

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 6

MARCH / APRIL 1999

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

75¢

A TOWN SEEKING A VISION OF THE FUTURE

by Clark Johnson

(This article appeared in the Jan. 29, 1999
West County News)

As time and change go hand in hand, how that change comes about and what it does to things people value in this small hill town of West County was the subject of a morning-long discussion at the Heath Elementary School on Sat., Jan. 23.

About four dozen people gathered as part of the town's Visioning/Town Plan Project funded by a \$10,000 grant. It was the third step in a process that will culminate in a master plan to help map the future and identify what needs to be preserved in Heath and what needs to be changed or improved.

Planning Board member Bob Viarengo said Saturday's forum helped his board "to know that we are reflecting what the community wants. I was a bit disappointed that there was not a better cross section of the population, but it was still a good turnout."

The effort to put together the visioning project started about two years ago. Mr. Viarengo said that the first attempt to get grant money failed, but it was finally awarded last year. The Municipal Incentive Grant came from the state Department of Housing and Community Development. The \$10,000 made it possible to pay for a professional consultant, Jeanne Armstrong, of Land Use Incorporated of Hadley.

Two things have already been accomplished, including putting together an overall strategy and the forming of a visioning steering committee. Also a survey was sent out to former town officials and others involved in town affairs. This survey, said Mr. Viarengo, was filled out by about 6% of the town population.

After Saturday's brainstorming session, four major areas of concern or interest precipitated out of a long list of topics contributed by those attending. The four categories, which were voted at the meeting, will have a committee devoted to each topic. The committees will consist of volun-

(continued on page 2)

SCHOOL COMMUNITY GRANT RECEIVED

by Deborah Phillips

Philip O'Reilly, Principal of the Heath Elementary School, just received notification that the Heath Elementary School was awarded a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Education, entitled, "Goals 2000 Families and School Working Together". Mr. O'Reilly applied for this grant some months ago and the award brings with it \$35,000 per year for three years. The intention of the grant is to unite the school and broader community in joint projects, at both the school and the town center.

A few of the projects outlined in the grant proposal that the Heath School and the Community Partnership would be interested in undertaking include the following: adult education classes, creating a community garden to serve the needs of the school and the local food distribution program, residencies for local artists to enrich student learning, creating a local health center, and continuing with community meals, celebrations and art festivals.

The Heath School and the Community Partnership are looking to coordinate and implement projects such as these with other local groups and individuals such as the town library, the hall committee, town nurse, the agricultural society, local artists and farmers, and the long-range planning committee. Anyone who would be interested in getting involved in this wonderful opportunity for community-wide enrichments should call Mr. O'Reilly at 337-5307.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Girl's Friendship Club and Heath Union Church

It was a week before Christmas
on a cold start lit night,
When a group of cars pulled by my driveway
and gave me a fright.

Then up my stairs came a stream of smiling faces
some wore red Santa hats and all were ready in their
places.

A basket of goodies was handed to me, with treats and
handmade ornaments to hang in my tree.

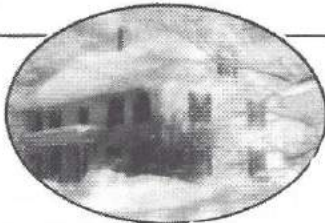
Then all of sudden and to my delight
they sang in unison "Silent Night".
A trio of songs for me did they sing,
and a bundle of happiness to me they did bring.

Then off in a flash did they disappear
leaving enough joy and Christmas cheer
to remember and cherish all through the year.

So I wish to thank each and every one of you
for all the wonderful and thoughtful things you do...
And wish you a world of happiness all the year through.
Thank-you, thank you and-THANK YOU!

Sincerely,
Eileen Tougas

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(continued from page 1)

teers and members of the steering committee. The four groups will start meeting in February and by annual town meeting in May will give residents a chance to vote on whether to move forward with a master plan.

A fifth committee will concentrate on data gathering such as population trends and external influences and solicit data from the other four working groups.

The four major topics are: conservation of things that people like about Heath, including historic preservation; the natural environment and how to ensure it does not change; a broad overview of town facilities; and improved town recreation.

Some of those topics are already being worked on by existing committees, such as the space committee, so efforts will be made to provide linkage to utilize what has already been done and integrate it in a more broad based master plan. Also, each group will provide some information on the possible economic costs or effects on the local tax base. "We have an interest in possible business development in town, so the economic impact of each issues will be looked at," said Mr. Viarengo.

Before May, the hope is to hold another public forum for teenagers living in Heath. "Any decision made will effect them and might encourage them to continue to live in town," said Mr. Viarengo.

Most agreed at Saturday's meeting that two major things make life in Heath valuable - natural beauty with sweeping vistas, and a strong sense of community with neighbors willing to help neighbors in time of need. Now the community is being asked to help again to define what it will become.

More volunteers are needed in the next few months. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact co-chairs of the steering committee, Bob Dane at 337-5736, and Bob Viarengo at 337-8619.

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CIVIL SUIT RESOLVED

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Two issues of interpretation of Massachusetts Open Meeting Law were brought to rest within the past month. In a civil action suit brought against Heath, "the judge ruled in the town's favor on both issues," said town counsel Mark Reich.

