

# HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

75¢

Volume 23, Number 5

December/January 2002







*From the Editor ~*

## Hilltown Rambles

Writing the Hilltown Tastes column put me in a cheery, holiday mood. The weather, at this writing, certainly is not obliging. Although I empathize with you skiers and snowmobilers, and with the Northeasterners who generally prefer winter over any other season (although I can't for the life of me, see why!), I'm in a happier mood by the sheer lack of winter. I know- it will come, just as the holidays are coming whether we are ready for them or not. Haven't you ever had Christmas just come out of nowhere?

With the aftermath of September 11, war on the Taliban, the Anthrax scare and other frightening world events, we are all deeply, tragically, and forever affected. The outpouring of gifts, money, time, and energy devoted to helping the people who were directly influenced by this tragedy is enormous. Let us not forget to help this holiday season. The gift of giving, not only to friends, relatives, and neighbors, but even to strangers, touches us deeply. We all feel just a little bit better knowing or supposing that we are part of the solution.

Todd Sumner is taking part in our "Great Trees" exploration and has written a wonderful piece about the grand old maples on his property. Susan Todd, the new Heath School principal, has informed us on what's happening at the elementary school. Thanks to Carroll Stowe for reminding us what it means to be a good neighbor. Bill Lattrell is back with a moose article! The town recently had a great bid at celebrity (more than the usual 15 minutes!) with a visiting male moose. The moose was courting, in a very gentlemanly-like, "moosely" manner, a herd of heifers in one of Frederick Crowningshield's pastures. All good things must come to an end, however, and the moose was carried, tranquilized, across Franklin County. I heard somewhere that maybe the moose would return and it doesn't help that every time I drive by, I peer over the field and hope for a drive-by sighting! Thank you to Mark Picard, Nature Photographer, for providing us with the photograph for the front cover. Thanks to our advertisers for all their support.

Wishing you a very safe and happy holiday and happy New Year.

*~ Lea Banks Bohrer*



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Mark Picard

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## Heath School News

By Susan Todd

It is hard to believe that we are already in December. The school year is flying by, full of energy and adventure. There is much to report.

**Water.** As many of you already know, the Heath School experienced a loss of water pressure the week of November 5. Tim Lively thought of every possible accommodation to keep our school running smoothly, including closing off bathrooms and having a port-o-potty delivered to our front lawn. Eventually we had to close school for a day and a half in order to repair the problem (a hole in the pipe) and conduct testing, required by DEP after a water system is closed down in a public building. All is well, and school reopened after the Veterans' Day holiday. Ironically, the all-school theme this year is water - so we had quite an attention-getting way to introduce the topic! At our All-School meeting on November 16, Tim gave a wonderful presentation (using digital photos displayed on our TV screens) so that children and staff could understand exactly what happened. This was another example of the inventive ways the Heath School focuses on teaching and learning.

**Family Science Night.** Nearly forty parents, teachers, and children gathered in the Open Space on Wednesday, November 7, to explore an array of science activities. Groups were putting together skeletons and observing common objects through magnifying glasses, as well as making a common coat hanger sound like the chimes of Westminster Abbey. Everyone was excited and happy to be there, and we all look forward to our Family Math night scheduled for the winter.

**New P.E. Teacher.** We have welcomed Matthew Glassman, our new P.E. teacher, with open arms. In his short time with us, he has already formed a close bond with the students and is implementing a strong physical education program. Matthew is a graduate of Trinity College and an actor with the DoubleEdge Theatre in Ashfield. We are very grateful to John Musacchio for the wonderful work he did with the students this fall.

**Emergency Plans.** Our Emergency Team has been working hard this fall to complete our emergency plan. One new addition to the evacuation procedure is using Alli Stetson's house and barn in case students and staff need to move off-site. Classes have been practicing the walk to Alli's property as part of our regular routines.

**Kindergarten Accreditation.** All the kindergarten teachers in the District are working on the accreditation process for our grant funding. It is a very thorough process, involving many steps and stages. We greatly appreciate all the work Deb Porter and Patricia Tierney are putting into the process, and thank all parents who have participated in the survey, as well.

**Web Page.** Thanks to our computer committee, including Ray Pettengill, Cheryl Handsacker, and Henry Leuchtman, we have made great strides in upgrading our school technology and updating our web page. We certainly have a way to go, but our home page has a new look and a lot of great information.

**AmeriCorps Members.** Two new AmeriCorps members, Sophie Oberfield and Paul Chaikin, have joined the Heath Staff and

will be with us until the end of March. They will be supplementing our science curriculum with environmental studies as well as providing academic support for individual students. We are very fortunate to be part of this very effective and beneficial program.

We encourage you all to come and visit this vibrant school you have worked so hard to create. Happy holidays to all.

### Jacob Smead in "Honk"



Heath's own 7th grader, Jacob Smead, had a lead role in the Mohawk Middle Schools Musical, "Honk," performed in early November. He played the role of Drake (father to the ugly duckling), and sang three solos. Ten 5th and 6th graders from Heath Elementary School participated as supporting cast members.

