



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

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Volume 26, Number 2

June/July 2004

2004



A Graduation Message

To laugh often and love much;
To win the respect of intelligent persons and
the affection of children;
To earn the approbation of honest citizens and
endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
To give of oneself;
To leave the world a bit better,
whether by a healthy child, a garden patch,
or a redeemed social condition;
To have played and laughed with enthusiasm
and sung with exultation;
To know even one life has breathed easier
because you have lived...
This is to have succeeded.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Congratulations to all
Heath graduates and Best
Wishes for a shining future!

Heath Herald

Design and Layout Editor/Photographer

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Typographer

Business Manager

Advertising & Circulation

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Columnists

Eileen A. Tougas

Jane de Leeuw

Diane Cote

Deborah Phillips

Deborah Phillips

Dianne Cerone

Charlene Churchill,

Joanne Fortune, RN,

Bill Lattrell, Ray Pettengill,

Carroll Stowe, Hilma Sumner

Contributors

Diane Cote, Dave Gott, Jane de Leeuw,

Dave Howland, Pegge Howland, Bruce Hunter,

Robin Jenkins, Val Kaempfer, Land Preservation Com.,

Library Trustees, Timothy Lively, The Selectboard,

Judi Singley, Kathy Stein, Del Viarengo

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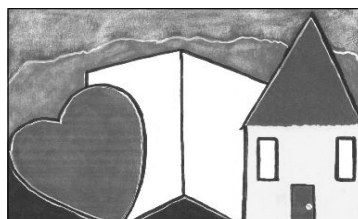
Church News

By Hilma Sumner, Minister

The church folk continue to be busy with various activities. There is a children's church that meets during the worship service and provides a Bible lesson for preschool and elementary age children. A youth group has begun to meet on Sunday afternoons from 3 to 5 p.m. All community youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to come and be part of the group. Besides meeting once a week for a short lesson, sports, games, and refreshments, we hope to have special activities and outings from time to time.

More renovations need to be made on the building this summer. The entire roof needs to be replaced, and the steeple is beginning to list so new reinforcing supports have to be installed to keep it stable. One estimate that has been received has placed the cost of this work at about \$20,000 but we know with older buildings there are sometimes repairs needed that cannot be seen until the work has commenced.

On Sunday, June 27, the Building Fund Committee will be having a huge tag sale at the Fairgrounds in the blue building. If you have any items to donate to the sale, please contact Richard Gallup at 337-5367. Then come that day and see what treasures there might be that you cannot live without.



Friends of The Heath School Library

Thanks to all who partook of nourishment before, during, and after the Annual Town Meeting on May 8, thereby augmenting our coffers.

All donations, as always, go to buy books for our Heath School Library. A reminder - you can purchase books year-round in honor of a school child or any other person for birthdays, holidays, etc., and in memoriam, through our Celebration Book Club by contacting Heath School Librarian Wanda Musacchio.

See you at our next fund-raising event, a tag sale at the Heath Fair. If anyone has a tag to donate, please give us a call at 337-8594 and we will be glad to pick it up.

Your ongoing support of our activities and of the Heath School Library is deeply appreciated!!!

COLLEGE GRADUATES



Carl T. Ayers, son of Hilma Sumner of Heath and Benjamin Ayers of Madison Heights, VA - I graduated with Great Distinction on May 9 from Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY, where I majored in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Structural Engineering and was elected to Phi Kappa Phi (Honor Society of Excellence) and the National

Dean's List and was part of the National Timber Bridge Design Competition team. I am a member of Tau Beta Pi (National Engineering Honor Society), Chi Epsilon (National Civil Engineering Honor Society), and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

My future plans include marriage to fiancée Emily Bates on July 17, a position with Clough Harbour and Associates, LLP, in Scranton, PA, and graduate study toward a Master's degree in Structural Engineering.



Laurie Wheeler Burrington - I attended Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, as a Frances Perkins Scholar, beginning in September 2000, and graduated magna cum laude on May 23 with a Bachelor's degree in Critical Social Thought.

In my interdisciplinary major I was able to combine aspects of religion, social theory, environmentalism, and feminism to create a path of study that allowed exploration of writing and photography as a means of understanding and interpreting my world. I finished my thesis, "Elements and Migration: External and Internal Landscapes," in the fall of 2003.

During my time at the college, I was a writing mentor for the Weissman Speaking, Arguing, and Writing Center for Leadership, and in December, 2003, I was honored for my work with two classes in women's studies and anthropology. In the summer of 2003, I took Spanish classes in Merida, Mexico, and then a photography trip to Arizona and New Mexico.

For the next year, I will continue working as interim librarian at The Academy At Charlemont, as well as pursuing freelance writing and photography, and then plan to attend graduate school, in all likelihood in the American southwest.



Dominic Musacchio, son of John and Wanda Musacchio, graduated on May 31 from Brown University, Providence, RI.

Over the last four years at Brown, my pursuits and interests have taken various twists and turns that have confused and befuddled certain family members and perhaps delighted others. My early days in Providence were spent preparing myself for a career in medicine.

In his free time, my father mapped out science courses within a pre-medical progression, and I indulged in a few of them until Organic Chemistry came along and helped me realize that medicine was not my calling. Gratefully, this realization came during my freshman year before I wasted any more time in the lab filtrating, distilling, crystallizing, oxidizing, etc.

I started speaking Italian instead, and in my sophomore year, declared a double major in psychology and Italian, and set my sights on a year abroad in Italy. I spent my third year in Bologna where I enrolled in the Psychology of Art, Renaissance Art History, History of International Relations, and History of Italian Cinema. While there, I also taught English to 13-year-old helions at a technical high school and shopped for prosciutto with Italian ladies seven or eight times that age (the whole spectrum of Italian society). I lived with an Italian, a Greek, and a Polish-American in a small apartment whose door opened with an enormous, medieval-sized house key.

Coming back to the States was difficult after ten months away, but I was ready to come home. I came back prepared to emerge within a new commitment to film and media production. I interned the summer before my senior year at Providence Pictures with a documentary director-producer in downtown Providence, assisting in the production of documentaries for the History Channel and for NOVA, (Namely "The Real Trojan War" due to come out in late May).

Back at school, my degree in Italian transformed into a combined Modern Culture and Media-Italian degree, combining Italian and cinematic studies. All the while I've continued with my major in Psychology of Italian Films, a first at Brown University.

I am currently working part-time at the International Institute of Rhode Island with resettlement of African refugees as I wrap things up at Brown. I am still pursuing work in film and video production between Boston and New York. For the time being, I have arranged a few freelance opportunities, until at least, an Italian filmmaker in need of a psychologist comes along who will sweep me off my feet!

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Maijia K. Begin, daughter of Jeanne Charles - This summer I am going to be taking classes at Greenfield Community College and in the fall I will be attending Mount Ida College majoring in fashion design.

In high school, I played JV hockey for two years, and Varsity field hockey for my last two years. In my senior year, I was captain of the team. I also played JV softball. In addition, I sang in the concert chorus for three years, in the select chorus for two years, and performed in the Mohawk All-School Musicals for four years.



