



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

\$1.00

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June/July 2003

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Class of 2003



Dominic Cerone



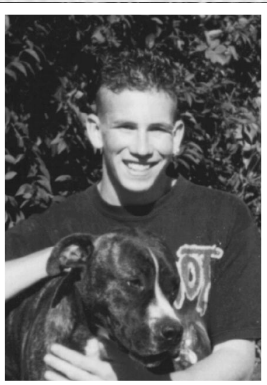
Carly Nartowicz



Amelia Rocchi



Sarah Wodin-Schwartz



George Walker Blue



Mary Lemelin



Amy Holden



Heather Sessions

| In this issue..... | |
|---|----|
| Graduates of 1983 - Where are they today? | 2 |
| The Church at Heath 1769-1895 | 4 |
| Trees | 5 |
| Green Thoughts | 6 |
| News from Burnt Hill Farm | 13 |
| Wild Animal Sighting | 17 |

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Graduates of 1983 - Where Are They Today?

For this graduation issue, we asked the Heath high school and college graduates of 1983 (those we could locate) to tell us what they have been up to since that graduation. We heard from several and about others.

Mohawk Regional High School Class of 1983

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| David Clark | Tena Smith |
| Matthew denOuden | Diane Stowe |
| Sheri Ann Gailpo | Eric Sumner |
| Peter Kain | |

Franklin County Technical High School

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| James A. Fournier | Michael J. Peters |
| Matthew T. Lively | Dale M. Sessions |

The Academy at Charlemont

Jerome Lively

East Charlemont Bible School

Faye Hamilton

Greenfield Community College

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Jean M. Holdsworth | John M. Porter |
| Martha L. Howland | Katherine Reilly |
| Robin H. Law | |

Matthew Lively

After graduation, Matt worked on a Northfield farm for two years before returning home to Fresh Winds Farm to join his father Paul in his excavating business.

Following Paul's death in August, 2001, Matt took over the business renaming it "Matt's Trucking." In addition, he is a supplier of wood to many winter-wood-burning Heathans.

His two children, Alex, 17, and Maria, 15, are both students at Franklin County Technical School in the landscaping program.

Michael Peters

After graduation, Michael worked briefly for Bete Fog Nozzle Company and then for Greenfield Steel Stamp Company before taking over the family store, Peters General Store, which he operated from 1985 until his untimely death February 10, 1997, in a snowmobile accident. In addition to running the store full-time, he served for several years as the president of the Heath Agricultural Society, and, in his "leisure" time, he continued his boyhood love of maple sugaring and developed a new interest in aerial photography.

Sheri Ann Galipo Henry

Sheri Ann, according to her aunt Teresa Peters, went on to graduate from Katharine Gibbs in Boston. She currently lives in Roanoke, VA, where she is employed as a dental hygienist. In addition, she owns and runs a temp agency for dental hygienists.

("Graduates of 1983" continued on page 3)



Franklin County Tech

Luke Inman

6th grade Heath Elementary School



First Row: Stephen Bechtel (teacher), Anne Muenkel, Alex Geyster, Mark Almeida, Marisa Charlton, Leah Post-Lumbis, Heather Weber. **Second Row:** Megan Kain, Luke Patenaude, Della Sorensen Hubermon, Catherine Lemelin, Catherine Moore, Joseph LaPointe, Reed Phillips, Collin Furlon.

("Graduates of 1983" continued from page 2)

Dale M. Sessions

Dale, according to his grandmother Dot Sessions, is an architect living in San Francisco where he also grows spectacular orchids.

And in their own words.....

Eric Sumner

After graduating from Mohawk I attended G.C.C. for two years. I then worked for a couple of years before transferring to Amherst College. Graduating from Amherst in 1990, I went on to receive my teachers certification. I taught school for several years at The Academy at Charlemont and at Greenfield High School before leaving the profession. I am currently employed as the production staff manager at Hill-side Plastics in Turners Falls.

A longtime dream was fulfilled six years ago when I was able to purchase the old family farm on Sumner Stetson Road. Now most weekends are devoted to home improvement projects and cutting wood.

Earlier this year I married a high school classmate, Mary Boyd, and am enjoying being a husband, as well as a stepfather to six-year-old Lillian. To add to our joy, we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of a new baby later this summer!

David Clark

Since graduation in 1983 I have worked various jobs such as logging, handling lumber in a sawmill, and as an auto

mechanic. For the past 10 years I have been a truck driver/equipment operator for the Town of Heath Highway Department. I met my wonderful wife, Carla, in 1984 and married her in 1993. We had a beautiful little boy, Dawson, in December of 1999. We have lived in our current house in the woods of East Hawley for eight years. We love the rustic and peaceful setting with two brooks running within a stone's throw of our back deck. In my spare time I can most often be found in the woods, either cutting firewood for our hideaway, hunting, or showing my son the ways of the outdoors.

Kate Reilly Lawn

After graduating from Greenfield Community College in 1983 with my Associate Degree in Liberal Arts, I attended Bentley College in Waltham, MA, and completed my Bachelor of Science in Marketing Management in 1986.

Following graduation I worked in office equipment sales for six years (Panasonic and Konica) and then in a less stressful position in customer service.

I took a two-year break from working to have my two children. I then got the job of a lifetime consulting for The First Years. I telecommute and manage their Parent Council database. This has been fantastic because even though my husband's job has moved us to Orange County, CA, I still have my job of four years.

I would also like to mention that Meryl Sackin was a true mentor to me. Being a member of the student government and learning from Meryl changed how I look at things. I am a stronger, more self-confident person today for having spent time with her. Many of my fondest memories of GCC include Meryl.

("Graduates of 1983" Continued on page 19)

The Church at Heath 1769-1895

By 1769, a new meetinghouse, the Charlemont Hill meetinghouse, was erected "in the south part of the present town of Heath." The church was formed, and the Rev. Jonathan Leavitt was called as its first pastor.

According to an address by John H. Thompson given at the Centennial Anniversary celebration in 1885, people from Charlemont, Buckland, and Hawley came to hear Mr. Leavitt preach.

The Rev. Moses Miller, pastor of the Heath Church from 1804 to 1840, writing of this time, was quoted by Mr. Thompson in the same address *Some came on horseback, some on foot from miles around. Carrying their infant children in their arms, some waded, some forded, and some boated the rapid Deerfield, or crossed on its frozen waters. Some came on sleds, perhaps a few in sleighs, but none ever came in anything like the vehicles of the present day. They had no cushions to be seated upon, but a tough hard board and no back to lean against, and they had at that time long prayers and long sermons.*

A dispute arising between Mr. Leavitt and the town concerning the pastor's request for a raise in salary could not be settled with the result that the town closed the meetinghouse and ceased paying Mr. Leavitt any salary. Electing to stay put, he continued to preach in the South Schoolhouse, mainly to people in Heath, for the next five years. He died in Heath in 1802.

The Town of Heath was incorporated on February 14, 1785, the first town meeting was held on March 21, and the church was organized on April 15 under the name of "The Church of Christ in Heath" with thirty-five members. Heath bought Charlemont's half-share in the meetinghouse. It was used for services until 1789 when it was moved onto the Common "nearly opposite but a little to the east of the present Congregational Church." The Rev. Joseph Strong was called and settled as the first pastor of the new church in 1790 and was dismissed in 1803.

At that time, all matters pertaining to the church, including the settlement of preachers and their salaries, were decided in town meeting.

Following the ouster of Mr. Strong, the Rev. Ebenezer Tucker "supplied the pulpit" (becoming a Unitarian afterwards). In addition to being involved in business in Heath, and acting as moderator of town meeting, he also served a selectman.

