

## HEATH HERALD

## Heath's First Newspaper

75¢

Volume 24, Number 2

June/July 2002

## Mohawk Trail Regional High School



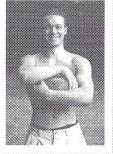
Andrea Beaudoin



Mary Rose Shattuck



Maya Donelson



Steven Smead



Joy Tuturice

# 2002 GRADUATES

Franklin County Technical School



Olin Schwenger-Sartz



Matt Crowningshield

	1000 p. 1100 1000		
	HEATT ELEVENTRAN SCHOOL	A second	
3.0	2504 2002 STEPHEN HEGHTEL UPPER SOUTH		

Heath Elementary School

First Row: Stephen Bechtel (teacher), Devon Ingraham-Adie, Katherine McGuire, Justin Begin, Kristia Grandison. Second Row: Daniel Clark, Justen Brooks, Ashley Williams, Bethany Sterling, Sean Coooper. Third Row: Corrina Inman, Christopher Wilkins, Jessica Erho, Zakes Warner, Andrew Blanchard, Kenneth Bradley.

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From the Editor

## Hilltown Rambles

The other day I was looking through some back issues of the Heath Herald. I was constantly amazed and consistently impressed with the writing that has been created in our town. The reporting, regular columns, artwork, photographs and the guest contributions that have graced these pages over time have produced a goodly body of work for 24 years. Yes, 24 years! Last issue marked the anniversary of this paper's 24th year in business. Now, I don't know about you, but that means a lot to the Herald staff. It means that throughout it all, the Heath Herald staff has delivered with fortitude and steadfastness, a paper that tries to be worthy of its town and environs, its community and people.

Two years ago, being inspired by Heath and its community, I gingerly took over the reins of managing editor and I still feel as lucky now as I did then to be part of this dynamic tradition. The appearance of such a wonderful, thorough, energetic staff helps me to feel that I had made the right decision to join.

It is time to bid a fond farewell to our Milestones reporter, Edith Royer who has retired from a job she has done well since the August 1979 issue when she joined the staff as a regular contributor. The Milestones column began in the October 1979 issue. Edith was made a staff reporter in December/ January 1981-82 and first gained a by-line in the February/ March 1982 issue. The Herald staff thanks Edith for all her good work and wishes her all the best.

Congratulations once again to all the graduates! I know this is a very important, magical moment for you as you head off into growth and change. Have a remarkable spring.

A heads-up about the fair and a Save This Date - August 16, 17, 18 - for fairgoing. Next issue is promised to be a "Fair Issue" and Bob DeLisle and the Heath Agricultural Society have some marvelous surprises in store. This issue is chock-full of news, informative columns, and thoughtful writing. Read away!

Until we meet again,

~ Lea Banks Bohrer

"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow(s); and along those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and they come back to us as effects."

~ Herman Melville

## **Heath Herald**

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Reporters

Charlene Churchill, Timothy Lively, The Selectboard

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#### Connections

## Margo Newton

#### By Pat Leuchtman

Margo Newton is an independent woman with a mind of her own, but when it comes to community service, she has proven herself a soft touch.

It was about nine years ago, not too long after she had moved to Heath, when she was renewing her pistol permit, that Police Chief Tom Rabbit started talking to her about becoming a Heath Police Officer. In fact, when Margo graduated from high school, being a police officer was her ambition, but, at that time, the physical requirements were all geared to men. "You had to be able to carry 150 pounds up a ladder," Margo said, "and there was no way I could do that. By the time Tom talked to me, many requirements had been changed, but I just never got around to signing up for the Police Academy. Finally, one day he asked me what I was doing the following Saturday. I said nothing, and he said then I was reporting to the Police Academy. He had already signed me up."

At that time 96 hours of training qualified you for the police reserve which is how Margo serves. "You have all the responsibilities of a regular police officer, but you cannot be hired in a 40-hour-a-week position. Tom felt that a woman would be helpful in certain situations and that often women were more apt to open up to a woman. In addition to the regular training, I took a week-long rape course." Margo is also sworn in as an officer in Colrain, and sometimes works there.

Tom Rabbit wasn't the last person to pester Margo about working for the town. When Assessor Joanne Fortune was preparing to return to school, she talked Margo into taking over her position. Margo was elected as a write-in candidate. She said she was nervous at first about working with Don Dekker and Henry Leuchtman because she did not know them well and thought she would have to keep her lively sense of humor to herself. That fear was quickly put to rest, and Margo said the best part of the job is working with Henry and Don.

