

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

June 2008



Volume XI, Issue V

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

Calendar of Events

June 2 Monday

1924 – **Native Americans become U.S. citizens** by vote of Congress
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. **Pre-K Story time at PSN Library**; continues every Monday until June 18. All month, library is open Mondays 10 am - 8:30 pm.

June 3 Tuesday **New Strawberry Moon**

7 p.m. **Selectmen meet** in Town Hall

June 5 Thursday **World Environment Day**

3:30 pm **Friends of the Library meeting.** All welcome

June 7 Saturday **Saturday Spectacular**

A poster for a Saturday Morning event on Royalston Common on June 7th. The poster features a cartoon character on the left and a canoe on the right. The text lists various activities: Pancake Breakfast (7:30-10:30 am at Town Hall), Silent Auction (7:30-11:00 am), Tag Sale (8:30), Millers River Morris Men (9:00), Live Birds of Prey (9:45 with Tom Ricardi), and Cake Walk (10:45 for Children). It also mentions a Plant Sale, Book Sale, and Bake Sale at different locations.

Saturday Morning on Royalston Common
June 7th

Pancake Breakfast
7:30-10:30 am at Town Hall

at the Royalston Post Office
Friends of the Library Plant Sale
Historical Society **Bake Sale**

at the Royalston Library
Book Sale

Spectacular
Silent Auction
7:30-11:00 am
Featuring a brand new WaterQuest Canoe
www.villageschool.to for complete list of items

Royalston Community School Parent Teacher Group
High Blueberry Bushes \$18 each

8:30 **Tag Sale**
9:00 **Millers River Morris Men**
9:45 **Live Birds of Prey** with Tom Ricardi
10:45 **Cake Walk** for Children

June 8 Sunday

10 am **Monadnock Mushroomers Trip to Royalston Falls.** Meet at junction of Greenwoods Rd and Metacomet Monadnock Trail. Call Noah 249-4260 for info. All welcome.

June 9 Monday

Real Estate **Tax Bills Due**

June 11 Wednesday

7 pm **Royalston Fish & Game Club Meeting** (Directors at 7 pm)

June 15 Sunday **Father's Day**

June 17 Tuesday

7 p.m. **Selectmen meet** at Town Hall

June 18 Wednesday

early dismissal **last day of school year** in the ARRSD; no lunch.

June 19 Thursday

9 am - 12:30 **Royalston Shakespeare Company**, free theater workshop for kids ages 8 - 18, begins rehearsals for '08 season. Sign up now at library. Space limited. Performance 7/2 at 7 pm.

June 20 Friday

7:59 p.m. **Summer Solstice**

June 21 Saturday

5 p.m. **Chicken Barbecue & 60 Club Drawing** Winchendon Rod & Gun \$8/person

June 25 Wednesday

7 pm **Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting** at the Town Hall facilitated by the Royalston Police Department.

June 27 Friday

7 pm **Reconvened Town Meeting** at Royalston Community School.

June 29 Sunday

8 p.m. **Pete & Henry's Closing for July 4th Week** (reopens July 10, 4 p.m.)

Summer Planning Guide:

July 12 Thursday

1:30 pm **Summer Reading Program**, a free fun program for kids, begins and continues Thursday afternoons through 7/31 at the library.

July 12 Saturday

Congregational Churches Fair on the Common.

July 20 Sunday

noon - 5pm **Royalston MusicFest** in Bullock Park. A great new line-up of local talents and the Fire Department's famous BBQ.

July 27 Sunday

9 am **Butterfly Breakfast:** bagels, slide show and guided walk.



At a recent Selectmen's meeting, Acting Fire Chief Keith Newton presented a Lifesaving award to Firefighter Anthony Basso. Basso was first on the scene at a recent medical call. Basso performed CPR on the victim until help arrived. Newton said that Basso's quick action saved the victims life. Several other Firefighters and First Responders received citations at the ceremony for their life saving efforts at the scene. Shown left to right, EMS Captain Gary Winitzer, Josh Siegel, Anthony Basso, Chief Newton, Elizabeth Phelps, and Jayne Porter

Selectmen's News

Andy West

Route 32 Update: First some background. Plans were submitted to Mass Highway in January for review. Our district office approved, but sent the file to Boston for a full review, adding a few months. Sen. Brewer and Rep. Rice have actively pursued support for the project. Currently, the project is not listed on the 2009-2012 TIP (regional project list). Yes, it is not funded.

- The Good News: DPW Supervisor, Keith Newton, Keith Lincoln from Chappell Engineering, and I attended a meeting of the Regional Joint Transportation committee. This was NOT the meeting that would get us funding, but an important meeting to explain our case. We gave a brief overview which sparked a discussion about funding and helpful advice. Representatives from Athol and Winchendon kindly spoke in favor of and reinforced the urgency of the project. This raised some eyebrows. Others testified to its deplorable condition. The other good news is that a couple of projects that are on the TIP list are not ready. So, there is an opportunity to jump on the list, although nothing is guaranteed. There is hope.

- Having all our legal ducks in a row One crucial part of funding is that a project has to have all its legal easements in order. One easement can hold up an entire project. The easements needed for this project are to allow the Town to place and maintain drainage culverts on some properties. If you are one of the property owners who have been asked for an easement, please respond promptly with your permission or concerns. Without your easement done, we will not get funded.

- In summary, the TIP is always changing. So we have a good chance of getting on the list. The question is, "For what year?" We have good regional support. We have good public support. What comes next is a ballot to keep Mass Highway and all the funding committees informed and satisfied. Keith and I will attend the meeting for the TIP in early June. I will be armed with public and political support and facts about the condition of the road. I have received more than 40 letters of support for the Route 32 project. Keep those letters and emails coming! Ask your friends and relatives to email support from the Royalston website www.royalston-ma.gov.