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**Precious Encounter**

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**By Bill Lattrell**

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Soaked to the bone deep in the woods of Maine, I hustled along a steep trail. The cold, windswept rains and rough terrain had kept me moving at a fast pace. My forty-pound pack seemed more like eighty pounds as I negotiated a long hill. At the crest of the hill I spotted a river at the foot of the hill ahead of me swollen with runoff from the torrential downpours. Normally this would be a crossing that could be accomplished by hopping from stone to stone, but on this morning the stream displayed chest deep water and raging currents. Puzzled, I removed my pack and took in the situation. Looking up and down stream I could not see a safe crossing. My only option was to wait until the stream subsided; likely a day's delay in my hiking schedule.

As I began to set up my temporary camp I heard a loud crashing in the brush. The torrent stream, wind, and steady rain made locating the sound difficult. After scanning the hillside several times I saw an area of small hemlock saplings about 50 yards to the north moving every which way. A large bull moose stepped out of the hemlocks. His five-foot wide rack, huge shoulders, and massive body were stunning and I failed to take cover to avoid being seen. The bull's nose went up into the air and then he turned to look directly at me. For reasons still unknown to me he perceived me as a threat and immediately charged up the hill in my direction. This was not rutting season, and I had no reason to fear this animal other than the speed and determination of his ascent up the hill in my direction.

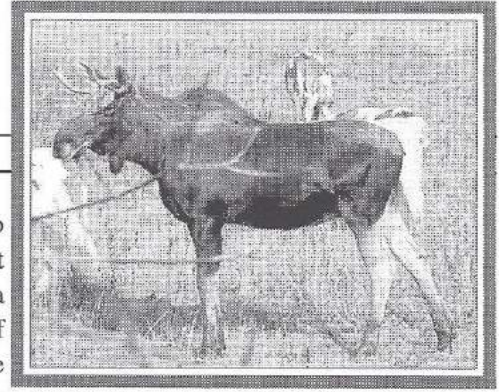
Time stands still when fear consumes one's body, mind, and spirit. I made no conscious decisions but found myself placing a large red maple between the bull and me. The irritated moose rushed the tree with its large rack down. Its massive head thrashed from side to side. Circling the tree again and again I kept it between the moose and me for what seemed to be an eternity. Yelling and screaming at the bull yielded no results and I could feel a weary panic overcoming rational thought. Just as I was about to make a break down the hill the moose stopped, pulled his head upright, and looked over to my pack. Tired of scaring the absolute willy out of me, he ambled over to my forty - pound pack, lowered his head and caught his antler in the frame. Thrusting his head and neck upward in a display of unbelievable strength, he flipped the pack in the air about ten feet over his head strewn the contents all over the forest floor. He then looked directly at me, somewhat indignantly, and walked back down the hill, glancing over his shoulder once or twice in my direction.

And such was my first "up close and personal" encounter with a moose. I must admit that this once-in-a-lifetime experience is one that I will never forget. Humbled by this physically superior creature, I have found respect for the moose in a way that I would not choose to repeat.

As everyone knows, Heath was blessed this fall with a very observable young bull moose that seemed to have fallen in love with a small herd of heifers. He became Heath's second largest tourist attraction (after the Heath Fair) judging by the number of cars parked in front of the field where he courted the disinterested bovines. The young bull, perhaps 18 months old, had likely been displaced by larger mature bull moose to the north. This young bull moose - I'll call him Heathcliff - was not yet made up of the right stuff to compete with larger, more aggressive bulls. His small rack, immature frame, and obvious lack of smarts posed no threat to those with real breeding opportunities.

Moose are curious in that they appear as both majestic and awkward at the same time. Wearing a six-foot-wide by three-foot high crown on top of a head that may already be seven feet off the ground, it is easy to perceive a bull moose as majestic. Conversely, the huge size (up to 1800 pounds), bulbous nose, donkey ears, pendulous flack of skin hanging down from its neck, and very long legs give the moose a comical, awkward look. Interestingly, the moose is a marvel of evolution. These awkward features give this creature an evolutionary advantage over wildlife competitors. These features are solely responsible for the moose's survival in a world of competition that has already eliminated countless wildlife species.

The huge body mass enables the moose to generate huge amounts of heat to survive cold weather. The amount of fuel it takes to operate the moose is incredible. A mature bull can eat up to 60 pounds of browse in a single day. The long legs allow the moose to maneuver in deep snows, reach high branch tips while foraging, and feed off of aquatic vegetation in deep still water during the summer months. The pendulous nose proves to be an advantage while surface feeding on the water, allowing the moose to breathe and forage at the same time. The large nostrils are likely related to the excellent sense of smell





that helps moose to locate food, young, and enemy. The mule-like ears can be directed easily to the source of a sound. These large sound receptors prove to be an advantage when it comes to surviving the natural world. The pendulous growth seen on a bull's neck is somehow attractive to the cow moose and seems to aid in breeding success.