Last year Marcella Lively asked Margo to be her substitute in the post office while she went on vacation and later when she needed time with her husband Paul in his last illness. The job intrigued Margo, and when Marcella decided to retire she applied and is now our post office manager. "Marcella told me I'd have a lot of fun in the post office and she was right. It's a low pressure job. At least, there is not the same kind of stress as in police work, or the pressure that the assessors have at certain times of the year." Tammy Hicks at the Charlemont Post Office is Margo's supervisor, and she is very helpful when there are problems or questions.

Margo's heart, if not her home, has been in the hills for many years. During the hippie days of the early '70s Margo and her family lived in Colrain at Sunrise Farm. At that time, during rides around the countryside, she became interested in Heath. In the meantime, she and her family moved to Montague City, but she told her husband that as soon as their two daughters, Tracy and Jill, graduated from high school she wanted to move. Margo laughs when she says that the day after Jill's graduation in 1987 she put out a "For Sale" sign. Land was bought in Heath, but it took two more years to complete a new house on Town Farm Road.

"I love the people. Everyone is so friendly. Everyone is willing to help out - in big ways and little ways. I love being waved at when I'm driving. Here we know our neighbors and are ready to help them. It wasn't like that in Montague City."

Certainly Margo felt the support and thoughtfulness of

many people when she had surgery for breast cancer and during her recuperation. "I didn't want to admit how much it took out of me, but now I'm feeling so much better and am starting to get back in shape. My brother just gave me a canoe, so I think I'll be doing more outdoor things."



Heath depends

on the skill, labor, and good will of people like Margo who serve our town, cooperating with other town officers and employees. The positions she holds are more than jobs to her and to us. Her work for the town is what makes all our lives safer, easier, and more pleasant.

Thank you, Margo



We would like to continue our series on Heath trees and, to this end, are asking you, our readers, to tell us about your favorites. You can write about them or we will.

## Selectboard's Report

### **Town Business**

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

#### **Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meetings**

A Special Town Meeting at the Heath Elementary School on May 11 at 8:30 a.m. was convened to clean up the FY02 budget by transferring funds from over-funded accounts to those with deficits so that the books can be balanced for the fiscal year that ends on June 30. Karen Moore was elected moderator for both meetings due to a schedule conflict for Doug Wilkins. Immediately following the Special Town Meeting was the Annual Town Meeting. A budget of \$1,142,042.20 was passed after some discussion. The budget is \$191,821.95 less than last year's budget due to a reduction in the Mohawk School assessment of over \$107,000, the repayment of some loans, reductions in spending for police, the building manager, and some highway department accounts. An article to approve the purchase of a new truck for the highway department was passed. The new truck will replace a vehicle that is two years overdue according to our equipment replacement schedule. Articles to establish a non-criminal fine system for violations of town ordinances and a proposed dog regulation ordinance generated the most discussion. In the end both passed with large margins of support. A moment of silence was observed to remember the passing of John Churchill, former highway superintendent and lifelong resident of Heath.

#### **Town Elections**

The results of the elections of May 10 are as follows: Brian DeVriese, selectman; Henry Leuchtman, assessor; Doug Wilkins, moderator; David Howland, finance committee; Charlene Churchill, finance committee; Jane deLeeuw, library trustee; Dino Schnelle, planning board; David Cote, dog officer; Bud Kaempfer, constable, and Robert Tanner, constable.

#### Community Hall and Sawyer Hall

The CDBG grant award for the Sawyer Hall accessibility improvements has been approved while the Community Hall grant to establish a Senior Center was denied due to an excessive amount of use for municipal government purposes, according to the state reviewers of the grant applications. Subsequent to the denial, meetings with state officials and John Merrigan, our state representative, have established that this grant will likely be awarded in the next funding round due this coming August. Changes to the grant application will be made to reduce or eliminate town government use of the building for a period of five years. In the meantime, Architects Inc. of Northampton has completed plans for structural repairs to the damaged truss in the roof of the Community Hall. An estimate for the repair came in at about \$20,000 which is within the amount available to the Town for this project. The Town will be soliciting bids from contractors to do repairs that will allow the building to be reopened for public use. The work should

be completed this summer. A request for proposals for architectural design services will be issued soon for the Sawyer Hall accessibility project. The bulk of the work will be the installation of an elevator to provide access to the second floor offices. The project will be administered by the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority and will be fully funded by the state.