The suit, brought against selection Hilma Sumner, Francis Rollo Kinsman and Eileen Tougas in October of 1997 by Anne Cronin, Mary Stannard Carter, Harvey D. Carter, Jr., and C. Richard Steinbock was resolved, following more than one year and approximately \$25,000 in legal fees.

At issue were two points of Massachusetts law concerning the amount of information required to be given to the public by officials prior to going into executive sessions; and, legal protocol for the posting of executive sessions. A final hearing, at which three of the four plaintiffs and town counsel for the selectman were present, was held on Dec. 21 with Judge Judd C. Carhart presiding. Both parties presented their arguments for their "cross-motions on summary judgment filings", and on Dec. 22 notice was received by town counsel of the court clerk's notice of the judgment. It was on Jan. 11, 1999 when official judgment was entered at the court.

According to Mr. Reich the judge "stated that simply reading the exception meets the requirement of the law". Addressing the second point Mr. Reich explained that an executive session does not need to be posted separately as long as it is held during a properly posted regular meeting. It was the first time a ruling had been made upon these two issues, thus requiring "fresh research and fresh arguments". Mr. Reich called the two issues "very important, as they get to the heart of how an executive session is called."

A Very Brief History

The civil action suit was served to Heath selectman in October of 1997, charging the selectman with numerous violations, over a period of years, of the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. In June of 1998 twelve stipulations were agreed to by both parties, in the wake of a series of hearings, pre-trial conferences and meetings that had taken place since October. The stipulations to which both parties agreed concerned general practices of Open Meeting Law, including open meeting protocol, record keeping, executive session protocol, executive session minutes review and release, attendance at Open Meeting Law workshops given by the Northampton District Attorney, release of executive session minutes from July 15,

1997 at which disciplinary action concerning a former town employee were discussed, and a reimbursement of no more than \$1,000 to the plaintiffs for the costs in this suit. To date the majority of these have been met by selectmen, with the exception of attendance at one of the specified workshops. According to Ms. Sumner, selectmen are attempting to set up a date for a workshop with the district attorney's office.

Could the process have been avoided? Mr. Steinbock said he felt that it could have been, "by selectmen complying with the law as written and conducting meetings in some parliamentary order."

Ms. Sumner admitted that there were selectmen's errors, "executive session minutes had never been reviewed or released, and it had been a matter of relying on tradition or town custom and assuming our predecessors were following the law, rather than researching the law ourselves. I'm sure that there were times we did not always follow the letter of the law, but I believe if it had come to a trial the judge would have realized that the officials of Heath, like all other small towns in the commonwealth, survive by the honest effort and hard work on non-professional volunteers."

(This article is revised from West County News, Jan. 29, 1999)

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Managing Editor	Susan Silvester
Assistant Managing Editor	Laurie Burrington
General Ed. & Layout	Chloe Allaire
Consultant	Pegge Howland
Staff Reporters	Laurie Burrington
	Edith Royer
Copy Editing	Jane DeLewuw
Columnists	Elsa Bakalar
	Michael Coe
	Bill Latrell
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Advertising	Deborah Phillips
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Typography	Diane Cote

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LIBRARY LINES

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Grant Notes

The library has recently completed and submitted a grant application to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) to attempt to obtain a 50% match for funding to begin feasibility studies of the expansion possibilities of the library's current facility as well as exploration of other possible sites within or near the Town Center. The grant would be used to hire an architect for the feasibility studies. A Library Building Program will be written by the Library Director to determine what size building and space needs will be necessary for library services and programming; we have been asked by the state to make a 20 year forecast.

A number of people volunteered their help to the library during the grant project. Our thanks to Jane DeLeeuw, Pat Leuchtman, Cynthia and Clark Johnson for their editing skills; Paul Turnbull for his photographs of the library space; and Chloe Allaire, for her computer skills in reproducing those images for the necessary extra copies of the application.

Of the six copies mailed to MBLC headquarters, the original grant is housed there, and copies mailed to five individual Grant Reviewers. Following Panel Reviews in February and March, recommendations will be made to the MBLC by March 18. The Planning Grant Awards will be voted on by the MBLC during the first two weeks of April. Should the library's application be approved the town of Heath would have until June 1999 to give permission to accept the planning grant. Applicant communities would have until Oct. 1, 1999 to complete their local 50% match. By July 1, 1999 the state funds would be available, and planning and design activities would fit into an April 1999 to December 2000 window. There is no promise that we will receive the grant, but, always positive, we have our fingers crossed!

