



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

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Volume 28, Number 4

October/November 2006



October's Bright Blue Weather

*O sun and skies and clouds of June
And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather;*

*When loud the bumblebee makes haste,
Related, thriftless vagrant,
And goldenrod is dying fast,
And lanes with grapes are fragrant;*

*When gentians roll their fringes tight,
To save them for the morning,
And chestnuts fall from satin burs
Without a sound of warning;*

*When on the ground red apples lie
In piles like jewels shining,
And redder still on old stone walls
Are leaves of woodbine twining;*

*When all the lovely wayside things
Their white-winged seeds are sowing,
And in the fields, still green and fair,
Late aftermaths are growing;*

*When springs run low, and on the brooks
In idle, golden freighting,
Bright leaves sink noiseless in the hush
Of woods, for winter waiting;*

*When comrades seek sweet country haunt
By twos and twos together,
And count like misers hour by hour
October's bright blue weather.*

*O sun and skies and flowers of June,
Count all your boasts together,
Love loveth best of all the year
October's bright blue weather.*

*~ by Helen Hunt Jackson
(1830-1885)*

Heath Herald

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Heath Union Church News

Interim Pastor

At a recent meeting Church members voted to call Phillip Grant of Moores Corner Church, Leverett, to serve as interim pastor for three months as we continue our search for a permanent minister. He will be serving the church on a part-time basis.

We recently had a most satisfactory weekend serving food to the Beemers during their annual weekend at the Fairgrounds.

Thanks to Russ Donelson and his men for our badly needed roof repair, and, as one can see as you pass through town, we are newly painted, complete with the golden dome, thanks to Mike Platek and his crew.

Our weekly service continues on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. with Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month, and occasionally, we have a potluck meal following morning worship. Contact any member for our calendar of events, and come and join us, one and all.

~ The Deacons



Charlemont Federated Church Holiday Village

The Holiday Village of the Charlemont Federated Church will be held on Saturday, November 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As usual, there will be something for everyone: a craft sale, a bake sale, a table full of previously owned Treasures, a silent auction with items from local businesses and craftspeople, lunch, and special items for and by children.

Proceeds from the Holiday Village go to the Minister's Discretionary Fund to assist those in the larger community with unexpected emergencies.

~ Pat Leuchtman

Grandmother's Independence Day

The tall grasses of early June waved around and over me as I lay in the field not far from our farmhouse. I loved to watch the clouds drift lazily overhead, imagining all sorts of angels and dead folks watching over me from the heavenly balconies. Sometimes I was in hiding from my pesky brothers, sometimes it was an escape from a hated chore I was assigned, like dusting or cleaning lamp chimneys. And often enough it was because my mother and grandmother were having another argument over some household matter.

Grandma, my favorite champion, could do no wrong in my eyes. Maybe that's what she and Mom argued about. I was too young to understand the politics of mother-in-law, daughter-in-law relationships. Mom, the "Disciplinarian," Grandma, the "Protector," and "Seeker of Justice."

And so it was on this beautiful, fluffy-cloud June afternoon, safe in the shoulder-high grasses that waited to be harvested, that I hid my eight-year-old self, trying to block out yet another tug of war dividing my loyalties, assaulting my tender, innocent ears. I appealed to my "Grandma in the clouds": "Why are they arguing? Why can't they just get along? Most of the time they do, but here they are and I can't bear to be around them."

Suddenly I heard the screen door slam, an angry slam, and the loud stomping of feet crossing the old, worn porch floor and down the stone steps to the road that passed between the barn and the house. I was just close enough to hear Grandma's parting words, words that I was to hear many times in the years that followed- "We'll say no more about that!" - she shouted over her shoulder. I pulled myself up just enough to see my beloved Grandma, all 4'10" of her, stiff as a board, strutting down the dirt road, defiantly asserting in her body language that she'd won the argument and no more words were needed! I watched her from my grassy hiding place, watched as she disappeared around the bend.

It seemed hours later when I heard my mother call, "Time to set the tale, supper's almost ready!"

I knew it was time because the voices of my dad and brothers broke the silence that hung around the scene of that verbal encounter. "Where's Grandma?" one of my brothers asked. "I imagine she's down at Aunt Flora's," Mom replied knowingly with no hint of animosity. "I'll just give her a call anyway." She had just left for home was the report, "so just sit down to supper. She'll eat when she gets here, I guess; no need to have things get cold."

As the spring and warm days of June draw near and the hayfields begin to come alive, I shall replay this scene some seventy years later. The once hayfield is now overgrown with maples and pine, no more tall grasses to couch my lazy, dreamy days. I can still hear that old screen door slamming and the defiant steps of my feisty, gray-haired Grandma, "Champion of Justice," and her declaration of independence, "We'll say no more about that!"

But I shall continue to say more, to tell the story to my grandkids now that I'm a Grandma, would-be "Protector" and "Champion of Justice."

~ Lois Stetson Buchiane

A Late September Stroll

I walked my tunnel road today after the rain and while the wind still bustled through the trees. I call it my road - it's always been a special part of my life. It looks like a tunnel when the foliage is full, But not a dark passageway as one can see the sky where the sun pops through and caresses the dirt road. My sisters and I felt the trees reached their arms across to make a special canopy above us. We traversed this stretch of road daily as we went from the farm to South School and often had glorious walks with our Mom as she named each and every wildflower for us.

No longer is it mine alone as others now live along this roadway. I hope that they, too, enjoy this restful walk the way I do.

Only once did I feel the entrance into this stretch of woods to be a little scary. I had just started school and in those days first graders went half day to get used to the routine. I had walked with Mary Ellen, my next door neighbor, as far as her house and knew my Mother would be at the fork in the road where the trees started - she promised! But when I got near she was nowhere in sight. I looked down the road and could not see her and this time it did look dark and foreboding. I called "Mom, Mom." Where could she be? I hesitated, hating to start down alone, but she heard me and came running to assure me that I was safe. What a relief! She never disappointed me there again. It seems that the local men were at our farm for corn cutting and my Mom and Aunt were preparing the noon meal. My Aunt thought that I would be okay if Mom worked a bit longer even though Mom knew she should start up the road. It all worked out but Mom was always sorry she had consented to tarry a bit and cause me to be scared.

Later, as I now was in school a full day, I had my sisters to walk with me. So the tunnel held no more terror for me. The only time I was startled on the road was one winter morning when a few inches of snow had fallen in the night and covered everything with its pristine white beauty. Pearl and I were walking along (probably pulling our sleds and "gabbing") by an uprooted tree stump, blown down from the Hurricane of '38. All of a sudden two "missiles" came at us from under the stump, and we dropped to the ground. When we regained our composure we realized our noisy passage had disturbed two partridges that had used the snow cover as a blanket under the roots. We laughed at our cowardice and went on to school.

