

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2007



Volume X, Issue IV

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

Calendar of Events

November 1 Thursday

6:30 pm **Friends of the Library meeting.** All welcome. to come find ways to physically and financially support our public library as well as provide interesting classes and programs for our community and improve this newsletter.

November 2 Friday

5 pm **Autumn Lantern Walk Celebration :** storytelling, lantern procession, Italian pot-luck supper and contra dance. Public invited. \$2/child or \$10/family. Meet at Village School and process to Town Hall.

7 p.m. **Allen Young will discuss his new book, *Make Hay While the Sun Shines: Farms, Forests and People of the North Quabbin*,** at the library. Signed copies available. Wine and cheese served.

November 3 Saturday

Sadie Hawkins' Day

November 4 Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Ends. Turn clocks back one hour.

November 5 Monday

7 pm **25th Anniversary United Way Supper** at Pete and Henry's Restaurant. Pasta, meatballs, bread, sald and home-made pies. Tix: \$12.50. Available at post office or from Ginny Gingras.

November 6 Tuesday

5 - 7 pm **McDonald's Night.** A percentage of the profits from the sales during this hour at McDonald's on Rt 2A in Athol go to the RCS Fieldtrip Fund.

November 9 Friday

Professional Development Day;

no school in the ARRS

6:03 p.m. **New Beaver Moon**



7 pm **Annual Fire Department Turkey Raffle** at Station 1; free refreshments including clam chowder and beer on sale. Raises money for the the Royalston Fire and EMS Association. In addition, tickets for two Thanksgiving Baskets are available at 3 tickets for \$1.00 from any Royalston firefighter.

November 12 Monday

Veterans' Day observed

November 14 Wednesday

11 am - noon **Free Flu Immunization Clinic** at the Royalston Town Hall sponsored by the Council on Aging. (Senior luncheon served at 11:30 this and every Wednesday. Call Betty woodbury for details: 978-249-9656 .)

November 14 - 15 Wednesday and Thursday

Parent-Teacher Conferences (in the afternoon on 11/14 and evening on 11/15) at the Royalston Community School. Call now for an appointment. 978-249-2900.

November 17 Saturday

9 am - 2 pm **Annual Jingle Bell Fair,** 2nd Congregational Church in South Royalston village

10 am to noon **Village School Open House .** Meet parents and talk to teachers. Science activities and crafts for children. 978-249-3305 or www.villageschool.to for more info.

6:30 pm **Annual Braised Beef Supper** to raise funds for the Ladies' Benevolent Society Scholarship Fund. Home-made beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, carrot salad, and endless pies. See members for tickets or call Brenda Putney at 978-249-7877.

November 17 - 18 all weekend

Thanksgiving Harvest Festival at Red Apple Farm in Phillipston. Shop for locally grown ingredients for your Thanksgiving feast; enjoy live music, food demos, and a wood stacking competition. See www.redapplefarm.com for info.

November 22 Thursday

Thanksgiving

November 23 Friday **No School ARRS**

November 25 Sunday

3 pm **Pot Luck Supper as a public farewell to Pastor Ginger Asel** at the First Congregational Church on the Common. A mic will be available to those who would like to say a few words.

December 2 Sunday

2 pm **Traditional Wheat Ornament Workshop** at the Town Hall. Participants make several types of traditional holiday ornaments. All supplies provided. Registration is limited to 20 people; \$5 fee. To register, call or stop by the library: 249-3572.

December 5 Wednesday

6 pm **Town Tree Lighting:** Caroling, cocoa, and candy canes as well as a performance by the newly re-formed RCS school band and a visit by special guest with a beard that is long and white.

December 7 Friday

7 pm **First of the First Friday Open Mics: 6th Season** at Town Hall. Looking for volunteers to help set up and oversee refreshments. Please contact Jim Bennett at 978-575-1052.

COA Wednesday Luncheons for Convivial Company and a Free Flu Shot on November 14

The Royalston Council on Aging has announced its annual FREE Flu Immunization Clinic will take place on Wednesday, November 14, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Royalston Town Hall. This FREE immunization is recommended for anyone 6 months of age or older with chronic health problems; for elders and for youth between the ages 6 months through five years old; for pregnant women; and for health care workers, school teachers, and others who work in confined spaces with large numbers of people. The idea is, if the symptoms of flu – fever, vomiting, diarrhea – will seriously affect your health, this shot will help avoid contracting the flu.

This year's flu immunization is made of inactive, killed viruses of the three strains of flu scientists believe will be the most likely to infect the U.S. and cannot cause a recipient to develop the flu. It takes about two weeks to boost flu antibodies to protective levels, and the protection against the strains in the immunization will last through the winter months.

The Royalston Luncheon Club will meet as planned for its weekly Wednesday lunch on the 14th at 11:30 a.m.; anyone wishing to join in for lunch after the FREE flu immunization can reserve a seat by calling Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by the Monday prior. The suggested donation is \$2/senior and \$2.50 for up-and-coming seniors. (This is the same procedure and price as for all the weekly Wednesday luncheons at Town Hall, where all are welcome.)

Assessors' Notes

Chapter 61A is a program in which landowners get a huge reduction on their tax bill in return for keeping the land undeveloped and in productive farm use for a period of at least ten years. Participants must file a renewal form every year due Oct 1st. The assessors have been lenient in keeping this deadline, going so far as calling, mailing forms, sending reminders, and even hand delivering forms. Starting next year any participant who fails to file by the deadline will be removed from the program and be required to pay all back taxes with interest. After they have paid all due taxes, they may apply again for the next year if they wish. The assessors' office is under no obligation and indeed will not automatically send out forms. Forms may be obtained in advance from any assessors' office in the state of Massachusetts.