Post Office: The Royalston Post Office Manager is leaving to pursue other opportunities. We thank her for her service. She has kindly agreed to postpone her projects until a solution is found. The Board of Selectmen feels that the PO is an integral part of our small community. In order to give the Town a sense of permanency, we are exploring the option of the Town taking over the contract with the Postal Service. Several other small towns in Massachusetts have done this. The USPS pays a fee to have a contractor provide mail services in Royalston. This fee would cover operating expenses. We need help sorting out details and setting up a management structure. If you would be interested in helping, please email me awest-bos@royalston-ma.gov or call the Selectmen's office 978-249-9641.



Board of Health News

Say hello to the new transfer station attendant Tony Argiro from Deland Hill Road.

Disposing of Paint: Before disposing of paint at the transfer station, are you sure you do not have use for it? Latex paint can be dried up w/ kitty litter and disposed of in regular trash. We are now accepting paint and paint related material such as paint thinner in their original containers. These paints that are marked flammable, combustible, alkyd etc., need to be collected and disposed of properly, hence a fee is imposed: \$2.00 per gallon container; (it is pro-rated for smaller containers.) It is not free to dispose of these paints. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE PAINT WITHOUT PAYING THE FEE AND LETTING THE ATTENDANT KNOW. Also, as of May 1st, it is unlawful to dispose of mercury bearing waste in the trash in Massachusetts. Mercury bearing waste includes button cell batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, and mercury thermometers. **Please see attendant for proper disposal of mercury bearing waste.** Some fees may apply, some may be free. *If the town doesn't incur a fee, we do not charge. Remember, buy what you need, use what you have, and dispose of materials properly.*

Road Side Cleanup – 2008

Charlie Scribner

Thank you to all the families that made the 2008 Roadside Clean up a success. The weather was great and the light breeze helped keep the black flies away. The roads of Royalston are cleaner and with spring in full bloom we can all enjoy the beauty of our wonderful town. About 25 families worked to clean their neighborhoods and streets in town. Many truckloads of fast food litter, bottles and cans and car parts were collected, sorted, recycled and disposed.

Thanks to the Board of Health for free disposal of trash and Selectman for use of Bullock Park. A special thanks to Dante Divoll and Nick Morey for sorting recyclables and Dan Monette and Dave Williams for picking up the grill at Checkpoint Charlie's.

The following families helped with the Royalston Roadside clean up: **Putney family** – parts of North Fitzwilliam Rd. from NH line; **Becky and Dante Divoll** – parts of Stone Rd., Deland Rd, and NE Fitzwilliam Rd; **Scribner family** – parts of Laurel Lake Rd., NE Fitzwilliam Rd. and Dump Rd; **Noah Siegel** – parts of Prospect Hill and Rt. 68 by Queen of Heaven; **Aaron Ellson and Elizabeth Farnsworth** – Part of NE Fitzwilliam Rd and Taft Hill. **Chase Gospodarek family** – parts of NE Fitzwilliam Rd. and Pike Rd. **Dave Williams** – parts of Jacob's Ladder hill; **Ralph Cutter** – Athol Richmond Rd; **Pam McCorquodale and Brenda Hopkins** – parts of N. Fitzwilliam Rd. and Rt 68; **George Northrop and Kate Collins** – parts of Taft Hill Rd; **Marie Humblet and West family** – Rt. 68 from Common down past bridge; **Captain Ron, Carrie, Adam, Sam and Alisha** – parts of Rt 32 – Car Parts; **Maureen Blasco** – parts of Winchendon Rd. to Norcross Rd.; **Linda Alger** – parts of her neighborhood; **Vickie Paine** – So. Royalston, S. Main, School, Witney, Blossom, Park, and River Sts. **Dan Monette and Carol** – Norcross Rd, and taking pictures at cookout. **Mystery Man** – Butterworth Rd; **Team Blinky** – Phil Leger and Paul Montero– Deland Rd and Taft Hill Rd; **Bill Hood** – Millyard Rd. and Winchendon Rd.; **Randy Baker** – Deland Rd – lower section; **Marsha Flanagan** – Winchendon Rd; **O'Connor family** – parts Turnpike Rd; **Nancy Bolton** – Bolton Rd; **Hardy Family** – Brown Rd; **Larry Snyder** – Frye Hill Rd; **Duffin Family** – New Boston and Neale Rd.; **George Vaccari** – N. Fitzwilliam Rd; **Marsha Charest** - parts of Rt 68 in So. Royalston + back rub.

Hope to see everyone next year for another Roadside Clean-up.

Assessors' Notes

Real Estate Tax bills are due by June 9. If you own property in Royalston and have not received your bill, contact the tax collector or assessor's office immediately. Some bills do not reach the current owner due to improper or inadequate addresses or the property changing hands. Non receipt of a bill is not an excuse to ignore payment-fees and interest will accrue regardless. Assessors 978-249-0337. Tax Collector 978-249-2927.

Financial Fitness/Wellness Class

The Montachusett Opportunity Council will offer a free 3-hour Financial Fitness/Wellness Class on Tuesday, June 24 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm at Athol Town Hall, 584 Main Street, Athol. If you have questions or concerns about your household finances, want to avoid mortgage delinquency and foreclosure, and/or need to learn how to develop a household budget and create a savings plan, CALL TODAY! To register or for more information, call Marie at 978-343-5706, ext. 301.

What Happened at Town Meeting?

Kathy Morris

On May 9th, voters at the Annual Town Meeting heard Town Accountant Ed Wheeler tell them that the Stabilization Fund was being depleted at a rapid rate with only \$239,000 remaining if all the recommended articles were approved. The budget contained many articles that have merit, but tough prioritizing decisions had to be made. One reason money is very tight is the ever increasing school budget.

Two articles were voted to take from stabilization accounts, including the \$41,150 for the third payment of a five year lease/purchase of a road grader and \$22,383 for radio equipment to continue the conversion needed for Sherburne Control Dispatch. Three articles relating to the Athol-Royalston Regional School District, technology improvements (\$11,775), fence repairs (\$1,353), and bleacher replacement at the high school (6,956), were approved using funds from the mortgage reduction fund.

