



VOLUME 17 NUMBER 5

DEC. 1995/JAN. 1996

# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

## THANK YOU

YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS HAVE BEEN MORE THAN APPRECIATED OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

THE VILBON FAMILY



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## COVER

SPECIAL THANKS TO FRED BURRINGTON FOR THE THE ORIGINAL PEN AND INK DRAWING THAT GRACES OUR COVER THIS MONTH.

## HEATH HERALD

### HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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Deborah Phillips  
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Send all correspondence to: Box 54, Heath, MA 01346-0054

## ANNUAL HEATH SKI RACE

by Deborah Phillips

The Heath Annual Ski Race is scheduled for Sunday, February 4; with a "no snow" date of February 18. Once again, the Park Committee is sponsoring this event. Anyone interested in volunteering to help, i.e., grooming trails, race timings, and registration, should call Judy Thrasher at 337-5327. So mark your calendar and don't miss out on this community event! There is a race for everyone -- 7K, 14K, and a range of children's races. Bring the family, have some fun; and of course healthy snacks and lunch will be on sale at the Community Hall provided by the Heath Pre-school. For more information and details, call Judy Thrasher.

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to apologize for the lack of photographs in the last issue. The original material, photos included, mysteriously disappeared from the Town Hall just as the final copy was being prepared for the printer. Eventually it was found and returned!

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## ALAN'S ALMANAC

	1995	NORMAL
June	2.61	4.27
July	4.56	4.04
Aug	3.21	4.25
Sept	2.92	4.29
Oct	12.21	4.41
Nov (28)	4.48	4.69

Thanks to thunderstorms we suffered less in this summer's drought than many of our neighboring communities.

## HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Roger Peace

"Tis the season to be jolly" is sung by many at this wonderful time of the year. For those who know the Christ of Christmas, that can be especially true. It makes no difference whether it is decorating the Christmas tree, going Christmas carolling or going Christmas shopping - He is always in it. May your Christmas be filled with the joy of knowing him.

December is such an exciting time of the year. Due to inclement weather, the outdoor living creche scheduled on December 3 was cancelled; however, the music program with Ken Sheldon singing for us was held as scheduled. On December 16, we are having a Progressive Dinner. Sunday, December 17, at 10 AM the Heath Youth Group will present their puppet special called "Quimper's Corner Christmas". The following week, December 24th at 10 AM the choir will be singing under the leadership of Eric Sumner. That evening will be the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:30 PM.

The youth have been especially busy the past few months preparing for this puppet presentation. Six local churches have the pleasure of having the puppets at their church. This ministry has been well received in the past, and we are very proud of the youth for their extra efforts at this busy time of the year. May you be blessed for your work. They are also preparing to surprise two folks in town with a special visit during the Christmas Season.

This has become an annual event that the youth have the joy of giving to others.

Since there was a slight mix-up last printing, we would like to remember the great work the Heath Youth Group did this summer as they painted the front of the church with the money raised from selling pizzas. There was enough money left over to purchase a cast iron wood seat that will be in front of the church each summer. Yes - they did it, and they did a super job.

Happy Holidays.



HEATH UNION CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

## LIBRARY NEWS

by Alli Thane

Great news! The library has received a new computer system. This has been awarded through a grant from the Massachusetts Library and Information Network (MLIN). The equipment consists of a 486 computer with Pentium, Windows, color monitor, Epsom printer, and send/receive fax-modem. A representative from Graphic Technologies, Inc. of Minnesota will be here shortly to install all of this. Internet connections for the MLIN libraries will be provided by the Boston Public Library. An exciting new chapter for our small library!

However, we do still have books and some of the new acquisitions are:

### Fiction

Ladder of Years, Anne Tyler

Apollo 13, Jim Lovell

A Place Called Freedom, Ken Follett

The Standoff, Chuck Hogan

Goodbye to Buttermilk Sky, Julia Oliver

Finding Moon, Tony Hillerman

Horse Whisperer, Nicholas Evans

Silent Night, Mary Higgins Clark

Coming Home, Rosamunde Pilcher

### Non-fiction

Chilton's Auto Repair Manual '92-'96

New Century World Atlas

Gift of Dyslexia

Katherine Hepburn, Barbara Leaman

By the Dim and Flaring Lamps, Clayton Cramer

The Cookie Jar, Leisure Arts

Watercolor Quilts, Pat M. Margaret and Donna I.

Slusser Reviving Ophelia, Mary Pipher

My American Journey, Colin Powell

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## HEATH ENTERPRISE COUNCIL

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

The Heath Enterprise Council (HEC) is now 20 members strong! The entire group has met once or twice this fall, and the Board of Directors has been meeting on a regular basis one to two times per month.

Some of our activities to date have been to have a booth at the Heath Fair where we had a raffle to raise funds for the group, as well as to let people know we exist. On Sept 13th, Mr. Joe Judd from Blackmer Insurance spoke to our organization about group health insurance. His presentation was very informative. We have not yet acted on this, but it is a possibility for the future.

We are currently working on a design for our Heath Business Directory, which will contain a listing of our local businesses, as well as show local points of interest. This will be distributed around Heath and Franklin County. As we get closer to press time we will be contacting HEC members. If you haven't yet joined your local business association, there is still time before we go to print on the directory!