In winter the tunnel still exists and the bare branches seem to reach across as fingers touching in a lovely arch. Such small dirt roads are so lovely. Even at night one can see light through the canopy. My Dad told us as he rode his motorcycle back home at night he would use this skylight as a guide, as the bike did not have a headlight.

Today so many memories rush in. The joy of just walking on familiar ground, hearing the wind in the trees, watching the clouds rushing by, hearing the creak and groan of branches rubbing together, and seeing the mist rising from the wet ferns and low growth, is so lovely, so peaceful, so soothing - my road my tunnel, my memories.

~ Ruth Johnson



Wild Ramblings

Winged Wonder - Another Example of Man Imitating Nature

By Bill Lattrell



One of the miracles of late summer in temperate climates is the large fields of wild-flowers that can be found as the end of summer approaches. In much of the northern United States and Canada many of these fields are dominated by the many different species of goldenrod. This beautiful plant produces nectar used by countless species, including but not limited to, bees, wasps, and of course, butterflies.

On one bright sunny August day I found myself in a large stand of goldenrod examining galls along the stems of the plant. As I looked ahead across the sea of yellow, I noticed the many different insects collecting nectar from the golden flower heads. My eyes were attracted to the largest of these insects, a butterfly that bounced from plant to plant in search of sweet nectar. I noticed that the wings would appear black and brown, and then blue, green, black and brown depending on the angle it positioned itself on the flower. The blue, green, black phase was absolutely striking. It reminded me of a peacock feather, which from one direction appears black with mottled brown markings on the feather, and from another angle where bands of florescent greens and blues dominate the black background on the feather. When in the correct position the black, blue, and green butterfly stood in remarkable contrast to the bright yellow goldenrod feathers.

I went home to research this and found, to my amazement, that scientists had discovered that an African swallowtail butterfly had amazing structures on its wings that manipulate light in such a way that it appeared, at certain angles, as blue and green pigment in distinct patterns on the wing. I have not been able to confirm that this process is utilized by other butterflies that inhabit North America, but the research yielded absolutely fascinating results nevertheless.

In part, the African swallowtail butterfly uses its brightly colored wings to communicate with other butterflies at long distances. The wings may attract other butterflies with regard to food supplies, mating, and survival. The wings employ a sophisticated method of manipulating light, so that the light can be directed and produce colors. For butterflies that have this color capability, the wings are covered with microscopic scales that absorb ultraviolet light. The scales contain very small photonic crystals that act as mirrors which prevent the light from scattering in a sideways direction. These mirror-like structures concentrate the light upward through florescent pigments that emit a blue and green color. To see this color the observer has to be close to a ninety degree angle, the direction in which the light is reflected.

This is almost the exact same process that modern LED (light emitting diode) lights use to emit the bright blue light that we are familiar with in modern flashlights. The LED light first came out in the 1960s, and although it used very, very little energy, it simply was not that bright. After many different experiments scientists utilized a system where tiny patterned holes filled with crystals above a multilayered mirror emitted six times as much light as the original efforts.

It proves, that once again, man does not invent new technology, he simply discovers what nature has already accomplished. This was a thought professed over and over again by the late, great naturalist Loren Eiseley.

That being said, one of the newspaper articles on this that I found had the headline "Butterfly Wing Structures Matches High Tech Light." A better headline would have been "High Tech Light Matches Butterfly Wing."

Let us give credit where credit is due.



Friends of the Heath School Library

THANKS

We wish to thank all, from here and afar, who took a flying chance or chances to win the round-trip ticket on US Airways for two for anywhere in the continental United States or Canada that was donated by two very generous Friends!

The winner was Katrina O'Brien from Colrain.

The amount we raised will go a long way to provide the beautiful books and other materials that make the school library such a special place for all of our children.

What's Your Land Worth?

It has struck me that the taxpayers of this town (and maybe every town, for that matter) are pretty accepting when it comes to paying their bills. We get a few requests for abatements every year (they must be made within 30 days of the "real" bill, which you'll receive around Christmastime), but they really represent a very small percentage of the number of bills sent (usually a couple of dozen for about 1,000 bills). So, I guess everyone understands their bill!

I suspect that that is true for the part of the bill that is for structures. But I doubt that people really know how we arrive at the value of land in Heath. So, I thought I'd try my hand at explaining that aspect of assessing this time.

Before I do, however, I feel that the Assessors owe the town a "thank you" for voting for funding for our assessors' "assistant" (a.k.a. Val Kaempfer, the chair of the Board) at the Annual Town Meeting last May. I, personally, can attest that her presence in the office during the day - fielding questions and information requests, and doing most of the clerical work - has made our Wednesday night meetings much more pleasant and productive. It's not that we don't like talking to taxpayers, but when you have decisions to reach about values, or abatement applications, or ownership questions, it is very difficult to get things done when the phone rings constantly, folks are waiting at the door, and we have a dozen requests for various pieces of paper waiting for us when we arrive. That is no longer the case! We can do what assessors are elected to do: make decisions - and not do it in haste. We're happy to have you come to our meetings, but we're really happy to be freed from the clerical work that was swamping us. Thanks again!

So, how about land values? The first question is: How much land do you own? We go by the amount shown on the survey of your land. OK, so 90%+ of the acreage of Heath ain't surveyed - so in that case (most cases), we go by what the deed reads. Could it be wrong? When the deed reads something like "the boundary starts at a rotted maple stump and goes approximately 100 rods in a north-easterly direction to a pile of stones..." you get the feeling that precision might be asking too much. But it is all we have.

We do have tax-maps, and they're great for parcels which have been surveyed or are more precisely described, but for a parcel like that described above, they're no better than the deed - we can only guess where the boundaries are. And many of the boundaries were drawn by Ed Calver over 20 years ago, based, you guessed it, on the deeds. As a result, we do not trust the maps enough to use them for a basis of estimating acreage at this time. It's great having a computer-based mapping system (you can download the maps from the assessors' section of www.townofheath.org - just bear in mind that they are pretty big files and take a long time with our slow Internet access here).

For figuring the value of land for taxation purposes, there are two "neighborhoods" in Heath: Mohawk Estates and everyone else. It stands to reason, as there are no other areas outside Mohawk Estates where ¼ acre lots are the going commodity. The original layout of Mohawk Estates was more than 700 lots of approximately ¼ acre each.

Outside Mohawk Estates, land is, overall, worth about \$625 per acre. "Wait a minute!" you say - "How come my land's worth \$40,000 and I only have 10 acres or so?" It is "back land" that is worth \$625 per acre. Your two-acre house lot is worth much more. We use two acres as the house lot as that's the zoning requirement (unless your place is "grandfathered"). If it is "improved" with a driveway, power service, a well, and septic (these are all things that we can't justify as parts of a structure, so they are included in the value of the land), that two-acre house lot is worth, by our reckoning, \$32,200.