Many articles were tabled for lack of funds including: interior painting at Whitney Hall (\$1,500), used equipment replacement of the Ford Sander (\$30,000), quick attach ditching bucket (\$5,000), apparatus replacement account for the Fire Department (\$50,000), funds to be set aside for the five-year plan to do roof repair at Athol High School (\$5,000), air conditioning units and related electrical wiring at Whitney Hall (\$2,000), and replacement of the 1978 Brush Chipper (\$20,000). Other articles tabled were: approval of a bylaw for the appointment of a local Community Preservation Committee to make legal language changes in accordance with chapter designations from the Massachusetts General Laws; the ratification of the town employees' union contract; and payment for work associated with the cleanup of 2 King Street while alternative sources of funds were being explored.

Articles that were approved to raise and appropriate funds toward were: \$1,500 and \$5,000 for capital expenditures and repairs to the Wastewater Treatment System, \$31,116 and \$10,657.34 for the fourth payments of a five year lease of a 10-wheel dump truck and a one-ton dump truck for the Highway Department, \$2,100 to fund the summer playground program in Athol, \$1,000 for the police to conduct cross-training with the fire department, \$6,700 to install and/or upgrade burglar and fire alarm systems, \$1,600 for alarm monitoring of municipal buildings, \$1,500 to repair the fire safety door at Whitney Hall and to restructure the fire safety door at the Town Hall. The vote to replace the Police Department's in-car video system was defeated with one vote in favor.

Royalston Neighborhood Crime Watch

Chief Curtis A. Deveneau

The Royalston Police Department will be holding a Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting on June 25, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. It is looking to unite citizens, neighbors and the police to fight crime in our community. Although Royalston may not have a lot of home invasions and stolen vehicle crimes, it does unfortunately have crimes related to being a rural community such as daytime break-ins of homes and illegal dumping. The citizens of our community have a greater sense of what is going on in their area neighborhoods and what looks out of place. Our goal is to set up a communication network between the police and the residents of the neighborhoods in the entire town. This will allow for a quick flow of information into an area where a crime has been committed, instead of the effected residents reading about it in the next day's newspaper. Please join us and bring along your questions and concerns. Refreshments will be served. I look forward to working with you.

There was much discussion about the \$150,000 to rehabilitate and pave Stone Road. The bridge on Northeast Fitzwilliam Road is to be repaired and a temporary bridge will be installed. During that time, which could be 5-6 weeks traffic will be rerouted to Stone Road. Some people wanted the money to be expended even though there was not enough money in the allowed budget to pay for the repair. The proposal was made to take the money from stabilization but due to the fact that this would almost deplete stabilization, the article was amended to take the money from debt exclusion and that failed 30-23.

The other article that generated questions was the acceptance of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act. Some residents were concerned that large portions of Royalston were already off the tax rolls and felt that this would lead to higher taxes by taking more land off the tax rolls. However, it was pointed out that the committee agreed that this was not a priority and the money could be used for other things such as restoration of historic landmarks and other things around town such as the street lights, all of which would reduce tax liability. One resident was concerned that he would be paying a lot more because he owned many parcels of land but it was explained that each parcel would have the \$100,000 deduction before the surcharge was calculated and the charge was only on real estate not personal property. The final vote was 47-7 in favor of passage.

The last article of the night was Article 43, which contained the 82 different budget expenditures for departments in town. The finance committee had reduced department budgets to 2.5% over last year. Four budgets were questioned. The building inspector's salary had been cut to a 2.5% increase but was restored to the full 12% increase; the police department pointed out that there would be less response to calls if their budget was cut but nevertheless, got only a 2.5% increase; and there was a question as to whether the fire chief's salary of \$2,400 should have been incorporated into the fire department wage line, but it was kept separate. The town clerk had not been given a 2.5% increase so that position was increased from \$8,000 to \$8,200. At the end of the evening, residents attending had voted to raise and appropriate one million six hundred thirty-five thousand one hundred fifty dollars to fund the operating budgets for town departments.

The meeting was continued to Friday, June 27th at 7:00p.m. at the Royalston Community School.

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

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank you!

for recent donations to the Friends:

The Berquist-Darling family

Walter and Joyce Hubbard

The Carrier Family

Betty Woodbury

Polly and Chuck Longworth

Daniel & Elizabeth Schodek

Ken and Andrea Lively

Andrew and Kristin West

and to **Marsha Charest** for donation of passes to the Museum of Science and lots of library supplies.

Library Receives Funds from Antitrust Settlement

The library recently received funds from the anti-trust suit filed against the music industry and retailers for price fixing of CDs. Several years ago the library was part of the settlement in the original suit. We received a large number of CDs, none of which was by a popular artist, several of which were duplicates or even multiple copies, and some were even moldy. Melanie Mangum wrote an article for the *Worcester Telegram* about the CD settlement and I received a call asking me about our feelings on the settlement. This and other library's experiences led the Attorney General's Office in Massachusetts and other states to pursue the matter further. It turned out that the record companies and retailers had 'cleaned their warehouses' of returns and unsold items and passed them on as the settlement. Further investigation led to our library receiving \$325.86 to provide an additional benefit, not to replace other monies or existing funding, to expand our CD collection or to invest in other music-related programs.

Broadband Grant

The Western Massachusetts Regional Library System Small Library Initiative, through the Board of Library Commissioners, has funded the library's Broadband expenses for the first six months of the fiscal year. This included our last few months of satellite and the conversion to DSL and all the equipment purchased. The monies were returned to the town as they were part of the library's operating budget.



Artist Exhibits

The second month of Lynn Anair's fabulous fiber work, many hand spun, dyed, and knit items and Melanie Mangum's fantastic photographs. Robert Anthony will display his fretwork during July and August.

Massachusetts ParksPass Available at the Library

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and recreation (DCR) has given our library a 2008 Massachusetts ParksPass. The pass entitles the bearer to free parking for one vehicle at over 50 day-use facilities in the state parks system that charge a parking fee. Copies of the DCR Guide to Swimming, Camping, Biking, and Hiking are also available at the library. The pass may be borrowed by any registered patron over 16 years of age and will be loaned on the following schedule: Monday to be returned on Thursday or on Thursday to be returned on Monday. For more information or to sign up, stop by or call the library.