New Books

Little Altars Everywhere, Wells; All Through The Night, Higgins Clark; Amy & Isabelle, Strout; Balloon Man, Macleod; Basilica, Montalbano; Billy Straight, Kellerman; Blue, Padgett; Breach of Promise, Perry; Charming Billy, McDermott; Chile Death, Albert; Desert Crop, Cookson; Disposable Man, Mayor; Duane's Depressed, McMurtry; Eternity, Shayne; Falling to Earth, Brownrigg; Mirror Image, Steel; Bag of Bones, Stephen King; Santa's Twin, Koontz; Harvest of Bones, Wright; Haunting Rachel, Hooper; Her Forbidden Knight, Stout; Mama Rocks the Empty Cradle, Deloach; Midwives, Bohjalian; Odd Sea, Reiken; Picking Up The Pieces, Sheepshanks; Prime Cut, Davidson; Seize the Nigh, Koontz; Sharks Never Sleep, Nolan; Shopkeeper's Wife, Sickels; Stardust, Gaiman; Vow of Compassion, Black; The Official Book of Figure Skating; Aunt Sarah, Woman of the Dawnland, Trudy Ann Parker; Greatest Generation, Brokaw; Rise Up

Singing, the Group Singing SongBook; Wild Within, Paul Rezendes; Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Apprentice; Today I Feel Silly, Jamie Lee Curtis; Treasure Hunt, Bill Cosby.

Large Print Titles: Barbed Wire; The Inspector and Mrs. Jefferson; Mediterranean Adventure; Becoming Laura Ingalls Wilder; Grandparenthood; Turnip Blues.

Whilst I hope you have not been bored with this issue's column, I do hope you have, at the very least, been informed of our current activities. Please contact the director of one of the trustees if you have questions for us.

STORIES WANTED

Do you have tales of old? Of times "gone-by", that to you tell the story of Heath? The Heath Free Public Library, as part of a Cultural Council Grant, continues to ask for stories from townspeople. Heath voices and stories are being collected on audiotape as part of the library's permanent historical collection. If you, or someone you know, would like to add your voice, please call Laurie at either the library at 337-4934 or at home at 337-4302. If anyone would like to help with interviewing, this too is welcomed!

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COMMUNITY HALL NOTES

by Val Kaempfer

Now that the Holidays are a thing of the past, the Hall Committee is very busy making plans for the future. If all goes well, we, along with the Council on Aging, will be serving our first senior lunch in April.

The start-up date will be announced in the papers and on posted flyers throughout town. We are hoping for a great kick-off to this program. Thanks to a grant through the Council on Aging we are able to replace some equipment and purchase some which the hall never had. Our buildings manager/custodian, Debbie Huff, has painted the kitchen and dining hall. It looks Great!

Mark your calendars for an old-fashioned Saint Patrick's Day dinner of corned beef and cabbage. The dinner, sponsored by the Hall Committee will be at 6:30 p.m. at the community hall on March 17. Adult tickets are \$6.50, children 12 and under are \$3; tickets may be reserved with Dot Sessions, Terry Pettengill or Edie Royer by March 13.

HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

by Colin Lucid

Psalm 100:4. Enter into His gate with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name. All of us here at Heath Union Church can truly enter the Lord's gates with thanksgiving and praise, because of the great progress that has been made in the repair of our church. We would also like to thank those in our community of Heath who have contributed to this endeavor.

We still have a way to go, but our prayer and our hope is to be able to celebrate Easter in the church once again. If there are any who would like to help us reach this goal whether through prayer or just coming down to help in the construction, or any other way, please call Howard Crowningshield at 339-4406 or Paul Burrington at 337-4425.

In other church news we welcomed into our family Emily LaBier, daughter of Shye-Ann and Evan LaBier. We also enjoyed celebrating the Christmas Holidays with many of you. The Easter season is fast approaching. Please read the paper for the scheduling of our special services.

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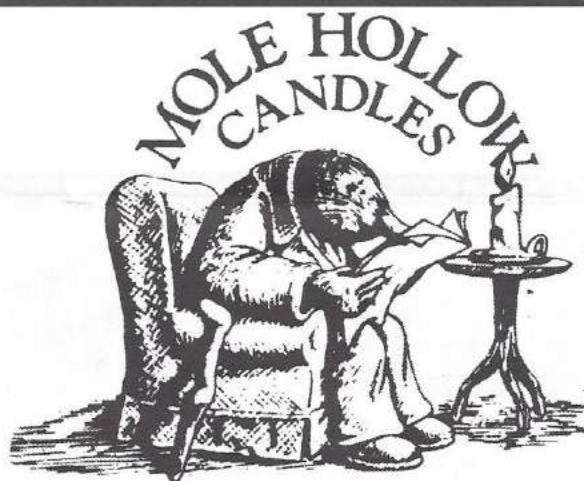
Our winter schedule is as follows:

- Sunday worship service: 10:00 a.m.
Children's church: 10:00 a.m.
Youth Group: 6:00 p.m. on Sunday at Heath school.
Bring your favorite snack and wear sneakers. Ages 6th grade through High School are invited.
- Bible Study and Prayer: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the parsonage.
- Monthly prayer meeting: The third Wednesday of each month at the parsonage.
- Girl's Friendship Club: Meets every Friday at Diane Crowningshield's home, from 3:30 - 5:30. Girls in grades 3-8 are invited.

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RAYS OF INTEREST

by R.C. Pettengill

Erma Bombeck Quotes

"Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died."

"I am not a glutton - I am an explorer of food."

"It goes without saying that you should never have more children than you have car windows."

"Dreams have but one owner at a time. That is why dreamers are lonely."

"It is fast approaching the point where I don't want to elect anyone stupid enough to want the job."