Siobban Herman, daughter of Robert and Eileen Herman - I plan on attending Springfield Technical Community College and becoming a dental hygienist.

While in high school, I enjoyed softball and doing volunteer work



Beth Ferretti, daughter of Paul and Carrie Ferretti - I plan to attend Southern New Hampshire University and to major in Business Administration.

In high school, I played softball in ninth grade.

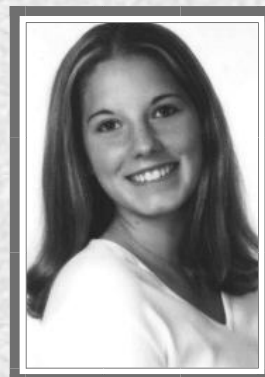


Julie Hill, daughter of Corinna Hill - My plan is to attend Greenfield Community College for two years and study English literature and then perhaps go to North Adams College of Liberal Arts. I am interested in both early childhood development and in teaching high school English someday.



Laura Ferretti, daughter of Paul and Carrie Ferretti - I will be attending Southern New Hampshire University and will major in Business Administration.

My high school activities included field hockey.



Elizabeth Kuehl, daughter of Dennis and Jill Kuehl - Next year I will be attending the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. I am going to major in one of the health sciences.

I was part of the field hockey team and a captain my senior year.



Liam Lattrell, son of Bill Lattrell and Maureen O'Malley. - I will be attending the University of Massachusetts; Amherst, in the fall and plan to major in legal studies.

This past year I attended Greenfield Community College where I took advanced credits.



Alice Rocchi, daughter of Frank and Ann Rocchi - I will be attending Northeastern University in Boston beginning in the fall, and will major in International Affairs.

In high school, I played on the soccer and softball teams. I was co-coach, with three other high school students of the Heath School Girls Softball Team for the

past two years, and was a member for all four years of the wonderful and award-winning chorus. In addition, I was involved in community service and volunteered in many positions such as assistant coach of the Heath School Girls Basketball Team. I am a member of the National Honor Society and the Key Club.



Robert Tanner, son of Robert and Donna Tanner - My upcoming plans are after my graduation to be still working for Leroy Tanner & Vaughn Tower at VT Poured Concrete and take a year off from school and then decide whether to join the army or go to college.

Other 2004 Mohawk graduates are: **John MacDougall**, **Eugene Marcotte**, and **Chelsea Moore**.

Ladies Aid Scholarships

The Heath Ladies Aid has awarded five scholarships to graduating Mohawk seniors this year. Each scholarship is for \$200. The recipients are: Maijia Begin, Beth Ferretti, Laura Ferretti, Julie Hill, and Elizabeth Kuehl.

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Alexander Lively, son of Matthew Lively of Heath and Monica Lively of Greenfield- After graduation, I'll work with my Dad and spend a lot of time with my family before being shipped out to Great Lakes, IL, for U.S. Navy boot

camp. I hope to be a Navy Seal.

In high school, I was on the wrestling team this year and was part of the Landscaping Shop.

Richard Hatch is also a 2004 graduate.

HEATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SIXTH GRADE



Left to right, Row 1; Cooper Marsh. Row 2; Ryan Sandvik, Cory Dule, Kate Jubinville, Simon Lynes, Eric Tanner, Falina Foroughrrad. Row 3; Stephanie Craig, Leah Kain, Anne Kuehl, Joe Lawson, Tylar Archambault, Christie Almeida, Naomi LaPointe.



Wild Ramblings

Empty Nest A Graduation Story

By Bill Lattrell

I first noticed the young robins, now rather large fledglings, while doing some yard work one evening near an apple tree. The three almost grown chicks were acting as a raucous choir, attracting quite a bit of attention to themselves. They chirped competitively for their parents' attention, reaching their heads skyward, mouths open, hoping to be the first to receive a meal. The three young birds were now far too large for the nest and bulged over the perimeter of the stick basket like three overweight sailors on a tiny lifeboat. The largest of the three tried to reach over his siblings only to tumble out of the nest. It was a slow, awkward tumble, with yet untested wings fully extended, breaking the fall. The father robin, previously undetected by me, flew from a nearby branch and was immediately at the fledgling's side.

The young robin seemed none too worse for the wear, but now found himself in a new and strange environment. Presumably it was the first time he was outside of the nest and appeared to be a little out of his element. The father robin flew away from the young bird about 10 feet and landed next to the base of the tree and chirped loudly. After a few moments the fledgling hopped over to join the adult robin in the shadow of the tree trunk. The two birds just stood there while the mother robin chirped wildly from a branch overhead.

This continued for quite some time and the father robin maintained his position steadfastly at the side of the fledgling. Dusk arrived, and soon the dark of night limited any potential for further observation on my part.

That evening, as I sat on our deck, I could hear our neighbors' children playing hide-and-seek in the dark. Their playful yelling and laughing was music to my ears. I realized how much I missed the sound of laughing and playing of our own children, now grown and in the process of seeking life on their own.

I never really understood the meaning of bittersweet until our oldest son moved out of the house. Bitter because I was losing one of the best parts of my life, and sweet because I could be proud that he was ready to go out on his own in the world and become his own person. Now our second son is getting ready to move on, and I can't help myself in reliving this same bittersweet feeling. Of course, as all parents experience, that long period of adolescence brought challenges, and there were days when I wished they were ready to move on. Still, I frequently find myself lost in memories of their childhood and struggle to bring my focus to the here and now.

The natural world has ways of assuring the continuation of species. Sometimes it is as simple as the nest being too crowded. I find myself wishing that our nest could have stayed crowded for a while longer.

The next morning I was quite surprised to see both parents and all three fledglings hopping about the lawn near the apple tree. The young robins, with their white spotted red breasts, seemed content with their new position in life as they experimented with low-level flight off the lawn. By that afternoon, all three were capable of flying into the lowest branch of the apple tree, protected from the inevitable dangers on the ground.

Through the next week I often saw the five robins hunting for the worms around our yard. The nest was now abandoned, and within two more weeks the younger robins were off to find territories of their own, leaving the adults behind to continue their lives for the rest of the summer before autumn migration.

The parent robins will return next year to start a new family. Life will begin anew. As for me, I will have to wait and hope that, God willing, I will someday in the future get to enjoy the families of our two sons. In the meantime I will have my memories and my lovely wife to comfort me.

Town Nurse "Public Health Hero"



Our own Town Nurse, Joanne Fortune, RN, was awarded recognition as a Public Health Hero of Franklin County at the Annual Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon on Friday, May 21. The Public Health Leadership Award is presented annually by the Upper Valley Health Web which aims to increase collaboration among and support to public health initiatives across the county. Joanne was among the recipients for 2004.