In 1804, the Rev. Moses Miller was called and was described as "a man of good abilities, sound judgment, and a faithful and devoted pastor." Mr. Thompson described Mr. Miller's tenure saying *During his pastorate, the town advanced to its highest prosperity. Settlers came in slowly until the beginning of the century, but afterwards more rapidly, and as the children of early settlers, most of whom had large families, grew up, the population rapidly increased.* Mr. Miller added 121 new members during the Great Revival (1822-23).

According to the 1830 Census, Heath was the second largest (after Colrain with 1761) of the surrounding towns with a population of 1199. (Charlemont had 1065, Buckland, 1039, Shelburne, 995, and Rowe, 716). But between 1830-1837, due to emigration, the town lost 246 citizens, the Congregational Church, 100 members, the Baptists, 30, the Methodists, 10, and the Unitarians, 20).

In 1833, the passage of the Eleventh Amendment to the Commonwealth's Constitution separating church and state, necessitated the building of a separate church building. The new church designed by Colonel David Snow was completed the same year, and the following year, a new civic building was erected as well, the present Old Town House, the old meetinghouse having been demolished. The independent Congregational church at the time had 316 members and the Sunday School, 500, reportedly the largest in the county. *All the people went to church, the whole family generally going, and leaving the door of the house unlocked.*

A Baptist church, founded in September of 1801, erected a meeting house in 1895 *at the four corners in the east part of the town. In 1839, this building was removed to the Centre, raised up and enlarged and stood until the present facing the southwest corner of the Common.* In 1830, the Baptists numbered 120, but by the 1880s, the numbers had greatly dwindled and the building was sold in 1884. A Unitarian Church was established in 1825.

From the installation of Mr. Strong in 1790 until 1885, the Congregational Church had thirteen ministers, and with the exception of Mr. Miller's long tenure of 36 years, the average pastorates were short indeed. According to Mr.

Thompson...*there was not a pastor of the Congregational Church against whom there was not before the end of his pastorate, a strenuous opposition...I cannot think that it was the fault of the clergymen.*

They were all men highly educated, above the average of New England Clergymen in point of ability, of irreproachable lives, and they labored faithfully and conscientiously in the discharge of their duties. At the same time it is quite clear that the people were not of a quarrelsome disposition.

Upon political questions, they were in the early days a singularly united people. They were never given to litigation, and they were very few quarrels outside of the church.

I think the cause of dissensions is to be found in the period and the age. It was an age of change and advance... a new doctrine put in an appearance nearly every year...it was a period of intense mental activity which centered around the pulpit...there were few books and few newspapers and hardly any amusements. But all went to church on Sundays...they expected a doctrinal sermon. Every week the clergyman had to grapple with predestination, freedom of will, or some other great problem.



("The Church at Heath" continued on page 16)

Trees

I do not know trees. My wife, I think, does not know trees much either. We moved here to Heath Center, corner of Main and Bray, from the sagebrush desert, a country of wide, tall skies and knee-high old growth. Our first spring here we ran our chainsaw around the place, knocking down the skinny ten-to-twenty-footers, making room for a little more sky, space to let the wind blow. We left a couple of old apple trees, the two maples out front, a line of poplars out back, and thought, Okay, let's barbecue.

Our second spring here we were told the two maples were sick. They could fall onto the house, into the road, squash our child—who knew how long?— and plus which, what about that jagged, rotty, leafless, dead stuff? We hired a man named Woody, a pro. He sent his men with their orange helmets and hydraulic bucket. They cut, cabled, and fertilized, and at the end of the day drove off with their helmets and their bucket, leaving us with a big bill and a heap of mulch. We stood on the lawn at the wrinkled trunks, looking up. I do not know what my wife saw. I myself saw cash. I saw those saw cuts and I wondered for a tree if such a cut felt more to it like trimming fingernails or

more like sawing femurs. I touched the one which had lost the most and told it I was sorry. We meant to help, I said, how could we help, what could we do next?

We hung a plastic swing in a low limb, thinking maybe a happy, swinging child might cheer a tree up, though we soon learned that in addition to being sick, these maples were sacred, and a plastic swing might possibly be viewed as

something of a mild desecration. We apologized; we did not know trees; we were grateful for the lesson. So we stood again at the wrinkled trunks and thought this time that maybe what these trees might need was friends. We planted two of their own kind—sugar maples—in a line along the road toward the center. On the Bray side of the maples we planted a line along the road of hydrangeas. We fertilized, mulched from the heap, stood at the wrinkled trunks and asked, What next? We drew a map of the place, worked out from the maples and around the house, planted a Japanese maple, a cherry tree, a row of lilacs, a row of spirea, a willow, another row of lilacs, a bunch of cedar-somethings and a birch clump. We fertilized, mulched from the heap, stood at the wrinkled trunks and asked, What next? We heard no clear answer. We studied the map. We barbecued. We had another child. We rehung the plastic swing in the apple tree out back.



Now we take care, having learned that trees grow fast here. I am soon to believe the answer is more like fingernails, less like femur. Come fall, we bury our children in the leaves of the maples, see them laughingly uncovered by a wind that blows the leaves out to the Cape. Hooray. Snow falls. Geometry clears. We barbecue inside the shed. The snow mounts on the wrinkled trunks, the limbs and twigs sheathed in the pretty ice. We listen to the big north wind and root for the cables. All lines for us here evolve from these two trees. I hope to plant two more of their kind on the Bray side and be finished planting. I hope not to see these sick old sacred trees come down, and I hope, when they do come down, that their absence will be honored by the life in the trees they inspired behind them.

~ Sam Michel

WANTED!!

The Heath Planning Board needs to replace Sheila Litchfield's position, now that she is Heath's newest member of the Selectboard. Planning Board generally meets about once a month. Anyone interested in filling this seat, which expires in 2004, should contact Deborah Phillips for more information, and then the Selectboard for official appointment.

TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE

Saturday, June 7

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Heath Elementary School
(rain or shine)

The PTP is sponsoring a town-wide yard sale to benefit the Heath Elementary School. We are selling spots for \$10.00 for people to set up their own table and sell their items or people may donate items to the PTP for their table. We will also have a free clothing table and will be looking for clean clothing in good condition. Anyone wishing to have their own spot must call Robin Jenkins at 337-4389 to register. Anyone wishing to donate items to the PTP for their table can drop off items at the school either Thursday, June 5, or Friday, June 6. Special arrangements can be made if a pickup is needed. Call Robin Jenkins at 337-4389 or the school at 337-5307 if further information is needed.

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Green Thoughts

by

ELSA BAKALAR

Ready or not, we seem once again to have been catapulted from winter into summer or, at least, full-blown spring. Consequently, everything needs to be done at once. Just remember why you garden, and don't turn this lovely season into nothing more than a series of joyless tasks.

One thing that can make the heart beat faster is the realization that June is a month of celebrations. Take your pick. It may be a graduation party, a wedding, a class reunion, or a big family gathering. The next realization is that whatever you were planning was supposed to take place in the garden. Garden? What garden?? And you gaze with horror at what's out there. (What were you thinking of back in those carefree autumn months?)

Well, herewith a few suggestions that I hope you'll find helpful rather than stressful. After all, you're reading the *Heath Herald* not the *House & Garden*, *Beautiful Weddings*, or some such glossy magazine. Chances are that by the time you've picked up any debris – leaves, twigs, toys, (even stones you threw one night at yowling cats) – things will already look a lot better. If there are shrubs or small trees that have already bloomed, you can cut off the dead flowers and prune a little. (Don't prune summer blooming shrubs just now, or there'll be no flowers.)