#### **Three-Town Landfill**

Meetings with the member towns, state representatives, and Department of Environmental Protection officials have been held to try to get financial assistance from the state for the upcoming project. A meeting has been scheduled in Boston for town officials from the three towns to meet with legislators on the problem of funding the project. No progress has been made on arriving at an agreement for allocation of costs related to the closing and maintenance of the landfill. The deed transferring ownership to the three towns remains unsigned.

#### **Heath On-line**

Take some time to visit the Town's home page <a href="https://www.townofheath.org">www.townofheath.org</a>. 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 <a href="mailto:BOS@townofheath.org">BOS@townofheath.org</a>. 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 Summer

## **Articles For Sale**

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#### **Irises**

#### By Dianne Cerone



Irises are the glory of spring and early summer, filling the yard with a rainbow of color. Most everyone has some memories of irises, perhaps from grandma's or a neighbor's yard, like tall purple or two-tone ones. They put on a show that commands everyone's attention. But did you know that there are more kinds of irises than the tall ones? Today there are more varieties from which to choose than the ones that were in those gardens we remember as

youngsters. Irises can be put into a few groups, but for the purposes of this article, I shall focus on only one group, the bearded irises.

Bearded irises have three petals (standards) that stand up arching upward toward the center of the flower, and three petals (falls) that arch down away from the center of the flower. They are so called because of a fuzzy "beard" that can be found on the falls near the center of the flower. These irises are the most commonly known and recognized, and also have been the most popular with gardeners. They come in a wide range of colors and sizes with bloom time from mid April into early June (or later in the hills). The requirements for success in growing any bearded iris include planting in an area with at least six hours of sun a day, with well drained, light, fertilized soil that is low in nitrogen.

The iris show starts with the miniature dwarf bearded (MDB). Growing from two to eight inches high, they do very well in rock gardens and form dense carpets of color. MDBs begin blooming in April, although maybe not in Heath, and are followed by the standard dwarf bearded (SDB) that grow from eight to fifteen inches high and do not take long to establish nice clumps. SDBs create floats of spring color, making them perfect for edging perennial beds. These first two, MDBs and SDBs, are the easiest to grow and every garden should have several.

In the mid-height range, 16 to about 28 inches, there are three iris types from which to choose, the intermediate bearded (IB), the border bearded (BB), and the miniature tall bearded (MTB). The IBs begin blooming with the SDBs and overlap into the tall bearded bloom time. There is a lot of variety in this class, with some making nice clumps of color, and others showing off nicely branched stalks, that stand as specimen plantings.

The BBs bloom at the same time as the tall bearded, yet have the same height range as the IBs. Several BBs can be a challenge to grow, but their round, ruffled petals complimented by their smaller size make them worth the challenge. The MTBs, also in the mid-height range, have the same bloom time as the tall bearded, and are nicknamed Table Irises because they are ideal for table centerpieces. The

MTBs are dainty irises perfectly proportioned with thin stems and small blossoms that flit in the breeze like butterflies. The plant habit is compact and fits well into smaller areas of the garden, making it another great garden plant for the perennial borders.

The show stoppers of the bearded iris family are the tall bearded irises (TB). They grow from 20 to 40 inches and come in all shades from pure white to black purple. They are majestic plants with huge showy blossoms that will turn the heads of passers-by. They do not make clumps as do the smaller irises, but rather grow better when kept to a few rhizomes. One stalk can produce three or four branches with up to ten successive blossoms. Up here in Heath, you may want to stake the taller ones because the wind can knock these top-heavy stems right down to the ground.

There is a yearly iris show in Shelburne that usually falls on the first weekend in June at which the public can view and purchase these tall beauties along with other irises. If you are interested in learning more about bearded irises, as well as other varieties, visit the American Iris Society web site at www.irises.org.



## **Heath Elementary School News**

## By Susan Todd

As this year draws to a close there is so much to be grateful for at the Heath School. We have certainly been confronted with our share of challenges, but the spirit of collaboration and caring is so strong here that we have been able to maintain our focus on the whole joyful enterprise of our children's learning - and our own, as well.

There is so much to report since our last column. Before I begin, I would like to say how particularly grateful we are for the community support that was evident at this year's Town Meeting on May 11. Thank you to everyone. I hope you were able to admire the Heath Heritage mural that has found a permanent home on the wall of the gymnasium-as well as the exhibits on display in our Water Museum in the Open Space.

Environment as the Integrating Context for Learning (EIC). Recently the Heath School received two wonderful pieces of news. The first was we have been named an EIC school, one of seven demonstration sites selected in the state. The guiding principles of EIC are ones that have been valued by the Heath School since its founding. The staff has long used the natural environment as a resource for teaching. We now will have the network available to learn new ways of using not only the physical world around us for learning, but the cultural resources as well. We will receive assistance in using the EIC model for implementing education standards and frameworks, designing and monitoring student assessment instruments, and creating professional development opportunities for our staff.