Landowners required to pay personal property taxes likewise have a deadline to file their Form of List (March 1st). If not submitted by the deadline the taxpayer has forfeited the right to dispute the bill. Examples of taxable personal property are second home furnishings, farm machinery, farm animals, unregistered vehicles, store and restaurant furnishings, inventory, and manufacturing equipment. The Assessors meet every 1st and 3rd Weds. 7-9:00 PM at Whitney Hall. 978-249-0337.

What's New with the Open Space Committee?

Aaron Ellison, Chair

Royalston's Open Space Committee (OSC) was created three years ago by the Selectboard, shortly after the Town adopted its first Open Space and Recreation Plan (the "Plan"). The seven volunteer members of the OSC serve three-year terms, and we are charged by the Selectboard to implement the Plan. But what does that mean? What does the OSC actually do? In this first of several monthly columns, we introduce you to the OSC and its ongoing work.

Towns adopt Open Space and Recreation plans for many reasons. Having a Plan allows towns to compete for state grants to: enhance recreational opportunities; allow landowners to keep their land working - as working forests and working farms; and purchase land to limit excessive development and help maintain the rural character of the town. Because a large majority of the townspeople who helped draft the Plan identified "maintaining the character of the town" as a top priority, the primary activity of the OSC for the last few years has been to figure out how to do just that. We have spent a lot of time talking to neighbors, walking and driving around the town, looking carefully at property maps, learning about our natural resources and historic lands, and identifying key areas that could be developed as recreational areas or that are in need of protection from development. Last year we sent out an information sheet to everyone in town that discussed opportunities for individual landowners to protect their land from development, keep it working for them, and preserve their assets for their children and grandchildren. We are pleased to report that our mailing prompted several large landowners in town to begin to explore options for forest protection. We invite anyone else in town who wants to look into these options to contact the OSC for more details. If you don't remember getting the flier in last year's tax bill, or if you want another copy, download one from our web-site (<http://www.royalston-ma.gov/OSC/indexopen.htm>) or contact committee members for another copy. If you want to talk to us in person, we hold an open meeting on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:30pm in Town Hall or contact us individually. Minutes of the meetings are posted on our web site, where you can also find a copy of the Plan to download, maps of local hiking trails, information for landowners about land management and land protection, photographs of interesting plants and animals from around Royalston, and other information about the workings of the OSC.

As everyone who has attended annual and special town meetings knows, preserving the rural character of Royalston is an ongoing effort; it takes time and resources. In the coming year, the OSC will be working on different ways to help support the Town in its efforts to maintain our historical buildings and commons, increase recreational opportunities and resources, preserve our working forests and farms, and protect our valuable open space for everyone's benefit. Watch this space in coming months for more details!

Grant Notification from the Cultural Council: a Timetable

Marie-Claire Humblet, Chair

The Cultural Council has received a lot of applications from residents of Royalston and South Royalston this year: it is the best of situations. The council thanks all those who have generated great ideas and worked hard to file an application.

A new chair at the head of the Massachusetts Cultural Council has changed the schedule slightly. Accordingly, the Royalston Cultural Council will not be allowed to make decisions by the end of October as had been anticipated. Rejection letters will go out in mid-November and, following regulations, acceptance letters will be mailed exactly 2 weeks later. An article describing our program for 2008 will be in the January issue of this newsletter.

Royalston Open Mic: First Open Mic will be on Friday, December 7. The season will run through April and be on the first Friday of every month. The Royalston Open Mic is looking for volunteers to help set up and oversee refreshments. Please contact Jim Bennett at 978-575-1052. Open Mic is sponsored by the Cultural Council.

Board of Health Tips:

Recycle Waste Oil and Buy Recycled Oil

Phil Leger, Chair

Waste oil tips. When changing oil, pour into a clean container and cap with a tight fitting lid. Try not to mix gasoline, anti-freeze or other non-oil material. Oil is easily made into recycled oil. Did you know that all new Mercedes-Benz come with recycled oil? Did you know that MASSHIGHWAY uses recycled oil in its vehicles? Recycled oil has to meet the same engine specs as virgin oil.

When bringing oil to the transfer station leave with attendant in the oil area. These same tips apply to anti-freeze. Both these items are accepted free at the recycling center. There is no charge because there is no charge to the town to have these items collected. A charge is incurred when non-oil and anti-freeze material is added to these items, such as water, gasoline, and /or brake fluid. You'd be surprised how many oil containers come in to the facility contaminated. Other items to leave out of waste oil are leaves, mice, pine needles, and other solid organic material. *Close the loop; buy recycled oil and antifreeze!*

Royalston Community Post Office News

HELP WANTED: The highway contract route (HCR 080) owner Michelle Vescovi is looking for a relief carrier one day a week (maybe more.) Applicant must be 18 years old and have a reliable vehicle. Please call her if interested 978-544-0089.

What Happened at the October Special Town Meeting?

With about 26 voters present, the town meeting voted to purchase a new police cruiser outright for \$25,599 from Stabilization account.