Now, what about the "lawn"? I have what I like to call a lawn. It was once a scrubby piece of neglected garden, but, after several years of hacking, scything, and, eventually, mowing, it has become a fairly respectable patch of green. By no means could it be mistaken for a lawn in the classical sense. In April, "pusseytoes" turn it white; purple violets come in May, and, in the hottest months of summer, hawkweed dots it in bright orange. I'm grateful for all (well, most of them.) They're survivors, and they thrive under conditions where grass would simply give up.

Here's a thought: treat your poor little patch like a lawn and maybe it will rise to the occasion. Fertilize if you're so inclined; water if you have enough to spare; scratch in some seeds of white clover. Your guests, while standing about elegantly (waiting for the food in all likelihood), need something flat and dry under their feet. There's no time to get the lawn you want. Set down a few level stones (I once used an old carpet destined for the dump), and keep their party sandals dry. Next year, with more lead time, you can have your lawn.

"Lead time"----a wonderful phrase that suggests our lives are in order and that we can plan ahead. Well, we all try.

When you take South Road down to Route 2, be sure to look up at the old giant horse chestnut tree, on your right at the entrance to the Ferretti place. So many American horse chestnut trees sport flowers in a dull red, but this is an ivory beauty. Like so many majestic old trees this one is having a hard time, so as you enjoy it offer a prayer for its survival. I look for it every year.

The Heath Fair is coming August 15-17 and I hear that Bob Delisle has already been up to the school to "talk it up" to the children. We must do everything we can to encourage them to find the joy we have had in growing flowers. I worked in the

flower hall for many years, and was always thrilled to see the children come in with their exhibits. Help them all you can!

That heavy carpet of snow, although damaging to some shrubs and young trees, provided wonderful cover for most perennials. Such heroic plants they are! They're taking their time showing up, but many will be the mainstay of our flower gardens in the early part of the year. To keep the color coming we rely on annuals, and there are many that, seeded now, will be in bloom for the Fair – and for that "occasion" in your garden. Many annuals ask for very little, but sunshine is usually a must. I received a newsletter recently listing annuals that tolerate, and in some cases prefer poor soil conditions. Among their recommendations: alyssum, cosmos, candytuft, gaillardia, nasturtium and (surprise) sunflowers. To their list I would add California poppy. Just think of those silken orange petals! Seeds of all these are on the racks locally but there will be little boxes of started plants, too, at our many wonderful local nurseries and plant centers. A word of caution: don't try transplanting annual poppies – it's a lost cause.

The Earth is Moving at Heath Elementary!

This spring we are trying to coordinate and tackle many gardening tasks at the Elementary School. This is being undertaken by the school nurse who has made the time to oversee a Hampshire Educational Collaborative service-learning grant and to drum up interest in our grounds and various gardening projects. The Greenfield Garden Club has granted us some monies. The children are growing food that will be donated in the fall to Good Neighbors. They have built gro-light stands, planted seedlings, and even done a segment on the PBS show ZOOM to show off this important, service-learning project. To top this off we have started to recycle lunch food and are producing great compost!

We at Heath School are trying to always incorporate Heathans into our school life. Residents have helped in building solar pods (a much fancier version of the cold frame!), transplanting fruit trees, pruning, recycling, becoming involved in class projects, donating time, money, and equipment. Ted Watt and the children are creating a welcome-butterfly garden at our entrance, replanting some of our volunteer (lupine) garden, growing perennials for "shut-in" residents this summer, and trying to encourage youth participation and entries at the Heath Fair Exhibition Hall. A lot to take on, but important pieces to the sense of wonder and learning that takes place "as we grow" together.

We are hoping not to lose the sense of momentum this summer. Hazel Porter Maitland will be coordinating summer volunteers. We would like to have folks "sponsor" a week in which they would be responsible for the upkeep of the vegetable gardens. This may include a few days of weeding, and possible watering, coordinated with Tim Lively who will be on grounds. Please call Hazel at 339-4784 if you and your family can help out.

Other help is needed in donations of newspaper, manure, and time. Keep us in mind when you are splitting those perennials!

Please call Robin Booth at 337-5307 if you can lend a hand. Thanks so much.

~ Robin Booth, RN



Heath Police Department

By Chief Lorin Gowdy

It seemed like a long time coming this year, but summer is finally here. I wish a happy, healthy, and safe summer for everyone.

Historically, Fridays and Saturdays in May and June are among the most dangerous times for our teenagers on Massachusetts roads. Motor vehicle crashes killed 61 and seriously injured almost 500 people ages 16-19 in Massachusetts in 2001. The excitement of proms, graduation, and the summer season tempts teens to take risks behind the wheel as well as with alcohol and other drugs. The Heath Police Department is taking a "zero" tolerance stance towards underage drinking and those who illegally provide alcohol to minors.

It seems that every year more and more people are enjoying bicycle riding. When you bike, please obey traffic laws, ride single file on the right with the flow of traffic. Be alert for cars coming out of driveways and side roads. Wear a bike helmet. A bike helmet is an effective and inexpensive piece of protective equipment. Massachusetts law requires children under 13 years of age who operate a bicycle or who ride as a passenger on a bicycle to wear a helmet.

Telephone scam warning. A telephone scam has recently been identified that allows unauthorized individuals to have complete access to your telephone line. This full access enables individuals to place long-distance calls and bill them to your telephone number. Information indicates that the scam has been originating from many local jails/prisons. The scam works like this. You receive a telephone call from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T service technician who is conducting a test on telephone lines. The caller tells you that to complete the test you should touch nine (9), zero (0), and the pound sign(#), and then hang up - that's it. By pushing 9-0-#, you give the requesting individual full access to your telephone line, which enables the caller to place long-distance calls billed to your home phone number. UCB, Telecon-Pacific Bell, MCI, Bell Atlantic, GTE, and Verizon have verified this process. Beware. Do not press 9-0-# for anyone.

People have been very generous in making donations to local and nationally recognized charitable organizations. I don't want to discourage donations to worthwhile charitable organizations but I recommend that you donate to the ones you know that spend the highest percentage on charitable programs and not for management and general expenses of the charity. Recently the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General has received many calls and complaints from people about fund-raising campaigns for police and fire-related charities in Massachusetts. It is important to note that charities often receive only a small amount of the funds

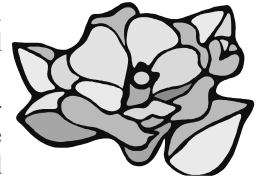
raised by professional fund-raisers and that these fund-raisers are not legally obligated to spend any specific percentage of their funds on any charitable program. If donors want additional information or have complaints about a particular charitable solicitor, they may contact the Public Charities Division (617-727-2200).

Garden Open at Pat and Henry Leuchtman's

Every June, for the past 15 years or so, in the best traditions of 'Garden Open Today' we have held the Annual Rose Viewing to celebrate and enjoy the short bloom period of the hardy, old-fashioned roses that have been able to survive on our Heath hillside.

Some of the roses are noble ladies like Madame Legras de St. Germaine and some are farmgirls, roses that have been given to me by local gardeners. There is Alli's Pink, Rachel's Rose, and Rachel's Other Rose. There is Mabel and Susan, and even Fred's Rose. There are the roses Terri Pet-tengill carried down from Maine. These are all tough roses, beautiful and fragrant.

So, this is the time when we overlook all the other shortcomings of the garden, the weeds in the lawn, and elsewhere, the disgraceful grape tangle, and the chores still to be done. This year we extend an open invitation to everyone to visit, to stop and smell the roses on Sunday, June 29, from 2 to 5 in the afternoon. In addition to the usual lemonade and cookies, we are having an ice cream social. Please join us at the End of the Road, 43 Knott Road, off Rowe Road.



