

# THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

June 2005



Volume VIII, Issue V

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PHINEHAS S. NEWTON LIBRARY, ROYALSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

**P**lease take the time to complete the enclosed library survey. Your responses will let us know what you think of the library services and help us plan for the future. The survey is also instrumental in completing our required long range plan for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Each library must have an approved plan to be eligible for State grants.

## June 1 Wednesday

11:30 a.m. **Royalston Luncheon Club with Chinese Auction**, Town Hall. (Continues each Weds of month).

6:30-8:30 p.m. New session of **yoga classes** at Town Hall sponsored by the Friends of the Library. \$10/session. Drop ins welcome. \$81 for nine sessions.

7:00 p.m. **Monty Tech School Committee** meeting

## June 2 Thursday

7:00 p.m. **Monty Tech Graduation** at Athletic Field

3:30 p.m. **Friends of the Library Meeting:** discuss library needs, newsletter funding, Shakespeare, summer reading program and fundraisers. All welcome.

## June 3 Friday

7:00 p.m. **Ray Poole Concert** at First Congregational Church

June 4-12 **Bio-diversity Days: Botany display** of century old botanical collection of Rev. James A Bates from South Royalston at library, sketch contest and guided walk with prominent local naturalists. Details on p. 10

## June 4 Saturday

9:00 a.m. **Church Hike** for youth and young at heart. Meet at the First Congregational Church. Bring lunch, repellent, proper footwear. Hike Tully Trail from up and down Tully Mountain. (Rain date June 11th. Same details.)

## June 5 Sunday

9:00 a.m. **Baccalaureate Service** at Second Congregational Church, South Royalston.

1:30 p.m. **Athol High School Commencement Exercises**

2:00 p.m. **Bio-diversity Days Nature Walk** with a "power line-up" of local guides including resident mushroom expert Noah Siegel, botanist Matt Hinkler, birder extraordinaire Dave Small, beetle specialist Ernie LeBlanc and wildflower expert Elizabeth Farnsworth. Meet at the library. All ages welcome.

## June 6 Monday

5:55 p.m. **New Strawberry Moon**

## June 9 Thursday

6:15 p.m. **Open Space Committee Meeting.** Public welcome to discuss methods and priorities in preserving some open land in Town for recreational use and wildlife habitat.

7:00 p.m. **Public hearing** to discuss Proposed Zoning By-law Changes at Town Hall.

## June 11 Saturday

7:30-10:30 am Village School **Pancake Breakfast** at the Town Hall. \$5 for adults and \$2 kids.

7:30 - 11:00 a.m. **Spectacular Silent Auction** upstairs at Town Hall to benefit the Village School building project. Over 90 unique items and services donated. Last bids taken at 11:00.

8:00 - 11:30 a.m. **Bake Sale** to benefit the Village Improvement & Historical Society of Royalston held at Post Office.

8:30 a.m. **Tag Sale** on the Common put on by the Village School 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade class for its field trip fund.

9:00 - noon **Book Sale** at the Phinehas S Newton library. Giant book, video, and CD sale. Collectible and children's books, Reasonable prices.

9:00 a.m.- noon **Friends of the Library Plant Sale** at Post Office. Good selection, good prices, good advice. Bring donations that morning or drop ahead at library.

9:00-10:30 a.m. **Storytelling Tent** on Royalston Common. Norah Dooley: group participation, song, sound and movement. Games for kids, face painting, and Morris Dancers. Free!

## June 19

### Sunday

**Father's Day**

## June 21

### Tuesday

**1st Day of Summer**

ARRSD and Monty Tech **vacation begins**

## June 22

### Wednesday

afternoon

Ladies Benevolent

Society **Trip to the Emily Dickenson Homestead** in Amherst MA with noted Dickenson scholar and biographer and Royalston resident, Polly Longworth. Carpool from the Common. All members of community welcome, but space is limited. Pls. call 249-0358 for info or to reserve a space.

## June 26

### Sunday

9:00 a.m. the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Butterfly Breakfast and Walk** at the library co-hosted by the Phinehas S. Newton Library and the Massachusetts Butterfly Club: a light breakfast followed by a slide show of local butterflies by Carl Kamp. Then, a walk leaves at 10:00. All ages invited.



June 27 - July 8 **Royalston Shakespeare Company:** free theater workshops for kids ages 8-18 Sign up now at library to participate in our workshop performance of *The Tempest*. See p. 6 for information.. A Friends of the Library Production.

July 9 Saturday

7:30 - 10:00 a.m. **Pancake breakfast** at Town Hall sponsored by Second Congregational Church

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Church Fair** on the Common: Crafters, concessions, Attic wonders, raffles, children's activities, hay rides, live Country/Gospel music all day featuring the Mac Donald Family, Unity, Noel Veilleux and others.

4:00 p.m. Chicken Barbecue : BBQ tickets will be limited this year, please be sure to purchase yours early from a church member or call 978-249-9252 and reserve yours with Kelly Newton.

July 30 Saturday

**Fire Department Golf Tournament** at 202 Driving Range (rain date Sunday, July 31). Contact Scott Newton at 978-844-0276 for more information or to sign up.

August 8-12 **Vacation Bible School**  
August 31 **First day of school** for ARRS D students

**An Update from the Royalston Personnel Committee**  
*Jon Hardie*

Over the past year, the members of the Royalston Personnel Committee have been charged with a number of tasks under the Personnel Bylaws adopted in 1997. This has been a great opportunity to support the Town employees, who work hard and often long hours in various volunteer, elected and appointed positions.

We wanted to bring the bylaws up to date, and implement a uniform, positive, and objective goal setting and review process. We have completed that process, and it has been approved & adopted by the Selectboard. The Uniform Goal Setting and Review process is now in place. We will be holding training meetings over the next month. First, we will be meeting individually with department heads of larger depts. for initial training, so they will be equipped to answer questions. We will follow this with several daytime and evening sessions for all staff & department heads, including all elected and appointed officials & committee chairs. Times will be posted for the training & orientation sessions. Note: Elected officials will also participate in the goal setting process, but complete a self evaluation and review.

**Town Clerk Position Opening**

*Werner Bundschuh, selectman*

Lloyd LeBlanc is resigning as Town Clerk, effective June 1st. Lloyd is moving to Gardner. The Selectmen will be seeking candidates for appointment as temporary Clerk until the next election. Although not required for an appointed Clerk, residency in the Town is required for the elected position, so preference will be for someone from Town to fill in and then run for election at the first opportunity. The salary is \$6150 per year w/out benefits. The job comes with a cozy office at Whitney Hall with a desk and computer. Interested residents should send or email a letter noting qualifications, if any, to the Selectmen at the Town Hall or c/o goodshoe@earthlink.net.