Watch for upcoming meeting dates in the West County News.

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## Green Thoughts

by  
ELSA BAKALAR

There's a point in the year when I feel totally removed from gardens and gardening. It doesn't last long -- a day or two, no longer -- sometime in the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Every year, I am surprised by this total withdrawal from something normally so important that it engages me fully all the rest of the year. Between the things that are over and the things still to come there's a yawning hiatus.

This year's "black hole" has come and gone. For a couple of days I shopped, I cooked, I read and wrote (but not about gardens) -- nothing could spark any interest. A favorite garden magazine lay unopened, and I could barely hold up my end of a telephone conversation with a good friend who wanted to talk about her garden. Coincidentally (or perhaps not) this was the day before the new moon. The day was short, but still a month away from the shortest day and longest night of the year. But perhaps I was having my own personal solstice.

Think about it. The bulbs for next spring are safely underground, herbaceous perennials are cut down, leaves are raked,

and you've planted whatever is safe to plant at this time of year in this part of the country, barring a few things that nurseries (obviously located in some warmer clime) haven't seen fit to send yet. Holes for those are dug, waiting and covered against freezing. There may be one special hole waiting for The Tree after it has seen you through the twelve days of Christmas, but you don't even have that one yet.



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The avalanche of garden catalogs is still to come; a few may have appeared in the mail, but they're not the ones you plan to order from. Garden centers trying to stay alive until they can decently close in January, or February, or even March, offer to teach you how to make every imaginable kind of wreath or swag or table-top decoration. They sell food and ornaments and sometimes tools, but it's hard to be enthusiastic about those when the soil is frozen solid. There is even the awful danger that you'll succumb to the temptation to buy special clothes to garden in. Stern admonitory articles appear in the newspapers: "Now is the time to ...". Well, you wish you had: cleaned the tiller; de-thatched the mower; drained the leaf shredder; and labeled every plant in the garden. But, you tell yourself it's too late now.

I knew it was going to be downhill all the way once we passed mid-summer's day, back in June, and I was right -- sunset a little earlier each day -- a sense of the year running down. But I know, as sure as I know anything, that come December 21, we can count our gains in daylight minute by minute, and things will begin to climb up again. I don't make any promises about the weather, mind you; that will continue to deal nasty hands for several months, but the hours of daylight are a sure bet. Get past December 21 and watch your spirits rise with the sun. There will be catalogs and magazines and TV programs, and I'll be able to tolerate those "Now is the time to..." commands (and even use those words myself). We will have survived the annual slide into darkness!

I shall call up garden friends, make plans, study catalogues, look up things in books, order plants, seeds, even a sun hat, watch Ms. Stewart performing miracles on TV without gnashing my teeth, heft the tools when I'm in any hardware store, find the first pussy willows and believe in my garden again.

You'll see.

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## The Way It Is In The Country

*"If it's old, works well and has a purpose in life,  
don't change it".*

by **CARROLL STOWE**

### AN INTERESTING WORK WEEK

From one issue of a Heath Herald to the next, I'm in a quandary as to what to write about.

The past week ending November and starting December was a week filled with various tasks.

Apart from dealing with some part of taking care of the Freeman herd of cattle, there was snow to plow for the Rowe Highway Department and sanding to be done for the Town of Heath. Wednesday I plowed the Davis Mine Road in Rowe first and then came back to Heath and did some sanding for Mr. Cable's crew. The Tuesday evening previous a dump trailer load of gravel stuck on Bassett Road had to be unstuck. That area is an inhospitable place at 10 PM. All ended well fortunately.

As I sanded various roads here in our town it was easy to reflect to my past days of employment for the Heath Highway Department. The sander truck that I had been entrusted with hauls six plus yards of sand. This rig runs and works very well. Spreading sand ahead of the drive wheels creates safer conditions negotiating slippery hills of which Heath has its share. Since Mr. Cable began taking care of these roads he has wisely engaged the services of three small privately operated plow trucks. Mike Peters, Alvin Hillman and Doug Crowningshield take care of the narrow gravel roads and some black top portions. These smaller trucks work well on the narrow roads and if they should be so unfortunate as to get off the

road are much easier to retrieve than a larger unit. With the use of these smaller trucks more road is being made ready for sand much more rapidly. Back in the 1960s, two drivers worked two trucks plowing without concern for sand till the plowing was done. Much of the roads plowed today were not plowed back then.

One Saturday, before Heath had an automatic sander, Mr. Galipo drove truck as Gerald Galipo and I, working sand into a tailgate spinner sander, put out thirteen large loads of sand. That kind of a day's work would expire me today. It was rather a trick to keep your balance in the back of a truck body as the load was raised to help the sand slide towards the small door in the tailgate. A very real hazard was broken tree limbs landing on the load.

Friday, December 1 John Silverman and I put out about sixteen loads of sand and covered much more road than we did with those thirteen loads many years ago, but this time most roads were covered twice.

I am pleased that in semi-retirement I am able to work at a task familiar to me and perhaps make a difference.