~ Pat Leuchtman

Community Hall Committee

The Community Hall, through the Council on Aging grant, has purchased a portable steam table. I'm sure this will be very useful in the future for dinners put on at the hall. In June we will be serving two senior meals per month—the first and third Thursday.

If anyone wants to use the hall, they must call Dolly Churchill at 337-6680 for reservations. Dolly has been appointed to keep track of the time the hall is being used for senior affairs versus community affairs. That percentage will determine the amount that the Town will have to pay for some of the renovations made to the hall with our 2003 grant.

A reminder: anyone using the hall must clean up and remove the trash as we do not have a regular custodian now.

~ Val Kaempfer, Chair



Library Lines

Infotrac Databases Access Available



By Charlene Churchill

Library patrons can use the Internet to get information and do research even when the library is closed. How? We have access to several Infotrac databases from our home computers. This service is provided free of charge to Massachusetts residents.

Some of the databases are General Reference Center Gold, which has articles from newspapers, reference books, and magazines; Expanded Academic ASAP, which has articles from many scholarly journals; Health Reference Center Academic, which has articles on many aspects of health and health-related issues; General Business File ASAP, which has information on individual companies, industry events, and trends as well as information on economics, management, and politics; Biography Resource Center and The Complete Marquis Who's Who, which has biographical information on over 900,000 people, and Contemporary Literary Criticism - Select, which has a collection of critical essays on contemporary authors. Some of the articles are full-text and have illustrations.

Several databases are also available for students in various grade levels to help with homework research, and a database called Professional Collection has full-text articles for teachers and school administrators.

You can either use the computer at our library to search these databases or you can point your browser to: http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/mlin_w_remote. When prompted enter: 20549000001010 and start searching!

While using a search engine such as Google can bring up lots of information, Internet users should be aware that not everything a search engine brings up is verified information. Sponsors of Web sites can actually pay to have their Web sites come up in response to an inquiry on a search engine, although not all search engines do this. That's why you may say this Web site has nothing to do with what I am looking for! It doesn't have anything to do with what you are looking for because someone paid to have it come up no matter what the searcher is looking for.

Information in the Infotrac databases has been published elsewhere, sometimes in a scholarly journal, and will probably be more accurate and reliable than much of the information you will find in a search by a search engine on the net.

If you have any questions about using Infotrac or searching in general, please stop in at the library and we will give you a hand.

New preschool and juvenile books include: *10-Step Guide to Living with Your Monster* by Laura Numeroff, *Where Have the Unicorns Gone?* by Jane Yolen, *Farmer Smart's Fat Cat* by James Sage, *The Three Pigs* by David Wiesner, *What Teachers Can't Do* by Douglas Wood, *Hoot and Holler* by Alan Brown, *Moonbeams*, *Dumplings & Dragon Boats* by Nina Simmonds and Leslie Swantz and *The Second Summer of the Sisterhood* by Ann Brashares.

BURNT HILL BERRIES

Wild Native Blueberries

Pick Your Own

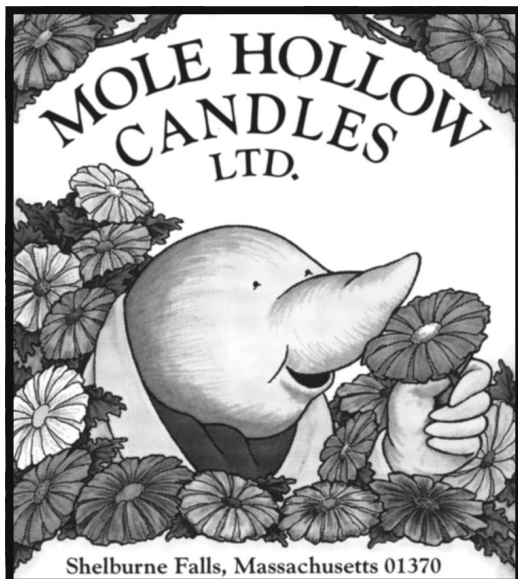
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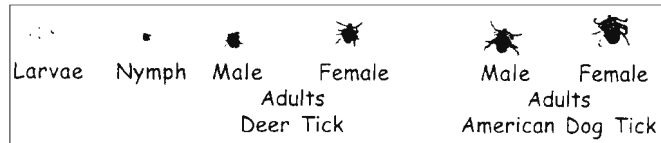
Town Nurse Notes

Deer Ticks and Lyme Disease (sounds like I'm writing a letter)

By Joanne Fortune, RN

There are two tick species in Massachusetts, the deer tick and the American dog tick. The deer tick transmits Lyme disease, and the American dog tick, not a Lyme disease vector, may transmit diseases such as tularemia and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

The deer tick has a two-year life cycle that includes three feeding stages known as the larva, nymph and adult. The larvae and nymphs feed on small mammals (such as mice) and adult ticks feed on larger mammals, including white-tailed deer. The risk period for humans is highest during the nymph stage from May-July, but ticks can infect and be active every other month of the year. Actual size:



The typical deer tick habitat is near the ground in wooded areas, backyards, or along bike and hiking trails. Pets should be checked on a regular basis; they can get Lyme disease, and ticks can hitchhike to humans on them.

Wear light colored clothing, tuck your cuffs into socks and inspect your legs every hour. A product to repel or kill ticks is DEET (use a concentration between 30-35% for adults and 10-15% for children). Please do not use DEET on infants, use with caution on children, and never apply it on the child's face. Following outdoor activity, inspect your body carefully for ticks, and put worn clothing into a hot dryer for ten minutes.

Tick Removal: Ticks must be attached for at least 24 hours before they transmit Lyme disease. Therefore, it is critical to remove a tick immediately and properly. Extract the tick promptly by grasping it near the head with fine-tipped tweezers. Pull straight out with steady pressure and without twisting. When the tick is out, apply an antiseptic to the site. Circle the calendar date when the tick was removed and save the tick for identification.

Lyme Disease: The bite may transmit Lyme disease, but not all deer ticks carry it. For about 60% of patients, the early stage of Lyme disease begins with an increasing, circular red rash. Other early symptoms may include headache, fatigue, muscle pain, chills, fever, joint pain.

If Lyme is left untreated, it can spread throughout the body and can be very debilitating. If you suspect a tick bite or have symptoms, see your primary care provider. For more information, www.aldf.com (American Lyme Disease).

I see people in their homes, and I'm at the Community Hall on Tuesdays from noon until 1:00 p.m. If you or someone you know would like a visit, please call. My phone number is 774-2988.



Rays of Interest

Sandstorm

I am sure that all of you heard about the sandstorm our troops went through during the war to free Iraq, (the worst in 100 years some say) and the drenching rain that followed the next day. Our troops were bogged down and couldn't move effectively.

The media was already wondering if the troops were in a "quagmire" and dire predictions of gloom and doom came from the left wing media.

What they didn't report was that, after the weather had cleared, the Marine group that was mired the worst looked out at the plain they were just about to cross. What did they see? Hundreds if not thousands of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines had been uncovered by the wind and then washed off by the rain. If they had proceeded as planned, many lives would have undoubtedly been lost. As it was, they simply drove around them and let the demolition

teams destroy them.

One person once asked George Washington if he thought God was on his side. His reply is reported to be, "It is not that God should be on our side, but that we be on His."

Author unknown!

Submitted by: Raymond Pettengill

**~ June 28 ~
Special Town Meeting at 8:30 a.m.
Annual Town Meeting at 9 a.m.
at Heath Elementary School**

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337-5375

Maple Ledge Farm
Maple Syrup Year Round
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Custom Remodeling
337-8344

Wanda Mooney
Realtor
337-8344

Alan Nichols
Furniture Maker
337-6665

C. Richards Steinbock
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Paul Turnbull
Janice Boudreau
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Support Your Local Businesses

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

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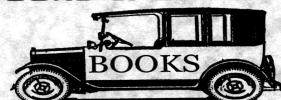
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The Way It Is In The Country

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

Some Random Thoughts on the Current State of Things

By Carroll Stowe

Things would be better if local churches had no empty pews for church services.