From the Emergency Manager's Desk

Wayne R. Newton

The four phases of emergency management are mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. This month's article focuses on mitigation. But what is mitigation? FEMA's Guide for All-hazard Emergency Operations Planning uses the following terms: Mitigation actions involve lasting, often permanent, reduction of exposure to, probability of, or potential loss from hazard events. They tend to focus on where and how to build. Examples include: the zoning and building code requirements for rebuilding in high-hazard areas; flood plain buyouts; and analyses of flood plain and other hazard-related data to determine where it is safe to build in normal times, to open shelters in emergencies, or to locate temporary housing in the aftermath of a disaster. Mitigation can also involve educating businesses and the public on simple measures they can take to reduce loss or injury, like fastening bookshelves, water heaters, and file cabinets to walls to keep them from falling during earthquakes. From examining this statement, it is apparent that mitigation involves a range of activities. Ideally, these will occur before the disaster. Many of these mitigation activities are not within the direct control of the emergency manager. But that does not mean that the Emergency Management Director has no role in mitigation. On the contrary, there's a lot for the emergency manager to do to make sure the community engages in mitigation efforts, including the crucial role in mitigation—that of motivator, coordinator, and monitor. This translates into two major tasks. I must be alert to the various types of hazards that threaten our community. I must constantly monitor opportunities to reduce and eliminate the risks from these hazards.

The EMD is the person with the broad scope of responsibility to help the community to do all it can to reduce potential harm to people and property. Remember, my job is to translate comprehensive emergency management into meaningful programs for our community. How can I do this? One way is by motivating others to take mitigation actions and helping coordinate the available government and private-sector resources that can assist in mitigation. Some of the resources are codes and ordinances, structural measures, financial measures, information, land use planning and mapping, and inspections. Examples of laws which further mitigation are: building and zoning codes, plumbing and electrical codes, Public health ordinances, fire and life safety codes, hazardous materials regulations, dam inspection regulations, and traffic codes. These examples show that many people in the community have responsibility for mitigating hazards. The fire department is responsible for enforcing the fire codes, and the building inspector is responsible for enforcing the local building codes. The emergency manager works with the various agencies or departments who have direct responsibility for developing and enforcing codes and regulations.

Next month's newsletter will address issues of "preparedness."

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

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

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

979-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank yous

Elizabeth Farnsworth for a copy of her newest book.

Lorraine Casinginho, Lisa Freden, Jeff Hendrickx, and Barbara Richardson for book donations.

Donation to the Friends

Kenneth and Martha Bouchard

Thanks for Supporting our Newsletter

On the back page of the last newsletter, the Friends of the Library advertised its need for volunteers to help with the circulation and writing of the RCN. The response was gratifying. **Becky Divoll, Lorraine Cassinghino, Cindy Savoy, Linda Ramsdell, Larry Siegel, Joy Cutter and Jackie Fletcher** have all expressed an interest in contributing according to their time and talents. If you'd like to get involved, please attend a Friends of the Library meeting on the 1st Thursday of any month. We alternate afternoon and evening times; it is not necessary to attend regularly to be involved.

Yellow Pages Seeks Business Listings

The Friends of the Library are in the process of producing an updated version of the Royalston Community Directory/ Yellow Pages, which lists contact information for all Town Offices, everyone currently serving on Royalston's public committees as well as businesses in Town. If you would like a business listed, please send the name of business and contact info (phone and e-mail) as soon as possible. The listing is free and will be direct mailed to everyone in Royalston. Call 978-249-0358 or e-mail chasegos@gis.

Make Hay While the Sun Shines:

Book Signing and Wine and Cheese Reception

Long time resident and author, **Allen Young** will discuss his new book, *Make Hay While the Sun Shines: Farms, Forests and People of the North Quabbin*, on Friday, November 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Library. The event is open to the public free of charge, and there will be ample time for questions and conversation. The 160-page book will be available for purchase, with proceeds to benefit the Friends of the Library -- ideal as a Christmas gift as it can be personally autographed. It can also be purchased at local stores or ordered online at www.amazon.com and www.iuniverse.com.

In this photo-illustrated 160-page volume, Young has collected 30 of his favorite pieces about the North Quabbin Region, with an update for each one.

Very Cool Note Cards By Local Artists Available Soon

Art can't be rushed. Hence, the Friends of the Library note card project is a little delayed. However, it will definitely be worth the wait. Look for fabulous work with local themes by Gary Lippincott, Patience Bundshuh, Chris Lyons, Lorraine Casinghino, Arthur Yeblon, Karen Swan, Dante Divoll, Kate Collins, Lydia Musco and Laurie Truehart.



This is Gary Lippincott's contribution to the Friends of the Library notecard project. Buy the whole set of 10 cards, each with a different local scene by a different local artist, at the library. Cards available mid-November.

Holiday Wheat Ornament Workshop

This year on December 2nd Kathy Morris will teach participants how to make several types of traditional wheat ornaments. Each person will make stars and other ornaments to hang. No experience is needed and all supplies will be provided. Registration is limited to 20 people and the fee of \$5.00 will benefit the Friends of the Library. Samples of the ornaments will be at the library. To register, call or stop by the library.

Art Exhibit

Arthur Yeblan, noted painter from West Royalston, will be exhibiting some of his oil on paper landscapes at the library during November and December. Arthur has been painting for some 60 odd years and studied painting in Italy and France.

Jen Scherrer will have her acrylic paintings in the library during January and February.

Teen Reading Week

The teen winners of the gift certificates to Bruce's Browser are Asher Chase, Kourtney Frazier, Ashley Sawyer, and Ben West. These teens saw how lucky they could be just by checking out a book from the library. Congratulations and keep reading.

Pumpkin Contest Winner

The winner of the pumpkin was determined during the weigh-in at the Preschool Story Time on Monday, October 22nd when preschoolers weighed the pumpkin and checked the entries. The winner was Grady MacPhee who guessed 25 pounds, very close to the actual weight of 24 pounds, 9 ounces.