**Royalston Fire Department News**

**Fire Department Calendar:** *The Fire Department is looking for sponsors for their calendar.* There will be 25 ads at \$35 for a business card size ad, 12 ads at \$45 for a 1" x 5" ad at the bottom of one month, and one sponsorship ad on the front cover for \$300. Contact Scott Newton on his cell phone at 978-844-0276 for information or to reserve a space. Photographs of any vintage related to fire department activities are needed for use in their upcoming calendar. Please contact Joshua Morris-Siegel at 508-733-2243.

**Golf Tournament:** The Fire Department will be sponsoring a Golf Tournament at 202 Driving Range on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> (rain date, Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>). There will be teams of 4 people at \$100 per team. The tournament will be 18 holes, 2 best balls with a limit of 18 teams. Prizes of cash and other items will be awarded. All receipts from mini golf at \$5 a round will be donated to the fire department as well. Check next month's newsletter for more details or contact Scott Newton at 978-844-0276 for info and sign ups.

**Zoning Changes Public Hearing on June 9**

*Kelly Newton*

There will be a public hearing on potential zoning by-law changes in Royalston on Thursday, June 9, 2005 at 7 p.m at the Town Hall. These changes will be voted on at the Reconvened Town Meeting at the Royalston Community School on Friday, June 24, 2005 at 7 p.m. Voters will find a copy of the Town of Royalston's request for change of the zoning by-laws by citizen's petition at the Town Hall, the Phinehas Newton Library, and the Royalston Post Office (all on the Common) as well as Whitney Hall; 5 School St., and Royalston General Store.

A former Royalston Board of Selectmen formed a Zoning Committee a few years back. This Committee worked vigorously on preparing changes within the bylaws. When the Zoning Committee was through with its proposals, there was a date calendar to follow. The Zoning Committee did all they could to follow the calendar and presented it to the next step within the time allotted. (The date calendar must be followed by all committees and boards, if it is not, it becomes illegal and the process must start again.) Well, it did not get followed by one of the "Boards". In turn, a citizen, by petition brought it to the attention of the current Selectboard, which in turn, placed it on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Looking back at the date calendar and understanding the fact it MUST go to public hearing prior to vote, it was tabled at Town Meeting. This is not something that had to go to Town Counsel. The information was with the Selectboard and Planning Board all these years. All the proposed information, already supplied by the Zoning Committee in 2002, just had to be printed again. (A planning board member, recently returned from medical leave, found a way to save the Town between \$15-30,000 in costs related to having the changes typed and a date calendar supplied.) Now, it is up to the voters to hear what the proposed zoning changes are all about at the public hearing.

*ed note: Some of the proposed zoning by-law changes involve definition and wording changes. Some involve frontage and building setback changes. Also, zoning by-law changes are complicated in Town because last November, the Selectboard appointed a new Zoning Task Force working under new Town long range plans. This June 9 hearing will explain the carefully worked out recommendations of the old 2002 zoning committee. Both zoning groups are well intentioned and very hard working, but they are not particularly in consensus. Nevertheless, this is an important opportunity for the public to hear and evaluate zoning issues that could affect the character of our Town.*

## Board of Health News

*Phil Leger, BOH chair*

The Transfer Station has just received a new shipment of Earth Machine compost bins. They are for sale for \$30.00. A free kitchen scrap bucket is available with each sale while supplies last. The new windshield stickers are in for the new fiscal year beginning July 1. They are \$10.00 for residents, \$50.00 for non-residents and commercial haulers. They are white and all vehicles using the facility must show their windshield stickers. We ask that they be located on the lower drivers side windshield.

A reminder that if residents see roadside dumping, try to get a license number and report it to the police. If residents want to clean up a section of road or roadside dumping area, contact Phil Leger Chair/BOH to make arrangements for disposal. He can be contacted by pager. The number is 978-366-1553. Put your phone number and area code and he will get back to you.

Good job to all who helped in the annual roadside cleanup last month organized by Charlie "Checkpoint" Scribner. Charlie has been organizing this annual roadside cleanup for 15 years. Many thanks to him for his community spirit and everyone who participated. Don't wait for the annual clean up to keep our neighborhoods clean. Choose a section of road that you walk or bike and pick up the bottles and cans that get thrown out by selfish, irresponsible people. Show them that we want our town clean. Trash your town, trash yourself.



## Royalston Roadside Clean-up 2005

*Charlie Scribner*

The roadside clean up had another successful year; over 15 truckloads of trash were picked up and taken to the transfer station. The streets of Royalston are cleaner because of these volunteers, many of whom help out year after year. Thank you to:

Board of Health for free disposal of trash; Celeste Whitcomb for picking up Neale Rd; **Tim Wright and family** for Morse and New Boston Rd; **Allen LeBlanc and Mike Cabrose** for bringing in lots of big items from Turnpike Rd; Jim MacPhee for Stewart Rd and Doanes Hill; **Marie Humblet** for Rt 68 south of Common; **the Chase/Gospo family** for NE Fitzwilliam Rd, Rt 68 and Winchendon Rd; **Jim Bennett and Pat Scribner** for Rt 68 from South Royalston to Fernald School; Andy West and family for Rt 68 South; **Dave Williams** for Rt 68 Warwick Rd to library, **Dan and Lisa Consentino** for Morse, New Boston and Norcross Rds; **Scribner family** for Laurel Lake, Brown, NE Fitzwilliam and Athol Rds as well as Doanes Hill. **Becky Divoll and family** for Deland, Stone, NE Fitzwilliam and Winchendon Rds, the **Morris/ Siegel family** for North Fitzwilliam Rd, **Barbara Richardson and family** for Athol Rd; **the Putney family** for North Fitzwilliam Rd; **Dave Cutter** for Athol-Richmond Rd; **Phil Leger, Jack and Hannah Kacian** and **Paul Montero** for big items on Turnpike and Taft Hill Rds and **Nancy Bolton** for Bolton Rd.

Because of rainy weather, the cook out was moved inside to the basement of the First Congregational Church. Thanks to Barbara Richardson and Dave Williams for help with the set up and cooking and thanks to Phil Leger for the donation of the hot dogs and burgers.