According to Dawn Peters, Heath Board of Health Chair, our Town Nurse has become an indispensable part of the community. "Joanne takes her job seriously and is so good with residents. She knows when to be assertive and doesn't force anything on anyone. She is respectful of their privacy and yet committed to helping in any way that she can and they will allow her to." Selectperson Sheila Litchfield indicated that "Joanne's help was essential to the process of enabling our parents to smoothly and comfortably live their last few years in Heath when we had a great need for Public Health Nursing support."

Joanne has served as our Town Nurse for over six years, and her work (for which she receives a nine-hour per week salary) includes counseling, home visits to consult with patients about their medications, flu clinics, health education, blood pressure checks, and immunizations. She also does follow-up visits with people returning from hospitalizations, case management for patients arranging for services, and even checks in on shut-ins during power outages and storms. Presently Joanne does this without an office due to the closure for renovations of the Community Hall.

Please join us in proud recognition of our Town Nurse, Joanne Fortune, RN.

Selectboard's Report

The Selectboard meets regularly every other Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall. The summer schedule of meeting every other Monday went into effect on May 24.

Annual Town Meeting - The Annual Town Meeting was held at the Heath Elementary School on Saturday, May 8. Twenty-one articles were on the warrant for consideration by the voters at the meeting. The Selectboard and the Finance Committee recommended that articles requiring appropriations be passed over to a later date with the hope that a revised school budget and State appropriations for local aid would significantly reduce the amount that the Town needed to raise for the FY05 budget and thereby reduce the anticipated tax rate of \$26.14 per thousand. A letter from the Finance Committee explaining the reasoning behind its recommendations was distributed to all at the meeting. After a presentation by Mohawk Superintendent Alan Genovese, comments by our School Committee members and concerned residents, a vote was taken to bring the school budget items to the floor for a vote. The Mohawk and Franklin County Tech school budgets passed easily.

Article 3, which contained town budget items, was passed over along with the other articles dealing with transfers of free cash and the purchase of a new highway truck. An article transferring \$25,000 for the matching portion of a grant for a new fire truck was passed at the meeting due to the time constraints on the grant. An article to enact a bylaw prohibiting the Town from appropriating money for anything that may have the possibility of grant money available was defeated after comments by Town Counsel that the article may be viewed by the Attorney General as a non-appropriation if such stipulations were attached. Another proposed bylaw, this one sponsored by the Board of Health, to regulate unregistered vehicles, was brought to the floor for consideration. After discussion, requests for clarification, and a number of amendments, it was passed. The meeting also passed a resolution calling on local officials, the Selectboard, in this case, to urge our Congressmen and Senators to work for the repeal of all sections of the USA Patriot Act that violate citizens' fundamental rights and liberties as set out in the state and federal constitutions. An overwhelming majority supported the resolution.

The last item of business was the acknowledgement of the contributions of Earl Gleason to the Town of Heath over his many years of service. A standing ovation was given.

Continuation of the Annual Town Meeting - The Annual Town Meeting was continued to Saturday, June 26, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. at the Heath Elementary School. The passed-over budget articles will be considered at this time.

Special Town Meeting - A Special Town Meeting was held before the Annual Town Meeting for the purpose of transferring money from accounts with surpluses to accounts with deficits or projected deficits. All articles passed unanimously.

Community Hall - Work is well underway on the foundation and drainage repairs to the Community Hall. Roofing work should start soon. So far the work is on schedule.

New Dump Truck - The Board received bids for a new highway truck to replace the 1993 vehicle. This is accordance with the

Town's maintenance and replacement schedule. Approval of the purchase was postponed until it can be considered by the continued Annual Town Meeting on June 26.

Three-Town Landfill Closing - The Selectboards of Heath, Hawley, and Charlemont have resumed meeting to discuss the details of closing the former landfill. A public hearing was held in Charlemont on May 16 to discuss whether Yankee Atomic would have non-hazardous fill material to deposit on the landfill and thereby be able to assist in defraying some of the closing costs. It appeared from the testimony of representatives of the company that this was unlikely but that there may be other ways that Yankee could help.

Transfer Station Hours - Due to responses received to the plan for reducing transfer station hours the Board will be reconsidering its decision at a future meeting. Comments would be appreciated.

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 DeVriese
Sheila Litchfield

PTP NEWS

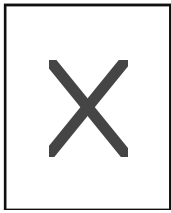
The PTP has had a busy spring. We started off the season celebrating Earth Day with our Human-I-Tees fund-raiser. This was a great fund-raiser for the PTP as well as for the 6th grade which benefited by keeping the proceeds from what their class sold. We also celebrated Earth Day by asking students to clean up their roads through our second annual Roadside Cleanup. Trash bags were sent home with each child during April vacation asking them to clean up their road to help keep our town litter free.

We sponsored a 60s Dance in April that was lots of fun. Great food, music, decorations, and activities were enjoyed by all who attended. We have continued offering Friday night movies twice a month and have been averaging about 40 people per night. We continued this through May, and will start up again in the fall.

Teacher Appreciation week is fast approaching and we will have goodies to eat and surprises galore for our wonderful staff. We are now planning for the Heath Fair and welcome anyone who would like to help us "man" our booth. We are always in need of more volunteers!

~ Robin Jenkins
PTP Co-chair

Editors Note: Congratulations to Heath School students for leading the way to keeping our beautiful roads free of litter!

Library Lines**Gifts of Books**

By Charlene Churchill

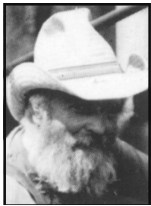
Just a reminder that as you go about your spring and early summer cleaning and are deciding what items have to go, our library appreciates gifts of books and other materials. Not everything that is donated can be added to our collection, but with the approval of the donor, we pass materials that are not added to the collection to the Friends of the Library to be included in their book sale at the Heath Fair in August. The book sale is a major fund-raising event for the Friends and the proceeds go back into our library.

Items that contain mold, mildew, or that are excessively dirty or worn should be disposed of rather than donated. We have to throw them away anyway and the mold and mildew pose a threat to the existing library collection just by being in our space for a short period of time! Some items, such as condensed books, textbooks, and outdated encyclopedias, are very hard to sell. The library staff would be happy to provide alternative suggestions for the disposal of these types of items.

We should also mention that we are unable to provide appraisal estimates of donated materials for income tax purposes because we don't have the professional expertise to do these types of appraisals.

New Books at the Library: Adult Fiction: *Uncle Rudolf* by Paul Bailey, *Cry From the Dark* by Robert Barnard, *Love in the Asylum* by Lisa Carey, *Master Quilter* by Jennifer Chiaverini, *Sharpe's Escape* by Bernard Cornwell, *Lucky Ones* by Rachel Cusk, and *The Well of Lost Plots* by Jasper Fforde.

Adult Nonfiction: *Making Family Websites* by Jennifer Bidner, *George Washington* by James MacGregor Burns, *Credo* by William Sloane Coffin, *Sons of Camelot* by Laurence Leamer, and *The American Barn* by David Plowden.

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

By Carroll Stowe

I've been told and have read the quotation that life is what happens when you're making other plans.