If you own vacant land, with sufficient road frontage and acreage to meet the zoning requirements for a house, the first two acres of it are considered an "undeveloped" house lot and are worth \$20,800. Remember that the assessors are required to tax property at its "greatest and best use" - if a house can be built on it, it is worth more than if one can't. Makes sense from a market standpoint, doesn't it?

To further complicate matters, if you have sufficient acreage and road-frontage, you may have additional "secondary" house lots (lots that aren't built upon, but would not need Planning Board approval to subdivide. These two-acre lots are assessed at \$3,400 (in FY06) apiece. The number of these lots is based on the size of the overall parcel. For instance, 6-10 acres are assessed one extra house lot (assuming sufficient frontage), while parcels with more than 65 acres are assessed four (the maximum).

So, for example, if you own a house on a 37-acre parcel, and we think that you have sufficient road frontage, based on the FY06 land schedule in Heath, your assessed value, for the land alone, would be \$60,525. That's not assessed at a flat \$1,635 per acre, but is assessed as follows:

Two-acre improved house lot	\$32,200
Three "secondary" lots (6 acres total)	\$10,200
29 acres of "residual" land (\$625 per acre)	\$18,125
Total	\$60,525

(*"What's Your Land Worth?"* continued on page 7)



Green Thoughts

Weeds and the Peterkins

By Pat Leuchtman

Recently I replaced my lost copy of *The Peterkin Papers* by Lucretia P. Hale, a book that was a favorite of mine when my children were young. I highly recommend it to all parents. The Peterkins were a family that seemed to get themselves into an amazing number of confusing situations, often solved by the Lady from Philadelphia. One chapter that I particularly liked was "The Educational Breakfast."

Due to a misunderstanding Mrs. Peterkin decided that in their newest efforts at education that were to be carried on along alphabetical lines, they would have an alphabetical breakfast. Every letter of the alphabet had to be included at breakfast beginning with apple-sauce, bread and butter, coffee and on to Krout (sour), morning newspapers, quince marmalade, waffles, and yeast biscuits. That left X and Z but the Lady from Philadelphia suggested that the food could be X-cellent and "That if you come with a zest, you will bring the Z." So they began with applesauce and thought about discussing it "first botanically, next historically; or perhaps first historically, beginning with Adam and Eve and the first apple." But one thing led to another and before long they were traveling to the apple orchards, and thought they would take in cider-making and maple syrup-making at the same time. A long chapter with all their digressions.

And that is a long introduction to my autumnal hours of weeding. We don't often pay too much attention to our weeds, but as one thing leads to another, they can take us down the roads of history and poetry and medicine.

I'll begin with A, too. *Agropyron repens* is better known as witch grass, quack grass, or couch grass. I have spent great stretches of time ripping out witch grass which spreads by underground succulent whitish rhizomes. It is satisfying to follow them through the soil, in the hope that one is getting the whole root, but alas, if just one little node is left the tenacious plant will renew itself. In the wild, its growth habit does have the virtue of creating dense mats that prevent erosion. In fact this is a virtue that many weeds have. If it were not for weeds holding the soil in bare banks and fields, soil would constantly be washed or blown away. *Agropyron repens* has been known since ancient Greek times and both Dioscorides and Pliny wrote of a grass like witch

grass. They also said, as have many herbalists since then, that a decoction made from the rhizomes is a remedy for urinary complaints.

Now on to burdock, properly known as *Arctium lappa*. Nowadays I can hardly walk out to my compost pile without picking up burrs. There is only one person I know of who was grateful for the burr - the man who invented Velcro, inspired by the structure of the burr. I've been told that all I have to do to eradicate burdock is keep it cut back and eventually, deprived of leaves and sustenance, the root will die. I have not been successful and probably will not be because burdock also grows on the roadsides and the burrs eventually ripen and send their seeds into my garden. Some people have given up trying to destroy burdock and taken to eating it. Every part of the plant can be used at table, or medicinally. You can buy commercial herb teas that include burdock today. Decoctions of burdock have been used as a blood purifier boosting kidney function. Crushed burdock leaves can relieve the itch of mosquito and other insect bites. That's useful to remember during black fly season.



Celandine, *Chelidonium majus*,

As far as I am concerned celandine, also known as *Chelidonium majus*, is one of the beautiful weeds. It grows to three feet on graceful stems with small bright yellow flowers that bloom all summer. In the sense that you can easily pull apart celandine plants, it is easy to weed. However, the roots are harder to remove, and so it will come back, a beautiful harbinger of spring. A weak infusion of celandine applied to the eyelids with cotton pads has been used to soothe

sore or puffy eyes, and its value in treating eye ailments led to one of the German names for the plant, Augenkraut or eye herb. It has also been used to treat skin problems including eczema, ringworm, blisters, and pimples.

Ground ivy, also known as *Glechoma hederacea*, is everywhere, in my lawns, the flower and herb beds, and the vegetable garden. It is quite pretty and I don't mind it in the lawns where it adds its purplish flowers to my flowery mead. Its scalloped leaves are easily identified. I like some of its many common names which suggest how and where it grows: Gill-go-over-the-ground, earth ivy, creeping Jenny (or Charlie) Hedgemaids, and blue runner. This weed has also been known for centuries and the Saxons clarified their beer by steeping leaves of ground ivy in the heated beer. The ground ivy prevented the beer from turning sour on the Saxons' long sea voyages.

There is no room here for ruminations on the plantain, pigweed, or even the dandelion, but I will say that such meditations on my weeds makes me feel a bit more kindly towards them - as I rip them out.

(“What’s Your Land Worth?” continued from page 5)

As you can see, the house lot alone accounts for almost half the assessed value. Your neighbor with 10 acres (assuming one secondary – potential – house lot) is assessed at almost \$40,000 - *two-thirds of your assessed value!* The idea is that an improved house lot is worth a lot more than wooded back-land.

Mohawk Estates is handled a bit differently. The first ¼ acre lot you own was assessed at \$4,000 in FY06. All additional ¼ acre lots in that parcel were assessed at \$2,675. If you have electrical service, a well, or a septic system in Mohawk Estates, these are added on as “influences” on the land and increase the value accordingly.

In the rest of the town, we don’t, generally, have “influences” on land value, but perhaps we should. We might use road quality, or view to adjust the value of land in Heath. Topography probably should be taken into consideration – and this is possible, given the computer mapping system we have. We just haven’t had the time to pursue these ideas. A Heath “view-tax” is something we’ve discussed as a board - the state Department of Revenue representative suggested it, when she reviewed our reval in 2005 – but that’s a can of worms we’ve been hesitant to open. Surely, view affects sale price (“market value”), but one person’s “vista” is another’s nightmare. I believe the Charlemont Assessors had a view tax and, ultimately, abandoned it.

We hope to have the town’s “land schedule” on the Web site by the time you read this. It may change slightly in FY07, due to our “interim” reval, but I hope you got the gist of it here.