Esteemed estimator: Grady MacPhee and the 24 lb, 9 oz. pumpkin.

Some of the New Books at the Library

New Adult Fiction

Allen, Sarah Addison *Garden Spells*
Apps, Jerry *In A Pickle: A Family Farm Story*
Bray, Libba *A Great and Terrible Beauty*
Brian, Kate *Private*
Brown, Rita Mae *The Tell-Tale Horse: A Novel*
Castellucci, Cecil
Cooney, Caroline *Flight #116 is Down!*
Cooney, Caroline *The Face on the Milk Carton*
Fforde, Jasper *The Eyre Affair*
Follett, Ken *World Without End*
Gerritsen, Tess *The Bone Garden*
Grisham, John *Playing For Pizza*
Hart, John *Down River*
Hegi, Ursula *The Worst Thing I've Done: A Novel*
Hornby, Nick *Slam*
Horowitz, Anthony *The Falcon's Malteser*
Knowles, John *A Separate Peace*
Le Guin, Ursula *Powers*
Lehrer, Jim *Eureka: A Novel*
Mankell, Henning *Kennedy's Brain*
McNeill, Graham *The Ultramarine Omnibus*
Mosley, Walter *Blonde Faith*
Pancake, Ann *Strange As This Weather Has Been*
Pratchett, Terry *Making Money*
Reaves, Michael *Star Wars Death Star*
Robb, J.D. *Origin in Death*
Robb, JD *Visions in Death*

Russo, Richard *Bridge of Sighs*
Sanford, John *Dark of the Moon*
Scalzi, John *The Last Colony*
Sebold, Alice *The Almost Noon*
Shan, Darren *Cirque Du Freak: The Saga of Darren Shan Book 1*
Sparks, Nicholas *The Choice*
Vincenzi, Penny *The Dilemma*
Wickham, Madeline *Cocktails for Three*
Woods, Sturt *Shoot Him If He Runs*

New Adult Nonfiction

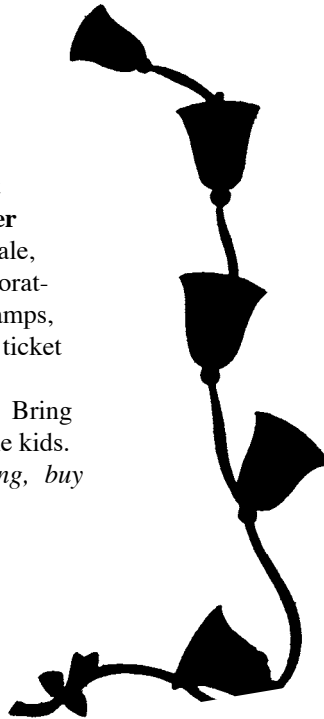
Armstrong, Karen *The Bible A Biography*
Brownlee, Shannon *Overtreated: Why Too Much Medicine is Making Us Sicker and Poorer*
Grenfell, Diana *The Color Encyclopedia of Hostas*
Halberstam, David *The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War*
Hancocks, Amanda *Handmade Greeting Cards For Special Occasions*
Lopez, Barry *The Future of Nature*
Mendell, David *Obama From Promise to Power*
Notbohm, Ellen *Ten Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew*
Robison, John Elder *Look Me In The Eye: My Life With Asperger's*
Stark, Rodney *Discovering God: The Origins of the Great Religions and the Evolution of Belief*
Taubes, Gary *Good Calories, Bad Calories: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom on Diet, Weight Control, and Disease*
Wills, Garry *Head and Heart: American Christianities*

Jingle Bell Fair

Saturday, November 17th
9:00am - 2:00pm
Second Congregational
Church
South Royalston

This is the fair you don't want to miss; it's bigger and better than last year. Includes: bake sale, sweet shoppe, crafts, holiday decorating, white elephant (color tv, lamps, pine kitchen table) and a super ticket auction.

Santa Arrives: 11:00am - noon. Bring your camera! Free treat for all the kids. *Come do your holiday shopping, buy some sweets, or just have coffee with friends and neighbors. This is the major annual fundraiser for our church, so we hope to see you there.*



Annual Fire Department Turkey Raffle

The annual Royalston Fire Department turkey raffle will be held on November 9 at 7:00 pm at Station 1 just off the Common. Free refreshments including clam chowder will be served and beer will be available for sale. Join us for this traditional fall event to raise money for the the Royalston Fire and EMS Association. In addition, tickets for two Thanksgiving baskets are available for sale at 3 tickets for \$1.00 from any Royalston firefighter. You do not need to be present at the raffle to win one of the baskets. For more information call Joshua at 508-733-2243.



Good Food for Good Causes

United Way Meal at Pete and Henry's (Pic at bar)

Royalston's United Way campaign is going "GREAT," says local chairman Ginny Gingras. "We will shortly reach the \$3,000 goal!" Ginny and the folks at Pete & Henry's also want everyone to support a special, 25th U-Way anniversary fundraising dinner – Pasta @ Pete & Henry's! Pete & Henry's is opening just one Monday, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., and with all volunteer help and special guest servers, to offer a complete dinner for \$12.50/adult (\$6.25/child), with all proceeds going to the Royalston U-Way campaign! Join your friends and neighbors for this special night out, which will feature an appetizer of crunchy salad and a main course of pasta with Italian sausage and savory meatballs blanketed with a flavorful tomato-based sauce, and savory garlic bread. Homemade apple pie will provide the perfect end to the perfect meal. Non-alcoholic beverages are included; a full range of beverages will be available for purchase. This promises to be a town-wide party to remember! Advance tickets are available at Pete & Henry's, from Ginny Gingras at 978-249-4951, Ginny Moore at 978-249-4962, and Mary Barclay at 978-249-2598.