"Don't confuse fame with success. Madonna is one; Helen Keller is the other."

My Mother's Saying

"Giving them money for that is like pouring sand down a rat hole!"

My Saying

"I wonder if she could have been thinking about the 'BIG DIG' in Boston?"

HEATH EMERGENCY SERVICES NEWS

by Timothy Lively

The following calls were answered since the last issue of the Heath Herald:

11/26/98	Number Nine Road - Medical
11/30/98	Royer Road - Medical
12/4/98	South Road - Medical
12/17/98	Schoolhouse Road - Medical

We had a total of 37 ambulance calls in 1998, with 33 Medical, and 4 Accidents.

The EMS association would like to thank all the Firemen and First Responders who helped in any way this past year, as well as the Charlemont, Shelburne Falls, and Baystate Health Systems (BHS) ambulance services for their assistance this past year. We hope everyone has a safe and healthy New Year.

We started the New Year as follows:

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1/13/99	Taylor Brook Road - Medical

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ALAN'S ALMANAC

by Alan Nichols

	Precipitation	Snow
Jan. 99	6.34	21
Dec. 98	2.15	6.5
Nov. 98	2.79	0
Oct. 98	3.94	0

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Eileen Tougas

We can take a deep breath now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays are behind us. Daylight is short and darkness comes quickly. Shoveling and sanding are becoming part of our days and using more of our time and energy. Weather permitting, our children are occupied with building snowmen and snow angels while some of us bigger children are snowmobiling and skiing or just plain trying to keep warm. So go the winter months in New England.

Though we were blessed with a few extra weeks of good weather, when winter arrived, it came with a vengeance. Frigid temperatures topped by sleet and rain have created major problems not only for our highway department but also in those of surrounding towns. Sand and salt applied on icy roads is little use if within minutes it is washed away by rain. When sanding is futile and road conditions are dangerous, we feel it is necessary to declare a state of emergency and close the roads. This is done for your safety and that of our highway crews. We ask you for your cooperation and patience when a state of emergency is called and assure you that roads will be open as soon as possible.

Traveling in and out of town has become a more pleasurable experience now that the Heath portion of Avery Brook Road has been completed. As you may have read in West County News, the town of Charlemont has applied for a Small Town Road Assistance Program (STRAP) grant to rehabilitate their portion of Avery Brook Road. The Heath Board of Selectmen (BOS) has recently received a letter from the Charlemont BOS requesting Heath's assistance in this effort by sending letters of support to the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction and to our State representatives. Needless to say, they have our full support.

It has been recently brought to our attention that several residents are still not in compliance with 911 regulations. We wish to remind you that your house or property number should be properly displayed in order to be easily identified by emergency crews.

The numbers should be at least three inches tall and located where they can be seen at a glance. In the event of an emergency, a properly posted street number will assist emergency crews by preventing unnecessary delays in getting help to you, your loved ones and your property.

Budget hearings have been scheduled for fiscal year 2000 in preparation for the warrant articles that will be presented at the annual town meeting to be held on Saturday, May 8th.

When Proposition 2^o was passed, the State agreed to continue to pay the cost of living increases in the retirement system. The State has since reversed its position leaving local retirement systems to bear the burden. Towns in the region will be subject to a 40-140% increase in their state-man-

dated employee retirement assessment. Heath will experience an increase of 48.26%. Franklin Regional Council of Governments has voted to use "free cash" to subsidize these costs for the next two years. This will help to some degree, but the problem will still exist, and we expect this to present serious implications for the core assessment in the future.

A letter of resignation was regretfully accepted from Deborah Phillips who has been serving on the Cultural Council. As an elected official serving on the Planning Board, Deborah is prohibited by state regulations from serving on the Cultural Council.

The BOS also accepted with regret a letter of resignation from Sandra Gilbert who has been serving the town as Postal Relief Clerk. Sandra has done a great job and will be missed. Eunice "Sandy" Clavette has been appointed to fill the position vacated by Sandra Gilbert. Welcome aboard Sandy! Other new appointments to note are Ann Cronin as alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Ray Allaire to the Cultural Council.

With the new 1999 calendars up in the town hall, we selectmen are ready to face the challenges that lie ahead with renewed hope and enthusiasm for the new year.

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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

WINTER SNOWS

Recently I had the pleasure of receiving some snowplowing pictures from former Heath resident Alton Churchill. These pictures have been seen by some folks in years past. They were taken during the winter of 1942. This was not a good year for all concerned, with the war and a hard winter to think about. These photos are of a large caterpillar tractor with vee plow and wings, and an International truck with vee plow.

