



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

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Volume 28, Number 2

June/July 2006

Class of

Heath Elementary School Sixth Grade



First row, left to right: Teacher, Kare Marshall, Jacob Perez, Carin Wales, Morgan Kain, Aurie Ingraham-Adie, Kelsey Rode, and Nathan Grandison. Top row, left to right: Taylor Kain, Kenny Griswold, Jake Archambault, Sarah Beattie, Chris Alford, and John Muenkel. Not shown is Jacob Sloat.



Congratulations to all graduates
and to their proud parents!
Best wishes for a shining future!

Heath Herald

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Columnists

Bill Lattrell, Pat Leuchtman,
Sheila Litchfield, Donald Purington,

Contributors

Betty and Frank Birney, Lois Buchiane, Jack Cable,
FHSL, Heath School Staff & Students,
Ruth Johnson, Henry Leuchtman,
Logan & Wallace Gallery, Pam Porter,
PTP, The Selectboard, Dottie Sessions,
David Vanderpoel, Bob and Del Viarengo

Eileen A. Tougas

Jane de Leeuw

Jane de Leeuw

Deborah Phillips

Deborah Phillips

Dianne Cerone

Heath Union Church News

We are back worshipping in the Sanctuary now, having held morning worship in our "new" social hall during the winter months in order to conserve fuel. The lower level work is continuing with the installation of the stove and oven. Other appliances and cabinets are in the offing. Also, as one can see driving through town, Mike Platek is greatly improving the exterior of the building, and a new roof will be in the works soon.

The pastor-search committee has called the Reverend Pam Porter to serve as interim minister while we continue our search for a permanent minister. We look forward to her able leadership and encourage everyone to join us Sunday mornings for our worship service at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us on the first Sunday of the month for a potluck gathering after service in the lower level of our church.

God bless,

~ David Vanderpoel

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Award Winning Author Visits Heath School



Children's book author, Betty G. Birney, displaying her books, *The World According to Humphrey* and *Friendship According to Humphrey*, the first two in a series, at a luncheon given for her, her husband Frank, and son Walshe, at the Heath Elementary School, on May 22, prior to her presentation before an excited group of Humphrey fans.

Librarian Wanda Musacchio and other staff members had been reading aloud *The World According to Humphrey* for several weeks before the visit so the students were primed for Betty's illustrated talk and for the lively question and answer session that followed.

Betty, who lives in California, is the author also of the recently published *Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs* as well as several other earlier books. She has spent the better part of a year traveling around the country visiting schools and bookstores and accepting a host of awards including the prestigious Christopher Award for Values in Media for *Friendship According to Humphrey* and most recently was feted by the State of Rhode Island for *The World According to Humphrey*. She has also been given the Maryland Black-Eyed Susan State Award, and the Pennsylvania Keystone to Reading Award. She is currently nominated for the Children's Crown Award, and is on the state lists of Florida, Vermont, Iowa, Oklahoma, South Carolina, North Carolina, Louisiana, and Minnesota. The National Women's Book Association has given her an Honor Book Award for *Seven Wonders of Sassafras Spring*, and Borders has placed it on their list of "Original Voices."

Thanks again to Betty from all her many fans, old and young, for coming to the Heath School and giving us such a delightful treat! We look forward to new Humphrey adventures in *Trouble According to Humphrey* which is on G.P. Putnam Sons' Spring'07 list.

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One-Room Schoolhouses in Heath

Today as we proudly look at our beautiful school on Jacobs Road, we should ponder the history of schools in Heath. I have read Ed Calver's history as well as an article written by Esther Dickinson, who researched town reports, and the Sesquicentennial booklet and have found the following information.

The South School, the first, was a brick building, later a wooden one with the same brick foundation. It was built in 1772 and was used for town meetings for a few years until such meetings were moved to the Center School. I found the following construction dates to be: Center, 1788, Center North, 1788, West, 1800-01, Burnt Hill, 1894, North, (?), Northeast, (?), Branch, 1804, and Number Nine, 1828. According to Esther's article, the schools were numbered as follows: #1, South, #2, West, #3, South Center, #4, Northeast, #5, Southeast (Burnt Hill), #6, North Center (by the Fairgrounds) #7, Branch, #8, North, and #9, Northwest.

At times, depending on the student numbers, some schools were closed and pupils transported to another nearby. Eventually, all schools but one were closed and the children in grades 1-8 were transported to Branch School which had been expanded into three rooms. Upon the state condemning the building in 1968, we sent our k-6 pupils to Rowe and the 7th and 8th graders to Whitingham, VT, until Mohawk was opened. Thus was the saga until we decided to once again build our own school here in town.

The one-room schoolhouse that is dear to me is South. It was at the intersection of South, Schoolhouse, and Bassett Roads. Only a sign now indicates the site as the building was bought and moved to become a summer camp. The structure was one large room with entry, woodshed and outhouse attached. You entered from the south into the entry with the woodshed ahead. The entry was where we left out wraps of the season, boots, baseball gloves, and the like. A door to the left led you into the large room. There were windows on the south and west and a big blackboard on the north wall with a woodstove in the northeast area. The desks were attached to the floor, double occupancy, with a shelf under the top for storage of books and papers. There was an inkwell in the top of each desk. The front desk had an additional bench on the front where you sat for lessons. The front desks were small enough for the little ones and the size graduated toward the rear to accommodate the long legs of the 7th and 8th graders. Under the west windows was a long bench for visitors or where many things were stored. In the southwest corner a place was reserved for our drinking water vessel. The canister was brought from a nearby farm each morning.

There were four small chairs for little ones to have lessons and a large wooden desk with chair in the front of the room for the teacher. The American flag hung in the front and on the wall was a pull-down set of maps for our geography lessons. Also above the chalkboard were the alphabet cards showing the proper formation of letters for us to reproduce.

The personnel consisted of one teacher for grades one through eight. Occasionally, the Superintendent would come for a short visit, and we had a music supervisor once a month. Other than that, all instruction, art, music, and physical education were taught by the teacher. There was no kindergarten; mothers took care of that. During my eight years at South School I had several teachers, some for only a few weeks or a few months. We had some

very excellent ones for several years at a time. Each teacher lived with a local family during the week. As I remember there were no more than four grades at a time but we all learned a great deal overhearing recitations and instruction of other classes up front as we worked at our own desks. When I started first grade I was one of three, and we only went half a day at first and then until 2:30. while the older students stayed until 3:30.



Ernest Royer, Ada Landstrom, Jane Burrington, Pearl Landstrom, Ruth Landstrom, Catherine Burrington, and Laurence Burrington pose outside the schoolhouse with teacher, Miss Baker.

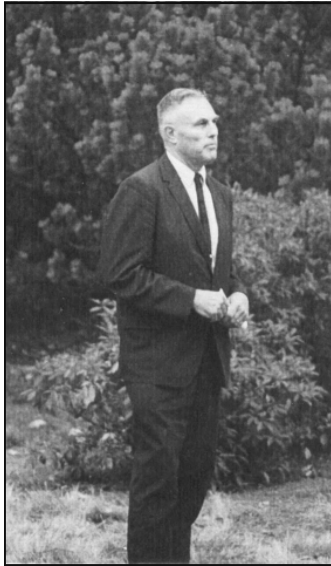
We started the day with the Pledge of Allegiance and sometimes an opening activity. The day progressed with separate classes going up front for lessons then back to work at their seats. As well as the usual teaching of the three R's, we were taught the Palmer method of handwriting, copying the proper formation from the letters posted above the chalkboard. Sometimes we had a writing supervisor but mostly learned from our teacher. The teacher also would continue the lessons left by the music teachers' monthly meeting so we all learned to read music somewhat and to copy notes to simple songs on staff paper. I enjoyed the fun songs and the usual patriotic ones as well. Art lessons may have been making seasonal decorations or having the teacher discuss some famous painting from which we could create our own or often write a story about it.