## What Happened at Town Meeting?

*Beth Gospodarek*

A whopping 98 registered voters showed up to pass the rules and budgets which run our Town at the Annual Town Meeting on May 6. They were in a generous mood. Some items were tabled, but nothing was voted down. Every warrant article and budget item that the finance committee had recommended passed easily for a total budget of \$1,243,236. A half million dollars was approved for engineering, plans and authorized roadwork on Rt 32. Discussion led to reassurances that the road would maintain its winding, rural character but drainage and the surface would be improved and a bike lane added in places. Voters agreed to enter into a five year lease on a new dump truck for the DPW as well. Two and a half percent raises for most Town employees, increased revolving funds for Town building, health, plumbing and wiring inspectors and the first raise for the Selectmen positions in twelve years (from \$1,200 to \$2,000) were all approved. A little surprisingly, votes on the floor added a few thousand bucks to the expenditures: increased police patrols in the summer (particularly in the Tully Lake area), DARE, and a raise for the building inspector.

The annual Town meeting will reconvene on June 24 at the Royalston Community School at 7:00 p.m. Items tabled May 6, including the purchase a new emergency rescue vehicle and a fire department heating system, sewer system funding, zoning and general by-law changes, and an increase in hours for the Town administrative assistant will be discussed and voted on that evening.

## Proposition 2 1/2 Override Vote to Fund Public Schools

*Beth Gospodarek*

The public schools (both Monty Tech and ARRS) were funded near the requested level at Royalston's Annual Town Meeting for a combined expenditure of around \$300,000. Even at this level, the ARRS claims it will be unable to maintain its current level of services next year. Over 35 teachers and aids will receive pink slips this spring and classes and services will inevitably be cut. The district has increased expenses but has less revenue largely due to students leaving the district through school choice, state mandated special needs services as well as increased transportation and fuel costs. (A 12% budget increase over the current school year was requested, 10% of which would provide level services and 2% of which would go toward accreditation requirements.)

This requires a Proposition 2 1/2 Override vote, scheduled for June 27 in Athol. A vote in Royalston would be held only if the override passes in Athol. Traditionally, Royalston approves such measures, but increasing taxes in Athol is always tough. If this override is approved, Athol taxes would permanently increase 60 cents per \$1000. In recent decades, voters have been content to run the schools largely on state aid, which currently covers around 90% of the total district costs. The portion paid locally in our district is much lower than in surrounding (similarly economically struggling) Towns. Accreditation problems at the high school, constant disruption/ cancellation of the elementary art and music programs, class sizes around 30 in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, deep cuts in extracurricular programs and teacher contract commitments are reasons this override has been supported by the ARRS.



## Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longsworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

Mondays: 10:00am - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm. Thursdays: 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:00noon

978-249-3572 [www.royalstonlibrary.org](http://www.royalstonlibrary.org)

### Library Position Available

The library is seeking a technical librarian for four hours per week. Bachelor's degree preferred. Candidates must be capable of completing many tasks efficiently and should be familiar with library functioning. S/he should be able to work independently, interact courteously with the public, show knowledge of a range of literature and the Dewey Decimal system. Tasks may include assisting with programs and functions, staffing the library circulation desk, assisting patrons in finding information and materials, re-shelving books, preparing books for circulation, entering materials into the card catalog, preparing press releases and fliers, and helping in grant preparation. Applicants should be computer literate and familiar with programs in Microsoft Office Professional (or be capable of learning). This position also substitutes for other employees when needed and thus the person may work more than 4 hours in some weeks. Preference will be given to those with library experience. Salary will range from \$9.00 to \$11.70 depending upon experience. Must be able to work on Mondays, Thursdays, and/or Saturdays and preferable be available during all open library hours. The position begins on 1 July 2005. No pay for vacation, sick, or personal leave days. Contact the library for more information. Drop off or send resumes to the library at 19 On The Common.

### Thank You

\*to **Ferron Dooley Fairchild** for her weekly help primarily in processing books but also in cheerfully stepping in to help wherever and with whatever is needed. Her excellent work skills and congenial personality have lightened our load and lifted our spirits.

\*to **Stephanie Bennett** and **Shannah Lively** for capably volunteering for their National Honor Society public service.

### DVD System Donated to the Library

Henry and Sally Felt have donated a complete DVD projection system to the library. This professional system will allow us to project high quality images with superior sound. It is the same equipment that was used for the recent premiers of Taj Musco's film "Some Lonely Bird" and Mme V.'s "Born in a Small Town". The library plans to use the system next winter to sponsor film nights featuring hard to find or unusual films.

### Library Receives Bequest

The Library has received a bequest from the estate of Humphrey Nash, long time summer resident of Royalston. Humphrey was a regular library visitor and greatly appreciated the facility. These funds will help us pursue our long-range goal of digitizing the library's card catalog or improving infrastructure.

### Library Staff Loss

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to Barbara Stowell, who is resigning her position at the library after 6 years. Her superior managerial skills, insight, creativity, intelligence, sense of fairness, kindness, and technological abilities are going to be greatly missed. Her dedication and hard work have led to major innovations at the library. She was responsible for starting the Royalston Community Newsletter and acted as publisher and editor and most other positions at one time or another in its creation and continuance—all as a volunteer. She created a cataloguing program for our books that expedited the processing the books for circulation and saved the town a good amount of money in the process. She developed a data system for generating all the necessary numbers for the Board of Library Commissioners State Aid Financial and Holdings and Circulation Reports that saved us hours of work. Her creativity and ability to generate good press releases are evident in the beautiful fliers and articles that regularly appear. She has helped with several grant proposals and was an integral part of the preparation and coordination of all aspects of the Preservation Grant. Her respect for and genuine concern for patrons has been a joy to see and a model for all. And she has been a friend. One can't ask for much more in a co-worker. She has promised to stay involved as a volunteer and we'll still lean heavily on her expertise. Barbara, we'll miss you at the library.

### Open House for Barbara Stowell

Join us to honor Barbara Stowell for her years of service to the library on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 until noon. Barbara has been our regular Monday morning staff person for 4 years and we would like to invite everyone to join us for refreshments to wish her well and to say thanks for all her hard work and wonderful service.

### Books-on-tape Donated to Library

The Central Massachusetts Regional Library System announced that they were only maintaining a collection of audio books on CD to loan to libraries and were dispersing their books-on-tape to interested libraries. We said we would like as many as they would give us and so we received 20 each of books-on-tape for children, young adults, and adults. Also, abig thank you to the MacPhee family for their generous donation to purchase books-on-tape, in memory of Donald Wallace Noake, Grady and Owen's great-grandfather. All of the new books on tape are being added to our permanent collection and are available for borrowing – just in time for those summer vacation drives and for when the black flies become overwhelming.

