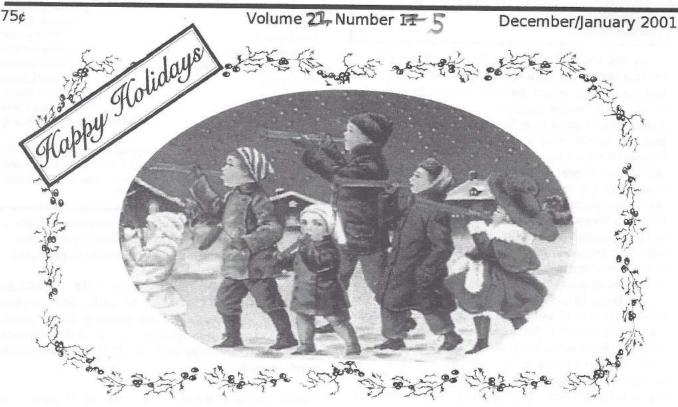


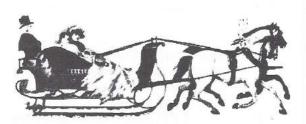
HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper



Blessings and feasts abound in these winter months. Children, who perhaps give no thought to meditation or renewal, instead wonder aloud when their school vacation is! They look forward to snow, sledding, parties and starting early with their list for Santa Claus. Youth has the gift of innocence that adults, in their hurry to celebrate our spiritual holidays, sometimes forget.

Solstices and equinoxes mark the difference of seasons and the balance between dark and light. The Winter Solstice, on December 21, marks the longest night of the year. The 13th is St. Lucia's Day, an ancient Swedish festival of lights, while January 6 is the Epiphany, a celebration of the creativity of the dark. This is the Advent Season, four weeks of Christian preparation for the coming of the light. Our ancestors set aside special days to distinguish our religious partnership in prayer and preparing us for Christmas Day, the birthday of Jesus. Hanukkah begins on December 22. The eight-day Jewish festival of lights set at the dark of the moon is an opportunity to reaffirm one's spiritual dedication to work. How wondrous these celebrations are! Kwanzaa on December 26, the African – American holiday, is a reverent, festive, and joyous celebration of the unity and goodness of life. Bodhi Day for Buddhists and Ta Chin for Taoists both have reflection, renewal, and enlightenment to celebrate, as does New Year's Eve. So much cause for celebration, so many times to reflect on the winter light! Let us pause for a silent observance of all faiths, cultures, and different ways of living in this world. Let us go into the New Year with expectation and gratitude. Happy New Year!



In this issue	
Heath's New Art Teacher	page 3
Cross-Country Skiing	
Bookmobile Service	page 9
Land Preservation	page 11
Dick and Chubby	page 12
Poetry Corner	page 16



From the Editor ~

Hilltown Rambles

We bid you read The Heath Kitchen's Guest Editor, Pat Leuchtman. She has a very versatile cookie recipe I'm sure you holiday bakers will love. Joanne Fortune, the Town Nurse, writes eloquently about a problem that plagues almost all of us at this busy time of year - back pain and how to avoid it. The Heath Land Preservation Committee gives a marvelous report of their fund raising, among other things. At this time of year, consider making a monetary gift to their preservation fund, in someone else's name perhaps. Carroll Stowe's Memories of Earlier Pleasures brings us the delight of a pair of Belgian horses and their strength. And finally, we have the return of Jack Cable in his column View from Burnt Hill. We have a new Poetry Corner and invite readers to send in their own poetry. This is also an appeal for prose, fiction, and essays.

The Heath Herald staff revered its best at a dinner the other night. David and Pegge Howland, Sue Sylvester, and Laurie Wheeler Burrington were honored at the Warfield House with a lovely dinner hosted by the current staff. We acknowledged the original founders who brought this newspaper to fruition 21 years ago. We all had a delightful time, playing Heath Herald Historical Jeopardy cooked up by Deborah Phillips and reminiscing.

I adore this time of year! With all my organizing, making lists, and planning menus, it's nice to take a break with a mug of cocoa and ask myself why I'm doing it. I'm baking cookies, putting up lights, wrapping gifts, and thinking about all the wonderful people I'm doing this for, and also, about the people who don't have this luxury. This is the time of year when we all need to bear this in mind. Treat yourself well, too. There's nothing that takes the light out of the holidays more than stress and fatigue.

Wishing you a very happy and safe holiday,

~ Lea Banks Bohrer



Heath Herald

Managing Editor Design and Layout Design Copy Editor Typographer Business Manager Advertising & Circulation

Deborah Phillips Deborah Phillips Dianne Cerone

Coordinator Columnists

Pat Leuchtman, Carroll Stowe, Jack Cable

Lea Banks Bohrer

Eileen A. Tougas

Lea Banks Bohrer

Jane de Leeuw

Dianne Cote

Contributors: Reporters:

David Howland, Tom Lively

Jack Cable, Laurie Wheeler Burrington, Joanne Fortune, R.N., Heath Historical Society, Heath Land Preservation Committee, Val Kaempfer, Timothy Lively, Reverend Colin Lucid, Michael Smith, Eileen Tougas, Town Selectboard

The Heath Herald is a nonprofit newspaper staffed by volunteers and published six times a year. Donations are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated.

THE HERALD DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH/ APRIL ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 10, 2000. Photographs, drawings, and articles are the property of the Heath Herald unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Call (413) 337-0217 or E-mail Lea at saleda@crocker.com.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE ~ One Year: \$6.25 (payable in advance by check or money order)

ADVERTISING RATES ~ Display ads: \$4.80 per column inch. Contact Deborah Phillips at (413) 337-8513.

CLASSIFIED ADS ~ Free

Send all correspondence to:

Heath Herald

SUBSCRIBE TODAY! **HEATH HERALD**

For only \$6.25 a year, 6 issues of the Heath Herald will be delivered to your home.

Name

Address

- Keep abreast of local happenings
- Give it as a gift to friends or family
- Support your local paper

The Heath Herald, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

Connections



Meet Jane Wegscheider

By Pat Leuchtman

This year the sun shone on the Heath Fair from beginning to end. At the head of the midway, golden rays shone on the Field of Visions, bright streamers dancing in the fair breezes, enumerating the wishes and dreams of Heath children and their families. Lining the midway were exuberantly painted plywood silhouettes of other Heathans.