~ Henry Leuchtman

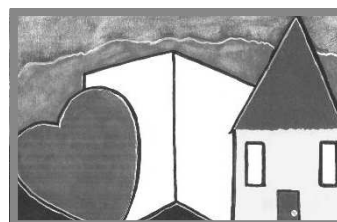
Attention Writers

We want to encourage all Heathans who feel inclined to write to send us their offerings.

We would like to start a column by and for Seniors. Lois Buchiane, Ruth Johnson, and Doug Stetson have been telling us about growing up in Heath.

We would love to have more of the same as well as what it is like to live in Heath as elders and suggestions for additional senior services especially for those who can no longer drive.

In addition, we want to start a series on Heath Women who have played significant roles in our community, both past and present. Give us your ideas for this.



**TheFriends of the
Heath School Library
in conjunction with the
World Eye Bookshop
will hold its**

5TH ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

Heath Elementary School

Thursday, November 16, 2006

8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Children’s Books and a selection of
Adult Books will be available for purchase**

**Take this opportunity to buy a
Holiday Gift Book for the library**

**(Pre-fair orders can be made by calling
Jane deLeeuw at 337-8594 by November 8)**



Shelburne Falls Gallery Exhibit

The LOGAN & WALLACE GALLERY at 55 Bridge Street in Shelburne Falls has opened an exhibition, continuing through January 31, 2007, of new color still life images by award winning photographer Robin Logan, color landscapes by Jim Wallace, and egg temperas and watercolors by Heath's Fred Burrington.

Robin Logan is well known in the region. Working with a 4 x 5 view camera, she captures both traditional and contemporary subject matter. This exhibition features flowers and food, fabrics and glass that invite the viewer to look closely at the beauty of everyday subjects seen in a whole different light.

Photographer Jim Wallace is showing works from New England depicting the rich moods and subtle colors of the fall landscape.

Guest artist, Fred Burrington, uses the rural landscape, hills, and farms that surround him high in the hills of West County as his subject matter.

For additional information, visit the gallery Web site www.loganandwallace.com



The Heath Ladies Aid Christmas Sale at Heath Union Church and The Community Hall Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 4

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

Baked Goods,
Avon Products, Crafts, Silent Auctions

Morning Coffee & Luncheon 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Heath Senior Center

The Susan B. Todd Fund for Excellence in Community-Based Education

The Heath Elementary School, in collaboration with the Mary Lyon Foundation, has established the Todd Fund for Excellence in Community-Based Education whose mission is to celebrate the Community of Heath and its values of community, stewardship of the land, neighborly service, storytelling, and a culture of belonging through educational opportunities for Heath School children. It will be used to support vital school programs.



An announcement of the fund was made at a party on Sunday, September 24, at the school, given for retiring principal, Susan B. Todd, to honor her service to the school from 2000-2006. The event was well-attended by a large crowd consisting of school children, parents, staff, community members, Mrs. Todd's family, and representatives from the Mohawk District and the Colrain School where she taught for several years, who gathered to pay a warm tribute and to express their gratitude to her.



Photographs submitted by Lorena Lobsky-Lonorgan

Songs were sung and memories recalled. Highlights included thanks from Richard Todd for the return of his wife and the presentation of a many-colored quilt made by the school children and tied by the Heath Ladies Aid. This was followed by a potluck supper.

All in all, a warm and fitting tribute to a learned and gracious woman who during her tenure at the Heath School and in our community, gave so much to us all.

Tax-deductible donations may be made to : **MLEF/Susan B. Todd Fund** and sent to the Mary Lyon Fund at POB 184, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370.

Heath School Parent-Teacher Partnership News

The Heath School Parent-Teacher Partnership had a busy summer preparing our booth for the Fair and planning for the start-of-school potluck and after school enrichments. We are pleased to report a record-setting year in funds raised at the Fair.

Thanks to all who volunteered time, bought raffle tickets or T-shirts, and played our new arcade-style games!

Our Back-to-School Potluck was a rousing success. Dinner was followed by a fascinating presentation by a New York State naturalist that featured live birds of prey. We all "oohed and aahed" over these magnificent birds, most types of which live right here in our Heath woods.

Our Fall Sports programming is underway with three soccer groups drilling and competing regularly. We will be offering refreshments again this year at all of our home games, so come out and root for the home team.

Also underway is our Strings Program and active planning for the Drama and Ski Clubs, both beginning in December. Our Halloween Party - traditionally a real treat for the whole Heath community - will be held on Sunday, October 29, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Call the school for details and join in the fun with us!

~ Dana Blackburn, Co-chair

The Friends of the Heath Free Public Library

thank all who bought books and raffle tickets, all those who donated raffle items, and all who volunteered as sales clerks to make the 2006 Book Sale the BEST ever!

As always, all proceeds will be used by our Library for books and other library materials.



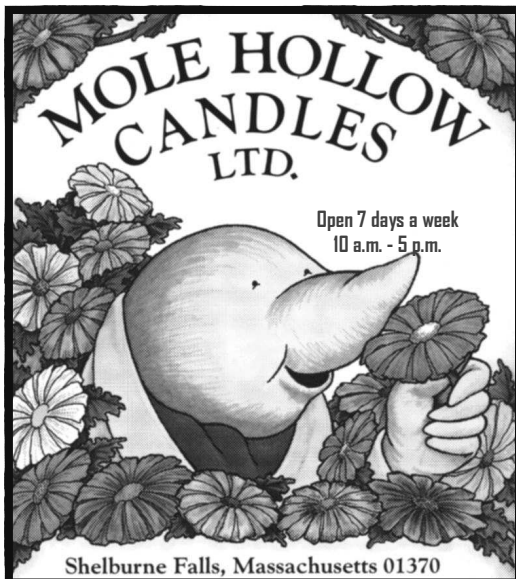
FREE TASTINGS



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Town Nurse Notes

Introducing Our New Town Nurse, Robin Booth, RN

By Robin Booth

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those who do not know me. My name is Robin Booth, and I am a registered nurse and have lived in this area over ten years now. As some may know, I was the school nurse at the Heath Elementary School for many years. Through that experience, I think I have a good feel for the community and its members. I am sure, however, it will take me awhile to make the connections between families and generations, a challenge I look forward to. For most of my nursing career I have worked with families and communities in either MD offices or as a visiting nurse. I am very excited about doing visits and clinics and look forward to meeting as many new "Heathans" as I can.

For now, my office hours will be on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. until noon, in the Community Hall. Please stop by for any reason (or no reason at all!). Otherwise you can leave messages in my mailbox upstairs in the Town Hall, or call me at home at 339-5549, if need be.

The start of a new job is a great time to gather information and brainstorm possibilities. I hope that you will share your ideas with me about the Town Nurse position as it is my hope to be able to serve the Heath community as best as I can. Your input will be valuable and needed!

WELCOME ROBIN!