## Summer Reading Program

*This summer's statewide summer library adventure theme is "Going Places @ Your Library." All programs will be on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. at the library.*

### July 14<sup>th</sup> **Going Places on a Horse**

Wendy Warner, owner of Seven Springs Farm in Royalston, will bring one of her horses and discuss safety issues and beginning horsemanship. Wendy trained in classic dressage and "natural horsemanship" at Morvan Park Equestrian Institute and the British Talland School of Equitation. Younger children should be attended by an adult.

### July 21<sup>st</sup> **Going Places with Clay**

a creative adventure with talented artist Kerry Stone. Kerry will lead a program on creating "Tree Masks" using clay that you have taken a bark impression by pressing the clay into the tree and then using that to create your own tree mask.

### July 28<sup>th</sup> **Going Places on Stilts**

Stephen Chase and Noah Siegel will help children build their own pair of wooden stilts. This summer program was done years ago and proved to be one of the most popular and widely attended summer programs.

### August 4<sup>th</sup> **Ice Cream Social**

Participants will crank out home made ice cream and play traditional and new games.

*Because of the need to have materials for the clay workshop and the stilt program, children must register in advance by signing up at the library or calling the library at least one week in advance. Funding for these programs is provided by a generous grant from the Royalston Academy and the Judith Jenkins Musco Scholarship Fund and the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library.*

## Friends Membership Grows

The Friends of the Library are continuing to receive memberships and contributions from all sorts of friends. These donations help defray the costs of this newsletter and support many other library programs and purchases that the regular town library budget can't cover. We would like to thank the following people for their support. (Some of these folks sent in their contributions in April, but their names didn't make it to the list in our last issue.)

Patience & Werner Bundschuh  
Tom & Lynn Kellner  
Phil & Carla Rabinowitz  
The Quinn/Krasowski Family  
Dan & Jeanne Stanton  
Cathy Offutt & Teddy Laakkonen  
Kate Collins & George Northrop  
Diana & Geoffrey Newton

Diane Beers  
The MacPhee Family  
Deb & Joe Nunes  
Diane Lincoln  
Jim & Marlys Kelley  
Buddy Dyer  
Barbara Dean

## Pink Pages in Progress

Thanks to the hard work of the Barclay family, the 2nd edition of Royalston's very own phone/address/e-ddress directory is in the works funded by the Friends of the Library. Summer residents or anyone who has not yet submitted information should please send the following to [royalston\\_community\\_news@yahoo.com](mailto:royalston_community_news@yahoo.com):

Last name, First name, Middle Initial/ Street Address/ Mailing Address with zip code/ and home phone number  
Cell phones, business phones/address, data phones, alternate home addresses, e-mail or web addresses can also be included..

**Library Book Sale:** Stroll over to the library for a giant book, video, and CD sale on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. We'll also have some collectible books for sale and plenty of children's books, all at very reasonable prices.

## Friends of the Library Fundraisers:

*Producing the newsletter, buying library supplies, and running enrichment programs eats up a steady stream of Friends of the Library finances. Right now, we are fortunate to be able to offer some cool fundraising projects thanks to the support and generosity of Townsfolk.*

**Plant Sale:** The wonderful mix of locally donated plants at good prices with good advice will be back the morning of Saturday, June 11 outside the Post Office. Annuals, perennials, herbs, veggies, groundcovers, shrubs, bulbs, and houseplants will all be there. Pot up your thinnings to share with your neighbors and donate them to the sale that morning or drop off at the library ahead of time. Local nurseries have also generously donated. Along with plants, The "Natural Wonders of Royalston" poster will be available for only \$5.



## Homegrown DVD Production for Sale

: I Grew up in a Small Town

A fantastic DVD filmed and edited by Sonia Vaccari, Melanie Mangum and Henry and Sally Felt debuted at the recent Follies show. It shows snippets of life in our Town set to the rocking music of John Cougar Mellancamp's "I Grew Up in a Small Town". Hundreds of residents (and a few dogs, chickens and goats) have their 5 seconds of fame. Buy the DVD to see who is strolling to the post office, posing at the fire station, performing in the RCS talent show, checking out the library, shopping at the country store, working in the yard, voting at Town Hall, emptying the sap buckets and generally enjoying life here. The DVD includes cool aerial shots of the center and south village. Even if you are not actually in this production, watching it will remind you why you're glad to live here. Send it to the grown/ moved away offspring and they might just get a little weepy. DVDs cost \$10 and will soon be available for purchase at the library. A million thanks to Sonia and the Felts for donating their work and product to the Friends.

**Aerial Photos of your Home:** Resident techno-guru Jon Hardie has generously volunteered to access an Internet data base of relatively recent (within 4 years) high rest aerial color photos of any property in Royalston and print them out on good quality 8x10" photo paper in return for a \$10 donation to the Friends of the Library. The highly detailed 3D oblique color views are a kind of "techno art"; they show the lay of the land from a new perspective and are handy for giving "as the crow flies" directions. Photos are available of your neighborhood or central locations like the Common or South Village. There are 3 ways to get your photo: Call Jon at 978-575-1454 with specific requests, email him [jhh@moonroad.com](mailto:jhh@moonroad.com), or watch for order forms at the library. Can you just picture that? Your castle from the air..

## Some More Upcoming Library/ Friends Events:

### New Yoga Classes to Begin

The Friends of the Library sponsored yoga classes have been so popular that there will be a new session of nine classes beginning on Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing through July 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Classes are \$10 per session or \$81 for nine weeks. The classes are taught by Brandy Lefsyk, certified Devdasi Embodied Yoga Teacher (RYF 200). Mats are provided and the first class is free. For more information, call the library. Also, Brandy Lefsyk of Om Yoga, our Wednesday Yoga Instructor, has donated a Beginning Yoga DVD and a complete Yoga kit to the library so that individuals may pursue yoga independently. All you need is a valid library card to check out the DVD and yoga kit for a two-week period. The library also has several excellent books on yoga that may be borrowed as well.

### Annual Butterfly Breakfast and Walk

On Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> the library will co-host the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Butterfly Breakfast and Walk with the Massachusetts Butterfly Club. Beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the library there will be a light breakfast followed by a slide show presented by Massachusetts Butterfly Club president and Royalston resident, Carl Kamp, which will feature pictures of the local butterflies we may encounter in the field. The walk will follow the breakfast and slide show at 10:00. All ages are invited to attend. Bring binoculars if you have them. Call the library for more information.

