

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

May 2009



Volume XII, Issue IV

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



May calendar of Events

May 1 Friday

9 am **May Day Celebration** at the Village School with May Pole and Morris Dancers. Community encouraged to attend.

May 2 Saturday

10 am - noon **Open house at Village School**

May 7 Thursday

noon **early dismissal RCS**

May 8 Friday

7 pm **Annual Town Meeting** at RCS. The warrant is available on-line at www.royalston-ma.gov or at the post office, town hall or country store.

7 pm **A-REF Father-Daughter Dance:** tickets available at RCS office until Weds. May 6 (or at door at a slightly increased price). Call Beth 249-0358 or visit www.a-ref.org for more info.

May 9 Saturday **Full Flower Moon**

8 - 11 am **Pancake Breakfast and Mother's Day Flower Sale** at Town Hall, benefits RCS grades 5 and 6 field trips. Hanging baskets of fuschia, supertunias and kalibrohoas and flats of impatiens on sale just in time to give to mom.

7 - 10 **Blues Night** at Town Hall, featuring Melanie and the Blue shots and Gurus of Blues. Dance, refreshments. Tix \$5. Call Lorraine at 249-5151 to reserve. Sponsored by royalston cultural council; benefits Town events.

May 10 Sunday **Mother's Day**

Royalston in Summer Photo contest Begins

May 14 Thursday

7 pm **Second Public Meeting on the new Open Space and Recreation Plan.** all are encouraged to attend to discuss goals and objectives for the next 5 years.

May 18 Monday

10:30 am **The Gerwick Puppets perform Cinderella: a Woodland Fairy Princess** at town hall. Sponsored by the library's pre-school story hour. Geared to ages 3 and up; generously funded by a grant from the Cultural Council.

7 pm **Library Trustee meeting** at library

May 20 Wednesday

noon **John Porcini, musician and storyteller,** will appear at the COA Luncheon. Geared for all ages and children encouraged to attend.

May 22 Friday

9:30 am and 7 pm **Cloak and Castle, the Annual Village School Original Play** based upon yearlong study of the Middle Ages, at the Town Hall. Free and open to the public.

May 24 Saturday

8:11 am **New Strawberry Moon**

May 25 Monday

Memorial Day Observed Schools, post office and library closed 2 p.m. Memorial Day Exercises On The Common 3 p.m. Memorial Day Pot Luck Luncheon for all townspeople; Veterans are guests – all others please bring a dish to pass.

May 26 Tuesday

2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. **deadline to register to vote** in special town election to fill vacancy in the board of selectmen. Go to Town Clerk's office in Whitney Hall.

May 27 Wednesday

7:30 pm **LBS meeting and Eco-Talk** program. Hostess Deb Nunes. All welcome.

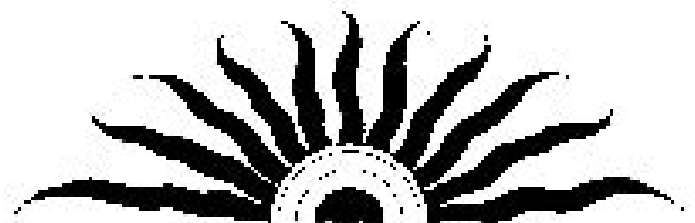
June 6 Saturday

7:30 to 11:00 a.m. **On the Common Village School pancake breakfast and spectacular silent auction** as well as non-stop activities for kids in and around town hall.

9 - noon **Library used book sale** at library as well as **Friends of Library plant sale and Historical Society bake sale** at PO.

June 26 Friday

early dismissal **School's out for summer** in the ARRS.D.



Board of Selectmen's Corner

Andy West, selectman

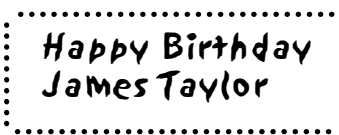
Town Budget: The budget has been reduced in accordance with the wishes of the majority that voted in the Town Election. The budget was cut and balanced after the vote. The following week, the State cut Local Aid estimates by an additional \$22,000! So, we cut again. The current budget, to be proposed to the Town Meeting makes cuts in every department. Hours of operation will be cut in many departments. The Selectmen have provided a balanced budget as required. But, we are dissatisfied with the minimal level of department funding. This "make do" approach does not fund proper service levels, proper preventive maintenance, or improvements.

Ice Storm Cleanup: FEMA is helping with clean up costs from the December ice storm. The Town will be contracting to have the hanging branches cut and debris removed. Some of the gravel roads remain too soft to bring in heavy equipment. Residents can prepare by lining brush along the roadside, well back from traffic.

Streetlights: One area to be cut is streetlights. Most of the streetlights in Town will be turned off. We will be gathering input to determine critical lights that should be left on. If you have a particular fondness or dislike for a light, let us know. There is no guarantee that your light will get special attention. But, hearing your input is crucial to our decision. Contact the Board by phone 978-249-9641 or by email awest-bos@royalston-ma.gov.

Route 32 update: As stated earlier, we have been struggling with the difference between the funding available (\$3.88M) and the actual cost of the project (\$4.8M). Faced with the threat of losing funding, we reduced the length of the paving. We have taken a mile of the "least worst" pavement out of the southern end of the project. The rest of the project including critical drainage and guardrails is still intact. A request has been made for supplemental funding. We are still on target for advertising in late August.