The person who inspired these unique and beautiful art works is Jane Wegscheider, who came to Heath this summer as a visiting artist. However, the Heath landscape and community performed their magic, Jane was enchanted, and she is now the new art teacher at the Heath School. She has a rich background in art and teaching - and living. She's also covered a lot of ground before finding her way to Heath. Originally from Long Island, Jane did her undergraduate work at Northwestern University and Wheaton College in Illinois. She taught in Massachusetts for a year in the early 80s, developing and teaching an art curriculum for grades 7 through 12. Then came three years in Berlin, Germany. Her father is German, and she wanted to learn more about her heritage and get to know the family that remains there.

When she returned to the United States, she went to Chicago and worked with the homeless as a social worker for a year, but soon felt the need to paint full time. She

also went back to school and earned her MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in painting and sculpture, and then went to teach in Kansas.

She is used to big cities, but Jane also became familiar with the West County. She has been visiting here for several years because her sister Annika used to teach at the Rowe School, and her good friends, Janice Sorensen and Michael Hoberman live in Buckland with their children.

..Jane uses art

to show what is

inside, beneath

the surface."

Della and Langston. It was through J a n i c e Sorensen that Jane first made contact with the Heath School.

Janice received Jane's notice about the Field of Visions exhibit in Kansas and brought it to the Heath School. Inspired, the students produced their own streamers and sent them to be part of the Kansas exhibit. Not long after, Jane visited Janice and got to meet Mary Vilbon and learned more about the school and the town. Mary and Jane brainstormed and developed the Sculptured Stories project which was included in the summer school program and was funded by the Goals 2000 grant.

"I was so impressed

with the Heath School. and just wished my son could go there. I was also impressed with Heath's visioning project, and what it says about a community that is so thoughtfully thinking about its future," Jane said. She hoped she might come back and visit someday, but then there was an opening for an art teacher. She applied, and is now working at the Rowe School and Hawlemont as well at the Heath School. But she is living in Heath.

art there are two strains to her work, and both of these are illustrated by Field of Visions and Sculptured Stories. First there is the desire

to work on collaborative community projects, to invite others into the work. "I'm interested in the accumulation of materials, but equally important is what many people can bring to a work. They provide a kind of energy beyond anything that I can ever imagine. Even in grad school I'd invite others to incorporate their material into a larger piece that I assembled. One such work was called "Blessing Branches," a kind of hut of woven branches. Items were added to the hut and it toured and then the whole thing was ritually burned."

She also has an interest in the sacred. During the past

five years, she says her public work has been playful, but sometimes touches on spiritual issues. "In my nonpublic work I've dealt with sacred stories and spiritual journeys and how they mix with everyday life. I start from my own tradition, but I'm inclusive and find my own spirit is opening." Jane talks about the need for art to be very personal, and that only then can it begin to reach people in a universal level. "My hope is that my work is approachable, not elitist."

The result of Jane's approach was very clear at this year's Heath Fair. The Field of Visions poles held the wishes and dreams, in dazzling and colorful array, of many of us Heathans, as well as of the wider community who attended the Fair. They fluttered at the head of the midway amid the stone garden, and looked gloriously medieval when carried in the fair parade. Fairgoers also stopped to view the Sculptured Stories which illustrated one of the ways Jane uses art to show what is inside, beneath the surface.

Parents and children are very excited to have Jane at the Heath School and are beginning to wonder what kind of project they will invent for next year's fair!





Open 7 Days — 10 am to 5 pm FREE TOURS LATE MAY - DECEMBER Located on Route 112, Jacksonville, Vermont 30 Minutes North of Shelburne Falls, MA 802-368-7557

Dave Farrington Jacksonville, VI 802-368-7456 38 Years of Experience

J.W. AUTO

Auto and Light Truck Repair
Elvis Presley Blvd., Rt. 100 S., 1/2 mile from center

ASE Certified Master Mechanic Air Conditioning, Service Engine Lights, Auto Transmission

Nancy L. Dole BOOKS & EPHMERA

Shop: 32 Bridge Street, 2nd floor "in the heart of Shelburne Falls"

BUYING AND SELLING GOOD USED BOOKS

Bald Mountain Pottery

Stoneware & Porcelain Sarah Hettlinger

28 State St. (Near the Bridge of Flowers) Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 (413) 625-8110

A COLLEGE PREPARATORY DAY SCHOOL AT AN AFFORDABLE TUITION FOR GRADES 7-12 AND POSTGRADUATE

THE ACADEMY AT CHARLEMONT

MOHAWK TRAIL, CHARLEMONT, MA 01339 • 413-339-4912 fax 413-339-4324 • E-Mail academy@charlemont.org

View from Burnt Hill

Burnt Hill Happenings

By Jack Cable

On October 15, Mr. & Mrs. Chauncey Cable of East Orleans, Cape Cod, who celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary on October 20, were in attendance at their son Jack's 65th birthday party. Fifty-three friends and family members attended the party at Burnt Hill Farm coming from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

This was a historically active year for Burnt Hill Farm as Colgate Gilbert's group pursued the past of this "one of the original farms with its original boundaries." He held two tours and two talks about the property.

Carroll Stowe's wagon train came up to look at the view and relax with hot drinks and blueberry muffins on September 23.

Even though we had a dismal blueberry crop, our crew picked and sorted diligently to get the crop in. Thanks to all for making this an interesting year.

Our Agricultural Preservation Act will be final by the end of the year—therefore, the view from Heath Center of Burnt Hill will forever look as it does today.



Credit: Jack Cable

Heath Historical Society Notes

2000 was an eventful year for the Society as we celebrated our 100th anniversary. Heath center was the focal point of a great party celebrating over 100 years. President Pegge Howland did a commendable job of overseeing this event with the help of the directors, members, and people who comprise the community of Heath.

This year starts a new era with new ideas to enhance the Society. The preservation of our buildings, historic sites, and collection as they pertain to the community's history is important but so are the people of Heath. We will strive to improve and preserve the collection and welcome Heath significant artifacts to add to it.