### Brush Up Your Shakespeare

A crazed slave, a power hungry brother, a wedding, a ship wreck, a wizard, two drunken wise guys and many magical fairies all are part of Wm. Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, the play which the Royalston Shakespeare Company will be adapting and performing the last week of June the first week of July at Town Hall. and teens ages 8-18 are encouraged up at the library to enjoy theater games, learn about the Elizabethan stage and acquire theater skills under the instruction of Norah Dooley. Kids will also create props, costumes and sets. Free, but all participants must be committed to attending all workshop and performance dates: mornings 6/27-7/1 and 7/5-7/8. Performance July 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. (Possibility of extra rehearsal times.) An adult to direct tech crew is still needed. No theater experience necessary. Call 249-0358 or 9-3572 for info



### Preschool Summer Kindermusik Program

This summer, the library will again be offering a 5 week program of music and movement programs for preschool children. The programs will be held on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. beginning on July 11<sup>th</sup> and continuing through August 8<sup>th</sup>. Tina Gembroys, music educator and trained Kindermusik instructor, will lead the programs. Jen Bartkus will staff the library and help with the programs. The programs will each last about one hour and there will be healthy snacks provided. The programs are free. Older children are welcome to use the library during this time but the program is only for preschoolers.

### An Eventful Morning: Saturday, June 11

The annual Village School **Pancake Breakfast** will be held at the Town Hall from 7:30-10:30 am, featuring organic blueberry pancakes, real maple syrup, baked ham, and fresh fruit salad. The price is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.

There will be a **Storytelling Tent** on Royalston Common from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Popular storyteller Norah Dooley will perform with stories and group participation in song, sound and movement. There will also be games for kids, face painting, and with luck, the Millers River Morris Men will dance on the common. This troupe of colorfully costumed local men will perform traditional English dances, stomping and pounding the earth to ensure fertility for the summer's crops. These activities are all free and open to the public.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of the Phineas S. Newton Library **Plant Sale** will be held from 8:30-12:00 noon, outside at the Royalston Post Office, offering a great selection of hardy local plants contributed by Royalston's best gardeners, with experienced horticulturists for hands on advice. In addition, local growers like Prospect Hill Farm, Noel's Nursery, Down to Earth Perennials, MacMannis Florist, and Shepardson's Gardens donate lush and unusual offerings.

The Library will be holding a **Book Sale** from 9:00 -12:00 noon, this year to be held at the Library. There will be a nice selection of used books in all genres.

The annual **Bake Sale** to benefit the Village Improvement & Historical Society of Royalston will also be selling home-baked goods at their Historical Society building (post office).

There will also be a well stocked **Tag Sale** on the Common starting at 8:30 am, benefits Village School 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom field trips

A **Spectacular Silent Auction** will take place upstairs at Town Hall to benefit the Village School building project. Families, staff and local merchants have donated over 90 unique and exceptionally nice items and services. The Auction opens at 7:30 am with last bids taken at 11:00 am. Some of the items donated by families for the Silent Auction are: a mountain bike, a sheepskin, hand knitted sweaters, Eric Carle Museum trip with preschool teachers, math tutoring, a wooden marimba, children's sewing machine, a child's guitar, Egyptian tent fabric, and much more. Local business donating include Athol Automotive /Carquest (4 Red Sox weekend tickets), Wachusett Mountain (Sky Box day suite, rentals & lift tickets for 4), Royalston General Store, Petersham Chiropractic, Restaurant, Eggs-Cetra, The Country Hen, Sign Works, Stop & Shop, The Kitchen Garden, Wachusett Meadows Mass Audobon Society, Hubbardston Family Chiropractic, Horse & Buddy Feeds, Pete & Henry's, Frames/Ink, Petersham Country Store, Bruce's Browser, Athol Dental Associates, SpeeDee Oil Change, Red Apple Farm, www.wool\_soup.com, House of Wax, Cheshire Firewood, knitting looms from Babe's Bifer Garden, Hill Top Auto Center, Wachusett Brewery, Pete's Tire Barn, The Big Red Barn, Playaway Bowling Lanes, Toy City, The Traveling Vineyard wine basket, Emily's Needleworks, Royalston Arts Foundry, Gail Crosman Moore handcrafted jewelry, Prospect Hill Farm, Eddies Restaurant, Haley's Antiques, Orange Saws, Mount Tully Kennels, and more to come.



## Royalston Community School News

*Bobbie French, Principal*

The school year is coming to a close. The last day of school is June 21<sup>st</sup>. It is a half day with noon dismissal. Thank you to everyone who has made this a tremendous year for the students and myself. I feel fortunate to have come to such a wonderful school and community.

Our Student Showcase and Open House proved to be fantastic. The students love to show off all of their hard work. Ms. Passaro's art projects, the photography club's "slide show" on the new computers, and all of the science, literature and writing displays were impressive. Nature's Classroom trip for grade six is June 6-10<sup>th</sup>. The class and parents have devoted a lot of time to fundraising to make this trip possible. The students will spend a week at Ocean Park, Maine discovering the wonders of nature.

*Other important dates include:*

June 15 Step up day. Students will get a taste of their classrooms and teachers for next fall. They may also receive summer "homework"!

June 17 Field Day

June 21 Grade 6 Completion Ceremony

### Useless Things

a bike without a chain

a cloud without rain

a bottle without a drink

a pen without ink

a bath without soap

a grump without a mope

a calendar without dates

a bully without hates

a picture without a frame

a kid without a name

a poem with out words

an elephant without herds

a candle without a stick

a dog without a trick

a teacher without a class

an engine without gas

a book without pages

a zoo without cages

a clock without hands

a cook without pans

*by RCS Poetry Group 2:*

*Jaryth LaRoche, Shelby Bronnes, Michele Thompson and Devin Bates*

### Monty Tech News

Monty Tech was recently honored by the City of Gardner's Chamber of Commerce, receiving the group's annual "Community Service Award." Monty Tech has been in the forefront of community service projects in many towns, helping cash-strapped towns rehabilitate town facilities, give new life to town-owned vehicles, building low income and affordable housing units, and in general, providing their technical skills and a helping hand wherever needed. Royalston can be very proud of our 29 students in this fine school, and their contributions to these service endeavors.

Monty Tech has completed the mandatory Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Tier II audit, and has been declared "unactionable," which is about as close to praise as this process gets. Unactionable means there are no concerns so serious that they warrant further investigation by the State Office of Educational Quality and Accountability. School committee member Mary Barclay has a copy of the audit report to share, and invites interested townspeople to the next School Committee Meeting (Wednesday, June 1; 7 p.m.) when Superintendent-Director James R. Culkeen will discuss the audit and actions Monty Tech is taking as a result of it.