Town Meeting: The Annual Town Meeting will be Friday, May 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Royalston Community School. Check out the Warrant online at www.royalston-ma.gov or at the Post Office, Town Hall, or Country Store.



Heating Assistance Available

An unexpected addition to heating assistance is being offered through the New England Farm Worker's Council. For those who meet eligibility guidelines, the Council may be able to provide funds for fuel purchased as far back as November 1, even if bills are currently paid to date. For renters, a percentage of rent money - that reflecting heating costs as far back as November 1 - may be reimbursed. The potential exists to receive funding for weatherization, burner repair or replacement, and discounts on utilities and telephone. To determine eligibility, call the Council at 978-342-4520.

Royalston Emergency Management Agency

Are you Ready?

Jim Barclay, EMD 978-249-2904

I want YOU – YES, YOU – to join me over the next four months in taking the necessary steps to plan and prepare for the unexpected. As we all witnessed this past December, some fairly simple preparations can make the difference between riding out a severe incident in relative comfort or finding yourself in a helluva mess.

I am asking every single Royalston household with internet access to go to www.ready.gov and click on the central banner. On-line emergency planning tools will include "Get a kit." During the month of May, I am asking your family to "Get a kit!" If you don't have internet access, call me at 978-249-2904 and I will provide you with a hard copy of the information. It is my hope that on June 1, every household in Royalston will have the necessary supplies to survive for at least 72 hours – just three days – without outside assistance.

Most Royalston residents have most of what's needed for a family kit. Take time now to assess what you have, add the few things you don't have, and you'll be in good shape to take the June steps towards preparedness!

Scraps from the Town Scrapbook

"Royalston Counts Damage from Flood and Hurricane"

Thanks to Bill Cutting the Town Scrapbook now includes a clipping from the Sept., 28, 1938 Gardner News telling of the damage from the flood and hurricane. Clearly, the '08 ice storm was easy compared with these hardships.

"...The South village had worse flood than in 1936. The two new bridges are standing but washouts on either side are so wide and deep it is impossible to get near them. The homes of Arthur Kendall, Caleb Brown and Lauri Alger were in the direct path of the current. The water came up into the cemetery and washed the hearse house down to the wall beside the road. The Mason and Parker mill was heavily damaged... Trees are blown down all over the village and the large maples on the road to Eugene Twitchell's house are destroyed. Mr. Twitchell lost his barn and one cow. The barns owned by Mr. Perry and Mr. Bagadonis are badly damaged. Hardly a place escaped.

On the road to the Center, Arthur Harrington's barn roof blew off.... The damage at "Highview" was not nearly so much as one would expect given its high location.

At the Center, the beautiful common is a sorry sight. The large trees are scattered about: the church steeple is gone, and the roofs badly damaged. Karl Smith, Elliot Chase and Mary Martin completely lost their barns. The roof blew from the ell on Charles Brown's house and the long shed at Stockwell farm. Willis Cleveland's house was badly damaged by a falling tree. ...The barn on the Bosworth place collapsed, killing a horse, cow and heifer. Willis Labonte lost his silo...The two dams at H.O. Smith's went out, taking the old red mill which has been standing there for years... The timber lots in town are ruined. "



Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

The BOH at its most recent meetings voted the following changes at the Transfer Station effective July 1st due to the budget crisis. Closed Fridays, open Saturdays 8am-3pm. Annual windshield stickers cost \$15 up from \$10. Bag stickers for 33-gallon size bags \$2.50 up from \$2.00. Buy your forever stickers now until July 1st for \$2.00. See if you can beat Larry Siegel's record from the last price change.

The fifth sawtooth has been excavated. The block work and back-fill will be done by July 1st. Once that is completed, we will move the upper roll with the stairs into it. It will be much safer and increase our tonnages.

Compact fluorescent mercury bulbs: what to do if you break one? Close the room, open the window. Come back in 15 minutes with a wet paper towels or rag. Wipe up the broken glass and seal it in a plastic bag or container. Double wrap with another plastic bag and throw away in regular trash. Do not throw unbroken bulbs in the trash however; this is illegal. We collect them for recycling for a small fee.

Royalston Luncheon Club

meets each Wednesday at the town hall. Meals are just \$2/senior and \$2.50/youngsters. Call Betty Woodbury at 978-249-9656 by Monday to reserve a seat at the next Wednesday's meal.

John Porcini, musician and storyteller, will appear at the COA Luncheon on Wednesday, May 20th, beginning about noon. In a return appearance, John will sing songs, play instruments including harp, guitar and mandolin, and tell stories for all ages. Students from the Village school have been invited to attend, and so are you! This program, sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council, is open to all. Please come join the fun!

Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Friday, May 8, 7 p.m., at the Royalston Community School.

A Special Town Election, to fill the vacancy on the Board of Selectmen, will be held Monday, June 15. By the time you read this, any candidates for the open position will have returned nomination papers. The last day to object or withdraw is May 13. The last day to register to vote in this election is May 26. Special voter registration hours will be held that dat from 2-4 p.m .and 7-8 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office.

A special thanks to all the election workers who staff the polls. Last year was a busy year, with four elections, including the Presidential Election, and this years' Annual Town Election saw a lot of individual write-ins for various offices. Election workers are especially crucial to an efficient election at the close of polls, as, in this community, each ballot is still hand-counted.