During my many years of time spent on the labor force for the Town of Rowe I was able to collect various pieces of hardware. Every article that followed me home I had or could visualize a use for. Well, time and my pack rat attitude created a pile or several piles of treasures, only to me.

With time and from a daughter who feels that flowers are more sightly than just dreams, pleas are sent to my ears to create flower displays instead of old iron monuments.

I don't possess the ability to even consider a throwaway nature. Most of the items that my daughter and her friend Bill sort out, bits and pieces, to go for scrap, are things I've brought home from dump pickings. All have a planned specific use. When I worked full-time for the Town of Rowe I would go to work early and use the shop equipment, the welder or torch, and create a useful item for a tractor attachment. Now I don't go in that direction very often. In some part, my needs and activities changed so these fabrication procedures haven't needed to happen.

Years back I put together a wood splitter to use on our Cub Farmall tractor. It is a good working unit but as we no longer buy wood, it gets used very little. I built it in early a.m. at the Rowe garage and planned to allow anyone with a Cub Farmall to be able to make use of it. It's not a pretty unit, never won any prizes for best construction but it works and makes good use of the power of a Cub Farmall.

As I toil at sorting out all manner of odd sizes of steel, I am apt to be at the point of tears because time has fled, and I've taken on some years and lost some of my need to fabricate whatever. Perhaps I could create a massive steel sculpture out of all the offending shapes and sizes. It would be 30-feet tall, but I guess I won't do that. Good luck to all who have got the same problem that yours truly is afflicted with.



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

"This publication is supported in part by a grant from the Heath Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency."

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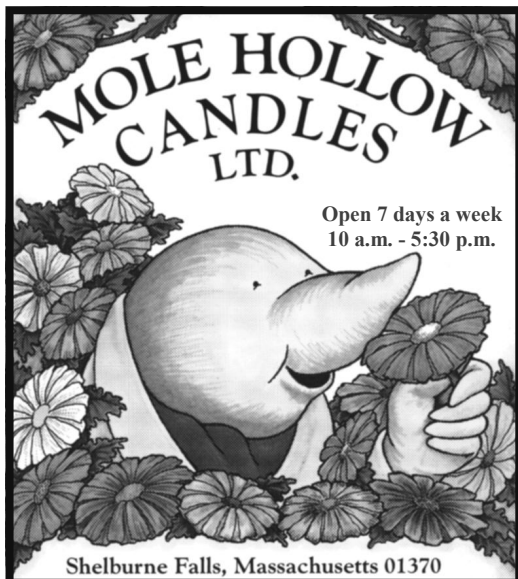
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Rays of Interest**Train Wreck**By Raymond Pettengill

From 1951 to 1955 I was assigned to the destroyer USS SPROSTON DD 577 which was converted to a destroyer escort DDE-577 on 15 September 1950. She was made lighter than a DD to keep up with the new fast aircraft carriers being commissioned at that time. She could do over 38 knots (over 43 miles per hour.)

Her 01 deck made of heavy armor plate with torpedo tubes and twin five-inch guns was replaced with 5/8 aluminum plate. The twin five-inch mount was replaced with a twin three-inch pom-pom gun mount, and the torpedo tubes were set up on the main deck. You may have heard the expression "pass the ammunition." In order for the crew to load ammunition from railcars to the ship, the rail tracks were placed very close to the side of the dock so a line of men could be formed to pass the shells from one to the other. The sides of the train cars came up very close to the edge of the dock. The dock was made of cement with sides of heavy wood cribbing attached to large piles driven into the ocean floor for a cushion.

My sea duty station was throttle man in the after engine room. Between the two engines the ship had 60,000 hp. One time after we had finished refueling at such a dock and all the ammo train cars had been emptied (fortunately), I received a bell signal for a full back down. After executing this command I received a bell command for full ahead. Not too long after executing this command, the ship started to shudder and shake all over and I received an all stop bell command.

After being relieved from my sea duty station and going up on deck I could hardly believe what I saw. Floating off on the port bow was a long line of piles and cribbing and on the starboard bow several derailed cars lay over on their sides. The bow of a destroyer is very sharply pointed and reinforced to ram submarines. It had sheared the cribbing and piles away from the cement dock like butter and the flare of the ship's sides had tipped the cars off the track.

This episode occurred from the fact that we had just acquired a new captain who was used to a smaller, less powerful ship that had two rudders instead of just the one we had. Because his was now the first ship in the US NAVY that had derailed a train while trying to get away from a dock, he was sent back to training school.

Potluck
Retirement Party
For
Lorin Gowdy
Saturday, June 12 - Heath Elementary School
5:30 p.m.

Don't Know Why...

It sounds like a song from the 60s, but it's really about fish. I honestly don't know why spring and fishing always seem to come together for me in some powerful way. Must be the smell of the earthworms and all that, and then seeing the daffodils and early tulips, and of course, that shy, small tree, the shad-blow, who gently lets her tiny petals go just as the shad do their mad rush up rivers and brooks.



And that sets me to thinking about brookies, such beautiful fish, perfect in every way, taking their colors from the gravel and rocks and silty little eddies they live in, the top colors disguised to match the view from above, but with the most glorious side colors - I suppose to tell their kin "I'm spectacular for mating!" and to tell the predators above, "there's nothing here but a little gravel and rock."

I'm as good as the next fisherman in relishing big, fat rainbows who tug hard on the line and come to hand full of Hollywood color. But they aren't our fish, not the fish of our waters. They're like tourists, full of show and fat, but really pretty docile creatures, raised in hatcheries and accustomed to fish-chow. (I suppose the comparison here is the taste for a \$4 cup of coffee accompanied by a view of farms, but no knowing of the constant, hard, struggling work that makes real farms and farming happen).

Anyhow, I'll catch and then let go the rainbow trout, but it's the native brookies who have caught my heart and won't release it. About ten years ago, I spotted a tiny stream on a USGS map, feeding into the Deerfield and called, enticingly, Trout Brook. Well, well, I thought gleefully, that name didn't come from nowhere! But this is no brook for fishing that fishing people would much think of. It's a tumbling, steep, rocky riffle, more for hiking and looking and enjoying than it is for fishing - and, by the way, it does have a few of those splendid, mottled-leaf yellow trout lilies in spring, along the bank here and there. For someone in love with the Real McCoy of fish, this is just perfect!

I stop and think for a moment, now as I write this and then as I looked along and into that brook. This little run of water has never been managed, stocked, adulterated. The few native brook trout here are an inheritance from the last ice age, after the great, fathoms-deep glacier melted and pulled north eons ago. What I see today in this lively, ever so tiny, living splash of water is nature's grand carrying-on in a small, perfect fish. She is suited exactly to her place-and our place, if we are gentle - here in this tough, rocky, special world.

So, that's what I'm in love with in the fish department, not understanding much why its magic is so powerful, but my love is a keeper.