Massachusetts Environmental Trust Grant. The Hitch-cock Center in Amherst has been notified that they have received a \$30,000 grant to support a continuation of our watershed studies at the Heath School. This means that Ted Watt will be working with the staff and students again next year as we deepen the scientific inquiry into our local environment that has proved so important to the school this year. What is so significant about this grant is that we have the opportunity to solidify our teaching skills in this content area and provide students the time and resources to study subject matter thoroughly. Very often we need to skip from topic to topic, just skimming the surface. Because of the MET grant, we will be able to fulfill our commitment to the integration of curriculum and doing a "few things well."

Music. One of the most exciting parts of this year has been the revitalization and expansion of our music program. Our classroom music teacher, Susanne Barkan, has been working with the Mohawk Trail Concerts and the New England Conservatory of Music to bring exceptional performers to the Heath School. Many citizens of the town have joined the children in appreciating the Borromeo and Tetra Quartets. On April 30, the community enjoyed our own young musicians in a wonderful spring concert. Under the direction of Joan Fitzgerald, our band instrument instructor, and Diane Kraichnan, our strings instructor, nearly 40 children per-

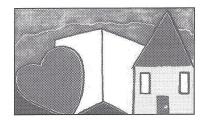
formed exceptionally well.

Water Pageant. Matthew Glassman, Susanne Barkan, and many staff people are hard at work with the children to prepare for our Water Pageant, scheduled for Friday evening, June 14. We encourage everyone to attend this great celebration of our thematic study of water this year when we will integrate our scientific study with the visual and performing arts. This presentation is being funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council Creative Schools Program and National Endowment of the Arts.

Watercolors with Julie Hall Rocke. As an additional part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council Creative Schools grant, we have been able to offer watercolor instruction with Julie Hall Rocke to all our students. These beautiful works will be on display at the end of the year, and we hope you will be able to view them at the Water Pageant. We look forward to a happy and fulfilling end of the school year, and thank each and every staff person and parent and community member for all that they have contributed to the education of our students.

## **Heath Preschool**

The Heath Preschool is currently conducting its preregistration for the 2002-2003 school year. Children from Heath who will be three or four years old by August 31, 2002, are eligible to attend. For more information, please contact Suzanne Crawford at either of the following numbers: 337-5307 (Heath School Monday - Thursday through mid-June) or 339-4265 (home).



Fund-raiser a Success

The Friends of the Heath School Library (FHSL), wish to thank all those who contributed to making our first fund-raiser for the Heath Elementary School Library such a success.

Our breakfast which included coffee, tea, juice, and an array of home-baked treats and bagels was enjoyed by the citizens who attended the Special and Annual Town Meetings held at Heath School on Saturday, May 11.

The FHSL pin (see above), designed and made by Helen Mackie with the cooperation of Bald Mountain Pottery, was on sale as well. The cost of this colorful pin is \$15.00, \$12.50 of which goes to the library. The pin will be on sale at all our events.

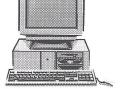
We expect to make the breakfast an annual happening. Join us next year!

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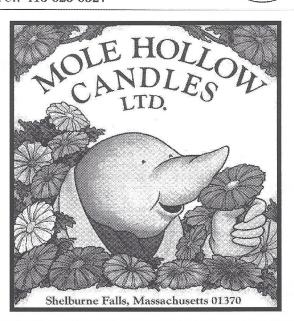
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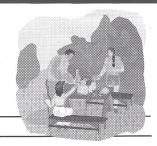
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### Town Nurse Notes



## **Food Poisoning And Prevention**



### By Joanne Fortune, RN

It's summer and time for picnics and cookouts. Any food left on the picnic table after everyone has eaten should be removed immediately and refrigerated to avoid the possibility of food poisoning.

Clostridial (Clostridium perfringens) food poisoning is the most reported of all types of food-borne diseases. It likes to live in beef, pork, lamb, and beans (protein-rich foods) that have not been refrigerated promptly or adequately. The incubation period is 8-14 hours. Symptoms include moderate to severe cramping, abdominal pain, and watery diarrhea. Nausea and vomiting are rare. Recovery is often within 24 hours.