Perhaps at times all are not pleased with how things are done but remember there are lots of roads to look after and mother nature never spread any sand or plowed much road.

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# OF HERBS AND HEIRLOOMS

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

At some point every year I give up the struggle. I need to give up my preconceived ideas of warmth and comfort, and face the hard cold fact that it is winter. T-shirt and shorts have finally gone into their drawer for a long winter's nap, and I cannot really harvest anything more out of my garden. Oh, I carry on, but now is actually a wonderful time to ready for the upcoming holidays. Using your homegrown materials and herbs, you can make your holiday special by decorating with herbs, drinking them, or giving them as gifts.

Most of the major religions celebrate some festival of light, whether it be Christmas, Solstice, Hanukkah...the need to celebrate at this time of year is an ancient one. How better to enjoy this season of light than with candles and evergreens and herbs? Long before the holidays we recognize today, people were banishing the dark, and welcoming the return of the sun. The traditions we cherish today go back to antiquity.

In our house, a basic ingredient is candles, or where safety is a concern, artificial lights. The candles lend a richness to our daily tasks, and allow for us to mellow and reflect. We surround them with choice evergreens from our woods.

Using evergreen branches, boxwood, ivy, heather, artemisia, juniper or holly you may create swags and garlands which can be draped about your home, or you can fashion wreaths for your doors. To add interest to them, use pine cones, dried flowers and herbs, berries, dried seeds, ribbons. The possibilities are endless!

Wrapped bundles of Bouquet Garni added to a base of thyme make a handsome kitchen wreath, or an incense wreath can be made with a base of artemisia and decorated with fragrant herbs. Pieces of herb are taken off the wreath as you need to use them. You can also save the incense wreath until February 2nd which is Candlemas, and be burned for the new year's good luck. Stemming from colonial times is the use of herbs as Christmas tree ornaments. Another custom is that of hanging mistletoe. Besides just kissing under it, although that too is a fine tradition, tie a ball of the mistletoe with red ribbon and hang it above your door, thus protecting and promoting good luck. At the following year's Winter Solstice, which next year is December 21st, take it down and burn it.

For the festivities it is good to have a warm drink. A favorite, and a classic, is Wassail. Wassail is made of wine, eggs, hot baked apples, nutmeg, cloves, ginger, mace, allspice and sugar. We omit the eggs and apples, and add cider and citrus fruits to be recipe. This was drunk in medieval times and began

as part of Twelfth Day celebrations, which were quite boisterous occasions. Of course, after all of the rich food and festivities, it is also good to drink a cup of hot peppermint tea, to soothe your stomach and your soul.

In words written by Eric Sloane, one of the great narrators of New England country lore, "The countryman...finds Christmas in his home and in the spirit of the land, though he feels no compulsion to buy or expect perfunctory gifts", a truth we can live by may be found.

The types of herbal gifts you can make are limited only by your imagination. By reading a good herbal, or taking a class, you can learn to make herbal soap, salves, oils, bath salts, cosmetics, smudge sticks, catnip mice, herbal scented inks, sachets...or, for those who are gastronomically inclined you can make herbal bread, vinegars, cookies, scones, jellies, or your own mix of tea. Tied up with ribbon, arranged in a basket, alone or in combination, these are gifts both useful and from the heart.

So, may I toast you, with wassail and good wishes, a joyous season of light!

## MOHAWK DISTRICT STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The administration, teachers, support staff, and parents of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District, Hawlemont Regional School District, and Rowe Public School have formed a Mission Statement Committee to create a Statement of Purpose.

The Statement represents the Districts' educational philosophy and their commitment to the education of your youth. The purpose is to weave a common thread of educational experience from town to town and through grades K-12.

Representatives of the Mission Statement Committee collaborated in creating a draft of a Statement of Purpose and a consolidation of our beliefs in regard to providing a valuable education. Members of the committee are going into their communities to ask residents for their input in developing the Statement of Purpose and belief statements. Copies of the draft were handed out at the special town meeting held November 21. Attendees were asked to review the document and to submit comments and proposed changes.

Copies of the draft will also be sent home with each Heath student and will be discussed at the Rowe Parent Teacher Partnership on December 4 at 6:30 PM at Rowe Elementary. Copies will also be available at the Heath Post Office.

Any questions or comments may be sent to P. O. Box 51, Heath or feel free to call either Mary Vilbon at 337-4347 or Rollo Kinsman at 337-4814.

## by Suzanne Crawford

**We have completed our first set of parent-teacher**

**PIZZA**

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# TECHNOLOGY FOR OUR NEW SCHOOL

by Doug Wilkins

Late 1700's: "Students need to know how to make their own paper, what if there is not a slate available, what will they do then?"

Late 1800's: "Why use ready made paper, it's a waste, and besides, slates have always been good enough."

Early 1900's: "Those newfangled ball-point pens will never replace our quills and inkwells, just too unreliable"

Late 1900's "Computers are.....

Where do computers and technology fit into our new school? What do we want our children to be capable of upon leaving Heath Elementary School? What can we do that would be most beneficial for the greatest number of students?