Ladies' Benevolent Society Braised Beef Supper

On November 19 at 6:30 in the Town Hall, the Ladies come together to present their eagerly anticipated, annual fundraising Braised Beef Dinner. Vice President Brenda L. Putney has headed up this event since its inception. It now is one of the largest single fundraisers of the year, and its proceeds used to support the many scholarships granted each year by the LBS. Plan on family-style dining featuring melt-in-your mouth tender braised beef served over real mashed potatoes, salad and homebaked breads, sweet petite green peas and the Ladies' legendary marinated carrots with colorful and crunchy carrots, peppers and onions in a tangy dressing. Don't forget, homemade pies for dessert with freshly brewed coffee or tea. The hundred "in-house" tickets go rapidly at \$12/adult and \$5/child. To reserve a seat, call Brenda TODAY at 978-249-7787. To -go dinners will be available after the 6:30 in-house crowd is served. This is good food for a good cause!

Fast Food Fundraising at RCS

Two local fast food restaurants have generously agreed to donate a portion of their profits on particular nights to the Royalston Community School Parent Teacher Group. This arrangement includes diners from the school as well as people off the street. McDonald's in Athol will donate 20% of the profits from all customers who dine between 5 and 7 pm on November 6th and Subway of Winchendon will provide a similar deal between 5 - 7 pm on December 12. So, whether you're a victim of Big Mac attacks or prefer to "eat fresh", consider allowing the PTG to pick up the profit. Proceeds will go towards paying for field trips for each grade in the school. (Alternatively, it is equally acceptable to figure out what 20% of a fast food meal might cost and make a donation in that amount. Thanks for the support.)

Athol High School News

Joy Cutter, AHS School Nurse

Athol High School, the home of the Red Raiders, underwent renovations this summer. We are proud of the new media center which adjoins the newly expanded library facility. Not to be overlooked is the renovated spacious art room which now has plenty of natural lighting. Guidance has been provided with ample conference rooms as well as counseling offices by using space where the old clinic was located. The new clinic is now located in the old art room. Feel free to stop by for a tour.

Recently released MCAS test results reveal that scores for Athol High School are up in English as well as math with our Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets met and then some. The Athol High School Red Raiders have much to take pride in.

RCS Update

The school schedule is more complicated than usual this month, so here are some dates to note in November:

Nov.2 Marks close
Nov. 6 PTG McDonald's night; 20% of profits got to RCS fieldtrips from all sales between 5 - 7 pm at the Rt 2A McDonald's in Athol.
Nov. 9 No school for students. Professional Development Day
Nov. 12 No School. Veterans' Day
Nov. 14 Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:15 - 5 pm. Report cards
Nov. 15 1/2 day; lunch served; noon dismissal. Parent-Teacher conferences 6-7 pm. Report cards distributed.
Nov. 21 1/2 day. noon dismissal. No lunch served.
Nov 26 School resumes after Thanksgiving break. PTG meeting @ 3:15 pm. to discuss upcoming events, fundraising and school community opportunities and concerns.

Remember that the PTG is collecting donations towards a new playground slide. Contributions from the wider community are most welcome. Also, the school is enrolled in the "Hannaford's Helps Schools Certificates" program until December 14. Please send in any certificates acquired while shopping at this supermarket.

Holiday Greens Workshop

The North Quabbin Garden Club will be holding a Holiday Greens Workshop on Thursday, November 15, 7 p.m. Sue Baribeau of Athol, former owner of Ledge's Greenhouse, will instruct in making a holiday centerpiece for your table. Please bring clippers, a small bowl or container, two 12-inch candles, one 15-inch candle and, if possible, pine cones and/or winterberry. There is a \$5 materials fee for this program, which covers the greens, oasis, and ribbons. You will need to pre-register by November 8 by sending your name and check to NQGC, 100 Main St., Athol 01331. The program will be held at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street., Athol, at 7:00 p.m. Info: gardens@millersriver.net

Village School Happenings

Rise Richardson, director

The annual lantern walk is November 2. The public is invited to participate in this seasonal celebration. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. at the school (the old Raymond School building) with a gathering in the dark for a bonfire, stories, and songs. Everyone will then join in a procession on Royalston Common to the Town Hall, singing and carrying glowing candle-lit homemade lanterns. Bring a lantern! A community pot luck Italian supper at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by a contra dance with caller Norah Dooley and the No Name Band, beginning around 6:30 p.m. The contra dance will be called, and children of all ages will find it easy to join in the dances. Donations are suggested of \$5 per adult, \$2 per child, or \$10 per family.

Open House is Saturday November 17 from 10-12. There are arts and crafts and science activities for children. Visitors can meet present parents and talk to teachers about the unique nature-based hands-on curriculum. Refreshments are served.

The third and fourth grades of the Village School wrote about the Center Cemetery. Each child recorded data from fifteen to twenty graves in different locations of the graveyard. Here is what they learned: Comparing three families: the Woodburys, the Lees and the Batchelders, the Woodbury family lived longest. More people died in the 1800s than in the 1700s or 1900s. More people died in December than in the preceding five months. In one section of the graveyard more women are buried than men. Hanna Seghir, 3rd Grader, reports, "Now I will tell you. I made a graph to see if people died in their forties or younger or older. I found out more people died older than forty. I am glad that people died old."

