



# HEATH HERALD

## Heath's First Newspaper

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### *A Valentine Bouquet for a Special Lady*

Dear Dot,

Thank you for all your love, cookies, and other baked goods, and for the warmth of your home and hospitality. You are everybody's sweetheart, especially ours.

May God continue to bless you.

Love and Best Wishes,

*Ruth Ayers, Hilma and Dick Sumner*



Dear Grammie Dot,

Thank you for all the love you give to those around you. Thank you for your cheerful smile and warm hugs. Thank you for sharing your cows, your barn cats and kittens, and your dogs with two little girls you used to baby-sit for a long time ago. Thank you for all the cookies, brownies, pies, and cakes you have shared with those around you. Thank you for the example of your faith in God even in the face of all the sorrows you have had in your life.

Happy Valentine's Day,  
*Charlene Churchill*



I met Dottie Sessions about seventeen years ago at the Ladies Aid Fair. Since then she and I have worked together on many projects including COA committee functions and Senior Meals. She is always willing to do the calling for us, take reservations, collect money, and take care of newspaper articles when asked. She is a very caring, loving person. She is one GRAND LADY and it is my honor and privilege to know her.

*Val Kaempfer*



A Valentine for Dottie? A perfect symbol. Dottie has a large heart. She is a longtime friend. She has always been there for me. She listens, she advises, she comforts. She is generous, funny, clever, pretty, and, on top of all that, she makes the best filled-cookies I have ever experienced! Keep it up, Dottie!

*Alli Thane-Stetson*

*"Angels exist but some times they don't have wings, we call them friends."* Dottie you are my Heath Angel!

I always look forward to the warmth of your loving hugs, and your gentle and tender smile. You are a person of compassion, understanding, tenderness, and love. How lucky I am to have you in my life. Thank you for being you!

Love Always,  
*Eileen Tougas*



Dear Dot,

You're so friendly and helpful all the time so I want you to be my Valentine!

Love, *Ruthie Johnson*



There is a great lady, Dot Sessions,  
Who's taught many of us some good lessons.  
To work hard at your labor,  
Do many a favor,  
Love Heath, life, and your neighbors.

Roses are Red,  
Raspberries too.  
This is to say,  
Dot, we love you!

*Sheila Litchfield*



Dot, You are always ready to lighten loads for others, brighten their day with your optimism, produce great foods from your kitchen, phone to keep in touch with your many friends, start prayer chains for those in crisis, sew sock monkeys, and are always anxious to help. We appreciate you for being you and envy your energy. Small is stature, how can there be room for such a big heart?

Happy Valentine's Day to you!

*Ruth Corey*



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### Editors' Note:

We chose **Dot Sessions** to be our *Heath Herald* Valentine because she is a Great Lady whose fine and positive spirit embodies those human qualities we prize most - kindness, loyalty, service to others, steadfastness even in most difficult times. Conversations with her reveal she is up-to-date on the happenings of our world and, in her opinions, her wisdom, good commonsense, and humor shine through. Those of us who know her value most highly her presence in our lives, and our town is richer for it.

Dot is an inspiration to us all, and we thought it time we told her so!

### Church News

Greetings to all snowbound Heathans and to those whose warm thoughts are with us in this winter season. 2006 will see many changes in our church. Our beloved pastor, Hilma Sumner, has resigned and is pursuing higher education. On behalf of the Heath Church, I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for her tireless efforts and for the many talents that she used to keep our church a welcoming place for visitors and townies. She is missed by many.

But don't despair, the Deacons have been talking and scheduling supply preachers and hope to have a replacement soon. If you would like to enrich your life, stop by Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and listen to one of our guest speakers. They usually bring insight into today's concerns and always show compassion for those willing to hear their view of God's intentions for us.

As we all try to keep warm and stay healthy, please pray for all of God's creatures to survive the cold of winter and bless us with their presence in the spring.

~ David Vanderpoel, Deacon

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### Winter Fun!!



**Sunday, February 26th,  
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

*Snowmobile Rides, Skating, Skiing,  
Snow Sculpture, Bonfire and Cookout*  
**At the Heath Fairgrounds**

**Sponsored by Heath PTP and Parks and Rec.**

## Sliding - Sledding



**Sliding = to move along on a smooth surface**  
**Sledding = to ride on a sled**

My generation called moving on a sled, sliding, while the current expression is sledding. Which-

ever you prefer, it is nevertheless a wonderful pastime. Oh, for a good snow cover or, best of all, a hard crust. Grab that Flexible Flyer and go!

It pleases me to see my grandson, Tucker, and his friends come swishing down the hill towards my yard. I ache to be out there with them (often I do just that), and it brings back so many memories of my youth.

With my sisters, children, and friends, I have used various pieces of equipment to try to get a ride down the hill on the white stuff, a shovel, a piece of cardboard, cafeteria trays, plastic sleds, flying metal saucers, and inflatable rings. All were somewhat successful, some slow, some tippy, some good, and some great. But as a child, my means of flying down a snowy hill was my Flexible Flyer. Thanks to our parents we each had a Christmas sled as soon as we were considered capable enough of "going it alone." I remember a shining FF leaning against the wall one Christmas morn with my name on it! Ecstasy!

As I travel the countryside, I am concerned that there are so few youngsters out on the slopes. I feel too many are indoors glued to some electronic equipment or off to some "organized" activity. They are missing the feeling of freedom of whizzing down a hill on the cold snow, the exhilaration of taking a flying jump off a bump in the terrain, of an unexpected flip into the soft, fluffy, white stuff. Yes, snow in the face, balls of snow in the boots, caked mittens are all not so bad things! The hard part, of course, is the long walk back up the hill before one can try it all again, however, this too can be fun with your friends - silly conversation, snowball fights, just falling over in the snow, giggling about some inane remark made by a buddy.

I was fortunate to grow up here in a small town in an era when there were few cars on the road, only the daily milk truck. Therefore, we could slide on the roads without any mailmen coming, people going to work, or school buses and other traffic. We walked to school (a mile for my sisters and me) dragging our trusty FF behind and coasting down every incline. At school, when we were released for recess, we rushed into our outside gear and grabbed the sled. With a running start we belly flopped on the sled and flew down Schoolhouse Hill. Our one-room schoolhouse was at the four corners of South, Bassett, and Schoolhouse Roads. We hoped to get as many trips in as possible but tried to anticipate the bell so we were already on our way when it rang. These teachers had a lot of patience. When the crust was hard we would slide in the field. Here at home, we would start at the top of the hill and be able to glide to the edge of the woods or into the woods towards the brook.

Even more exciting was double ripping. Man, what fun! Howard D. had the fastest one and Em. H. and Hop B. had great ones also. If you aren't acquainted with this sliding vehicle, it is two bobs with a plank between. The back bob is permanently attached and the front has a pin on the seat that goes into the bob so the rip can be steered. You have a footrest and a steering rope for the front person. Depending on the size of the riders, you can have five or six passengers on board. Each person sits close to the next in front with legs around him/her and holds on to his/her waist. Last man pushes off and quickly jumps on. Sometimes he slips and is left at the top of the hill. On good conditions a rip would hurl down Schoolhouse Hill and up the next knoll to the flat by Chief's house. Exceptional rides would be from the Old Fairgrounds down Trask Hill or down Burrington Hill. Here there would have to be a lookout in case a team of horses or vehicle was coming. I remember going down Trask Hill but not the complete trip and never on Burrington, but "the guys" braved both. Many times on a rip ride a corner would not be executed or a snowbank clipped, so an overturn resulted. There were never any serious injuries but lots of black and blues, snow in the face, giggles, and downright hilarity.

The last rip riding I remember was here on our field when my children were young. We had a terrific crust, and neighbors came to slide. Howard brought his rip and was the expert driver. It was such a smooth surface we had a difficult time walking if our boots were lacking in tread. Howard left the rip here that night, and I still have it well protected in my garage, ready for Mother Nature to treat us to a crust hard enough to get it out, rub the rust off the runners, drag it to the top of the field, climb aboard, and once more feel the wind in our faces, hear the rumble of the bobs on the frozen snow, and recall those wonderful days of yesteryear! Or just get my Flexible Flyer out, polish it up, belly flop on it, grab the steering handles, and once more swish down the hill.

~ Ruth Johnson



**Handblown Glass**  
 by  
 Robert Dane

24 West Main Street, Heath, MA 01346 p/f 413 . 337 . 5736

***Heathans Abroad Part III*****Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand**

If you want to visit a place as far from Heath in both distance and culture as you can get, why not go exactly twelve time zones away to a tropical climate. In November five of us Heathans were participants on a tour to Southeast Asia. Mike Coe, who has done this trip many times, was the professional archaeologist, while Bob and Del Viarengo and Eric and Dianne Grinnell joined the trip so highly recommended by Mike and others.

How can one describe the multitude of rich experiences to be had in one three-week visit to Southeast Asia? The first impression of Cambodia as the airplane descends is of a flat and drowned country. It is the end of the monsoon season,



and standing water is the rule. It is also HOT! It is steamy hot, in the 90s, and, we are told, this is the cool season. We are glad we didn't come in March, the hot season. We are armed with our shots for tetanus,

typhoid, and hepatitis, as well as with malaria pills, and, scary thought, pills for serious diarrhea. As it turned out, this is not mosquito season, and in the whole three weeks I personally saw seven mosquitoes, four of them on an airplane.

The images that come back to us so vividly, as we sit in a fairly snowy and cold Heath winter, are strong ones. I remember the fried slugs, worms, and grasshoppers in the market in Bangkok, but also the lovely orchids that grace one's evening cocktail in Cambodia. As people greet each other in both Cambodia and Laos they place their hands together as though in prayer and bend their heads slightly. This graceful gesture also means thank you or goodbye. When we finish eating, the kitchen staff of our Mekong River boat crew eat their dinner sitting on the same floor - with the tables and chairs pushed back. Statues of Buddha are everywhere and of all sizes, as are Buddhist monks in their brilliant orange robes. A monk wanders through a market carrying his briefcase, and another sits on the back of a motorbike talking on his cell phone. There are the busy streets full of traffic, especially motorbikes and tuk-tuks, which are three-wheeled, open-air taxis, ubiquitous throughout the region. There is a mom and a dad on a motorbike with the baby in front or between them, no helmets, of course. Maybe the most fun image is of ourselves and how much fun it was to ride an elephant around the ruins.