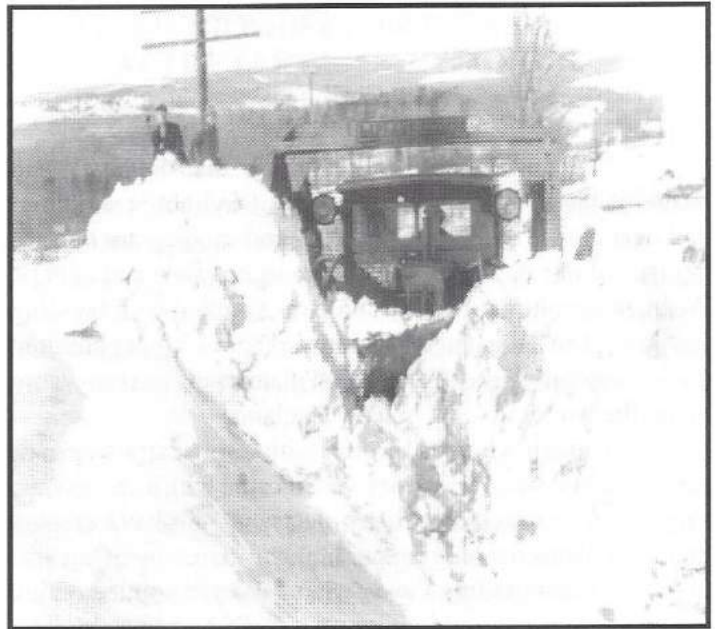
Most roads here in Heath were still paths between stone walls that compounded the snow problem. After the first few storms there was very little place to put the snow. When the plowing was completed, and it snowed again, and the wind blew, all was lost as those trenches just filled in. Men were then needed to shovel and break the tops of the drifts so the big iron could struggle to get through.

As a youngster the men in the plow tractors were my heroes, and today, still are. These rugged individuals were so resourceful with their abilities, worked unbelievable hours, and kept on functioning. I recently heard of one tractor operator putting in 96 hours during a severe storm.

In the time frame of these pictures, the road out of town by way of Burrington Hill was impassable for six weeks. Milk had to be hauled with horses and a sled to a point to make contact with the milk truck. In the present era, when a storm hits, it is bad news if the traveled ways are not instantly ready.

When plowing snow with a truck and vee plow the track cleared was little wider than the truck wheel tracks, so it was most difficult to meet another vehicle. To try to widen the road on the return pass the snow would come around the point of the plow and make a mess of the first cleared path. There are a lot of people not with us any longer who knew well the problems of severe winter weather.

Again, I would suggest if one were able to ride for a trip around our roads in the cab of a plow truck, one would be allowed to get a bit of understanding of our modern snow fighting force. To take such a ride would give the rider a much different appreciation of how roads are kept open in the 1990's, soon to be 2000. This I have written to create a greater compassion for our guardian angels of the Heath Highway Department.



TOWN ELECTIONS

by June Day

The following is a list of positions that are to be filled via the Town Election to be held on May 7, 1999. The center column lists the officials currently holding these positions. John Henry has agreed to serve on the Planning Board following Val Kaempfer's resignation. He is encouraged to run now in order to be elected by the voters.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Current Official</u>	<u>Term Available</u>
Selectman	Eileen Tougas	3 year
Assessor	Henry Leuchtman	3 year
Finance Committee	David Howland	3 year
Finance Committee	David Cote	3 year
Planning Board	Robert Dane	5 year
Planning Board	John Henry	2 year
Library Trustee	Kim Richter	3 year
Dog Officer	Frederick Golba	1 year
Constable	Charles Kaempfer	1 year
Constable	Robert Markert	1 year
Tree Warden	Jack Cable	1 year
Sexton	Paul Lively	1 year
Burial Agent	Paul Lively	1 year

I hope that we will have nominees for each of the vacancies listed above, whether the present incumbents or a new candidate. It would be democracy in action if we could actually generate a contest or two!

Nomination papers are available now and may be picked up from me at the Town Office any time until March 15, 1999. Completed nomination papers are to be submitted by March 19th to the Registrars by bringing them to the Town Office.

To date, Kim Richter, David Cote and Henry Leuchtman are running for their positions; Eileen Tougas, David Howland, Robert Dane, and Frederick Golba are not running again for theirs.

TOWN CLERK NOTES

by June Day

Census forms will be mailed to all Heath households by mid-February. Please check and make sure the information is correct and complete. Do return the forms whether or not there are any changes to report. Heath voters who do not return their census forms are in jeopardy of being marked "inactive voter". I have been informed by the Central Voter Registry that I must do so.

The 1999 dog tags are now available from June Day. Dogs must be licensed by April 1st or you will be subject to a late fee of \$25! You may purchase a license by mail. Include \$3 per dog (\$6 for an unsplayed female dog) and a current rabies certificate. The certificate will be returned to you along with the new tag and 1999 license.

There will be a rabies clinic held at the Community Hall from 1-3 p.m. on March 20, 1999. The cost is \$10. Be sure to bring the prior rabies certificate so that a 3-year certificate may be granted if your dog or cat qualifies.

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TOWN NURSE NOTES

by Joanne Fortune

I hope you are all staying warm during these frigid and icy days. Someone told me when she used to walk down her steep and slippery driveway to get her mail, she'd put a large pair of wool socks over her boots, giving her the traction she needed. Please remember to be careful on the ice.

I continue to make scheduled home visits and I'm seeing a few people in the Town Hall. If you would like to make an appointment, please do not hesitate to call me at 337-5716.

My plans for the future include becoming hearing and vision certified, starting a blood pressure clinic at the Community Hall with regular hours, and helping residents complete health and diet forms for the community meals that will be offered in 1999.