These are questions that the Technology Committee is working on right now. The major question is not whether or not we need computers, the question is how to infuse them into the curriculum most effectively. The Committee, the Superintendent, the School Committee, the State, and the Federal Department of Education are all in agreement on this issue. Why are all these groups in agreement? Think about the work place and the skills needed to succeed there.

There are very few occupations that do not use technology. Even auto mechanics are looking up parts on the computer database and sending a modem message to the parts store with the delivery order. Many colleges and universities are requiring students to have a computer, and the others have well equipped student labs. In fact, computers are becoming as nearly as common as paper and pencil.

So, why do we need computers in the Heath Elementary School? Many studies and reports, with strong supporting statistical data and facts, indicate that putting computers into all of the elementary grades improve test scores and comprehension. Many nationally recognized experts also strongly advocate computers in all elementary classrooms. While these are certainly valid reasons to equip our new school with computers, I believe the strongest reasons come from common sense.

The computer as a tool: We all take for granted pencils, pens, paper, and books as important tools of learning. During the past 25 years, we have seen calculators, typewriters, and even video tape players and televisions, added to this list. These changes have occurred because industry needed it. One look through the want-ads will tell you that industry is again changing what it wants from our educational system. Most ads require some form of computer literacy, and many require specific expertise. Most desks now have some sort of computer on them. Office desks will have an information processing

computer, sales desks will have a combination computer-cash register, others will have computer links or scheduling programs. The computers are an extension of the person. They are just as important as any other office tool. Maybe more so.

Now, here's the common sense: If the computer is an important tool like the pen, calculator, etc., why are we not training students to use them as soon as possible? If most people are going to do a majority of their writing at a computer, why are students not learning to write that way? If people use computers to solve complex problems, why are students not taught to solve problems that way? One thing is certain. We cannot teach our children how to utilize computers in a responsible, efficient manner if we do not have computers for them to use.

Please keep in mind that reading, penmanship, spelling, math facts and manual math computation are still critical curriculum areas. Also remember that computers are only a tool. They do not replace good teaching. Our students should NOT be sitting in front of a computer screen day in and day out. Computers can enhance learning. They can isolate difficult areas and allow students to succeed where they otherwise would not. They are a new, very valuable tool for the teachers to utilize, and a necessity in today's society.

The state of Massachusetts has allowed the Town of Heath an extra \$200,000 in building funds. This means the state is willing to help us equip the school with computers and a few other items cut from the original budget with 72% of the funding coming from the state, and 28% coming from some other source. We are working on options that will not effect the tax rate, including donations and grants. Keep in mind that we will not have this level of state matching again in the foreseeable future so all options are open!

The Building Committee has produced a beautiful, well laid out building. We are about to hire a Heath Elementary School Principal for the first time in over 25 years. That principal is going to hire a brand new staff. I hope we can give the new principal and staff all the tools they need to give our children the best possible education. In today's society, our kids need every bit of help we can give them.

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## PARENT TEACHER PARTNERSHIP

by Mary Vilbon

The PTP has been pretty busy lately!

In October the Autumn Costume Dance/Community and School Scarecrow Contest was held for Heath and Rowe community members. It was estimated that 80-90 children came and boogied along with parents and friends. Congratulations go to John McDougall of Heath whose most detailed scarecrow won first prize in the community contest and also to the 3rd grade of Rowe Elementary whose rock 'n roll scarecrow won first prize in the school contest. Another big success was the annual gift wrapping fundraiser. Families raised an estimated total of \$1095. Super!

Your efforts will allow the PTP to bring more enrichment programs to the children. A special thanks to Diane Cerone for helping out on this fundraiser year after year.

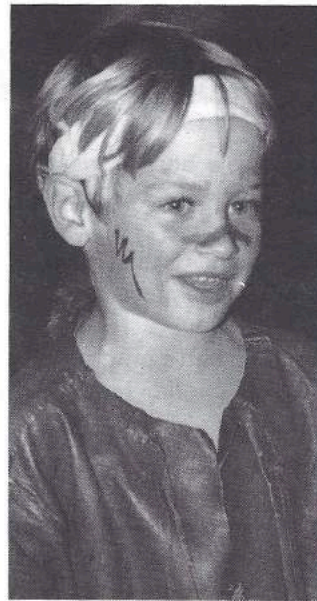
In November, in recognition of National Education Week, the PTP sponsored a community luncheon held at Rowe School. All of the tasty delights were prepared by Gail Hall and Evie Dandeneau. For December, the PTP will participate in the Adopt-a-Family Program. This program helped out less fortunate families in Franklin County. Dinner and presents are purchased and wrapped by the students and the PTP will deliver them. This is a wonderful program for the children to learn "it is better to give than to receive".

In January, mark your calendar for January 23rd; the UMASS Dancers will come to Rowe Elementary at 10 AM to entertain the children. As always, the entire community is welcome! Also in January, the PTP is looking forward to organizing an after school computer program for the children - stay tuned!

Happy Holidays to all!



MR AND MRS. CLARK JOHNSON  
(Photo by Dianne Cerone)



DAVID SMEAD  
(Photo by D. Cerone)



PATRICK DEMECK  
(Photo by Dianne Cerone)

## TRIAD SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR HEATH ELDERS

by Sheila Litchfield

The TRIAD Program, now available to senior citizens in Heath, focuses on reducing unwarranted fear of crime and on improving the quality of life for seniors. TRIAD is a partnership among the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, local police and local senior citizen representatives designed to identify the best ways to reduce crimes against the elderly and enhance law enforcement services to older citizens.