After the bison, the moose is the largest herbivore in North America. The range of the moose is clearly expanding as farms are abandoned, fields grow back to forest, and large amounts of moose food (forage) become available. There are two critical features of good moose habitat. The first is plentiful brushy growth where moose can forage buds, branch tips, and leaves. The second is large areas of swamp and marshes with deep standing water and beds of aquatic vegetation. Our immediate area has plenty of the first and is very limited in the second critical feature. We have plenty of wetlands, but we are not blessed with large numbers of wetlands that have deep standing water and large aquatic vegetation beds. This limitation will likely prevent our area from having a large moose population. Directly to our north, between Harriman Reservoir and Somerset Reservoir and all along Route 9 in Vermont, there is prime moose habitat. The number of breeding pairs in this vicinity has increased dramatically in recent years. Heath and the surrounding towns will continue to host moose that have wandered out of this area, but will probably not experience the dense populations that our neighbors to the north have encountered.

The cow moose is a dedicated mother. Despite her great size she is remarkably gentle with her calves. Typically, her patience lasts for about 18 months, when no doubt she grows weary of her adolescent young and sends them packing to a life of their own.

Heath's favorite moose, Heathcliff, was probably a mother's recent reject. His quest for a mate, however inappropriate, has brought him a fame of which he will never be aware. Surprisingly, it is not that unusual for young bull moose to endear a herd of heifers. Not too many years back a young bull in Vermont became nationally famous for exactly the same reasons.

Although Heathcliff was removed from our area, perhaps he won't travel too far, and in the future some of us might catch a glimpse of his six-foot crown, 1200 pound body, and a look of confidence that will help us to realize that he is finally the master of his own fate.

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## Maple Trees

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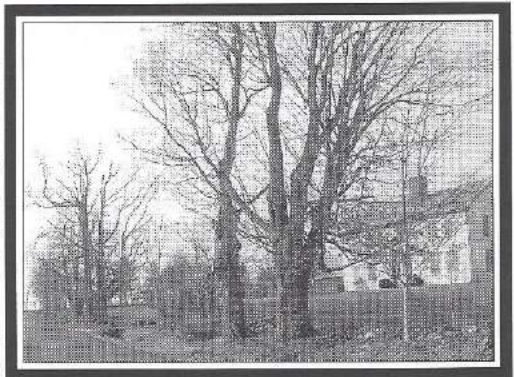
By Todd Sumner

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There are four big maple trees in front of our house on South Road, two above the driveway and two below. I grew up next door, so these four trees were part of my childhood "sense of place," and because I have chosen to make this "my place" as an adult, my relationship with these trees has necessarily changed: they have become for me not merely landscape elements that witness in their girth and height a century's worth of history that didn't include me, but also an invitation into a proxy relationship with that history through my relationship with the trees. In the ten years that I've fertilized, fussed over, and worried about them, these trees have also provided me with an occasion to learn about the differences between symbols of history and monuments to history: the former are dynamic, transactional, fluid, vital; the latter are static, contained, fixed, dead. Trees as symbols invite stewardship, a kind of attentive companionship that encourages physical observation, curiosity, and engagement. In contrast, trees as monuments invite reverence, a kind of worshipful sentimentality characterized by rapture, stubbornness, and passivity.

Being in the presence of these trees has also helped me learn about limits. If I continue to do my job well, I think it entirely possible that the two trees below the driveway will live long after me. If I continue to do my job well, I will have to cut down the two trees above the driveway before the decade is out. Like many of the maples between our house and Whittemore Spring, these two big trees are dying, and no amount of pruning or fertilizer has made a bit of a difference. Each year they put forth fewer leaves and the leaves fall off earlier, but in November they are just as impressive as their neighbors.

I accepted this writing assignment after the events of 11 September, and I'm well aware that my reflections on these four trees have been informed by my struggles to gain some perspective on events that, while they happened within my lifetime, seem no less enormous than the hundred years of history these trees have weathered. Thinking about how and why these trees matter to me has helped me remember that the passage of time will help with the perspective and that part of my work is to be patient. I suspect I am not alone in this anxious, attentive waiting, and I feel lucky to be surrounded by so much beauty in such a trying time.



## Town Business

The Selectboard meets every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall.

### **Community Hall and Sawyer Hall**

The Board has hired Architects Inc. of Northampton to complete the engineering work for the repair of the broken roof truss in the Community Hall. It is our hope that we may get the repair work under way soon so that the building may be safely used. About \$9,200 was received from an insurance claim for damage to the roof structure and will be used to offset some of the engineering and construction costs for the repair. We expect to hear about the CDBG grant application for the other work sometime in December.

Mike Platek and his crew have just completed the painting of Sawyer Hall. The results are a great improvement in the appearance of the Center.

### **Special Town Meeting**

A Special Town Meeting has been called for December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Heath Elementary School to consider the increased costs of the accountant services to the Town. The purchase of a loader/backhoe using Chapter 90 funds will also be considered.

### **New Town Accountant**

The Selectboard is still seeking someone to fill the position of Town Accountant. Anyone who is interested in the part-time position should contact the Board. Dale Kowacki of Western Mass. Municipal Accounting Services has been hired to clean up the books for FY2001 and to provide accounting services for the 2002 fiscal year as well.

### **New Dog Officer**

The Town is seeking someone to fill the position of Dog Officer. Anyone who may be interested should contact the Board.

### **New Animal Inspector**

David Freeman has been appointed Animal Inspector. Paul Lively who passed away last summer formerly held the position. David is the owner and operator of Freeman Farms in Heath and brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to the job. He will be contacting owners of domestic livestock to set up inspections that need to be done before the end of the year.