I certainly appreciate being allowed to participate in this most valuable service for our residents. Thank you!

VARIETY SHOW AND ART EXHIBIT AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

by Barbara Rode

All are invited to join the Heath Elementary School as we bring the fine arts and the performing arts together in one building. First, we will have an Art Exhibit, in which many of our local artisans will have their work on display. Following, will be The Heath Variety Show. The show, in its early rehearsal stages, is coming together quite nicely.

Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss either event!

Saturday Evening, March 20th

7-7:30 p.m. Art Exhibit

7:30 p.m. The Heath Variety Show

Sunday Matinee, March 21st

1:30-2 p.m. Art Exhibit

2 p.m. The Heath Variety Show

For further information call Mary Beth O'Dea at 337-8683.

Richard C. Bishop

Elder Law Attorney

Massachusetts, Florida, Arizona

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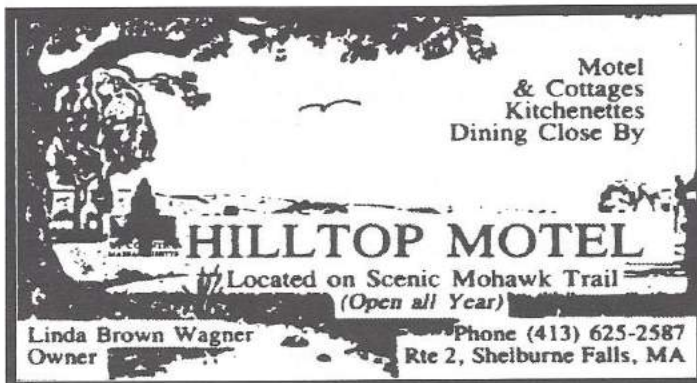
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If you would like more information about how to become a member of the Heath Enterprise Council,
please call Alicia Tripp at 337-4964

YOKO TAKEMOTO

Hello! I am Yoko Takemoto. I come from Tokyo, Japan. I am staying in Heath and teaching Japanese language, culture and so on at the Heath Elementary School. Work with the children has been wonderful.

Here in Heath is so different from Tokyo. Tokyo is like New York City. We don't have snow like here either. I love it in Heath because there is a lot of nature and it is so beautiful. I saw a wild moose the first day at Heath School! I will stay here until May. If you're interested in anything Japanese, please call me at the Heath School. 337-5307.

Right: Yoko Takemoto of Japan

Bottom: Luke Patenaude with Matthew Armstrong (Kim Gross looking on)

Next Page Bottom Right: Mairead O'Reilly and Sophia Voytko pictured together. Mairead and Sophia are already buddies.



HEATH SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

*Heath Elementary School
Saturday, March 27th*

Times: Adult Basketball starting at 9:00 a.m.
concluding about 1:00 p.m. allowing
Youth Basketball to start just following.

Adult Teams: Ages 15 & Up \$30 per Team
"3 on 3" Limit of 12 Teams

Youth Teams: Ages 10 - 14 \$5 per player
"4 on 4" Limit of 6 Teams

For information call: Veronica Smead at 337-5389
or Chloe Allaire at 337-8617.

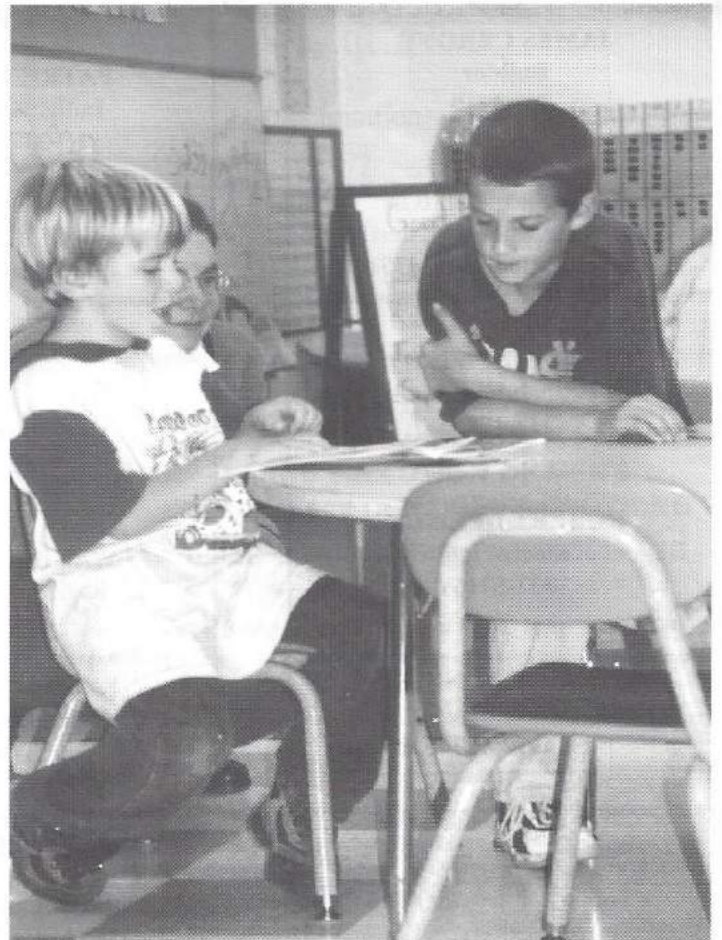
HEATH SCHOOL KITCHEN

Now Serving: Cinnamon Buns, Pizza,
Cookies, Cakes and Breads.