With all these visions running through our heads we need to stop to sort them out, to put them in some sort of perspective, and to see, perhaps, how this incredible excursion changed our lives and the way we look at the world, not only theirs, but also our own.

**The Ruins**

The main attraction of going to Cambodia was to see the ancient temples of Angkor. The fact that Mike Coe was the expert archaeologist along made going a must. All our expectations were not only met, but exceeded.

The temples, dating back to the 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, are magnificent. Built from huge

stone blocks, each one has its own distinct style and character and is special in its own way. Angkor Wat is the largest, covering 22 acres, and is the most well known. It is glorious, rising 213 feet in the air and sporting five dramatic peaks. On one level a bas relief extends 2300 feet around a covered colonnade on the exterior walls and is almost 7-feet high, covering the entire distance with dramatic scenes, of gods and demons, of royal processions, of tremendous battles, and more. We climbed up many stairs and crossed over high stone lintels into small corridors and into larger spaces. We left by a long causeway crossing a moat that surrounds the whole. Later, seeing the whole magnificent complex from a tethered balloon was breathtaking as a rainbow rose unbelievably above it.

One personal favorite temple is the Bayon, a part of the Angkor Thom complex.

We picked our way in and around the structure, passing delicately carved sculptures of dancers and animals. We climbed up and into a maze of small rooms and corridors, and eventually found stairs to the top. There giant stone faces stared out at us dramatically. Tourists and orange-robed monks wandered through. The smell of incense heralded several Buddhist shrines. Active shrines, often brightly decorated, were scattered throughout many of the temples.

At Preah Khan we had our own personal tour with John Sanday who is an English archaeologist with the World Monuments Fund working to restore the temples of Angkor. Our introduction to Preah Khan began with a dance recital at the



*("Heathans Abroad Part III" continued on page 5)*



## ***Rays of Interest***

### **Hound Dog**

By Ray Pettengill

One day when I was about 12 years old my dad came home from his job working in the Wilton Woolen mill in Wilton, Maine, set his dinner bucket on the kitchen table, and told me there was something in it for me. When I opened it up the cutest little short-legged beagle hopped out on the table. When I picked him up he was so excited to see me he squirmed all over and kept licking me in the face and, of course, it was love at first sight. My mother, not too impressed with all this going on in the middle of her kitchen table, grabbed the piece of woolen remnant that he had been lying on out of the dinner bucket and put it in a crate for me to keep him in. The next thing she did was to heat up a kettle of hot water and scald out the dinner bucket. My father made a nice doghouse out in the woodshed and insulated it with some of the woolen remnants he could bring home from work, so now, Butch, the name I gave him, had a nice place to stay.

We always had two or three cows that were my job to milk morning and night so Butch always had plenty of warm milk to go with the kitchen scraps we fed him. He and I had a lot of fun playing with each other. One of the things I had to do when the cows were out to pasture was to go round them up and drive them home to milk. Down in the lower end of the pasture by the brook were a lot of tall ferns. As Butch was so small at that time, I could run a lot faster than he could, so when I would run into the ferns and hide he could not keep up. He would get so excited about not being able to keep up that he would start ki-yi-ing and yipping while he would track me down by following my tracks and climb all over me when he found me. This is when I knew he had a good nose. As it turned out he was probably one of the best rabbit dogs in the territory, and I shot a lot of rabbits that he chased around for me. Maybe one of the reasons he was so good is that by now rabbit meat had become his favorite food.

It seems that even the smartest dogs get into a porcupine at some time or another and so did he. His mouth got so full of quills that I had to hold him while my father pulled them out with a pair of pliers. He never got into them again but got his revenge many times later. After the first few high squeals and yips he emitted on first hitting a fresh rabbit track he had a nice trailing voice, but, after he got the quills in his mouth, every time he ran into another porcupine he would tree him and start baying like a coon hound until I came to shoot the porcupine for him.

My father must have bragged about what a good rabbit dog he was because two or three of his coworkers took Butch and me up on Route 142 between Weld and Phillips to a hunting camp they had. This is still pretty wild country with about 14-square-miles with nothing there but hills and valleys full of woods and only a few back roads. The first rabbit that Butch jumped out after took off for the hills with him right after

it. Most rabbits will cut a short circle and come right back to the same spot that the dog jumped them from but every once in a while you will find one that just takes off and keeps making bigger and bigger swings. Well, this was one of them. Back home I would have just let them go until Butch got tired and came home but this was so far from home that I was afraid he would not be able to find his way, so I took off after him. The snow was two-to-three-feet-deep and it had warmed up enough so that my snowshoes slumped in a lot making it hard to head him off on these swings. It took until after it got dark to get my hands on him. I did not have a leash with me so had to take off my belt to lead Butch with and now had trouble keeping my pants up as well as having him try to ride the back of my snowshoes. By this time I was a little confused about which direction the hunting camp was. I fired my gun off once in a while in hopes the other hunters would fire back but found out later that they had all gone back to tell my father I was lost and to start a search for me. I had matches and was just about ready to build a fire and hunker down for the night when I heard one of the big 18-wheel logging trucks out of Canada on Route 142 heading to Weld. Every once in a while another truck would come by so I finally found my way back to the road and walked to a house and called my father to let him know I was safe and sound. Mind you, I never really got lost.

What you should probably keep in mind, though, is that if you are not off a road that has 18-wheel logging trucks from Canada traveling on it all night long, it would be a good idea to have a leash and a compass along with you if you are going to be chasing a hound dog in circles all over a mountain without roads.

*("Heathans Abroad Part III" continued from page 4)*

entrance to the ruin where attractive young dancers in colorful and exotic costumes performed to traditional music with graceful movements and hand gestures that seemed impossible for the human hand to do. Mr. Sanday led us through the ruin that was a long series of rooms separated by rock walls and steps. We could see the results of restoration as we looked to our left and saw piles of rocks, while to our right would be restored walls. One big problem for the archaeologists is the large strangler fig tree that has literally taken root in the rock walls. To take down the trees would be to ruin the ancient walls, but, if left as is, nature would eventually do the same. However, they are a photographer's delight as they rise out of the ancient stone. Night fell as we finished our trek to the end of Preah Khan where an outdoor cocktail party was prepared for us by candlelight. Interesting noises came from the jungle all around us, especially a high ringing sound that we were told were locusts. Quite an exotic end to this day of temple hopping!

In our six days at Angkor we learned many things about Buddhism and Hinduism and the ancient temples. We learned to recognize the naga, the many-headed serpent, and the garuda, the eagle-like mount of the Hindu god Shiva. We learned about the struggle between the demons and the gods and so much more. The founding myths and important stories of both religions are all incorporated into the temple carvings. We saw a multitude of temples, and after those six days of crawling in and around them, these images remain vividly fixed in our minds.

~ Dianne Grinnell

## The “Levy” and Values

We’ve all received our “real” real estate tax bill from Heath for fiscal 2006 (which began July 1, 2005 and ends June 30, 2006). You might have noticed that the tax amount was higher than last year’s. As an assessor, I can’t really describe the “why” of the tax amount (that’s based on the budget, which the Assessors have little to do with), but I can talk a bit about the “how” of it all.

First, let’s figure out how the town gets you a bill. The process is sequential:

1. **Annual Town Meeting:** we set our “budget” and, hence, our “amount to be raised.” This is the total amount we vote on at town meeting that is not being moved from one account to another – it’s new money that has to come from somewhere.
2. **Viewing:** During the spring and summer, the Assessors make changes to the appraisal database based on new construction, changes to properties, and changes in the market. By fall, we have a total assessed value for the town. This is the “reval” of the town.
3. **Recap:** In the fall, the Assessors “recap” the finances of the town and calculate the tax “levy” and rate. The levy is *that part of the budget which will come from local property tax*. Some of the budget comes from state money, from excess funds (“free cash”), from the previous year, from dog licenses, etc. The rest has to be raised this year from property taxes – that’s the levy.
4. **Bills:** Once the State Department of Revenue approves our recap, we send bills, perversely (as per state law), just at Christmas time. These are “real” bills, not the estimated bill you got in the summer, as they now show an assessed value for your property and the town’s tax rate.

### The Levy

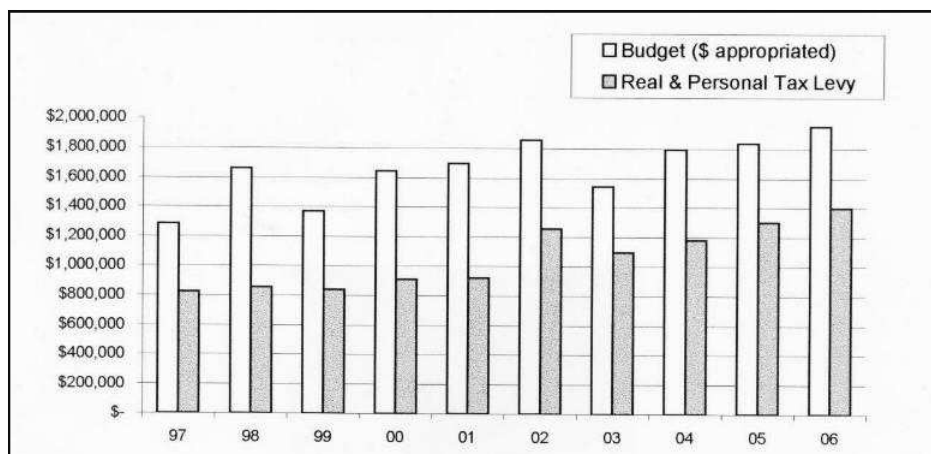
Remember that for fiscal 2006, which started 7/1/2005, we voted the budget in May 2005. Here are some budget figures comparing Fiscal Year 2006 (the one you just got a bill for) with those for FY2005:

	FY2005	FY2006	% Change
<b>Budget (\$ “to be raised”)</b>	\$ 1,833,364.12	\$ 1,947,372.90	+6.2 %
<b>Real &amp; Personal Tax Levy</b>	\$ 1,299,556.80	\$ 1,399,180.28	+7.7 %
<b>Other Sources of funds</b>	\$ 533,807.32	\$ 548,192.62	+2.9 %
<b>Levy as % of Budget</b>	70.9%	71.8%	+1.4 %

We voted a “budget” (total amount to be raised and appropriated) that was more than 6% higher than last year’s. The amount that must be raised this year with local taxes (the *levy*) increased more (7.7%) because the other “sources of funds” (the state, etc.) increased less than 3%. In other words, the levy has become a greater portion of our total “budget.”

