?** please give Jon Hardie, Project Lead / Royalston High Speed Broadband, a call on his cell. 978-790-8474
Rovalston’s 250th Anniversary Celebration
Sept. 11, 12 and 13 on the Common
Full schedule inserted in this issue.

Got celebration questions? Seek answers. Find the flyer in this edition for a full schedule of anniversary hoopla! There is so much free fun going on, that it can be hard to keep the details straight. Here is how to get more information.

Need to get tickets to the local foods luncheon? Want to donate produce or cook a dish out of local ingredients? Call Kristin West 978-249-5993. The tickets cost 12 dollars. Proceeds benefit the LBS scholarship fund.

Want to find out about the walk/run on Friday night? The $8 registration fee will benefit the American Diabetes Foundation. All ages welcome. Becky Divoll runs the race: 978-249-3158.

How to enter the agricultural judging? Just drop entries at the library in any of these categories: three examples of any vegetable, a jar of pickles or jam, or a flower bouquet at the library between 9 - 10 on Sunday morning. Winners take home bragging rights and a 250th blue ribbon keepsake. All entries must be grown in Royalston and can be submitted by residents of any age. Enter as many categories as you like. Call the library at 978-249-3572.

Seeking spiritual communion with a musical accompaniment? Attend the ecumenical service at 9:30 am on Sunday morning. Call Rev. Jacobs to get involved. 781-821-4221.

What is art? The gala opening is on Friday night with wine and other beverages on sale by the LBS. Dozens of residents will be displaying their work. The show continues on Saturday. Gordon Morrison is curating. Call 249-2947.

Curious about Curios? Quite interested in quilts? The Historical Society museum is open all day Saturday with a special display of memorabilia from past town anniversaries. A quilt show, featuring several from the 1800s, including a signature quilt made in South Royalston as well as more recent handiwork by Pat Poor and others. Historical walking tours of the Common leave from the museum on the hour on Saturday. Peter Kramian is stitching this together: 249-7625.

Town Pageant? Friday night performance features citizens celebrating the town through song, poetry, skits, video and memoir. Free! Contact Carla Rabinowitz 978-249-4422.

Got tag sale, craft fair, music, beer, food, magic, parade, fireworks, trash, parking, Sumo or mechanical shark questions? Need to know anything at all about the celebration? Skip the middlemen and go straight to the top: Geoff Newton 249 - 3726.

Check the Royalston 250th Celebration Facebook page for updates.

Celebrate the 250th, Celebrate Nature! As part of the town’s 250th celebration, the Royalston Open Space and Recreation Committee and the Athol Bird and Nature Club are co-sponsoring Saturday walks this fall to five outdoor gems, each from 10 a.m. to noon.

To Chase Forest on September 5, led by naturalist Christine Long, a graduate of a New England Wild Flower Society program. Meet at the forest on the west side of Rte. 68 between Royalston and the south village.

To the Eagle Reserve Recreation Area on September 19, led by Aaron Ellison, Ph.D., a member of the Royalston Conservation Commission and the senior research fellow in ecology at Harvard Forest. Meet at the at the Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area on the south side of Winchendon Rd., just east of Stone Rd. (The town is working to protect the 144-acre Eagle Reserve, including most of a large pond.)

To Royalston Falls on September 26, led by resident Allen Young, author of North of Quabbin Revisited. Meet at the trailhead on Rte. 32 (Newton Cemetery).

To the top of Mount Tully along part of the Tully Trail on October 3, led by Carl Kamp, past president of the Massachusetts Butterfly Club and an avid naturalist and photographer. Meet at the Tully Lake Campground parking lot on Doane Hill Rd. (This walk goes to 1 p.m.)

To a section of the New England Trail (formerly called the M&M Trail) on October 10, led by Paul Montero, Royalston’s representative to the NET. A professional land surveyor, Montero will also demonstrate compass use. Meet at the Royalston Falls trailhead on Rte. 32 (Newton Cemetery).

