



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

\$1.00

Volume 29, Number 3

August/September 2007

The 90th Annual

HEATH FAIR



Friday • Saturday • Sunday
August 17, 18 & 19
2007

Heath Fair 2007 August 17, 18, and 19

Thursday, August 16

Exhibits accepted 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Friday, August 17, 5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Exhibits Hall.....5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Pony Pull 5:00 p.m.
Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem..... 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 18,

8:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

Rabbit Show..... 9:00 a.m.
Adult Sheep Show..... 10:00 a.m.
Lecture Renewable Energy
Walt Congdon, with Q&A time..... 11:00 a.m.
Sheep Shearing Demonstration..... 11:30 a.m.
Kevin Ford, Blade shearing
Exhibit Hall..... 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Horse Draw..... 11:00 a.m.
Chicken Barbecue..... 12:00 NOON
Wagon Rides..... 12:00-4:00 p.m.
Mary McGuire Band..... 1:00 p.m.
Kid's midway..... 1:30-4:00 p.m.
Agricultural Demonstrations..... 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Kids games..... 2:00 p.m.
Moonshine Holler..... 4:00 p.m.
Antique Tractor Pull..... 6:00 p.m.
Girl Howdy 7:00 p.m.
Square Dance:.....7:30-11:00 p.m.
Fireworks At Dark

Sunday, August 20, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Concessions, Crafts, Exhibits until closing

Blueberry Pancake Breakfast9:00-10:30 a.m.
Gymkhana..... 8:00 a.m.
Exhibit Hall 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Ox Draw9:00 a.m.
Oxen Parade to follow
Church Service 9:00 a.m.
Youth Sheep Show 10:00 a.m.
Poultry Judging 10:00 a.m.
Youth Cattle Show..... 11:00 a.m.
Chicken Barbecue 12:00 Noon
Shelburne Falls Military Band..... 12:00 Noon
Parade: Sustainability 1:00 p.m.
Wagon Rides after the parade until. 4:00 p.m.
The Hunger Mountain Boys..... 2:00 p.m.
Agricultural Demonstrations..... 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Joe Kovach: Horse management in the round pen
Randy Hemminger: Horseshoeing
Trash Olympics..... 1:30 p.m.
Kids Games 2:30 p.m.

All entertainment under cover,

Rain or Shine

Adults \$6 ~ Seniors \$3

Kids, 9 and under Free

Free Parking Please, No Pets

Heath Herald

Design and Layout Editor/Photographer

Copy Editor

Typographer

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Advertising & Circulation

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Columnists

Eileen A. Tougas

Jane de Leeuw

Jane de Leeuw

Jan Carr

Jan Carr

Dianne Cerone

Henry Leuchtman

Robin Booth, Bill Lattrell,

Pat Leuchtman, Donald Purington,

Contributors

Bertha Akley, Jack Cable, Dianne Cerone,
Jenna Day, Howard Dickinson, Gloria Fisher, Heath
Historical Society, Heath School Staff and
Students, Heath Union Church, Dave Howland, Pegge
Howland, Henry Leuchtman, Timothy Lively,
Pam Porter, The Selectboard, Art Schwenger,
Julie Sidon, Del Viarengo

The Heath Herald is a nonprofit newspaper staffed by volunteers and published six times a year. Donations are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated.

THE HERALD DEADLINE FOR THE October/November 2007 issue is September 10, 2007. All articles are the property of the Heath Herald unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Call (413) 337-8594 or E-mail Jane at jdeleeeu@crocker.com.

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Heath Union Church News

Our Sunday morning worship continues at 10:00 a.m. On August 19, the service will be at the Heath Fairgrounds under the tent.

Starting the second Sunday in September (Sept. 9) we plan a study group for all ages to be held from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. at the Church. Until then, the prayer/Bible study will continue at the home of Dot Sessions.

On June 24 there was a well-attended barbecue and games afternoon at Mike and Crystal Smith's. On Sunday, August 26, at 5:00 p.m. there will be a "Pictionary" game night at the Church. Everyone is welcome to any and all church events.

The first weekend in August we will again welcome the Beemers to Heath at the Fairgrounds and continue the tradition of providing food for the gathering. Progress continues in the completion of the lower level and the handicapped ramp.

As always, Pastor Grant has office hours on Thursdays from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The numbers to call are: Church, 337-4019; Pastor, 648-9077, and Deacon Gallup, 337-5367.

~ The Deacons

The 2007 Heath Fair

The Old Lady is ninety.
Now *that's* sustainability,
But she has her aches and pains,
As we all know.
It's a tough row to hoe
In this world of insurance liability.

But she's not a quitter.
Yes, she's trying hard
To understand what she must do
To continue to delight,
To be relevant
Without giving up her way of life.

She's got her cell phone on, baby,
And she's waiting for it to ring.
She's Internet-connected.
High-speed would be nice.

~ Julie Sidon

Recollections of Past Heath Fairs

Collected by Del Viarengo



Photo by Howard Dickinson

There is a wonderful sense of community and neighborliness in Heath, witness the outpouring of support to save the Heath Fair this year.

This is such a special event and Bob and I are happy that it will continue. The house we live in was once the home of the two White sisters who

spearheaded the establishment of the Heath Agricultural Society and of the "first" Heath Fair – though we now know that there was at least one earlier Heath Fair Day – on Thursday, September 27, 1871!! We do not know where it was held or if it was a onetime event, but a poster found by Lois Buchaine in the family home attests to the fact that it happened.

The special quality of the Heath Fair has been beautifully described in the *West County News*, August 24-30, 2006, editorial as "not only in Heath, but of it---" and closes with, "the fair doesn't change that much, and why should it? The people of Heath got it straight right from the start." I believe that this was written by Heath's own Michael Wilmeth, though there is no byline. This editorial caused me to speak with some of the people who have memories of the early fair days. It has been such a good experience for me to have enjoyed talks with some delightful Heathans with long memories. They all spoke with enthusiasm of the spirit of friendly competition of the Fair.

Ralph and Howard Dickinson told me that the Fair was originally held on the last Wednesday in August because all the stores in the area were closed that day. They remembered that "Frank Burrington and Earl Hamilton always tried to enter more cattle than the other, and that Medrick Lively always entered Jersey cows. There were no fireworks but two dances were held in the evening; a square dance and a round dance. We liked the speakers. Now it seems very commercial to us."

Ruth Johnson echoed many of these thoughts, and spoke warmly and knowledgeably about Heath's traditions – getting together with everyone, the games, the candy, and ice cream.

Lois Buchaine told me that youngsters would wander about the Oak Grove freely, without parents, and when she was "about six" a pony got loose and ran over her. She was not badly hurt, but quite startled. The ice cream and candy counter made her feel better. She remembers when Governor Saltonstall arrived in "a very impressive car. Perhaps he was the speaker of the day." Lois thinks that speakers should be reintroduced. Michael Coe's very readable memoir, *Final Report*, has a delightful chapter, "A Farm in the Hills," from which I learned that he was "...the very last person invited to do this."