Through this community policing effort, Heath seniors can benefit by a number of activities and programs such as: crime prevention education, home security and personal safety tips, neighborhood watch, training in coping with telephone solicitation, knowledge of current frauds and scams, elder abuse recognition and prevention, to list only a few of the many possibilities.

Seniors who find themselves isolated and concerned for their own safety may find comfort and a renewed independence from TRIAD services. Several of our Heath neighbors are already finding peace of mind in the TRIAD services offered by Roger Ward, our local TRIAD contact.

Brochures about TRIAD and other senior resources are available at the display in Sawyer Hall. For more information about how you can benefit from this service, please contact Roger Ward at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, 160 Elm Street, Greenfield, MA, telephone 413-774-4726.

## HEATH-ROWE K-2 SOCCER LEAGUE

by Veronica Smead

The Heath-Rowe K-2 soccer league finished their season with a successful game with the Conway School second grade team. While the Dolphins/T-Rex's did not prevail there was some great playing that had every parent there cheering them on. Riston Donelson made the team's only goal. Jacob Smead and Kurt Wilkins both came very close to scoring. The offense and defense for the Dolphin/T-Rex team did not give up despite the cold snow falling down. Everyone had a great time and they look forward to a rematch next year. Members of the Heath Soccer Team who are not present in the accompanying photograph are: Michael Kuehl, Daniel Clark, Andrew Lively, Lisa Crowningshield, Capri Bryant, Grace Phillips, James Munkel, and Coach Russ Donelson.

The Heath-Rowe students will be starting basketball in January. The coaches volunteer their time and energy to an enthusiastic group of students. There is a K-2 team, 3-4 team and a 5-6 team. On Tuesday nights starting November 28 there will be a pick up game for grades 4-7 from 6 to 7 PM at Rowe School. Adults may play from 7 to 9 PM. If you have any questions please call Veronica Smead at 337-5389.



### HEATH SOCCER TEAM

Front Row: Kenny Bradley, Joseph Lemelin, Chris Vilbon, Jacob Smead, Riston Donelson, Jeffrey Vilbon, David Shattuck

Second Row: Chris Wilkins, Pauline Cerone, Kurt Wilkins, Joseph O'Dea, Elizabeth Lemelin

Third Row: Coaches Mike Bradley, Doug Wilkins, Veronica Smead

(Photo by Veronica Smead)

## VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

by Deborah Phillips

The Rowe School 6th grade is sponsoring a volleyball tournament as a fund raising event for their spring trip to Washington, D.C. It will be held on Saturday, January 13 at the Rowe Elementary School, with a snow date of January 14. It is a

5-on-5 tournament with one substitute allowed. The cost is \$36 per team. Play will begin at 9 AM. To register, call Veronica Smead at 337-5389. There is a limit of only 12 teams, so be sure to sign up early! This is a fun family event, so come and play some volleyball, or just stay and watch the fun. Refreshments will be on sale.



ELIZABETH LEMELIN AND RISTON DONELSON  
WORK THE BALL  
(Photo by Veronica Smead)

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## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by D. F. Howland

Five issues have dominated the activities of the Selectmen these past two months - obtaining special state aid, tax bills, a Special Town Meeting (STM), Route 8A and the John M. Shapiro Land.

On October 4 an application was filed with the Department of Education (DOE) for Foundation Reserve Aid in the amount of \$250,000. The application is a comprehensive presentation of Heath's fiscal condition - the highest residential tax rate in the State in FY 95, near the lowest per capita income in the State, virtually no commercial tax base, the lowest percent of state aid in the local school district, etc., etc. We reported that for the past two years we did not receive credit for Excess Debt for new school construction, a provision of the Ed Reform Act that would benefit the Town. We may not get the \$250,000 because there is competition for the money, but we feel strongly that we should get a reasonable amount. We should hear about an award in early December. The Tax Fairness Committee has worked diligently with the BOS on this project. Tax bills are going to be late. This is due to several situations. The Assessors have to do a new valuation for FY 96 that is nearing completion. Taxes cannot be computed until that is done. Further, we want to hear from the DOE about the Foundation Reserve money which would reduce taxes. Also, the Town has \$99,836 in Free Cash, some of which could be used to reduce taxes. If tax bills cannot be sent out in December, the Tax Collector may ask taxpayers to pay what they wish prior to the end of the year for tax deduction purposes. Another option is to send out estimated bills, but the first payment would be high because it would be based on last year's tax rate of \$21.94. In deference to the taxpayers the BOS would like to avoid that. Also, estimated bills means more work for the Tax Collector. So, we'll see.

A STM was held on November 21 at 8 PM. It lasted about 20 minutes. A contract with the Material Recycling Facility in Springfield for five years was approved, as was appropriations from Free Cash for \$1,300 for a computer contract and \$2,000 for the Dump Transport account. A vote to borrow \$174,887 for road projects reimbursed by the State passed and an article to use \$45,000 from Free Cash to reduce taxes was passed over. We expect to come back to the Town on this matter once we know what the DOE award is.