All the walks are weather permitting. If in doubt, call Paul Montero at 978-249-5879 by 9 a.m. on any walk morning.
Phinehas S. Newton Library News
Kathy Morris, Library Director
Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Clarence Rabideau
Mondays: 10:00 am- 8:30 pm. Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm
Saturdays: 9:00 am - 12 noon
978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank You to:
Royalston Academy for funding our great Summer Reading Programs
Valuing Our Children for funding our extended summer hours and preschool programs
The Friends of the Library for funding all the refreshments and ice cream social and all the prizes

The presenters:  Allison Bergquist, Alyssa Bergquist, Ed Cote, Norah Dooley, Beth Gospodarek, and Loren Magruder

Donations to the Friends:
Rick and Patti Carrier
David and Shirley Putney
Cindy and Steve Savoy
Kay Schodek
Allen Young

Summer Reading Winners
Adult:  Kristin Scott
Young Adult:  Julian Baab, Isabel Cardona, and Gabriel Dawson
Children:  Big E Tickets:  Sara Charest
Hand Prints:  Shane Brousseau
Antique Dolls donated by Marsha Flanagan:  Sydney Ares and Alexis Reynolds

Upcoming Program
On Friday October 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the library, Joni Mayhan, author of Bones in the Basement: Surviving the S.K. Pierce Haunted Victorian Mansion, will discuss her book about the haunted, set in Gardner, her other book, The Soul Collector, and her work as a paranormal investigator. This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Library Gets Access to eBooks
The statewide access to ebooks and other online data resources is now available to all library card holders. Books and other resources may be downloaded to computers, tablets, and phones using your library card and password through the library’s “Magic Wall.” One of the sites, Biblioboard, may be accessed at any time but the other two sites, Baker & Taylor’s Axis 360 and EBL, require your login and password to access their content. Stop by the library for information, help, and questions.

Important Message about Changes in Library Card Login
With the addition of ebooks to our collection, each borrower will need to use his or her library card number as the login to the statewide websites to download books and materials. Looking to the future of statewide library cards and uniformity in the system, all library card holders will have his or her library card number as the login identifier. If you can’t find your card and need to know your number or need help logging into the catalog, one of us can assist you. Everyone will still retain his or her password and only the login will change.

Art Exhibit:  During September and October, Molly Divoll will have an exhibit of her paintings, done in a variety of media: charcoal, acrylics, and watercolors. Molly is 14 and a freshman at Athol High School. She has always loved art and has attended art camp to further her talents. Besides her art, Molly is an excellent student and was awarded the Spait Award for the highest academic achievement during the eighth grade at the Athol-Royalston Middle School.

Library Book Discussion 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. The month’s selection is available to be be checked out. The next book chat is September 15.
Some of the New Materials at Your Library

Adult fiction

Anderson, Kev
Blood of the Cosmos
Barrows, Annie
The Truth According to Us
Box, C.J.
Badlands
Coulter, Catherine
Nemesis
Hoffman, Alice
The Marriage of Opposites
Lee, Harper
Go Set a Watchman
McLaughlin, Emma
How to Be a Grown-up
Packer, Ann
The Children’s Crusade
Paretzky, Sara
Brush Back
Rosnay, Tatiana
A Paris Affair
Willig, Lauren
The Other Daughter
Woods, Stuart
Naked Greed

Non-Fiction

Buck, Rinker
The Oregon Trail
Carter, Jimmy
A Full Life
Coates, Ta-Nehisi
Between the World and Me
Hurst, Kim
Hidden Natural Histories: Herbs
Jones, Richard
House Guests, House Pests
Kingsbury, Noel
Hidden Natural Histories: Trees
Martin, Tovah
The Indestructible Houseplant
Raymond, George
A Life in a Song
Safina, Carl
Beyond Words

Audiobooks

Gruen, Sara
At the Water’s Edge
Lee, Harper
Go Set a Watchman
Lehane, Dennis
World Gone By