Grace and Kenneth Crowningshield have had a long history of participation, from helping with the food stands, to being in charge of the Midway for forty-plus years. Grace remembers when the food and ice cream stands were loaded onto wagons and moved to the new location. Howard Dickinson

thought he might have pictures of this move but could not locate them. He did let me borrow two old pictures of the Fair and a formal portrait of Homer Tanner who was Secretary of the Fair, "for as long as I can remember," said Howard who was, and is, an excellent photographer.

Grace Crowningshield spoke of introducing vendors, a flea market, and a Donkey Ball Game – "a really peppy one!" In addition to other tasks, Grace was treasurer for twelve years. After her husband, Kenneth, passed away in 1982, she donated their silo to the Fairgrounds in his memory. There is a fine article in the *Heath Herald* (Volume 1, #3, August 1979) about the Little Fair in the Oak Trees written by the Crowningshields. In Volume 1, #1, of the *Herald* there are photographs of the Fair from 1925 through 1978.

Lisa Dyer Merrill shared her earliest memories of the Heath Fair dating back to the early thirties. Here is a small sample of her charming recollections. "I think Heath Fair Day was the most anticipated and most exciting day of the entire summer. I remember waking up early in the morning and hearing the cattle plodding and mooing as they were herded up the road past our house to the Fairgrounds. Next came the large trucks, motors straining to carry their heavy loads of animals up the hill. We children ran up the road to watch the unloading, reluctantly returning home for breakfast.

"It was strictly an agricultural fair then: all manner of animals from the largest horse teams to rabbits and chickens...cattle, goats, sheep, pigs...I don't remember oxen then. I do remember the Kinsman's magnificent team of huge horses with fancy harnesses, and many others pulling sledges loaded with huge boulders in the horse draw. Farm produce – fresh from the garden and baked and preserved – filled a large tent. There were also flower arrangements from the gardens and handmade quilts and aprons and knitted items. It was very exciting to see who got the blue ribbons (our neighbors, the Dickinsons, got a lot, which made us very proud).

"There were no rides although Mr. Burrington (Fred's grandfather) made some wooden contraptions and a train that was fun to play on. There was a food stand – hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, pie, and ice-cream – where one could buy lunch. And there were tables and many rows of benches set up in the shade of the trees. After lunch, all the grown-ups gathered on the benches and listened to a talk given by a guest speaker. We children were encouraged to run and play elsewhere so I don't know who the speakers were. The grown-ups thought they were important and had much to say about the talks afterwards. There also was a parade with people marching and floats. Different families and groups created the floats and there was a lot of friendly competition for the best ones. There must have been a band, at least for the parade, but I don't recall that."

All these stories led me to do further research. I want to share with you some of the rich resources available to all. In *The Heath Fair Cookbook* (1983), edited by Alli Thane and Sophie Coe, there is an informative history of the Fair by Dr. Michael Coe. There are many references to the Fair in *The Book of Heath – Bicentennial Essays*, edited by Susan Sylvester, including a wonderful essay about the Fair by Esther Dickinson.

("Recollections of Past Heath Fairs" continued on page 4)

(*"Recollections of Past Heath Fairs"* continued from page 3)

Pearle Tanner, the wife of Homer Tanner, wrote a column for the *Greenfield Gazette and Courier* from 1925 to 1948. She kept clippings of articles in three scrapbooks that were left to the Heath Historical Society. These are fascinating and contain many photographs of past fairs. One article notes that in 1946, fifteen hundred attended the 19th Heath Fair. The scrapbooks are in fragile condition.

One of my favorite *Herald* articles is the August-September 2006 one by Carroll Stowe, "The Old Heath Fair"; It says so much about the Fair and the people of Heath. In Volume 3, #3 (August-September 1981), there is the article by Pat Leuchtman, "Preparing for the Heath Fair." "Fair time is that happy time of year when all the knowledge and skill that goes into every aspect of life in Heath is recognized and applauded. The real wealth of the Town is on display..."

So hurryay for Heath and its 90th Fair! August 17 - 19.
See you there!

The Heath Fair

When the third week of August
Comes rolling around,
And, the whole town of Heath
Heads for the Fairgrounds.

It might be the rain
But, we hope for the sun,
And, the whole town of Heath
Comes out for the fun,

They come along from Heath,
A little hill town,
And, others come along
From the towns all around .

The workers at the Fairgrounds
Working all year
To make the fair a big success
And one of fun and cheer.

When the harnessed-up horses
Head for the pit,
They pull all the day
'Till the stars are lit.

And the yokes of oxen
Gather on Sunday
To pull at the fair
And parade down the midway.

In the exhibit hall
Is a free-for-all
With Jack's Blueberries
And the pictures on the wall.

And the beauty of the flowers
Lining up along the wall
Giving off their odors
To sweeten up the hall.

Baked goods, canned goods
Line the center rows.
Good things to eat
At the Heath Fair show.

Handmade quilts
Waiting for the judges' "say,"
Waiting for their prize
On this their special day.
Down the children's aisle
It is a lot of fun
Waiting for the judges
To make their run.

The vegetables are grown
In the hot summer sun,
And, the crochet and the knitting
Is a whole lot of fun.

The kids are scrambling for the rides
And, the fleas are finding sales,
And, all of the animals
Are wagging their tails.

The concession stands
Lining up the midway,
And, the music thunders
On the midway all day.

A certain time comes
And, the chickens know when,
They get up on their legs
When the clock strikes ten.

The chickens all know
That the firemen are there
To get them on the grill
With patient, loving care.

When it's time to start cooking
The chickens stand still.
They'll jump to the center
Of the barbecue grill,
And, the people are waiting
To get their bellies filled.

The smells of the barbecue
Drifting through the fair
Make you real hungry
When the noontime is here.

So, stand in a line
And, get your tickets for
A barbecued chicken
And, you might want more.

At the Heath Fairgrounds
That lasts for three days,
We'll meet our hearty neighbors
And our friends along the way.

There is judging for the cattle,
Goats, sheep, and rabbits, too,
And the fair at Heath, Mass.
Welcomes all of you.

When the fire trucks whistle
Below the fairgrounds,
From down on the road
You can hear parade sounds.

The police chief is leading
And, all the firemen are there,
And, the vehicles are polished
With the utmost tender care.
And the candy bars are flying
Toward the children everywhere.

The crown strolls on the midway,
Watching fireworks at night.
They're dancing in the cow barns
'Till the early morning light,
And the fun is at the fairgrounds
Until the coming Sunday night.

And the animals are ready
To leave the old fairgrounds.
They grunt and squeal and bleat and moo,
And make all kinds of sounds.