Resident Recommended Reading

George Bennett enjoyed *White Darkness* by Geraldine McCaughrean. "This is a many-layered novel that would suit any thoughtful 13+ reader (even a 57 year old!). If you are interested in the Antarctic you have to read it!"

Barbara Richardson admires *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. She says, "I never read this while in school but what a message. It's a great read. We could all learn a lesson or two from this story."

Nancy Bolton recommends any of the historical fiction by Patricia Cornwall for edifying and enjoyable summer reading about weird murders. She cautions, "Be sure to start at the beginning of the series."

Beth Gospodarek is impressed with two books in the library's children's room by Peter Sis. Both are about 30 pages, have jaw dropping illustrations and describe life in communist Czechoslovakia after WWII. *Tibet, through the Red Box* is an account taken from his father's diary. The father was a documentary film-maker sent to Tibet by the Czech army to film their comrades, the Chinese, taking over Tibet. During road construction, a landslide separates the film crew from the armies. Using a magical realism, the book succinctly tells the true story of the father's 14 months of travels through the Himalayas. Sis' more recent picture-book, *The Wall*, relates his experience of yearning for a iconoclastic adolescence behind the Iron Curtain.

Upcoming Summer Events

Plant Sale and Book Sale - June 7 ; 8:30 - noon

The library will sell books culled from its collection and the Friends will have a huge variety of annual and perennial flower, vegetable, herb and house plants from neighbor's gardens and local nurseries for sale at the Post Office. Good prices and seasoned advice offered. Donations of potted up thinnings and extras can be dropped off that morning or ahead of time at the library. Big thanks to residents, Shepardson's Gardens, Noel's Nursery, Agway, and Perennial Patch for their support.

The Royalston Shakespeare Company:

A Slight Date Change

Forsyth: The stars seem most auspicious, (not to mention that the holiday weekend less trammled) if the starting date of the '08 season of the RSC is bumped up to Thursday, June 19 with a workshop performance at 7 pm on Wednesday, July 2. This change also provides two weekends, rather than one, to build sets, learn lines and generally get the show from book to stage.

No other changes have been foretold. Participants still get their brains around the world, words and meanings of the Bard in two fun and whirlwind weeks. The rehearsals are still slated for 9 - 12:30 each morning at the Town Hall with possible extra practice and tech work in the afternoons as needed during the final days. Attendance at each rehearsal is mandatory. Participation for kids 8 - 18 is still free due to support from the Friends of the Library, the Cultural Council and the community. Space is still limited as even though all the world is a stage, the actual square footage available in the Town Hall is a bit cramped. Sign up now at the library or call Beth Gospodarek at 249-0358 with questions.

Exactly which play has not yet been revealed. The short list includes the farce about the female twin who impersonates her brother; the bloodyminded tragedy that begins with witches, the silly romp where Rosalind gets her man while arranging for multiple weddings; or the political history where one man murders another for honorable reasons but rueful results. The script is the thing. As are the genders, ages and sizes of the parts. Time and space also need consideration. All will work out just fine once the dye is cast.

Summer Reading Programs and Preschool Events

"Wild Reads @ Your Library" will begin on Thursday, July 12th at 1:30 p.m. at the library. This year we'll be having our ice cream party on July 31st with games and bottle rockets. Each Thursday, we'll be doing some cool projects including baking bread sculptures and making didgeridoos. Check out the complete schedule at the library or in next month's newsletter.

Preschoolers will be treated to four weeks of fun this summer on Mondays in July beginning on July 7th at 10:30 a.m. at the library. Included in the programs will be music and movement with Tina Gemborys, art with Jen Scherrer, and crafts with Jen Bartkus.

Butterfly Breakfast and Walk

Keep Sunday July 27th open for breakfast and a slide show on butterflies at the library at 9:00 a.m. followed by a search for butterflies at various spots around town. This event is co-sponsored by the Mass Butterfly Club, the Athol Bird and Nature Club, and the Friends of the Phineas S. Newton Library. This is a wonderful family event and a great way to learn about the butterflies in this area.

Some of the New Books in the Library

Adult Fiction

Baldacci, David *The Whole Truth*
 Barnard, Robert *Last Post*
 Bauer, Joan *Peeled*
 Cabot, Meg *Airhead*
 Clark, Mary Higgins *Where Are You Now?*
 Coben, Harlan *Hold Tight*
 Cornish, D.M. *Foundling*
 Cornish, D.M. *Lamplighter*
 Dessen, Sarah *Lock and Key*
 Doctorow, Cory *Little Brother*
 Doyle, Marissa *Bewitching Season*
 Enger, Leif *So Brave, Young, and Handsome*
 Erdrich, Louise *The Plague of the Doves*
 George, Elizabeth *Careless in Red*
 Haddam, Jane *Cheating at Solitaire*
 Hunter, Erin *Outcast*
 Johansen, Iris *Quicksand*
 Levine, Gail Carson *Ever*
 Lockhart, E. *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*
 Macomber, Debbie *Twenty Wishes*
 McKay, Hilary *Forever Rose*
 Meyer, Stephanie *The Host: A novel*
 Murphy, C.E. *The Queen's Bastard*
 Perry, Thomas *Fidelity*
 Quick, Amanda *The Third Circle*
 Quick, Amanda LT *The River Knows*
 Riordan, Rick *The Battle of the Labyrinth*
 Roberts, Nora *Blood Brothers*
 Roberts, Nora *The Hollow*
 Ryan, Pam Munoz *Paint the Wind*
 Sanford, John *Phantom Prey*
 Smith, Tom Rob *Child 44*
 Stirling, S.M. *In the Courts of the Crimson Kings*
 Woods, Stuart *Santa Fe Dead*
 Ziegler, Jennifer *How Not To Be Popular*