Your questions might be: “Why did the budget increase?” and “Why did the ‘other sources’ not increase as much?” The town voted for the budget at Annual Town Meeting - *it was the voters’ choice*. The Finance Committee and the Selectboard can address the “other sources” question. The Assessors have no control over that. A good deal of this is affected by state politics, in my opinion.

The amount of your tax bill is directly related to how much the town spends and how much it gets from “other” sources. *The more we spend, the more you pay*, unless the state (or some other source) sends us money to offset the increase. Here’s the history of the amounts we’ve had to raise, and the levy amounts for the past decade:



(“The “Levy” and Values” continued on page 7)

(“The “Levy” and Values” continued from page 6)

Note that the growth of the levy - the dark column (that’s *our* local tax amount, again) has, simply, been accelerating since the very bad year of 2002 - it was pretty stable before that. At the same time, the *difference* between the two bars has decreased because we’re picking up more and more of the budget locally. *In 1998, the levy was just over ½ the budget, it’s now almost ¾ and the budget amount is bigger!* Except for 2002 (when the rate went above \$24 due, I think, to the dropping of state education “pothole” money), the levy in Heath has consistently been increasing, averaging 6.8% annually for the decade - 8.5% *annually for the last three years*. Without a lot of new growth in town, that means our taxes have increased almost identically to the levy.

### Value

Assessors like to say that your tax bill is based on the levy, not on the value of your property. If Heath had no levy, we’d pay no local property taxes. Let’s say that Heath had 100 houses in it, and all were identical (kind of like where my daughter lives in California). If the levy is \$1,000,000, the tax would be \$10,000 each house, right? Instant tax bill! Notice that I never said how much the houses were worth – it didn’t matter. Of course, it isn’t quite that simple. Value is important in Heath as it seems all houses are unique, to say the least. The value of your property dictates how much you pay *relative to what your neighbor pays*. A couple of definitions:

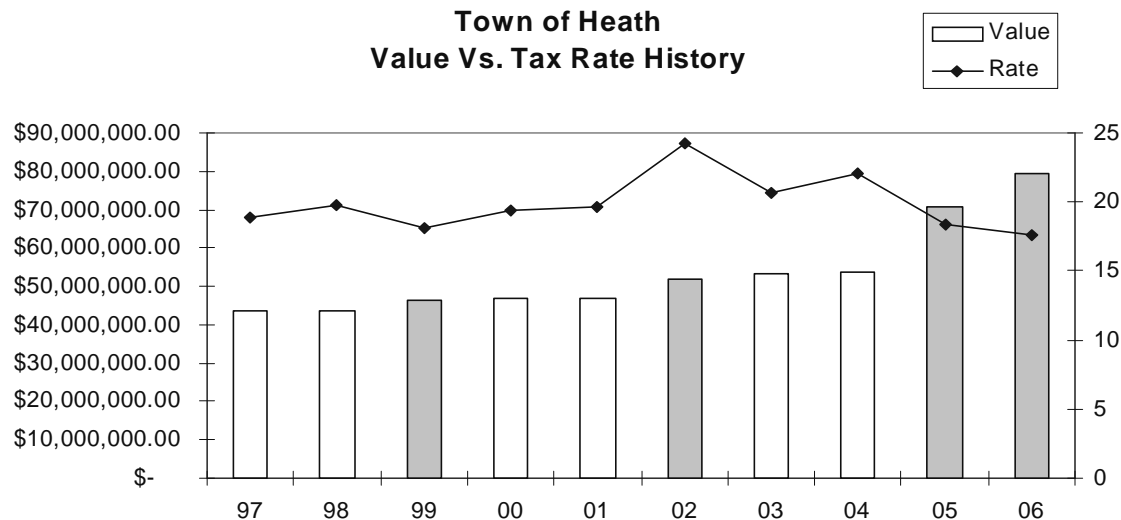
- “Assessed Value”: This is the value the Assessors attribute to property (real and personal) in town. By state law, it is supposed to be 100% of “full and fair market value.”
- “Tax Rate”: The percent of value you must pay in tax. This is, oddly again, given in \$ per \$1,000 value (e.g. the FY2006 rate is \$17.63, or about 1.8% of value). Prop 2½ limits this rate to \$25 per \$1,000, excepting debt-exclusions and votes for “overrides.”

Here are the total assessed value and tax rate figures for 2006 and last year:

	FY2005	FY2006	% Change
<b>Real &amp; Personal Tax Levy</b>	\$ 1,299,556.80	\$ 1,399,180.28	+7.7 %
<b>Total Assessed Value for Heath</b>	\$70,859,150.00	\$ 79,363,601.00	+12%
<b>Rate per \$1,000 value</b>	18.34	17.63	-3.9 %

Remember: Tax Rate = Levy / Total Value

Assessors always say that if the levy is unchanged, the rate will drop equal to the increase in any value *and you’ll end up paying the same amount of tax*. It is the increase in the levy that, on average, caused your tax bill to increase, assuming nothing has changed on your property. In FY06, the value rose 12%, but the levy also rose 7.7%, so the rate dropped only about 4%



Over the past ten years, the value of the town, obviously, has grown. The gray columns represent “reval” years, when the Assessors (historically, every three years) have reassessed the property in town and set new values. For this decade, the reval years were 1999, 2002, and 2005.

Tax you owe = your parcel’s assessed value X the tax rate

(“The “Levy” and Values” continued on page 8)

(“The “Levy” and Values” continued from page 7)

I shaded FY06 because, starting with this year, the state requires an “interim” reval *every year* that we don’t have an official “state certified” triennial reval. There’s little difference, however.

The Assessors assess value based on a number of things. First, we establish the land size usually based on deeds, as most parcels outside of Mohawk Estates have not been surveyed, and situation (Is there road frontage? Is it in Chapter 61 forestry or agricultural use?). We then measure the structures, determining the number of rooms, bathrooms, condition, and “grade” of construction (chateau vs. shack) and enter all this into the database. The computer uses standard, current “cost” (of replacement) tables and depreciates the structures for age.

When a figure is reached, we then apply an adjustment factor based on the market. State law *requires* us to assess at “100% full and fair market value.” This means we have to look at sales. Many sales are discarded as not “arms-length” (family sales, tax takings, etc.). We then are required to compare our assessed values for those properties sold with the actual sale price. This provides the State Department of Revenue with a pattern of how our assessed values shape up. If, on average, for a “class” of properties (like parcels with a single-family home on them) the assessments are more than 10% above or below the sales prices, we *are required* to adjust our assessments *for the entire class*. We cannot reassess individual properties due to sale price. This process now happens every year. Some comparisons:

Taxable Real Property	Avg. Value 05	Avg. Value 06	% chg	Avg. Bill 05	Avg. Bill 06	% chg
All Real Property	\$ 75,187.09	\$ 84,390.92	12.2%	\$ 1,378.93	\$ 1,487.81	7.9%
“ “ excl. M.E.	\$ 111,014.07	\$ 126,421.29	13.9%	\$ 2,036.00	\$ 2,228.81	9.5%
Residences excl. M.E.	\$ 154,313.98	\$ 177,473.20	15.0%	\$ 2,830.12	\$ 3,128.85	10.6%
All Real Prop. in M.E.	\$ 23,458.28	\$ 23,705.34	1.1%	\$ 430.22	\$ 417.93	-2.9%

Again, values generally increased more than bill amounts because the rate dropped. Sales for the FY06 reval (based on sales in calendar 2004) indicated that our land values in town were OK as is, but in Mohawk Estates (“M.E.” in the table), values of single, unimproved lots were too high. Sales of residences in town, however, *on average*, showed that our assessed values of the residences themselves (*not* the land) were low by more than 20%! This is the pattern throughout the west county. The 10.6% average bill increase for residences outside of Mohawk Estates may be different from your own increase, if that’s where you live. This is based on how much of your parcel’s value is in your land (and outbuildings) vs. your residence itself. To get a bigger picture of value, generally:

	05	06	% increase	As % of taxable value (06 only)
In Town (all Real Prop.)	\$ 59,947,600	\$68,387,000	14.1%	86.17%
MEPOA (all Real Prop.)	\$ 8,865,800	\$ 8,773,000	-1.0%	11.05%
Utilities (Personal Prop.)	\$ 2,129,313	\$ 2,203,000	3.5%	2.78%
<b>All Real &amp; Personal Prop.</b>	<b>\$ 70,942,713</b>	<b>\$79,363,000</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<i>Ch. 61 Market Value (untaxed)</i>	<i>\$ 3,248,900</i>	<i>\$ 3,293,000</i>	<i>1.4%</i>	<i>4.15%</i>

That’s enough for this episode. Tune in next edition to find out why, despite our rising taxes, the Assessors want to drastically increase their own budget -adding still more to your taxes!