On November 28 a meeting was held with State and County Highway officials and townspeople at the Town Hall to discuss the future of Route 8A. There were over 30 people in attendance. (Please see report elsewhere in the Heath Herald.)

The BOS met with the former John M. Shapiro Land Committee (JMSLC) to discuss the BOS proposal to establish a task force to recommend possible uses, facilities and restrictions of the land and methods for its management. Exploring the uses of the land was voiced by the townspeople at the Annual Town Meeting on May 6, 1995. The JMSLC reported that they had conducted in-depth research, interviewing numerous conservation experts, regarding the possible uses of the land. All of the experts interviewed recommended that the land be designated as conservation land. The land would be protected by the State Conservation Commission regulations which, in general, restrict development but allow for certain recreational uses and forestry maintenance. As conservation land, the Heath Conservation Commission would be responsible for the management of the land. The JMSLC objects to municipal uses, a condition of the original acceptance and wants that condition removed. A compromise proposal is that a management committee comprised of the Conservation Commission, Park Committee, and Public Works personnel with the support of the Town Coordinator was put off for now.

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The objection to designating the land as conservation land was that the Town would lose the right to determine the use of the land. Legislative action would be necessary to act outside the Conservation Commission regulations. The BOS suggested sending out a survey to residents relative to their interests as to the use of the land. In the interest of trying to work something out it was proposed to reconstitute the JMSLC to its full compliment of membership so that their work can continue. The Town Coordinator would assist. The BOS decided to table the discussion and get back to the JMSLC.

A number of other events and occurrences merit reporting as follows:

A grant in the amount of \$1,800 has been received to instruct pre-schoolers in fire safety practices.

The Town expects to have \$1000,000 available for loans to property owners to help them meet Title V septic tank standards. Details are forthcoming.

The BOS approved a license to Peter's Store to sell alcoholic beverages. The paper work has been forwarded to Boston for final approval.

Helen Mackie resigned from the Planning Board. Helen served for some eight years during which major changes occurred. Her resignation was accepted with regret. The Planning Board and BOS voted to replace her with Valerie Kaempfer of Mohawk Estates.

As keeper of the Town flag on the green, Helen recognized Yitzhak Rabin, the slain prime minister of Israel, by lowering it to half mast for seven days.

Rollo Kinsman is working with selectmen from Hawley and Charlemont and Connie Burrington on details relative to the Three Town Dump land transfer. Rollo has also been attending meetings to select colors for the new Heath school and on the mission statement for the Mohawk Regional School District. Rollo also serves on the Mohawk Municipal Advisory Council which will meet in January to develop strategies for gaining increased state aid for school operations in next year's budget. Hilma Sumner is liaison to the Highway Department and Dave Howland has attended Franklin County meetings.

Maintenance news: Dick Newton painted the room separator in the upstairs meeting room of the Town Hall and Eileen Tougas contributed drapes for the Copy Room and the Post Office. Looks nice. Also, the Storage Shed area at the Town Garage has been made more useable with the help of Ed Croteau.

Have a most Happy and Health Holiday Season!

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## ASSESSOR'S REPORT

by Don Dekker

One of the pledges I made after becoming the Chairman of the Heath Board of Assessors was to make sure that tax bills were sent on time. I must admit that this pledge has not been achieved. In order to get the tax bills out on time, many parts need to be assembled. This proves difficult.

The State needs to furnish the amount of State Aid money; the School District must supply its budget; the Town needs to have its Special Town Meeting to establish "free cash"; and the Assessors need to have the correct total value of the Town.

It seems that most years one or another of the parts is late, for usually very good reasons. This year proves to be the same. The Town's Special Town Meeting was not until November 21st. Further, the Town hopes to get supplemental DOE aid money to help lower the tax rate. Because of this being a Revaluation year, and starting our new computerization State CAMA system, the Assessors are late in establishing our values and totals. We hope to finish our part next week with a visit from the State Representative; get certification; hold hearings; and then set the tax rate and mail out bills.

All this means is that you will not get a tax bill until late December, at the earliest. (The Town may need to delay on word of "Pot Hole" money from the State.) Anyone is of course welcome to send in money before the end of the year to help on Federal and State income tax bills or your personal budget. We are hoping that slightly lower town values, more state aid, and more free cash will lower the tax rate - meaning lower taxes. Meanwhile we are late again. Maybe next year we can be on time.

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## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

The weather turned from fall to winter in a flash - from rain, rain, rain to snow. Our troubles started October 21 with 6'' of rain; then 4.5'' on October 29; then another 6'' on November 12; then snow on the 13th. This summer, when we shaped the dirt roads, we took extra care to clean the ditches. We trucked away tons of debris - putting a good ditch line and a good crown on the profile of the road. An excellent grader operator from Eileus, plus our highway crew took care to clean culverts and dig bleeders. This work paid off when the rains came. We had minor washouts but we didn't lose any roads like all our surrounding towns. The water stayed in the ditches. We closed one road for a morning to keep school buses off it until we fixed the problem area -- again thanks to the crew and Eileus.