Heath Historical Society Fort Shirley Day, August 27, 2006



Raising the Union Jack

Photographs submitted by Lorena Lobsky-Lonorgan



*Author and guide Michael Coe flanked by Heath Historical Society
Director Eric Grinnell and Jack Cable, Society president*

Finance Committee Report

The well-attended Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, June 17, concluded with the voters supporting the proposed budget for FY07. Many monetary decisions had been postponed from the normal meeting date of May 6 due to uncertainty over assessment numbers for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD), concerns about cuts adversely affecting education adequacy of the Heath Elementary School, and pending legislation that could result in greater State support for public education thereby lowering local taxes. Also facing the Town was the pending issue of obtaining State assistance for the completed closing of the Three-Town Dump costing about \$1,200,000.

As regards the last item, the Legislature overrode Governor Romney's veto and awarded \$1 million to Heath, Hawley, and Charlemont. Heath's share of the commitment to the project was \$314,988, which included repairs of last October's storm damage. Our share of the State money was \$260,000. We have also received notice from FEMA they will provide \$51,718 towards the storm damage, which leaves a balance of \$3,270 to be paid out by the Town! This is wonderful news. Thanks to all who lobbied the legislators and especially to Gloria Fisher, our Town Coordinator, who kept pestering legislators and bureaucrats until the money came through. Thanks also to the Selectboards and Finance Committees of the three towns for their cooperation in completing the very difficult mission of closing the dump.

Continuing with positive news, the MTRSD received additional Chapter 70 Education Aid and Chapter 71 Transportation monies for FY07. The Transportation money can and will be used to reduce Heath's school assessment by \$7,718, but the Education Aid of \$62,700 will be transferred to the District's reserve account that had been severely reduced. Also, trying to use this money to change the education budget involved procedures too complicated to accomplish at this time.

Since the ATM of May 6 the FinCom met three times and on May 30 and June 5 we reviewed all pending articles and the budget in great detail and made our recommendations accordingly for the June 17th ATM. On July 13, we met with the Selectboard to act on Town Accountant Tracey Baronas's recommendations to adjust accounts for FY06 based on Governor Romney signing into law Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2006, an amendment to General Law Chapter 44 – Section 33B, on May 4, 2006. This legislation allows transfers between departmental appropriations within the last two (2) months of any fiscal year and the first fifteen (15) days of the next fiscal year subject to certain conditions. This change relieves cities and towns from certain formalities for the transfer of funds, namely Special Town Meetings.

The FinCom is participating in a financial management study conducted by the Sawyer School of Management of Suffolk University. This particular effort focuses on local government Stabilization Fund mechanisms. The results will be shared with all respondents. We thought it interesting to delve a bit deeper into the nature of the Fund for you.

A Stabilization Fund may be established under the aegis of General Law 40, Section 5B. It is often referred to as a "rainy day" fund to which the town meeting can appropriate or "make deposits" for use at some future time. It can be used for any legitimate municipal purpose. For years its use was limited to capital expenditures, but that was changed several years ago to include operating expenses as well. A simple majority of town meeting is needed to appropriate to the fund, but a two-thirds majority is necessary to appropriate from the fund. Deposits in any given year are limited to 10% of the amount raised in the preceding fiscal year by taxation of real estate and tangible personal property. The State Director of Accounts may approve a larger contribution to the fund. The aggregate amount in such funds at any time shall not exceed 10 percent of the equalized valuation of the city or town as defined in section 1 of chapter 44. Any interest shall be added to the fund. The treasurer shall be the custodian of all such funds. The foregoing was largely paraphrased from the State statute.

Thus, if \$1 million is to be raised by the Town of Heath via taxation it could contribute \$100,000 to its Stabilization Fund in a given year and if its Equalized Valuation was \$60,000,000 it could accumulate \$6,000,000. Needless to say Heath has never had the resources to put away that kind of money. Heath recently transferred \$10,000 to the Stabilization Fund, which is .6% of 1% of its tax levy for FY07. The balance of the Fund as of June 30, 2006, was \$226,640.14 or about .4% of 1% of its Equalized Valuation. That is not a lot of money for the commitments Heath has as reflected by its budget and debt load. Some twenty years ago the Town began putting away what it could for future capital needs much like if you saved up to put a down payment on a house. It has taken a long time to accumulate what we have. As of July 2002 the Town had \$291,038.47 in the Fund, probably the highest amount in our history; however, that was the year major renovations were done on the Community Hall, that were funded via Community Block Grants and by the Town's Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$57,275. Then at the Annual Town Meeting of 2004 the Town voted to use \$100,000 for a fire truck bringing the balance down to \$155,481. There were three other small deductions amounting to \$3,026.69 made at a STM in August 2004 to adjust special accounts that couldn't be handled otherwise. A combination of interest earned and contributions from Free Cash over recent years have brought the balance up to its current level.

The FinCom is pleased to welcome Janis Carr of Hosmer Road to our ranks replacing Doug Stetson, who decided not to run for another term. We appreciate his contribution to the Town and the Committee.

~ Dave Howland, Chair
Ned Wolf, Secretary
Budgelitchfield
Jeff Simmons
Janis Carr

The Fair

Properly carded or not, the silver-grey fleece spins up a treat. I have brought my portable wheel with me, camping; at the Heath Fair -- an old-fashioned, serious country fair -- I have found other spinners. I have unloaded the wheel and my hand cards and the bag of fleece, and now I am sitting under a large, green-striped canopy happily treadling and drafting. Next to me, working at a Louet wheel, is a beautiful young woman with a wheat-gold plait to her waist, who is thickening with her next child --her third or third-and-fourth, depending on whether it's twins. An older woman crafts a hooked-rug picture with hand-spun, hand-dyed yarns, as another woman spins multicolored rovings on a superb Polish wheel.

We are entirely contented. There's no strangeness when you wander into this world of fibers, only a shared language and an unfailing welcome. The yarn I'm spinning -- it's going to be a three-ply -- is for a very specific project: I am going to use it to knit a hat. The hat will be in Shaker rib, a stretchy, resilient stitch, very warm, a toque with a turned-up bottom. I'm not going to wash the mildly sheepy smell out of the yarn; I'm going to leave it. I want the hat to convey this reality to the man I'm making it for, sheep-smell and all.

I'll call him Toby; he's a big, handsome guy in his late 30s, very bright, an artist and writer, and is one of the most genuinely good people I know, and also one of the most tragically flawed. The flaw blew open last fall, rather like the side of a volcano blowing off in an eruption, and Toby is now behind bars. He will likely stay there for, oh, at least 10 or 15 years, likely longer. You see, the eruption occurred when he was on parole from a previous eruption. He's older and wiser now, and, I think in the very long term, he's going to be okay. This time, he's surrounded by a circle of support and accountability, as he wasn't before. He's very much loved, and that makes a difference. But still, it's going to be a long, long time --if ever -- before Toby walks in fields like these or can go to a small country fair.