~ Henry Leuchtman, Assessor





## FREE TASTINGS



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Shelburne, Massachusetts 01370  
Tel. 413-625-6527**



**Bob Delisle**  
**Electrician**

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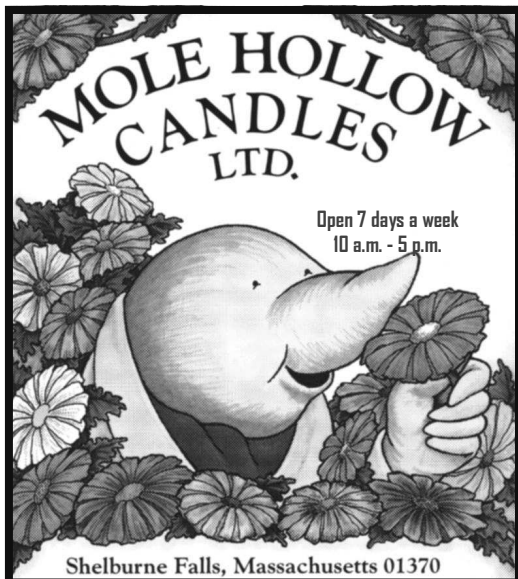
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**Richard C. Bishop**  
**Elder Law Attorney**

Massachusetts, Florida, Arizona

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413-625-2574 / fax 625-8321

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



## Wild Ramblings

### Another Winter Wonder

By Bill Lattrell



The animal tracking had not been too good lately. The snow had been softened by rain, and then a mild spell, followed by some zero degree weather which gave the snow a 2-inch crust. The crust was enough to support many small animals, but certainly not this 250-pound man who sought evidence of their comings and goings. On this particular day, the only new tracks were the ones that I was making, and even then, the loud crunch of each step I made could be heard for great distances.

If I were to gather any new information on the local wildlife I would have to pick a spot and wait. Waiting is a lonely game. Hours can pass you by while you keep yourself company. It's funny where your mind will travel. Being in the wilds, you might assume that your thoughts would be consumed by your surroundings. But this is not the case, at least for me. My thought patterns are random, somewhat like dreaming while you're awake. Sometimes my thoughts lead to fictional stories. Sometimes my thoughts lead to good ideas with respect to my present life. But most often, my mind simply uses the time to sort through endless amounts of information, categorize it, and store it away deep in the recesses of my mind. Some of this information will never find its way to the surface again.

In search of a place where I might see wildlife, I remember a spring that seeps out of this north-facing hillside. It yields clean, clear water 365 days a year. It is a peaceful place, and also a place where animals frequent to get a drink of water. There is a good vantage point on a fallen red maple tree within the hardwood forest just to the south of the spring.

As I journey to my destination I am ever conscious of the noise that each step makes. I wonder what animals have scurried away as I plod my way through the frozen snow. As I approach the spring, I see old tracks of deer, fox, and coyote leading to and away from this precious water source. I climb the hill above the spring, and find a comfortable place to sit on the fallen red maple. The branches of the maple conceal my silhouette, while giving me a reasonable view of the area around the spring.

This spring is one of several in this area of the woods. This one has, by far, the strongest flow. I have never seen it stop running in the thirty years that I have observing this stretch of woods. The hill to the south of the spring rises up three hundred to four hundred feet. It is entirely wooded with mixed hardwoods and conifer forest. The soils are somewhat poorly drained. Mountains of glaciers thousands of years ago compressed the deeper part of these silty soils to a point where they are not suited for drainage. It is easier for the water to run along the top of these compressed soils than it is to drain through the soils. Water discharging from water stored in the bedrock further up on the mountain runs along the top of this soil layer below the surface of the soil to a point where it comes close to the surface. At this point the water discharges onto the forest floor. This is what we call a spring in these parts.

The constant source of fresh, running water creates its own microclimate. In the summer the area immediately around the spring and the down gradient stream it creates is cooler. In the winter the constant source of 40 degree water makes the immediate vicinity warmer. It is truly beautiful in all seasons, but in winter it is almost beyond description. The exposed rocks, created from soil washing away over scores of generations, are covered with peat moss. The moss, green, orange, and red, is constantly covered with a frosty cap. When light spills through the trees' overstory\* onto the spring's stream bed, the spring seems to take on mystical dimensions. Reflecting light off of the frozen snow along the stream banks seems to bring the moving water alive. Steam rises off of the warm water as it evaporates into the cold air. The peat moss-covered rocks provide color in an otherwise black and white world.

On this day the air is still. There is virtually no wind. The fog coming immediately off of the spring lingers. As I sit and wait I see very little other than the occasional black-capped chickadee, a red squirrel or two, and a raven off in the distance. I think that perhaps this will be one of those days when you wait an entire afternoon for absolutely nothing other than the organization of your own thoughts. There are many days like this for a serious observer of nature.

But on this day my luck would prove to be good. As darkness approached from the east I saw movement in a pole stand of trees. There, moving in a determined fashion through the woods was a red fox. I love how fox move when not frightened. They walk briskly, moving their legs quickly from the knee down. Their head is usually erect, eyes straight ahead, observing all of the landscape in front of them. This fellow was headed directly for the spring; my hunch had paid off! As the fox moved towards the spring he passed behind a knoll where I lost sight of him. My eyes focused on the area, but I couldn't relocate this marvel of stealth. And then suddenly I saw movement to my left. The fox had turned a right angle and was coming directly towards me through an area of dense hemlocks and wind-thrown trees blown to the ground.

(\* overstory = the branch cover on trees that cover the floor of the forest - B.L.)

("Wild Ramblings" continued on page 11)



## Green Thoughts

### January Silence

By Pat Leuchtman

January is the month when I welcome silence.

December is gone with all its noise. Gone are the jingle bells, carols in the stores, party music, laughter, and loud conversations in crowded rooms. Gone are the midnight shrieks and horns on New Year's Eve. Gone are the snaps and snarls of overtired, overscheduled, short-tempered spouses and children.

Here in the country, January is silent.

Silence is almost impossible in the city. One summer when we lived in New York there was a blackout. No electricity for a couple of days. Without electricity work was canceled so we sat in our tiny yard and listened. I couldn't figure out why it sounded so strange. There was almost no traffic, but that wasn't it. Then I realized that all the air conditioners were silent. Ever after, even on comparatively quiet summer afternoons when everyone seemed to have left town, I'd hear the air conditioners endlessly humming away as I walked down the street.

Of course the country isn't silent all the time. The country has its own noise. The roar of chainsaws, the crashing of waterfalls and swollen streams, screaming snowmobiles, the boom and crack of thunder and lightning that reverberates in your breastbone, coyotes wailing beneath the Wolf Moon, shotguns and rifles blasting during hunting season, howling winds, and the Montreal Express, racing across the frozen hillside.

Though there is plenty of noise in the country, it doesn't split the eardrum or flay the nerves. It changes with the seasons and is dispersed across the hillside. Yet in the country, January is the month of silence. Snow falls silently, thickly blanketing the ground. Sound is muffled by the deep soft drifts. When I walk through the woods, the pines are immobile, bent under heavy white cloaks. The wind merely whispers, the gentle breathing of the sleeping earth, keeping time with the beating of my heart.

Even the sun is silent. No longer does it come up like thunder. Its light seeps into the day, pale as pearls.

Such deep silence is hard to ignore. I avoid turning to the sounds of the modern world, radios, TVs, CDs. The news,



such as it is, commentary, chatter, even music, can all wait for a while. I need to fill my ears with silence, and let it penetrate blood and bone. Noise is exhausting and I need to rest. Just for a while.

I don't wish for endless silence. I wish for balance and rhythm. All music includes rests. A silent beat. Without silence you can't hear the melody or harmony. You can't appreciate the beauty of the song.

I love the song of life, the bass line of my own true love, the trilling of the children, the adagio of friends, the timpani of joy, even the beat, beat, beat of routine, all building to the crescendo of December.



But then rest.

Silence.

("Wild Ramblings" continued from page 10)

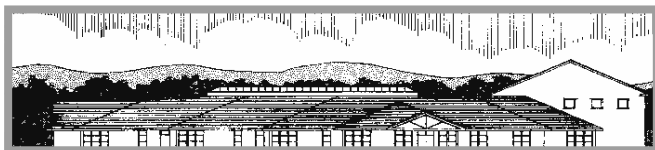
As he approached I was able to really look at him, and I mean really look at him. He was unusually tall and the bright auburn coat contrasted sharply with the white snow on the ground. As he got closer I noticed that he had a broad, white chest. His tail, not particularly bushy, had the classic white tip. At about 40 yards I began to wonder if he was going to notice me. Although I was somewhat concealed, I didn't think at close distance he would have a hard time noticing me.



But he came closer, and at 20 yards I pursed my lips and made a loud kissing sound. As soon as I made the sound he stopped dead in his tracks, and looked directly at me. When I blinked, he jumped straight into the air and did something I thought was impossible. He turned 180 degrees in midair simply by snapping his torso from the shoulders back. When he landed on the ground he was off to the races. Curiously, he did not race straight off but zigged and zagged every two or three yards, as if being chased by hounds. I could see him run off for quite a distance, eventually disappearing into the shadows of the coming night.

As I sat a while longer, digesting the events of the last few moments and enjoying the last light of the day it occurred to me that on this day my thoughts needed no immediate organization. These memories would stay as crisp and clear as the winter's night.

## Heath School News



By Susan Todd

It's always amazing to me how a small school as ours manages to offer such a wealth of enrichment activities. Thanks to the initiative, energy, and generosity of many, many people we are able to provide our children an array of out-of-school programs right here at school that will lay the foundation for their future interests.

**Thank You to Margo Newton.** I would like to begin with heartfelt thanks to Police Chief Margo Newton for her vital role in allocating some of her funds to the Heath School enrichment programs through her Community Policing grant. Her insight into our needs was quite remarkable and most deeply appreciated.

**Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom.** The Heath School has been notified that we are the recipient of a grant for a project entitled "Global Warming Changes and the Health of a Local Maple Sugar Grove" in the amount of \$600. We will be working with the McCutchens' maple sugar operation and Ted Watt to continue the data collection work we began several years ago. We are very grateful for this support and the opportunity to involve the children in this local enterprise.

**Ski Club.** Our Ski Club is in its third year with Karen Blom and Jonathan Diamond organizing this important opportunity to develop a lifelong skill that helps children bond to the winter season. Karen and Jonathan seemed to accomplish this so effortlessly that it all just seemed to blossom overnight.

**Drama with Matthew Glassman.** Once again we are welcoming Matthew Glassman from Double Edge Theatre back to the Heath School. As you may remember, Matthew was our P.E. teacher for two years and was the director of our Water Pageant in 2002. He directed an after school play last year and this year is working with a much larger group as part of a grant from the Community Foundation. The final performance will not only be at the Heath School but at the Double Edge Theatre, as well. We are indebted not only to Matthew but to Bruce Lessels, Jonathan Diamond, Barbara Rode, Carin Duda, and many other parents for their active support of theatre in Heath.