Adult Nonfiction

Burroughs, Augusten *A Wolf at the Table*
 Bragg, Rick *The Prince of Frogtown*
 Frazier, Ian *Lamentations of the Father*
 Halpern, Sue *Can't Remember What I Forgot: The Good News from the Front Lines of Memory Research*
 Horwitz, Anthony *Point Blank: The Graphic Novel*
 Hunter, Erin *Warrior's Return Graphic Novel*
 Iyer, Pico *The Open Road: The Global Journey of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama*
 Levine, Ellen *Up Close: Rachel Carson*
 Li, Moying *Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution*
 McKibben, Bill *American Earth: Environmental Writing since Thoreau*
 Morse, Scott *Magic Pickle: The Graphic Novel*
 Moyers, Bill *Moyers on Democracy*
 Paley, Grace *Fidelity*
 Petersen, Melody *Our Daily Meds*
 Rothenburg, David *Thousand Mile Song*
 Walters, Barbara *Audition: A Memoir*

The Community Preservation Act Passes First of Two Needed Votes

At the Annual Town Meeting on May 9, 2008, townspeople voted overwhelmingly (47-6) to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA)! The CPA is a state-wide program that matches locally-raised funds to enable towns to preserve and rehabilitate historic properties and resources; create and maintain recreational facilities; build or renovate affordable housing; and purchase and conserve open space for use by everyone in town. The Open Space & Recreation Committee was happy to have had the opportunity to hear and respond to many of the concerns that people have about the CPA. Some of the most frequently asked questions and their answers were:

• Q: How much will the CPA cost me?

A: The average homeowner in Royalston will pay \$28 per year. This comes from a surcharge on your property tax bill equal to 3% of your real-estate tax after exempting the first \$100,000 of property value. For example, if your home is assessed at \$200,000, the CPA surcharge would be \$25.71 (3% of the property tax on \$100,000 of value).

• Q: I'm retired and living on a fixed income? Do I have to pay the CPA surcharge?

A: Probably not. Senior citizens who would qualify for low- or moderate-income housing and all low-income residents of town are exempt from paying the CPA surcharge.

• Q: I own a house plus 4 other parcels of land. Will my CPA surcharge be very high?

A: No. The CPA surcharge is applied to each parcel separately. You only pay the CPA surcharge on parcels of land (or houses) that are each valued at more than \$100,000. For example, if your home is assessed at \$200,000, and each of your parcels of land is assessed at \$80,000, you would still only pay a CPA surcharge or \$25.71.

• Q: I get tax bills for real property (my home and my land) and for my car. Do I pay a CPA surcharge on all of these?

A: No, you only pay the CPA surcharge on your real estate taxes, not on your excise taxes.

• Q: This all sounds great, but how much will it cost the town?

A: Nothing! In fact, it saves the town money because CPA funds can be used for historical preservation and renovation, many things we now pay for with town funds could be paid for instead with CPA funds. These items include maintenance of the Town Common, renovation of Whitney Hall and Town Hall, and upkeep of historic cemeteries, to name just a few.

• Q: Who decides how to spend the CPA funds?

A: We do! A CPA committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen makes recommendations about how to spend the fund to Town Meeting. Residents vote to accept or reject these recommendations. The state has no say in how the funds get used!

• Q: Can the CPA committee prevent me from developing my land or take it to build affordable housing?

A: Absolutely not.

• Q: This all sounds wonderful in principle, but what if it doesn't work out? Can we eliminate the CPA in the future?

A: Yes. After five years, we can vote to rescind the CPA if we decide that it's not a good idea for Royalston.

• Q: Sign me up! What's the next step?

A: For Royalston to complete the process of adopting the CPA, a majority of voters must VOTE YES on the CPA at the November election. If we approve the CPA in November, we will implement it beginning in 2010.

If you have other questions about the CPA, email info@royalstonopenspace.org, visit our website at www.royalstonopenspace.org, or call Aaron Ellison (249-6771) or Chris Long (249-0246). More information about the CPA and the upcoming November vote will be in future newsletters, in the Athol Daily News, in direct mailings and at public meetings to be held through-

Recipe of the Month

Matt and Nancy Hickler moved to Butterworth Rd in the fall of 2000. Nancy explains, "Because we had lived nearby in Warwick, we didn't participate as much in Royalston as we might have. Since Matt has become part of "Melanie and the Blue Shots" (tall skinny guy with the moustache playing bass) we have felt more a part of the community. As librarian at the Warwick Public Library, I bribe people into coming on Saturdays with cookies and coffee. Here is one of the favorites among this crowd."

Lemon Tea Cookies

Oven 350 F Makes 48

2 teaspoons lemon juice
1/2 cup milk
1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup butter
3/4 cup sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon finely shredded lemon peel



Stir 2 teaspoons lemon juice into milk; set aside. Stir together flour, baking powder, soda, and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Beat butter 30 seconds; add sugar and beat till fluffy. Add egg and lemon peel; beat well. Add dry ingredients and milk mixture alternately to beaten mixture, beating well after each addition. Drop from a teaspoon 2 " apart on greased cookie sheet. Bake in pre-heated 350F oven 12 to 14 minutes, Do not over-bake. Remove at once to wire rack: brush with Lemon Glaze.

Lemon Glaze: Stir together 1/2 cup confectioner's sugar and 3 Tablespoons lemon juice.

Fresh lemon is always best in this recipe, but I have substituted bottled juice and a small amount of lemon oil for the shredded peel.

Royalston Community Coop

The new, direct on-line ordering has begun for the coop. The system is much more efficient and allows for splits. If the minimum of \$750 is ordered prior to June 12, members will be notified, and an order placed the following Monday. If no order is placed, members will be notified so they can delete any sale items for the month no order was placed. Guest catalogues are available for Royalston residents considering membership in the coop. A one-time \$20 buy-in fee helps defray expenses, and pays for a monthly subscription to the catalogue/price list which features hundreds of thousands of items including organically produced foods, non-toxic household cleaning agents and ecologically sound paper products. Anyone interested can contact Mary Barclay at 978-249-2598 or mbarclay@juno.com.