So, collect up all your goodies.
Put the kids in with the load,
And the animals are in the trucks.
It's time to head for home.

The goats, sheep, and the rabbits,
And the horses and the steers,
And the people heading up the road
Are calling,
"We'll see you here next year."

Bertha (Jimmy) Akley
Readsboro, VT

HHS Supper

The supper will be held downstairs in the Community Hall- Senior Center this year on Saturday, August 25. It will begin at 5:00 p.m. and it will be a buffet style repast, but with a French-Canadian twist. We do have to guarantee the number of persons, though, so reservations are an absolute must. Please call Jane deLeeuw at 337-8594 or sign up at the Fair in the Solomon Temple Barn. The cost for an adult is \$9.00 and children under 12 can eat for \$4.00. You may pay at the door but you must make a reservation! The Senior Center staff has assured us there will be a delicious selection of French Canadian meat pies and a secret dessert. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

Heath Historical Society at the Fair

The Solomon Temple Barn Museum will be open for visitors during the Heath Fair on Friday, August 17, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.; on Saturday, August 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and on Sunday, August 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Society's publications will be on sale as usual with three new reprints available: the *Heath, Mass. Centennial* book, *The Christian Patriot*, and *The Heath Bicentennial*. We have had many requests for these books so we hope you will come in and look them over.

HHS Raffle

We are going to have another raffle this year as usual during the Fair.

- First Prize will be a gorgeous 100% wool queen-size blanket! This luxuriously soft blanket is white with green trim and will be on display during the Heath Fair in the Solomon Temple Barn.
- Second prize will be a beautiful handmade wall hanging by Marcia's Custom Quilting.
- Third prize will be a half-gallon of Mike Girard's prize-winning Heath maple syrup.

Don't miss out! Purchase your tickets at the Solomon Temple Barn during the Heath Fair, August 17 -19. Single raffle tickets will sell for \$1.00 or you may purchase seven tickets for \$5.00. The drawing will be held at our Annual Meeting on August 25. You do not need to be present to win.

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The Heath Historical Society

Founded in 1900

Invites you to join us for our

Annual Meeting and Supper

Saturday, August 25, 2007

at the

Heath Community Hall

5 P.M. Buffet Supper downstairs

Pay at the door - Adults - \$9.00

Children under 12 - \$4.00

Reservations are absolutely necessary!

Sign up at the Fair in the Solomon Temple Barn
or call Jane deLeeuw at 337-8594

by August 19th

6:30 P.M. The Annual Meeting and Raffle

will be held upstairs

followed by an illustrated talk on

The French and Indian War

Our speaker will be Paul Truex of Chester, VT,
who has studied the

genealogy and history of the War for over 40 years

Be there! All are welcome

Reservations Required by August 19th ~ call 413-337-8594

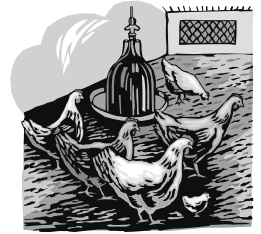
***The Heath
Historical Society's
Old Town House and
Center Schoolhouse
Museums in Heath
Center will be open to the
public on the
following Saturdays:***

***September 1* October 6
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.***



Wild Ramblings

Oasis



By Bill Lattrell

To the best of my knowledge everyone called her Grandma Granger. She was the grandmother to the children of our next-door neighbors on the street where I grew up. Grandma Granger was a slight woman, you might even say very thin. She had rosy cheeks, white hair neatly pulled back to a bun that was held in place with a silver hair comb, and the slightest wire frame glasses that I have ever seen. The frames of these glasses could barely be seen, and each round glass the wire frames contained were not too much bigger than a fifty-cent piece. Grandma Granger always wore a floral-patterned dress, usually blue, and I never saw her one time without an apron.

Our neighbor, Mrs. Adamczyk, often took care of me. I would frequently travel with her to her mother's homestead. The homestead contained a modest, fading, white two-story house, complete with a side porch that overlooked the yard, chicken coop, small orchard, and field. The kitchen, located just off the side porch, had a hand water pump (boy, was my five-year-old mind fascinated with that!), a complete set of pantry shelves, and a wooden floor. In the summer the screen door that opened up to the side porch would creak open and slap shut with each entering or exiting person. I remember the kitchen best because that's where I spent most of my time in this happy house.

The house was surrounded by shade trees and was always cool in the summer. There were gardens bordering the perimeter of the house. Yes, they contained a few weeds given that Grandma Granger was getting on in years, but they seemed to reflect her warm and welcoming spirit. Chickens could be found scattered about through the yard picking up bugs out of the grass like some living decoration that helped to paint the picture. Grandma Granger could often be seen crossing the yard with a few eggs nested in her apron as she searched the bushes for breakfast.

Grandma Granger was a pleasant, happy woman. She especially loved children and treated each and every child as if he or she were her own. Upon arriving I would always look forward to her soft hand on the side of my cheek and a quiet, welcoming "hello" that seemed to warm me up inside like the first spring sun gently warming my face.

Not too far to the south of her house was a very, very old apple tree that had branches that were about one and a half-feet-thick. A swing comprised of two ropes and a board seat was suspended from one of the larger branches. The ropes were short, so you could not swing too high, which was just a little disconcerting to my adventuresome spirit.

The small apple orchard had six or seven old Baldwin apple trees. They did not bear fruit every year, but when they did it seemed to be a bumper crop. Further to the south there was a swale buried in jewelweed. After a rain storm the jewelweed would turn to a silver cover looking like something in a Brothers Grimm fairytale. Along this swale there were all kinds of fruit-bearing brambles: blackberries, red raspberries, black raspberries, wild roses, dewberries, and large flowering raspberries. Grandma Granger would have us pick berries when they were ripe. I, in particular, had a hard time separating the different kinds of berries. Her pantry shelves were lined with pint-size jelly jars of raspberry and blackberry jam and jelly and a few marked "mixed fruit" bearing the name "Billyberries" from one irreverent picker. There were also Mason jars of whole fruits preserved in sugar water for a delicious addition to cereal or a stand-alone dessert. I was fascinated with the combination and contrast of the colorful jars on the pantry shelves. In my young mind this was the ultimate art! And now, years and years later, I realize that it was the ultimate art.

There was a small vegetable garden just to the east and south of the house, near the edge of the meadow. There she grew a few heads of lettuce, peas, beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and corn. She only worked in the garden in the early morning when the temperatures were cool and the bugs were fierce! Gardening always seemed to make the smile on her face just a little bigger.

There was a small meadow to the east of Grandma Granger's shaded house. There the sun warmed up the soil and sprouted wildflowers from one end to the other. Daisies, hawkweed, Queen Anne's lace, bluets, buttercups, goldenrod, asters, and even some cardinal flower in one wet corner, graced the field. In the early morning and evening cottontail rabbits could be seen grazing the clover to their heart's content.