**SCA/AmeriCorps.** Our new SCA/AmeriCorps members are here until the end of March and have immediately made themselves invaluable. Kevin Clarke from Washington and Michelle Johnson from Hawaii are lending their gifts to all the children through science and math education, basketball, tutoring, and to the parents and teachers by attending PTP and staff dialogues. This is the most beneficial of programs, and we are blessed by wonderful participants.

**Farewell to Gail Hall.** Many of you must know by now that our dear Gail Hall has accepted the position of Cafete-

ria Manager for the Mohawk District. This is a well-deserved honor for her and reflects the great respect everyone in the district has for her culinary, managerial, and human skills. She will be sorely missed, but she will spread her vision of what a warmhearted cook with a way with a cinnamon bun can mean to a community -- beyond the walls of Heath School to the wider world.

**General Heath Day.** We have named **March 10** as General William Heath Day, to honor the namesake of our Town. At our All School we will welcome General Heath, learn about his role in the Revolutionary War, know about Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Maxwell who served with him, and dress up in 18<sup>th</sup> century clothing brought to us from the Deerfield Teacher Center. We invite, as always, any and all community members to join us.

## News from North Forty

My news pipeline from Heath has been relatively quiet until I heard of the recent death of my good friend Jake Tripp. What a loss to his friends and to the community!

I do get updates on Mike Smith. He and his family need our prayers and support.

\*\*\*

And then there is the news of the resignations of Hilma Sumner from the church pulpit and Charlene Churchill from the library. I wish them well in their new endeavors.

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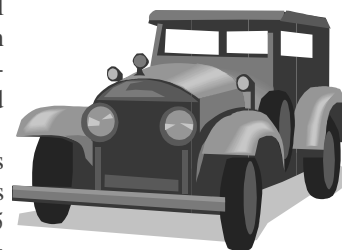
The Thane's silos had to be razed due to their deteriorating condition. That leaves the Dickinson's silo and the Crowning-shield's, at the Fairgrounds, the only ones left in Heath. I will feature an article on these farm sentinels at a later date.

\*\*\*

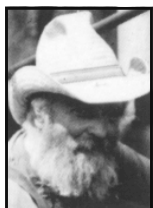
On January 4-7 I was in Boston at the Annual Meeting of the Classic Car Club of America. This was the first time in the over fifty years of the club's history that the meeting was held in New England. Thirty-eight cars were shown at the World Trade Center, all being judged for perfection and authenticity. I was honored to be assistant head judge.

Classics are defined as prestigious automobiles manufactured between 1925 and 1948 and include Rolls Royces, Bugattis, Mercedes Benzes, Duesenbergs (an American-built car which is "the best automobile built in the world"), Packards, Cadillacs, and Lincolns. Most of these automobiles had custom-built bodies. One at this show was a Minerva (French) with a body that was not covered in paint but in leather, including fenders.

Over two hundred members from all over the world attended. The club membership exceeds six thousand worldwide. This year will mark my fifty years of membership.



~ Jack Cable



## ***The Way It Is In The Country***

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

### **A Night in the Storm**

*Dedicated to our valiant road crew*

By Carroll Stowe

*Editors' Note: We are reluctant to let ever-faithful writer Carroll go.. We will reprint his columns for from time to time..*

As a young fellow on our farm in Colrain, I had a tremendous desire to be out at night plowing snow. I surely thought that to be out with a truck and plow and wings helping people to have a passable road would be just the ultimate in things to do.

I got my first shot at it the winter of 1962. I had started working for the town of Heath in the early fall of that year. I could hardly wait till the snow started to fall to try out this thrilling type of employment.

Our crew consisted of five regular men, Francis Galipo, Gerald Galipo, Victor Vreeland, Edwin Joy, and myself. Victor never drove a truck but did feed the old tailgate sand spreaders as automatic sanders were unheard of in this town. We were able to take care of the early storms that season without calling in the spare drivers.

As the season neared the first of the year, the snowbanks got higher and it was more difficult to get rid of the snow.

The town's fleet of snow-fighting equipment consisted of two dump trucks, a 1960 70-Series Chevrolet and a 1961 F800 Ford. This particular evening started out with no great problems. Francis, Gerald, and Edwin were off for the evening and Bob Law and Paul Burrington were driving the Chevy truck and were trying to keep 8A and the north end passable, while Howard Thompson and I with the big Ford were at the task of clearing the drifts in South Heath. Both of these trucks had single small gas tanks and they used about 10 gallons of gas per hour.

Consequently you could have the drifts open and, when you went to get more gas, a section of the road could be plugged when you came back to check the next time. Our problem areas were by the old Fairgrounds, up toward Doug Stetson's, Burrington Road and beyond near the Galipo house, Schoolhouse Hill, over toward Rainvilles and down where Walt Gleason is plus around by the South Cemetery. By the end of the new Fairgrounds we encountered some trouble but we could cope with it so far.

Bob and Paul were having their troubles up on 8A above the Sessions farm and wanted us to try to give a hand up there. Hard-packed snow with one-way snowplows creates a problem when the plow can't discharge. If great care isn't used, the snow will crowd the truck sideways and your right rear wheels will be in the right snowbank. We were of little help up 8A, so when we got back to the garage to fuel up, we had lost that road.

While we were absent from the south part of town we lost more of that area and in coming back for gas one time earlier we had lost the road up by Rainville's. The four of us had a conference at the garage and decided to get Bob Law home so he could be there to milk. There were four of us in the cab of the big Ford and we set out for South Heath. It had been nearly two hours since Howard and I were by the Fairgrounds and that road was plugged.

This was my first year at the controls of a plow truck and my limited experience did not stand me very well, and I soon was impossibly stuck. This was a bad situation made worse by the gale-force winds and below 0° temperatures. We had another conference in the cab of the stuck truck and concluded we would have to walk back to Thompson's and reconnoiter. I surely hated to leave that truck in the snowbank, truly a monument to my inexperience.

We started walking in the bitter cold and made many comments about the situation. It was a very clear night and the wind was blowing straight from Mount Greylock with nothing to stop it. When we reached Thompson's we were told the windchill factor was 60° below zero. We had made the trip almost without mishap except that Howard, wearing two wool pullover hats - one over the other - froze his left ear.

Paul and Bob walked to the town shed and were able to drive down to Charlemont, walk up Harris Mountain to the Law farm, and get there for milking. With the wind at their backs it was less severe than out in the open.

I slept fitfully on Thompson's couch with their dog, Sandy. In the morning we got a call from Francis and I had to tell him where the Ford was and all about the plugged roads. Francis was able to get to Heath Center where the crawler tractor was kept. Fortunately he had a mechanic come several days before and got the tractor ready to plow snow. With its better traction and V-plow, Francis was able to get to the town shed. He nearly ran into the stuck truck as very little of it could be seen.

Francis plowed snow all day with the tractor, and Howard and I did what we could with the Chevy truck. Late in the day we went up to the Fairgrounds, took the plow off the truck, and pulled it out with the tractor, slid it around in the road, pulled it back to and inside the shed. It was two days before we could start it. Hindsight works very well after the fact, but had we gone and got the truck and pulled it out before it got drifted in so badly, it could have been in service sooner.

I will always be proud to have been associated with those three other fellows on that winter's night many years ago. For a number of years after, I'd call Howard and ask him if he'd like to walk back from the Fairgrounds again. He always felt that once was enough! Until the road was resurfaced past the Fairgrounds, those tire chain tracks were still in the tarred surface. This town was indeed fortunate to have dedicated servants like Mr. Galipo. He did a tremendous job with what he had to work with.

Written in the interest of remembering things of the past.

## Good Neighbors Food Pantry

Thanks to your support and the generosity of your neighbors, the Good Neighbors Food Pantry has been providing supplemental and emergency food distributions six times a year for nearly 10 years. When we started we had about 15 families and now we regularly serve about 70 families at each distribution. Good Neighbors was started in Charlemont many years before we became involved, and has succeeded through the years in filling a local need. At this time, Good Neighbors is comprised of volunteers from area towns and in particular from the Heath Union Church, Charlemont Federated Church, St. Josephs/St. Christopher's Parish, and the Charlemont Bible Church. Honorable mention must also be given to the students of Heath School who regularly gather and sort canned goods and produce as part of a commitment the school has made to our community.

Good Neighbors became affiliated with the Food Bank of Western Mass about seven years ago and installed a freight elevator to bring heavy case lots of canned food up from the basement storage at the Charlemont Federated Church, where we have built storage shelves and mouse-proof cages. We rely on your donations of nonperishable food to help round out what we can buy or salvage at the Western Mass Food Bank and also encourage your donations that enable us to make purchases of sufficient quantities of quality produce and meats, enough for all our families. Due to economic strains that have resulted in a higher demand for food at the Western Mass Food Bank, we have found it increasingly necessary to purchase certain foods. Our typical purchases include cereal, tuna, peanut butter, turkeys and hams, potatoes, carrots, onions, and case lots of soup and stew.

There are numerous ways you can help Good Neighbors. Nonperishable items can be dropped off at the churches mentioned or placed in any of the Good Neighbors bins located in surrounding towns (there is one in the hall outside the Heath Post Office). You can participate in bagging the food. There is always plenty of good work and lots of laughs. This is a good event for people of all ages. You can send contributions to enable us purchase food at wholesale prices. You can also make a contribution to the Good Neighbors account at Avery's General Store.

The 2006 dates for bagging are arranged prior to school vacations to ensure food in homes while children are not in school. The dates are: Wednesday, **February 15**, at 4:30 p.m., and again on Wednesday, **April 12**, at 4:30 p.m., July, September, November, and December dates to be set.

For more information, contact Budge or Sheila Litchfield at 337-4957.

Checks can be made to "Good Neighbors" and sent to Budge Litchfield, 220 Route 8A, Charlemont, MA 01339.