Our physical education was recess, mostly games we organized ourselves. Supervision was from the classroom window. We might bring our bikes in good weather and spin around the school grounds or in winter we were never without our sleds. We did not have to be concerned with vehicular traffic as the most activity would be the milk truck so we had wonderful sliding times down Schoolhouse Hill.

The hedgerows were great cover for hide-and-seek or sardines. The field behind the school was etched by springtime with circles of the fox and geese pattern. The front field was our baseball diamond. Though there were never enough kids for a full team, we had lots of wonderful "scrub" games. There were many games of tag and keely-over, and snowball fights and snow sculpture. All in all, just good, kid-oriented fun.

("One-Room Schoolhouses in Heath" continued on page 9)

The Forest and the Forester



In a previous issue I wrote about the Cook State Forest in North Heath and a little about the Forester for whom it was named, Harold O. Cook. Much more information has come from his 86 year-old daughter, Charlotte Cook, who lives in Rockland, Maine, his granddaughter, Kitty Bammer, Winslow, Maine, and his niece, Martha Morrell, Los Gatos, California, and from his book, *Fifty Years a Forester*.

Mr. Cook was born in Providence, R.I., in 1884 and grew up in Waltham, and after marriage in Auburndale. He entered Harvard College

in 1902 intending to become a lawyer, but after taking a botany course to fill in extra hours, his Professor Farlow mentioned the new science of forestry and that Harvard was planning a school of forestry in 1906. He enrolled in that school, and during that summer worked in Petersham at an inn. A large tract of land in Petersham was offered to Harvard in 1907, and the School of Forestry was moved there that same year. Thus the Harvard Forest was born and there it still is today.

He was one of eight students graduating in 1907 with a Master of Forestry degree. He had passed the Civil Service Examination for the United States Forest Service and had been assigned to a post in California when he was offered the job of completing a study on the measurement of white pine with the Massachusetts State Forestry. The job also included being a State Fire Warden, working out of the Old State House.

In 1919 a Massachusetts Constitutional Convention was convened to overhaul the state government. In the process of reorganization a new Department of Conservation was formed with the Division of Forestry being a part. Harold Cook was appointed Chief Forester, a title he held until his death in 1962. His years in the Forestry service included surveying, battling gypsy moth blights, conducting educational events throughout the state, and selecting suitable sites for the Civilian Conservation Camps in the state, amounting to 31 camps with an invasion of 6,200 boys. One of these sites was here in North Heath and Colrain. Added to his duties was the administrative work of surveys, engineering plans, timetables for construction, among others. The Heath camp was opened in June, 1935.

An interesting account of his family background came from Cook's niece, Martha Morrell. Harold's maternal grandfather, Thomas Marshall Pease, was a whaling captain during an era when whale hunting for oil was an acceptable occupation. Harold's father, who worked

for Wells Fargo, married one of the Captain's younger daughters in Boston and immediately set out for Virginia City, Nevada. They traveled by ship to Panama, crossed the isthmus on mules, and took another ship to San Francisco. From there they went by stage coach across the Sierra Nevada to Carson Valley and then up to Virginia City. By the time they arrived the young bride was pregnant but there is nothing known about their return trip to Boston, only that they were back in time for the birth of Harold's oldest sibling. Harold was the youngest of several.

At the time of his death, Harold had been an employee of the Department of Natural Resources for more than 50 years, during which time he had seen the department grow from a small entity of four employees to a far-flung state department dealing with every phase of the conservation of natural resources. For 30 years he personally selected and later presented the State House Christmas tree to several governors of the Commonwealth. In 1953, he selected and presented the White House Christmas tree to President Eisenhower on behalf of Governor Christian Herter, and in 1957 he was the personal representative of Governor Foster Furcolo in selecting and dedicating the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree.

The formal dedication of the Harold O. Cook State Forest took place on October 5, 1967. As of late March of this year there was still no marker at the Colrain entrance to the Forest, but Charlotte Cook has a promise from the Department that there will be a replacement. A trip to the stone marker less than a mile into the Forest shows much evidence of fallen trees and branches. Some cutting has been done along the road at the Colrain end but there is much work to be done, and with budget cuts there is only a skeleton crew to maintain the State Forests along Routes 2 and 8A.

~ Lois Buchiane

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Wild Ramblings

New Dawn



By Bill Lattrell

It is the sixteenth of April and the sky above me is breathtakingly blue. There are absolutely no clouds and in my imagination I can see clear through to the heavens above. It is late morning, and despite the time of year, it is nearly 70 degrees. One doesn't often complain about weather like this, but I find myself concerned about the fact that the sugar maple leaves are opening up on the branch tips above my head. The young green foliage contrasts sharply against the blue sky. I have never seen maple trees leaf out this early in this part of New England.

As I ponder the maple leaves I think back to the unusual patterns that we have been experiencing during the last few years: giant and frequent storms in the Gulf of Mexico, extended droughts in the Midwest, extremely mild winters along the northern tier of the United States, and very unusual autumn rain events in the northeast. The pattern makes me increasingly nervous, and I feel helpless because I know that these are circumstances that may be beyond my control.

From an early age I learned to be independent. My family circumstances, although difficult at times, taught me survival skills that would last a lifetime. I have known for a long time that the reason I feel so comfortable in the wild is that it is the one place where I can trust my instincts. It is the one place where I can feel in control of my own survival.

Although climate change may be an issue that can be controlled by collective mankind this may be only part of the picture. While there is much evidence that the world has been through several warming trends during the last two thousand years, it appears that the present warming pattern may be of different origin and of possibly greater magnitude. Recent studies of carbon dioxide levels in ice, where atmospheric CO₂ can be evaluated for as far back as 20,000 years, have revealed that today's carbon dioxide levels may be the highest they have ever been during this long time period. Carbon dioxide has been linked to the "greenhouse" effect where the sun's heat becomes trapped within a layer of gas that may result in the warming of the earth's surface temperatures.

The life on our planet is the result of and dependent upon a very delicate and intricate balance of surface temperature, landmass, watermass, ocean currents, and air currents. Even slight changes in surface temperature can increase the amount of surface water by melting glaciers and ice caps, decrease the amount of landmass as the water covers the edges of the continents, and change currents within the oceans resulting in a change of global air and wind patterns.

The best we can expect might be subtle climate changes that would change local climates. For instance, our forest composition, over time, might mimic the forests now found in more southern climates. Northern deciduous trees, such as the sugar maple could be lost. Northern coniferous trees such as the red spruce would almost certainly be lost. A change in vegetative communities would result in corresponding change in the animal communities. New England would become quite a different place.

The worst we can expect is nearly unspeakable. Many scientists agree that even modest changes in temperature of the earth's surface would result in larger areas of the earth's surface being covered with water. Our earth's temperature is governed by the collecting of heat by the landmass of the earth. When this is reduced and as the increased water surface reflects light and therefore potential heat, the earth would cool. Ironically, global warming would result in global cooling and an ensuing period of advancing glaciers.

There are many scientific models predicting this change. There is also much disagreement on how long this would take given present warming trends. Some models predict the changes would take place over many hundreds of years, others predict the changes would occur in much, much shorter periods of time.

Despite all this there still may be hope that we humans can control the destiny of this planet earth. It would require a massive, collective effort. It would require changing the way we live and the way we do business. It would require a monumental change in how we view our planet. It would require that we understand that this planet is one living organism, of which we humans are only a small part. It would require that we measure every action, and be responsible for every reaction.

Deep, very deep, in my own soul I understand that humans have great capabilities. We are capable of such great changes.

It is the eighteenth of April and I am sitting in the dark, high on a ledge, waiting for the sun to rise. I am completely shrouded in the black abyss of the night. As morning approaches, the sky begins to lighten. It is as if there is a large curtain to the east that is being opened very slowly, and the morning light leaks in through the narrowest of openings.