The most amazing thing about Grandma Granger's little homestead was that it was completely surrounded by city! This homestead, once thriving as a farm on the outskirts of the city of Springfield, Massachusetts, was now surrounded by a residential neighborhood to the south and west, and asphalt, a shopping center containing an A&P grocery store, a drugstore, and a pizza place to the north and east.

At night you could still hear crickets, and in the spring you could hear peepers from the nearby swale, but during the day the hustle and bustle of the ever-encroaching world invaded the edge of this wild island. Grandma Granger seemed to take it all in good stride. She went about her daily business of picking fruit, tending to her garden, and putting up the fruits of her labor. Even as a young child I noticed a distinct irony of hearing traffic in the background while she operated the creaky hand water pump filling a kettle to make her afternoon tea.

("Wild Ramblings" continued on page 7)

(“Wild Ramblings” continued from page 6)

I was a country boy used to the good sights, sounds, and feelings of rural life. I felt a little intimidated by the world of the city. I knew that in this environment my wanderings had boundaries. There were dangers out there, traffic being the most threatening enemy. There were also lots and lots of people, not all of them were friendly, and not all of them were nice. The heat gathered on the blacktop and filled the city with waves of oven-like temperatures. NOBODY seemed to stop and look at their surroundings. There was little to look at that was beautiful or pleasant. There was little to hear that was melodic. There was little to feel that made you warm and secure.

And there you have it: Grandma Granger’s perfect oasis. It was a place where a small boy could see the contrast between the old and the new, and realize he liked the old. It was a perfect refuge from the city. A small museum of what used to be, all summed up in a shaded homestead, a resourceful and gentle woman, a creaky hand water pump, and a pantry full of colorful canned fruits and vegetables, all within a stone’s throw of a hot, black parking lot, blaring horns and exhaust from the city traffic, and rows and rows of food, trucked for hundreds of miles, at the A&P.



Photo by Art Schwenger

Lucky

1994 – 2007

In December 1994, a miracle happened at the Dickinson Farm when a cold and hungry black dog arrived on the porch. Howard and Ralph tried to ignore him and looked in vain for the owner. Finally, although against the wishes of their sister Esther, they started feeding him but still did not let him in. Well, finally, because of the bitter cold, snowy weather, he was let into the workshop where the furnace is located. Esther called him “Tramp.” One day, when the door into the kitchen was left open, he got into the living room and took over Howard’s chair. He became “Lucky,” named by this writer.

For the next thirteen years he was a constant companion to the Dickinson brothers, “helping” them feed the chickens, collect and boil the sap, and saw wood. Most important, he served as the welcoming ambassador at the Farm. Loved, petted, and fed by many, he liked Howard’s cookies and my “Greenies.” Failing health in January resulted in his death. Long live the legacy of Lucky!

P.S. Anyone who has seen the movie *Dance with the White Dog* realizes the role Lucky played in the lives of Ralph and Howard.

~ Jack Cable

People in the News:



Promoted

Sandra Y. Baker, daughter of **Eileen Tougas** and the late **George Tougas** of Heath, was promoted to Sergeant First Class in the Army National Guard on April 2, 2007.

Baker originally joined the Army in 1986 and served on active duty for eleven years. She was deployed to the Gulf War during Operation “Joint Endeavor,” and she also spent a year in Bosnia. In 1997, after the birth of her daughter, Clarissa, Baker separated from active duty, and after three years, enlisted in the Army National Guard.

While assigned to the 36th Infantry Division Band at FT. Hood, Texas, SFC Baker served as a Squad Leader, Flute Section Leader, and Administrative NCOIC. She was awarded the Texas Adjutant General’s Individual Award for Distinguished Meritorious Achievement and Outstanding Service for her superb job performance during the unit’s high tempo operations.

SFC Baker will be moving to FT. Knox, Kentucky, where her husband, Sgt. Paul Baker (Army, Active Duty) has been reassigned.

New Book

Eminent photographer **Peter Brown** of Houston, Texas, and Heath, has collaborated on a new book with Kent Haruf, author of the critically acclaimed novels, *Plainsong* and *Eventide*. To be published by W.W. Norton in February 2008, the book, entitled *West of Last Chance*, will contain 140 color photographs and 40 short prose pieces.. Together, Brown and Haruf won the 2005 Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize for their documentary project *High Plains*. Brown previously authored *Seasons of Light* with poet Denise Levertov and *On the Plains* about which author Kathleen Norris wrote, “Peter Brown’s photographs of the open spaces of America’s heart reveal a complex landscape both beautiful and powerful, meditative and dynamic, vast yet intimate.”

Earns Master’s Degree

David Andrew Howland, grandson of **Dave and Pegge Howland** of Heath, recently earned his master’s degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He also won recognition as Teaching Assistant of the Year. David Andrew has begun his career with the Pratt & Whitney Division of United Technologies Corporation in East Hartford, CT.



The Herb Garden

By Pat Leuchtman

Gardening and cooking are my two favorite avocations. In summer they come together in the most delicious way. My vegetable garden has gotten smaller but I still grow lots of things for salads, and I also grow herbs which are essential in the kitchen.

Since we built the piazza and an arbor with its shade-giving wisteria, I have bordered it with an herb garden. I love being able to run just outside the door to snip a few aromatic leaves to add their special flavor to the current meal. Herbs often tend to rampant growth so I long ago gave up trying to have an orderly herb bed. No elaborately designed knot gardens for me.



Parsley, sage, and rosemary have important places in my herb garden. Parsley makes a lovely border; sage and rosemary are as handsome as they are essential in the kitchen.

I also have thyme, at least in the garden. There, common thyme has a life of its own. Once it grew in the garden like other herbs, but one day I found it had jumped into the lawn, and later that it had jumped into the un-mowed field next to the lawn. Fortunately, I am happy to have my typical weedy patch of a lawn turn into a dense mat of thyme. It does not mind drought or a rainy season and remains green and springy. It doesn't mind the lawn mower either.



Thyme is one of the ingredients of a *bouquet garni* which is usually comprised of two sprigs of parsley, a bay leaf, and a sprig of thyme, all tied together with a string or in a little cheesecloth bag. Either way, the herbs can be removed from the dish when desired. Thyme is also an ingredient of *fines herbes* which includes parsley, chives, tarragon, and chervil. Sometimes a recipe will call for the inclusion of basil, fennel, or sage, all of which I have in the garden.



Chervil is sometimes called gourmet parsley, but the flavor is more delicate.. It can be used as a salad green and as a seasoning in green soups like sorrel or spinach. Chervil is best started in the early spring when the weather is cool. It needs some sun to germinate so the seed should be sprinkled on a prepared bed and just pressed into the soil. Keep it watered until the seed germinates. Nowadays, it is also easy to buy chervil seedlings at good garden centers.