~ Sheila Litchfield

## Heath School Parent - Teacher Partnership News

The Parent-Teacher Partnership (PTP) of the Heath Elementary School is pleased to report that another busy and exciting season of extracurricular programming is underway at the school. In December, we sponsored a high-energy theatre performance by the Enchanted Circle Theatre of Holyoke entitled "Folktales from Japan." In January and February we are providing support to the Ski Club that meets four times outside of school hours (in-service days and holidays) for downhill skiing at Berkshire East. The Drama Club, meeting every Friday and many Mondays throughout the winter months culminating in a full-play production, also receives PTP support. In addition, we support our Girls' and Boys' Basketball Teams and Clinics.

We are preparing now to support our spring activities including sports programs (T-ball and baseball) as well as an expanded Gardening Program. We continue to conduct fund-raisers throughout the year to fund these initiatives. This spring, we hope to provide food concessions at spring sporting events and will need lots of volunteer help to staff the grill!

Finally, we invite all Heathans to join us for Family Movie Nights or the third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Heath School.

~ Dawn Holden, Co-Chair  
Dana Blackburn, Co-Chair  
Robin Jenkins, Treasurer  
Valerie Lively, Secretary

## Benefit Potluck Supper Huge Success!

Over 100 people were in attendance at the Benefit Potluck Supper that took place on Sunday, December 4, at Heath Elementary School. This benefit was held for Highway Superintendent and Fire Chief, Mike Smith who has been courageously battling Mantle-Cell Lymphoma.

The school cafeteria was filled to capacity and the numerous potluck dishes lined several tables with so many delicious foods that everyone attending had many choices to pick from. After the supper, names were drawn to establish the winners who participated in raffle of 20 assorted donated items. The proceeds resulting in the sale of the raffle tickets were given to Mike Smith.

We wish to thank all the wonderful people for their generosity in donating items for the raffle, and who brought food, gave cards, and participated in any way to make this benefit so successful.

~ Eileen Tougas  
Margo Newton



## Selectboard's Report

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

**Winter Meeting Schedule** - The Board will be meeting every Tuesday evening through the coming months. The additional meeting time is necessary for the preparation of the FY07 budget, Annual Town Meeting Warrant articles, and the annual employee performance evaluations. All town departments with budgets will be asked to make their FY07 requests for consideration by the Finance Committee and by the Selectboard soon.

**Traffic Study** - The residents on Avery Brook Road were sent a synopsis of the traffic study in response to a signed petition asking for regulation of traffic speed on the road. Further study and consultation with the police department is in progress. Additional monitoring of traffic speed has been initiated by the police department.

**New Senior Center Coordinator** - Ray Pettengill has resigned as the Senior Center Coordinator. The Board has accepted his resignation with regrets and would like to express thanks to him for his dedication and service to the seniors and the facility. Eileen Tougas has been appointed as the new Senior Center Coordinator. She has been actively involved with the program, and we look forward to working with her.

**Three-Town Landfill** - The landfill cap and several roads in town were heavily damaged by the intense rainstorms this past fall. The bill for repairs to the landfill is approximately \$187,000. Requests for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Authority (MEMA) have been completed and filed with their respective offices. The Town is eligible for a 75% reimbursement (\$72,000) from FEMA and a 12½% reimbursement (\$12,000) from MEMA that, if approved, will help to offset the cost of storm related repairs. The Supplemental Budget Conference Committee of the state legislature has not reconvened as of this date to discuss the three towns' request for an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to cover the bulk of the capping costs for the landfill. We expect to hear something in February from our legislators Representative Dan Bosley and Senator Andrea Nucciforo.

**High-Speed Internet Access** - The Town has received notice that we will after all be receiving a T1 phone line to allow high-speed Internet access. The state has initiated a program to provide local boards of health with this service for one year. Anyone on the computer network in Sawyer Hall will be able to use the service. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is looking for grants to help member towns continue the service beyond the one-year trial period.

**Heath On-line** - Take some time to visit the town's Web site at [www.townofheath.org](http://www.townofheath.org). You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. This Web site is a work in progress. Thanks to the computer committee for getting this project up and running. You may contact the Board at [BOS@townofheath.org](mailto:BOS@townofheath.org). Send messages to any

board or individual via the e-mail address, or visit the Heath Web site.

~ Heath Selectboard  
Thomas Lively, Chair  
Brian De Vriese  
Sheila Litchfield

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## Town Clerk News

Once again, it is time to begin thinking and planning for our annual town election and meeting that are held in May. There are seats in many offices that are up for election this year. The particular office, length of term, and official whose term is expiring are as follows:

**Selectman:** 3 years, Sheila Litchfield

**Assessor:** 3 years, Richard Gallup

**Town Clerk:** 3 years, Hilma Sumner

**Finance Committee:** 3 years each, Budge Litchfield, Douglas Stetson, Edwin Wolf

**Planning Board:** 5 years, John Henry

**School Committee:** 3 years, Robert Gruen

**School Committee:** 1 year, to fill the resignation of Mike Chrisman

**Library Trustee:** 3 years, Deborah Porter

**Dog Officer:** 1 year, Angela Graves

**Constables:** 1 year each, Charles Kaempfer, Robert Tanner, Jr.

The last day to obtain papers from the Town Clerk is **March 15**. The last day that completed papers are to be submitted to the Clerk is **March 17**.

Any one who would like to register to vote and be eligible to vote in the town election and at the Annual Town Meeting must do so by **April 17**. Forms are available in Sawyer Hall whenever the building is open.

Town Election will be held on Friday, **May 5**, from 12 noon to 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall. The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, **May 6**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the school.

~ Hilma Sumner  
Town Clerk

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## Greenfield Transfer Station Open to Heath Residents

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) has made arrangements for Heath and other district towns' residents to use the Greenfield Transfer Station. Any resident may use the facility by paying a \$5.00 per day user fee. This is a flat rate - you can make one or multiple trips in one day. There is also a per item charge. Residents will be able to dispose of items such as televisions, computers, demolition materials, sofas, stoves, microwaves, etc. No hazardous waste, paint, motor oil, or fluorescent light bulbs, will be accepted. A materials price list is available in the Town Hall.

The Greenfield Transfer Station is open Tuesday-Friday, 12:30-2:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00p.m.

# Support Heath Agriculture



## Benson Farm

### *Wonderfully Wild Blueberry Sread*



- Made from unsprayed wild blueberries, grown at the Benson Place in Heath. Makes a great holiday gift or a kitchen staple.
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- Contact us about the spread, next year's crop, or visiting the farm, (413) 337-5340, benplace@gis.net.



## Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple Farm Heath, MA

Single-Batch, Single-Crop maple syrups in Italian glass from our family farm. Our small batch methods produce varied and distinctive maple flavors in every bottle. Come taste something new drawn from maple's long history. Our recipe brochure includes meat, fish, vegetable, and salad dishes. Available at our farm stand on Route 8A, by order, and at fine arts & crafts shows. Farm visits are welcome.

(888) 576-2753 or [BerkshireSweetGold.com](http://BerkshireSweetGold.com)

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Call hotline for exact dates.

**Blueberry Hotline: 413- 337- 4454**

**Burnt Hill Farm, 118 Flagg Hill Rd., Heath, MA**

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Reserve a beeper in the spring.

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**20 Town Farm Road  
337-4766**

## WINTER ON THE FARM

Winter can be a time of extremes on a farm. As the temperature drops, animals need more attention, barns and pens need constant cleaning. Water buckets, tubs, and pipes can freeze solid and break. Packed snow turns to ice making walking hazardous. Engines don't want to start; it takes hours to clean up after every snowstorm, and by the time you get enough clothes on to stay warm, you can barely move.

Although farmers are not out in their fields and woods this time of year, others are. Our winters can create a spectacular wonderland of ice and snow formations. The view across a field or valley is totally different without leaves on the trees. The sights and sounds of winter are many; get out and enjoy them from your yard or beyond. Remember, as you hike, snowshoe, ski, or snowmobile in this winter wonderland you are passing through the farmer's backyard. It is your responsibility to get permission before you invade someone else's property. You would want to know who is in your backyard, wouldn't you?

Most farmers don't put up "Posted" or "No Trespassing" signs along the roadsides and property lines. They realize

they are temporary stewards of the land, but still appreciate the courtesy of being notified that you want to pass through while out enjoying the season. It seems to me that most posted land is owned by folks who don't even live here. Why would they care if you crossed their property? You won't disturb their nap! Maybe it's just selfishness or greed. I guess we are lucky they don't live here. Anyway, now you know how I feel about "Posted" signs.

Probably by the time you read this issue of the *Heath Herald* it will be early sugaring season. If you've never been to a sugarhouse, you should treat yourself to a real New England tradition. Most sugar makers will happily make time to show you their operation. There are several sugarhouses right here in Heath where you can see syrup being made and buy a jug to take home. Do you know you can buy maple syrup, eggs, apples, berries, chicken, beef, lamb, vegetables, firewood, lumber, and many other fresh farm products right here in town? Local farmers need your support to survive. Look around and notice what happens to the land, the view, and the economy when a farm goes out of business.

This is a reminder to farmers that the *Heath Herald* supports you with free advertising for your farm products and business.

~ David Freeman

This section is free to Heath Farmers, and is made possible by the sales of Carroll Stowe's compilation "The Way it is in the Country." Agricultural producers should submit their information to *The Heath Herald*, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346.



## Heath Agricultural Society Heath Fair News

At the December meeting of the Heath Agricultural Society, the Reverend. Lois Stetson Buchiane rewrote Heath Fair history. She brought for us to see a poster that read:

*The Heath Agricultural Society will sponsor the*

### Heath Cattle Show and Fair

**Thursday, September 21, 1871**

That's right, 1871! In the corner of the poster, in a hand that Lois Stetson Buchiane says she would recognize anywhere as that of her grandmother, Sarah Benson Stetson, there is a note that says "1<sup>st</sup> Heath Fair."

Lois found the poster tucked in a ledger book in which her grandfather, George Stetson, recorded his income and expenses. The ledger was found in a large and very old wooden bowl that had been passed down in the Benson family for many years. The Buchiane Family uses it only on special occasions, and it was this past Thanksgiving that the ledger book and poster were discovered. How the ledger got in the bowl is a matter of speculation. It must have been among Lois's things when two years ago she moved to her present home on Brunelle Road that she shares with her son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Marsha Buchiane.