Young Adult Fiction/Non-Fiction

Choldenko, Gennifer
Chasing Secrets
London, C.
Mission Hindenburg
Stead, Rebecca
Goodbye Stranger
Ueno, Haruki
Big Hero 6

Children’s Fiction

Bunting, Eve
Whose Shoe?
Colfer, Chris
The Land of Stories: Beyond the Kingdoms
Jackson, Ellen
Beastly Babies
John
Just for Today
Marino, Gianna
Night Animals
McKenna, Martin
Just my Rotten Luck
Sachar, Louis
Fuzzy Mud
Scieszka, Jon
Frank Einstein and the Electro-Finger
Teague, Mark
The Sky is Falling
Waber, Bernard
Ask Me
Watkins, Rowboat
Rude Cakes
Yankey, Lindsey
Sun and Moon

Children’s Non-Fiction

Caughey, Melissa
A Kid’s Guide to Keeping Chickens
Reynolds, Toby
Extreme Earth

DVDs: Home, House of Cards 3rd Season, The Longest Ride,
Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2, The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel,
Teen Beach Movie 2, and Woman in Gold

Celebrate the Town’s 250th Anniversary at the Library

Old Fashioned Games

Come to the library during the 250th celebration for old fashioned field day games on Saturday morning. Egg and spoon and sack races, big bubbles, tug of war, hoola hooping, parachute fun and more.

Win a Blue Ribbon at the agricultural judging

Turn in entries for the agricultural judging between 9 - 10 am on Sunday morning. Blue ribbons awarded in three categories: garden fruits and vegetables, jams and preserves, and flower bouquets. Vegetables and flowers are judged by appearance. Pickles and preserves are judged on taste. It is free to enter all categories. Multiple entries are encouraged. You may bring in as many types of fruits and vegetables as you like, but please bring three examples of each entry- (ex. 3 carrots, 3 tomatoes, etc.)

Be in the parade with the library!

At least 20 people of all ages are needed to carry the storybook character puppets and flags library supporters have been making over the last few months. Alternatively, decorate a bike (or yourself) and ride with the library! Anyone who wants to be in the parade is invited to march with us. Sign ups are helpful, but it is also fine to just show up at the library around noon on Saturday.
CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

Got something to crow about? Send all the news along to the RCN. Zap to chasesgos2@gmail.com or drop at the library.

Rhiannon Fletcher recently attended and graduated from the American Legion and Massachusetts State Police Academy Student Trooper Program. The Student Trooper program is an intensive, one week learning experience for young adults, ages 15 thru 17. Veteran Massachusetts State Police trainers provided classroom and hands-on training using a paramilitary approach. 100 participants started the week, 90 completed. Student Trooper Fletcher was one of two participants who were awarded the 2015 Student Trooper Scholarship Award for outstanding discipline, leadership and teamwork.

Cristina Cardona was part of the chorus and band trip from Mahar High School that was awarded an “excellent “ rating and a huge trophy at the “Music in the Parks” high school music program competition at Six Flags in Agawam.

Shelby Bronnes was on the Dean’s List in spring term at Worcester State.

Tyler Boyd was named to the honor roll for the 3rd and 4th quarters this past school year. He was inducted into the National Honor Society and will be a junior at Athol High School. Tyler is the son of Erin Mahoney and grandson of Dan and Cheryl Mahoney of South Royalston.

Samantha Hutchins is named to Westfield State University Dean’s List. Samantha K Hutchins, daughter of Ronald and Carrie Hutchins of Royalston, received academic honors at Westfield State University by making the University’s Dean’s List for the Spring semester 2015. A Senior this fall at Westfield State University, Hutchins is majoring in Environmental Science with a minor in Wilderness Leadership at the University. She has earned a 4.0 grade point average.

Asher Chase graduated in late June from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland with a Masters of Philosophy degree.