Many recipes these days call for cilantro, which looks very much like Italian flat leaf parsley but which has a distinct and strong flavor. Cilantro is actually the lower leaves of the coriander plant, so you get two for one with this plant. Cilantro leaves first, and later the coriander fruits.



No herb garden would be complete without mint. Indeed, some people have mint collections: peppermint, spearmint, chocolate mint, apple mint, pineapple mint, and orange mint. My favorite is Ashfield black-stem peppermint which was grown commercially a number of decades ago. The plant is neat, with small ridged leaves on dark stems and is as vigorous as any mint.

If I were to name a dozen of the most common culinary herbs I'd include parsley, chives, basil, dill, caraway, rosemary, sage, French tarragon, thyme, chervil, cilantro, and mint. Needless to say there are many more that will usefully, and prettily, be found in an herb garden and I do grow several more.



Lemon balm is sweet and fragrant. It looks much like a mint and grows as vigorously. The lemony leaves are a good garnish and can be added to iced tea. I grow bee balm, or bergamot, as much for the shaggy flowers in shades of red which attract hummingbirds, as for the leaves which can be used in tea. Horseradish is an unlovely, but wonderful pungent. This spring I dug a half-dozen roots from the weedy mass in front of the house and moved them into the herb garden proper, thinking they'll be easier to dig in the fall.

I finally found a spot where lovage can grow without bothering me or other garden plants. Lovage is a big plant. Mine is about six-feet-tall. Most herbs thrive in poor soil, but lovage welcomes topdressings of compost. It should be divided every fourth year because it grows so big. This will keep the plant healthy, as well as keeping it within the bounds of your garden. I dry the leaves to use in winter soups. It smells like celery and adds that flavor to soups. Very handy if you don't keep celery in the refrigerator on a regular basis.



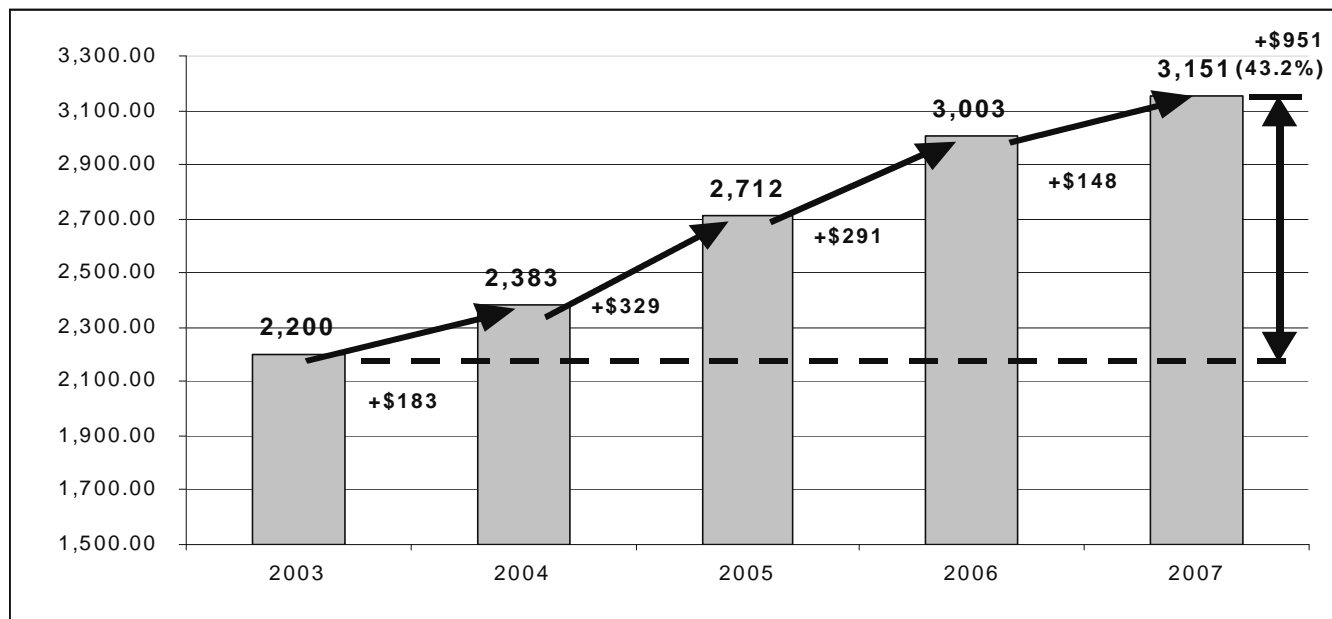
I have spearmint growing down by the orchard where the monarchs find it every August. Clouds of the butterflies descend to dine on the spearmint blossoms.

I'm sorry to say that tansy with its tough stems and golden button flowers grows in back of the Rose Walk and has escaped into the pasture and flown into any number of other locations. I planted it as an insect repellent. I cannot attest to its repelling qualities, but I can warn you against planting it without expecting to strictly control it.

I would never be without herbs. I use them in the kitchen, applaud them in the flower garden, and am grateful for them when nothing else seems to be going well in the garden. They are indestructible!



As a Taxpayer and an Assessor



As a taxpayer and an assessor, I'd like to talk about a couple of things: taxes and impermanence (we'll skip death for now). On the tax front, if you attended the Annual Town Meeting in late June, you might have picked up a copy of a sheet I attempted, surreptitiously, to introduce into the proceedings. It's a chart of the increase in average tax bills for parcels in Heath that have a residence on them. Over five years, the average bill for such a parcel has increased over 43% (from \$2,200 to \$3,151), an average annual increase of almost 10%. In ten years, it has increased over 82%.

I don't suspect that this is news to anyone who has a house in Heath. Despite the fact that the Assessors set the tax rate, we really don't have much impact on the tax bills overall, other than by the size of our own operating budget. As I've written in the past here, taxes are really due to the budget we pass at town meeting and the amount of revenue we get from the state and other sources to offset that amount.

Pat and I moved to Heath 28 winters ago. We bought an old wreck of a house and had a small mortgage we paid off fairly quickly. We've tried to fix the place up in small ways, but we live frugally, so we haven't had much money for the big stuff (like sills and the foundation – or even a real kitchen). We buy cheap or old cars and don't "get out much" as they say. Pat works part-time at the high-paying job of librarian at the Buckland Public Library, and, though I'm working full-time now at a job that pays as much as I was making in 1991, I've been known to be a sort of vocational free spirit (if one can say that): for a while I worked at the Heath School as a combined classroom-aide-cum-network-guy (at \$10 per hour); I've taught as adjunct at GCC; I've run workshops at the Shelburne Senior Center, and we went overseas for a couple of years, working for very little money. Before last January, I insisted on not working full-time so I could work as an assessor.