All items available frozen; call ahead for freshly-baked.

337-5307 GAIL HALL

The cafeteria is open to the Community for lunch at just \$2.25!
Join us at noon. If you can, call a day ahead or that morning.



FROM THE HEATH SCHOOL

by Deborah Porter

Several years ago before the Heath School was a reality, I had the pleasure of being part of the process of dreaming about what we wanted our school to be like. I met with small groups of people who shared fond memories about their own school days and thought about what was important in creating a new school. Over and over people talked of the experience of having older and younger children working together in small schoolhouses and the wonderful sense of community this engendered. There was also talk of a school life that was very much connected to town life. People reminisced about plays produced in the Community Hall, of playground games, of hikes, and celebrations.

In some ways our new school couldn't be further from those one-room schoolhouses. We are blessed with the most up to date equipment and materials, with our computers, our gym, our library, our play yard, etc. In another way, however, we are very much like those schools of old. Since the school opened, both families and staff have enjoyed a wonderful community life together. Everyone knows each other and it is not uncommon to come into the school and see a mixed age group of children working in the open space, or playing in the gym. One of the highlights of the week for the Primary children is having their Upper buddies come to read books or play games with them. It is great to look around the school and see little clusters of children totally engrossed in a book or game together. Below are some of the comments that Upper children gave when asked why they thought it was important to be a Reading Buddy.

"I think Reading Buddies are important because you make new friends. You read to your buddy and it makes you feel happy." Andy Lively

"It helps them to get to know you better." Joseph Lemelin

"When they read to us it helps us both read better together." Alena Charow

"I think it helps them to learn words that they don't know. It also helps them feel comfortable with older students, and it helps them know better books." Ruth Ayers

"We teach each other about reading." Jeff Vilbon

"I think it helps little kids learn to read. If you buddy gets stuck on a word you can help them out by sounding out the word so they then they could try it." Maria Lively

"I think it is good because it helps everyone to read. It makes it so all of us make friends. It helps them (the Primaries) so they aren't shy around older kids and it helps everyone to speak out loud." Lisa Crowningshield

"We learn about them, how they act and what they are like." Joel Singley

"It helps them meet new people." Liam O'Reilly

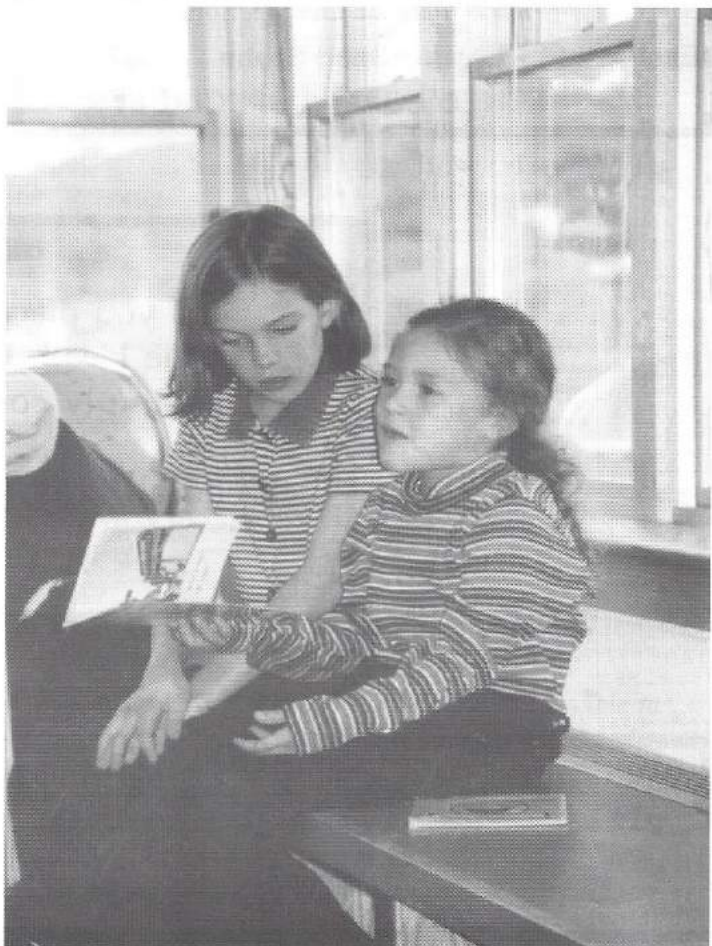
"It helps you meet new people too!" Samantha Newell

"It gives little kids time to learn to read." Jolene Richter

"I think it helps little kids imagine what the story is like when we read to them." Kayla Six

"It helps us both read better." Mike Kuehl and Alex Thane

Last year we had another very successful community program in the Primary classrooms. With the help of Pastor Lucid, we matched up townspeople to be a pen pal with each child in my class. The Pen Pals exchanged letters throughout the Spring and then had a breakfast to meet each other at the end of the year. We would love to make this a yearly thing and invite anyone who is interested in having a Pen Pal to contact me at the school.