November 13 we sanded into the night, then plowed all roads the next morning. Two incidents happened during this storm that were very disturbing. Each incident involved a person who had a disabled vehicle - one was stuck and the other a broken axle. In both cases, the person was refused help at the closest resident to the incident. In both cases, the people encountered new residents in town. Notice to new residents -- this is the country. We need each other -- emergencies happen here -- this is not New York or New Jersey. If you don't want to let people in to use your phone -- either call for them or call the police or dispatch at 772-2133. These kinds of incidents could be life threatening in this country - please be a good neighbor. You could be in trouble sometime - what would you do!? We have finished the repaving of Number Nine Road - you will notice the new appearance of Peter's Store - we lowered the road about two feet in front of the building and added a beam to the opposite side. We also added a shim of pavement on Branch Hill between 8A and the town garage. Crack sealing was done on 8A (older section), Dell Hill, Bray, Burrington Hill and Avery Brook. The crew and I attended a crack-sealing seminar in Buckland; also the crew recently attended a Loader Safety Course in Buckland. I attended the Berkshire County Highway Superintendent meeting October 26 with John Merrigan as my guest. Others attending were Russ Dindino (MA Highway Engineer), Rudy Longton (District One Supervisor), Representatives Steve Kulik, Kelly and an aide to Senator Jane Swift. On November 16, I attended the MA Highway-Tri-County meeting at the Mullens Center, then on November 21 attended a forum on transportation bills held at South Deerfield with Representative Kulik leading the forum with Assistant Chief of Transportation Joe Wagner, Jane Swift's aide Stacy Rainey and our newly elected Representative John

Merrigan. I also attended the memorial service for State highway aide Bill Silvernale's wife Joan who recently passed away of cancer. Our sympathy to Mr. Silvernale and his family. Mr. Silvernale has helped us tremendously in our Chapter 90 projects.

An excellent turnout for the 8A hearing on November 28 showed the interest to preserve the rural character and quality of life in Heath. MA State Highway District One Director Rudy Longton and his assistant Edwin Taginski explained the role of the State in 8A programs. They stated that 8A is a State numbered route but they have no jurisdiction over the road as it is a town owned and maintained highway. Actually the State is to be commended for paving this road in 1993 as they were under no obligation to do so. Any fear of a substantial upgrading of 8A by the State is unfounded - the current climate is any projects on this highway come under the direction of Heath townspeople. Other notables at this hearing were Representative John Merrigan; Senator Jane Swift's aide Stacey Rainey; and Franklin County Commission representatives Bill Allen and Linda Dunlevy. I express deep appreciation to all those who participated and am proud to be a part of the Heath highway network. Proposed road projects in Heath in 1996 will cost over one million dollars - none of it out of our local taxes except my time.

Please notice that State Forestry Road and Harris Mountain Road are closed to traffic for the winter season. Also any vehicle parked on a town road during snow storms will be towed at the owner's expense. Also, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles are prohibited from using town roads.

The transfer station is open on Mondays and Saturdays only during the winter. The metal bin is gone for the winter. Keep recycling - we are now receiving a return on our cardboard and paper. Bring your mercury batteries to the transfer station.

Have a safe and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our house to yours.

Jack and Beverly Cable

Happy Holidays from the Heath Highway crew - Dohn, Dave, Fred and Jack

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Earl Gleason, Chief

The fire department responded to twelve emergencies during the reporting period. The department was called twice on October 21 to downed power lines on lower Eight A. The first was in midafternoon when six firefighters attended to a wire that was arcing as it laid on the roof of a building. The second call was in early evening when four firefighters attended to a tree on the wires. Two EMTs and a firefighter assisted a lady back into a chair on October 25. Charlemont Ambulance responded to an Avery Brook Road residence to transport a female patient on November 4. They were assisted by one EMT and a firefighter. Two firefighters attended to a minor chimney fire on Branch Hill Road on November 8. Eight firefighters and Tanker 2 responded to Charlemont to a structure fire on November 10. Later that day four EMTs aided Charlemont Ambulance with a man who had been involved in a lawn mower rollover. Two firefighters checked lower Eight A for the report of arcing wires during the snowstorm of November 14. November 16th saw another double-header for the EMTs. The morning run was attended by two EMTs and two firefighters for a man who had fallen off a roof. The man was transported in Charlemont Ambulance to East Charlemont where he was transported by Life Flight Helicopter. That evening two EMTs and three firefighters assisted

Charlemont Ambulance with a North Eight A resident who was ill. An automobile accident on North Eight A caused injury to a man who was transported in Charlemont Ambulance. Three EMTs and two firefighters assisted at this incident. On November 24, Engine One and Tanker Two with five firefighters responded to a mutual aid call to Colrain to a trailer fire.

The Fire Association met on October 5 and November 2. Drills were held at the station on October 19, and November 16. Firefighter Fred Golba attended a three hour class on foam and a three hour class on structural fire fighting at the MA Fire Academy County weekend held in Orange. EMTs Mary Howe, Dave Thane and Tim Lively attended a twelve hour class on Incident Command held at the Charlemont fire station on October 28 and 29. The fire department attended the play school with a program and Engine One at both the morning and afternoon sessions on October 24. Also, a fire prevention display was set up in the library during fire prevention week.