I would like to document some living history by interviewing local descendents either on tape or in written form before more time and people go by.

I would like to welcome all residents of Heath to join us as we preserve the past for residents of the future.

~ Jack Cable, President

In Memorium Charles "Chuck" Mackie

(1937-2000)



The Town of Heath has lost one of its finest with the passing of Charles "Chuck" Mackie. The Town was most fortunate to have Chuck as an active member of our community for so many years. Chuck's passion for the good of the residents of the Town was evident in his every action and word. Even while confined to a hospital bed, Chuck continued to shoulder his responsibilities as selectman. He is a model for all of us. History will show the difference Chuck made for the Town, and his spirit will live on within us.

On behalf of the Town, we extend our most sincere condolences to the Mackie family.

~ Tom Lively Brian DeVriese Selectboard



Public Servant and Soldier for the People

I am saddened, as many people are, by the passing of Chuck Mackie. As is often the case, in these matters it seems unfair that an insidious bodily condition can overcome a fighting spirit that tried so hard to stay above the fray.

Chuck's track record in public affairs over the years speaks for itself. In the late 1980s he began serving on the Heath Finance Committee and later served as chair. His love for Heath continued throughout the 1990s, as he voluntarily helped bring the school building project to a successful conclusion. In July 1997, he was appointed to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), the successor organization to Franklin County by Heath Selectmen and currently was serving as Chair of both the Council and Facilities Committees. He was a dedicated supporter of this new form of government that has saved communities considerable money and been an effective instrument for local support services. In recent months, he brought together a number of community and state officials under the aegis of FRCOG to review the Education Reform Act of 1993. In 1999, he was elected selectman for Heath, and as recently as last month he arranged two important meetings for Tom Lively, Brian DeVriese and me with State officials for the purpose of obtaining financial support for Heath's School budget.

Chuck was a private person who carried out his responsibilities in his business and for the Town of Heath conscientiously and with little fanfare. He could be terse, decisive, fearless and forthright, but yet carry it off with a keen sense of fairness and good judgement. He fought for what he thought was right and in the best interest of the communities he represented. He did not lose his sense of humor especially during this past year when he and his family must have been going through very trying times with his illness. His grandchildren have had a wonderful role model to follow. What better legacy can a grandfather leave?

And when we speak of legacy, he was typical of the thousands of Americans who serve their communities as selectmen, finance committee members, school and recreation committee members, assessors, planning and library board members, police and firemen, moderators, Historical Commission members and yes, even as election counters, for little or no compensation. This army of citizens gets its reward by taking pride in serving the large family of communities that support this great nation. Chuck was a fine soldier. We wish him the peace that surpasses all understanding, and our best wishes to Helen, who has always been at his side.

~By Dave Howland

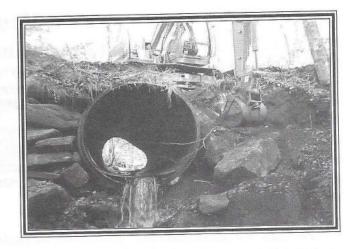
Highway Department News

Summer into Winter

As I'm sure that most, if not all, of you know by now, we had quite a summer. We had plans to do some paving work and a lot of drainage work this year. Well, two days after we finished our paving work, we got to work on drainage in a manner that was beyond our wildest imagination. The July rainstorm, that dumped up to nine inches of rain in some spots, changed everything.

What was supposed to be a summer of regular old highway work turned into a race against time to repair all the damage caused by the "Flood of 2000." After the water receded and the news reporters left town, we had a chance to assess the damage. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments' engineering department came to our aid. Jim Toth, the engineer for the FRCOG, surveyed the damage to our roads and gave us an estimated cost of repair to the tune of three hundred and forty-four thousand dollars. With my budget being less than one hundred thousand dollars, I was quite concerned to say the least.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a division of the USDA, heard of our plight and came to our aid with more than eighty-five thousand dollars in technical assistance and repair work. They were able to help us repair damage to Taylor Brook Road, Colrain Stage Road, and Route 8A. They are also holding six thousand dollars to help repair a damaged box culvert on Long Hill Road. To date, between the NRCS and town funds, we have spent about one hundred and seventy-three thousand dollars to repair the damage to our roads. I am happy to report that we have repaired all the damage from that storm.

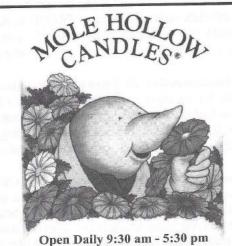


Credit: Michael Smith

What else have we been doing this summer you might ask? Well, we re-paved portions of Dell Road and West Branch Road using Chapter Ninety funds, and did some of the drainage work that we had planned on before the flood. This work was done in various locations throughout town including Taylor Brook Road, Branch Hill Road, A.L. Stetson Road, Judd Road, Long Hill Road, and Basset Road.

Now, as winter approaches, we have made ready the fleet for snow fighting. The sanders are on, plows have been checked over, and our <u>snow tires</u> are on. I underline snow tires because I am often asked what kind of tires I recommend. Well, I recommend snow or studded snow tires but not all-season tires. We live in a hill town and, as we all know, this New England weather can dump snow, ice, or both at any time, and I feel that snow tires are the best for winter driving.

~ By Michael Smith



Open Daily 9:30 am - 5:30 pm Overlooking the Glacial Potholes in Shelburne Falls, MA 413-625-6789

A.L. AVERY & SON

GENERAL STORE

Charlemont • 339-4915

Richard C. Bishop

Elder Law Attorney

Massachusetts, Florida, Arizona

P.O. Box 121, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 413-625-2574 / fax 625-8321

40 School St., Suite 5, Greenfield, MA 01302 413-773-1818 / fax 773-1881



A Community In Action

The Community Hall Committee has had a busy year so far. The St. Patrick's Day dinner was a huge success, and the monthly senior meals we put on in union with the Council of Aging have been getting great attendance.

The Hall Committee was asked to prepare the annual Historical Society dinner on July 22. This dinner took place following "Old Home Day," a day of celebration of the Historical Society's "Millennial Centennial," its one hundredth anniversary.

We were able to purchase a large coffeepot, a small coffeepot, and a hand mixer with the monies from the Council on Aging grant.