### Recipe of the Month

The Village School Parent Group has a new cookbook out called "Foods Kids Eat". It includes 100 pages of recipes to pique kids' appetites like Moroccan carrot orange salad, crispy parmesan chicken tenders, "powerkraut" and edible play dough ; it costs \$10. Drop by the school to pick up a copy. Included in the book is the pancake recipe central to the Village School's annual fundraising breakfast and silent auction. The school director, Rise Richardson, has been making them for her family every Sunday morning for over 20 years and will be serving them hot at Town Hall all morning on June 11th.

#### Sunday Morning Pancakes

2 c. whole wheat pastry flour

1 T. baking powder

1 tsp salt

3 eggs

1/2 cup oil

2 c. sour milk, buttermilk or regular milk

Separate the eggs. Beat the whites until they form soft peaks. In a large bowl, sift flour baking powder and salt. In a separate bowl, beat the yolks. Beat in oil and milk. Make a divot in the dry ingredients. Add yolk mixture. Stir gently until just mixed. Fold in beaten egg whites. Pour onto hot griddle. Serves 4. (Recipe can be multiplied easily.)

### Village School Summer Arts Program in Royalston

The Royalston Summer Arts Intensive sponsored by the Village School has announced its summer programs for 2005. These programs are open to all children in the North Quabbin area.

The Summer Intensive runs from June 27-June 30 and July 1,5,6,7,8 from 9am to 3pm. This year an early drop off (7-8am) and extended day (3-5pm) option has been added as a service to working parents or for those wishing a full day of activities. The Summer Intensive welcomes children between the ages of 4 through 14.

Children will work with accomplished artists in three major areas: **Clay Work & Visual Arts** with Kerry Stone: Children will use the pinch, coil, and slab techniques to create sculptures, tiles, and one of a kind pottery. Printmaking, pastels, and painting from still life and landscape will also be explored.

**Nature Arts** with Kim Barry: Wildflowers and plants growing in fields will be a source of inspiration. Children will press wildflowers, make sun prints on fabric, create a gnome home, and go on unique scavenger hunts.

**Theater Arts** with Norah Dooley: Children will explore theater games, make up stories and act out creations together.

Cost for the nine full-day program is \$450. Scholarships are available with funding provided by the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. For more information, please call the Village School at 978-249-3505 or visit the website at [www.villageschool.to](http://www.villageschool.to). Contact: Rise Richardson





## Congratulations and Good News

*Got something to crow about? Drop the news by the library or e-mail chasegos@gis.net.*

### Pomp and Circumstance

**Congratulations to these 2005 graduates of Athol High School:**

**Timothy Aldrich:** Son of: Laura Aldrich, 23 Neale Rd and Steven Aldrich, Winchendon Rd; **Kimberly Bassett:** Daughter of Marjorie & Steven Bassett, Brown Road; **Stephanie Bennett:** Daughter of James & Denise Bennett, Prospect Hill Road. She was named a Telegram and Gazette student Achiever and will study anthropology in the fall; **James Charest:** Son of Fred & Marsha Charest, Main Street. James has been accepted at the University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth and plans on majoring in Marketing.; **Christopher Guiney:** Son of John & Barbara Guiney, Morse Road; **Brandon Jeffery:** Son of John Jeffery and Clair Alix, NE Fitzwilliam Road. He will attend the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) in the fall; **Shannah Lively:** Daughter of Kenneth & Andrea Lively, The Common; **Jan Vaccari:** Son of George & Sonja Vaccari, N. Fitzwilliam Rd; **Daniel Warren:** Son of Robin Warren, Bliss Hill Road; **Amanda Wessels:** Daughter of Gary & Brenda Wessels, Winchendon Road; Ben Otto: son of Karen Swan and Luther Otto; and **Elizabeth Wheeler:** Daughter of Ed and Sally Wheeler, Athol-Richmond Road will attend Moody Bible College in the fall and study to become a missionary.

We laud you graduates at Mount Wachusett Community College: **Dayna Lovely** received an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences and met the rigorous requirements to graduate as a Commonwealth Scholar, a state-wide honors program. **Heather Hubbard**, daughter of Walt and Joyce Hubbard of Athol-Richmond Road. earned a certificate in Medical Office Technology. **Rosemary Bolduc**, the daughter of Paul and Denise Bolduc of Stewart Road, and mother of Village Schooler Nadia, graduated with honors from the nursing program and earned the Nursing Club award; **Renee Javier** of Park St. completed her Associate's Degree in general studies. This Pete & Henry's waitress and mother of three RCS students is contemplating continuing for a degree in nursing; and **Kimberly MacLean**, daughter of Richard C. Courser of Warwick Rd, who earned an Associate of Science in Nursing degree as well as the Craig Hamel Nursing Scholarship and a General Endowment Scholarship.

Fitchburg State graduated **Wm. E. Manser**, with a CAGS in Interdisciplinary Studies and **Linda Alger** with a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies. Congrats.

Well done! Quabbin Valley Healthcare recently announced that **Marjorie Bassett** of Brown Road graduated from their four-week Certified Nursing Assistant training program.

**Stephanie Alger**, daughter of Bruce Alger, recently graduated summa cum laude, earning a degree in International Business from the University of South Carolina. His other daughter, **Nicole**, was on the Dean's List this past semester and just completed her freshman year at Northeastern University in Boston.

**Chencharik Wedding:** **John** and **Kathy Chencharik** of River Rd in South Royalston are still brushing rice from their pockets after the May 28<sup>th</sup> wedding of their daughter **Cindy Chencharik** to **Mark Rieth** of Winchendon. Royalston Justice of the Peace, **Mariah Mallet** performed the ceremony. The couple will live in Gardner.

**...And a Heck of a lot of the Children are Above Average:** **Heather Lively**, a sophomore at Athol High School, recently completed her Junior Olympic Volleyball season. Heather plays for Hardrock 18-1 National Team based out of Manchester, NH. Heather and Hardrock 18-1 also traveled to Baltimore, MD and Philadelphia, PA to compete in National Qualifiers. Heather has competed against girls 2-3 years older than herself all year.

**Shannah Lively** was recently awarded the first ever Cami (White) Fisk Award at the Athol High School Senior Sports Awards banquet, naming her the Most Outstanding Female Athlete in the Senior class. Shannah has lettered in both the basketball and volleyball teams for the last four years.