Staphylococcal (Staphylococcus aureus) food poisoning is the second most reported. The incubation period is 1-6 hours. Examples of the foods this bacteria prefers are hot dogs, cold cuts, ham, hamburger meat, fish, dairy products, cream-filled pastries, potato salad, coleslaw, and deviled eggs. (Hard-boiled eggs should be handled as aseptically as possible and cooled promptly). The symptoms are abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, exhaustion, and diarrhea. The symptoms last for several hours but recovery is complete. The source of the staphylococci may be from a sneeze but the most common is from boils or abscesses on the hands of the food preparer.

Clostridium Botulism spores exist in the intestines of many humans, fish, birds, and farm animals. The spores reach the soil and often cling to harvested vegetables. The toxin is lethal when it is absorbed into the bloodstream. The symptoms, which develop within hours, look like a stroke. They are blurred vision, slurred speech, labored breathing, and difficulty in swallowing and chewing. The limbs lose their tone and become limp. The nerve impulses can't pass into the muscles so the muscles don't contract which, if the patient is not hospitalized, leads to respiratory paralysis and death.

Contaminating microorganisms enter foods from different sources. Airborne organisms fall onto fruits and vegetables and penetrate through an abrasion of the skin or rind. Soil-borne bacteria is found on vegetable crops. Shellfish strain contaminated water and catch the organisms in their filtering apparatus. Rodents and insects transport microorganisms on their feet as they walk on foods in warehouses. Human handling provides a source of contamination. The warm hold of a ship or a hot and humid warehouse act as an incubator for the growth of pathogens.

Microorganisms from beef accumulate in the teeth of the grinder while the meat is being ground into hamburger. Bacteria from the preparer's hands or from a sneeze add to the mix. The grinder may be cleaned well but is seldom sterilized (some butchers refrigerate their grinder while not in use). An uncooked hamburger rapidly deteriorates since microorganisms exist within the loosely packed ground meat as well as on the surface. When this hamburger is left out on a table, the bacteria will multiply. Meat that is marinating and meat waiting for the grill should be refrigerated.

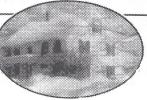
Some microorganisms withstand the heat of cooking and the cold of a refrigerator. Every time food is left out, any microorganism that has already started to multiply from the time the food was first handled, starts growing again. Cookouts are fun. I encourage you to use care in preparing, cooking, and storing food.

As the Town Nurse, I see people in their home. I can be reached at 337-5716 for appointments or questions. Have a healthy, safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer.

The grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.

~ Joseph Addison

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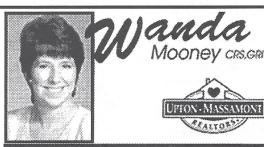
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### **Milestones**

Born May 16, 2002, a daughter, **Sydney Anne**, to Dana (Wolanske) and Chris Unaitis of Greenfield; granddaughter of Pamela and Robert Wolanske and Richard Unaitis, all of Greenfield, and Diane and David Cote of Heath; greatgranddaughter of Bernice and Joseph Poirier and Lucy and Ken Lincoln of Greenfield.



**Dominic Musacchio**, of Greenfield, died April 26, 2002. Born in Postocannone, Italy, on August 26, 1921, he was the son of Andrea and Veneranda Viola Musacchio who came to the United States and settled in Pittsfield when Dominic was fourteen.

After service in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, he co-founded the Greenfield Open Air Market in 1947. His sons, Andrew of Bernardston, and John of Heath, continue to run the greenhouse business today.

Since 1974, he and his wife, Mafalda Grande Musacchio, have been summer residents of Heath.

An ardent woodworker, he built furniture for civic organizations including the Town of Heath, the Heath Historical Society, and the Heath Elementary School.

In addition to his wife and two sons, he is survived by another son, Joseph of Hamilton; a daughter, Donna Kilgour of Greenfield; a brother, Joseph of Dalton; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Following services at Holy Trinity Church, burial was in the Calvary Cemetery, Greenfield. Memorial contributions may be made to the Holy Trinity Renovation Fund, 133 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301.

Ernest H. Royer, of Buckland, died May 7, 2002. Born in Heath on February 7, 1925, he was the son of Andreas (Andy) and Helen Weber Royer and the stepson of Edith Coates Royer, a longtime resident of Heath, now of Greenfield.

He attended local schools, graduating from Arms Academy. As a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, he served in World War II. He was employed as a mechanic at the former S&J Service Station in Shelburne Falls for 27 years and as a school bus driver for the Mohawk School district for 13 years.

In addition to his stepmother, he is survived by his wife Helen Arabia Royer, seven sons, Peter of Hadley, Michael of Shelburne Falls, Kenneth of Gill, Timothy of Hendersonville, TN, Ernest of Leyden, Christopher of Long Plains, TN, and Adam of Greenfield; thirteen grandchildren, and two greatgranddaughters. An infant child predeceased him.