In the past, farmers were fairly treated for their milk, apples, vegetables, with regard to a realistic monetary reimbursement.

Our young people didn't have to feel that a beer or a pack of cigarettes were the most important aspect of their day. I think it would create a better attitude if all young people could watch a dear friend's life snuffed out by this legal poison. I lost a great father from the long lasting effects of this hard-to-break habit. I listened to the regrets of a young lady who thought life was terribly unfair to have to wait so long to buy a legal beer. Perhaps because it is illegal to have at a young age makes it so desirable.

We were given to believe that if we voted at town meeting to legalize the lottery we would realize much financial help for the schools and property taxes. If there's been any monetary aid it's not very evident. Our famous Boston area Big Dig that is supposed to help so greatly took funds from other areas of financial needs so that towns are being forced to lay off teachers, firemen, highway workers, and all manner of public servants. This will put the workload onto an already overworked personnel group.

The state coffers are supposed to pay the towns in lieu of taxes for the thousands of acres of state-owned property. When this monetary help is not forthcoming the burden goes to the taxpayers.

We've heard for some time that the famous, infamous Saddam Hussein has been guilty of lying to his people. It seems we've had promises made to us that have not been honored. Perhaps this is not lying to the people?

I never hear of some form of dishonesty but what I am made to remember the good, honest, grade work horses that I was privileged to know. They were considered family and did their job willingly and were good company and good to know.

In one of the books of the late Ben K. Greene, a veterinary in the great southwest of this country, he recalls a very trying time in his vet practice when he had to doctor many sleeping sickness cases. The telephone operators were most helpful sending him to many cases and were quick to point out that these good cow horses had done so much for the good of a particular ranch and its family. This often was their first comment.

I will always treasure the honesty of the good work teams that I was allowed the friendship of.

News from Burnt Hill Farm

My husband, Peter, and I purchased Burnt Hill Farm from Jack and Beverly Cable in July of last year and would like to thank all of the residents of Heath for the gracious welcome we have received as well as for their assistance in the past months as we acclimate to life on the Hill. We have experienced a glorious winter, one of beauty, wonder, and awe, and are now watching the Hill come alive with spring.

This is an exciting time for us. We have just completed the burning of the berries which was an amazing event. Our preparations for this year's berry crop are well underway thanks to the wonderful assistance of Lorin Gowdy. We have decided to complete the harvest as "pick your own" this year and will be using the answering machine at the berry barns (337-4454) to inform you of the hours of operation as well as the start of the picking season. There will be extended hours this year and we are hoping you will find that convenient.

Each day on this hill is a gift which we cherish. Each sunrise and sunset is more spectacular than the previous. Each animal who chooses to visit us is another wonder to add to the list that grows as each week passes. Each new friend we make here allows us to realize the value of friendship, giving, and sharing. It is truly an amazing experience to be a part of this Town. And it is equally amazing to sit at the top of the Hill and look down upon it while the hawks soar and the church bell rings.

We are honored to be the caretakers of such a wonderful place and want all of you to know that visits by appointment are possible. It is a challenge trying to balance our privacy with our desire to share the Hill and we ask for your understanding of our policy of making an appointment that is convenient for us. We hope you understand that the Hill is a busy place these days and appointments are one way of maintaining an easy workflow as well as our privacy.

In a world that has become complicated and demanding, we are constantly thankful for the peace of the Town of Heath as well as for our new friends and the privilege of living on Burnt Hill. It is our hope that you will visit the Hill during the berry season, if not sooner.

We look forward to meeting each of you and thank you so much for the gracious welcome we have received.

~ Susan A. Schriber

Selectboard's Report

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

Hilma Sumner Resignation

Hilma Sumner has resigned from the Board to take up her new duties as interim pastor at the Heath Union Church. We have greatly appreciated the dedicated service and years of experience she brought to the Board and will miss her company on Tuesday evenings.

Fortunately, Sheila Litchfield offered herself as a write-in candidate for the recent elections and will be joining the Board after the Annual Town Meeting.

Generators

The three emergency generators obtained through the Public Safety grant have been installed at the Community Hall, at the Fire Station, and at the highway garage.

Sawyer Hall

The Sawyer Hall elevator project has been advertised for bids. Sub-bids are due April 15 and general bids April 22. Construction will begin later this spring. We hope to have the work finished by the first of the next year.

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting was held at the Heath School to transfer funds from Free Cash to underfunded accounts. Many of the shortfalls were due to the severe winter and increased fuel prices. Twelve articles were voted on and passed.

Annual Town Meeting

The Board voted to postpone the Annual Town Meeting to June 28 because of uncertainties over the State budget and the Mohawk District assessment. Proposed budgets show a decrease in aid of over a million dollars to the district. We hope to have a better idea of the final budget figures in June.

Election

The election results of the May 9, 2003, Town Election are as follows:

Selectman: Sheila Litchfield (write-in candidate)

Constable: Bud Kaempfer and Robert Tanner

Town Clerk: Hilma Sumner

Assessor: Michael Wilmeth

Finance Committee: David Cote, Budge Litchfield and Ned Wolf

Planning Board: Deborah Phillips

Library Trustee: Deborah Porter

School Committee: Robert Gruen

Dog Officer: David Cote

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 or individual via the E-mail address or visit the Heath home page.

~ Heath Selectboard
Thomas Lively - Chair
Brian De Vriese
Hilma Sumner



From the Desk of the Town Coordinator

By Rebecca Jurek

As you know, most days in the center of Heath are very quiet and serene. Lately, however, things are picking up in modest fashion.

The long-awaited renovations to the Town Office at Sawyer Hall are getting underway with the installation of an elevator. We have received several sub-bids from firms in the masonry, electrical, and elevator categories for this project. Please keep in mind that we are not anticipating any disruption in service at Town Office due to the installation of the elevator. The timeline for project completion is this September.

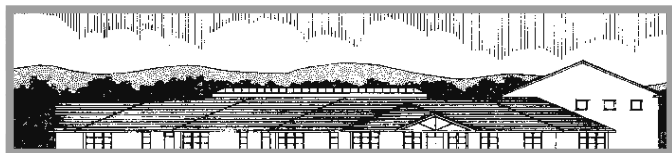
It is truly wonderful to see all the activity at the Community Hall once again. There aren't too many days that pass that the building isn't in use. A special thank-you to Dolly Churchill for keeping the calendar for the Hall. As a reminder, the Senior Center is now offering meals twice monthly.

The renovations for the Community Hall/Senior Center are also progressing. The Building Advisory Committee is working alongside the Housing Authority staff to move this project along. The Town is in the process of accepting proposals for architectural services for this senior center rehabilitation project. The Committee will be reviewing proposals in early June. The deadline for all renovations for this building is September 2004. We are anticipating a short time frame – possibly a month or so – for a disruption in service for building use.

In contrast, the financial picture isn't nearly as bright. With cutbacks from the State, and ever-increasing school operating costs, the difficulties even to provide a level-funded budget are apparent. Please know that your financial team, department heads, Finance Committee members, Town Accountant, and Selectboard are working together to provide the best sound advice in an attempt to keep your taxes at an affordable rate.

The teamwork in Heath continues to be remarkable. It certainly makes the efforts of coordinating for the community a pleasure. Keep in mind that Town Office is open every weekday for business. Take a moment to stop and see the progress that has been made, the culmination of efforts to make these projects a reality through the securing of grant funds.