Author's Reception: Sharon A. Harmon of Royalston will be hosting a book signing of her new book of poetry, June 29th at 1:30 at Bruce's Browser in Athol. Sharon is a freelance writer and poet and has published over 100 poems. Her book, *Swimming With Cats*, was published by Autumn Light Press. There will be a short reading from her book and refreshments served.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

2008 GRADUATES

Athol High School

Ellee Bronnes

15 Taft Hill Road
Daughter of Jeff & Jody Bronnes
Will Attend: Worcester State College
Major: Elementary Education

Ashley Campos

19 Laurel Lake Road
Daughter of Sandie Campos
Will Attend: New England Center for Cosmetology
Major: Cosmetology

Elizabeth Gonzales

163 Warwick Road
Daughter of Lisa Gonzales
Future Plans: Employment

Dana Griffith

5 Pleasant Street
Son of Sheila & Craig Griffith
Will Attend: Keene State College
Major: Architecture

Rhetta Guimond

7 Frye Hill Road
Daughter of Paul & Terry Guimond
Will Attend: Worcester State College
Major: History

Brian Hartin

3 Liberty Lane
Son of Kathy & Irvin Hartin
Will Attend: Westfield State College
Major: Criminal Justice

Kevin Livengood Jr.

5 Jarvenpa Road
Son of Kevin Livengood Sr & Kimberly Osborne
Joining the U.S. Air Force

Andrew Martioski

60 North Fitzwilliam Road
Son of Diana Newton & Gary Martioski
Will Attend: Westfield State College
Major: Criminal Justice

Brendan Mastaler

96 Athol Road
Son of Michael & Leslie Mastaler
Future Plans: Employment

Mieka Melbourne

112 Northeast Fitzwilliam Road
Daughter of Nancy & James Melbourne
Will Attend: Wentworth Institute of Technology
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Emily Parnanen

9 Toney Road
Daughter of Lisa & Ralph Parnanen
Future Plans: Employment & College

Daniel Seco

2 River Road
Son of Carol & Kevin Rogers
Will Attend: U Mass - Lowell
Major: Biology

Montachusett Technical School: Ryan Gaudet, Amanda Warren, Brittany Warren, Amber McCassie, Daniel Demboske, and Megan Wessels

Mount Wachusett Community College: Associate's degrees: Mark Monahan, Amanda Smith, Gary Winitzer; certificate: Priscilla Ryan
Fitchburg State: BS: Robert Newton

Girls' State 2008 Christine Sawyer and Marissa Kellner were chosen as alternates by American Legion Post 102 to attend.

Best wishes to **Caitlin J. Barclay**, who is now at SeaWorld in San Antonio, Texas, where she is working for the summer as a camp counselor in the Animal Encounters program.

Congratulations to **Norah Dooley**, of Norcross Road and Brookline, the winner of the Fire & EMS Association's recent grill/roisserie raffle.

Library Trustee, Polly Longworth, Receives Medal for Service at Amherst College's Commencement

Polly Longworth, member of the board of governors of Amherst College's Emily Dickinson Museum and prolific Emily Dickinson scholar, will receive the school's Medal for Eminent Service during its commencement exercises on Sunday, May 25. The award is presented to a member of the Amherst College community who has demonstrated extraordinary devotion to the college.

Public Acknowledgement - In Praise of Unsung Heroes

Ed. note: In the fine print of the last newsletter was an offer of space for residents who would like to publically acknowledge exceptional kindnesses and services to our community by others. Here are the first submissions:

*Theresa Burgess would like to recognize **Maureen Blasco** for "helping everyone."

* Larry Siegel writes, "**Jim and Janice Draper** moved to Royalston several years ago, having inherited the home of Virginia Frye, his aunt. He immediately established himself as a neighbor's neighbor, freely sharing his expertise, skills, and tools. A retired fire chief as well as fire truck mechanic, he was a welcome addition to (where else?) the fire department. He not only responds to numerous calls, both fire and rescue, but responds to the needs of the equipment (and there is no lack of needs). Jim is recuperating from recent surgery, relating to the unplugging of previously-plugged arteries. He is chomping at the bit to get back under the fire trucks. The department looks forward to his return."

*Kathy Morris gives credit to **Theresa Quinn**, the long time volunteer librarian at the Royalston Community School, who has remained on the job even after her children have gone beyond sixth grade. Theresa has maintained the catalog, even though doing so required using personal funds. She's donated books for the school library, run the school book fair, acted as liaison between the Community School library and the Phinehas S. Newton Library, and been an avid supporter of the library and other organizations in town. Her quiet commitment to helping others is well appreciated around town.

Up at ARMS

Carol Rogers, school secretary

The Athol Royalston Middle School Dramatics Club had its performance of Grease. It was a great success. Both nights were standing room only. Applause for Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Saben and the whole Grease crew. The after school Chorus/Stomp and Poetry night was also great; thanks to Mrs. Piscitello, Ms. Piragis and all the students who participated.

Upcoming events for the Middle School:

June 6th - 8th grade Mock Interviews.

June 7th - 8th grade Dinner Dance

June 17 - 8th grade Step-Up Night

Congregational Churches News

Susan Veilleux

On May 10th. our Praise team leader Ryan & Lisa Hood were married at the First Congregational Church with the reception following at the Ellinwood Country Club. Pastor Jeff Francis officiated the ceremony.

Pastor Jeff along with 4 others kicked off the "Hour of Power" on Sat. May 17th. This was a great opportunity for us to pray for our nation and leaders as well as other nations for peace and guidance. This is an opportunity for all prayer, personal, intersersory, etc. Please join us on Sat. mornings from 8:00-9:00 am at the First Congregational Church.

It's time to start planning for our yearly Church Fair on the Common to be held July 12th. There will be music all day, many crafters, Rainboe the Gospel Clown and games for the children. Without fail, Charlie Scribner will be flipping burgers for Jesus. Some of the music will be performed by our own Praise n Worship team. We are accepting items for the yard sale/attic treasure table.

Our last day for Bible Club this year is on June. 11th. We will be going on our traditional annual field trip to the Cross in Barre. Bible Club will be starting up again with the new school year.

The 1st. Church is getting a new face lift (paint job) soon. It will be sure to add to the beauty of the Common. It is a blessing to see so many new faces attending our beautiful Church.