Burial was in the West Branch Cemetery, Colrain. Memorial contributions may be made to the Keith Billiel Scholarship Fund c/o the Bank of Western Massachusetts, Attn.: Agnes Newland, 90 Bridge Street, Shelburne Falls 01370.

### **Defibrillator Donated**



**First Row:** Pictured accepting the new defibrillator are Fire Chief Mike Smith and Timothy Lively, EMT. **Second Row:** Council on Aging members: Marilyn Klockers, Dorothy Sessions, Alli Thane-Stetson, Joanne Fortune.

## **Heath Emergency Services News**

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

3/06/02 - West Main Street - Medical

3/18/02 - Rt. 8A North - Medical

3/20/02 - Rt. 8A North - Medical

4/10/02 - Main Street - Medical

4/11/02 - Number Nine Rd. - Medical

4/14/02 - Ledge Rd. - Medical

4/22/02 - Branch Hill Rd. - Medical

5/06/02 - West Branch Rd - Stood by at a structure fire

5/06/02 - Rt. 8A North - Medical

As of this issue, five of our firemen got recertified as First Responders after attending classes held at Rowe Fire Department in April. Congratulations to all. The Heath Fire Department through the generosity and funding of the Heath Council on Aging was able to purchase a new defibrillator recently. This new unit will replace our current unit, which is now ten years old. Funding was also provided from the Council on Aging to buy some EMT supplies. A big thank you to the Council on Aging.

~ Timothy Lively - EMT



## The Way It Is In The Country "If it's old, works well and has a purpose in life, don't change it."

## A Tribute to John Churchill

By Carroll Stowe

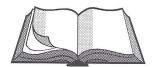
There's not paper enough to hold the fond feelings John's friends and family had for him. John was a great neighbor always ready to befriend all who darkened his door. Everyone that John touched had a very special memory of some favor he did for them. It was my feeling standing at his burial service that not nearly as many attended as had felt John's kindness.

For all John did for this town, it seems so unfair that records of his earlier employment were lost so that he didn't receive any part that was due him.

When he looked after our roads, the hours were long and filled with frustrations and no one can fully appreciate the long hours John spent on the town's old snowplow tractor as well. It was a most lonely task to try to create a road to some isolated

The last work John did for me was to put the magneto back on our old H Farmall after I'd had it refurbished. I seldom start that old iron but I am reminded of John Churchill's kindness. One can only say: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

### Library Lines



## **New Books Purchased**

Heath Public Library received an \$800 grant from the Heath Council on Aging this year. Our grant money has been used to purchase twenty-five new large-print books and about twenty-five new audiobooks. The Friends of the Heath Public Library matched the money for the audiobooks. We are very grateful to the Council on Aging and our Friends group for their help in these two important areas.

Our summer reading program will be starting soon. The theme this year is: "Star Spangled Summer." We want to encourage all children in town to participate in this great program. Stop in at the library to pick up a reading log to keep track of your summer reading and watch the West County News for information about our summer activities here at the library!

Among the many new audiobooks available at the library are Gone With The Wind by Margaret Mitchell, My Stroke of Luck by Kirk Douglas, Chosen Prey by John Sandford, and Empire Falls by Richard Russo. The new adult fiction books include At Swim, Two Boys by Jamie O'Neill, The Passion of Artemisia by Susan Vreeland, The Ladies Farm by Viqui Litman, and The Fiery Cross by Diana Gabaldon. The adult non-fiction books are A Song Flung Up To Heaven by Maya Angelou, Simple Pleasures by Susannah Seton, Robert Taylor, and David Greer, Madonna by Andrew Morton, The Lessons of Terror by Caleb Carr, and Holy War, Inc. by Peter L. Bergen.

~ Charlene Churchill

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## Monthly Newsletter

## The Statewide Anti-Terrorism Unified Response Network (SATURN)

### By Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

Since the September 11 attacks, the Commonwealth has begun to design a public system to prevent and address future acts of terrorism. Federal, State, and local officials have identified several prevention and response measures that would benefit through a greater collaboration of public safety resources. No longer will the system rely upon a top-down approach, in which local agencies and emergency responders sometimes found themselves on the bottom looking up at a distant bureaucracy. Rather, this new approach recognizes the critical role of local officials and residents and uses an effective network of communication that is intended to prevent future acts of terrorism.