~ Kathy Stein



Heath Business Directory

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337-5340

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Branch Hill Road
337-4705

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337-5716

Russell E. Donelson
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337-4460

Jerry Ferguson
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337-4317

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Fire Equipment
337-4948

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Maple Syrup Year Round
337-4705

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Custom Remodeling
337-8344

Wanda Mooney
Realtor
337-8344

Alan Nichols
Furniture Maker
337-6665

C. Richards Steinbock
Graphic Design
337-4746

Tripp's Blueberries
Taylor Brook Road
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Climbing Kilimanjaro

The hills of Heath and surrounding towns provided a great training ground for a recent adventure. In January 2004, I traveled to Tanzania with 12 incredible women ranging in age from 30 to 60 all carrying the hope of summiting Kilimanjaro - the highest peak in Africa, at 19,340 feet. The planning for the trip started a year earlier. Easy access to great hills definitely put me at an advantage! I had spent the past few years biking many country roads and hiking and cross-country skiing the miles and miles of snowmobile trails and so now turned up the heat on my training, so to speak, to get ready for the trek.

The six-and-a-half day climb up Kilimanjaro was taxing on the lungs, trying on the patience at times, and challenging to the will, yet all the while nurturing to the spirit. Since the climb brought us through every climate zone found between the equator and the north pole, every day provided a new terrain and new challenges. The forests were amazing - such trees! Once into the alpine zone, the route was a veritable moonscape. Kibo, the peak of Kilimanjaro, peeked in and out of cloud cover as we experienced three days of cold rain and a final 12- inch snowstorm the last day leading up to the summit climb. Our final push was a grueling 22- hour hike to the summit and then down to 12,000 feet in new snow. But slogging through fresh powder is not new to a Heathan, and I think that was a crucial factor aiding me in this attempt.

As it turned out, only four of the twelve of us made it to the top. Yet we were all blessed with incredible learning and growth on our journey regardless of how far we made it. Standing at the summit, with mammoth glaciers around, arm and arm with a small group of very dear old and new friends, I felt immensely small - contradiction intended. I thought about the ever so small community of Heath that holds such a huge heart, and I knew as wonderful as this adventure was, homecoming would be oh so sweet.

If you are interested in seeing some great photos and reading about our trip, please check out our group's website at <http://www.kilichicks.org>. Enjoy!

~ Judi Singley

Finance Committee Report

The results of the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) held on May 8 at the Heath School have been well publicized, so we won't go into detail. However, we want to note that the Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) assessment, which was increased 25.6% for FY05, was supported by voice vote albeit not unanimously. The Finance Committee (FinCom) and the Selectboard wished to defer the vote to a late June date pending final and firm data from the State Department of Education (DOE) relative to additional income for Transportation (busing) and the Special Education Circuit Breaker program (SPED) that should result in lower assessments to the towns. Superintendent Alan Genovese persuaded the Town Meeting that it was not necessary to wait; rather, that the House and Senate had voted increases in those two accounts and agreed via a joint resolution that they would not be changed. He stressed the need for an approved budget in order to avoid sending pink slips to teachers and staff in June and avoid a one-twelfth budget scenario on July 1. While specific numbers are not yet known, Superintendent Genovese indicated that the towns would receive full benefit of increased Transportation money and that additional SPED income could be estimated to help reduce expenses for that item.

Thus, at a joint meeting of the Selectboard, FinCom, MTRSD School Committee member Bob Gruen, and Franklin County Tech School representative Art Schwenger on May 17, it was agreed to send a letter to Superintendent Genovese and School Committee Chairperson Peggy Hart requesting that a revised, lower budget be re-certified by the School Committee as soon as possible reflecting the benefits of expected additional State aid. The District only has to send a letter to the towns advising them of the new (lower) assessment to make it effective. There is no need for a local vote. Heath would like it soon so it can review Article 3, which reflects town operating costs, and other monetary warrant articles before June 26, the follow-up Annual Town Meeting date. A similar letter will be sent to the Franklin County Technical School.

There is continuing concern about misrepresentation of Heath Elementary School operating costs. Data was made available at the ATM that was prepared by the Plainfield FinCom. It showed erroneously high costs per pupil as compared with the other elementary schools. As the administration and town/school officials address the declining school enrollment problem, there is a need for cooperation as well as understanding of pertinent facts. This issue is being brought to the attention of Superintendent Genovese.

Jeffrey Simmons was welcomed to the FinCom at its first meeting after the election. He replaces Charlene Churchill. Dave Howland continues as Chair and Ned Wolf as Secretary. David Cote and Budge Litchfield round out the FinCom.

~ Dave Howland, Chair



25th Anniversary Party



Buck den Ouden, Carroll Stowe, Jack Cable, Don Freeman

The *Heath Herald* Staff thank all who came to our 25th Anniversary party on April 25 to celebrate with us. Needless to say, we were very pleased by the turnout and feel that we can speak for all when we say a good time was had by all.

In addition to the many verbal and e-mail congratulations the *Herald* received, we had the following from a California subscriber and supporter which arrived atop a basket of flowers that we prominently displayed at the party.

Congratulations to one and all as you celebrate 25 years of fine and important reporting. Your community is blessed! With all good wishes from a loyal subscriber.

Frank W. Birney

We sold and Carroll Stowe valiantly signed a goodly number of the collection of his *Herald* articles. We will have them again for sale at the Heath Fair, but, in the meantime, copies can be had by calling Deborah Phillips at 337-8513. The price is \$6.00 plus postage, (if necessary).

Celebration!!! Theresa's Red Stroller

Heath School's Deb Porter and her Primes, concerned that classmate Theresa Charleton's wheelchair made it impossible for her to accompany them on their forays into the woods or anywhere with rough terrain, decided to purchase for her a lightweight vehicle with special wheels that was up to the task.

And this they accomplished raising the necessary funds from a variety of sources to purchase not one but two strollers, one for the classroom and one for Teresa's family, making outings to the beach much easier for them.

In addition to contributions from the Primes themselves


and their families, funds were received from business and individual donors. The class also made and sold snacks including the famous Heath School popcorn. A total of \$1200 was realized!

On Friday, May 21, a celebration of this wonderful effort was held at the school at all-school meeting during which Theresa and her coach, resplendent with multi-colored streamers and balloons, were the center of attraction. With the help of the Primes who formed a slalom, Theresa with her attendant, Trish Archambault, demonstrated the vehicle's ease of maneuver.

Deb Porter related the story of how it all came about with the help of her students, one of whom described the color choice made by Theresa who indicated her preference of red over yellow. Following an expression of thanks to all who donated to the Fund, the class and visitors, including several of the parents as well as Theresa's father Steve, reassembled outside for apple juice and a delicious and beautiful cake made by Gail Hall and decorated by Deb Lively.



(Editors Note: We attended this very special event and want to extend again our congratulations to Deb Porter and the Primes for the thoughtfulness and perseverance needed to make this splendid idea a reality!)