I hear one lone bird voice rejoicing a new dawn. Then there is a long moment of silence. It is so quiet I can hear my own breathing. The bird sings once again, like it is trying to wake all those who inhabit the forest. Once again there is silence. And then it seems the other birds hear it. Their movement can be heard in the branches. A second song can be heard clearly throughout the forest, and then another, and still another. The forest is now beaming with excitement! A chorus of enlightenment celebrates a new day.



Green Thoughts

An Abundance of Roses

By Pat Leuchtman

This spring I bought a yellow Julia Child rose, and dug up two rugosa roots from a friend's garden in Buckland to plant in the Rose Walk. Sometimes I am amazed that I can still find room to plant more roses, but it doesn't take too much struggle, and the original Rose Walk is now a Double Rose Walk. Our pasture fences are lined with bushes and the Shed Bed next to the hen house is extraordinarily lush in rose season.

The first roses were planted in 1983. There was no real plan for a Rose Garden, but over the years the collection of hardy roses that bloom for a short time at the end of June and early July has grown.

When we bought our house there was a huge beach rose, a pink rugosa, growing right in front. It continues to flourish in a spot that bears very little relationship to the rest of the garden, but we have not been able to bring ourselves to remove it. What we have done is add a partial hedge of rugosa alba, white roses, at the top of the Sunken Garden. We've also planted Blanc Double De Coubert, a standard white double rugosa, and Mt. Blanc which I think is even better. Apart is a huge double pink rugosa that is one of my favorite roses.

By 1985 the few roses that were straggling across the lawn at the beginnings of the Rose Walk were enough to inspire our youngest daughter Kate to imagine a wedding among the roses. I'd have to admit that I held that thought as we added more hardy roses year after year. We planted damask roses like Celsiana, and Ispahan, alba roses like Passionate Nymph's Thigh, Felicite Parmentier, Mme Legras de St. Germain, and the Queen of Denmark.

I was not surprised to learn that the Canadians have worked to hybridize hardy roses and we have planted Champlain, a wonderful glowing single red, John Cabot, and William Baffin from their Explorer series.

But for all the noble ladies and adventurous men who have given their names to our roses, I am particularly happy to have in my rose collection plants that reflect the history of Heath. After we had been here a couple of years a wonderful pink rose crept out from beneath a syringa at the end of the house. We named it Mabel after Mabel Vreeland who once lived in our house, and then lived in the house below us when we moved in.

Alli Thane-Stetson gave me a pink rose from her garden, and Terry Pettengill gave me roses from her mother's house in Maine, and Ruth Corey, a yellow rose. One of the most vigorously growing roses was given to me by Rachel Sumner the



summer before she died. She told me it had been buried once when her husband dumped all the soil he was excavating for a new garage on top of it. It took a couple of years but eventually it grew right through all that soil to bloom again. I planted it, but when we built our Cottage Ornee I had to dig it up and move it so a foundation stone could stand on that spot. It took a couple of years, but there must have been a bit of root left because it now blooms in two places in our garden.

I've transplanted roses from Charlemont and from Buckland as well, and Mrs. Herzig from Colrain gave me a delightful little pompom of a pink rose that didn't like where I planted it and jumped into the forsythia hedge. Mafalda Musacchio invited me to take a low-growing and immensely fragrant pink rose from her house in Greenfield and bring it to Heath. It is now just getting settled in the Rose Walk.

Kate's rose wedding did take place in 1994. Kate was a beautiful bride, her sunny smile beaming through the mists that swirled over the hill that June day while over 50 roses bushes scented the air. I thought it was appropriate that roses from those hardy farm wives witnessed the event and served as a silent wish that Kate and Greg would enjoy their own long, strong and beautiful marriage.

Every year we take the advice of the sage who said to stop and smell the roses. On the last Sunday of June we have a Garden Open Today and invite our friends, neighbors and rose fanciers to join us for the Annual Rose Viewing, this year on June 25 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.. Punch and cookies will be served in the Cottage Ornee. We hope you will come!



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***Your work is to discover your life and
with all your heart to give yourself to it.***

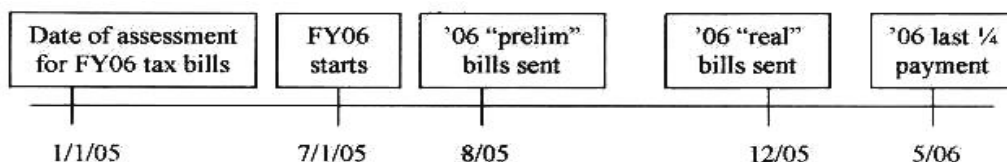
~ Buddha

Value and Time

The Assessors say that the State Department of Revenue requires us to assess the town at “full and fair market value.” But in a volatile real estate market, how does that work?

First, let’s look at the timing of assessed value for taxation purposes: you get a bill, it says your place is worth a certain amount of money. When are we, the Assessors, saying it is worth that amount? The day you get the bill? When we entered the value into the computer? By law, the assessed value is based on the status and condition of the property as of January 1 prior to the fiscal year of the tax.

When you got your “real” bill right before last Christmas for Fiscal ‘06 (the year ending just about the time you read this - remember, it started July 1, 2005, and ends on June 30), the bill was based on the value we assessed for your property as it was on January 1, 2005. The last payment for FY’06 was due May 1, 2006, fully *16 months after* the date of assessment. Welcome to Massachusetts. We are always lagging - lagging behind construction, lagging behind demolition, lagging behind the market itself! Here’s the timeline:



Why does this matter? I’ve been trying to console those who complain about the high value of their property with the notion that if the market collapses, heck, their assessed values are gonna drop! I usually add that that won’t necessarily drop their taxes, however. So, where’s the market? The answer is: it depends on where you are and when you’re talking about.

Our daughter in California is trying to sell her place. Six months ago, it would have been snatched up in a matter of hours. It’s been on the market for a few weeks now. Is the market slowing? Out there it seems to be. Is it slowing here? We, as assessors, haven’t seen that as yet, but we may soon. Ask us after we’ve done the “interim” reval calculations for FY’07 this summer. It is a truism that the real estate market is wedded to interest rates: as rates go up, causing monthly mortgage payments to go up, prices will drop. In the past few years, mortgage rates have not followed the interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve Board... not until recently, that is. Mortgage rates are now rising. Prices certainly could fall.

Bear in mind, however, that even if the market crashes entirely at the end of calendar 2006, your next year’s – FY’07 – tax bill (i.e., the “real” one you get in December, 2006, complete with assessed values on it) will be based on the situation as of January 1, 2006, before the crash! Your FY’08 bill, however, would reflect the changes that occur in calendar 2006. Confusing, no? Ask my fellow assessors: they’ll tell you that I have to use my fingers to figure out what year it is.

In the past, assessed values have dropped in Massachusetts towns. They did so in the 80s, when there was a crash in the market. Our values could drop again – stay tuned. Now that the state requires an annual “interim” reval – an adjustment of all values in a given property class (like residences) based on a comparison of sales prices to assessed values – we’ll at least stay a bit closer to the market value from year to year, but will still have the “lag” time back to the previous January 1.

Up until last year, we only did triennial (every-three-year) revals. That *really* skewed the numbers. If, say, you bought your house in February, 2001, and made no changes to it, your value would not have changed until FY’05! Consider how much the market rose in that time. That was why the value of the town, as a whole, increased almost 40% in FY’05 alone.