In essence, we have been blessed with being able to pursue work that has appealed to us, regardless of the pay. We've done this because we consciously tried to structure our lives with a certain amount of financial independence – due to the low cash flow. Some folks take the high road to financial independence, making a lot of money and then moving on. We're what I call "bottom feeders." Four years ago, we were making about half what we do now – and in a few years we may well be again.

So, what's this got to do with taxes? The tax bill is something that we have very little control over. People often point to the older folks on fixed incomes as the ones who have been and will be affected by the increase in real estate taxes that is occurring in Heath. From the little I know, I honestly cannot figure out how some of these people get by, given this situation.

But, frankly, I'm more concerned about my own life. We've kept our cash flow low to keep our freedom, really – to prevent us from getting "boxed in" financially. Yet I see exactly that happening here. I never would have thought that my real estate tax bill would increase to where it is. It is the single highest bill we pay. A friend's mother has a place on an inlet – on the water – on Cape Cod. It's about the same size as our house and is in somewhat better condition. Our Heath tax bill is higher than hers is. You could say that they have a real tax base on the Cape and we don't. A good argument, but in the end, that doesn't matter to me.

(*As a Taxpayer and an Assessor*) continued on page 10)

(“As a Taxpayer and an Assessor” continued from page 9)

We can pay our taxes. But at some point, I may want to move on from full-time employment: Maybe to teach again – or work for some other nonprofit thing. Pat, eventually, will retire. I don’t know about my fellow Heathans, but if the pattern of the last decade persists over the coming one, I don’t see how Pat and I can continue to live in Heath and keep this financial “freedom” we’ve built and cherished. Having said all of this, I have no solution to offer. I am concerned, however, that, due to the school situation, we may be about to take a quantum leap in taxes here, further exacerbating an already bad situation. We like living here. I hope that that doesn’t happen.

In any event, I am currently employed full-time and will be for a while. As a result, after 12 years, I’m going to have to move on from the assessors’ office – hence, the impermanence referred to above. I can’t seem to find a way to properly serve the Town in that capacity and work a full week. So, I’m here to try to sell the position.

I’ve enjoyed the job very much. People think that we catch a lot of grief, but that hasn’t been the case at all while I’ve been on the Board. Dealing with the public is rarely aggravating, but frequently very rewarding. The citizens of this town have been very supportive of the Board. The duties lend a fascinating look into how the Town works and, if you want to get to know your neighbors (and the physical layout of the Town) it’s a great way to do so. The Town, mercifully, has funded a clerk, so the clerical duties for the board members are nowhere near as onerous as they were just a couple of years ago. Heck, there’s a stipend, too.

There are a couple of requirements: You need to get elected (I’ve never known of a contest on that), and you need to attend “Assessors’ College” for a week (historically, the first week in August at the University of Massachusetts) to become certified. You also need to be able to go out viewing in the spring and, from time to time, be available during the day (meetings with the Department of Revenue, etc.) – hence, my recent experience that if you work full-time, this doesn’t totally work.

If you’re interested in using a computer database or spreadsheet work or are interested in computer mapping (as the town owns a GIS – geographical information system – program), that would be a great asset for the Board. I’d be happy to give some training on these things.

Well, think about it. Give me a call at 337-4316 if you want to get a sense of the job. Think about helping the Town out in a real way. Assessing is a very important part of our town government.

~ Henry Leuchtman

The *Heath Herald* will be on sale in the Friends of the Heath Library book tent during the Fair.

Friends of the Heath Free Public Library, Inc.

The Friends of the Heath Free Public Library, Inc. held their annual meeting and luncheon on July 26 at the Charlemont Inn. The agenda included the reelection of officers: Don Dekker, president; Pat Leuchtman, vice president; Jan Carr, secretary, and Jane deLeeuw, treasurer, as well as planning for the annual Book Sale at the Heath Fair. A wide selection of books of almost every genre will be for sale. We are always fortunate to have plenty of donations from townspeople to more than fill our tent.

The Book Tent will be open:

Friday - 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday - 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We look forward, as always, to seeing old friends as well as new faces. We consider all Heathans to be “Friends” of our library and invite all to attend our annual meeting as well as to sign up to work at the Book Sale during the Fair. A sign-up sheet will be in the library



*Friends of the
Heath School Library*

Look For Us At The Fair

The Friends of the Heath School Library will hold a raffle for two round-trip airline tickets, good for anywhere in the continental USA and Canada, on USAIRWAYS, date subject to availability. Tickets must be used within the year.

**ONE HUNDRED TICKETS WILL BE SOLD
AT \$10.00 EACH**

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Heath, MA 01346

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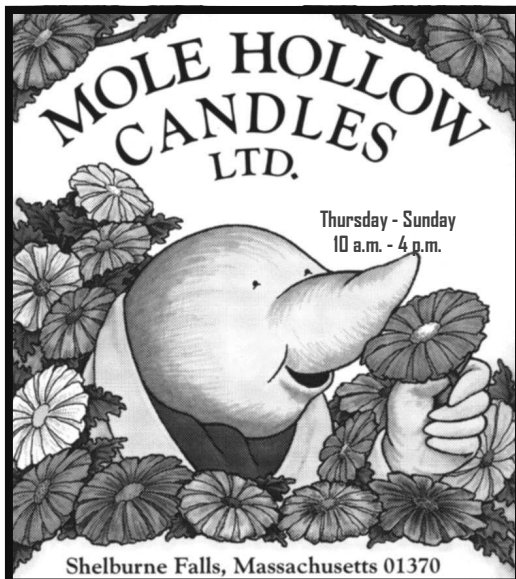
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Town Nurse Notes

Skin and Skin Care

By Robin Booth R.N.

Summer is a good time to talk about skin and skin care. Our integumentary system (or system of skin covering) is our largest organ. Yes, an organ! We need to treat it well and pay attention as it is a big part of our defense system and the part of us that is physically in contact with the world. It contains sensory organs for touch, pain, heat, cold, and pressure. It helps regulate temperature through evaporation, conduction, convection, and radiation. It comes in all colors and textures and is quite remarkable.

The skin has three basic layers: the epidermis, dermis, and subcutaneous. The outer layer, **epidermis**, shields the skin against water loss and injury from outside, either through chemical or microbial invasion. The epidermis is continually sloughing off and being replaced by new skin cells. It is at this layer that the skin contains melanocytes that give us all of our varying skin color. Bacteria live on the outer skin layer almost continuously, either in waiting for an entry or in serving the organism by inhibiting growth of harmful bacteria. The **dermis** supports the epidermis with nerve fibers, blood vessels, sweat and sebaceous glands, and hair follicles. The **subcutaneous layer** contains nerves, fatty tissue, lymph and connective tissue. It, in general, supports the layers above it.

There are many things one deals with over one's lifetime with skin. These include acne, athlete's foot, bee stings, boils, dry skin, itching skin, warts, rashes, sunburns, impetigo, insect bites, burns, splinters, fungus, eczema, and even atopic dermatitis. Most of these are common and are treatable with over-the-counter home remedies.