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Heath Land Preservation Committee

Herewith is a long overdue report from the Heath Land Preservation Committee. As you may know, the HLPC was formed in response to the overwhelming importance and support of land preservation by the people who attended the Visioning Committee meetings of a few years ago. Our primary mission is to inform and educate the people of Heath as to the options that are available to preserve our beautiful rural landscape. We have helped to facilitate numerous land preservation projects in Heath in conjunction with the Franklin Land Trust. We have also helped to raise funds for land preservation. These funds provide bridge-funding for landowners, loans for land appraisals, and other assistance to landowners wishing to preserve their land from development.

Since the inception of the HLPC, 15 projects have been completed, and 1519 acres have been permanently protected from development. Some of the Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs) we have helped to facilitate are:

Burnt Hill Blueberry Farm

Dickinson Farm

Thane Farm

Lucianna Ross property (next to the Fairgrounds)

The Ross property is the most recent addition to protected land in Heath, and a very important one. Mrs. Ross has graciously donated the APR on the land which we see as we come to the top of the hill on Bray Road. Special thanks go to committee member Dick Gary for his work on this project.

Another way to protect land from development is by donating a Conservation Restriction (CR) on the land. Numerous CRs have been donated in the past few years assuring that many important fields and forests in Heath will remain as they are today, adding to the rural character of our beloved town.

One common misconception about preserving land is that it takes money away from the town by depleting the stock of taxable land. This is not true. Land in preservation is still taxed as undeveloped land, just as it is for undeveloped land that is not protected. The tax savings for land preservation is on federal and state income taxes, and this can be substantial. Putting one's land under Chapter 61 or 61A is how landowners can save money on property taxes, and this is the area where the town loses tax revenue. This is separate from the HLPC mission. We are solely concerned with placing permanent development restrictions on land to preserve the rural character of Heath.

Our success is a tribute to the enlightened and concerned people of Heath. We have preserved more land in Heath than any other town in Franklin County except Colrain, and we have one of the smallest populations of any these towns. Thank you for your support, and let us continue with this important work. Please feel free to contact any of our committee members with questions or concern.

~ Heath Land Preservation Committee

Dave Freeman, Dick Gary, Bill Gran, Del Viarengo,
Jan Carr, Suzanne Hannay, Bob Dane

Celebrating Heath's Heritage

On Thursday, April 29, you may have noticed and wondered about the mysterious gray van inching along, and perhaps briefly parked in front of your home.

No cause for alarm - the van was packed with Carol Ann Eldridge, Margaret Howland, Eric Grinnell, Fred Burrington, Donald Freeman, and myself, along with Chris Skelly, of Buckland, who is the Western Massachusetts representative of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

We were doing a "drive around" to start to catalog the houses in Heath that date back to the 1800s and earlier. Heath has received a grant, at no cost to the town, for help with a survey and a preservation plan. When completed, the results of our survey will be available to all and will become a part of the permanent records in Town Hall.

In the course of our tour, on a beautiful spring day, we all realized with renewed appreciation, that we live in a very special place surrounded by natural beauty and a remarkable number of historic houses, barns, and sites. So far, we have identified over one hundred. We also had a chance to say hello to several neighbors who were tilling their gardens, and to meet some friendly dogs and cats along the way.

In coming weeks we will be doing more "drive arounds" to add to our notes and to take photographs from public byways of the fronts of houses. We trust that this will not be bothersome in any way.

If you have historic information, old photographs that we could copy, or any concerns or questions, please call me at 337-8619 or write to me at P.O. Box 81.

I will keep you informed of our progress, and I hope that you are enjoying the miracle of springtime in Heath.

~ Del Viarengo, Chair
Heath Historical Commission

Butterfly Quilt



The Ladies Aid and Deb Porter's Primes of Heath School worked together to make a butterfly quilt.

Maple House



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

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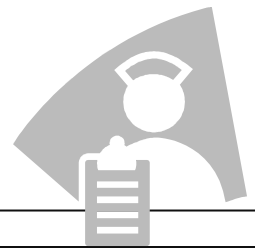
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Shelburne Falls



Town Nurse Notes

Over and Above.....



By Joanne Fortune, RN

To give you a better idea of what I do as the Heath Town Nurse, here's a sketch.

I make home visits on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. until noon at which time I work in my office for one hour, sometimes going out after to see more people. Home visits include (but certainly are not limited to) taking vitals, checking blood oxygen levels with a pulse oximeter, checking blood sugar, calling physicians when necessary, finding equipment for people, putting people in touch with agencies, changing bandages, and explaining medications. I sometimes catch illnesses early enough to abate a serious situation. I help make lists of questions for doctors, check insurance companies that seem questionable, point out a possible dangerous situation in the home, and I'm on call for questions.

I do quite a lot of teaching for nutrition, diabetes, depression, grief, cancer fears, family woes. People know they can speak their worries and fears without being judged or criticized. They appreciate the strict confidence I adhere to. I see 8-11 people each Tuesday. I schedule some people for every week, some for every two weeks, and some once a month. I'm working about 10 hours a week at this time, some of it at home on the phone or doing paperwork.

My office was in the Community Hall until it closed on December 31. At present, I'm in the Assessors' office in the Town Hall until the Community Hall reopens (perhaps in September). The Community Hall is being renovated through a Community Development Block Grant and there will be a nurse's office for myself (with walls and a door!).

In the fall, I held flu clinics in which I also gave pneumonia, Td, and Hep B shots. I applied for Medicare reimbursement and will receive a check from them in the next couple of months (for hours).

Becky Jurek wrote and received a grant for \$987.47 through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs that went into my hours account. I write a quarterly report for the State so they know how the monies are being used. The Council on Aging granted my position \$300 for FY03 and \$772.50 for FY04 which also goes into my hours.

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management has chosen us to be a sharps (needles) collection site. They gave us a dozen sharps containers for diabetic residents who need them. When their container is full, I'll store it in my office and the Solid Waste District will pick it up. Anyone who needs a container may call me.

My articles for this great 25-year-old newspaper for the Year 2003 were "When the Lights Go Out," "Dangers of Smoking," "Deer Ticks and "Lyme Disease," "Hayfever," "Cholesterol and Heart Disease," and "Having a Positive Attitude." Someone is interested in binding all my articles in a book.

This fall I'll furnish my new nurse's office. My most expensive purchase will be a balance beam scale. Some of the Homeland Security monies, allocated to the Board of Health, will be used for a refrigerator for vaccines.

Every year, the State gives me vaccine for 90 flu and five pneumonia shots (and any others I need at the time). If any of you haven't been vaccinated for pneumonia and you're over 65, please give me a call and I'll start a list of people for the fall. In the past, I've been able to ask for additional pneumovac if I know I will use it.

I wonder if residents would like me to give a talk in town about cancer; the types, the latest research, and the fear factor surrounding it. I wonder if there is another subject people would like me to discuss. Give me a call with your thoughts.

You might have seen my photo in the *West County News* in February, sitting in the Assessors' office, lost in thought. "There are only two town nurses in West County, the other is in Rowe." You guys are so lucky!

This position is such a good thing for this town, and it's certainly appreciated by those who take advantage of it. I feel it a real honor to be allowed to help people out and, mostly, to teach you to help yourselves. Thank you for your support!