So, where does Prop 2½ fit in? It was voted in, by referendum, in November, 1980, riding on the coattails of California’s “Prop 13” (passed in 1978). At that time, inflation was high and the Commonwealth was known as “Taxachusetts” - a moniker it seems to have deserved. In our office, there’s a copy of a 1972 tax bill for the house my wife owned in Greenfield then. She bought the place for about \$19,000 (those were the days) and sold it a couple of years later for about the same amount. The assessed value was about \$18,000 (not quite “full and fair market value” as is required now) and the tax was about \$1,000. *One-thousand dollars for a house worth less than \$20,000!* The tax rate was about \$60 per \$1,000 - almost four times our current rate! Can you imagine what your taxes would be like if that were the rate now?

Prop 2½ requires a few things of towns. First, we can only raise the “levy” a certain amount. The levy, as I’ve said here before, is the amount of funding for the town’s budget we have to raise locally. There are two constraints: first, the levy can not exceed 2½ % of the assessed value of the town (the State Department of Revenue calls this our “levy ceiling”) – except for capital “debt exclusions” - and, second, we can not exceed our so-called “levy limit.”

In the case of the levy “ceiling,” if the town is worth \$80 million (and we’re pretty close to that) our levy can not exceed \$2 million. No problem - our levy last year was under \$1½ million. If the town were worth only \$50 million (as it was close to in FY’04) our levy could not exceed \$1¼ million. You can see that we managed to skirt the Prop. 2½ limit only by the grace of the exploding residential real estate market. *Had the market not risen so radically, we would not have been able to increase our budget as much as we have in the past three years without “overrides.”* If the market value of this town collapses, the ceiling will follow, so to say.

(“Value and Time” continued on page 8)

Letters to the Editor:



Our friend Dave Freeman wrote an article entitled "Winter on the Farm" in the February/March issue of the *Heath Herald*.

We agree that winters, this year being an exception, "create a spectacular wonderland" and we take advantage of it on both cross-country skis and snowshoes.

With regard to our own property, we have, for years, granted permission to the Indian Head Snowmobile club to maintain a trail through the northwest corner of our property.

We have posted our property because we walk there with our grandchildren and are very concerned about the potential of an accident during the various hunting seasons, not because of "*being concerned that our nap would be disturbed*" – a paraphrase from Dave's letter.

We believe Dave's point was that "Posted" signs create an exclusory atmosphere in our town. This caused us to reconsider how our signs are viewed and to replace them with "No Hunting" signs.

~ Del and Bob Viarengo

Thank-You

We would like to thank all the members of the Friends of the Heath School Library Committee for the warm welcome we received at the school during our visit on May 23. Principal Susan Todd, Librarian Wanda Musacchio, Chef Loralyn Boyd, and all the wonderful students at the Heath Elementary School rolled out the red carpet for us, making our day with them a memorable one. We look forward to visiting your beautiful area again soon!



With thanks and all good wishes,
Betty and Frank Birney

("Value and Time" continued from page 7)

The levy limit changes every year and cannot exceed the "ceiling." Simply put,

Levy Limit = last year's limit + 2½% + "new growth" + overrides

If this year's limit is based on last year's, it does beg the question "Where did it all begin?" What was the original "limit"? I have no clue. I guess it was established in 1980 and has just grown since then. Let me know if you find out.

New growth is, essentially, the amount of tax dollars that can be derived from new construction in town. It would be unfair to a town, say, where the number of houses doubles in a year to limit its taxes to only about 2½% more than last year's. In recent years, Heath has averaged about \$600,000 in new growth annually.

The final factor of change in the levy limit is the override. The state says that if the town *really, really* wants to raise its own taxes more than the limit, it can do so by the vote of the townspeople. Overrides *permanently* increase the levy limit. Some towns in our area are bumping up against the levy limit and have had to vote on overrides this year.

So, what's the moral of this tale? I'm not predicting a crash in values, but the growth in the residential real estate market of the past few years seems unsustainable, particularly given rising mortgage rates. If sale prices drop, our assessed values will drop (about a year later, that is, due to the lag). If assessed values drop but our levy doesn't (either because we keep increasing our budget or the state keeps cutting its support of municipalities), it just means that the tax rate will increase and, as I said above, your taxes will remain the same or even rise.

If, however, the market really takes a nosedive, and the levy forces us to hit the "ceiling," then the town will either have to cut the budget or approve overrides at the ballot box. That, so to speak, is the bottom line.

~ Henry Leuchtman, Assessor

Thanks to all for the big surprises this year. When I went to my mailbox and got the mail, I only had the *Heath Herald* and what a surprise to see that I was Cover Lady at this age. Wow!

Guess what? There was another surprise on April 29, a birthday party and potluck supper. The food was great and the event was attended by such wonderful friends, neighbors, and family who gave me hugs, gifts, and cards.

To top it off, there was nice music of my times by Doug Wilkins, and, of course, a beautiful birthday cake with my portrait on it. I sure felt honored.

The Town of Heath is a great place to live, believe me. I have lived here for 63 years. I love you all and thanks to everyone again.

Love,
Dottie Sessions



Dottie Sessions gets ready to cut her birthday cake at the party held in her honor.

Heath School Parent-Teacher Partnership

Spring is a busy time for all in Heath and especially at the Heath Elementary School where the many spring activities the PTP supports are now in full swing. Our three sports teams – Coed Major, Rookie Baseball, and Girls Softball – are playing two to three times per week well into June! Come join us at our home games where we now have snacks for sale to benefit enrichments.

This year we have sponsored or supported a number of activities related to gardening. We've offered an after-school enrichment called the Gardening Club which is planting and maintaining a vegetable garden at the school. As a fund-raiser for enrichments, the PTP put together our first "Talks with Master Gardeners in Heath," an evening of presentations on the particular joys and challenges of gardens in Heath with opportunity for Heathans to pose questions specific to their own gardens. We hope this will become a spring tradition. In addition, John Root, an area plant expert will present a family evening on Foraging for Wild Edible Plants on June 13, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.. Finally, the school's annual Grounds Day gives the children, their parents, and the community a chance to come together to beautify the grounds through planting annuals, perennials, and this year an herb garden as well.

The PTP has many end-of-year functions including providing refreshments for the wonderful Student Art Show, honoring our amazing school staff through special goods and gifts, culminating in a luncheon during Staff Appreciation Week, honoring our sixth graders with flowers and special gifts at graduation time, and contributing to Field Day and an All-school end-of-year outing.

In June, we'll be gearing up for our Summer Reading Program as well, and encouraging all of our youngsters and their families to participate in the Heath Fair by joining weekly work bees at the Fairgrounds and preparing exhibits for entry including growing fruits, vegetables, or flowers or collecting from our beautiful natural environs.

~ Dana Blackburn,
Co-chair

Dr. Tanja Davin Scholarship

A scholarship is being set up through the Mary Lyon Foundation in memory of Dr. Tanja Davin, 1989 graduate of Mohawk Trail Regional High School.

Tanja was the valedictorian of her class, president of the National Honor Society, an active member of the band, and a peer educator. She graduated cum laude from Tufts University, received her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and completed her residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Bay State Medical Center in Springfield. Dr. Davin worked as a hospitalist for both the Concord, NH, hospital, as well as the Elliot hospital in

Manchester, NH.

This scholarship will provide funds for students who have successfully completed their first year in medical school. For those of you who would like to contribute to this fund, checks may be made out to the Mary Lyon Foundation, noting that it is for the Dr. Davin Scholarship, and may be mailed to:

Mary Lyon Foundation
P.O. Box 184
Shelburne Falls, MA

(*"One-Room Schoolhouses in Heath"* continued from page 3)

We had few workbooks, though I remember a spelling notebook in which we listed our weekly words to learn. There was little or no homework as there was ample time to accomplish everything in the 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. day.

We always commemorated the various holidays in some way. Halloween wasn't as big as it is now, but we would decorate for Thanksgiving and always put on a play for the parents at Christmas. On Memorial Day we would bring flowers to school and then all walk to the South Cemetery where we would have a memorial service of poetry, songs, and grave decoration. I am pleased our school still carries on this tradition.