Former State Senator James P. Jajuga, who was recently appointed Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety, has initiated the Statewide Anti-Terrorism Unified Response Network, also known as SATURN. The mission of this new program, which the Federal Office of Homeland Security has heralded as a national model, is to bring together intelligence, information-sharing, and first responder networks that will enhance existing public safety infrastructures. SATURN's success in detecting and preventing terrorist threats will, to a large extent, depend on the coordination of local fire, police, and emergency management officials.

Secretary Jajuga, working with U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan and many others, developed a strategy in which every community across the Commonwealth is outfitted with an authorized anti-terrorism team. The teams, Red (fire), White (emergency management), and Blue (police), are trained in terrorism prevention and response, and are closely linked to the Massachusetts State Police, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the FBI, and the U.S. Attorney's office. Every city and town will send a representative from its fire, emergency management, and police departments to receive comprehensive training in terrorism prevention and response. The participants will then train their respective staffs in their city or town.





Databases have been integrated into law enforcement systems that can be accessed by local, state, and federal authorities. This enables the Red, White, and Blue Teams to distribute real-time alerts about suspicious activities that may be associated with terrorism. If, for example, a threat was uncovered in a small town, the town police department could instantly notify state and federal authorities with specific information pertaining to the suspect(s). Likewise, if a federal or state agency detected a terrorist threat, the Red, White, and Blue Team in the community would be alerted, and a previously established action plan would immediately be put into place. This is an improvement on the previous response system, in which many local officials were left out of the information-sharing loop. Similarly, the Team's ability to promptly disseminate information to other local officials is a tool that will assist response teams around the state.

Aside from relying on local, state, and federal resources, SATURN depends on members of the public to provide law enforcement officials with any information they may have regarding terrorist-related activities. A toll free Terrorism Tip Line (1-888-USA-5458), which is administered by the State Police's Anti-Terrorism Unit, has been established to encourage the public to report any leads related to potential terrorist threats.

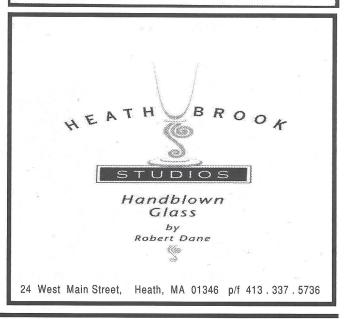
I encourage those interested in learning more about this important issue to visit the SATURN web site, at <a href="https://www.mass.gov/SATURN">www.mass.gov/SATURN</a> And, as always, please feel free to contact my district office at 413-442-6810 with any state-related concerns you may have.

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## Hilltown Tastes

## Strawberries, Strawberries, Strawberries



By Jane deLeeuw

Strawberries in the language of flowers represent 'intoxication and delight." In herbal language, they are symbolic of 'perfect righteousness."

Do we ever get enough? Picking strawberries in June was an eagerly looked-forward-to family outing when the kids were little. I still do it. Our area boasts many pick-your-own fields where if one doesn't have a personal patch, one can harvest these luscious fruits to one's heart and taste buds' content.

Many people pick quantities to preserve and freeze. Since I prefer to eat them fresh, I limit myself to the quantity I can consume in a few days. I find I eat them sometimes three times a day!

Strawberries have many uses and can be served in a variety of ways, of course - plain, with cream and sugar, on cereal, ice cream, yogurt, and, on one of my personal favorites, lemon sorbet; in fruit salad, punch and wine, smoothies, in crisps and pie, and in that all-time American favorite, strawberry shortcake.

For me the best dessert is a bowl of glistening berries accompanied, if added sweetness is desired, by some powdered sugar for dipping. But for entertaining, a fancier dessert is often required (and expected). Herein are three recipes, a variation of strawberry shortcake, a strawberry-rhubarb crisp, and a topping for ice cream, sorbet, or yogurt.

## Four-Layer Strawberry Cake

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

6 eggs

1.1/2 cups of sugar

2/3 cup water

3 teaspoons grated orange rind

1/2 teaspoon salt

2 teaspoons baking powder

2 cups flour

1 1/2 quarts fresh berries, sliced (saving some whole for top garnish)

2 pints heavy cream

Sugar and vanilla to taste

Beat eggs and sugar together. Add water, orange rind, salt, baking powder, and flour. Beat well. Grease two cookie sheets with sides and line with waxed paper. Pour batter into pans, one half in each. Bake 15 minutes or until done. Let cool in pans. Whip cream, add sugar and vanilla to taste. Cut cakes in

half. Put one layer on serving dish. Spread a thin layer of cream evenly on top. Cover with one third of the berries. Put second layer on top. Cover with cream and berries. Repeat with all layers. Ice cake with remaining cream. Garnish with berries. Refrigerate until serving time.