Results of Contested Issues in the April 6 Town Election :

A-R SCHOOL COM - ATHOL	2 YR VOTE TWO				
CALDWELL	FORRISTALL	KACZMARCZYK	KUZMESKAS	BLANK	
PCT 1	94	71	52	51	104
PCT 2	57	51	38	20	62
TOTAL	151	122	90	71	166

THE OVERRIDE DID NOT PASS

QUESTION	Override		
	YES	NO	Blank
PCT 1	98	82	6
PCT 2	27	87	
TOTAL	125	169	6

Thank you to the many bakers and buyers who supported the Election Day Bake Sales. The combined proceeds, well over \$300, will support the many scholarships granted each year by the society.

Memorial Day Exercises May 25 on the Common



2009 Memorial Day Exercises will be held at 2 pm on The Common, followed by a Memorial Day Pot Luck Luncheon for all townspeople at 3 pm. Veterans are guests – all others please bring a dish to pass. (Photo: Barclay).

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 - noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank yous

Cady Boucher for volunteer work

Beau Guimond for computer games

Janet Bettey and **Aaron Ellison** for audiobooks

Kame Langlois, Celt Grant and **Charles H.W. Foster** for books

Bernard Gronowicz for a magazine subscription

Larry Siegel for an enthusiastic, informative and well-attended talk on local stone walls.

Cindy Savoy, Jen Bartkus, Susan Maki and others for refreshments for the Stone Wall Program

Patience and **Werner Bundshuh** for opening their field to kite flying and to **Cindy Savoy** for the delicious kite cake

The Hall family for allowing a Friends-sponsored public visit to its beryl mine.

Donation to the Friends group and its newsletter

Tom Musco

Major General Robert C. Davenport

Bill and Lian Cutting

In Memory of Arline Vining:

Ginny Gingras

John and Helen Divoll

Raeann LeBlanc and Roger O'Donnell

George and Janet Bodman

Bob Cromwell

Steve and Cindy Savoy

Phil and Priscilla Jacobs

Betty Woodbury

Jeff Brones

Peter Kraniak

Patience and Werner Bundschuh

Jan St. Jean

Theresa Quinn and George Krasowski

Adieu to the Wonderous Barbara Willhite

After over a dozen years of responsibly keeping the books, Barbara Willhite is stepping down as Friends of the Library treasurer. She'll be missed for her commitment, competence and patience as well as her wise opinions and warm smile.

The '09-10 slate of officers is:

president: Mauren Blasco

treasurer: Beth Gospodarek

vice president: Susan Maki

secretary: Sharon Harmon

All meetings, held the first Thursday of the month at 3:45 pm, are open to the public. Joining the friends can have a positive influence on our library and be good way to make connections within our community.

The Library Pre-School Storyhour presents:

The Gerwick Puppets performing

Cinderella: A Woodland Fairy Princess

A variation on the classic in which goodness prevails!
Performance uses traditional hand puppets in a stage that looks like a tree.

Monday, May 18th at 10:30am in the Town Hall

Performance is geared to 3 years old and up

Generously funded by a grant

from the Royalston Cultural Council

Upcoming Art Displays

Sonja Vaccari, Royalston's 'Madame V,' of North Fitzwilliam Road will have several new acrylic paintings on display at the library during May and June.

Parks Pass Available

Have you been to the Natural Bridge, Mt. Greylock, Beartown, Great Brook Farm, or Holyoke Heritage State Parks? Would you like to visit these state parks and save some money? The library has a DCR Parks Pass that may be borrowed. This pass entitles the bearer to free parking for one carload of visitors at over 50 facilities in the Massachusetts State Parks system that charge a day-use parking fee. Call the library for more information and/or to reserve the pass.

Summer Programs Coming

Thanks to funding from the Royalston Academy, the Summer Reading Program promises to provide out-of-this-world fun for kids of all ages. This summer we'll have five exciting programs for older kids, including visiting a giant planetarium, yarn spinning right from an Angora bunny, baking alien shaped breads, having a blast making a very cool rocket launcher and finally, our cranking out home-made ice cream party. In addition, reschoolers will be treated to a dynamic assortment of art and music programs on Monday mornings in July.

Library Plant Sale June 6: Donations Sought

Pot up your extra perennials, share those extra seedings, and weed out the house plants; benefit our library while sharing the beauty and happiness plants can bring with the neighbors. The Friends of the Library plant sale is on Saturday, June 6th from 9 - noon outside the post office. Save a spot in the garden and shop for some fine new plants donated by residents and local nurseries like Prospect Hill Farm, Shepardson's Gardens, Noel's Nursery, and the Perennial Patch.

Donations can be dropped off the morning of the sale at the post office or up to a week ahead of time at the library. Thank you.

Royalston in Summer: Photo Contest

Win cash prizes and earn the esteem and envy of your neighbors. The Royalston in Summer Photo Contest welcomes prints or digital photos, color or black and white, depicting our fair Town taken between May 10 and Sept 10, 2009. The only rules are: **all shots should be taken in Royalston and the photo should be taken by a Royalston resident.** Everything is fair game: nature, people, architecture, or whatever inspires (that is appropriate to a public library). Photos will be judged on technical quality and narrative meaning, which is the ability of the photo to evoke an emotion, tell a story or express a truth about life in our town. Photos will be judged by a panel of three local residents. Submissions should be left at the library or e-mailed as jpg to chasegos@gis.net .