Heath Elementary School News



By Susan Todd

As our year is drawing to its close, there are so many exciting things to focus upon at the Heath School, even in the midst of all of the budget concerns. I was reminded of this as I prepared our report for the May School Committee meeting and would like to share some of those highlights with you.

- Students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades worked very hard on their MCAS tests during the testing period that began on May 12 and ended on May 22.
- The Heath School was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for its EIC Program and its Watershed Investigation Project by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.
- Deb Porter, Heath Primary teacher, is the co-author of the book *Rules in School* just published by the Northeast Foundation for children.
- A glorious spring concert was presented Thursday, May 8, with a choral music performance entitled "From the Inside Out" directed by Nan Sadoski, along with strings and instrument selections, directed by Robin Smith and Joan Fitzgerald. The strings program was made possible through a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.
- Jorie MacLeod's class released salmon fly in the West Branch of the North River on Friday, May 9. We are privileged to be part of the Atlantic Salmon Egg Rearing Program sponsored by the state's Wildlife and Fisheries Department.
- The Heath sixth grade partnered with students at The Academy of Charlemont for a morning cleanup in Heath, organized by Highway Supervisor Mike Smith, as well as a Deerfield River cleanup by the Shunpike. The students loved the experience, and we hope to continue this community service in the future.
- An interactive museum is now occupying the Open Space. The extraordinary "Air Show" by the Primary students of Deb Porter and Amanda Smallwood has just ended. This exhibit included a bird's-eye view of the school created out of blocks, imaginary birds flying overhead, and research projects on such topics as peregrine falcons, hummingbirds, eagles, and Amelia Earhart. Now another wonderful display is underway by the Middle students in Suzanne Taylor and Emily Cross's classrooms, under the guidance of art teacher Jane Wegscheider. The current exhibit includes an original version of Christina Rossetti's poem, "Who Has Seen the Wind?" written in oversized letters and illustrated by the second and third graders, a display on sound, and one on recycling. Preschoolers will offer their contributions concerning "Mud."
- Environmentalist Bill Lattrell visited the Heath School on Friday, May 16, to help the students honor Biodiversity days.
- Bob DeLisle, president of the Heath Agricultural Society, visited the school on Friday, May 23, to describe the process for entering the Heath Fair. Following his presentation the entire school community will participate in service-learning, gardening projects, including creating a butterfly-welcome garden and planting vegetables to share with Good Neighbors in Charlemont and flowers for shut-ins.
- Kare Marshall's fourth graders invited parents to explore planet Glurch on Friday, May 9, and think about the properties of this mystery planet. Parents also had a chance to admire the animals that their children created with all the imagined adaptations.
- Title I Reading Teacher Cathy Geyster and Sanderson's Reading Teacher, Cathy Boschen, presented a workshop entitled "Running Records for Beginners" on Thursday, May 8, at the Annual Title I Conference in Hyannis. It received very enthusiastic reviews from participants.
- On May 30, Heath and Rowe students celebrated Memorial Day together in the Heath cemetery by the Fairgrounds. Wanda Musacchio organized the remembrance exercises.
- The school provided garbage bags on May 16 for a community-wide roadside pick-up campaign over the week-end of May 17-18.
- The PTP will hold a town-wide tag sale on Saturday, June 7.
- On Monday, June 9, children will participate in an All School reading of their writing. This is part of the Writers in the Schools (WITS) program with Shauna Seliy sponsored by the University of Massachusetts. PE teacher and Double Edge Theatre actor Matthew Glassman will coach the students in their delivery.

As always, we welcome your presence in the school and hope you stop by whenever you can.

Council on Aging

We are happy to announce that our Senior luncheons will be held twice a month starting in June, the first and third Thursday of each month. Plan to call Dottie Sessions at 337-4896 before noon on Wednesdays for reservations to join us.

We are still seeking people who may be interested in Friday Greenfield transportation or to find out what bus tours are available. Call Teresa Peters at 339-5354 for more information.

~ Alli Thane-Stetson

The Heath Cultural Council was awarded \$2000 by the Massachusetts Cultural Council for distribution this year. This is \$1500 less than in the previous three years. In addition we had \$840 of unclaimed awards from 2002 to re-grant. We received sixteen grant applications totaling \$5160.

By law, MCC funds may be used to support projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. In deciding which of the many fine proposals to fund, the Heath Cultural Council gives preference to those that are locally generated, have sponsorship of a local organization, are attended by or serve Heath residents, and take place in Heath or western Franklin County. Also, we try to choose proposals that allow us to serve a range of age groups.

At the time we voted to award grants our membership included Pam Porter, Chair, Noy Holland, Treasurer; Karen Brooks, Tucker Litchfield, John Palmer, and Cathy Tallen. Since then the Selectboard has appointed two additional members: Jane Wegsheider and Michael Wilmeth. Council members serve for six years and then must step down for at least one year before being reappointed.

This year the Council voted to extend the grant of Jane Wegsheider who is engaged in a Heath oral history project. (\$400) In addition we voted to fund the following projects:

- Academy at Charlemont Summer Theater Workshop, \$500 for a three-week theater workshop for children 11 -18 years old, \$500.
- Theater in the Falls (sponsored by the Arms Library), \$70 for a free, outdoor summer performance in Shelburne Falls by an internationally recognized repertory company, \$70.
- Four requests from Ashfield Community Theater, Inc., totaling \$150. The requests are for a play production (\$120), a community theater project (\$10), Community Theater Classes (\$10), and a summer arts camp (\$10).
- Mary Lyon Foundation, \$350 for a literature-based, summer arts/crafts program.
- Mohawk Trail Concerts, \$500.
- The Juniper Initiative, from the University of Massachusetts, \$400 for Writers IN The Schools (WITS), bringing working writers from the MFA Program for Poets and Writers at the University into schools in the Mohawk district to provide instruction in creative writing.
- West County Players, \$100, for a theatrical production presented at Memorial Hall in February/March. (If you missed this year's production, you missed a truly skilled and hysterical performance of *Incorruptible*.)

If you have any questions about this year's awards, suggestions for future awards, or a desire to submit a grant and want assistance, call Pam Porter at 337-5525 or Noy Holland at 337-6630. The next grant cycle begins with a deadline for submission October 15, 2003. Decisions are made in November and announced in January. Applications are available on-line at www.massachusettsculturalcouncil.org.

~ Pam Porter, Chair

In 1842, the Rev, Josiah Fisher was settled as minister. According to Howard Chandler Robbins in his address "The Church of Christ in Heath," contained in the Sesquicentennial Anniversary volume (1935),

There was much opposition to him when he came, and the church was warned that if he were called many would withdraw, but the council was called and nothing was found derogatory to Mr. Fisher.

Accordingly he was installed Sept. 7, 1842. Immediately 32 people withdrew their names from the roll, and the deacons resigned. They formed a new church and worshipped in the Baptist Church. Mr. Fisher was dismissed Aug. 17, 1845 and the next year members who had withdrawn returned to the mother church.

A Methodist Church, organized in 1859, was situated in a building at the Common's west end that was to become the Community Hall.

By 1891, the population of Heath had so decreased that the churches were having difficulty paying the pastors' salaries. A decision was taken to form one Union church, and on February 21, 1892, the Union Evangelical Church at Heath was organized with the Rev. Charles W. Purington, a Baptist, as its first pastor. The combined congregation first met in the Methodist Church before moving into the Congregational Church in 1893.

The new Union Church, described by Dean Robbins, was one in which Baptists, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, Methodists feel equally at home because the spirit of fellowship in it has broken down the barriers of denominationalism and built in Heath a true Bethel, a House of God.