**Nancy Bolton's** daughter, **Holly Bolton Dupell** will compete in the 10km Joan Benoit road race in Cape Elizabeth, ME. on July 31. In last year's race, she finished in the first 10th for her class and was in the top 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

**Dante Divoll** came in first in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Athol-Royalston Middle School Spelling Bee; **Alexandra Krasowski** came in 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Christine Sawyer** 4<sup>th</sup> in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade contest.

**Kim Bassett** and **Stephanie Bennett** were recognized for their academic work and **Jan Vaccari** was named for extracurricular accomplishments as students of the month at Athol High School in April.

**Jan R. Vaccari** was one of three AHS winners at Mount Wachusett Community College's 23<sup>rd</sup> annual regional high school art exhibition. Jan received an honorable mention for his work, which stood out from among the entries submitted by 27 different school districts. Also, work by **Stephanie Bennett**, **Kim Bassett** and former south village resident **Julie Drouin** were among the five artists from Athol High selected to participate in a recent art exhibit at Haley's antiques.

Congratulations to **Caitlin J. Barclay**, who just completed her first year at Mount Wachusett Community College. The former homeschooler, 16, earned a spot on the President's List by earning a 4.0 GPA for 15 credit hours taken during the spring semester. She was also recently elected to serve as President of the Student Government Association for the 2005-2006 school year.

### Royalston Community Coop

June orders are due to Mary and Brenda by Thursday, June 16. Goods will be delivered the following Thursday, June 23. Those unable to pick up their orders promptly should drop off a cooler with ice packs for cold and frozen goods.



**Follies Full of Fun**



Selectman Tom Kellner is "Taking Care of Business" at the recent Follies. The skit "If Walls Could Talk" featured many landmark buildings in Town dancing and conversing in an effort to thwart evil plans to turn the Common into a theme park. (photo Liane Brandon)

Thanks to the obvious hard work of the Town Cultural Council, a good time was had by all that could squish in to enjoy the music and humor of the recent Follies. The winners of the Oscarinas by audience vote were:

- 1st place - The Ladies Benevolent Society "Braised Beef Blues"; the ladies of this surprisingly bawdy take on preparing and serving a public supper would like to thank Norah Dooley for writing and performing the lyrics and the band, Jim Bennett, Noah Siegel, and Phil Leger and Ray Maillet for backing them up (despite the flying buns.)
- 2nd place - Elizabeth Farnsworth & Rene Lake with lovely harmonizing voices and folk guitar.
- 3rd place - "If Walls Could Talk" by Madame V Productions

**The Royalston and Harvard Law School Connection**

Pat Jackson of South Royalston Rd recently submitted some information historically linking Harvard Law and our fair Royalston. It came about as she mentioned to her old friend John Mansfield, the youngest tenured professor ever at HLS, that she had bought a home in Royalston. She was expecting that he would never have heard of it. Instead, it turned out that he had been here in the early 1970s for interesting reasons. His information combined with some digging in the reference room of the Phinehas S Newton library produced interesting connections. (part 1 of a two part series.)


**Isaac Royal and the Harvard Law School:** In pre-revolution colonial Massachusetts, the British government claimed the land that is our town. Eventually, some parcels were given in grants in return for military services to the Crown and the rest was put up for public sale. In 1752, a consortium of nine Boston area businessmen, (which over the 34 years of the investment included some famous patriots including John Hancock, James Otis and Gov. Jms. Bowdoin.), purchased 28,357 acres for 1,348 Pounds Sterling. Isaac Royal, an original investor, agreed to fund 25 pounds sterling toward construction of a meetinghouse on the lands. In return, the group voted to name the parcel of land Royal-shire. (The town was incorporated thirteen years later as Royalston.)

Isaac Royal lived in Medford where he was known as a "gentlemen of great spirit for public enterprise, devoted in admiration for his king." He gave generously to church and schools and was a benefactor of Harvard College. Not only did he donate a large sum to replace the Harvard library when it burnt in 1764, but he donated 2000 acres of land, mostly in Royalston, to found a professorship of law. This was the beginning of Harvard Law School.

Isaac Royal never made the trip to see his namesake town. When the revolutionaries won the War of Independence, loyalists were forced to leave. Reluctantly, he left his comfortable life in Medford and fled to England, where he died. His restored home is available for tours.

**Bible-oo-philis**

Recently the First and Second Congregational Churches of Royalston presented the Bible Club participants with new Bibles at an outing to The Cross in Barre. Bibles were presented to Lainey and Dahlia Wright, Ivers Lawrence, and Austin Kinsman of South Royalston and Alisha and Andrea Linnus, Samantha Hutchins, McKenzie and Colleen Spear, John Graham, Jacquie and Mike Campos, Liz, Ruth and Lucy White, and Allison Mowrey, all of Royalston. The Bibles were received by all with great enthusiasm and appreciation. Bible Club is an outreach of the First and Second Congregational Churches and meets during the school year on Wednesday afternoons after school. It is for children of all ages. It is led by Lynn Jahl, Sue Veilleux and Kyle Stoddard. Rev. Dr. Virginia Asel is the Pastor of both churches. Plans are already underway for future Bible Club and youth programs for the churches. "We hope to continue on the success of Bible Club to institute new youth programs including a Teen Group which will be launched in the fall," says Lynn Jahl, Bible Club leader.



**JUNE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**  
ALL SHOWS AT 7:30 PM - TICKETS \$10/\$8 UNLESS NOTED

JUNE 2: MAD AGNES - intricate harmonies, complex counterpoint  
 JUNE 4: THE AMITY FRONT - blues, bluegrass, jazz, celtic & folk  
 JUNE 5: 2 PM GERHARD/SUHRESTEDT - piano duo, French music & poetry  
**"IT'S A CLASSIC WEEKEND": Weekend pass \$50adults/\$40seniors/\$30kids**  
 JUNE 10: "REMEMBRANCE" - Ives, Shostakovitch, Schubert \$25/\$20/\$15  
 JUNE 11: "GOING TO THE DEVIL" - Stravinsky, Weill, Mozart \$25/\$20/\$15  
 JUNE 12: 2 PM "ANIMAL TALES", A FAMILY CONCERT - Poulenc's Barbar & Hudson/Pearson's The Bug Opera \$25/\$20/\$15 (1 adult free with every child)  
 JUNE 16: BABY ABAGNALE - trio featuring acclaimed jazz violinist  
 JUNE 18: THE DESSERT SINGERS - women's chamber chorus  
 JUNE 19: 2 PM GARY ROSEN & FAMILY - children's music pioneer  
 JUNE 23: SETH GLIER - singer, songwriter, pianist  
 JUNE 25: JAMI SEIBER - electric & acoustic cello  
 JUNE 26: 2 PM QUABBIN VALLEY PRO MUSICA - Handel, Mendelssohn

**Tickets, info & directions at [www.1794meetinghouse.org](http://www.1794meetinghouse.org)**

## Massachusetts' Bio-diversity Days

*Bio-diversity Days will be celebrated across the state June 4-12. This is a chance to appreciate and document life in our local natural surroundings. Several events are planned for Royalston.*

The Phinehas S Newton Library will display a **100 year old collection of pressed plants from Town** gathered and documented by Rev. James A Bates, who was the minister of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Church from 1898-1903. Upon his retirement, he compiled the botanical collection between 1898-1903.