### **Three -Town Landfill**

Work on the Site Assessment phase of the landfill closing has been nearly completed. We are waiting for the final report from Almer Huntley Associates, the engineers who were commissioned to do the study.

### **Tree Warden**

Jack Cable, the town tree warden, is in the final stages of assessing the condition of trees along the roads and will be making recommendations for the trimming and removal of dead, diseased, or other hazardous trees in the rights-of-way. We appreciate his diligence in this endeavor considering that he and Beverly may be moving away from Heath soon.

### **Heath On-Line**

Take some time to visit the Town's home page. 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](mailto:BOS@townofheath.org). Send messages to any board or individual via the E-mail address, or visit the Heath home page.

~ Heath Selectboard  
Thomas Lively - Chair  
Brian DeVriese  
Hilma Sumner

## CDL DRIVERS WANTED

The Heath Highway Department is looking for part time relief drivers for the winter season. Driver will perform a variety of duties related to snow removal. Average shifts will be 4 to 6 hours during overnights, weekends, and holidays. Applicants must have a valid class B CDL with air brakes endorsements and a valid hydraulics license for front-end loaders. Applications are available at the Heath Town Hall or by calling Michael Smith at 337-4462.

## Notice to All Owners of Domestic Livestock

As the newly appointed animal inspector for the Town of Heath, I attended a regional meeting of local animal inspectors, state veterinarians, and representatives of the State Department of Food and Agriculture. This meeting, held November 7 at University of Massachusetts - Amherst, was to update local animal inspectors on new policies and procedures. As a result of these new policies, I am required to visit all properties in Heath where any domestic livestock are kept. At this visit, I am required to visually inspect the "barn" for cleanliness, ventilation, and general adequate conditions for the type of animals sheltered there. At this same visit, I am also required to take a tally of the domestic livestock housed on the premises. This tally includes everything from chickens and rabbits to horses and cows. The barn inspection and animal tally must be submitted to the state by the end of December.

Since I am new to this position, if you haven't heard from me by December 20, please call me so you can be included in the tally for Heath. My visit should only take a few minutes. Thanks for your cooperation.

For further information, contact David Freeman (413) 337-4766.

~ David Freeman

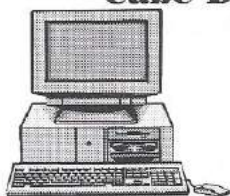


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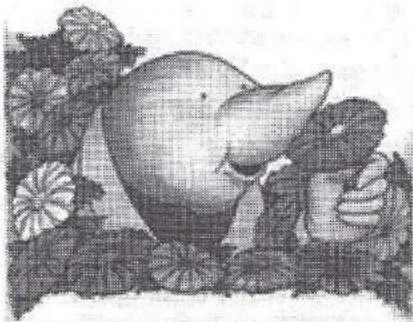


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## The Fear Factor



Fear is contagious and it's being used as a weapon. It's the fear of the unknown that's unnerving. Yesterday, the announcer on National Public Radio was interrupted by the Emergency Broadcast System's extended beep. I held my breath until the commentator returned. It was not a test; it just happened.

I think about what it was like to live during the flu epidemic of 1918, polio, and the smallpox epidemic in which thousands died. I can't fathom living in a country being bombed daily or a country with deadly epidemics, starvation, and strife as a way of life.

If we can stay "in the moment" and not look ahead to the next, the fear can dissolve because we stop anticipating. If we can volunteer somewhere for the less fortunate, if we can take more walks in the woods, watch the beauty of nature unfold this season and next, perhaps we can become better acquainted with ourselves and understand what it is in us that makes us resonate with certain fears.

I ask people how they feel about Anthrax and whatever else might happen. Some say they're too busy to even think about it, some say they're afraid to open their mail, some want to move to another country. This can unconsciously take a toll on our health. We are all concerned (even if only subconsciously). We're on guard, on edge. We may live like this for a while.

A book I find helpful is appropriately titled, *When Things Fall Apart* by Pema Chodron. She reminds me fear is not a terrible thing; it's part of being alive. Facing our fears is how we can lessen their impact on us. She says to try not to run away and to learn to relax in the middle of chaos. Feelings like disappointment, revenge, anger, fear, instead of being bad news, are very clear moments that teach us where it is that we're holding back. "They're like messengers that show us, with terrifying clarity, exactly where we're stuck. This very moment is the perfect teacher, and lucky for us, it's with us wherever we are."

Please take extra care of yourself during this difficult time. Think about what you're eating, drinking, watching on television, how you're spending your time. Listen to music, walk, look at the stars, play in the snow, laugh, get together with friends and family. May you have a peaceful, restful, and loving holiday season.

I see people in their homes. If you would like an appointment, please call me at 337-5716. Thank you.