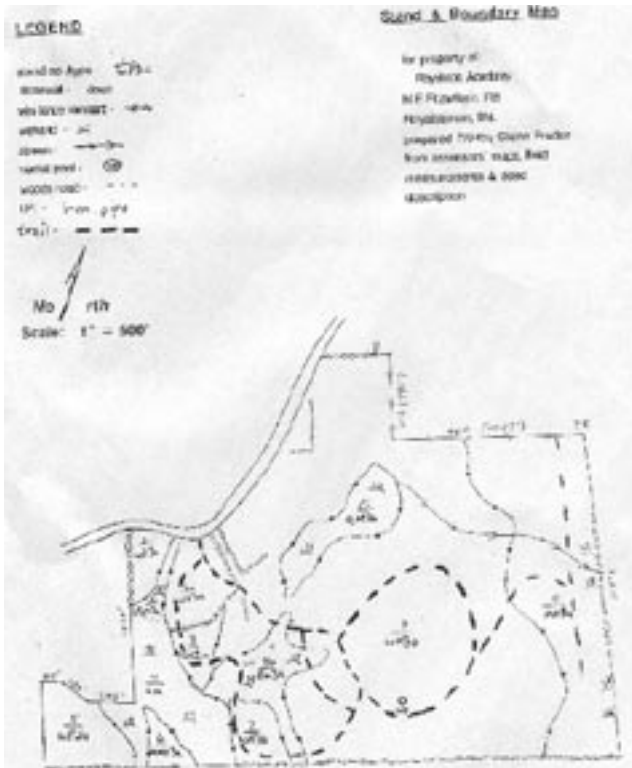
All-Schools Reunion Committee



A great time was had by all at the Royalston Fish & Game Club October 13. Re-elected were President Luann (LaRoche) Simula, Secretary Susan (Alger) White and Treasurer Virginia (Harrington) Moore. Newly elected Vice President is Roland G. Hamel. New to the executive board are Sherry A. Miner and former VP, Debra (Alger) Vescovi.

Royalston Academy Trails Cleared

A dozen or so volunteers removed fallen branches, clipped new growth and generally tidied up the trails at the Royalston Academy Conservation Area in late September. The trails, which abutt NE Fitzwilliam Rd are now easier to follow and enjoy. They are open to the public and a fine place to stroll through fallen leaves or x-country ski



Recently, Glenn and Lisa Freden, Pat Jackson, Maureen Blasco, Maba Cauthen, Becky Divoll, Martin Brown, Andrea Lively, Beth Gospodarek, Asher and Caleb Chase, and Alan Bowers helped clear these public trails. Over that afternoon, volunteers filtered off to meet personal commitments until at dusk, tenacious Alan Bowers was the last man clipping.

On the day of the clearing, Pat Jackson and her dog Kalu broke away from the group and were walking south toward Pat's house. Unfortunately, Kalu followed a trundling, waddling porcupine. Pat reports, "Afraid Kalu would get hurt and instinctively (but misguidedly) afraid for myself, I screamed at him to stop chasing the porc. Later I understood that my alarm may have made Kalu continue his pursuit, that I was in no danger, and that I had plenty of time to leash the dog. The porc stopped, bristled out his quills and gave Kalu a muzzle full. I leashed, ran home, got a pair of pliers, and took out 51 quills. Kalu hurt, but he didn't fight back. He understood I was trying to help and has been very affectionate since.

Wildlife Sightings

While walking the dog, Jerry Lajoie observed a bear cross Norcross Rd near the Blasco driveway on 9/28/07 at 5:45 in the afternoon.

Pat Jackson came upon and photographed a large pile of bear scat just off Rte 68 opposite 21 Old South Royalston Road; Martin Brown has also seen bear poop along 68 near the Cauthen's and Gia Smith has seen a bear near Millyard Rd. Pat also saw a young male deer with only one velvet 'antler' feeding less than 50' from her kitchen window on 10/3/07 and a red fox cross Rt. 68 on 10/21/07.

Local Man Turns Hippie For A Cause

Lorraine Cassinghino

In one of my travels to the Post Office recently I happened to run into my friend Roger O'Donnell driving by in his 87 vintage VW van. I noticed Roger's hair was starting to become a bit shaggy. I assumed this new look was an attempt to complete the vignette of van and owner. Being the motherly type, I immediately chastised him for looking like a bum. Well was I wrong.

Roger informed me that he is letting his hair grow in support of "Locks of Love". Locks of Love is a public non-profit that provided hair pieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. Roger told me that his goal is to grow his hair to a 10" length (which is the Locks of Love criteria for donation) before he has it cut and mailed to the organization. This is the second time that Roger has donated his hair, and was inspired not only by the mission of the organization, but also by his mother who lost her hair while going through cancer treatment.

If you're thinking about doing this, Locks of Love has their own very inspirational web-site at www.locksoflove.org, which talks about the organization and the specifics of donating. I happened to mention this to my hair stylist Nick, at Moda in Keene, only to find out that they will cut for free anyone donating hair to Locks of Love. Pass the word to your hair dressers, and the next time you see Roger tell him his hair looks great!

Shop Locally this Holiday Season

Royalston author Allen Young's books, "North of Quabbin Revisited" and "Make Hay While the Sun Shines" are available for purchase at the library, with a portion of the library proceeds going to the Friends of the Library. (Also at Bruce's Browser in Athol.) Allen has a small number of the hard cover edition of "North of Quabbin Revisited" remaining, available by special request (978-249-7612 or email ay114@columbia.edu). Also call or email him if you want one of his books signed and inscribed to an individual as a gift.