We all cut or scrape our skin from time to time, especially this time of year. It is important to keep these areas clean and dry, carefully covering, if open, and giving the areas attention (washing, and applying antibiotic cream) to prevent infection. Infections happen when bacteria, fungi, or viruses overwhelm our defense system (our skin and infection-fighting cells). When this happens, the area around a cut may become red, hot, painful, swollen, or have a discharge. This may even happen when there is no obvious break in the skin. Your body is letting you know it needs help! This message is important for Heath folk to pay attention to as we live in an area where we are in contact with germs that can be dangerous if not controlled! (By this I am referring here to farms and country living, not to our hygienic habits!)

At first notice of infection, I would recommend applying warm/hot compresses many times a day. After the compress, I would dry the area and apply an over-the-counter cream and cover with a Band-Aid that will cover the area well. This will usually aid healing. Keep paying attention to the area. If you cannot get an infection under control within a very few days, or the area continues to worsen, or you get systemic illness (fever, decreased appetite, or general malaise) seek medical attention very soon. It really is nothing to mess with. I have a number of friends whose lives and limbs have been permanently affected by infection.

Lastly, I can't, as a "good" nurse, leave a discussion of skin without stressing the importance of hand washing. Our hands are constantly touching everything, and everything has bacteria and germs. I am not phobic and believe in letting my immune system have a workout, but I get my hands into things and ...they get dirty. I also know my hands rub my eyes, scratch my skin, swat away blackflies, and yes, prep my food. The more my hands are washed, the less chance they have to spread everything they carry everywhere. I know you get the picture.

So, have fun in the sun (with sunscreen!), and enjoy the sensations of summer.

My office hours are 10:00 a.m. until noon on Wednesdays in the Community Hall - Senior Center where I can be reached at 337-4847 or you can leave messages in my mailbox upstairs in the Town Hall.



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

Finance Committee Report

At Heath's Annual Town Meeting (ATM) on May 12, voters supported Heath's share of Mohawk District's FY08 operating school budget of \$727,055 and Franklin County Technical School's \$87,995. Also approved were Mohawk's capital budget of \$26,559 and Heath's Elementary School mortgage of \$68,359. Voting on most other monetary commitments including the Town's operating budget was postponed to June 23 because of unknowns pending at the State level plus questions as to how to handle some \$500,000 in estimated damages to Heath's roads resulting from storm damage on Bunker Hill Day. The Finance Committee (FinCom) supported the school budgets because Mohawk's operating assessment increase of 3.4% was more than offset by a lower assessment for Franklin County Tech (two fewer students) and declining capital costs. We noted at the time that assessments for all the other schools in the District were higher than Heath's due to revised Net Minimum Contributions as calculated by the State. We didn't think it could get better than that! Subsequently the towns of Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, and Hawley did not pass Mohawk's overall increase of 4.58% prompting the State to mandate a one-twelfth spending plan effective July 1. State Commissioner of Education David Driscoll, who is empowered to review Mohawk's situation, has since approved a 4.1% increase over last year's budget, which means all towns will receive a reduction in their assessment. For Heath this reduction amounts to \$2,017.

At the follow-up meeting on June 23, the Town's operating budget for FY08 was approved in the amount of \$895,988, a \$56,745 (6.8%) increase over FY07. There was one reduction; the Preschool budget of \$26,329 was reduced to \$10,000 due to the State's renewal of a grant. Changes in early childhood education funding are expected in FY09. The increase in the Town's budget was due primarily to rising energy costs, Assessors' re-valuation expenses and badly needed salary adjustments for Town employees. No major capital expenditures were planned for FY08, but there are modest ones of \$15,000 for roof work on the Firehouse and about \$6,200 for Internet high-speed capability at the Town Hall and Highway Department. The State, which is demanding more and more lengthy, complicated reports via computer, paid first-year costs for the service in FY07 but then let it be a matter for towns to cope with in FY08. Emergency management needs at the Highway Department are part of that picture. High-speed Internet service is badly needed in Western Massachusetts for economic development, but the area's rural nature and regulatory complexities are making it a very slow process.

Other important money votes taken on June 23 were the transfer from Free Cash of \$50,000 to reduce taxes and \$30,000 to the Stabilization Fund. An additional \$4,802 from the Overlay Surplus Account to reduce taxes, and \$1,500 for the preservation of Whittemore Spring on South Road were approved also. Additional support for the spring by the Heath Historical Society should enable the Town to maintain this historic spring for the public.

Also on June 23, the ATM voted unanimously for changes in the Mohawk Regional District Agreement that were proposed by

Heath residents in a petition this past spring. The changes are intended to clarify issues regarding the closing of schools by involving towns more in decision making. These changes are to be forwarded to the District's School Committee for their consideration.

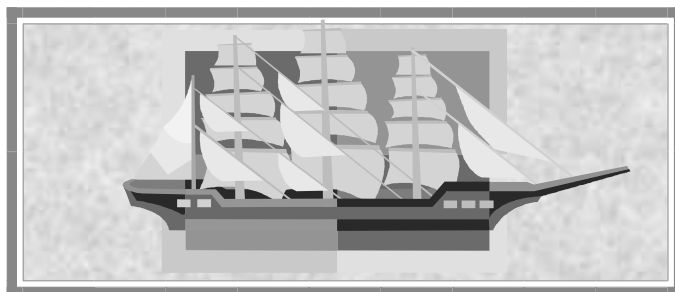
There were two Special Town Meetings (STM) held prior to the ATM on June 23. At the first one, which had been postponed to this date, it was voted to permit the Town to borrow up to \$490,000 for storm damages mentioned above. It is hoped/expected that FEMA and/or MEMA will reimburse the Town for most of these expenses. To date some \$200,000 has been spent for repair work. At the second STM \$6,770.59 in transfers from Free Cash were approved mostly for Highway Department expenses. All these transfers from Free Cash leave \$19,628.41 in that account for carryover to FY08. It is considered prudent practice to leave some money in that account in the event of a shortfall in receipts.

The Assessors distributed an interesting chart of average tax bills for the years 2003 through 2007. It showed a 43.2% increase for that period with 2004 reflecting the largest increase. That was the year the State reduced its support for the Mohawk District by over 20% thereby shifting an unfair portion of K-12 education costs to local taxpayers. School issues have dominated the local financial scene since then. We hope the new Administration's efforts to address education issues will result in a fairer distribution of tax dollars. As for the FY08 tax rate, the Assessors won't have a number until after the new three-year valuation is completed in the fall, but the tax levy increase is about 3%.

In other business, Dave Gott was appointed by the Selectboard and FinCom to serve out the term of Budge Litchfield, who resigned when he was promoted to Principal of Sanderson Academy. We appreciate the long and helpful service Budge rendered the FinCom. Dave Howland and Ned Wolf continue in their positions of chair and secretary for FY08. Janis Carr and Jeff Simmons round out the FinCom's membership.