~ Joanne Fortune, RN

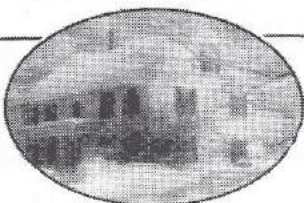
### From *Leaves of Grass*

*"Will you seek afar off? You surely come back at last,  
In things best known to you finding the best or as good as  
the best,  
In folks nearest to you finding also the sweetest and strongest and  
lovingest,  
Happiness not in another place, but this place...not for another  
hour, but this hour..."*

- Walt Whitman



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

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## Finance Committee Report

The members of the Finance Committee for FY02 are David Cote, Dave Howland, Todd Sumner, and Ned Wolf. The Selectboard appointed Dave Howland on June 26, 2001 to fill an open seat on the FinCom until elections are held in May 2002. There is still one more vacancy on the five-member Committee, which has been posted on the Town's website - [www.townofheath.org](http://www.townofheath.org). If you are interested we suggest you look there for more information and/or you can call one of the members of the FinCom.

Since July 1, 2001, the FinCom has met four times in July, August, and two times in October. It meets according to posted notices rather than on a regular basis, at least for now, because it is a more effective use of our time. Also, we often meet the same evening as the Selectboard in order to deal with current matters of concern to the FinCom.

At the meeting on July 31, Dave Howland was elected Chair and Ned Wolf, Secretary. David Cote is our liaison to the Highway and Fire Department and keeps us informed of happenings in that area. The FinCom then met with the Selectboard, and Dave Howland and Ned Wolf were appointed to the Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee (MMAC). MMAC has been in existence for many years and is designed to facilitate cooperation, problem solving, and support between the School District and the towns. A review of the major problems facing Heath was discussed — the Town's budget that is over \$26 per thousand valuation at this time, the drafting of a "pothole" letter to the State Department of Education requesting \$250,000 to help offset the excessively high school budget, the status of the Community Hall repair project, the joint landfill closing problem with Charlemont and Hawley, the request for emergency road repair funds of some \$200,000 via the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (most of the money

became available recently) and future planning for a safety complex on land recently purchased by the Town.

On August 28, our meeting was held at the Heath School prior to attending a Special Town Meeting, the primary purpose of which was to address the Community Hall grant requests and transfer of money from the Stabilization Fund necessary to pay for major repairs on the building. It is expected that grant funds will pay the entire cost of adding an elevator to the Town Hall. Hope these monies come through!

On October 2, we met with the Selectboard to review a proposal by the Highway Department to purchase a backhoe with Chapter 90 money. A Special Town Meeting is expected to vote on the request. Also, agenda items for MMAC meetings this fall and winter were discussed. Diane Cerone met with the FinCom and then the Selectboard to obtain ideas and opinions about the Schools and Community Initiative Project sponsored by the Mary Lyon Foundation. It is expected that estimated tax bills will again have to be issued once a pro forma budget is prepared.

Finally, on October 23, the FinCom met to vote down a request to transfer \$5,000 from its Reserve Account to balance the FY01 budget. This was reported to the Selectboard, who agreed with the decision pending clean-up work being done by Dale Kowacki, an experienced public accountant/consultant. Planning and budget increases pertinent to filling the Town Accountant's position on a permanent basis were discussed.

The State of Massachusetts has yet to pass a budget for FY02. The stalemate in Boston makes it very hard for towns and cities to manage their affairs and for Heath it is especially difficult because of our dependency on the State to help with our unique school budget situation.

*~ David F. Howland*

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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."*

### **Good Neighbors**

It is often a quandary to find something to write about for some issues. I've been toying lately with the idea of suggesting that realtors of country property institute classes for aspiring new property owners. Country living by new people should not cause unpleasantness with full-time people. Realtors should survey the native folk as to how new property owners ought to conduct themselves.

Roosters crow early in the a.m. and have been doing so since the beginning of time. People's cows do get out even with the best of fences. There are no intentions of these things happening but it happens, so make the best of it and not a big deal of it. The best way to do this country living thing is to find some folks who've lived in a rural area and have been good neighbors doing so.

I recently heard of an all-night burning light that seems to be causing some sleeplessness. The light has burned for a long time and has been gotten used to and after a bit won't even be thought of. It most surely isn't worth making hard feelings about.

In a nearby town there was a noise complaint of a well driller creating a sleepless problem. The people needed water and the well had to be created. Don't find fault because folks have to have a new water supply.

This is wintertime area - four plus months of the year so no one can always be taken care of first. Perhaps a late start to work might be experienced but the road crew does a sterling job most times and doesn't need fault finding.

At my suggestion new people should join the church. Good things happen with church activities.

I would like to be asked by new Heath residents to whom they should look for guidance to be a good neighbor. I have a long list of good neighbor-teachers.

If your property includes a bit of open pasture or brush land, look around for someone to put cattle on it. It will keep the brush down and save the cost of annual mowing. This is one of the most beneficial aspects of owning rural landscape.

One of my favorite experiences of country life has been the treasured get-togethers to help an in-need neighbor with wood, haying, or other yearly tasks. Good potluck food, good fellowship, and a needed service taken care of. These gatherings are coming less and less often.

The Heath Fair organization can always use all manner of help and can only be a good experience.