Community Hall Committee member Eileen Tougas donated an American Flag to the town of Heath for use in the Community Hall. This was done in memory of her husband George H. Tougas and in honor of all veterans past and present. This seven-foot flag now stands proudly in our hall.

The hall is being used more and more each year and stands host to the Selectboard's weekly meetings, the Town Nurse, exercise classes, elections, town meetings, department and committee meetings, Ladies Aid, and numerous private functions. We truly hope our hall is here to stay.

~ Val Kaempfer

Town Nurse Notes

Ooh, My Aching Back!



If we are going to get the amount of snow that the cornhusks, chipmunks, and this summer's precipitation predict, a lot of us will be shoveling snow. Good body mechanics is crucial to keeping our backs healthy.

The back includes the vertebrae (bones of the spine) that support body weight, their joints that guide the direction of the spine's movement, the discs that separate the vertebrae and act as shock absorbers as we move, and the muscles and ligaments that hold it all together. We can injure one or more of these structures. We can strain or sprain the ligaments or muscles from sudden or improper movement or by overuse. We can tear or stretch a disc and, if the tear is large enough, the disc can press against a nerve. The nerve can get irritated from the swelling of the other parts of the back and that can really hurt!

Exercise helps to prevent injury. Stretching, walking, strengthening, and aerobic exercise will help maintain flexibility, strengthen the muscles that support the spine, and maintain overall fitness. Maintaining an ideal body weight will also reduce the load on the lower back.

Good posture is important. When you stand or walk, your ear, shoulder, hip, and ankle should be in a line without your back curving too much or too little. Avoid sitting in one position for longer than an hour at a time. Get up and walk around or change positions often.

To lift a load, keep your upper back straight and your lower back not too curved (but not flat either). Don't bend forward from the waist to lift. Bend your knees and let your arms and legs do the work. Tighten your buttocks and abdomen to further support your back. Keep the load as close to your body as possible. Don't lift a heavy object above shoulder level. While still holding it, turn your feet, not your back. Twisting your body with a load in your hands can damage your back!

If you do strain your back, apply an ice pack to the area for 10-15 minutes every hour for the first three days to limit swelling, reduce pain, and speed healing. Relax your back as much as you can by lying on the floor on your back with a pillow under your knees. Also, you can do an exercise called Pelvic Tilts to move the spine and stretch the lower back. Lie on your back with knees bent and feet flat on the floor. Slowly tighten your abdominal muscles and press your lower back against the floor. Hold for 10 seconds and slowly relax. This is a good exercise for people who have had back pain in the past and want to keep a recurrence at bay.

I wish everyone a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

Town Nurse office hours are Tuesdays from 12 – 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Hall downstairs. My phone number is 337-5716, the Community Hall number, 337-4847.

~ Joanne Fortune, R.N.

Your independent Insurance Agency. . . For all your insurance needs.



Blackmer Insurance Agency, Inc.

1000 Mohawk Trail Shelburne, Massachusetts 01370 Tel. 413-625-6527





FRESH WINDS FARM

Paul & Marcella Lively & Sons

Excavating - Loam - Sand Stone 337-4331
SCREENED LOAM A SPECIALTY

D.C. BUILDERS

Custom Homes - Remodeling Licensed - Insured - Free Estimates

David Cote 413-337-4705

Don Cote 413-625-9339

MCCUSKER'S MARKET & DELI

SHELBURNE FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS

Quality Goods

"Have you tried our Egg-McClucker for breakfast or brunch yet?!"

625-9411

Now you can access Boswell's Books directly from McCusker's



Parks and Recreation Committee

Cross-Country Skiing

The Parks and Recreation Committee is planning to develop a cross-country trail for the use of our town citizens. A major feature will be a community race tentatively scheduled for January 28.

Many of us recall the demise of the Heath ski race. For several years, volunteers worked to prepare the course, and then Mother Nature did not cooperate. Naturally, discouragement and loss of interest followed.

By making this a community race, we can reschedule it, if needed, and ensure that it will occur. By utilizing the trail all winter, we hope to get enthusiastic support from the cross-country community.

This will only happen with BROAD volunteer support, as trail clearing is needed before the snow covers it. We have leadership but they need help - your help. Please call Eileen Tougas (337-8558) if you would like to join up or help at a later date.

~ Eileen Tougas



Heath Happenings And Other Related News



Community Caroling

On Friday, December 15, a group of carolers will meet in the Town Common for their annual sing. They will leave by car at two different times, 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and travel through Heath singing Christmas songs. The public is welcome to join. Dress warmly!

"Warm the Children"

Greenfield Savings Bank's Mitten Tree

When thinking of Christmas giving and winter cold, remember the Mitten Tree at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Greenfield which is the collection point for new, handmade or store-bought mittens and gloves which will be distributed to youngsters through Franklin County by "Warm the Children."

Sponsored by the Greenfield Recorder, "Warm the Children" is a nonprofit group, which provides winter clothing to children in need. The program will run through New Year's Eve.

("Heath Happenings" continued on page 9)

Bookmobile Service

Operating on the premise that our current readers are our future leaders, there are trends, both exciting and frightening, in the development of services to our communities. The frightening part is that cuts in bookmobile services are imminent. Bookmobile is absolutely critical for many of the smaller libraries, many of which are located in Western Mass. This service has existed for 60 years. Of the 101 Western Massachusetts Regional Library Services (WMRLS) libraries, 85 are visited by the bookmobile every nine weeks.

There has been much discussion among librarians and among the administrators in our WMRLS offices about how to make most effective use of the Western Massachusetts portion of the state's funding "pie." A number of meetings were held to allow our voices to be heard. While protest against the cuts was made, possible short-term solutions were also offered. In addition, the librarians focused on what materials they felt they could not live without.

Another option, as I have explained to a few of our library friends, is for the bookmobile to come every twelve weeks, with mid-cycle "booster" drop-offs/exchanges, to help maintain the quality of the browsing collection. So, there are always ways to adjust to situations. This ongoing discussion also has served as a means by which to focus in on those materials most important to our community and to those communities which the bookmobile services. As we asked in the last column, any letters in support of the importance of the bookmobile to our community may be sent to the library. I will pass them on to our regional administrators, who indicated that they would pass them on to our legislators.