\$50 first prizes will be awarded in two categories:

amateur-all ages professional-all ages

In addition, winners can select a book on photography to be purchased by the Friends for the library's collection. Photos submitted will be displayed in the library, published in the Royalston Community Newsletter (space allowing), and posted on the library web-site.

Some of the New Books at the Library

New Adult Fiction

Alexander, Skye *Riptide*
 Alexander, Skye *Windchill*
 Auster, Paul *Man in the Dark*
 Barr, Nevada *Borderline*
 Coben, Harlan *Long Lost*
 Deveraux, Jude *Lavender Morning*
 Flora, Kate *Deadfall*
 Flora, Kate *Still Waters*
 Flora, Kate *Seasmoke*
 Kleypas, Lisa *Smooth Talking Stranger*
 Oates, Joyce Carol *Dear Husband*
 Page, Jean Reynolds *The Space between Before and After*

New Adult Non-Fiction

Campbell-McBride, Natasha *Gut and Psychology Syndrome*
 Harmon, Sharon *Swimming with Cats*
 Heinrich, Bernd *Summer World*

New Adult Audiobooks

Bloom, Amy *Away*
 Wroblewski, David *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*

New Playaways

Obama, Barack *Dreams from my Father*
 Obama, Barack *The Audacity of Hope*

New Young Adult Fiction

MacHale, D.J. *The Travelers*
 Pierce, Tamora *Bloodhound*

New Children's Fiction

Eastman, P.D. *Are you my Mother?*
 Marceau, Fani *Panorama*
 McMullan, Kate *Pearl and Wagner*
 O'Connor, Jane *The Dazzling Book Report*
 Patricelli, Leslie *Higher, Higher*

Resident Recommended Reading

Read anything good lately? Let your neighbors know. Write a brief review and send it along to the RCN.

Isabelle O'Connor read the book *Monday with a Mad Genius* and found it interesting. It had flying people in it.

Kathy Chencharik's short story, "Shot by Mistake," which appears in *Deadfall: Crime Stories by New England Writers* is charming and clever and makes lots of reference to our local population and landscape. Officer Dale Roland, kindly Olivia Dodson, the Buckner family's riverside gardens, Constable St. John's dust mop pooch riding in a bicycle basket, as well as the Regalstone Community Newsletter Recipe of the Month all intertwine as the plot thickens. Check out this anthology to see whom else in our midst plays a part in this crime. *Sisters in Crime: l-r authors Norma Burrows, Ruth Mccarty and KathyChencharik.*



If the news is too relentless and radio too inane, why not try an audiobook during your commute?

Three Cups of Tea

What have you been doing for the last 15 years? The hero of this biography, Greg Mortenson, has been funding and building schools in remote parts of Pakistan. His story is impressive.

In the early 90s, Mortenson, a transient 20-something adventurer and rock-climber, got separated from his guide while trying to retreat from an ascent gone awry on K2. Weak and frightened, he arrived in a high altitude Pakistani village where he was shown generous hospitality until he recovered. The children in this village had no school building and the government only provided a teacher every other week, but they gathered outside every day and tried to teach each other math and Arabic by writing in the dirt with sticks. Mortenson made a commitment to the village headman to come back to build a school. Having no particular resources to fulfill this commitment, Mortenson typed hundreds of letters to anyone famous that seemed appropriate. The Oprahs of the world gave little response, but a blurb published in a climber magazine brought a backer with enough funds to build the school.

The book goes on to explain the challenges faced by Mortenson attempting to build more schools in a geographically harsh but physically beautiful corner of the world. Geo-politics are front and center; the Kashmir conflict, the fallout from 9/11, the US invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq all make the task of building village schools for boys as well as girls even more daunting for an American in a Muslim region, especially at a time when Wahabi madrasas and Taliban refugee influenced conservatism are ascending. Despite fatwas, a kidnapping, landmines and opium warlords, Mortenson perseveres and has some remarkable success. To be churlish, the book has an annoying habit of repeatedly telling the reader Mortenson is a hero when there is no need to be so forcefully obvious. Clearly, readers can infer that Mortenson is exceptional; the balanced education he has facilitated as well as the good will generated are bright spots for Americans concerned about peace.

Obituary

Arline E. (Shine) Vining, 88, died peacefully at home Saturday, April 4, 2009, in the arms of her daughter Ann and her much loved feline companion Sissy at her side. Before leaving her home for the final time, the Beryl Hill home she and her husband of 43 years built together during the first years of their marriage, she was joined by many more family members, including her son Ted and several grandchildren.

Arline was born a mile from her adulthood home, to Ann Lucy and Walter J. Shine. She was graduated in 1938 with accolades from Murdock High. Following graduation, her life was one of hard work and service to others. She toiled long and hard as a farmer to feed her family, and well into her 80s continued to produce jams, jellies and preserves, heat her home with wood, and fire up an arch each spring to make maple syrup. She took great pride in cooking for crowds, whether the crowd was family, friends or a community supper.

During her many years of formal work, she provided landscape and lawn care services as well as domestic help at the Bullock Estate, where she was considered a dear friend by Katherine Bullock Cole. She also worked in food service at the former Raymond Elementary School, and cleaned and repaired linens for Camp Caravan for Children.