Youth Group News: On Sunday May 18th. we had 3 new Youth attend our Youth Group meeting. This brings the total to 25 youth. Wow look what God has done!! All Youth from 6th grade to college age are welcome and encouraged. Our meetings are held at the 1st. Congregational Church on Sundays at 6-8pm. The "Walk for Hunger" event was very soggy but the Youth hung in there and were able to raise over \$600.00 for the food banks all over the state of Mass. Also, the Tully Lake clean up was a huge success. We've exchanged labor for 3 nights on 3 sites for our annual Youth Camp-out to be held Aug.3-6th. For those with bug spattered cars, be aware that the car washes' location has been changed to Aubuchon Hardware parking lot in Orange. Dates are as follows: May 24th., June 14th., and July 26th from 10:00am-2:00pm. Lastly, look for the youth having their own table at the Church Fair this year. They are trying to raise funds for the Youth Group.

Athol High School Calendar

Important dates for June 2008 include:

Class Day and Senior Prom June 1

Class of 2008 Graduation June 3

8th Grade Orientation June 7

Baseball Banquet June 13

Softball Banquet June 14

First day of summer vacation June 19

Playground begins June 25

Royalston Community School Update

The excitement of the end time has arrived. It includes a full calendar of events. There are lots of field trips (including 6th grade trip to Nature's Classroom), poetry night, a spelling bee, the wedding of Q+u, a visit by author Jeannie Brett, field day, as well as kindergarten and 6th grade completion ceremonies and suppers.

Principal Grotsky is retiring. His energy and compassion will be missed. The RCS community feels strongly that our school needs a full time principal as a replacement, especially given recent increased enrollments, which have caused ballooning class sizes coinciding with deep cuts in counseling and supplemental reading and math programs.

Thanks to all who supported the recent hanging flower basket sale and bottle drive. The bottles and cans brought in over \$250; that's a lot of nickles.

On June 7 at the post office, the RCS parent-teacher group will be selling hardy hybrid high-bush blueberry bushes grown on the Carnie PYO blueberry farm in Richmond NH. \$18.

Monty Tech News

Congratulations to Amy Putney and Amanda Putney of North Fitzwilliam Road, who will soon be graduating from the Pioneer Valley Regional School in Northfield, and to Ryan Carrier of South Royalston Road, who will soon be graduating from Sacred Heart Catholic School in Gardner. They are the lucky – and talented – three who have earned Royalston's three minimum quota seats at Monty Tech. Of the ten other Royalston students who applied, two did not meet the minimum requirements. The remaining eight should be hearing whether or not their application scores were sufficient to earn one of the extra seats made available when cities and towns do not use their full quota. Mary Barclay is the representative to Monty Tech and is happy to answer any questions from families whose students are interested in attending.

Summer Programs for Children at the Village School

All programs are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

July 7-11 ages 4-8 Nature Arts and Play

July 14-18 ages 4-8 Nature Arts and Play

July 14-18 ages 8 and up Summer Art Intensive

July 21-25 ages 7 to 12 Science and Art Experience

The programs are open to the public. They are designed to enrich and expand knowledge of the natural world through hands on exploration in art and science, while providing opportunities for plenty of physical activity and making new friends. For more information, go to www.villageschool.to to download the brochure and registration form. Registration forms are at the library too. Nature Arts and Play is \$140, and the other ones, the Science and Art, and the Art Intensive, are \$160.

Ladies' Benevolent Society out for Blood

The LBS is hosting its 14th annual Royalston Blood Donor Day sometime in June. Unfortunately, the date was not confirmed in time to make the June RCN, but your blood is still needed! Watch for announcements in the newspaper, on the Royalston web site and in your e-mail box. As always, the event will feature Canteen Deluxe, with home baked goodies, fresh brewed coffee, and always lots of good company! The Red Cross also offers some fun premiums for those who go through the registration process, even if they are deferred for some reason.

Royalston Fish and Game Club BBQ



The Royalston Fish and Game Club is hosting a Chicken Barbecue and 60 Club Drawing on Saturday, June 21.

Follies 2008 Video and Photo Album Now Available

The 2008 Follies were a big success leaving lingering memories of very funny moments, lots of town talent, creativity, energy and cooperation. Thank you to all of those who helped put this event together in all its different facets, and to those who enthusiastically cheered on. Liane Brandon has put together a CD of 75 marvelous pictures of every act performed that night. She has graciously donated the proceeds of this sale to the Royalston Cultural Council. The CD is \$7 each. A DVD has been made by another professional, Niles Larson, and it is available for \$10. Please order by sending a check together with an e-mail address and/or telephone number to Marie Humblet/ PO Box 79. Checks for the CD should be made to the Royalston Cultural Council and to Niles Larson for the DVDs. Deadline July 20 (i.e. the MusicFest.)



Luncheon Club and Council on Aging

FREE blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes screening is being offered on Wednesday, June 11 from 11 a.m. – noon at the Town Hall. Residents of all ages are welcome to walk in during that hour; no fasting is required. If you're going, why not plan on having lunch there, too! Contact Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 Monday, June 9 for reservations. The suggested donation for the meal is \$2/senior and \$2.50 for up-and-coming seniors. Local grocery stores and farmers often provide additional baked goods and produce, all free for the taking!

Four June Tuesdays to Mark Gay Pride

The fourth annual Gay and Lesbian Pride movie and book series will take place on four Tuesdays in June in "the back corner" at Bruce's Browser, 1497 Main St., Athol. All events begin at 7 p.m. and are open to the public free of charge. All films are not rated.

Diane Lincoln, proprietor of the Browser, who planned the program along with local author Allen Young (both Royalston residents), has chosen a documentary movie, *"For the Bible Tells Me So,"* as the first event, to be screened on June 3. Lincoln explained that this movie strives to answer several provocative questions: "Does God really condemn loving homosexual relationships? Is the chasm separating Christianity from gays and lesbians too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate?" The film discusses these issues through the experiences of five Christian, American families, including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop V. Gene Robinson. Lincoln said, "The movie illustrates how people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child, family member, friend or neighbor, and I hope people in our community who are addressing these issues will view the film with us." There will be opportunity for discussion.