The Rev. C.E. Dickinson in his Centennial address described Heath, saying *Heath has never been and probably never will be a populous or wealthy town, but the value of work done through the church, the school and the family cannot be estimated...The great wealth of Heath consists of the men and women here educated for lives of usefulness.*

~ Jane deLeeuw

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The Herald encourages all Heath writers and those who have never thought they could but have been itching to give it a try to submit their creative efforts on any subject of their choosing.

News from Your Heath Fire Department



It's been a fairly busy couple of months at the old Fire Station. Our membership continues to increase, but there's always room for more. With a combination of grant money and department money, we've upgraded ourselves to a fairly impressive level. Almost all of the firefighters are now equipped with our new, lighter weight, turnout gear. Everybody now has a pager. We spent an evening installing alarms and voice amplifiers on our Survivair SCBA units. The alarms are set to go off if a firefighter remains motionless for more than 30 seconds. They can be deactivated manually or by moving, but if they continue to go off, we can assume a firefighter is in trouble and easily track him or her down, as the longer one remains motionless, the more strident the alarm becomes. These are a great safety feature inside smoke-filled buildings.

Our voice amplifiers mean that we can actually talk to - and understand - each other while wearing SCBAs. Without them, we all sounded like Darth Vader talking through a handkerchief. These will be a major communications improvement.

Thanks to a grant that the Heath Police Department received, there is now a generator at the Fire Station that will automatically kick in when power goes off. It will run the entire station - doors, lights, radios - so we can stay on top of things during power outages.

The new pump has been installed on the Brush truck. It's got a lot more pumping power than the old one and gives us the capability to draft from that truck now. The Brush truck has had a couple of busy days this season, including one long day of back-to-back mutual aid calls to Charlemont and Shelburne. Brush-burning season is now officially over, but there are always the few illegal fires to deal with throughout the summer. If you're cooking out this summer, over a grill or campfire, be careful.

The major incident of the spring, so far, was the leakage of a 1000-gallon propane tank that required some evacuation and road closure. It could have been a lot worse than it was. We were all quite lucky. Mutual aid was quick and helpful.

At the Firefighters' Association's annual elections this year, we created a new office - the Junior Firefighter Representative to the Officer's Committee. Cabe Delisle is the first to hold the office. We have several Junior Firefighters, but are always looking for more. Anyone between the ages of 14 and 18 is welcome to join them - and us.

We have once again applied for a new truck through the Federal Grant program. This is our third try. We've gone a little higher on the list each year, so maybe the third try will be our lucky one. Meanwhile, we're awaiting bids for a replacement to our Engine One, our primary attack truck that is now 26 years old and beginning to show signs of old age. We're hoping to fund this at the Annual Town Meeting from a number of sources so that its purchase doesn't have a major impact on the tax rate. There will be a warrant article dealing with this, and it's an important vote, so we hope y'all turn out at the meeting.

We continue to meet at the station the first and third Thursday of every month, and anyone is welcome to join us. For those of you who may not know it, the station phone number is 337-4461. Dial 911 for all emergencies.

~ Richards Steinbock

Wild Animal Sighting



One beautiful afternoon in early May I was doing my household chores when I heard the chickens out in the yard kick up a ruckus. I ran to the window in time to see a large animal run by. I ran to another window to see a young moose loping back and forth across the backyard near the chicken yard. He heard the chickens and the chickens certainly saw him. He approached, but not too close, to the fenced in chicken yard, and the chickens squawked, but didn't go inside. He approached and retreated, and the chickens squawked. For over a half an hour they examined each other until the moose loped off to the front yard and ultimately began to do some serious damage to my fancy pussy willow. I didn't want to get too close but stood in front of the house yelling which had no effect. Finally I clapped my hands loudly and he ran off down the Rose Walk. I waited and then went into the Cottage Ornee at the edge of the lawn and could see the moose standing in my rhododendrons and I feared he might make a meal of them. Shouting did no good, but clapping drove him away and he ambled off down the road.

~ Pat Leutchman

On Knott Road, it is told, wild things can take place.
There's the bottomless pond - how fantastically odd !

where on hot summer nights the naiads race,
and mysterious beasts live under the sod.

Whether these wonders be true I can't say
but I affirm it so that, one recent day,
while pruning some trees at a house on the road,
I encountered a large creature near the abode:
a moose on the loose!

A long-legged fellow, hirsute as could be,
standing quite close - quite close - to the tree.

My dog saw him too (he'll affirm the sight).
He tried to give chase, but the moose wasn't worried.

He wouldn't take flight, he wouldn't be hurried.

The moose ambled away, calm and collected,
no note of concern in his mien was detected.

And soon he returned to the very same tree
where I snipped with my snippers, "For some lunch," said he
in his non-verbal, moose way, browsing the buds.

Not ten feet away he nibbled and chewed
while I gawked from my ladder and wielded my saw.

I politely requested he find different food
than that apple tree, private property by law.

Regarding me calmly, with a level gaze,
the moose assented and went on his way,
leaving me to wonder if, in future days,
we might meet again, and to hope that we may.

~ Michael Wilmeth

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

As we approach the end of FY03 and prepare for FY04 it is time to pause and reflect on where we have been and where we are going. Where we have been is easy. The Selectboard and the Finance Committee (FinCom) have met several times throughout the year to discuss relevant problems and to take care of business at Special Town Meetings. With regard to the former the closing of the Three-Town Dump requires (1) constant effort to gain the cooperation of the other two towns, (2) obtaining engineering support for monitoring the dump and planning for the closing and (3) meeting with State Officials to plead for funding. Also, this has been a long, hard winter, as everyone knows, and it has adversely affected the Highway, Community Hall, and Sawyer Hall budgets. We are way over on salt and sand expenditures, heating bills have been very high, furnaces have broken down, and the equipment at the Transfer Station has required serious maintenance attention. Finally, government regulations have imposed engineering and construction costs on town garages across the State relative to drainage requirements. In order to adjust to these circumstances there have been appropriations, transfers between accounts, notices to departments to curtail purchases wherever possible and the use of Free Cash funds. With regard to the latter we started the year with Free Cash of \$99,701; at this time we have used up \$49,908 leaving a balance of \$49,793. There will be a Special Town Meeting before the Annual Town Meeting on June 28 to reconcile accounts for the year. It is possible we may have to use more Free Cash to do this. We hope not, but we'll just have to wait and see.

As for FY04, Governor Romney and our Legislators have made dire predictions about shortfalls due to earlier reductions in taxes and the slowing economy. The number banded about is \$3 billion or about 13% of the \$23 billion dollar FY03 State budget. Earlier this year Heath's local aid in the form of Chapter 31 Highway Fund, Veterans and Elderly Benefits, and State Owned land was reduced \$10,280. (This is after the Highway Fund was reduced \$27,983 in FY02.) Fortunately, our School Construction Reimbursement was not touched. Heath could absorb these cuts, but in larger cities the amounts were significant and more difficult to deal with. Our primary concern now is the funding of Chapter 70 monies for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) and Franklin County Tech School (FCTS) for FY04. To date Governor Romney has proposed allocating funds that just slightly exceed the total amount allocated for FY03, but has cut Transportation (busing) funds by about 35%. (He honored this commitment to K-12 education in this regard.) However, his proposal altered the Ed Reform formula and shifted allocations to cities thereby hurting many regional school districts in Western Massachusetts. The MTRSD would stand to lose about \$1.4 million under that scenario, and Heath would be especially damaged tax-wise because of the formula change. While his proposal included some money to adjust for "losses," no one seems to understand where the funding would come from. Then the House Ways and Means Committee came up with their pro-

posal that cut Chapter 70 money by 20% across the board or about \$1.4 million for the MTRSD. Further, the Committee also changed the Ed Reform Formula that adversely affects Heath.