Arline's served 33 years as Royalston's contract postal worker. Dubbed "Postmistress" by her patrons, Arline is largely responsible for the town of Royalston retaining its own zip code. For more than three decades Arline personally subsidized the costs of Royalston's contract station, all the while providing exceptional service to the town. It was her dedication that inspired those who took over after she retired in 2002; 01368 continues because of Arline's commitment.

Despite a "nose to the grindstone" working life, Arline enjoyed many entertaining pursuits. Her passion for reading was sustained to the very end by Royalston's Library and her own vivid memory of poetry learned in Royalston and Winchendon schools. Long forgotten to many are the Grange square dances and whist parties, where Arline showed sharp skills. She was a championship cribbage player who won many trophies. She was thrilled by the pomp and circumstance of presenting Grange degree work; it was a point of pride that she served in every single one of the offices while a member of the Royalston Grange and was a 7th degree State Grange member.

Arline also enjoyed her service with the First Congregational Church of Royalston, where she once taught Sunday school, worked on various social events and often decorated the altar with her homegrown flowers. She was the eldest member and one of the longest-serving members of the Ladies' Benevolent Society, having been active for some seventy years.



Arline was predeceased by her husband, Randall O. Vining in 1983, and by her brothers Ivan, Floyd, Charles, Earl, Myron, Forrest, Clyde and Lewis, and her sister Lucie. She is survived by a daughter, Ann Elizabeth and her husband Ronald Bedaw of Swanzey, NH; and three sons, Theodore F. Vining and his wife Eileen "Duchee" (Plotkin); Randall W. Vining of E. Longmeadow; and Glen B. Vining of Wichita, KS. She also leaves seventeen grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and two great-great-granddaughters, as well as many nieces

and nephews. Arline leaves so many who loved her that it would be impossible to name them all. The family wishes to acknowledge the extraordinary dedication of Barbara Poirier, ever her daughter, and her devoted son-in-law, Ronnie Bedaw; the generous and caring George Bodman and his wife, Janet; and ever-present friends, neighbors and caregivers Sheila Hall and her husband Chet, and special caregiver, Nancy Wolski. The family also wishes to acknowledge Marjorie Bassett and Mary Barclay who, with assistance from Jessica Basso, provided the exceptional end-of-life care Arline deserved.

Plans are being made for a late spring celebration of Arline's life and loves, where all family and friends will be welcome to attend and participate. Those wishing to remember Arline are invited to offer donations in her name to the Royalston Fire and EMS Association, c/o James M. Putney, treasurer, 185 North Fitzwilliam Rd.; or Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library, P. O. Box 133; or the Ladies' Benevolent Society, c/o Maureen G. Blasco, treasurer, 67 Norcross Rd. (All are in Royalston, Mass. 01368)

The flag at the Royalston post office was lowered for the week of April 10 in memory of Arline Vining.

Nancy Monette has NASCAR connections



Nancy Monette of Neale Place, owner of the Winchendon Subway franchise, recently arranged for NASCAR racer Carl Edwards' 2009 Ford Fusion Show Car to be on display outside her restaurant. Del Morin of Winchendon, a regular at Pete & Henry's, is shown with the vehicle, which was driven three times during the season, including the April 18th Subway Fresh Fit 500 at the Phoenix International Raceway. Edwards finished second in the point standings in the 2008 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series and is considered a leading contender for this year's title. Last season he won a series-high nine races, with a total of eight top-ten finishes during the Chase.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

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

Virginia (Ginny) Moore's grandson, Jedidiah Remembrance Szklarz was born on January 30, 2009 weighing 8 lbs 12 oz and was 21 inches long. The family was blessed to have Ginny stay

in Alaska with her daughter, son-in-law and the 8 grandchildren for 5 weeks. Her family said she cooked wonderful meals, cleaned and did mountain high amounts of laundry. The grandchildren's favorite part was listening to their Grammy telling them stories of her childhood growing up on the Harrington farm and cuddling with her as she read to them. Goldie said she especially misses her Grammy being her roommate. They all can't wait to have her come visit again, in the summer.

3rd Quarter Academic Honor Rolls:

Royalston Community School (grades 4 - 6): *straights As* - **Felicia Tourigny, Tobey Chase and Beau Guimond**; *all As and Bs*- **Kassandra Frazier, Alyana LaJoie, Ann Reynolds, Olivia Kimball, Rebecca Tetreault, Ryan Warner, Thomas Bickford, Abby Divoll, Deijah Euvrard-Brewington, Rhiannon Fletcher, Loryn Killay, Karianna Tobias, Dahlia Wright, Kadasia LaJoie, Katelyn Robinson, Emily Mangum, Tiffany Lusco and Cody Nolette**; *teacher's award*- **Chelsea Sanderson**

Athol High School: *Straight As*- **Natalie and Hillary Whitcomb, and Mackenzie Bennett**. *All As and Bs*- **Stephanie Coulombe, Marissa Kellner, Christine and Ashley Sawyer, Alyssa and Allison Bergquist, Noah Easton, Patrick Scribner, Krista Erikson, Dylan Hall, Joseph Riddell and Francisco Carra**.

Naragansett High School: *straight As*- **Cady Boucher**

Proctor Academy: **Abigail Stowell** has made Honor Roll in both the Fall and Winter Terms at Proctor Academy, in Andover, NH, where she is a freshman. She is currently competing on Proctor's Equestrian Team, and recently placed first in four individual events, which qualifies her for the N.H. State Show in May.