Living in the country we took advantage of the natural environment and certainly had many hands-on experiences for the study of science. We always had an early spring contest to see who could find and identify the most spring flowers.

We might associate with the other schools in town once or twice a year. Always for eighth grade graduation we met at the Community Hall for a gala event. Some years we might travel to a central location for a joint picnic at the end of the year.

I have only good memories of a one-room school and wish all youngsters could have a chance to benefit from such small-group companionship. We may not have had a school library (we took advantage of the many volumes in the town library), no prepared lunches, and no transportation, but we were well prepared for the transition to high school, and many of us to higher education. The group I grew up with produced three nurses, three teachers, three self-owned business owners, an office manager, a contractor, a service man, and farmers, all very competent citizens of the Town of Heath.

My days at South School were a most enjoyable happy time, and the teachers must have taught me well as I was able to enter Arms Academy, to graduate from there, and to go on and earn my bachelor's degree at the University of Massachusetts. I have no regrets for having lived in the one-room schoolhouse era.

~ Ruth E. Johnson

Correction

Heath Elementary School Principal Susan Todd's retirement celebration will be held in the fall following her official retirement in September instead on June 23 as was previously announced.

Mohawk Trail Regional High School Graduates

**Anna Armstrong, daughter of
Carolyn and Mike Armstrong**



In high school I was a senior mentor for the 9th graders. For the future, I plan to take a year off and work for my mother at Plants for Pleasure in addition to working at two other jobs. I then plan to go to Greenfield Community College for environmental studies.

**Pauline Cerone, daughter of
Jim and Dianne Cerone**



In high school I played field hockey for six years and was member of the track team for four years. I was also a peer mediator for six years, peer leader for four years, and a peer tutor and on the yearbook staff this year. My other personal interests included being a very active member on the VT R.C. Diocesan Youth Council for three years.

Next year I plan to attend the Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH, where I plan to major in theology with a focus on youth ministry.

**Meshia Begin, daughter
of Jeanne F. Charles**



In high school, I played on the varsity field hockey team for four years and was 2005 captain, and on the varsity softball team for three years. I was a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Council, 2005-6 secretary, and was a peer mentor and mediator.

I plan to attend the University of Vermont and major in psychology.

To play Division Team I field hockey is one of my goals.

**Tanya Clark, daughter
of Bryan and Robin Clark**



Although I finished high school early in January, I graduated with honors with my class on June 4.

I have been working at two jobs six days a week. I plan to attend Greenfield Community College in the fall as a business major.

Also graduating:

**Vivienne Foroughirad
Rita Marcotte
Joel Singley**

Franklin County Technical School

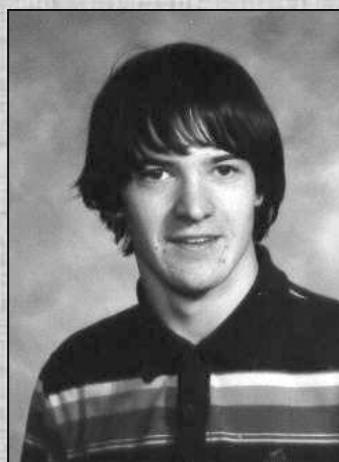
**Shannon Archambault daughter of
Patricia and Ryan Archambault**



At Franklin County Technical School I was enrolled in the Cosmetology program. I played field hockey and basketball and was a cheerleader.

I plan to get my cosmetology license and have been accepted at Greenfield Community College.

**Chris Vilbon, son of Mary
and Brian Vilbon**



I have attended Franklin County Technical School for the past four years studying to be an electrician.

I have enjoyed participating in the ski program during my junior and senior years, playing bass guitar, and installing car stereo systems for family and friends. In addition, I have been employed at Big Y in Greenfield for close to two years. After graduation, I

will be working to complete my journeyman hours and my college requirements to become a licensed electrician..

**Cabe DeLisle, son of
Bob DeLisle of Heath and
Joanne Fortune of Greenfield**



I was enrolled in the Machine Technology course at Franklin County Technical School and, as part of the co-op program, I worked at the L.S. Starrett Company in Athol making custom machine parts. I am a recipient of the John and Abigail Adams Four-year Scholarship and will attend Greenfield Community College in the engineering program in the fall.

Also graduating:

**Trish Hatch
Maria Lively**

2006



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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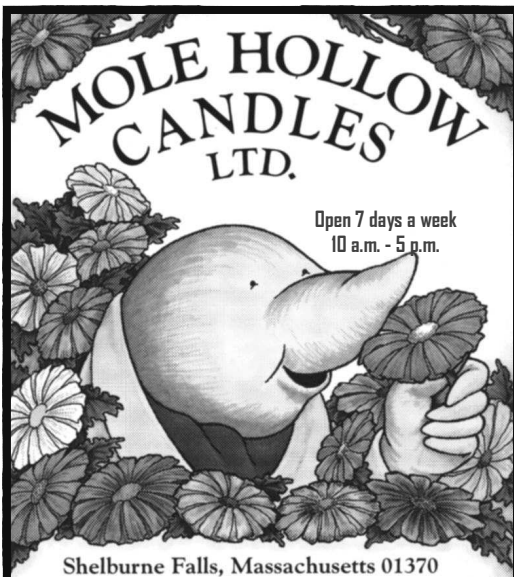
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 01302
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It's Your Health and Safety

Avian Influenza and Your Backyard Flock of Chickens

By Sheila Litchfield, RN, BSN

Certified Occupational Health Nurse

Avian influenza, also called bird flu, is a disease of birds that is found primarily in wild waterfowl such as ducks, geese and swans. Sometimes, this disease can also spread from wild birds into domestic poultry. There are many strains or types of bird flu. Right now there is a type called **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)** type H5N1 (also called **H5N1 bird flu**) that has made many birds and a few people sick elsewhere in the world. Type H5N1 bird flu has not yet been found in the United States. Other strains are commonly found in wild waterfowl in the United States, but usually affect small numbers of birds, generally do not cause obvious illness, and are not considered a human health risk. The H5N1 bird flu is now circulating in Asia, Europe, and Africa.

There are lots of different kinds of influenza viruses. Some affect people (flu season) and some affect birds or fowl. There are also over a dozen subtypes that affect birds. As with the flu in people, some birds get it worse than others. And, as with people, it can easily spread. Waterfowl are more resistant to Avian Influenza, but they can carry the virus and spread it around, especially during migrating flight seasons.

Avian Influenza (not H5N1 strain) was last a big United States problem over a decade ago. It has often been a problem in other parts of the world. The "fowl plague" first appeared in Italy in 1878. In recent years, Hong Kong and parts of Pennsylvania and North Carolina have been affected. The symptoms are similar to human flu, e.g., coughing, sneezing, diarrhea, and a ruffled look, and sick birds do not eat, drink, grow, or lay eggs very well. Some weakened birds can suddenly die without warning.

There is no need to stop eating chicken, turkey, or eggs. Science shows the United States type Avian Influenza (AI) "bird flu" will not give humans the flu. In addition, birds that do get AI are generally quarantined and disposed of. This is not because of a threat to humans, but because of the threat to other birds.

AI can be spread through bird feces. The AI virus is easily killed by light and temperature, but a quarter-sized bird dropping can protect and store the virus. Bird-to-bird contact, sneezing, and the virus in the intestinal tract are all ways the virus can spread. Detailed cleaning and sanitation of poultry houses and equipment are done to help prevent the spread of AI. Even poultry litter from AI infected flocks is composted (heat treated) and held in storage before land-applied according to specific guidelines.

Backyard flock owners should pen their birds and try to control contact with wild birds and other flocks. Report any sick "flu-like" birds to your veterinarian or Extension office. Normally, you probably would not do this because losing a hen or two is not very costly. But it could help save a lot of other birds.