After Thanksgiving Book Fair at the Village School: The fair is open every morning from 8:20 to 9:00, and from 3:15 to 4:00 in the afternoon. There is a marvelous selection of great children's books off the Common in the brick building next to the post office.

Dean's Beans Coffee. Go to www.villageschool.to to find out how to order- it is delivered to the Village School freshly-roasted once a month.

Royal Pines Alpaca Farm on Brown Rd will be open every weekend 10-5. All items from the fashion show, plus more coming in will be for sale; 978-249-7629 for directions or info;

Adopt-a-slide certificates. The slide at the Royalston Community School has a hole and needs partial replacement. Donate \$10 or more towards the slide fund and a receive a personalized certificate suitable for gift giving.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

Got something to crow about? Send it along to the RCN. Zap to chasegos@gis.net or drop at library.

Birth Announcements:

Jackson Roy Chiappetta was born on September 15th at 8lbs 5 oz. to Christie (Smith) & Jeremy Chiappetta of Providence, R.I. Jackson joins his sister Katie who is 2 years old. Grandparents are **Donna and Roy Smith** of Royalston and Joy & Frances Chiappetta of Pittsburg,

Jonah Kevin Scherrer was born June 3, 2007. His proud parents are **Jen and Kevin Scherrer**. He weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces and was 21" long and has huge hands and feet and will probably be a basketball player and an artist.

Jon Hardie and **Rebecca Krause-Hardie** have every reason to be proud. Brad Hardie, a Lebanon, NH Firefighter and Paramedic, was one of several public safety providers recently awarded with a Medal of Valor "for Heroic Action in the Line of Duty." The honors were bestowed at the NH Fire Service and EMS Awards ceremony in Concord, NH during Fire Prevention Week. Firefighter/EMT-P Hardie and fellow Firefighter Chris Buchanan entered a fully-involved, smoke-charged residential structure and on the second floor, located a badly burned victim in full cardiopulmonary arrest. The pair carried the victim through the smoke and flames to an awaiting ambulance, where Brad, Chris, and other members of their unit, successfully resuscitated the victim enroute to the hospital.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

Tully Triathalon: The Army Corps of Engineers and the Trustees of Reservations would like to thank the Royalston Fire/EMS, Police, Highway, Selectboard, and residents who helped make the Tully Lake Triathlon a reality. Because of these people's hard work, the event ran safe and smoothly and was enjoyable for all the participants. The Tully Lake Triathlon based out of the Tully Lake Campground Oct. 14th, 2007 had 67 athletes participate. The custom triathlon was comprised of a 5-mile canoe/kayak paddle, a 4.5-mile cross-country run and a 7.5-mile mountain bike ride. The men's winner completed the course in 2 hours 12 minutes 19 seconds. The woman's winner completed the course in 2 hours 55 minutes 47 seconds. The winning 2-person team completed in 2 hours 22 minutes 47 seconds, and the winning 3-person team completed the course in 2 hours 27 minutes 12 seconds. The youngest person to complete the course was an 11-year-old boy.

Memorial:

Robert A Cloukey, 77, of 243 Warwick Rd, died Monday evening, October 1, 2007. He was born on Feb. 22, 1930 in West Engfield, Maine and married Dorothy (Smith) in 1953. They enjoyed 54 years of marriage. He served in the Korean conflict and was honorably discharged. A 40 year employee of the L.C. Anderson Company in Boston, he worked on plumbing, heating and HVAC systems. He enjoyed camping, hunting and fishing and spent winters in Texas. He is survived by his beloved wife Dorothy.

Royalston Community Coop

This is the last order prior to Thanksgiving and, if we can't meet the minimum for the December order, the final order before Christmas. As you make your lists, please identify anything you'd prefer to order next month. If it looks as though there will be a sufficient December order, we will hold those items until December. Next orders are due in Monday, October 29, and delivery will be Thursday, November 11, sometime between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.. Despite the October order date, please use the November price list. As a courtesy, please inform Brenda AND Mary if you're not planning an order.

Recipe of the Month

November is a month for gobbling. November's recipe comes from respected outdoorsman, Chet Hall, of Beryl Hill Rd. Chet is known for his service to town as a member the Board of Health and School Committee, to kids as a multi-season youth sports coach, and to the community as a reliable generous contributor for nearly every imaginable worthy cause.

Wild Turkey Cutlets

Ingredients

- 1 wild turkey breast;
- 2 cups Italian breadcrumbs combined on a plate with
- 1/4 cup Parmesan or Romano cheese; as well as
- 1 egg and few tsp. milk to make an egg wash

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Coat a cookie sheet with olive oil. Fillet turkey breast and slice to desired 1/4 inch fillet serving size. Drag fillets through egg wash, coat with crumb mixture and salt and pepper each fillet. Bake 8 minutes on each side. Duck sauces or honey mustard sauce are good for dipping these cutlets into.

(1 turkey breast serves 4 - 5 diners)



The Royalston Fish & Game Club recently put on the supper, a sell-out roast beef dinner. Thanks to all who supported the event and particularly Aimee Cormier, Luke Daigle, Charlie Gorham, Steve Lehtomaki, Jeremy Makosiey, Scott Smith and Tracy Smith for that effort.