Student Representative to the State House - **Chet Hall IV** was the Athol High representative to Student Government Day, where he was addressed by Governor Patrick and sat in the assembly to debate increasing the legal drop out age and cell phone use in schools.

Joseph, Melody and Bethany Henkel all have entries in the state Junior Duck Stamp competition. Their work will be on display in June at the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

Unsung Hero

Larry Siegel

It would take a blind man (or woman) not to notice the change at the transfer station since Tony Argiro came on board. Not only did he kick the place into shape, he's kept the place in shape. He goes about his tasks both personably and helpfully. Unfortunately, his hours are some of the first casualties of the new town budget cuts.

Recipe of the Month - Carrie Hutchins' Dilly Beans

As the soils warm in late May, its time to plant the green beans. Carrie Hutchins sent this recipe so those garden fresh beans can be enjoyed all year. Carrie says, "I grew up in Royalston and have lived here most of my life. I have 2 wonderful children, Adam & Samantha and an Awesome husband, Ron., My Dad taught me about gardening and sometimes I wish that I had paid a little more attention when my Mom was canning. Here is one veggie I learned to grow and can. I make these every summer now, using fresh beans from the garden. It is one thing I make that everyone in the household loves to eat."

Ingredients

- 2 lbs. fresh green beans
- 4 small garlic cloves
- 4 heads of dill or 4 tsp. dry dill seeds
- 1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes (you may not want to use so much)
- 2 1/2 c. white vinegar
- 2 1/2 c water
- 2 Tbsp. kosher salt

Wash beans & break off stem ends. Peel garlic. In 4 sterilized pint size jars, put 1 clove garlic, 1 head dill (or 1tsp. seeds) and a pinch of red pepper. Put beans in jar allowing 1/2 inch head room at top of each jar. Then, in a pot, bring vinegar,water and salt to boil. Pour over beans, filling to within 1/4 inch of jar rim. Fasten jar tops and place in a boiling water bath, covering lids with 2 inches of water. Process at a hard boil for 5 minutes. Remove and cool. Enjoy-Enjoy-Enjoy

Royalston Community Coop

The coop ordering schedules are being re-done – members will be contacted with the revised order and delivery schedule. Question? Contact mcb Barclay@juno.com or Mary at 978-249-2598.



LADIES' B.

The Society's 2009 program guides are out, with display copies at the Town Hall, library, post office, Whitney Hall, General Store and Pete & Henry's. Personal copies are available from Secretary Mary C. Barclay at 978-249-2598 or mcb Barclay@juno.com . All women of the community are encouraged to attend any meeting or program – new members are always welcome!

The May meeting is Wednesday the 27th beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Deb Nunes (the Squire Davis homestead) on the Richmond end of Rt 32. The program is Eco-Talk. All are invited. Light refreshments will follow.

Get Growing:

North Quabbin Garden Club will have its annual plant sale Saturday, May 16, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.. Stop by the Millers River Environmental Center to see the wide selection of choice plants that members offer from their own gardens. Proceeds will go towards landscaping of the Environmental Center. The club is also offering a program entitled **Ice Storms: Ecological Effects, Tree Health and Decision-Making for Landowner** on Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center. Ice storms are a common landscape disturbance and play an important role in diversifying our forests? While initially the damage may seem shocking, many trees can rebound with little effect on their long-term health.

On May 16, 2009, Rain or Shine, from 10 am - noon, **Athol Memorial Hospital and Seeds of Solidarity Education Center** are offering a free "wellness gardening" workshop to inspire community members to grow and enjoy delicious and nutritious vegetables on the hospital grounds, next to the Medical Arts Building. During the workshop, participants will help to plant gardens on the hospital grounds, learning about compost, container gardening and even "the cardboard method" that can be used to establish productive gardens in a variety of settings. The resulting vegetables will be used in the hospital kitchen, as part of the employee wellness program, and as a demonstration garden. The workshop is free, no previous experience is necessary, and pre-registration is not required.



Congregational Churches News

Spring has sprung and the Congregational Church has been hopping. It hosted the annual Town egg hunt; it's amazing how quickly children can find over 2000 eggs. In addition, Pastor Jeff and Mike Veilleux met recently with Jim Barclay to discuss making the Fellowship Hall in the FCCR an emergency shelter. Plans for renovating the Hall are under way and after the ice storm, the Church felt it would make sense to incorporate special emergency preparedness requirements.

Upcoming church events:

May 15th. will be the kick off of a FCCR monthly movie/dinner night, (hosted at the Second Church this month) Pot Love dinner at 6 pm and the movies start at 7 pm.. There will be 2 simultaneous movies: one for adults and one for children.

May 22nd. FCCR will be launching a new ministry called "Celebrate Recovery" (C.R.). This program has proven itself to help people overcome hurts, habits, and hang-ups all around the nation as 30,000 other churches have witnessed. C.R. uses biblically based guidance and principles along with the help of others who have experienced freedom from debilitating strongholds. This program is non- denominational and is open to all. Meetings start at 6:00 pm at the FCCR.

May 31st. is membership Sunday. We will be welcoming new members to our growing church family. Praise God.

Revival Town Youth Group news: Our 3 young ladies going to Panama this summer on a missions trip have been working very diligently to raise funds. They have raised more than 1/2 the money needed (over \$2400.00 ea.) If you feel led to donate to the cause, make checks payable to FCCR (marked Panama Missions). They welcome your prayers also. Thank you.