## Strawberry-Rhubarb Crisp

A classic sweet-sour combination, a sure sign of spring.

#### Almond Toppin

1 cup slivered almonds

I cup all-purpose flour

1 cup (packed) brown sugar

1/8 teaspoon salt

8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted cold butter

6 stalks rhubarb

1.1/2 pints strawberries

6 tablespoons granulated sugar

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

vanilla ice cream or yogurt unsweetened whipped cream

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Toast almonds in preheated oven until lightly browned (6-8 minutes). Cool and chop coarsely. Combine almonds with flour, brown sugar, and salt, in a bowl. Cut butter into pieces. Add to flour mixture. Rub mixture between palms incorporating butter to make a crumbly topping. Set aside in a cool place. Peel away the red outer skin of rhubarb, trim off ends. Cut stalks into 3/4 or one inch pieces. You should have about three cups. Hull berries and cut in half. Toss fruit until evenly coated with granulated sugar. Place fruit in a 6 x 10 inch baking dish and cover evenly with topping. Bake for one hour until bubbly, brown, and crisp. Serve warm plain or with ice cream, yogurt, or whipped cream.

## Fruit Supreme

2 small or 1 large fresh pineapple

2 quarts strawberries

4-6 bananas

I cup slivered almonds

Peel, core, and cut pineapple into thin slivers. If necessary, sugar very lightly. Wash and hull strawberries. Leave them whole. Near serving time, slice bananas and sprinkle with lemon juice (this keeps them from darkening). Toast slivered almonds in slow 300 degree oven until lightly browned. Mix fruit together and serve over two quarts lemon sorbet, vanilla ice cream, or frozen yogurt and top with almonds.

Fine as is but for an added touch, serve with sauce.

("Hilltown Tastes" continued on page 15)

("Hilltown Tastes" continued from page 14)

## **Optional Sauce**

1/2 cup butter

1 1/2 cups brown sugar (or more according to taste)

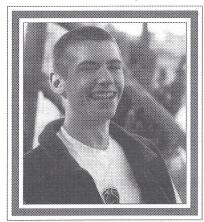
2/3 cup pineapple juice

2/3 cup + 1/3 cup of orange juice, separated Rum extract or light rum.

Melt butter in a skillet. Add brown sugar. Let this mixture cook and bubble over moderate heat two to three minutes, watching that sugar does not burn. Add pineapple juice and 2/3 cup orange juice. Cook until sugar is dissolved and sauce is syrupy. Add rest of orange juice and rum extract or light rum to taste.

Pass warm sauce at table. Serves about eight.

## Presidential Scholar at Clarkson University



Carl Ayers was named a Presidential Scholar for the Fall 2001 and Spring 2002 semesters at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY. This award is given to students who attain a grade point average of 3.8 or higher. Carl recently completed his sophomore year at Clarkson and is presently employed in a twelve-week internship program with URS Corporation in its Atlanta, GA, office. URS Corporation is the largest civil engineering company in the United States and has offices in thirty countries around the world. Carl is the son of Hilma Sumner and is a 2000 graduate of Mohawk Trail Regional High School.

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## Excerpte from the Farmer's Almanac

## June

The crescent Moon meets Venus on the 13th, as the evening star brightens and shifts more to the left each night. Twilight reaches its longest length, and daylight its maximum amount, when the solstice arrives at 9:24 a.m. to usher in the summer on the 21st. As luck would have it, an annular solar eclipse on the 10th and a penumbral lunar eclipse on the 24th are both invisible from North America. True night (full darkness) is now less than five hours long for everyone north of Philadelphia or Denver.

#### Moon Phases:

(Last Quarter	June 2	
<ul> <li>New Moon</li> </ul>	June 10	
) First Quarter	June 17	
O Full Moon	June 24	

## July

Earth arrives at its annual aphelion (point farthest from the Sun) at midnight on the night of July 5-6. Though now 7 percent dimmer than in January, the Sun's overhead position makes this the warmest month in most locations in the mid-Northern Hemisphere. Venus, steadily brightening in the western sky at dusk, meets Leo's blue star, Regulus, on the 10th. Jupiter is behind the Sun, where it crosses unseen into Cancer, its home for the rest of the year. At midmonth, Vega, the brightest star that ever reaches zenith from most of the United States, hovers over at midnight.

#### Moon Phases:

July 2
July 10
July 17
July 24

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From Scenes of Clerical Life by George Eliot

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