There's a world of difference between selfish and selfless and I can point out a good number of selfless local neighbors. A near neighbor of the late, great Howard Thompson was having water shortage problems. A short span of time after he got word of short water troubles, Howard was on the scene with a full gathering tub of fresh clean water. No questions asked; just solve the immediate problem. That kind of neighbor can't have a high enough mention as far as I'm concerned. A precious different type of human than the perpetrators of the World Trade Center destruction, my dear friend Howard Thompson had no equal as a great neighbor, and he never complained about a crowing rooster!

My Dad, a longtime resident and neighbor of long-standing in nearby Colrain, was a great neighbor and always tried to do for those in need. Whatever was needed to help a neighbor that Dad had available, it was sent with his blessing if he couldn't be there. A team of horses, a tractor or truck, chainsaw, or labor, all were offered. Our cows got out and were put back and sometimes the fences were lacking but Dad tried to do things right, for the most part. Dad's neighborly goodness far outweighed his faults.

To all who take the time to read this, go to the Heath Center cemetery and read the engraving on the late Francis Kinsman's headstone and learn what a great human he was. He is described as selfless and he truly was.

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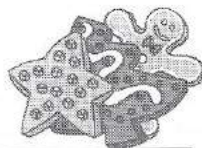
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## Holiday Treats



By Lea Banks Bohrer

When I think of the holidays, I almost invariably relate it to good food. Christmas. Holiday parties leading up to Christmas day. Hanukkah celebrations with a totally different, equally wonderful kind of food. Learning about the delightful food that my friends who celebrate Kwanzaa eat. My best friend from college celebrates St. Lucia's Day and has brought many Scandinavian recipes to my attention. There's always Christmas Day Brunch with its cranberry coffee cake, Eggs Benedict, and champagne mimosas...yum!

When I first sat down to write this column, I thought it would be about the various delicious Christmas dinners that have graced our table. The roasts or turkeys or legs of lamb, the mouth-watering appetizers or side dishes, the delectable pecan pies, gingerbread, and a certain Death-by-Chocolate Cheesecake that my college friend gave me the recipe for, all loomed in the foreground of this writer's mind.

It always seems to me that the best thing about these holidays is the giving of baked goods that we share with friends and family. These baked goods are made even more special because we never bake them at any other time of year. Also, Christmas baking is a family event complete with floured noses, hot chocolate, and holiday tunes on the stereo.

### Swedish Nuts

These mouth-watering nuts make a sweet gift for a hostess or favorite teacher. We always make at least a double batch.

2 cups pecans, toasted  
½ cup sugar  
¼ cup butter  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
2 egg whites  
½ teaspoon nutmeg  
dash of salt

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Melt butter in oven on cookie sheet. Gently beat egg whites and salt. In separate bowl, mix sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Add to egg white mixture. Fold in nuts until evenly coated. Spread on melted butter. Bake for 30 minutes, turning every 10 minutes with spatula. Let cool for 5 minutes before removing nuts from cookie sheet.

### Nutella Kisses

1 stick butter, room temperature  
1 cup flour  
8 ounces cream cheese, room temperature  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
Nutella Hazelnut Spread, apricot jam, Hershey's kisses

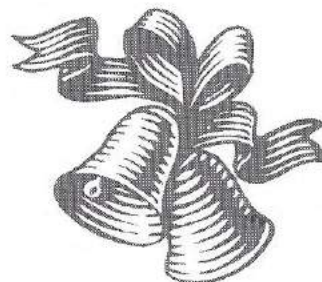
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Cream butter and cream cheese with dry ingredients. Mixture will be sticky. Refrigerate at least one hour. Roll by hand onto board sprinkled with confectioners' sugar. Cut with cookie cutter a 2" - 3" round cookie. Fill with Nutella, jam, or kiss, pressing into dough. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for approximately 10 minutes.

### Sarah's Famous Shortbread

My daughter Sarah perfected this recipe, taken from about half a dozen other recipes! Rich, delicious, and easy. Be careful not to overwork the dough or the shortbread will be hard.

1 pound butter, room temperature  
3-1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup white sugar  
½ cup rice flour

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Cream butter with sugar. Add flours and mix well. Roll the dough out onto cookie sheet. Do not grease sheet. Prick the top all over with fork. Put in oven and reduce temperature to 325 degrees. Continue baking for 35-45 minutes. Cut while warm.





## **An Ode to America**

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By Ray Pettengill

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Editorial from a Romanian newspaper, Date: Oct.23, 2001

Why are Americans so united? They don't resemble one another even if you paint them! They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations. Some of them are nearly extinct; others are incompatible with one another, and in matters of religious beliefs, not even God can count how many there are. Still, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart.

Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the army, the secret services that they are only a bunch of losers. Nobody rushed to empty their bank accounts. Nobody rushed on the streets nearby to gape about. The Americans volunteered to donate blood and to give a helping hand. After the first moments of panic, they raised the flag on the smoking ruins, putting on T-shirts, caps and ties in the colors of the national flag. They placed flags on buildings and cars as if in every place and on every car a minister or the president was passing. On every occasion they started singing their traditional song: "God Bless America!"