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MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

.....

Born on November 2, 1998, a son, Alexander John, to Matthew and Kristen Dauer of Palm Coast, FL. and Heath. Grandson of **John Dauer** of Heath, Rosamond Dauer of Northampton, MA, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Taracka of Sebastian, FL. Great-grandson of Olga Dauer of Northampton, MA. He is also the nephew of **Christian Dauer** of San Francisco, CA and Heath.

Born on November 30, 1998, a daughter, Cassidy Lynn was born to Kelly Rice, of Greenfield, and Jason McCue of Brattleboro, VT. She is the granddaughter of Linda Rice of Greenfield, Kelleigh and Jim Rice of Northfield and Diane and John McCue of Brattleboro, VT. Great-granddaughter of Dorothy Rice of Northfield, Nancy Andrews of Amherst and **Dawn and Dennis Peters** of Heath.

Born December 7, 1998 a son, Christopher Neal, to **Barbara (Douglas) and Jason Graves** of Heath. Grandson of Sue and Neal Graves of Greenfield, and Neal Douglas, Jr. and Daphana Morse both of Rockland, ME. Great-grandson of Barbara and Neal Douglas, Sr. of Rockland, ME, Jeanne Scofski and Lillian McMillan of Greenfield and Ruth Falses of Rockland, ME.

Born January 5, a son, Darian Gene, to Amy L. (Decker) and Dale Reynolds of Turners Falls. Grandson of **Bette Decker** of Heath, Anthony Reynolds of Sunderland and Diana Martin of Largo, FL. Great-grandson of **Millie Decker** of Heath and Anita Martin of Belchertown.

Born January 6, a son, Spencer Francis, to Joanne (Contrino) and Denise Guilbault of Agawam. Grandson of John and Maria Contrino of Agawam and Patricia Guilbault of Turners Falls. Great-grandson of **Mary Sherman** of Heath.

Born January 17, a daughter, Emily Michelle, to Shye A. (Brown) and Evan M. LaBier of Charlemont. Granddaughter of **Sandy and Kirk Pettengill** of Heath, and Sally LaBier of Greenfield. Great-granddaughter of **Terry and Ray Pettengill** of Heath and Belle, and Jim Dunlap of Deland, FL.

.....

Jeffrey Bishop, 27, of Heath, died December 3, of injuries sustained in a car accident. He was born in Greenfield, MA, February 23, 1971, the son of David G. and Suzanne Bishop. He attended Mohawk Trail Regional High School and Stockbridge School at Umass. He was employed by Coombs Hill Farm in Colrain. Besides his parents of Shelburne, he leaves a brother Christopher Bishop of Arlington, VA., his grandparents Barbara Bishop of Shelburne, and Lionel and Margaret Bourgeois, of Burlington, VT, 1 uncle, 2 cousins and several great aunts and uncles. A memorial service was held at the Colrain Community Church with Rev. Neil Stetson officiating.

Richard B. (Dick) Newton, 64, of Town Farm Road died December 15, 1998. He was born in Greenfield July 1, 1934, the son of Alvin and Margaret Newton. He attended schools in Turners Falls. He worked for Western Mass. Electric Co. as a meter reader for 22 years retiring in 1993. He moved to Heath in 1990. He was a U.S. Army Veteran during the Korean War, serving with the 97th Signal Battalion as a radio operator. He leaves his mother of Montague, his wife of 21 years, the former Margo A. Vandergrift, 3 sons, Keith of Turners Falls, Daniel of Greenfield, and James of Massachusetts, 1 daughter Jennifer of Massachusetts, 2 stepdaughters, Tracy (Stone) Schott of Agawam and Jill Stone of Montague, a brother Robert of Millers Falls and a grandson. Services were held in Turners Falls with the Rev. Larry Riddle of the Moores Corner Community Church officiating.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Kevin Duda, son of Karen and Ron Duda of Whately, has achieved three consecutive semesters on the dean's list at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL. Duda has maintained a 4.0 grade point average during the last two semesters with a cumulative GPA of 3.957 in his aerospace engineering major. A sophomore at the university, Duda will also be a student instructor for a Physics II course and Laboratory. He is the grandson of Bernice and Paul Duda of Whately and Dorothy and Kenneth Stetson of Heath.

LETTER FROM THE HERALD STAFF

They say that a messy dress rehearsal is a good sign for the next performance. Well, if that is true, we should be in line for a humdinger of a next issue. We've been working with changes in staff, software, and printer (we've returned to our North Adams printer) for the past few issues; an incredible learning process, a few glitches in the process are being ironed out. The long and the short of it, though, is that we apologize for the lateness of this issue, and thank all of you, our readers, for your patience. We're looking forward to may future issue sof the Herald!

Stories and photos of town happenings are welcome for submission to the newspaper. Please give a call is you're interested in working with us or have story ideas. Our next deadline is March 20th. Copy may be dropped off at the public library.

-LWB

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