On June 10, the Canadian film *"Whole New Thing"* will be shown. It's an offbeat coming of age story about a young teenage boy who has been home-schooled by hippie parents. His parents decide he should attend public school, where it becomes clear he is not familiar with acceptable social rules. This causes problems, which worsen when he develops a crush on his English teacher.

A lesbian-themed romance, *"The Gymnast,"* will be the feature film on June 17. When an injury ends her career as a gymnast, the main character in this film falls back into a lackluster job and a passionless marriage (to a man). Things become complicated when she begins to work on an aerial act with another beautiful gymnast.

On June 24, Allen Young will sign books and speak about the early years of the gay liberation movement launched after the June 1969 Stonewall Rebellion in New York City. Young, who became a gay activist at that time, is co-editor, with Karla Jay, of the 1970s books *"Out of the Closet: Voices of Gay Liberation"* and *"Lavender Culture,"* reissued by New York University Press.

Wildlife Sightings

Jeff Mangum saw a **moose** cross Doane Hill Road on May 14 and a **pileated woodpecker** near Tully Dam on May 21. Aso, Steve Roda saw a moose near the beaver pond off Prospect Hill and Upham Roads.

Shafiya Ciccarelli had a veritable wildlife sanctuary in her backyard in mid-May. One evening she saw an **indigo bunting** at the bird feeder, and then a family of **fox** with 2 adults and 2 pups playing in the yard. The next morning, less than 12 hours later, she saw a **bear** ambling in the backyard ready to raid the birdfeeder, which she took in! Then there was the indigo bunting once again, as well as a **Baltimore Oriole**.

Royalston Police Sergeant Wayne Gelinis had a real up-close-and-personal look at a black **bear** on Neale Road early in May, on his way home from work in Winchendon about 11:15 pm. Apparently the bear came out of the woods and struck the car's front right quarter, caving in the fender over the wheel and rumpling the hood on that side. Fortunately, Wayne was not injured. The bear managed to get up and continue crossing the road.

Christina, Casey & Cayden Conry of Butterworth Road also had a close encounter with a black **bear** recently. Heedless of the warnings to pull in feeders as they "so delight in the spring time fowl: orioles, grosbeaks, tri-color black-birds, woodpeckers (barred owls watching the activity from up high)' they have learned the error of their ways and will now heed our good neighbor's advice to take in the feeders on tax day. This bear was a bit too close for comfort (about 10 feet from our son's swing set) and stayed all day. Christina originally sighted it while on a conference call. She was later told it was the most exciting conference call the participants had ever had. She thinks they enjoyed the idea of her heart racing and the energetic flow of colorful words.



Garden Notes

May 21, 2008

Larry Siegel

Does a month go by when I am not able to make some observation about the weather? May's observation has been brrrr. There has been no 80 degree reading. 80? Up here on the hill, I've recorded but one day in the 70's and that barely so. May days have been as likely to peak in the 50's as they have in the 60's. If ever a case be made for exhibiting patience regarding the setting out or planting of warm weather crops (tomatoes, peppers, squash, eggplant, cucumbers, beans, corn), this year provides one. The onions, leeks, celery, and parsley, seeded indoors in early March and set outdoors in early May are hunkered down, waiting for warmer moments. (Aren't we all?) Potatoes are beginning to emerge, but slowly, seemingly no more enthusiastic about facing the last few thirty-something degree mornings than I. The peas and spinach, thankfully, not only shrug off the cold but seem to thrive in it. The peas have begun ascending the brush; by June's close they will have climbed six feet and perhaps started yielding. The spinach has received its second, and final, thinning, standing about four inches apart. Some gardeners do not bother with this thinning, opting instead to pull up entire plants when spinach is desired. I, on the other hand, harvest individual leaves (permitting the plant to develop new ones) and the four inch spacing ensures large leaves.

At least half the garden remains covered with hay, and I'd just as soon leave it there until planting time. But mulch hay arrives with weed seed and the weed seed has germinated. Since the weeds have begun growth in the hay and not the soil it is no difficult task to upend them, sometimes using my trusty hoe, but more often than not simply booting them with my feet. (I have not done so much booting since my soccer-playing days forty-odd years ago.)

Spring gardening continues apace, though without the frenzy of prior years. Perhaps, after thirty-one years, I have figured out how to allocate my time, ensuring that the work is pleasurable and not drudgery. One of the pleasurable acts is dropping the seed into the ground (black flies notwithstanding). It is always a balancing act: too few seeds and gaps appear in the row; too many and thinning becomes a monumental task. Thinning out a couple hundred feet of carrots is not one of gardening's pleasurable acts.

The pace will pick up in June, though hopefully remain frenzy-free. June, primarily the first two weeks, is setting out time: those coddled seedlings of tomatoes, peppers, and basils, and in my case, corn; and seeding time: multiple plantings of beans, cucumbers, and squash. Think of it as making a deposit into a bank account. In two months time we can begin to make withdrawals.

I continue to extract food from the root cellar, though at this point it is an exercise in bottom-feeding, faced as I am with small, misshapen, and funky vegetables previously rejected. Fortunately, some parsnips remain, the winter-surviving spinach provides, and, joy of spring, the asparagus abounds. June grub becomes even more problematic as the root cellar and parsnips become exhausted (I refer to it as the month of the frozen vegetable) and nothing, other than lettuce, becomes available. But it is all uphill from there. Bring on the peas.

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Taking orders for Green Firewood, cut (16" ave.), split, delivered locally for \$160 per 170 cubic foot truckload. Should have Semi-seasoned firewood available at a later date. Call for details: Jim at Putney's Mill, 978-249-3379.

Ladder Rack for work van. Adrian Steel clamp 978- 249-0358
Housecleaning

Tully Lake Photo Contest

Attention shutterbugs: we are looking for great photos of people at play or nature/scenery at the Tully Lake property. Submissions should be in digital format with a minimum dimension of 2400 pixels and submitted by July 12th. 1st place may be used on brochure cover to be printed in 2009. 2nd and 3rd place may be used inside brochure. All submissions may be used on our website or other publications. For more info, call 978-249-9150 or visit www.tullylake.org.

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Royalston MA 01368

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