And so I spin the fair into my dove-grey single, twisting it in. I twist in children's laughter, the bleat of penned goats, the bray of a donkey. I twist in the quiet chat of my spinning companions. I spin in the seriousness of the rabbit-judging competition, and the poultry; I spin in first-prize ribbons on jams and cakes. I spin in the smell of bruised grass and of the chicken barbecue put on by the volunteer Fire Department. There's a spatter of light rain and I twist that, too, into my wool. I work in the men just next to us, who are showing people how rope used to be hand-crafted; I add the woman carving wooden spoons, the man demonstrating butter-making, the old guys showing off lethal-looking two-man saws. There's a duet going on in the music tent, folk songs sung well and truly by a man and a woman, with fiddle and banjo and guitar, and little kids are dancing, and I work that in as well. I spin in the town library display, and the school display, and the quilt raffle, and the concession stand. I want the whole fair in this.

No doubt all the people wandering through this gentleness are as flawed as Toby and I are, although I hope they've suffered far less. But the place itself has an innocence about it; it's a place and an occasion testifying to the goodness of Creation. Both the place and the fair tend to attract people of sound soul and kind heart; they do not attract people with pretensions or illusions of importance. It has, and has always had, a mildly zen feel to it, of wisdom, not cleverness. The animals in the long, judging barns -- sheep and cattle, oxen, horses --are well cared-for. The judging's been done thoughtfully and with respect. Much affection went into the planning of this fair -- I know some of the planners -- and that love spills out among the long rows of parked cars; it's in the fresh lemonade and the famous fried dough cakes. It's a place where soul can bump soul, and that happens;

I have a long, rich conversation with a man, who's a writer like me, and with his beautiful wife; we are at once in a space of truth and intimacy and an understanding of truths that this good, truthful place deeply understands but that the world of midways will never get. I set my spinning aside for a while, just to talk to these people. The young mother spinning next to me looks up from her white roving and says wisely, "You are having such a rich afternoon." Yes, I am. It's in this landscape; there's something about the place, everybody knows that. Half a mile south and straight downhill from here, there's the white Heath Union Church where Reinhold Niebuhr first said the *Serenity Prayer*. That's what I want to twist into this yarn for Toby's hat. It's what I want to convey to him. But more than that: I believe -- as do the others here -- that this peaceful goodness, this quiet beauty, is of this one still-standing moment, but it's also of eternity. Toby doesn't yet know that, but we do: that this moment is perfect in itself, but it also represents a perfection yet to come, when we stand on the other side of the River and breathe that kindest of airs. I know that; the young woman beside me knows that, as do the author and his wife and the people who planned the fair, and it only increases this moment's joy.

We don't have to cling to the joy; we can just let it be, because we have it always. That's what I'm really spinning into this yarn, that's what I want Toby to have wrapped around his ears in the prison yard when it's January and bitter cold. That's what I'll ply when I twist three singles together; that's what I'll knit in with every stitch. Toby, this isn't it. There's so much more to come. This is my last day camping; tomorrow I'll pack up and head home. I'll give my new grey yarn a wash in hot water to set the twist and let it bloom into whatever it's supposed to become, and then I'll start a swatch. It's only a hat. It shouldn't take me long

~ Molly Wolf

(Molly is the daughter of the Rt. Rev. Frederick Wolf, now deceased and former Episcopal Bishop of Maine. The Wolf family used to own and summer in Al and Elizabeth Canali's house in the Dell. Her sister, Julietta, was married to John Wolf, Ned's younger brother.

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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 News

It was a happy Fair. The rain threatened but *mostly* held off. Our gate was down, but our spirits were definitely up. The firemen didn't sell as many chicken dinners as they would have liked but the Library and several other town tents found the fairgoers very generous. The Heath Agricultural Society sends our gratitude to all the volunteers who helped make the 89th Annual Heath Fair such a success. That means everyone, since there are no paid staff at the Fair. There have been many positive comments about the spirit of the Fair this year and one lovely essay from Molly Wolf, former Heath summer resident, published in this month's *Herald*. Heath has reason to be proud of its fair tradition. I hope we continue to strengthen and develop it for years to come.

Here a few of the highlights:

- The music, especially Trailer Park
- The kids' games
- The square dance and fireworks. The barn was full. The rain held off.
- The agricultural tent with weavers, carvers, inventors, and exhibits of old-time industry and farm tools
- The new benches, one in memory of Carroll Stowe made and donated by Almond Streeter and another in memory of Loren Gowdy, donated by the Yankee Beemers.
- The full poultry and rabbit barn
- The petting booth with ponies, sheep, goats and rabbits.
- The veggie wraps, without peer this side of the Mississippi and rival of any west of it
- You fill in the rest. Everyone has their favorites. Of course the Chicken Barbecue is always a winner and there is no better root beer to be had than Fireman's Root beer.

Doesn't it just make you hungry for next year's fair already? Well, the Heath Agricultural Society has resumed meeting on the second Thursday of the month. The next one is October 12, 7:00 p.m. at the school. Believe it or not we have already begun planning for next year. We would love to have your input and ideas. We are especially interested in ideas for demonstrations, presentations, and exhibits relevant to country life, agriculture and sustainability.

Fairgrounds Use

In addition to a private party and the 99th Annual Lively Reunion, September activities included the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association's annual gathering and the Heath Fair Volunteer Picnic and Wagon Train. There are no activities planned for October. There is some winter storage space available. For information contact Bob Delisle at 337-5716, or Bob and Donna Tanner at 337-4236.

~ Pam Porter



Waiting for freshly squeezed lemonade and crispy onion rings! Yum!





Bench to Honor Carroll Stowe

People who have been coming to the Heath Fair for years know that last year we lost one of our staunchest supporters when Carroll Stowe died. During the fairs, Carroll spent many hours driving the loader at the pulling pit. In the months before the fair, he volunteered countless hours mowing, clearing brush, and repairing buildings. To recognize Carroll's many years of service, the Heath Agricultural Society wanted to have a stone bench made. When one of Carroll's close friends, Almond Streeter, learned of this, he said he would be "honored" to make the bench himself. Almond and his son Alan installed the bench during the week before the fair. It sits overlooking the pulling pit, opposite the grandstands. The bench reflects

Carroll's character, strong, supportive, and a little rough around the edges. We hope that many people will enjoy sitting "with Carroll" to watch the pulls.

The Heath Agricultural Society expresses deep gratitude to Almond Streeter, his son, Alan, and Maple Ridge Quarry for donating the stone, carving it, and installing the bench. Their generosity is a wonderful tribute to our mutual friend, Carroll B. Stowe.