Obviously the poster raises questions about just how old our Heath Fair is. In her essay on Heath families in the *Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Town of Heath, Massachusetts*, (1935) Pearl Tanner wrote that Mary and Flora White founded the Heath Agricultural Fair Society in 1916. Esther Dickinson wrote in her essay, "The Heath Fair 1916-1984," ( *The Book of Heath*, Susan Silvester, ed., 1985) that in 1916 the first Heath Fair was sponsored by the Heath Historical Society (also founded by Flora and Mary White.) The Fair has been held every year since but one. (There was a year during World War II when all such gatherings were forbidden because of a polio epidemic.) Last summer was therefore counted as the 88<sup>th</sup> annual Heath Fair.

It may be that the Fair as an *annual* event began in 1916, but we now have evidence that there was a fair, sponsored by the Heath Agricultural Society as it is today, some 45 years earlier. We are very grateful to Lois for showing us this extraordinary find that she intends to give to the Heath Historical Society for preservation.

According to other information listed on the poster, The Heath Cattle Show and Fair was a one-day event. There were thirty-one committees responsible for organizing it. All but two of the committees had three members. Many members came from Heath, but many also came from Colrain, Charlemont, Rowe, and Whitingham.

There are some still familiar names on the list of volunteers; names like Stetson, Burrington, Gleason, Sumner, Benson, Dickinson, and Coats. There were also some names no longer heard so often in Heath but still remembered by many; names like Temple, Spooner, Yaw, Crosier, Chapin, Canedy, Basset, and Read. There was even a John Henry, but it is unlikely he was any relation to the one who currently resides on Number Nine Road! Most of the committees listed were concerned with the showing of cattle and agricultural skills. There were also then, as now, exhibits of baked and canned goods and needlework. Then as now there was a promise that "GOOD MUSIC WILL BE FURNISHED!"

The town of Heath has long been blessed with a strong sense of community. Certainly both the effort of organizing the Fair and the enjoyment of the event have a long history of contributing to our sense of belonging to a very special place.

The Heath Fair today is still sponsored by the Heath Agricultural Society and still showcases local agriculture and furnishes very good musical entertainment (thanks in recent years to Carol Sartz.)

Our officers are:

Bob Delisle and Pam Porter, co-presidents  
First Vice President, Shirley Toombs  
Second Vice President, Bradley Toombs  
Treasurer, Norm Sessions  
Recording Secretary, Christine O'Brien  
Fair Secretaries, Doug and Cathy Wilkins

This year the Fair will take place on August 18, 19, and 20. Now, of course, in addition to the agricultural events and great music, we have a midway and fireworks as well as square dancing, a parade, the firemen's famous Chicken Barbecue, complete with homemade root beer, and much, much more. People come from all around to see old friends and enjoy the comfortable scale and rich offerings of this enduring country fair. There is hardly an organization in town that does not benefit from the opportunity to fund-raise and many, many townspeople of all ages find satisfaction and camaraderie in being a part of it all.

As we prepare for the 89<sup>th</sup> annual Heath Fair, we are sadly aware of the absence of a strong voice and able, faithful contributor to the spirit and success of the Fair in years past. We miss Carroll Stowe's presence in many more ways than one. Carroll found both great fun and great value in making the fair a success. We hope others will be inspired by his example to get or stay involved in supporting this venerable and still vital town event.

Planning for the Fair goes on year round. If you have interest, ideas, or energy to share, please join us at any of our regular meetings. During the winter they take place on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Heath Elementary School.

~ Pam Porter, Co-President



## Library Lines

### A Fond Farewell



By Charlene Churchill

This will be my last Library Lines column for the *Herald* as the Director of our library. I have submitted my resignation effective February 18. I have accepted the position of Director of the Forbush Memorial Library, the public library in Westminister, Massachusetts. I will begin work there in early March, and I expect to relocate to that area on a permanent basis in a few months.

I have really enjoyed the four and a half years that I have been Director in Heath, and I feel that we have been able to accomplish a great deal in that time. Our circulation has increased significantly. We have worked on weeding and updating the library's collection and have started collections of audiobooks on CD and movies on DVD. Our preschool story hours and the summer reading program have had greatly increased attendance. We have successfully completed our Planning and Design Grant for a new library building and will soon be receiving our state grant for its construction.

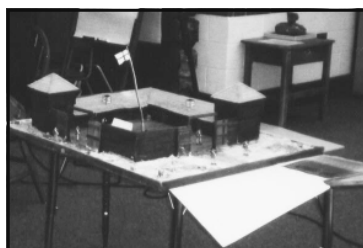
There are still several projects that need to be done to bring our library into the twenty-first century. The circulation system needs to be computerized. This will involve joining the CW/MARS automated library network and will involve an annual cost of several thousand dollars. What library patrons and staff will get in return will be more efficient checking in and out of materials, more timely issuance of overdue notices and bills for materials that have not been returned, and, best of all for patrons, the ability to search our library collection from home and to place "holds" on items in our collection or any other CW/MARS library and then pick up the item(s) at our library. While we can currently place holds for patrons and get items from other libraries our patrons can't do this from their home computers.

There are still some parts of the library's collection that need to have old materials discarded and updated or replaced.

The community needs to have a new library building, even with any town budget increase this may bring. There are very few "community building" facilities in Heath. The library is an important one now and could be even more dynamic and active in a new building with informal reading areas, an adequate Children's Room, and a Community Room for programs, classes, and exhibits. I urge everyone who believes in a strong Heath community to do everything they can to support this project.

In closing, I would like to thank the library staff, the current and former Trustees with whom I have worked, and the wonderful patrons who have made it so enjoyable for me to work at our library.

## Heath Historical Society



On October 7 of last year, Heath Elementary School participated in a "Fort Shirley Day" that was supposed to be a hike to the site from Colrain Stage Road. But inclement weather required a change in plans. Your president

assisted Dave and Pegge Howland in removing the scale model of the fort from the Historical Society's Center Schoolhouse to the school.

Also present was Bill Thane, who actually built the model and was on Michael Coe's archaeological research team that excavated the fort. He led the classes in discussion and helped the children sketch and make their own models of the fort.

On October 19, the children did hike to the site, and Bill was again present to narrate the history of Fort Shirley and of Anna Norton's gravesite. The children made plans to

repair the fence surrounding the grave.

I feel that the Heath children with their desire to learn local history will be better citizens for it. The Heath School is to be commended for teaching it.



The school's participation in Fort Shirley is an introduction to the Historical Society's plans to have "Fort Shirley Days" during the coming summer. Watch for the schedule of coming events

Starting in May, the Old Town House and Center Schoolhouse Museums will be open to visitors on the first Saturday of each month through October. Children - bring your parents to see and hear what you have learned about Heath history.

~ Jack Cable,  
President

## Heath Business Directory

**Bald Mountain Pottery**  
625-8110

**The Benson Place**  
Blueberries & Applesauce  
337-5340

**Fred Burrington**  
Artist  
337-4302

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

**Robert Delisle**  
Electrician  
337-5716

**Russell E. Donelson**  
Design/Construction/Cabinetry  
337-4460

**Jerry Ferguson**  
Handyman - Lic. Electrician  
337-4317

**Earl M. Gleason**  
Fire Equipment  
337-4948

**Heath Brook Studio**  
Glass and Baskets  
337-5736

**Maple Ledge Goldens**  
AKC Registered Golden Retrievers  
337-4705

**John Mooney**  
Custom Remodeling  
337-8344

**Wanda Mooney**  
Realtor  
337-8344

**Alan Nichols**  
Furniture Maker  
337-6665

**Tripp's Blueberries**  
Taylor Brook Road  
337-4964

**Paul Turnbull**  
**Janice Boudreau**  
Commercial/Wedding Photographers  
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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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Shelburne Falls

## Article #2: Safe Snow Shoveling Tips



Shoveling snow can be a great way to get some fresh air and exercise but it can be especially dangerous for someone with a health risk. Exercise experts say shoveling heavy snow requires as much energy as running 9 miles per hour! In addition, breathing cold air, and being exposed to the cold all make the heart work harder. If you are over 45, sedentary, smoke, have elevated blood pressure, are overweight, and/or have a heart condition, play it safe and get someone else to do the shoveling.

Experts warn that snow shoveling is not the exercise to use to start getting in shape. If it's done too fast with no breaks, using only your back, or by a person with hidden heart trouble you could wind up in the hospital, or worse! Shoveling snow can cause bone and joint problems and muscle strains. Sometimes the act of shoveling snow is enough to provoke a heart attack in persons with actual heart disease. Another significant hazard is the risk of fall due to slippery wintry surfaces.

### Tips to prevent injury:

- Warm up your body by doing a few stretches to limber your muscles. If you do not, injuries such as minor aches and pains or pulled muscles can result. The range of motion used in shoveling puts a lot of stress on your body, which increases the heart rate and blood pressure.
- Don't shovel snow right after smoking or eating a heavy meal - these activities all put an extra load on our cardiovascular system.
- Every year people hurt themselves shoveling snow. If you experience any of these symptoms please stop: \*Heavy sweating \*Shortness of breath \*Or pain anywhere
- Dress in layers so clothing can be peeled off as the body becomes warm. You do not want to get too cold or too warm. The clothes should be able to breathe and be made of natural fibers such as wool or cotton. This lets your body moisture escape. Overheating puts extra strain on the heart.
- In very cold air, wear a scarf or face mask over nose and mouth to avoid breathing cold air.
- Wear a hat to retain body heat and good gloves that will give you a good grip on the shovel and that will keep your hands warm.
- Use a smaller shovel. This will force you to have a lighter load.
- Pace yourself and take frequent breaks, even if only for a couple of minutes.
- When possible push the snow instead of lifting.
- Drink fluids to stay hydrated.
- Shovel safely by bending legs slightly at the knee, letting thigh muscles do most of the pushing and lifting work; this will reduce strain on the heart and back.
- Wear boots with good traction and use "ice creepers" if needed.
- Pace yourself and use both the left and right sides of the body and develop a safe rhythm when you throw the snow.
- Breathe deep and develop a rhythmic breathing pattern as you shovel- remember you are exercising!
- Be slow and methodical and use the whole body.
- Use the strong muscles in your buttocks and legs and bend your knees.
- Avoid twisting and straining your back and wrists.
- Avoid reaching to toss the snow; keeping your arms in front of you as opposed to way out to the side of your body
- Whenever possible shovel while the snow is still soft and before it is trampled on.