So, can I get bird flu from my neighbor's chickens?

A) No, you don't have to be concerned that neighbor's poultry and animals will expose you to bird flu at this time. If H5N1 bird flu does occur in our country, additional guidance from experts will be developed. Bird flu is primarily a disease among birds and rarely spreads to other animals and humans. Most people who got sick with bird flu had come into contact with infected chickens or domestic ducks and touched them with their bare hands.

Is it safe for my child to take part in projects that involve hatching eggs and raising chicks?

A) Yes. Chickens that get infected with bird flu become ill and often stop laying eggs so there is little risk of bird flu. Projects involving hatching eggs and raising chicks should minimize hand contact and require thorough hand washing if contact does occur.

With the concern over bird flu, is it safe to eat poultry and eggs?

A) Yes. There is no evidence that properly cooked poultry or eggs can be a source of infection from bird flu. Wash your hands with soap and hot water after touching any raw meat. Make sure to clean cutting boards and counters used for food preparation immediately after use to prevent cross-contamination with other foods.

Can I get bird flu from Canada goose droppings in parks, ballparks, reservoirs and other public places?

A) No. Right now, the H5N1 bird flu is not present in the United States. If and when it does occur in our country, we hope to have learned more about the role of wild birds in spreading bird flu to humans. Because many different bacteria, viruses, and parasites can be present in bird droppings, it is best to avoid exposure to them at all times. The following precautions should be taken:

("It's Your Health and Safety" continued on page 14)



("It's Your Health and Safety" continued from page 13)

- Teach children to always wash their hands after playing outside.
- If you pick up droppings, use a shovel, "pooper scooper," or gloves - never your bare hands.
- If you are worried about exposure during swimming, swim at a regulated beach, where regular tests are conducted to make sure the water is not polluted from human, animal, or farm waste.

Should I stop hunting waterfowl?

A) No. However, waterfowl hunters should always take simple precautions to protect themselves from exposure to disease, including:

- Do not handle obviously sick birds or birds found dead.
- Keep your game birds cool, clean, and dry.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning harvested waterfowl.
- Wear rubber gloves when cleaning waterfowl.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after cleaning waterfowl.
- Clean up tools and surfaces immediately with hot, soapy water and disinfect with a mixture of 10 percent household chlorine bleach in water.
- Thoroughly cook harvested waterfowl (165° Fahrenheit).

For more information on how you can prepare for Pandemic Influenza, go the Department of Health and Human Services Website: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/health/whatyoucando.html>



Fort Shirley site

Historical Society Happenings

Fort Shirley will be the highlight of the summer season. Michael Coe, retired Yale University professor and Heath resident, will be the guest speaker at the Heath Historical Society's Annual Meeting on August 26 and will act as site guide for Fort Shirley Day on the 27th. Dr. Coe excavated the fort a few years ago and has authored a recently released book entitled *The Line of Forts, Historical Archaeology on the Colonial Frontier of Massachusetts* published by the University Press of New England. The line of forts was constructed along the Massachusetts-Vermont border as defense against the French and Indians. Fort Shirley was built in 1744 in Heath.

The Heath Historical Society owns the fort site and has made it accessible with gravel walkways, signage, and a fence on the exact location of the fort.

Also on the site is the grave of Anna Norton, the daughter of the fort's chaplain, who died there in 1748 at the age of seven.

The schedule of events for the Annual Meeting and Supper August 26 and for Fort Shirley Day on the 27th will be announced in the next issue of the *Heath Herald* and in other local newspapers. The public is welcome and families are encouraged to attend.

The Society will have copies of Dr. Coe's book for sale, and time will be made available for him to sign them.

Along the Mohawk Trail, A Feast of Fall Foliage and Spectacular Hill Towns by David J. McLaughlin and Laurin Bright is a new publication of the Pentacle Press and features each town from Erving to North Adams. Heath is highlighted with pictures of the Historical Society museums, the Town Center, the Fairgrounds, and the Center Cemetery. Copies are available at the Greenfield Visitors Center and will be for sale by the Historical Society in the Solomon Temple Barn Museum during the Heath Fair.

The Center Schoolhouse and the Old Town House in Heath Center will be open to the public on the following Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.: July 1, September 2, October 7, and on July 29 in conjunction with the Ladies Aid Summer sale and the Community Hall Committee's Village Fair on the Common.

Come and view Heath history and help us to preserve it by joining the Society. It is a rewarding experience.

~ Jack Cable
President

Selectboard's Report

Summer Meeting Schedule -

The Selectboard will be meeting every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. Meeting dates are tentatively scheduled for 6/19, 7/3, 7/17, 7/31, 8/7 and 8/21. Any date changes will be posted accordingly.

Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting -

A Special Town Meeting was held at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2006, to transfer funds from accounts with surpluses to accounts with deficits. The 10 articles on the warrant all passed.

The Annual Town Meeting followed the STM at 9:00 a.m. This year's Town Report was dedicated to the memory of Carroll Stowe who passed away on August 18, 2005. A moment of silence was observed in his honor.

The Selectboard and the Finance Committee voted to recommend passing over most of the budget articles and to reconvene the ATM on Saturday, June 17, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. The rationale for the recommendation was that the State budget might be in place by then and the Town will have a clearer idea of the local aid coming from the State.

The most controversial articles on the warrant this year were three concerning proposed changes to the Mohawk Trail Regional School agreement. The first article proposed to change language entitling students to attend facilities in their respective towns to entitling students to attend facilities within the district. The second article would have given the School Committee the authority to reassign students and close facilities within the district by a 2/3 weighted vote of the committee. The final article was an attempt to guarantee that the district would share the capital costs of any facilities closed by the actions of the School Committee. The Selectboard and the Finance Committee did not recommend passage of any of the three. A lengthy discussion ensued with Mohawk Superintendent Michael Buoniconti who argued for passage. In the end the meeting voted overwhelmingly, but not unanimously, to reject the articles containing the changes to the regional agreement. The sentiments expressed included concerns with the insufficient information supporting the need for the proposed changes, the consequences of school closings, and the lack of protections for the minority position.

Another article of interest was an amendment to the zoning bylaws adding a section 4.10 on the regulation of camping trailers, travel trailers, motor homes, and industrial semi-trailers. The change had been approved at a previous Town Meeting but due to a posting error it needed to be re-voted. With the large number of camper trailers in town (350), the subject tends to engender lively discussion. The proposed amendment passed by 2/3 of the voters on a ballot vote.

Highway Department -

The Board has appointed Walter Gleason as temporary

Highway Department Superintendent during Mike Smith's recovery. Street sweeping has been completed and the current projects underway include shoulder cut back, drainage ditch cleaning, and grading gravel roads. In the planning stages are improvements to the highway department building, transfer station, and the paving of Bray Road and possibly a portion of Branch Hill.

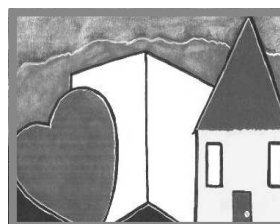
New Phone System -

The Town has installed a new phone system with individual voice mail for each town department. The new system provides additional extensions so several may be in use simultaneously and also helps to make sure messages get to the right people.

Heath On-line -

Take some time to visit the Town's Web site at www.townofheath.org. You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. The 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. 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



Friends of the Heath School Library

We are going to do it again!

Come for breakfast before Annual Town Meeting II on Saturday, June 17, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Heath Elementary School and have a choice of tasty goodies and support the school library at the same time. The same menu will be offered.

See you there!

The Friends of the Heath School Library thank all who baked and deviled for, and donated at their continental breakfast on Annual Town Meeting day, May 6.

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- Contact us about the spread, this year's crop, or visiting the farm, (413) 337-5340, benplace@gis.net.