May 2nd is the Tully Campground clean up

May 3rd: several adults and youth are going to Boston to take part in the "Walk For Hunger", to raise funds for all the food banks and pantries in Mass. If you want to join in or sponsor, please contact Charlie Scribner at 978-249-2649 or Susan Veilleux at 249-5004.

June 6th : Look out New Jersey ! The hicks from the sticks , youth and leaders, will be going to Six Flags theme park for a day of fun and frolic. We will also be there for Toby Mac's concert.

Chris and Diane Tamulevich have recently joined the Royalston Youth Group. Chris is fantastic with computers , and cell group meetings started going live on U-Tube. Check it out at <http://www.happyjesusday.com> . Meetings are held on Fri. nights 7pm - 9pm at 88 Summit Ave. Athol. The Cell group is geared towards teenagers but parents/guardians are encouraged to come and observe. Call 978-249-9535 for details.



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Rich DeMar

Village School News

May 1 **May Day** at the Village School on the Common from 9 to 10 a.m. Morris Dancers, Maypole, live music, and children singing. Come for this traditional May Day event. Starts promptly at 9 a.m.

Saturday May 2 **Open House** at the Village School 10 a.m. to noon. Bring the family. Projects for children in all the classrooms. Visit classrooms, talk to teachers. Find out about the curriculum, and how to apply for next year. Weather permitting, there will be Maypole and Morris Dancing at 11:30 a.m.

Friday evening May 22 7 p.m. at the Royalston Town Hall
Cloak and Castle The Annual Village School Play Based on its yearlong study of the Middle Ages, the 4th-6th grade class writes an original script, produces and presents an action packed, rollicking performance, including lighting and music. Everyone is welcome. Free, donations are accepted to defray production costs.

Come one, Come All!

Saturday Morning on Royalston Common

June 6 from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall
Adults \$6 Children \$3 Organic pancakes and local syrup
Spectacular Silent Auction 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Auction Items include original paintings, crafts, a brand new deluxe barbecue grill, cordwood, and lots of interesting brand new items from local farms and businesses. See the whole list of items at www.villageschool.to The auction and breakfast benefit the Village School new building project at Camp Caravan.

And more:

7:30 Silent Auction begins

8:30 Tag Sale open

9:00 Morris Dancers

10:00 Live Birds of Prey with Tom Ricardi

11:00 Cakewalk- every child is a winner!

11:30 Drumming with Ellen Clegg

Don't miss the book sale at the library, and the plant sale and bake sale at the Post Office.

Summer Programs at the Village School on the Common

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

July 6-10 ages 4-8 Nature Arts and Play

July 13-17 ages 4-8 Nature Arts and Play

July 13-17 ages 8 and up Summer Art Intensive

July 20-24 ages 8 and up Science and Art Experience

July 20-23 ages 4 and up Introduction to Suzuki Piano

These programs are led by experienced teachers and 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.

RCS Dates and Events

Why not shop with RCS this May?

RCS Pancake Breakfast and Mother's Day Flower Sale

On Saturday, May 9, the RCS 5th and 6th grades will hold a pancake breakfast at Town Hall. A \$5/ adult or \$3/child ticket buys a meal of pancakes, eggs, muffins, juice and coffee. Tickets available at the door. Also, back by popular demand, RCS is selling **hanging flower baskets and flats of perennials**. These impressively lush, healthy flowers are locally grown in Northfield and will be delivered to Royalston just in time for your Mother's Day gift giving. They come in an unusual variety of colors. Pre-orders will arrive May 6 or 7 at RCS. Others will be available for sale at Town Hall on May 9, the day before Mother's Day. (baskets: \$18 and \$22/ flats \$15)

Tomato Plant Sale

The 6th grade is growing tomato seedlings to sell to fund its end-of-the-year events. Hybrids, cherry, plum and heirloom varieties will be ready for sale around the last week in April. Save space in your gardens and watch for more information.

Calendar of School Events

Week of May 4 - 8, Teachers' Appreciation Week

Week of May 4 - 8, Snack Attack for Grade 5 Nature's Classroom

May 7, 1/2 day (no K, lunch served, noon release)

May 7, Kindergarten Screening, more info to come

May 13, Fourth quarter progress reports

Week of May 11 - 15 *Math MCAS for Grade 6

Week of May 18 - 22 *Math MCAS for Grades 3 - 5

May 18 - 22 *Grade 6 to Nature's Classroom, Ocean Park, Maine

May 22 - RCS Memorial Day Program

May 25 - No School in observance of Memorial Day

RCS Talent Show a Smash



A dvd of the RCS talent show is at the school and available to be checked out from the Phinehas Newton library.

Monty Tech News

There are nearly 700 applicants for 380 freshmen slots in Monty Tech's class of 2013. Once again, there are 12 Royalston applicants for our three guaranteed seats. The three applicants with the highest rating score have been notified of their acceptance. The remaining nine are listed by rating score and notified from highest to lowest should one of the three Royalston seats become available before May 31. On June 1, all applicants, regardless of town, will be listed in order of rating score and available seats offered to students in order of the composite rating score.