Westward ho. Happy Trails to the Dawson family.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency
EMD Jim Barclay – ema@Royalston-ma.gov – 978-249-2904
CodeRED Test Coming – September 4, 2015
The Royalston Emergency Management Agency (REMA) announced the database for the CodeRED emergency notification system is undergoing its annual update during August. The update is in anticipation of a September 4th, 6 p.m. test call. Residents, non-resident property owners and those with a vested interest in people or property in Royalston should verify their information is correct. There is a CodeRED link on the Town of Royalston’s website, www.royalston-ma.gov. It is recommended residents list all land-lines, any cell phone numbers, their Royalston property caretakers, and perhaps out-of-town relatives who should know of an emergency situation affecting a Royalston resident. Text messages and e-mails can also be listed; that information can be entered at the above link.

Except for the annual test, messages are of an emergency nature only, for example the need to evacuate due to hazardous conditions, a “be-on-the-lookout” for a lost/missing child or elder, or an alert for residents to shelter-in-place for safety. Messages can be “all-call” for all subscribers, or limited to a specific population, for example, Royalston’s water district or those in flood zones.

Internet access is available at the P. S. Newton Library; those unable to access the internet may contact Barclay at 978-249-2904 and he will review an individual’s listings.

Past emergencies:
Pictured is South Royalston before the 1904 fire.
Funeral services for James L. Smith, 73, who passed away Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015, were held Friday, Aug. 14. Rev. David Poole officiated. Words of remembrance were shared by family and friends. Burial followed in Lawrence Brook Cemetery in Royalston. The bearers were Zach St. Jean, Tim St. Jean, Corbin Parker, Coty Parker, Cameron Parker and Rich Prue.

James was born May 20, 1942, in Keene, N.H. He was the son of the late Sanford and the late Josephine (Adams) Smith. He was employed as a truck driver and was a skilled craftsman. He loved small engine tractor shows, the outdoors, gardening, auto racing and country music. He enjoyed visiting Cape Cod and Maine. He is survived by two daughters, Brina and husband Rick, and Jamie and companion Bruce; his companion of 33 years, Betty Woodbury; several stepchildren and grandchildren, and many cousins. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother Harley Smith.

The family would like to thank Hospice and ask that in lieu of flowers to please make donations in James’ name to a charity of your choice.

The town of Royalston is shaken by the death of Mark Paul Brighenti Jr., 17, of Athol, formerly of Butterworth Rd, who died July 27, 2015, at home.

Mark was born Nov. 5, 1997, in Leominster, the son of Mark P. and Jodie (Green) Brighenti. Mark was going into his senior year at Athol High School and was attending classes at Mount Wachusett Community College as part of the dual enrollment program working towards his associate’s degree.

Mark was involved in all aspects of Athol High, he played on the varsity football team as a tight end, defensive end and punter, varsity basketball team, varsity volleyball team as a freshman and varsity track. As a member of the football team he received the Turkey Day O’Brien Family Award during his sophomore year. He was a member of the Student Council, the National Honor Society, Best Buddies and the Drama Club (sophomore year). He was selected to be the Athol delegate to Project 351 started by Governor Deval Patrick. He was class president his freshman and sophomore years before leaving to attend MWCC as part of the Pathways Dual Enrollment Program. He loved participating in Spirit Week and in the annual lip sync contest as Adam Sandler. He was a three-year participant in the Mr. Athol High. He loved his friends and was always thoughtful and cared about his classmates before himself.

Mark was a Boys State delegate, a graduate of the State Police Student Trooper Program, a counselor at the Massachusetts Conservation Group and worked as a lifeguard at the Erving State Forest. He volunteered to help with the annual Big Cheese River Rat 5K. He designed his own Big Cheese T-shirt and wore it while running the race. He was also helpful with the Quabbin Anglers events.