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Heath Agricultural Society News

Things are picking up at the Heath Fairgrounds. Folks are picking up their camper trailers and boats in preparation for summer activity. Bob DeLisle picked up ice rink materials long ago. The ice never had a chance this past mild winter. We'll have to hope for some real cold and snow next year! After the rain stopped, regular Wednesday work bees commenced. We will be picking up, cleaning up, mowing, painting, and making improvements in preparation for the summer season and the 89th annual Heath Fair.

Work bees begin at 6:00 p.m. and go until dark every Wednesday until Fair time. Some people like to just show up with their tools and do whatever is on the list for the evening. Others who want to help but can't make Wednesdays, contact Dave Freeman at 413 337-4766 and take on a chore to accomplish at their convenience. This might include painting a fence, regular weed-whacking

around a particular building or small repair or building projects. Whichever way you or your organization chooses to participate, you'll be making a significant contribution to the Fair.

("Heath Agricultural Society News" continued on page 17)

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.

Calendar

Here is an annotated list of summer events. Items in **bold** are open to the public: (Call Pam Porter at 337-5525 for information about using the Fairgrounds and to get your event on the calendar.)

JUNE WORK BEES EVERY WEDNESDAY

Thursday, June 9: Heath Agricultural Society Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds. All welcome.

June 17: Private Family Event
June 23: Private Family Event

SATURDAY, JUNE 25: CRUISE IN/POKER RUN AND OLD-TIME HORSE PULL

Horse Pull: Weigh-in at 9:00 a.m.....Pulling starts at 11:00 a.m.

Cruise In: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.....Poker Run 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

- *Antiques, classics, cars, trucks, and hot rods, and draft horses*
- *Refreshments on sale at the lower food booth.*
- *Admission: \$5.00*
- *Questions? Call Dave or Christine 413-337-4766*

June 26-July 1: Community Service Detail from Franklin County Jail will lend a hand by painting the animal barns and sheds.

JULY WORK BEES EVERY WEDNESDAY

July 8.....Private Family Event

AUGUST WORK BEES CONTINUE UNTIL THE FAIR

August 3-5.....Yankee Beemers

August 11.....Private Family Event

AUGUST 18, 19, 20 89TH ANNUAL HEATH FAIR

HORSE DRAW, OX PULL, GYMKHANA, CATTLE AND SHEEP SHOWS, POULTRY AND RABBITS, EXHIBIT HALL, GLORIOUS FOOD, CARRIAGE RIDES, FIREWORKS, AND LOTS MORE.

HERE'S A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THIS YEAR'S MUSIC

- **Friday night**Trailer Park
- **Saturday.....**Moonshine Hollow,
Shay's Rebellion
Square Dance with Doug Wilkins, Caller
(Fireworks)
- **Sunday.....**Shelburne Falls Military Band
Girl Howdy

•(It's not too early to start planning your exhibit entries. Watch for the premium book in early July.)

SEPTEMBER

September 1-3.....Private Party

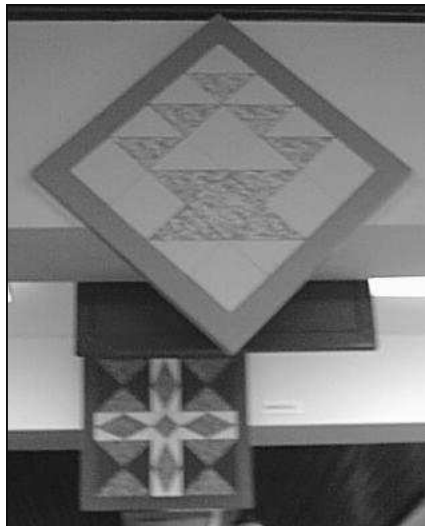
September 8-10.....Massachusetts Motor Cycle Association

~ Pam Porter

Wooden Quilts on Display

Heath artist Helen J. Mackie, whose striking Wooden Quilts are currently on display in the Heath Free Public Library, originally created these works in 1984-86.

At the time, she was chosen for juried shows by the Deerfield Craft Fair for two seasons and by Wilmington, VT's Art on the Mountain. In addition, she displayed these works at other area shows. Helen explains she constructed the "Quilts" with 1/2 inch 6x6, 2x6, and 3/3 inch blocks using traditional quilt patterns and, at first, only traditional New England colors.



At one of the Deerfield Fairs, a woman on the staff of a "house beautiful" type magazine offered the advice that she use pastel colors, as well, to be "in" with current trends. Helen followed the suggestion and found that the lighter color works sold just as well. The stippling effect in some of the works was made by using several sizes of sea sponges. Examples of both color schemes are on display.

Frames for the Wooden Quilts were made from leftover flooring lumber used in the Mackie house at first by Gary Hall of Buckland and then by Heath's Howard Dickinson.

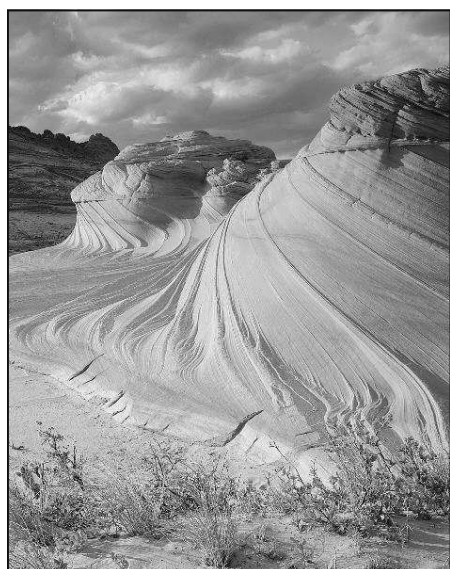
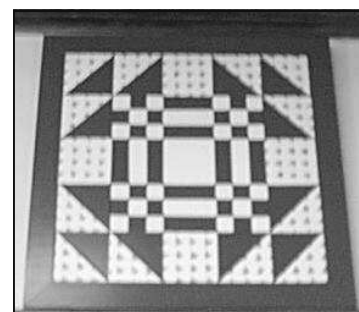
Helen explains that she stopped making these works after her granddaughter Kendra was born. Because she was using a room in the house for her studio, she felt sure that having all her materials and tools accessible to a curious toddler would not

be a good idea. She also knew it was time to move on to something else.

The Wooden Quilts we see in the Library are a representative sample of what remains of the work she originally made and are not for sale, although Helen offers them on loan to anyone who wants to give them wall space temporarily.

Many thanks to Helen for sharing these treasures with us.

The show will remain up for the foreseeable future making a visit to our library doubly rewarding.



Desert Light at New Gallery

Award-winning landscape photographer Jim Wallace will mount an exhibition of new images from the American Southwest at the Logan & Wallace Gallery, 55 Bridge Street, in Shelburne Falls, opening to the public on June 17 with an artist's reception from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The quality of light in the American Southwest, rivaled by that only in the Greek Isles, has inspired artists such as Georgia O'Keefe for generations. Wallace captures stark, and yet at the same time, beautiful landscapes by following the light throughout the day on the desert, and under the desert in canyons illuminated by rays of sunshine reminiscent of the light in the great cathedrals.

The exhibition features images from an extensive body of work done in southern Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico. Also on view will be floral and still life photographs by still life photographer Robin Logan.

Gallery hours are Friday through Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Some of Wallace's photographs may be seen on the gallery's Web site at www.loganandwallace.com.

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

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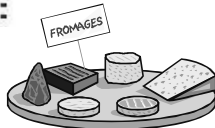
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Library Lines

Preschool Story Hour



By Donald Purington

People coming into Sawyer Hall on Friday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. often hear children's chatter and laughter escaping around the closed door of the library. Preschool Story Hour is in progress and what a busy hour it is! The big table near the door of the library is often encircled by eight to ten youngsters, working busily on a craft project with the assistance of a parent or caregiver. Infants occasionally can be found napping in their car seat or bouncing in the arms of an adult.