Grizzly Bear

Hunting, running, browsing,
playing
Grizzly Bear
Hunting all around
Grizzly Bear
Why are you so big?

by RCS Poetry group 1: Anthony, Ava, Aliyah, Jayce, Sadie, Alexia, Kevin, Molly, Tayiah, Grace, Matthew, Jessica, Ziola, Isabelle, Emily, MacKenzie, and Hannah

Wildlife Sightings

While the RCS poetry group of k-2 graders was thinking about bears, several residents had close encounters with bruin.

At 3:30 a.m. on April 7, Allen Young of Butterworth Road heard a very loud noise and found a **black bear** (estimated weight, 400-500 pounds) trying to climb up the side of his house to get to a bird feeder. The bear ripped off a piece of siding, but lumbered away slowly when Allen shined a flashlight and shouted out. Allen, who had a vivid dream later that night about bears living in a secret cavern under his lawn, says, "Next year, I will follow MassWildlife's advice about taking in bird feeders in March." The next day, Jerry Marcano and Rob Jalbert, as well as Allen, observed a lone beaver swimming back and forth in the small fire prevention pond on Butterworth Road (dug by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s).

Joseph and Samuel Henkel spotted a **bear** on Rt 32 on April 16 around 8 pm while driving with their mother, Helen.

Ann and Joe Verelli had a **bear** at their bird feeders at the bottom of Jacob's Ladder over Easter Weekend.

Sharon Harmon had a **beaver** right outside her Butterworth Rd kitchen window below her deck on April 10th.

Susan Divirgilio noticed a **moose** down by the water near Pete and Henry's at 10:30 on April 26.

Leslie Williams, who moved into a house on Athol-Richmond Road the first week of December, had turkeys come to the bird-feeder (while the dog was in the house, asleep) and pose for a Thanksgiving card.



The life cycle of spring

Jon Hardie

Two weeks ago we had a ringside seat to an amazing aerial encounter. Two morning doves were cleaning up leftovers below the bird feeder when a migrating broad tailed hawk swept in. The doves scattered, but one was caught in mid air in an explosion of feathers in front of the window, 15 feet above the ground. The hawk, hooding its catch, finished off the dove behind the pond. The mate sat very quietly for several hours in a corner of the garden. When we went to check, it flew off. I would have been in shock too.

This week, the two phoebes (flycatchers) returned for the 7th year to raise yet another brood on the beam below the overhang - just above our front door steps. They time their arrival each year to match the arrival of their flying insect food supply. And, each year we change our own and our dogs' entrances and exits; quietly speaking to the birds before passing just a foot or so below. Each year we watch them refurbish their nest and warm the eggs, and await the heads of the young above the rim of the nest. We watch each other curiously ... we delighting in their annual cycle of child rearing, and they in their safe & dry second home. They depart with the black flies.

Garden Notes

April 21, 2009

The temperature hovers in the mid-30s, the wind drives in from the east, it is raining and I sit huddled before the woodstove. Such is the nature of spring, glorious days interspersed with wretched days. But there have been enough glorious days for me to consider gardening to be in full swing. It is a catharsis of sorts purging my body and mind of winter's staleness. Rejuvenated and refreshed, I return to the tasks at hand.

Perhaps the biggest mistake I made when setting out on this venture was to try to take advantage of every square inch of available space by planting from grass line to grass line. The grass, of course, proceeded to encroach on the plantings and weeding became a horrendous task. I continue to make amends, the goal being to establish a three-foot no-grow zone between the crops and the sod. In a similar vein, most everything was closely spaced, the notions being that if a plant needed but a couple of inches of space within a row it only needed a couple of inches between rows. The intervening years have proven otherwise. Eight rows to a four-foot bed were standard for a variety of crops; now only a few are still so spaced. Spinach, for instance, has worked its way down to four rows in a bed and the spinach much prefers the additional space.

It took four years, but after twenty-five years of neglect I have restored the asparagus bed to its original weedless condition. It remains to be seen whether more spears will emerge as a result, but it is undeniable they will be easier to spot.

I continue to advance the gardening season. As always, the peas, spinach, and shallots have been planted; not, as always, beets, chard, and fennel have been planted as well. I've even put in a couple rows of fava beans (unlike green beans they are not frost sensitive), a vegetable I have not previously grown, or even eaten, for that matter. I routinely plant potatoes in early May. After setting out some the middle of April last year with no ill effects, I decided to plant most all of them the same time this year. This is not without risk. The cool soil will delay emergence. Delayed emergence may result in rotted potato pieces. Rotted potato pieces results in no potatoes. It's not as if it was critical for me to harvest potatoes a couple of weeks early (unlike tomatoes, no one boasts of the first potato in the neighborhood); more it was a matter of the time being available and the body being willing. What would gardening be without a bit of risk-taking? For the first time I have the brush (for the peas to grow on) in place before the peas have been planted. There is no shortage of brush, it being a by-product of my ice storm cleanup. I've even gone so far as to set up the six-foot chicken wire for the cherry tomatoes, in spite of the fact the plants will not be set out for five weeks.

I have made some adjustments. My heaviest-duty hoe, which I had previously used for most everything, has been relegated to the heaviest-duty tasks only and I am managing quite well with a moderately-sized hoe. Regardless of the hoe used (there are eleven of them), I do experience a certain achiness after the days rounds. I'm not yet at the complaining stage, mind you, merely aware of the aging process at work.

Larry Siegel

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Happy Birthday James Taylor

The Royalston Community Newsletter
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Submission deadline for June issue is: May 22

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

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