If you or anyone you know would like a visit, my phone number is 774-2958. Thank you.

Thank You

A very Special thank-you to everyone who had a part in my receiving the 2004 Public Health Leadership Award given by the Upper Valley Health Web. I appreciate those of you who attended the annual Chamber of Commerce luncheon to see me receive my documents of congratulations from the Senate and House. And thanks so much to the Heath Board of Health for the reception. Everyone had a good time and the food was wonderful..

My sincere congratulations go out to everyone in Heath for supporting this valuable position. This honor is for us all.

~ Joanne Fortune

Milestones

Born March 24, 2004, a daughter, **Adelyn Mae**, to John and Tara Ploof Seney of Orange; granddaughter of Sue Ploof of Orange, Cheryl Seney of Athol, Geno Gentile of Fitchburg, and Robert and Shirley Ploof of FL; great-granddaughter of **Luis and Eva Pazmino** of Heath and Cecile Chartand of Leominster.

Born April 8, 2004, a son, **Dennis Allen**, to **Jeffrey and Jeanna Simmons** of Heath; grandson of Leota Johnson and the late Dennis Allen Burson Jr. of Tulsa, OK, Anthony and Phyllis Simmons of Methuen, MA, and great-grandson of Hazel Huelshorst of Fayetteville, AK.

Born April 21, 2004, a daughter, **Madison Alexa**, to Amy Armstrong and Robert Schempp of Portsmouth, NH; granddaughter of **Michael and Carolyn Armstrong** of Heath, Dennis and Lisa O'Gorman of Greenfield, and Keith and Carol Schempp of Shelburne Falls; great-granddaughter of Les and Louise Spondre of Lantanta, FL, Carol Semanic of Springfield, and Jim and Muriel Breen of Shelburne Falls, and Fred Schempp of Westfield, and great-great-granddaughter of Alfred Goulet of Springfield.



Memorial Service

A memorial service for Caroline Crosby Smith will be held on Sunday, June 6 at 2 p.m. in the Union Evangelical Church. Caroline, a founder of the *Heath Herald*, and an active member of the Heath Historical Society, was a longtime resident of Heath. Friends are invited to join her family at this celebration of Caroline's life. Burial will follow in West Branch Cemetery in Colrain. There will be a reception at 4 p.m. at the house of Sue Silvester, 117 Colrain Stage Road.

Heath Deed Transfers

David A. Baronas to Michael M. Baronas, Colrain Stage Road, Lot 2. \$1.

David A. Baronas and Michael M. Baronas to David A. and Tracey L. Baronas, Colrain Stage Road, Lot 1. \$1.

Craig W. Barry Jr. of Buckland, to Dorothy Hanni Hulbert of Brooklyn, NY, Avery Brook, Taylor Brook, and Colrain Brook Roads. \$1.

John C. Becker Jr. of Sea Cliff, NY, to John C. III and Catherine Becker of Sea Cliff, Mary C. Brunetti of Portland, OR, and Joan Becker Cotton of Moses Lake, WA, 33 Long Hill Road. No consideration.

David Chaplin of Colrain, to Donald C. Sr. and Charlotte M. Stetson of Colrain, Mohawk Estates, Lots 12 and 13. \$3,500.

Ann M. Cronin of Easthampton, to Earl P. Carlow, 3 Burnt Hill Road. \$54,000.

Richard Festante of Beth Page, NY, James W. Tintle of Levittown, NY, Keith M. Tintle of Houston, TX, and Mark E. Tintle Jr. of East Meadow, NY, to Michael S. and Kerry S. Kennedy of Tiverton, RI, 11 Long Hill Road. \$37,000.

Dorothy Hanni Hulbert of Brooklyn, NY, to Craig W. Barry Jr. of Buckland, Avery Brook, Taylor Brook and Colrain Brook Roads. \$1.

Daniel J. Kelly of South Hadley, to David E. Ruffner of Westfield, Mohawk Estates, Lot 36, \$1,250.

Robin A. Maslak of Orange Park, FL, to Leonard R. Gates of Chicopee, Cascade Drive, Lots 31 to 34. \$10.

John T. McCloud of Peru, NY, and William C. McCloud of Westhampton, to Ramon A. and Iris D. Acosta of Winchendon, Rowe Road. \$60,000.

Deborah McGorry of East Longmeadow, to Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc., Mohawk Estates, Lot 6. \$1.

Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc. to Roger and Robin Guay of West Springfield, Mohawk Estates, Lots 13 and 18. \$1,600.

Garry X. Pelletier and Katherine E. Hogan of Colrain, to Jonathan Matarese of East Providence, RI, 43 Swamp Road. \$30,000.

Rural Development Inc. of Turners Falls to Ann S. Pacino, 2 East Brook Drive. \$100,380.

Calvin R. Tatro to Violet R. Gauthier of Ludlow, Clearwater Drive, Lot 7. \$6,000.

Donald and Elaine Tatro of Chicopee, to Pamelah Stevens of Florence, 21 Navaho Lane. \$11,000.

Normand A. Terault of Gardner to Jeffrey and Gina Simmons, 16 East Brook Drive. No consideration.

Sterling R. Jr. and Jacqueline M. Tiffany of Foresthill, CA, to Sterling R. Jr. and Jacqueline M. Tiffany Revocable Living Trust, Jacksonville Stage Road. \$1.

United States of America, Housing and Urban Development, by attorney, Citiwest New England Inc., attorney, to Kurt A. Blaha and Gretchen M. Nartowicz of Easthampton, 2 Waterfall Drive. \$55,000.

Mark A. Willette of Ocala, FL, and Eleanor Willette of Espon, NH, to Thomas W. Trowbridge of Houston, TX, 16 Westbrook Drive. \$120,000.

Mickey L. Woodard and Karen E. Antoll of Leverett, to Richard P. and Cheryl A. Andrews/Ashfield, 23 Number Nine Road, \$85,000.

~ Compiled by Pegge Howland

**ATTENTION
ALL REPORTERS, WRITERS, AND OTHER
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CONTRIBUTORS:**

**PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE JULY 10TH
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS.**

Mail to: P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346 or drop materials off in box at the Town Hall entryway.

Library Building Planning and Design Grant

At the 2000 Annual Heath Town Meeting, the citizens of Heath voted to accept a Library Building Planning and Design grant from the State of Massachusetts. The purpose of the grant is to help the Town make informed decisions about the kind of library facility that would best serve our needs for the next twenty years. The grant is also a prerequisite for obtaining any State funds to build a new library facility should the Town vote to do so. This article is the first of several to bring the community up-to-date on our progress in meeting the requirements of this grant.

We have completed the first grant requisite, the Building Program (The resulting document is available at the library). This process has helped us identify the challenges that face our present library as well as to envision some exciting possibilities for our future. We would encourage all citizens to take the time to look it over. Some of the issues that are identified in this report are:

- Accessibility of library space and parking for handicapped patrons.
- Adequate space for
 1. Maintaining and expanding the collection.
 2. Creating a much needed staff office and work area.
 3. Expanding computer and other technology resources.
 4. Providing comfortable, quiet reading and study areas for patrons
 5. Expanding the children's area to better accommodate the collection and to provide a special projects area.
- Maintenance of a dust and mildew free environment for collection preservation.