Silent as a rock, I watched the charity concert broadcast on Saturday once, twice, three times, on different TV channels. There were Clint Eastwood, Willie Nelson, Robert deNiro, Julia Roberts, Cassius Clay, Jack Nicholson, Bruce Springsteen, Sylvester Stallone, James Wood, and many others whom no film or producers could ever bring together. The Americans' solidarity spirit turned them into a choir. Actually, choir is not the word. What you could hear was the heavy artillery of the American soul. What neither George W. Bush, nor Bill Clinton, nor Colin Powell could say without facing the risk of stumbling over words and sounds, was being heard in a great and unmistakable way in this charity concert. I don't know how it happened that all this obsessive singing of America didn't sound croaky, nationalist, or ostentatious! It made you green with envy because you weren't able to sing for your country without running the risk of being considered chauvinist, ridiculous, or suspected of who-know's-what mean interests. I watched the live broadcast and the rerun of its rerun for hours listening to the story of the guy who went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was, or of the Californian hockey player, who fought with the terrorists and prevented the plane from hitting a target that would have killed other hundreds or thousands of people. How on earth were they able to bow before a fellow human?

Imperceptibly, with every word and musical note, the memory of some turned into a modern myth of tragic heroes. And with every phone call, millions and millions of dollars were put in a collection aimed at rewarding not a man or a family, but a spirit which nothing can buy. What on earth can unite the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their galloping history? Their economic power? Money? I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs and murmuring phrases with risk of sounding like commonplaces. I thought things over, but I reached only one conclusion...only freedom can work such miracles.

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## **After Hours Club**

The Heath Elementary School is currently providing two unique and wonderful programs: the After Hours Club and After School Enrichments are for children in kindergarten through 6th grade. The After Hours Club is run by our very talented Heath residents, Patricia Archambault, Head Teacher and Coordinator, and Laurie Underwood, Assistant Head Teacher. The Club provides supervised care between 3:15 – 5:30 p.m. throughout the school calendar year. Healthy snacks are provided daily, as well as structured time for homework, reading time, arts and crafts, indoor and outdoor physical activities.

The After School Enrichments are coordinated by Elizabeth LaPointe and are offered during the fall, winter, and spring. The children are offered a healthy snack and then enter programs that may include: sports ( soccer, basketball or baseball, golf, cross-country skiing), arts and crafts workshops (working with clay, ceramics, recycled material or other natural materials). Other activities may include sign language, art of playing chess, woodworking, kite-making, and sewing. From time to time we even offer activities such as cooking, Tae Kwon Do, and babysitting workshops.

Reasonable tuition fees, and/or flat program fees, and year funding sustain the After School Programs. These fees help defer the cost of snack food, T- shirts (if in a sport), and instructor fees, if applicable. Other funds come from the program's fund-raisers, which at this time include the ongoing Bake Sale every Friday until winter vacation. We hope you can stop by the Heath School and check out our wonderful baked goods.

These unique and wonderful programs are open not only to the Heath community but to others who are interested. All proceeds go to the After School Programs. If you would like more information about the programs, please call the Heath School office at 337-5305.

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*~ Elizabeth LaPointe*



## Milestones

Born October 12, 2001, a daughter, **Isis**, to Shawna Lee (Hyytinen) Osman and Jesse B. Moon of Greenfield; granddaughter of Donna and James Hyytinen of Heath and Violet Gilbert of Greenfield; great-granddaughter of Jeanne Giard of Colrain.

Born October 16, 2001, a son, **James Paul Owen**, to Camille Guzman and Michael Freeman of Heath; grandson of George and Barbara Guzman of Coalville, VT, David Freeman and Christine O'Brien of Heath, and Annette Marino of Glastonbury, CT; great-grandson of Lelian Freeman and Judy Laverne of Ludlow, VT, and Gertrude Price and Madeline Guzman of Salt Lake City, UT.

Married September 15, 2001, **Tanja Christine Davin, M.D.** and **L. John Klunk III, M.D.** of Hooksett, NH. The bride is the daughter of Lizz and Bruce Davin of Heath, the bridegroom, the son of Frances and Lewis Klunk of Trumbull, CT.

~ Edith Royer

## Heath Deed Transfers

David Avery of Hendersonville, NC, to Amcourt Realty Trust, Raymond P. Bintliff, Trustee, Avery Brook Road, (Land also in Charlemont). Only \$3,000.

Elizabeth Avery of Spartanburg, SC, to Amcourt Realty Trust, Raymond P. Bintliff, Trustee, Avery Brook Road, (Land also in Charlemont). Only \$3,000.

Jonathan H. Avery of Boxborough, to Amcourt Realty Trust, Raymond P. Bintliff, Trustee, Avery Brook Road, (Land also in Charlemont). Less than \$100.

William B. Avery Revocable Living Trust of Winter Park, FL, William B. Avery, Trustee, to Amcourt Realty Trust, Raymond P. Bintliff, Trustee, Avery Brook Road, (Land also in Charlemont). \$12,000.

James W. Bell of St. Petersburg, FL, to Elaine R. Menard of St. Augustine, FL, Waterfall Drive, Lot 18. \$1.00.

Phyllis S. Carlson of Greenfield, to Phyllis S. Carlson of Greenfield and Tom C. Carlson, 23 Jacksonville Stage Road. \$1.00.

Thomas G. and Carol A. Craner, to Kim E. Gangwisch-

Marsh of Westfield, 4 Town Farm Road. \$145,000.