As for the "exciting" part of current changes, more and varied types of services are being offered, and more libraries are being interconnected with one another. We have access to computer technologies, unique magazine databases, and a world of information that transcends these library walls. There is more cooperation and more sharing of resources amongst public, school, law, academic, and private libraries, which creates a greater range of materials available.

New Things

"Arts of Asia," a beautiful journal of Asian antiques and art has been donated to the library by

Bruce and Deborah Phillips. It is not only a beautiful collection, but also one that could prove helpful for research and for learning about that part of our world.

As most of our readers come in asking for fiction, that is primarily what recent purchases have reflected. Some New York Times best-sellers, new mysteries, suspense, regular fiction, children and young adult titles are crowding our shelves, just vying for your midwinter attentions! (You know, snowstorm weather.) A few of the non-fiction books that have made their way here are: Necessary Journeys, Nancy Snyderman; The Land That Could Be: Environmentalism and Democracy in the 20th Century, William Shutkin; A Sunburned Country, Bill Bryson; the Dave Pelzer trilogy; The Girl in the Picture, by Denise Chong; and Wit, by Margaret Edson. Always feel free to make suggestions.

We have also been able to acquire a library book processing system, thanks to our Friends of the Library, which will allow us to more efficiently process donations and new books. This system allows, too, for future growth and a database of our acquisitions.

Happenings

Join us on Thursday, December 21 at 7 p.m. for a holiday gathering. We will light luminaries on the front steps of Sawyer Hall and have stories for all ages. This is a magical time for many people of many traditions, so please do join us.

And, on a Friday evening yet to be announced, the Library and Friends of the Library will host a Book Tea to process books received from the LIBRI Foundation. Watch other local news media for exact date and time in January. We invite all ages and all skills for this hands-on party!

As a last note, as always, we at the library wish you a joyous and peaceful season as we cross into 2001.

~ By Laurie Wheeler Burrington

("Heath Happenings" continued from page 8)

Mohawk Trail Regional High School Resource Center

The Mohawk Trail Regional High School Resource Center will be open after school until 5:00 p.m. on the following Wednesdays, December 13 and December 20.

Beginning in January, the Resource Center will again remain open on Wednesday afternoons until 5 p.m. until the end of the school year.

Students, staff, and members of the community are invited to utilize the many resources available in the high school library.

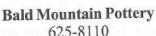
For further information, please contact the Mohawk Trail Regional School Resource Center at 413 - 625-9811.

("Heath Happenings" continued on page 16)



Heath Business Directory

Members of the Heath Enterprise Council



The Benson Place Blueberries & Applesauce 337-5340

> Fred Burrington Artist 337-4302

Cable's Burnt Hill Blueberries 337-4454

> James Cerone Builder 337-4210

Coursey Design Interior architecture & design 337-4751

> D.C. Builders Branch Hill Road 337-4705

> > Robert Delisle Electrician 337-5716

Russel E. Donelson Design/Construction/Cabinetry

337-4460

Earl M. Gleason Fire Equipment 337-4948

Heath Brook Studio Glass and Baskets 337-5736

L & S Enterprises Leisure Furniture Maker 337-5505

> Patricia Lentz Indigo Glassworks 337-5375

Maple Ledge Farm Maple Syrup Year Round 337-4705

> John Mooney Custom Remodeling 337-8344

Wanda Mooney Realtor 337-8344

Alan Nichols Furniture Maker 337-6665

Russlin Saw Power Equipment, Sales and Service 337-8704

C. Richards Steinbock Graphic Design 337-4746

> Phyllis E. Thane **Book Binding** 337-4759

Tripp's Blueberries Taylor Brook Road 337-4964

Paul Turnbull Janice Boudreau Commercial/Wedding Photographers 337-4033

Bonnie Wodin Custom Gardens & Landscapes 337-5529

Support Your Local Businesses

If you would like more information about the Heath Enterprise Council, please call Alicia Tripp at 337-4964

Richard A. Sumner

Journeyman Electrician Mass. License #E22622 • Vermont License #J1245 20A Eight A South . Charlemont, MA 01339 (413) 337-4845

> STEVE CROWNINGSHIELD'S HOME MAINTENANCE SERVICE CARPENTRY PLUS

SNOW PLOWING

LAWN MOWING BRUSH HOGGING

Reg. #123769 Fully Insured

(413) 337-5561

25 Groll Rd. Heath, MA



Charlemont Pizza House Main Street - Route 2 Charlemont, Mass. Phone: 339-4472

A. L. Nichols Furniture

al-nichols.com

169 South Road Heath, Massachusetts 01346 alan@al-nichols.com 413-337-6665

New Name

The following article is the first installment in what will be a series of progress reports from the Visioning Study Subcommittees.

The Visioning/Town Plan Project of last year reported virtually unanimous agreement by the many participants on the importance of preserving the rural character of Heath by encouraging open land preservation and by striving to protect scenic outlooks and vistas. As a result, the Open Space Task Force of the Visioning Committee has reformed as the Heath Land Preservation Committee. We are now a subcommittee of the Franklin Land Trust, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of western Franklin County's farmland, open space, and rural character. As a subcommittee of the Land Trust we retain our own identity and maintain a separate budget. while drawing on the expertise and experience of Mark Zenick, the director of the Land Trust.

The Heath Land Preservation Committee is off to a great start. We have helped facilitate the preservation of the Dickinson Farm and begun a successful fund-raising effort. We would like to thank all who have played a part, both large and small. We are pleased with the results of our efforts thus far, but we realize there is much to be done to preserve the beautiful landscape of Heath, and we must move quickly before some of the last agricultural land in town is developed.

As part of the effort to preserve the Dickinson Farm and other significant parts of the Heath landscape, we have raised \$78,000 in donations, loans, and pledges. This is a giant step towards our initial goal of \$95,000. Many people have come forward to help preserve the rural character of the town we love. We would like to hear from more of you! An anonymous donor will give the last \$15,000 if we raise \$80,000. This will bring us to our goal within the first year. Please consider making a gift or loan to our preservation fund. Your generosity will help us twofold.