~ Christine O'Brien

Bench Honoring Lorin Gowdy

Heath's former Police Chief, Lorin Gowdy, enjoyed motorcycling. Lorin was the one who introduced the "Yankee Beemers" to Heath. For many years the "Beemers," an association of BMW motorcycle riders, have come to the Heath Fairgrounds for a weekend, using them as a home base from which they enjoyed riding through the hill towns. In appreciation for using the Fairgrounds, each year the Beemers have made generous contributions to the Agricultural Society and other town organizations.

After Lorin died, the Beemers approached the Heath Agricultural Society with a proposal to donate a stone bench to the fairgrounds as a tribute to Lorin. The Agricultural Society appreciated this offer. The Beemers commissioned the bench to be made, and in August, during their annual weekend in Heath, the bench was installed near the First Aid Booth. Thanks go to Brian DeVries for setting the footings to support the bench.

The polished marble bench has one of Lorin's favorite quotes "All in all, it was an excellent adventure," inscribed on the front, and a personal comment from the Beemers on the back. The Heath Agricultural Society extends deep gratitude to the Beemers for providing a beautiful testimonial to a man who was a vital force with both the Beemers and the Town of Heath.

~ Christine O'Brien



Photographs by Art Schwenger



Selectboard's Report

Summer Meeting Schedule - The Selectboard has been meeting every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. Meeting dates are tentatively scheduled for 10/16, 10/30, 11/6, and 11/14. The Board will resume meeting every Tuesday after 11/14. Any change will be posted accordingly.

Three-Town Landfill - The Towns have received awards from Fema to help with the cost of the storm damage that occurred as a result of the severe rainstorm of October last year during which 10 inches of rain fell during a 24-hour period. The Town of Heath will be receiving in excess of \$50,000. A final inspection of the landfill has been completed by the Department of Environmental Protection and a post closure report is due soon. The Selectboards of the three towns have been meeting to discuss future maintenance and anticipated ongoing expenses. A state reimbursement grant of \$1,000,000 for the landfill through the Department of Housing and Community Development is due to arrive soon. The Towns of Heath, Charlemont, and Hawley are hosting a brunch at the Charlemont Inn on October 6 at 10:00 a.m. to recognize the efforts of our legislators and other officials in securing this grant.

Town Nurse - Joanne Fortune, RN, has resigned as Heath Town Nurse. Robin Booth, RN, has been hired to take her place and has been oriented to the job by Joanne. Robin was formerly the nurse at the Heath School and is known to many in town. The Board wishes to thank Joanne for the many years of dedicated service she has provided to the Town and wishes her well in her new pursuits.

Appointments - Doug Finn and Kris Burns have been appointed to the Board of Health to fill the two remaining vacancies. We look forward to their help in assisting the Board of Health with the implementation of the new BOH camper-trailer occupancy permit program. Bob Tanner has been appointed as dog officer and is in the process of becoming familiar with the job requirements.

Large Events Permits - The Selectboard has completed work on a permit for large events that may be planned to take place in the Town. A large event is defined as any gathering that may be attended by 500 or more people. The purpose of the permit is to insure that adequate provisions have been made for emergency services by the event planners and to notify the local emergency services of the scheduled event. Permit forms are available at the town office.

All Boards Meeting - The Selectboard will be hosting our second "All Boards Meeting" on November 14 from

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Charlemont Inn. The purpose of the meeting is to improve communication and foster awareness of the activities, plans, and projects of the various town boards.

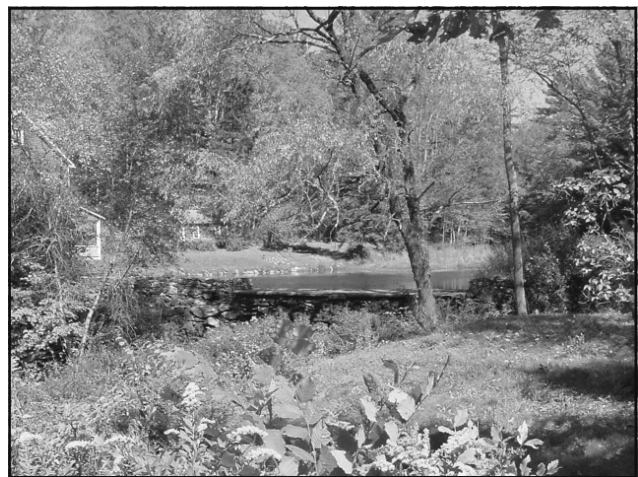
WiFi - The Town has a high-speed wireless Internet connection available to anyone within range of the antenna on the Town Hall. Check it out as you drive through the center of Town or visit the library. Thanks to Doug Finn for installing the equipment and configuring it for public access.

Heath Online - 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*



The Dell

Heath Business Directory

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625-8110

The Benson Place
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Russell E. Donelson
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337-4460
Jerry Ferguson
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337-4317
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337-8344
Wanda Mooney
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337-8344
Alan Nichols
Furniture Maker
337-6665
Tripp's Blueberries
Taylor Brook Road
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Paul Turnbull
Janice Boudreau
Commercial/Wedding Photographers
337-4033
Bonnie Wodin
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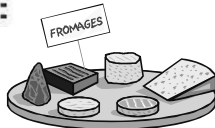
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Library Lines

Activities and Displays



By Donald Purington

The Summer Reading Program was very successful this year. Twenty-four children turned in reading logs in August and received a \$10 gift certificate to World Eye Book Shop and a T-shirt with the colorful "What's Buzzin'" logo on the front. The three craft sessions were well attended with more than 20 children working on their projects and socializing with friends.

The Preschool Story Hour fall season began on September 8. Nine children and five parents gathered in the library for an hour of stories, crafts, and a snack. Led by our assistant Lyra Johnson, this program will meet every other Friday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. through December 15. The sessions will resume in January on a date to be announced.

The display case has some samples of the beautiful pottery crafted by Heath's Sarah Hettlinger. She and her husband Jim Gleason are proprietors of Bald Mountain Pottery on State Street in Shelburne Falls.

Framed prints by Heath artist Julie Hall Rocke are gracing the walls of the library. The prints show the diversity of her work ranging from fantasy to detailed studies of local flora and fauna. Julie's work can also be seen at the Shelburne Arts Co-op on Bridge Street in Shelburne Falls.

New at the Library:

Adult Fiction Books: *Vanishing Point* by Marcia Muller, *Dead in Vineyard Sand* by Philip P. Craig.

Adult Nonfiction Books: *Polio: An American Story* by David Oshinsky (2006 Pulitzer Prize winner for History), *White Apples and a Taste of Stone - Selected Poems 1946 - 2006* by Donald Hall, Poet Laureate of the United States.

Young Adult Books: *Magyk* by Angie Sage, *Revolutionary War on Sunday* by Mary Osborne Pope.

Children's Picture Books: *Farm Fresh Cats* by Scott Santoro, *People* by Peter Speir, *I Like it Here at School: 26 poems* by Jack Prelutsky.