The Chief attended seven out-of-town meetings and made two inspections.

As winter approaches, heating appliances, smoke pipes and chimneys should be checked. Have a safe and good winter.

## PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

### PERCOLATION TESTS

Perc testing has been suspended until next April, except for repairs.

### BUILDING PERMITS

No building permits were issued this period.

### DEED TRANSFERS

Gary Cohen and Carol Densmore to Leslie Brooks of Monterey, California, 15 Hosmer Road. \$55,000.

Frank B and Veronica O. Musiak of Greenfield; William W and Alice C. Gonski of Northampton to Lands Edge Incorporated of Williamstown, Number Nine Road. \$30,000.

Karen A. and Michael A. Chrisman to Michael A. Chrisman and Vicki L. Sterling, Burrington Road. \$21,500

Bruce A. and Catherine A. Cromack to John A. and Wanda H. Mooney, Burrington Road, lot 1. \$3,000.

Donald A. Scagel and Michael H. Scagel to Donald A. Scagel of Northampton. Papoose Lake Drive, lots 7, 19 and 20. \$1.

Robert Barclay to Robert and Maureen Barclay of Garden City, N. Y. Long Hill Road, 2 tracts. No consideration.

Lands Edge Incorporated of Williamstown to Donald W. and Colleen C. Johnson of Enfield, CT. Number Nine Road, lot 2. \$28,900.

Bruce A. and Catherine A. Cromack to Paul and Carrie Ferretti. Burrington Road, parcel A. \$215,000.

Marcel L. Frechette and Steven J. Zevitas to George H. and Eileen A. Tougas, Mohawk Estates, lots 13 to 17. \$4,500.

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## MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Born October 11, a son, Evan Thomas to Theresa Shattuck and Darryl Belval of Halifax, VT; grandson of Lea and Charles Shattuck Jr., and Nancy Belval, all of Heath and Jeanette and Howard Crowning-shield of Rowe; great-grandson of Francis and Leonid Gagnon of Manchester, CT, Rita and Charles Shattuck Sr., of East Hartford, CT, Cleo and Henry Belval of Pownal, VT, and Louise Newlands of Naples, FL.

Frederick Malcolm Burrington and Laurie Kay Wheeler of Heath were married on September 22, 1995. Frederick is the son of Paul and Nancy Burrington of Heath, and Laurie is the daughter of Nancy Wheeler of Gill and Clarence Wheeler of Colrain.

The couple's original plans were to be wed on top of Burnt Hill at sunset of the Autumnal Equinox. However, because the season's drought-like conditions ended in a deluge of rain the wedding was at the last moment moved to the Heath Union Church, where Reverend Allen Comstock performed the ceremony. The church had been decorated with yews and ferns earlier in the day by the groom and his father, on the off chance it really wouldn't stop raining in time.

Their immediate families joined them for the ceremony, with best man Russell Jolly standing with Frederick, and best women Susan Wood and Leslie Grace (sister of the bride), standing with Laurie. Eric Goodchild filled the church with the sounds of bagpipes.

The ceremony was followed by an evening supper. On the next day, more friends and family gathered for a party to celebrate the couple's marriage. Rebecca Lee Nichols, daughter of Nancy and Stanley Nichols of Shelburne and Christopher Lee Lively, son of Frederic Lively of Heath and the late Patricia Lively were married September 9, 1995, in the First Congregational Church of Shelburne. A reception followed at the French King Restaurant in Millers

Falls. The newlyweds took a trip to Resort World Orlando. They are making their home at 1901 Linhart Avenue, Fort Myers, FL.

Michael G. Jackman and Hope Marie Tirrell of Heath were married on October 13, 1995. Michael is the son of Raymond and Suzanne Jackman of 15 Clearwater Drive, Heath. The bride is the daughter of Judith Ann McLenithan and Richard Tirrell.

Edmond A. Fournier Sr., of Belchertown died October 14 at home. He was born in Heath on June 7, 1925. He was the son of Florence (Stetson) and Rodolph Fournier Sr. He attended Heath schools before moving to Conway, Amherst and Shutesbury. His wife, the former Betty Lou Ely, died in 1993. Besides his father, of Heath, he leaves a son, Edmond Fournier Jr., of Ware, two daughters, Deborah Fournier of Belchertown and Florence Cahillane of Northampton, two brothers, Robert Fournier of Greenfield and Rodolph Fournier Jr., of Plainfield and three sisters, Luella Benson of Rowe, Doris Rand of Old Lyme, CT, and Jean Thackeray of Goshen, and six grandchildren. Services were held in Amherst with burial in West Cemetery in Shutesbury. Elizabeth A (Ford) Rice of Papoose Lake Drive died October 30. She was born in Fitchburg June 9, 1944. She was the daughter of Walter and Evelyn Ford. She moved to Heath in 1985. Survivors include her husband Steven, a daughter Tina Davis, a son Walter Nass, a brother Ervin Ford, two sisters, Frances Johnson and Mary Jane Johnson, both of Spokane, Washington and a grandson. Services were held in Fitchburg with burial in Forest Hill Cemetery.

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