He loved his family, bringing joy and humor to their lives every day. Mark had a wonderful sense of humor, making people laugh all the time. He loved chocolate chip pancakes with bacon, sour cream and onion potato chips, arguing that green specks on the chip were part of the vegetable food group, and his grandmother’s seafood chowder. He travelled with a deep fryer and would bring it to his friends’ homes where they would fry up whatever was in the cupboard. He watched Game of Thrones and Sports Center and loved the Harry Potter books and movies. He played many video games. He would hunt and fish and work up on the family land with his Dad. He loved the Patriots, Red Sox, Celtics and Bruins.

Mark will be missed by his parents, Mark P. and Jodie (Green) Brighenti; two sisters, Sofia Molina Brighenti and Catherine Spencer Brighenti; his maternal grandmother, Mary Jane Green and her significant other William Bleak; his paternal grandmother, Natalie Brighenti; uncles and aunts, Tony and Sherrie Brighenti, and Robert and Joan Brighenti; many cousins and wonderful friends; and his dogs Vader and Dunks and cats Pip and Peeka. All will miss him forever.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made in Mark’s memory to the Athol High football team for much needed new uniforms. Please make checks payable to the Athol Boosters Association, c/o Gene Ferrari, 111 Orchard St., Athol, MA 01331. To send an online condolence, visit www.mackfamilyfh.com.
Community School News

Adam Rogers, 6th grade correspondent

Back to school! Pack your protractor, bring your backpacks, make sure you have a lunch. Lots of kids left our school last year, plenty of new kids came this year. We had a Popsicle party on August 20th to see everyone we missed over the summer and to meet the new kindergarteners. Also there are two new teachers everyone is dying to meet. That’s all for now. I can’t wait for what’s ahead in the new school year. See ya!

Parent-Teacher Group elects officers: The Royalston Parent-Teacher Group elected new officers for this school year. They are Co-Presidents Danielle Ares (Vice President the previous two years) and Ashley Charron (an active PTG participant); first time Secretary Shelly Livingston; and returning for her third year as Treasurer, Star Lite Lamson.

Athol-Royalston Regional School District News

Mary C. Barclay

Among lots of exciting news, ARRSD has hired AHS Principal Steven Meyer to take over for assistant superintendent Elizabeth Ervin, who accepted a position in Maine. Meyer was selected from an initial group of 41. He comes with experience in this District, along with Master’s degrees in Mathematics for Educators and Educational Organizational Management, and is completing a dissertation for a U-MA doctoral degree in Educational Leadership. This appointment is expected to help the District continue to improve academic achievements and provide continuity as Superintendent Tony Polito retires in July, 2016 and multiple elementary schools move to a new building.

A ray of hope for Royalston families who have been concerned about the increasing size of classes at the RCS: School Committee Chairman Nancy D. Melbourne reports the Committee agreed class size needs to be addressed, not just at RCS, but across the entire District. The improvement in the delivery of education to each student is worth the investment, but the commitment to improving conditions for students and staff should slow residents who feel they need to leave ARRSD for districts with lower student-to-teacher ratios.

Monty Tech News

Mary C. Barclay

Royalston is sending FOUR women (nope, no men) to the Freshman class. Given our quota of two freshmen seats, these are very high achievers. We have three sophomores (2 males/1 female); four juniors (1 male/3 females) and will be graduating eight seniors (2 males/6 females) this year, for a total of 19 in the class of 2016.

Also when school opens, students and staff will enjoy the convenience of a branch of the Worker’s Credit Union in the main lobby! The goal is to bring a higher degree of financial literacy into classwork.

Class of 2015 graduate plans: 58% (184) going on for post-secondary education; 31% (98) working; 6% (18) entering the military; 5% (17) listed as “other.”

Superintendent-Director Sheila Harrity was an invited guest to the “Celebrating Innovations in Career and Technical Education” at the White House in July.