DVD: *The Last Place on Earth*, a Masterpiece Theatre 3-disc production about the race to be the first explorer to reach the South Pole.



Heath Library Benefit Bicycle Ride



Sunday, September 17, was a beautiful day for the Heath Library Benefit Bicycle Ride. Ten riders completed the Advanced route of ten miles, four, the Intermediate of 22 miles, and six children road to the Mohawk estates playground and back to Heath Center.



All riders started from the Center at 10:00 a.m. with the Intermediate riders returning in two and a half hours and the Advanced in four. They were greeted and treated to a picnic lunch arranged by Trustees Chair Deb Porter who was very pleased with the turnout for what she hopes will be the first of an annual event.

Some of the riders came from as far away as Portsmouth, NH, Worcester, Waltham, and Somerville.

~ Ken Gilbert

Milestones

Dana B. Helems of Colrain, father of **Carey LaChance of Heath**, died on September 26, 2006. Born in Northampton on May 6, 1954, he was the son of John and Doris Montgomery Helems.

Helems was a renowned drummer in the New England area, performing with many local bands and for numerous charity benefits. He was most recently the co-owner of Homegrown Notes music store in Greenfield.

He is survived by Judy Maloney of Colrain; his mother, Doris Mason of Florence; two children, in addition to his daughter of Heath, Tracey Monroe of Ohio, and Sgt. Patrick Gillespie, stationed in California; two brothers, David Helems of Northampton and Alan Helems of New Hampshire; two sisters, Diane Baumgardener of Florence and Donna Phaneuf of Hatfield; three grandchildren, and by Charlena Mason Helems of Lebanon, NH.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Leyden Methodist Church, Hospice, or to the charity of one's choice.

Suzanne E. Cole Jackman-Williams of Turners Falls, formerly of Heath, died on September 17, 2006. Born on September 19, 1952, in Middletown, CT, she was the daughter of George and Grace Cole.

She was a graduate of the Portland, CT, High School, Greenfield Community College, and the University of Massachusetts.

For the past eight years, she was employed by the Clinical & Support Options of Greenfield, and earlier by the Die Electrics of Chicopee for over 20 years.

She is survived by her husband of four years, Gregg C. Warwick Williams; her daughter, **Sandra L. Donovan of Heath**, her son, Michael G. Jackman, of West Springfield; a sister, Marlene Darling of Connecticut, and eight grandchildren. Her first husband, Raymond Jackman, died in 1997.

Funeral services were held at the Smith-Kelleher Funeral Home in Shelburne Falls with Pastor Arthur Warner of the Christian & Missionary Church of Greenfield officiating. Burial was in the West Branch Cemetery in Colrain.

Memorial donations may be made to the Hospice of Franklin County, 329 Conway Street, Greenfield, MA 01301.

Eleanor R. Brown Maynard of North Adams, formerly of Charlemont, died on September 13, 2006. Born in Brattleboro, VT, on February 2, 1930, she was the daughter of Leonard and Ida Sparrow Brown.

She worked with her husband, Albert E. Maynard, who owned and operated Al's Trucking from 1979-2001, and previously Al's Service Station from 1964-79, both in Charlemont. More recently, she was employed by the US Post Office also in Charlemont.

Her husband died on their 50th wedding anniversary in 2005.

Survivors include her son, Gary B. Maynard, of Clarksburg; her daughter, Cheryl Maynard-Lawless, of Stratton, VT; six brothers, **Wendell Brown of Heath**, Frank Brown of

Buckland, Roy Brown of Whitingham, VT, Pete Brown of Rowe, Roger Brown of Readsboro, VT, and Reginald Brown of Colrain; three sisters, Lillian Benz of Greenfield, Janet Nido of Wilmington, VT, and Annette Lee of Whitingham, VT; eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to either the VNA and Hospice of Northern Berkshire, P.O. Box 869, North Adams, MA 02147, or to the American Cancer Society of Western Massachusetts, 59 Bobola Road, Holyoke, MA 01040.

Dorothy L. Martin Scharch, formerly of Pepperell, mother of **Carol-Anne Eldridge of Heath**, died on September 10, 2006, in Portland, ME.

Born on December 17, 1910, in Watertown, NY, she was the daughter of Charles and Lillian Switzer Martin. She was educated in Watertown where she graduated from high school.

Mrs. Scharch was active in many community organizations and in 1995 was named Pepperell Citizen of the Year, a tribute to her many years of service. In later life, she served on the Massachusetts Governor's Council on Aging.

She is survived by a second daughter, Paula Taggart of Parsonsfield, ME; six grandchildren, Elsom Eldridge III of Fort Worth, TX, Mark Eldridge of Gofftown, Elizabeth Dakoulas of Hartland, VT, Elaine Musich of Monmouth, ME, Edward Taggart of Scarborough, ME, and John Taggart of Ridgewood, NJ, and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Requiescat in pace



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



Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>
July 11, 2006	2 ¼ "
August	6 ½ "
Up to September 10	2 "

In this reporting period:

The National Weather Service posted a heat advisory on August 1 and 2. The high temperature on those two days was 90 degrees.

The last part of August was on the wet and cool side.

The remnants of tropical depression Ernesto, which went over western New York, brought us some windy conditions on Saturday, September 2.

Community Calendar

October 2006

- October 05** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- PTP Meeting, Heath School, 6:30 p.m.
- October 06** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- All School Hike, Heath School
- Booster Day, Mohawk Trail Regional High School
- October 07** - Ladies Aid Tag Sale, at the church, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Historical Society Museums open 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- October 09** - **Columbus Day – no school**
- October 10** - Picture Day, Heath School
- LEC Meeting, Heath School, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
- October 16** - Admissions Open House. The Academy at Charlemont
- October 18** - School Early Release Day, Mohawk, 11:45 a.m., Heath School, 12:45 p.m.
- October 19** - School Early Release Day., Heath School, 12:30 p.m. -Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m. -
- October 20** - School Early Release Day, Heath School, 12:30 p.m. - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- October 21** - PSATs at Mohawk
- October 27** - No School – Franklin County Teacher Inservice Day
- October 29** - PTP Halloween Party, Heath School, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- October 31** - **HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**

November 2006

- November 02** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- November 03** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- November 05** - Cornucopia Auction, The Academy at Charlemont, 7:00- 10:00 p.m.
- November 09** - LEC Meeting, Heath School, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
- November 14** - Heath All Boards Meeting, Charlemont Inn, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- November 16** - 5th Annual Friends of the Heath School Library Book Fair, Heath School, 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- November 17** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- November 22** - School Early Release Day for Thanksgiving holiday, Mohawk, 10:50 a.m., Heath School, noon.
- November 23** - **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

In Thanks Gíving

For this beautiful land and
the bounty of the earth

For our families and friends

For our caring community

For our wonderful school
and its staff

For our elected and appointed
officials and for all
the volunteers who undertake
the multitude of tasks that
enhance our daily life.

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