In addition, a new library facility would enable us to provide space for library programs focused on community interests as well as a display area for the work of local artists. It would also be possible to provide a climate-controlled room for the preservation of important historical documents.

The next step in completing the requirements of this Library Building Planning and Design grant is to provide an estimate of the costs of an updated library facility. In order to do this the Trustees will be hiring an architect to assess our options as well as draw up preliminary plans for a new building.

Please remember that this is a planning grant and the information we gather at this stage will help Heath's citizens make an informed decision about any future library facility. The completion of this work will also allow us to seek State library construction funds, apply for grants from foundations, and begin a capital campaign to raise funds to meet the entire cost of the project from businesses and individuals.

We invite you to take part in this planning by coming to our monthly meetings (the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Library). In addition to these regular meetings, however, we will also hold several informational meetings as the architect and the Trustees work toward completion of the library plan. The dates of these

meetings will be posted in the Library as well as published in the *West County News*.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Trustees and the Library Director.

~ The Library Trustees

Heath Senior Center Restoration Underway



Work on the Town of Heath's \$281,432 Community Hall Senior Center Rehabilitation Project is just getting underway. The renovation and upgrade of the Community Hall Senior Center has long been an important Town Priority. Working with the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), the Town secured funding for the restoration through a Massachusetts Small Cities Community Development Block Grant. The Town also contributed funds to the project.

The Heath Community Hall was constructed in 1872 as a Methodist Church and the lower level was originally leased as commercial space. In 1892, following a decline in Heath's already small population, three local churches combined and used the Hall for one year. Vacant for many years thereafter, the building was acquired by the Heath Historical Society in 1932 and converted into a community hall. Later, the Historical Society deeded it to the Town.

Further renovations and improvements came as the result of volunteer labor and fund-raising. The proposed project will provide the resources necessary to install a new roof, paint the exterior of the building, improve site drainage, replace and rebuild a portion of the hall's foundation, construct a new nurse's office, and provide for a new kitchen facility including new cabinets, stove, and dishwasher.

Kurtz, Inc. of Westfield is the contractor. The HRA serves as the grants administrator and project manager for the Town. The Project is scheduled for completion in September, 2004.

~ Bruce Hunter

Franklin County Housing & Redevelopment Authority

News From The Benson Place

Spring has just brought us another wonderful bloom on the wild blueberry bushes, and we look forward to a summer of growing, harvesting, and having people visit the farm.

This is an important year for us, because we have decided that we must sell our upper parcel of land, including the farmhouse and barn. While we love the property and our friends in Heath, we have found that we are unable to make farm ownership work as a mutual endeavor in our life.

We are pleased with the growth of the business over the past several years, the number of new families who have come to enjoy our unsprayed fruit, and the opportunity to continue a long tradition of employing local youth. We hope that the style of farming and neighborly cooperation that we have enjoyed here will be able to continue.

We are in dialogue with some local individuals as well as the Franklin Land Trust and the Valley Community Land Trust with respect to alternatives for the future. We have also applied to the Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program for the purchase of development rights to this property. Your ideas are also welcomed, so that we can best work towards a good outcome for ourselves, those who work with us, the farm, and the wider community.

We will retain ownership of our original purchase of 25 acres to the south of the farm, so that we can continue our rich connection to the Town of Heath.

Come see us this summer! The harvest, which Dave will oversee with able colleague Mark Benjamin, should run between late July and late August, and there are two other special events to mention. On **July 10 and 11**, we will host the noonday meal for the 2004 Franklin Land Trust Farm and Garden Tour, which will focus on this general section of the West County. For more information on the tour, visit www.franklinlandtrust.org or call 628-0257, ext. 5. Our 3rd Annual Blueberry Jubilee will be held on Saturday, August 7, from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. Learn more from our website, which is www.gis.net/~benplace or by calling 413-337-5340.

~ Dave Gott and Ted Watt

FHPL Bake Sale

The Friends of the Heath Free Public Library wish to thank all who baked and bought at their annual Memorial Day Weekend Bake Sale held on the porch of Sawyer Hall.

At the same time, inside the Library, Buck den Ouden, professor of Philosophy at the University of Hartford, signed copies of his book, *Are Freedom and Dignity Possible?*, asking recipients to make a donation to the Friends in lieu of the purchase price.

We thank them and him for their generosity.

Council on Aging/Community Hall

The contractor has finally started on the Community Hall's renovation. The Building Committee is in the process of deciding colors for the cabinets, kitchen flooring, counter tops, and the shingles. A part of the foundation was excavated in the front of the building to address the drainage problem. Hopefully this will eliminate a lot of the dampness in the dining hall.

If construction continues on time, we hope to have use of the building by the end of September. The Senior Center will have an open house, with a potluck supper, to celebrate the reopening. It will be open to the public, and we hope to have a large attendance.

~ Val Kaempfer
Council on Aging,
Community Hall Committee,
Senior Center

Community Calendar

June 5 - The Academy at Charlemont Commencement - 3:00 p.m.

June 12 - Retirement Party Potluck Supper for Lorin Gowdy at Heath School, 5:30 p.m.

June 17 - Heath School 6th Grade Graduation, 7:00 p.m.

June 18 - Heath School Last Day - 1/2 day.

June 26 - Annual Town Meeting extension - 9:00 a.m., Heath School

June 27 - Heath Union Church Tag Sale and Ladies Aid Bake Sale, Fairgrounds from noon to 5:00 p.m.

July 1 - New transfer station stickers due.

July 10, 11 - Franklin Land Trust Farm and Garden Tour, noonday meal at The Benson Place

July 31 - Ladies Aid Fair, Heath Union Church, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Heath Historical Society's Old Town House and Center School open from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

August 7 - Third Annual Benson Place Blueberry Jubilee, 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

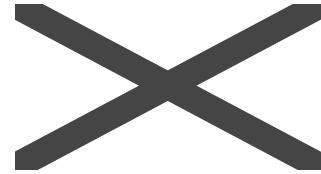
August 20-22 - Heath Fair

August 28 - Heath Historical Society Annual Meeting and Potluck supper, Fairgrounds, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

(Note: We want to make this a regular feature. Please let us know significant dates. Thanks.)

We must be the change
We wish to see
in the world.

~ Mahatma Gandhi



Heath Emergency Services News

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

3/15/04 - Rt. 8A North - Medical
3/16/04 - Rt. 8A North - Medical
5/04/04 - Number Nine Road - Medical
5/08/04 - Rt. 8A North - Motor Vehicle Accident

In March, EMTS and First Responders had their "doctor evaluated" test for using the Defibrillator that is required once a year, as is the "in house" evaluation.

~Timothy Lively, EMT

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STORE HOURS

Monday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sunday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.