Garden Notes

Larry Siegel

Wasn't it one of those president dudes who mumbled "it's the economy, stupid" to suggest what was really important? He got it all wrong. It's the weather, stupid. Even the non-gardeners among you are aware that strange things are occurring in the world of weather. It is the third week in October and foliage ought to be winding down; it is just beginning to peak. My records, having begun in pre-computer days (as if I would have used one anyway) are a bit sketchy, but I do not recall as delayed a frost. Of course, I've only been gardening here for thirty-one years. The tomatoes are still alive at Putney hollow, one of Royalston's notorious cold sinks. David Putney does not recall as delayed a frost either. He's been at it for sixty-odd years. Even more striking than frost's absence are the moderate, nearly balmy conditions we've been experiencing in October.

It has all translated to a garden just short of magnificent. Visitors comment on the greenness of it all, and green it is. Those mid-summer plantings of spinach, lettuce, and oriental greens are striking in their growth. Some of the tomatoes, cucumbers, and beans, effectively gone by, have sent out new growth from the base. The peppers have slowed down not a whit, bushy and filled with flowers and fruits.



Strange weather: In the absence of a killing frost, Becky Krause-Hardie still has a jungle of bearing tomatoes in her garden the last week of October.

2007 Fall Hunting Seasons

Dates inclusive; no hunting on Sundays

Pheasant and Partridge: October 13 - November 24

Turkey: October 29 - November 3

Deer

archery: October 15 - November 24

shotgun: November 26 - December 8

muzzleloader: December 10 - December 31

Royalston is a beautiful and bountiful spot with a lot of open space where hunters from all over congregate. Meanwhile dog walkers, hikers, wildlife watchers, kayakers, geo-cachers, etc. are also in the woods. The Massachusetts Department of Wildlife reminds residents:

1. Wear blaze orange for visibility, know the hunting seasons and be aware of who likely to be sharing the woods and waters.
2. Keep dogs under control
3. Canoeists and kayakers must wear life jackets from September 15 to May 15.

Most of us have seen our tomato season concluded (though I still go out and pick a pint of cherry tomatoes from time to time). Not so Becky Krause-Hardie, who chose the right season to transplant her tomato seedlings well beyond time to transplant tomato seedlings. She was well into September before she picked her first tomato. Now she meanders through a jungle of vines filled with fruit. Let me repeat: it is the third week in October.

Alas, the weeds, too find conditions to their liking. My hoe and I continue to team up in an ongoing effort to prevent the setting of seed, theoretically ensuring less weed pressure in the garden next year. I spend an inordinate amount of time with the strawberries. I always believe the bumper crop is right around the corner. I have yet to turn that corner. Aside from keeping the plot weeded (a difficult enough proposition), I'm working on its outer edges, providing new, enriched soil in which the strawberry runners can affix themselves, the theory being that the fresh ground and the young plants will combine to provide that bumper crop. It's right around the corner.

The fall raspberries have been a mixed blessing. They are filled with fruit, a pleasant surprise after the disappointments of the summer berries. But they have been excruciatingly slow to mature. It is only in the last couple of days I have been able to harvest more than a pint or two per picking. There are enough developing berries to keep me occupied at the task for months (weather permitting, though it is inconceivable to me that the weather will permit).

Finally the unprecedented apple harvest continues. A dozen or so of you have come by to unburden us of our surplus, but hardly a dent has been made. The steers are treated to at least a half-bushel per day (apple-fed beef?). It will be years before we exhaust the applesauce and apple butter I have made. A couple of five-gallon carboys are filled with hard cider-to-be. Gallons of cider are being farmed out to neighboring freezers (ours are full). And still they come. If an apple a day keeps the doctor away, we have a lot of doctor-free days ahead.

Deer Heads Needed – As part of its Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance program, MassWildlife has been taking samples of brain tissues from hunter harvested deer. CWD is a contagious neurological disease fatal to deer, elk and moose. Deer hunters are encouraged to consider providing a sample for CWD testing. During the bowhunting season, hunters who want to provide a sample may check their deer or bring their deer head to the Western District Office in Pittsfield, the Northeast District Office in Acton or the Westborough Field Headquarters. Hunters may also inquire of meat cutters if they are participating in collecting deer heads for MassWildlife. During the shotgun season, about one third of the deer check stations will be set up to collect deer heads. Another option is to leave a message with CWD Biologist Nicki Hamilton-Smith at 413/885-5725 who can make arrangements for pick up. Hunters are reminded to avoid freezing the head because the frozen tissue sample will not be acceptable.

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Firewood – Partially seasoned, cut, split and delivered in Royalston, \$160 per full cord (128 cubic feet). Leave a message for Jim at Putneys' Mill, 978-249-3379.

Help needed with yard work. Young man to work 2-4 hours twice a month in Royalston. \$6.00/ hour. Please call 978-249-8431. Must be dependable.

House Cleaning Service. \$60.00 for 4 hrs. Ask for Fran, Royalston resident. Home – 978-249-8431, Cell 978-895-0817.

Dogs Looking for Good Homes: Ahimsa Haven Animal Rescue and the Town of Winchendon Animal Control have recently been working with the Town of Royalston's Animal Control in the placement of abandoned animals. While one dog has recently found a new home, there are currently two dogs from the Royalston pound up for adoption through Ahimsa Haven. Both Banjo and Hope are wonderful dogs in need of loving homes. Banjo is a young, beautiful, and intelligent flat coat retriever mix eager to learn more and be a member of an active family. Hope is a 6 year old hound mix who enjoys walks in the woods; once she gains your trust, she will be your true best friend. Foster and adoptive homes are greatly needed. To learn more or to assist in these volunteer efforts of local abandoned, abused, and homeless animals visit www.ahimsahaven.org – you will see both Banjo and Hope on this website too!

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