Please help us in our efforts to preserve the rural character of Heath. Donations are tax deductible. Also

(Continued)

consider placing a Conservation Restriction on your property or donating open land to a conservation organization to ensure that what is now wild will ever be so.

For more information contact Mark Zenick at the Franklin Land Trust, 628-4696, or one of the HLPC members: Jack Cable, Bob Dane, Dave Freeman, Dick Gary, Bill Gran, Alastair Maitland, Del Viarengo.

Heath Deed Transfers

Charles H. and Karen L. Marney to Michael N. and Betty A. Voutsas, One Clearwater Drive, Lot 13, \$116,000.

Edward S. and Nancy McCloud to Bruce E. Bedard, 33 Papoose Lake Drive, \$55,000.

Jay R. and Mary P. Clark to Martin P. Murphy, Clearwater Drive, Lots 24 and 25, \$4,500.

David and Temple A. Whiteman to Joshua and Jenna Smith, 153 Colrain Stage Road, \$98,500.

John A. Churchill Jr. by Ameriquest Mortgage Co. to Washington Mutual Bank, 3 Ledge Road, \$45,000.

Ronald R. Guimond to Johanne D.Guimond, Waterfall Drive, Lots 25-28, less than \$1.

Rene and Norma P. Chabot to James D. and Sandra B. Haas, 26 Navaho Lane, only \$3,000.

Guy A. Silvester to Susan B. Silvester, 117 Colrain Stage Road, no monetary consideration.

Thomas E. and Priscilla L. Dufresne to Richard Andrew Lachance, Mohawk Estates, Lots 9 and 10, \$5,000.

Marian W. Spritzer to Marian W. and Robert L. Spritzer, 32 Deer Run Path, no monetary consideration.

William H. and Jean M. Gran to Robert V. and Patricia McGahan, South Road (also South Road in Charlemont), \$85,000.

Arthur J. Efantis, Sr. and Peggy A. Efantis of Springfield, to Gary X. Pelletier and Katherine E. Hogan of Colrain, 43 Swamp Road. \$15,000.

Eunice A. Bisenari of West Springfield, to Anthony B. Pietrowski and Christine Pietrowski of Ludlow, Mohawk Estates, Lots 41 and 42, \$4,600.

Patrick E. Welch and Priscilla L. Welch of Chicopee, to Raymond C. Gawlik and Corrine R. Gawlik of Chicopee, Mohawk Estates, Lots 16 and 17, only \$3,200.

Arthur H. Daniels and Priscilla I. Daniels of North Adams to Colin W. Daniels of Mays Landing, NJ, 11 Shawnee Drive, \$1.00.

Bryan and Martha Gurney to Jeanne F. Charles, Mohawk Estates, Lot 4, only \$2,000.

David Alan Moir of New York, NY, to Matthew M. Clark and Devon R. Clark of Deerfield, 61 Jacksonville Stage Road, \$125,000.

John J. Kelley of Holyoke and Francis X. Kelley of Chicopee, to Mary E. Kelley of Holyoke, 1 and 37 Mohawk Beach Drive, less than \$100.

Erwin C.T. Deutsch and Rosemary G. Deutsch of Westwood, to John

W. Graham III of Hamden CT, 85 Branch Hill Road, \$189,000.

JennaLyn's

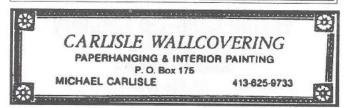
Country Gifts & Crafts...

... from my heart & hands to your home Specializing in Decorative Country Woodcrafts Jenna Smith 337-4305 - Special Orders Welcome



Smith

Hardwood Floor Company Sanding & Refinishing of Old & New Floors Free Estimates - Insured Joshua D. Smith 337-4305





The Way It Is In The Country

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

Memories of Earlier Pleasures

By Carroll Stowe

In Bill Clark's pasture on Branch Hill here in Heath graze a good-looking team of Belgian horses. I get great pleasure out of seeing those horses as I drive past.

With each passing, my mind reminds me of how pleasurable it would be to have that team on a good running, horse drawn mowing machine. I've probably not mowed 20 acres total with a team in my working lifetime, but I remember the thrill that was mine the first time my dad let me mow with our fine team of hay burners. Dick and Chubby were a credit to our farm and left a precious, lasting memory.

After a team has mowed for a period of time and has enjoyed its work, all the teamster needs to do is raise the cutter bar at the end of the swath. Those horses out ahead of you will create the square corners.

I've been told that my pleasures were not shared by some who had attempted to put down a field of hay fertilized with hen droppings. This type of fertile boost did not make for pleasing conditions at the front edge of the cutter bar.

My late dear friend, Dean Hillman, often described some of his mowing experiences to my young ears, and I acquired a great fear of mowing what is called the back swath. It always seemed to me that if you broke down mowing, it was doing the back swath, which is the cut going the opposite direction after the first trip around the outside of the field.

It won't happen but were a body to put Bill's pasture horses to a mowing machine, it would probably seem at first like they both had four left feet but, with a little time, I am sure that they would make a body proud to draw the lines over them.

I am sure that this type of work for a good team will never be popular again, but I have a few great memories of a job I truly enjoyed. The last swath I mowed was with Jim Lively's team, Bud and Dick. My memory fails me about a lot of things but I can remember those simple pleasures.

Heath Historical Commission Meeting

Sharing Expertise

The Heath Historical Commission played host to representatives of the historical commissions and societies of Colrain, Shelburne Falls, and Buckland at a meeting held at the Community Hall on November 9.

On hand were Christopher Skelly, Director of Local Programs, and Jessica Rowcroft, Preservation Planner, of the Massachusetts Historical Commission who shared their expertise on many topics of interest including preservation and restoration, grants, inventory surveys, and scenic road designations.

Among the twenty people who attended the meeting were members of the Heath Selectboard and Planning Board and the Historical Society.

~ The Heath Historical Commission

7 AM to 9 PM
Do your Sleeping Bags, Quilts, Comforters,
Bedspreads, Small Area Rugs, Etc., in our
Large Front-Loading Machines.