Historical Society News

photo: upstairs at Old School House #1. 1930s. This building is now the Historical Society, which has a museum of town artifacts and will be open all day on Saturday during the 250th celebration weekend. Also look for a quilt show and guided walking tour of the town leaving from the building that day. Courtesy Maxine Wilcox.

Jami Sieber Concert at the Maples

Patience Bundschuh and Diane Lincoln are pleased to present award-winning electric cellist and vocalist Jami Sieber in a fundraising house concert at The Maples, 17 On The Common, on Sunday September 27th at 2 PM.

Sieber reaches inside the soul with compositions that are contemporary, timeless, lush, and powerfully evocative. Employing looping devices and electronics to create sounds never before associated with the cello, she transforms her solo instrument into an orchestra of sound that transforms from the deepest stillness to moving melodies and rhythms that light the heart on fire. To read more about Jami, visit her website at www.jamisieber.com.

This show is a benefit for the Historical Society of Royalston. Please contact Patience at (978) 249-6081 or Diane at (978) 249-4796 to reserve your seat. Suggested donation is $20 to $25.

Royalston Cultural Council Seeks Funding Proposals

Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs are due October 15. The Royalston Cultural Council has set an October 15, 2015 postmark deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at http://www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.aspx., or you can call Patti Carrier at 978.249.8779

Cloutiers’ Pete & Henry’s

18 Main St. (Rt. 68) in South Royalston, MA 01368
Thu. 4-9; Fri. 4-10; Sat. 3-10; Sun. 1-8 p.m.

Closing December 2, 2015 ~ Reopening January, 2015
978-249-9845 ~ Gift Certificates Available ~ 978-249-8375
Ladies’ Benevolent Society News

With 180 years of public suppers under their ample belts, the cooks of the LBS know a thing or two about public suppers. Book now for tickets to the local foods luncheon on the Sunday of the 250th weekend by calling 978-249-9553. From gazpacho to apple crisp with dozens of alternatives in between, enjoy a multi-course luncheon featuring local ingredients, all for $12. The LBS will also be selling wine at the art opening Friday. All proceeds benefit local scholarships.

Due to all the activities of the 250th celebration, we have scheduled the LBS Memorial Concert for (are you ready?) the first day of spring, Sunday, March 20th, 2016, 4:00 pm in the ballroom. It’s not too early to mark your calendar!

Congratulations to Mary Barclay and Maureen Blasco, who won the gift baskets at the recent Musicfest.

Celebrating New England: Songs and Stories for Everyone

On Wednesday, September 30 at the Royalston Town Hall at noon, right after the Senior Luncheon, Parents’ Choice Award winner, Davis Bates, will perform stories and songs that celebrate the diverse heritage of the New England Region including farming songs and stories, sea songs and chants, Native American stories, ghost stories, and family tales. All are invited to attend this free performance. For more information, please call 978-249-9656. Sponsored by the Royalston Council on Aging.

Recipe of the Month

After 250 years, it might be time to cook something new, and Susan Case has a suggestion: Sweet Potato Souffle

Susan and Rod Case moved to Pleasant Street recently seeking rural living and a good place to raise their daughter, Hannah, a rising first grader at RCS. For Rod, the move was a return to his home state. He grew up in Tewksbury, where he still has family. Since his arrival in So. Royalston, his kin have gotten even closer; Rod’s mother moved in next door. Susan was born and raised on a farm in Carthage, Tenn. She prepares this recipe frequently and is happy to share this taste of the South.

Sweet Potato Souffle

3 lbs. mashed sweet potatoes, 1/2 stick of butter, melted
1 cup milk
2 eggs
1 cup sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg

Mix sweet potatoes, melted butter, and milk in large mixing bowl. Add eggs, sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg and beat on med speed with electric mixer for a minute. Pour into a buttered casserole dish. Spoon topping evenly over sweet potato mixture. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees in a preheated oven.