The craft project is preceded by a read-aloud in the children's area. They sit comfortably on pillows on the floor, curl up with a parent in the high-backed rocking chair, or sit in the child-size wooden chairs at the small table, listening to the story, asking questions, or telling of a personal experience related to the story. The books and craft project usually have a theme, such as Mother's Day, Spring Flowers, or Dinosaurs.

Juice and a snack are served when the craft is done and hands are washed. Then parents and children can choose books and sometimes a movie to take home for entertainment during the following week.



Preschool Story Hour is funded by a grant from the Franklin County Family Network and by a contribution from the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library. I thank both organizations for their generous support which allows us to offer the program nearly every week from September to early June.

In other library news, we are pleased to have an exhibit of Wooden Quilts by local artist Helen J. Mackie. Please come in to see this beautiful display. Also, we are putting a Plexiglas door on part of a bookshelf to make a small display case for collections or artwork by residents of Heath. Please contact me or Helen Mackie if you have something to put in the case.

The library has purchased a new computer, monitor, and printer for use by patrons and staff, thanks to a donation from Heath resident Peter Schriber's company, National Evaluation Systems. We are very grateful for his gift!

New at the Library:

- Books on CD: *Fire Sale* by Sara Paretsky and *Death of a Village* by M.C. Beaton.
- Adult Fiction Books: *Tomb of the Golden Bird* by Elizabeth Peters, *The Templar Legacy* by Steve Berry, *The Night Journal* by Elizabeth Crook, and *Minotaur* by Barbara Vine.
- Adult Nonfiction Books: *Final Report*, an autobiography by Michael Coe, *Along the Mohawk Trail: A Feast of Fall Foliage and Spectacular Hill Towns* by David McLaughlin, and *1000 Vegetarian Recipes* By Carol Gelles.
- Children's Picture Books: *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport and *Carry Me* by Rosemary Wells.
- DVDs and Videos: *Must Love Dogs*, *Monster-in-Law*, and *Strangers in Good Company*.

Milestones

Sister Mary Martina (Kathleen) Lively, R.S.M., of Worcester, died on May 10, 2006. Born in Heath on July 27, 1921, she was the daughter of Mederic and Eleanore Cote Lively.

She entered the order of the Sisters of Mercy in Worcester on September 29, 1938, and took her final vows on September 5, 1944. She remained in the order for 68 years until her death. Her work over the years included being the Principal/Supervisor of several Catholic schools and in charge of the Cursillo Movement, and organizing and running many religious and social programs throughout several parishes. Her last assignment was overseeing pastoral duties in Westboro.

Survivors include two brothers, **Frederic Lively** of Heath and Fr. Joseph Lively of Marshfield, VT; two sisters, Marion Dandeneau of Rowe and Lenita Brennan of Littleton, and many nephews and nieces. Two brothers, Armand of North Adams and Claude of Easthampton, predeceased her.

All services were held in Worcester with burial in Leicester.

Requiescat in pace

Heath People in the News

"A Free Spirit"

Sadye Zillo, daughter of **Wanda and John Musacchio** of Heath, was awarded an Emmy at the third Annual Day-time Emmy Awards show in April for her work as producer of "A Baby Story" on the Learning Channel.

The show, a reality television and documentary-style production, that follows couples through the birth of their children. is going into its ninth season. Sadye has worked on the show since 2003, as producer since 2004.



Sadye first attended Greenfield High School where she was a star of the field hockey team, then graduated from Deerfield Academy and Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA. Her career in television began after four years in a Boston brokerage firm and a move to California. She worked for a time for financial software companies on both coasts, as well as in sports broadcasting and then in 2001, she found a job freelancing for ESPN in New York City. In addition, she signed onto the Learning Channel show.

Her long-term goal, based on her great love of sports, is to work full-time in sports broadcasting.

Congratulations to Sadye and to her parents who, as she has been quoted as saying, have supported her in every step she has chosen to take..

Update on the Heath Ladies Aid Society

Several years ago, Esther Dickinson wrote an article for the *Herald* about the Ladies Aid. This is an update about the group.

The Ladies still meet every other week, September to July, weather permitting. We gather now in the lower level of the Heath Union Church as the Community Hall-Senior Center is not now available. We sew, quilt, do crafts, visit, and have dessert together.

This is a community organization, and we welcome all women to join us who would like to work and chat with their neighbors. We are currently working on a queen-size quilt that will be raffled off at the Heath Fair in August.

Our annual summer sale will be held on Saturday, July 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the lower level of the church. The quilt will be on display and raffle tickets can be bought at this time. In addition, we will have many articles and food for sale. **Please Come!**

For more information, please call President Ruth Corey at 337-6692.

~ Ruth Johnson



Village Fair on the Common

Saturday, July 29
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Annual Summer Sale
(church lower level)

Crafts, Avon products, theme baskets, and more!
Heath Community Hall-Senior Center Upstairs

Lunch at the Senior Center - downstairs
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

and Tag sale

Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Residents of Franklin County can properly dispose of household hazardous wastes at no cost. Northampton is hosting a collection on Saturday, June 17. This event is free to county residents; however, pre-registration is required by calling 413 – 587-1084.

Residents can also mark their calendars for the annual Franklin County Solid Waste District hazardous waste collection for households and businesses to be held on Saturday, September 9.

These events provide residents an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, pool chemicals, motor oil, anti-freeze, fluorescent lamps, automobile batteries, and other household chemicals.

For more information, contact the District office at 772-2438 or check the District Web site at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. Hearing-impaired individuals can contact the District through the Massachusetts Relay at 711 or for TTY/ASCII access, dial 1-800-439-2370.

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Thanks

Thanks to all bakers and buyers who helped to make the annual Memorial Weekend Bake Sale of the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library a success. All proceeds go to your library.

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>	<u>Snow</u>
From March 11, 2006	1 ½"	½ "
April	4"	1 ½"
Up to May 10	2/10"	0 "

In This Reporting Period:

The coldest temperature was on March 21: 12 degrees. Total snow for the season was 68 inches. In general, a good portion of March was below normal and breezy. March went out like a lamb with temperatures the last couple of days in the mid sixties. April and May were both dry for a good portion.



Community Calendar

June 2006

- June 7** - Early Release Day, Heath School, 12:45 a.m.; High School, 11:45 a.m.
 - "Talk With Master Gardeners," Heath School, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- June 8** - LEC Meeting, Heath School, 4:30 p.m.
- June 9** - Volunteer Brunch, Heath School, 9:30 a.m.
 - **Franklin County Regional High School graduation, 5:30 p.m.**
- June 12** - Field Day, Heath School, 12:30 p.m.
- June 13** - John Root Workshop, Edible Plants, Heath School, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- June 14** - Field Day rain date
 - School Committee Meeting, Mohawk, 7:00 p.m.
- June 15** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- June 16** - Heath All School, Pelham Lake
- June 17** - **Annual Town Meeting II, Heath School, 9:00 a.m.**
 - Friends of the Heath School Library Continental Breakfast II, 8:30 a.m. -
- June 19** - **Heath School Sixth Grade Graduation, 7:00 p.m.**
 - High School Exam Day, 12:45 p.m. dismissal
- June 20** - High School Exam Day
 - **Last Day of School**
- June 25** - Leuchtman's Garden Open Today, Knott Road, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

July 2006

- July 1** - Heath Historical Society's Old Town House and Center Schoolhouse Open to the Public, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- July 6** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- July 20** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- July 29** - Village Fair on the Common, Ladies Aid and Community Hall sales, lunch by Seniors, Tag Sale, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; HHS Museums open, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

August 2006

August 18, 19, 20 – Heath Fair

If one advances confidently in
the direction of his dreams,
and endeavors to live the life
he has imagined,
he will meet with a success
unexpected in common hours.

~ Henry David Thoreau
(1817-1862)

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