Despite the best shoveling plan, there remains the inevitable berm at the end of the driveway left by the snowplow. And naturally the plow always seems to come along after you've just finished the driveway! Tackle this heavy job once you are rested.

A snowblower can be a great tool. In determining the right model and size you might want to consider the maneuverability and variety of people in your house who will need to use the machine. An electric start is a nice feature that eliminates potential back strain inherent in a pull-start motor.

For many, however, it is wiser to get someone else to look after this chore. When you consider the risks and consequences of a slip and fall or an arthritic flare-up or an asthma attack or a heart attack you may have to hire someone or buy a snowblower. It is always better to be safe than sorry when it comes to your health.

~ Sheila M. Litchfield, RN, BSN  
Certified Occupational Health Nurse

## Milestones

**Robert C. "Jake" Tripp** died on January 20, 2006, at home. Born in Winsted, CT, on March 21, 1924, he was the son of Robert and Mabel Hansen Tripp.

He attended public school in Granville and served in the US Army during World War II in Europe. A paratrooper, he was awarded the Good Conduct and Purple Heart medals, Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Silver and Bronze Stars.

Prior to retirement, he owned and operated Tripp's Blueberry Farm for 45 years as well as a wholesale shrubbery business.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, **Alicia Armata Tripp**; two daughters, Roberta Baker of Rowe and Melanie Leighton of Northfield; two sisters, Dorothy Baker of Deland, FL, and Rita Sandman of Granville; three grandchildren, and his nephew, **Henry Godek** of Heath.

A celebration of life service will be held in the spring.

Memorial donations may be made to: BVNA and Hospice, Munson Street, Greenfield, MA 01301.

## Requiescat in pace

### Heath People In The News

**Grace Phillips**, a student at the Academy at Charlemont and daughter of **Bruce and Deborah Phillips** of Heath, is participating in a semester-at-sea program during the spring term of her junior year. The program is run by Ocean Classroom of Rhode Island in conjunction with Proctor Academy in New Hampshire. For four months she and 24 other high school juniors and seniors will sail on the 125-foot schooner, the Westward, attending classes, helping man the ship, taking their 4-hour watches, and exploring many ports of call.

They start the voyage in St. Thomas, sail through the Western Antilles with a number of stops in different ports, and continue down to Trinidad and Tobago. They then start sailing up to Puerto Rico and continue north along the eastern seaboard to Penobscot Bay in Maine and then finish in Boston in late May. During this time, they will be studying Maritime History, Maritime Literature and Writing, Marine Science, Navigation, Applied Mathematics, and Seamanship skills.

It is a wonderful opportunity and adventure for Grace. She is considering marine biology as her potential college major.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO.....Alastair Maitland** who is celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Alastair as a columnist and member of the editorial staff was a leading light of the *Herald* in the late 80s. Family from England and several states journeyed to Heath in August to celebrate with him.

**AND TO.....Michael Wilmeth** who has been promoted to the position of Editor of the *Shelburne Falls and West County News*. Michael follows in the footsteps (at some remove) of the paper's founder and first editor, Mike Bakalar, also of Heath.

### Heath Deed Transfers

David A. and Tracey L. Baronas of Leyden to Jayme J. Gay and Sheila Margaret Hobbie of Shelburne, 171 Colrain Stage Road. \$141,250.

Peter Bechard of Springfield to Linda Champagne of Springfield, Cascade Drive, Lot 42. \$4,250.

Lea B. Bohrer of Shelburne to David L. Bohrer, 162 Sumner Stetson Road. \$1.00.

Harry G. Sr. and Elizabeth J. Broadbrook to Oscar Davila, 71 Sadoga Road. \$217,500.

Constance D. Burrington of Charlemont to Town of Charlemont. Town of Hawley, and Town of Heath, Burrington Road, Lot A. \$1.00.

John J. Charmella and Patricia M. Green to E. Una Cooper, 13 Colrain Road. \$270,000.

James B. Coursey to Douglas Mason and Nina Marshall, 93 Bassett Road. \$650,000.

Jacob I. Dolinger to Mary A. Arsenault of Washington, PA, 31 Flagg Hill Road. \$154,000.

Douglas C. Finn to Douglas C. and Elizabeth S. Finn, 9 Wigwam Drive. No consideration.

Jeanette K. Fuller of Westfield to Mark S. Edwards of West Springfield, Mohawk Estates, Lot 25. \$1.00.

Rita Gray to Scott E. and Sarah Forbes Bledsoe of Cummington, 43 Sherman Drive. \$162,000.

Kelly Griswold and Heidi Griswold to Gerald L. Smith and Terry L. Hammond, Jacksonville State Road. No consideration.

Gary M. and Donna L. James, by Option One Mortgage Corporation, Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2000-C Asset Backed Certificates Series 2000-C, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Trustee, 46 Rowe Road. \$117,623.

Frederick S. Lego of Montague to Frederick S. Lego, Kathleen Ball and Clyde E. Ball of Turners Falls, Mohawk Estates, Lot 1. \$1.00.

Antoni Moczulski Estate and Barbara Brys, Administrator, to Todd Demers, 12 Swamp Road. \$14,500.

Carol A. Perrea, Howard R. Perrea, and Carol Perrea to John H. and Barbara A. Traynor, 66 Papoose Lake Drive. \$10,000.

Kirk S. and Sandra L. Pettengill to Harry W. and Julieanne S. Hallman, 14 State Farm Road. \$264,900.

Sean F. Rancourt to Jodi G. Rancourt and Jodi G. Walsh, 102 Branch Hill Road. \$1.00.

Donald J. and Mary Ann Rosinski to Patricia Coderre-Guyette, Deer Path Run, \$2,000.

Richards C. Steinbock, Anne C. Fogarty, and Anne M. Cronin to Johanna M. Watson, 3 Burnt Hill Road and 29 Flagg Hill Road. \$65,000.

Paul B. Swain to Don and Angela Rodrigues, 10 Swamp Road. \$35,000.

Gerald L. Smith and Terry L. Hammond to Kelly Griswold and Heidi Griswold, Jacksonville Stage Road, Lot B. No consideration.

Sterling R. Jr. and Jacqueline M. Tiffany Revocable Trust of Forestville, CA, Sterling R. Jr. and Jacqueline M. Tiffany, Trustees, to Gerald L. Smith and Terry L. Hammond, Jacksonville Stage Road. No consideration.

Eleanor S. Trowbridge to Eleanor S. Trowbridge and Thomas Trowbridge, Flagg Hill Road PB78 P51 and Burnt Hill Road. \$1.00.

~ Pegge Howland

## Whittemore Spring Update



Carroll Stowe's Whittemore Spring Preservation Fund has received over \$1500 to date. The spring has been dug out and tiles installed to isolate the spring water from groundwater.

Tests have been conducted with more to follow to determine the

"safety" of the water (for over 200 years animals and humans have used the spring with no known illnesses or deaths). The Heath Historical Society is in charge of the fund which is in a separate account specifically for the preservation of the spring.

~ Jack Cable

### Hands Across Heath

A Trust Fund designed to assist the Town Nurse provide additional health services to the people of Heath through donations.



by making your check payable to: Hands Across Heath Trust Fund, and mailing it to: C/O Treasurer, 1 E. Main Street, Heath, MA 01346.

### Help is Available

This trust fund is available to residents of Heath who are in need of financial assistance to purchase prescribed medications or medical services not covered by insurance.

Please contact Heath Town Nurse Joanne Fortune at 774-2958 for more information.

If you are interested in making a contribution to this valuable fund you may do so

### Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>	<u>Snow</u>
From November 11, '05	2 ½ "	8"
December '05	½ "	22"
Up to January 10, 2006	0 "	8 ¾ "

#### In This Reporting Period:

The highest temperature was on November 16: 60 degrees.  
The coldest temperature was on December 14: 4 degrees below zero.

December had a cold spell with zero to below at times between 12/13 - 12/15. December also had the biggest snowstorm for this reporting period with one storm dumping @ 15 inches on the 9th.

## Community Calendar

### February 2006

**February 8** - Schools Early Release Day, 12:45 p.m.  
- MTRSD School Committee Meeting, Mohawk, 7:00 p.m.

**February 9** - Heath Agricultural Society meeting, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.

**February 14 - HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY !**

**February 15** - Good Neighbors Food Bagging, Charlemont Federated Church, 4:00 p.m.

**February 16** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.  
- LEC Meeting, Heath School, 4:30 p.m.

**February 17** - PTP Family Movie Night, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.

**February 20-25** - MTRSD Winter Vacation

**February 27** - School Resumes

### March 2006

**March 2** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

- High School Science Fair  
- High School Open House, 7:00 p.m.  
- PTP Meeting, Heath School, 6:30 p.m.

**March 8** - MTRSD School Committee Meeting, Mohawk, 7:00 p.m.

**March 9** - Heath Agricultural Society meeting, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.

**March 10** - General William Heath Day, Heath School

**March 15** - Last Day to Obtain Election Papers from Town Clerk

**March 16** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

**March 17** - Last Day to File Election Papers with Town Clerk  
- PTP Family Movie Night, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.

**March 22** - Schools Early Release Day

**March 23** - Early Release Day, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Heath School

**March 24** - Early Release Day, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Heath School

**March 25** - Parent University, Heath School

**March 27-31** - MCAS - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades

**March 28-30** - MCAS - 10<sup>th</sup> grade

## This winter take the time

To mend a quarrel,  
 Seek out a forgotten friend,  
 Write a love letter,  
 Share some treasure,  
 Give a soft answer,  
 Encourage youth,  
 Keep a promise,  
 Forgive an enemy,  
**LISTEN,**  
 Apologize if you were wrong,  
 Think first of someone else,  
 Be kind and gentle,  
 Laugh a little, laugh a little more,  
 Express your gratitude,  
 Gladden the heart of a child,  
 Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth,  
 Speak your love, speak it again.  
 Speak it still once again.

~ Anonymous

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