Topping:
1/2 cup self rising flour
1/2 cup instant oats
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 tsp each cinnamon and nutmeg
1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts, (optional)
1 stick butter, melted

Combine all topping ingredients and mix well by hand.
Garden Notes

August 22, 2015

I have been called to task for over-indulging in my use of the parenthetical statement in penning these notes. In response to this feedback, I have committed myself to one-month of parenthesis-free garden notes. Rest assured, the parenthesis will re-emerge in the October column.

It is harvest time and, once again, I experience astonishment. The earth, the sky, the sun, the stars, the cosmos, the whatsthever, conspire to make it all happen. I do little more than provide a couple of bucks for seed and a modicum of effort during the growing season. It is difficult, possibly impossible, for the written word to convey the pleasure, joy really, that the harvest provides. The fact that yields for most of the vegetables have been nothing short of astonishing exponentially increases that joy. In this, our thirty-ninth season, we are well on the way to Prospect Hill Farm’s most productive season. Not a day goes by when I haven’t devoted a generous amount of time to bringing in the crop. Some, the onions and tomatoes and potatoes and corn, are as easy as pie. Others, the cherry tomatoes and cucumbers and, especially, the beans are decidedly less so. I have, by necessity, taken steps to maximize the joy factor and minimize the drudge factor. I plant a few to several different varieties of most vegetables, each with a different time of maturity. They are planted on a few to several different occasions. All eight potato varieties are put in the ground at the same time but the earliest are dug in mid-July and the latest in mid-September. There are three or more types of carrots, beets, and beans and they are planted four times. Only two types of corn, but since I start half of them indoors, our corn harvest will extend six weeks. One cucumber, but six plantings. There is harvest overlap, of course. To the delight of the attendees at the senior lunch and patrons of the library, I have just starting picking from my sixth bed of cucumbers while the first continues to yield.

I have stepped back, ever so slightly, from my garden activities. Eight beds became available after the winter wheat, spring peas and spinach, and early potatoes were harvested. In the past I’ve replanted all of them; this year but two. Some of the others were cover-cropped with buckwheat, a particularly unsuccessful undertaking, at least for me. However, it was wildly successful for our neighborhood turkey flock. First, the turkeys pecked away at the buckwheat seed. Then they took advantage of the newly-turned earth to take dust baths, the beds rife with mini-craters. They are currently in the third stage of buckwheat depredation: those seeds that survived the first two and began to grow are now being ‘harvested’ by the turkeys. My ‘cover’ crop barely covers anything.

Finally, it would be remiss for me to neglect apples. For those of you with a compromised memory, there were no apples last year. This year, there is, seemingly, an endless supply, our largest crop ever. In spite of the nightly visits of the porcupines, who are experiencing porcupine heaven, there are far more apples than we can eat, sauce, turn into cider, or peddle. Fortunately, our beef-to-be devour everything offered.

It has been quite the growing season.

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Wildlife Sightings

Skip Ciccarelli of Athol-Richmond Road awoke to two big black bears in his front yard and had to stop for a moose on the way to town that evening.

Late in the evening of August 8, Carla and Phil Rabinowitz followed an adult male moose for a quarter of a mile up Jacob’s Ladder. The moose seemed unperturbed by their presence, but finally turned off into a driveway. This morning (August 22), Carla looked out of the bathroom window and saw a large bear ambling across the backyard and disappearing behind a rhododendron bush, probably the same bear that occasionally ambles past her bedroom window in the middle of the night, trailing an exceptionally rank and musty smell.

Aubrie And Allison Hautanen saw a bear on Athol Road near Keith and Debbie Newton’s home on Friday evening August 7th.

There was a rainbow in the West on the morning of August 21. While not exactly wildlife, it was pretty wild; most residents never remember seeing a rainbow (and it was a vivid double rainbow for part of the time) in the West.

Royalston beats Ashburnham at home and away. The Royalston 250th Softball Team won the home game 17-1 and the away game 9-7. Curtis Deveneau played this year and was the only member of the team that also played 25 years ago in the match up.