Kenneth A. and Jean M. Dean, to Joseph W. and Carol J. Chagnon of Holyoke, 3 Chippawa Drive. \$19,500.

Deborah Guha of Jackson Heights, NY, to Amcourt Realty Trust, Raymond P. Bintliff, Trustee, Avery Brook Road, (Land also in Charlemont). Only \$3,000.

Robin H. Jenkins of West Barnstable, to Thomas D. and Robin H. Jenkins of West Barnstable, 32 Town Farm Road. \$1.00.

Janice and Frank G. Kelleher of York, ME, to Margaret A. Kelleher of Kauakakai, HI, Colrain Road, 5 acres. \$1.00.

Stanley R. and Lois A. Lachtara of Southampton, to Anthony and Shirley Ann Mancinone of Springfield, 54 Cascade Drive, Unit 1, Mohawk Estates. \$3,500.

Jonathan and Kerry LaFortune of Chester, VT, to Jason D. Hendricks of Holyoke, 23 Cheyenne Drive. \$2,500.

Norman H. and Anna D. Litke of Manchester, CT, to Anthony and Shirley A. Mancinone of Springfield, Mohawk Estates, Lots 25 & 26. \$5,000.

William and Donna W. Martin of Ludlow, to Donna W. Martin of Agawam, Cheyenne Street, Lots 17,18,19. No Consideration.

Rural Development Inc. of Turners Falls, to Stephen W. Charlton, Jr. and Alicia M. Charlton, Number 9 Road, Lot 3. No Consideration.

C. Richards Steinbock and Anne M. Cronin, to Anne C. Cronin, Burnt Hill Road, Lot 1. No Consideration.

Ronald J. Syriac of Warren; Kenneth W. Syriac of Southampton; Victoria C. Berry of West Warren; Donna M. Garstka of Southampton; Phillip M. Syriac of Ware; Renee M. Michelson of Escondido, CA, and Audrey J. Sullivan of Ludlow, to Albert Berry, Jr. of Windsor, CT, Thomas Berry of Springfield, and Betsy Gryszowka of Oakham, 25 Mohawk Beach Drive. Less than \$100.

Arlene M. Thane, to John R. and Patricia E. Tierney of Newington, CT, 64 Brunelle Road. \$132,500.

David J. Walas of Westfield, to Jeffrey S. Baird and James D. Baird of Greenfield, 7 Papoose Lake Drive. \$6,000.

Daryl E. Weckerly of Chicopee, to Gary and Linda Ann Goldberg of Springfield, 38 Waterfall Drive. \$7,000.

Eleanor Dun Wolf of Shelburne to Eleanor Dun Wolf of Shelburne and Edwin M. Wolf, 41 Branch Hill Road. \$1.00.

Mary L. Worcester of Northampton, to Happy Times Nominee Trust, Philip Schultz, Trustee, 1 Shawnee Drive, Lots 1 and 2. \$1.00.

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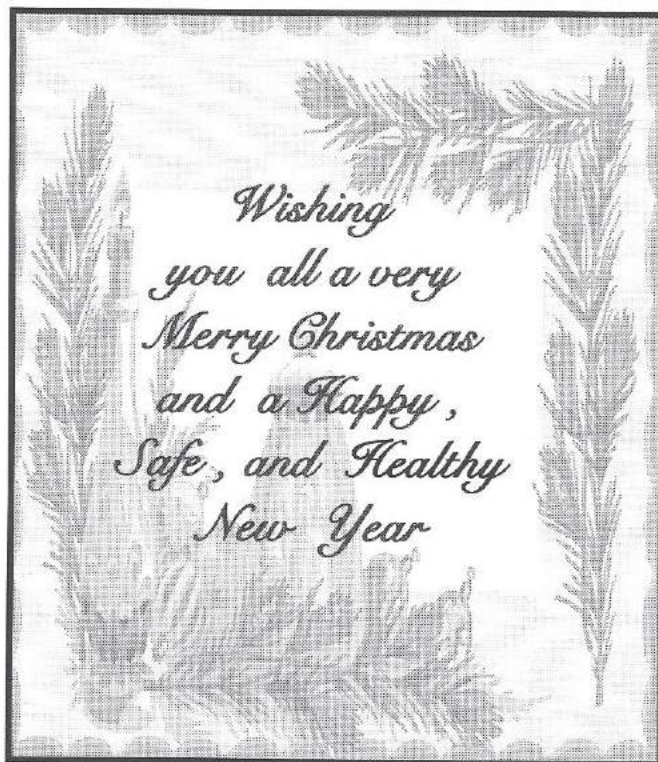
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## Heath Brook Studio

Heath Brook Studio will hold its 17th Annual Open Studio and Sale December 15 & 16. This year is the Grand Opening of the new hot shop. There will be glassblowing demonstrations all weekend. The hours are 10 to 4. Come see the new studio. Everyone is welcome! 10% of all proceeds will be donated to the Heath Land Preservation Fund.

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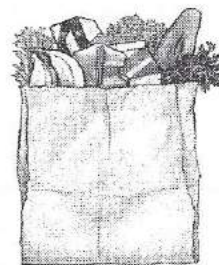


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