The Finance Committee believes that Chapter 70 funding should be frozen at FY03 levels along with no changes in the formula. This would put everyone on a level playing field and give the State another year to review the formula, do some forecast modeling, and come up with reasonable projections for FY05. For ten years the State has been tweaking and fiddling with the formula thereby causing instability in budget planning. This practice has caused great financial problems for Heath and difficulty/misunderstandings between towns in preparing budgets for the District. The Senate has yet to release their plans for Chapter 70. Well over \$1 billion dollars has been invested in K-12 education in Massachusetts since the beginning of Ed Reform in 1993; it is a shame that the funding of education for our young people is subject to the Legislature's budget process, which is part deliberation and "part horse trading." We regret the lack of "transparency" of that process.

If the State cannot get a budget together for July 1, it can proceed on a 1/12th basis, i.e., continue to operate month to month until a budget is voted. A similar procedure can be implemented at the MTRSD. The Town of Heath, however, has to vote a budget in order to have money available for operations. This budget could take the form of the FY03 budget or a new budget for FY04 could be contrived. Because school assessments constitute nearly 60% of the Town's levy, it is difficult to address other budget concerns in a responsible way. This is the reason Heath and other towns in the MTRSD have postponed their Annual Town Meetings to June. The FinCom and the BOS are working together to develop what we hope will be reasonable solutions to this situation. We'll keep you posted.

We are pleased to report that David Cote, Budge Litchfield, and Ned Wolf were recently elected to the FinCom. They join Charlene Churchill and Dave Howland on the five-member team.

~ David.F. Howland

Heath Church News

As you may have heard, Pastor Dave Roselund has moved to Connecticut for retirement, and one of our deacons, Hilma Sumner, is serving as interim pastor. We all support Hilma in this step as she uses her seminary training more fully.

We have formed a visioning committee that is meeting regularly. The purpose is to ascertain what the future direction of Heath Union Church will be regarding a pastor as well as membership responsibilities. Questionnaires will be formulated and sent to all members. At the same time the Bylaws Committee is continuing to revamp the standard that will be acceptable to the state's laws that pertain to non-profit groups for tax exemptions and liability laws, etc.

Wednesday night Bible study is being held at the Parsonage on Bray road at 7:00 p.m. It lasts only an hour and it is a good time to study the Book of Life with us. The fellowship is good, and we welcome all.

~ Douglas H. Stetson



Milestones

Russell E. Johnson, of Heath, died May 15, 2003. Born in Leominster on July 20, 1916, he was the son of Ernest P. and Katherine Russell Johnson.

He attended grammar school in Leominster and graduated from Leominster High School and Northeastern University in Boston with a degree in electrical engineering.

Prior to retirement in 1982, he was employed at the New England Electric Company in Westboro as director of distributions for several years before serving as consultant the last two years before retirement.

He was an active member of the Heath Union Church, serving as a deacon and choir member, as well as a former member of the finance committee.

He married the former Ruth Landstrom Law August 14, 1984. His first wife, the former Marian Pierce, died in 1982.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Russell E. "Bud" Johnson Jr, of Buckland; a daughter, Katherine D. Sprague, of Rowe; three stepsons, Andrew O. Law, of Heath, Fred B. Law, of Navarre, FL, and Peter A. Law, of Deerfield; a stepdaughter, Robin H. Jenkins, of Heath; a sister, Mabel Ann Lester, of Clearwater, FL; four grandchildren; eight step-grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Another step-grandson, Matthew Law, died in 1987.

Services were held at the Heath Union Church with burial in the West Cemetery, Rowe.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Johnson Organ Restoration Fund, Heath Union Church, Main Street, Heath, MA 01346.

Ruth E. Field Rice, of Ashfield, died May 8, 2003. Born in Greenfield on September 10, 1932, she was the daughter of Merrill and Verna Roberts Field.

She attended grammar school in Ashfield and was a graduate of Sanderson Academy and of Bay Path Junior College.

Prior to her retirement in 1999, she was employed for 34 years by the Mohawk Regional High School in the superintendent's office. At the time of her death, she was Ashfield's town accountant.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Fred; her father, of Ashfield; a daughter, **Cindy Clark of Heath**; a brother, Douglas Field of Ashfield; four grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contribution may be made to the Franklin Medical Center Oncology Department, 164 High Street, Greenfield 01301; to the Ashfield Fire Department, Doug Field, Main Street, Ashfield 01330, or to the Ashfield Ambulance Service, PO Box 535, Ashfield 01330.

Heath People in the News

Part-time Heath resident, **Kathy Stein**, was presented the Lifelong Achievements Award in Transportation Consulting at the Women in Transportation National Conference held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston on May 15.

Awards are conferred on the basis of commitment to the growth and goals of WTS (Women in Transportation) and the attainment of excellence in the transportation industry. Heath friends **Margo Newton** and **Loren Gowdy** attended the ceremony.



In recognition of his many years of faithful service, **Don Dekker** was honored at a retirement dinner on May 14, at Mohawk Park which was attended by fellow assessors, town officials and friends.

Two Heathans received Master's Degrees at recent University of Massachusetts graduation exercises, **Debbie Porter** in Education, and **Henry Leuchtman** in Geography.

Jesse Porter-Henry graduated from Colorado College with distinction in Geology.

It's a Small World!!

Sending you news of five Heath students who graduated from Rowe School in 1994 and have traveled far.

Laura Thane of Wagner College, Staten Island, NY, is studying at the American University in Paris, France.

Linda Donelson from Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts has returned from studying in Valencia, Spain.

Anna Dever-Scanlon from Brown University, Providence, RI, has returned from a semester in Paris, France.

Dominic Musacchio, also of Brown University has recently completed his junior year studying at the University of Bologna in Bologna, Italy.

We are proud of **Corey Lopes** who has just returned from a U.S. Army tour of duty in Uzbekistan.

~Alli Thane-Stetson

(Graduates of 1983" continued from page 3)

Martha Howland Rose

My life since graduating from Greenfield Community College is a long story....Right now I am living in Plattsburgh, NY. I am married and we have one child. I am working at the Student Health Center at Plattsburgh State University. This type of nursing seems to suit me well. I enjoy the college age students. We are able to do a lot of health teaching to prepare the students for life outside of school.

Robin Law Jenkins

Since my graduation from GCC, I worked for the town of Belchertown from 1984 - 1989 as the Assistant Recreation Director for the Town. I moved to Cape Cod the summer of 1989 and became the Recreation Director for the Town of Sandwich for the next twelve years. During that time, I bought a home in West Bamstable, got married to my husband Thomas in 1995, and gave birth to my son Tucker in July 1998. We left the Cape in 2001 and moved "back home" to build a house on our land on Town Farm Road where we now live. I am presently working at the Heath Elementary School as a one-on-one instructional assistant and gym teacher for the primary grades. I am also the co-chair of the Heath School Parent-Teacher Partnership, and am Primary Grade Soccer, Basketball and T-ball coach. I am presently looking into the possibility of going back to school to get my teaching certificate, although my main goal is to enjoy watching my son grow. I am happy that I am able to do this "back home" in Heath.

Congratulations Graduates!

Heath Emergency Services News

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

03/18/03 - Rt. 8A - Medical call canceled
03/28/03 - Dell Rd. - Medical
04/30/03 - Number Nine Rd. - Medical
05/02/03 - Number Nine Rd. - Assisted Fire
Department with a propane leak
05/04/03 - Taylor Brook Rd. - Medical

With the good weather now here, please remind your kids to wear their bike helmets.

~ Timothy Lively - EMT

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