Village Coin-Op Laundry
55 State Street
Shelburne Falls, MA
Tel. 625-2345



Tel: 625-6324
Week Days 8:30AM - 8PM
Saturdays 8:30AM - 5PM
Sundays & Holidays 9AM - 12 Noon

52 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls

Selectboard's Report

Community Update

The Selectboard meets every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of the Community Hall.

Storm Damage

The highway crew has finished the majority of the repair work related to the storm damage. A final accounting of the costs to the town has been completed and submitted to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in the hope of receiving some aid. We have been told that this money may be approved by next summer. The storm damage repair work undertaken by the NRCS division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has also been completed.

Special Town Meeting

The Selectboard will call a Special Town Meeting in January of the coming year to reconcile our budget so that a tax rate can be set. We had hoped to send out estimated tax bills this fall but were unable to obtain permission to do so from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. An appeal for voluntary payment of property taxes will be sent to all property owners soon.

Community Hall and Sawyer Hall

Sill work and siding and roof repairs are about to be completed on the Community Hall and Sawyer Hall. We hope to be able to move forward with the roof replacement job as soon as additional funding can be secured. Steve Crowningshield has been hired to help get some of the repairs completed before the winter sets in.

School Budget

Efforts continue on the part of David Howland and the Board to secure assistance from the State in arriving at a solution to our school financing difficulties. The report from Ed Moscovitch was completed and distributed to the Departments of Revenue and Education and to our representatives. This report outlines the impact of the Education Reform Law on our district and on the Town of Heath. The information is compelling but so far we have not secured a promise of assistance from either of the agencies. Senator Andy Nuciforo and Representative John Merrigan have indicated that they will plead our case to the appropriate authorities.

Three-Town Landfill

The selectboards of Heath, Charlemont, and Hawley have come together to begin the process of securing the deed to the former landfill and to work on a plan for capping it. A joint meeting was held on November 15 in Charlemont with members of all three Selectboards were details of joint ownership were discussed. The Department of Environmental Protection has expressed an interest in getting the groundwater monitoring and capping operations under way soon.

Land Purchase

The Town has taken ownership of the property on Bray Road in Heath Center. The purchase was approved by a vote of a Special Town Meeting with the intention of locating a future safety complex on it.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Selectboard has contacted the Conway School of Landscape Design to begin work on the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Money was allocated for this project by town meeting vote. An Open Space and Recreation committee has been established by the Board and Sheila Litchfield, Bonnie Wodin, and Bob Gruen have been appointed to it. Anyone who is interested may join by contacting the Board. Once completed, the Plan will make the Town eligible for a number of state grant programs. The first step in developing the plan is to conduct a mail survey of residents' interests, attitudes, and needs for open space and recreation. Please participate.

Home Improvement Loans

Low interest, home improvement loans will soon be available through the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority under the Community Block Grant program. More information will be available in the coming weeks. Contact the Selectboard if you are interested in obtaining information about the program. Additional information will be posted on the web page as soon as it becomes available.

Heath on Line

Take some time to visit the Town's home page www.townofheath.org. You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. The home page is a work in progress. Thanks to the computer committee for getting this project up and running. Contact the Board at BOS@townofheath.org. Send messages to any board member or individual via the E-mail address, or visit the Heath home page.



~ Heath Selectboard Thomas Lively, Chair Brian DeVriese Charles Mackie

The Heath Kitchen



Mr. Hillenbrand's 1-2-3 Cookies

By Pat Leuchtman

Mr. Hillenbrand is my sister-in-law's father. He spent most of his working life as a baker for the famous Ratner's Kosher restaurant in New York City. He had a recipe, which he called "cookie dough," but he actually used it for cheesecake crust as well as for a variety of cookies. The recipe makes a large amount, but the dough can be refrigerated and used over a few days in a variety of ways giving you fresh-baked cookies at hardly more than a moment's notice.

1-2-3 Cookies

- 1 lb. sugar 2-1/4 cups
- 2 lb. butter
- 3 lb. flour approx. 12 cups
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3 eggs and an equal volume of milk grated peel of one lemon

Heath Emergency Services News

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

9/09/00 - Route 8A south - Medical

9/17/00 - Route 8A south - Motorcycle Accident

9/18/00 - Burrington Rd. - Medical

9/28/00 - Number Nine Rd. - Medical

11/6/00 - Number Nine Rd. - Medical

11/6/00 - Bellor Rd.

- Horse Riding Accident

As of this writing, we have two new EMTs in town. Congratulations to Barbara Purington and Gary Singley.

The Department wishes everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season.

~ Timothy Lively, EMT

Heath Brook Studios Glass and Baskets

"Bob and Jayne Dane"

By Appointment Year-Round In Heath Center

337-5736

(recipe continued)

Cream butter and sugar. Beat in eggs and milk. Add vanilla and lemon peel. Sift flour with baking powder and salt and slowly add and incorporate into sugar mixture. Chill for 30 minutes in refrigerator. Turn out onto floured board, roll out thinly and cut into Christmas shapes. Bake on greased pan in preheated 375-degree oven. When edges brown, remove from oven. Cool and decorate as desired.

Linzer Tart variation

Cream butter and sugar. Beat in eggs and milk. Take about 1/3 of this mixture and add grated peel and juice of ½ lemon and 1 teaspoon of vanilla or almond flavoring. Sift about 3 cups of flour with ½ teaspoon of baking powder and ¼ teaspoon of salt. Incorporate into sugar mixture along with 1 cup ground filberts or almonds. Chill dough. Cut out round cookies and an equal number of donut shaped cookies the same size. Bake in preheated 375-degree oven. Remove from oven when done and cool. Spread raspberry jam over round cookie, top with donut cookie, sprinkle with powdered sugar. Put an extra bit of raspberry jam in center hole to sparkle beautifully.

Java Sticks

Cream butter and sugar. Beat in eggs and milk. Take about 1/3 of this mixture and add 2 teaspoons of instant coffee dissolved in 2 tablespoons of hot water. Sift about 3 cups flour with ½ tablespoon of baking powder and ¼ teaspoon of salt and add to sugar mixture along with ½ to 1 cup ground walnuts. Take teaspoonfuls of dough and shape them into little logs, place on greased pan and flatten slightly. Bake in 375-degree oven. Remove when done and cool. Dip end in melted chocolate bits (melting chocolate is easily done in the microwave) and then ground nuts or sprinkles.