The Open Space Committee is organizing a **guided walk** led by many respected naturalists from town: mushroom expert Noah Siegel, botanist Matt Hinkler, Athol Bird and Nature Club president Dave Small, beetle specialist Ernie LeBlanc and wildflower expert Elizabeth Farnsworth on Sunday, June 5 at 2:00; (meet at the library).

Also, there will be a **sketch contest** sponsored by the Open Space Committee. Go outside and sketch any living part of our natural world between June 4 - 12. Entries will be displayed at the Phinehas



S. Newton Library and fabulous prizes awarded in these age groups: aged 2 – 5; 6 – 9; 10 – 12; 13 – 18 and over 18. (Entries should arrive at the library by June 18 with name, address and age on back. Also, label back of sketch with a common or Latin name of the subject in the sketch if possible). Call Beth Gospodarek 249-0358 for more info about Bio-diversity Days.

## Royalston Residents Watching Tully Lake Housing Development

*Allen Young*

Many Royalston residents are expressing concern about a subdivision of 42 homes planned for 80 acres in Athol, near the Royalston line, directly overlooking the southern end of Tully Lake.

All who camp, canoe, hunt, fish, hike Tully Mountain, or just drive Route 32 and enjoy the serene views around the lake know that such a large development will forever alter the landscape there. Other concerns are water pollution as well as traffic and noise issues. A citizen's committee called Friends of Tully Lake has engaged a specialized attorney who can assist town boards to make the right decision.

Under the Massachusetts zoning law, the Town of Royalston Planning Board is a "party of interest" in the project, which abuts the town line. Royalston residents have the right to communicate with our planning board, which is chaired by Tom Musco, to express their views about this project. Tom welcomes phone calls at 978-249-9633 or Emails at [tmusco@hotmail.com](mailto:tmusco@hotmail.com). More information is available on the web site, [www.friendsoftullylake.org](http://www.friendsoftullylake.org).

## Wildlife Sightings

Walt Hubbard had his bee hives near Tully Lake torn apart two nights in a row by a **Black Bear** in early May. The Seco family saw a bear lying in the middle of Neale Rd later in the month.

The Linnus family as well as others have spotted a **pair of adult Red Fox with many kits** in the Jonas Aliene cemetery on Winchendon Rd in early May.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Deems and Elizabeth Leonard observed a **bobcat (Catamount)** at approximately 5:30 A.M., near the power lines on 68 south. It was "bigger than a house cat and matched a photo on the Internet identically."

Color: **Indigo Buntings, Rufous Sided Towhees, Ruby Throated Hummingbirds, Gold Finches** and lots of **Cardinals** and **Blue Jays** on Northeast Fitzwilliam Rd this May. Has anyone seen an Eastern Bluebird or Scarlett Tanager this spring?

## Garden Notes

*Larry Siegel*

The garden is at its most orderly from early through mid-June. The perennial beds have been kicked into shape; the bleeding hearts (a few well-grown plants go a long way) are winding down; a multitude of irises are blooming. They will be followed, in turn, by peonies, then roses, ensuring a full month of showy blooms.



The vegetable garden has been turned, plants set out and rows well marked by emerging seedlings. There is nary a weed in sight. Fear not, before month's end weeds may well be taller than the desired plants. I have addressed the matter of weeds at all stages of their development, and can state, categorically, that small weeds are easier to address than large. I go one step further, hoeing the beds before the appearance of weeds. In thirty minutes, and with minimal effort, I can 'weed' five hundred square feet of garden space.

There is little to harvest in June. Those with established rhubarb and/or asparagus beds can continue to pick both through the month. Radishes, for those who planted them in May, will be ready, as well as some early lettuce and spinach. I space my spinach four inches apart and pick individual leaves. The alternative is to space them closer together and pull up the entire plant. In either case, the harvest season is brief; as June warms up, the spinach will bolt to seed.

June continues as a setting out month. My tomatoes are in at the beginning of the month, followed several days later by the basil and perhaps a week later by the peppers. I have long ago given up on successfully growing eggplants. Much is seeded: beans, carrots, beets, cucumbers, squashes. Spread out your plantings; if you desire thirty feet of beans, make three ten-foot sowings about ten days apart, thus extending the harvest period. I grow winter squash but not summer. (There will be enough zucchini and yellow squash without my contributing to the summer glut.)

I am devoted to my garden. It is my vocation and my avocation, my daily exercise and my source of good food, my artistic expression and my aesthetic pleasure. It is my passion and perhaps, someday, it can be yours.

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## Rules for Cars and Horses Sharing the Road

*Submitted by Doreen Sawyer*

Part of Royalston's lovely rural character comes from the presence of its remaining farm animals. Treat them with respect. Many times in order to get to a wooded trail, a stretch of public road must be navigated by a horse and rider. Drivers may not realize that even the calmest mount can spook. According to MA General Law 90 Section 14, "Every person operating a motor vehicle shall bring the vehicle to a complete stop when approaching a horse, cow or other draft animal (that is) being led, led ridden or driven, if such animal appears to be frightened and the person in charge shall signal so to do." Furthermore, "the person operating (the vehicle) shall use reasonable caution passing such animals."

## Memorial Day Committee

Thank you to those who participated in Royalston's annual Memorial Day exercises. Perhaps you helped with flags and wreaths or by having your organization march in the parade. Maybe you stood quietly and paid respects at one or more of the ceremonies, or joined in for the post-parade luncheon. Your support means a great deal to the area veterans who lead our parade, and sets a good example for the youth of Royalston.

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

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To submit news, articles, calendar notices, classifieds:

E-mail: chasegos@gis.net

Mail: PO Box 133, Royalston, MA 01368

Fax: 978-249-3572 (library)

Phone: 978-249-0358

In person: Drop off at library

RCN reserves the right to edit and restrict all submissions. This Newsletter is provided free of charge to all residents of Royalston as a public service provided by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library with support from the Royalston Cultural Council and the entire community.

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