ROWE CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Located in the beautiful Berkshires,
Rowe is widely respected as one of the finest small
conference centers in the country. We offer weekend
retreats with renowned leaders including John
Bradshaw, Malidoma & Sobonfu Some, and Alberto
Villoldo this season. For a beautiful free brochure
please contact: Rowe Conference Center
22 Kings Highway Road Rowe, MA 01367
(413) 339-4954

Here's another couple for the Ooops! file:

There were some errors in Hilma Sumner's recipe in the last issue. Our apologies to Hilma and to anyone who tried the recipe!

Blueberry Brunch Cake

3/4-cup sugar

1/4-cup shortening

1 egg

1/2-cup milk

2 cups flour

1-1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon salt 2 cu

2 cups floured blueberries

Topping:

1/2-cups sugar

1/3-cup flour

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/4-cup cold butter or margarine

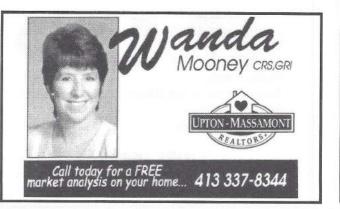
Mix sugar and shortening thoroughly. Add egg and mix well. Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Beginning and ending with flour mixture, add flour mixture and milk alternately to the sugar mixture. Fold in blueberries and pour batter into greased 9" square cake pan. Blend together ingredients for topping with a fork, using cold butter or margarine to prevent topping from being pasty. It should have a crumbly appearance. Sprinkle crumb mixture on batter. Bake 45 minutes in a 350-degree oven.



Remedies for Colds...again.

The Town Nurse, Joanne Fortune, receives our apologies as well. We would like to again run her recipe for Fire Cider:

2 finely chopped onions, 1 finely chopped whole head of garlic (all the cloves), 1/3-cup finely grated horseradish, and 4 tablespoons grated fresh (or frozen) ginger. Cover all with apple cider vinegar in a quart jar, cap and store in a warm spot for 4 weeks. Strain. For each cup of liquid, add ¼-cup (or less) honey and a pinch of cayenne to taste. At the first sign of a cold, take 1 teaspoon every half-hour until cold symptoms are relieved.



Heath Church News

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

One of the minor themes of John's Gospel is Jesus is the Light of the World or the dispeller of spiritual darkness. One of the joys we have had at our service has been to explore this truth and others in John's Gospel. Please come and join us on Sunday morning to worship and learn about the Light of the World. We are also happy to announce that Sunday school has started. Our topic of study will be the Parables of Jesus.

We are delighted to have had join our church Doug Stetson, Diane Thane, and Bill Thane. They were admitted to membership on November 12. You are invited to worship with us.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. - Sunday school

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service

10:00 a.m. - Children's Church and Nursery

3:30 p.m. – Youth Group meets at Heath School. All teens, $7^{\text{th}} - 12^{\text{th}}$ grades are invited.

Please wear sneakers and bring a favorite snack.
WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study and prayer time at the parsonage.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00 p.m. Birthday Cake for Jesus right after.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome to join us.

~ By Reverend Colin Lucid



The house on the hill with the view of yesteryear Reward your friends and relatives with a restful night's sleep high in the hills of Rowe. They'll awake to a hearty homegrown breakfast in a 200year old inn and family farm. See the stars, breathe clear fresh air, relax in the quiet beauty of spectacular views of the Berkshire Hills.

Lodging and Breakfast from \$45. Call for Reservations. Middletown Hill Road (413) 339-0107 Rowe, MA 01367



Poetry Corner A Thought

By Caroline Wells (1869 – 1942)

I love the Christmastide, and yet, I notice this each year I live, I always like the gifts I get, But how I love the gifts I give!

("Heath Happenings" continued from page 9)

Oliver!

The Middle School at Mohawk High School preformed Oliver, its 20th annual musical, in November. Heath was well represented in the 5th and 6th grades by Jacob Smead, C.J. Wilkins, Alexandra Thane, Kayla Decker, Katherine McGuire, and Bethany Sterling.

(413) 337-4210 Phone (413) 337-5732 Fax



JAMES CERONE BUILDER

Custom Homes - Renovations

Lic # 047734 Hic # 124493 239 Number Nine Rd. Rowe, MA 01367

HEATH HERALD

Box 54 Heath, MA 01346-0054

FORWARDING & ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Bulk Rate U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 11 Charlemont, MA 01339

Help Wanted

Very part-time and very volunteer. If you're a student, possibly for credit. The Heath Herald needs an energetic **NEWSWRITER** with familiarity with town politics, community happenings, and an ability to report on them. Good writing skills preferred but enthusiasm counts! Call 413 - 337-0217 or **E-mail saleda@crocker.com**.

Sawyer News Co.

Bridge St. Shelburne Falls

NEWSPAPERS - MAGAZINES - PAPERBACKS - CARDS MOVIE RENTALS - GIFTS - CANDIES - FILM
Tel. (413) 625-6686

Don & Kathleen Upton, Proprietors

Frederick M. Burrington

Artist

Photorealism in Watercolor, Pastel, Color Pencil, Ink and Pencil.

Commissions Welcome

P.O. Box 96, Heath, MA 01346 Tel. (413) 337-4426 Fax (413) 337-0221

We're With You Every Step.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

INTERNET & TELEPHONE BANKING

MORTGAGES

HOME EQUITY LOANS

BUSINESS LOANS

LIFE INSURANCE

TRUST ADMINISTRATION

INVESTMENT ADVISORY & MANAGEMENT



GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK SINCE 1869

GREENFIELD 774-3191 • TURNERS FALLS 863-4316 SOUTH DEERFIELD 665-4811 • SHELBURNE FALLS 625-8627 www.greenfieldsavings.com



Member FDI

PETER'S GENERAL STORE

Debbie and Paul Plante, Proprietors Number Nine Road, Heath 337-5501

Fresh Produce
Freshly-Baked Pies
Blue Seal Products
Family Videos
Penny Candy
Soda, Grinders, Ice Cream
Beer, wine, liquor
All food essentials



STORE HOURS

Mon-Sat 8am-7pm, Sunday 9am-7pm