Finally, we have heard favorable comments about the upbeat tone of Heath's town meetings. We believe they result from the humorous comments of some participants, candor in communicating facts, breakfast sponsored by the Friends of Heath School Library, and Moderator Doug Wilkins' outstanding skill in handling proceedings. May it so continue...

~ Dave Howland, Chair
Ned Wolf
Janis Carr
Dave Gott
Jeff Simmons



HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

It has been an extraordinary spring for the Fair. People have come forward with energy, generosity, and good spirits to help preserve and build an event that is clearly so important a part of our town. If you haven't already seen it, take a look in the Premium Book, available at the library, the Town Hall, Peters' Store, and many other places in the county, to see all the names of new officers and superintendents. And don't forget to get your entries in!

We would like to thank the many volunteers, too numerous to mention, who have showed up faithfully at meetings and work bees and on their own time to help organize the Fair and get the Fairgrounds ready and who have signed up to help at Fair time. Several people have given of their special expertise. Special thanks go to Fred Burrington for his art work and to Susan Smith for her awesome graphics skills which gave us our posters, brochures, T-shirts and the Premium Book cover. Also, thanks are due to Carol Sartz for lining up the music and soliciting underwriters to support it. It's a terrific program. We are grateful to Jenna Day, Eileen Tougas, and Carol-Ann Eldridge for their work on the Premium Book and to the Franklin County Jail for printing it. Big thanks are due to Julie Sidon and Jan Carr, who rendered extraordinary service getting our financial books in order and enabling us to be eligible for essential grants. And big thanks as well to Nancy Reiche of The Community Fund and the Dickinson Family Fund for Historic Heath for their very generous and ongoing support of the Fair.

Our program this year has been enriched by several people who have volunteered to provide talks and demonstrations in animal husbandry, sustainable energy, and blacksmithing. We are grateful to Kevin Ford, Randy Hemminger, Joe Kovach, John Passiglia, and Walt Congdon for sharing their expertise.

Of course, it's not just the new energy that has been important. There has been a faithful crew who have kept the Fair going for as long as many of us can remember. Without their long-term and determined commitment there would be no Fair today: Grace Crowningshield, Bob Delisle, Dave Freeman, Janet Giard, Conrad Halberg, Tom Lively, Christine O'Brien, Teresa Peters, Norm Sessions, Mary Smith, Roy Smith, Doug Stetson, Alli Thane-Stetson, Robert and Donna Tanner, Bradley Tombs, Shirley Tombs, Doug and Cathy Wilkins, Laurie York, and the voice of the Fair, Art Schwenger.

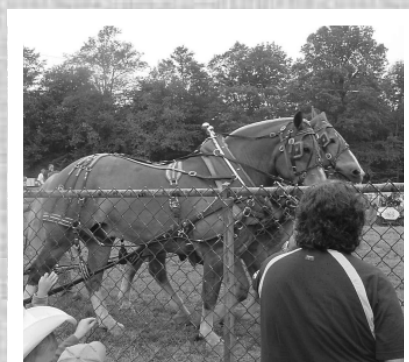
Finally, the Heath Agricultural Society would like to thank the following businesses, organizations, and individuals for their generous contributions to the Fair:

Grants

The Fred W. Wells Trust
The Dickinson Family Fund for
Historic Heath at The Community
Foundation and
The Massachusetts Cultural Council

Donations

Mark Brown and Karen Freidland
Peter Brown and Jill Fryer



Donations (continued)

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 Jim Carse and Donna Marder
 Michael Coe
 Lisa and Charlie Cornish
 Stephanie Dyer Carroll
*on behalf of the Dyer Family:
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 Alexander, and Olivia*
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SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

~ Pam Porter
 Gloria Fisher
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- Contact us about the spread, walking the land, this year's crop, or to see how you can assist in the community effort to preserve and transfer this farm. (413) 337-5340, www.gis.net/benplace, benplace@gis.net.

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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.

Selectboard's Report

Summer Meeting Schedule

The Board is on a summer schedule of meeting every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall that started May 21. The remaining summer meeting date is 8/20.

Special Town Meetings and Annual Town Meeting Continuation

The Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meetings of May 12 were reconvened on Saturday June, 23. The Special Town meeting was continued because state approval was needed for the proposed emergency borrowing for storm damage repairs necessitated by the Patriot's Day storm. State approval was obtained, and the article for borrowing was passed by the meeting. Another Special Town Meeting was added to the day to transfer funds to accounts with deficits. The three articles passed unanimously.

The continuation of the Annual Town Meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. Most of the appropriations were tabled at the May 12 meeting because the state budget had not been finalized and the amount of state aid to the towns was not determined. Seven of the thirty-one articles remained to be considered including Article Three, the Town budget. Of the line items questioned by members of the meeting: appropriations for high-speed-internet services for the town offices, highway and fire departments; Assessors clerk's salary; Board of Health clerk; FRCOG health agent services, and Preschool support, generated the most discussion. Article Three was approved. The remaining six articles passed as well. Of note was an article to enter into an intergovernmental mutual aid agreement that would make the Town eligible for reimbursement for aid, other than police and fire assistance, given to a member town during an emergency. Board of Health services could be needed in an emergency in an adjacent community. A total of slightly more than \$2,000,000 dollars was appropriated for FY08 which is about a 3.6% increase over the previous fiscal year's budget. The Selectboard wishes to thank the Friends of the Heath School Library for providing refreshments for the town meetings.

Storm Damage

Most of the storm damage repairs have been completed as of this date. Temporary workers were hired to help the highway crew stay ahead of the workload of regularly scheduled summer tasks with the added burden of the storm repairs. They did a great job considering the state of the roads in April after the storm. Special thanks are due to Mike Smith and Gloria Fisher for their dogged determination in wading through the mountain of paperwork to obtain federal disaster aid for the repair work.

Appointments and Vacancies

The Town is in need of an animal inspector. The duties of the position include: documenting the livestock in town; reviewing the conditions of their care and keeping; investigating complaints of neglect or abuse; monitoring cases of disease; making reports to the town Board of Health and to the State. If anyone is interested, please contact the Board at the town offices. A small stipend is provided for this position.

Dog Officer

Since his appointment as Dog Officer, Bob Tanner has been doing a good job responding to various dog issues about town. Dog complaint forms are available at the Town Hall and online at www.townofheath.org.

High-Speed Internet

Town voters approved monies to maintain high-speed Internet access at Sawyer Hall. The Board decided to continue with the T1 line due to it being faster and more dependable than the satellite system. The wireless connection is available at Sawyer Hall and the Community Hall.

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 currently being switched to another service provider and is undergoing a face-lift so keep checking back. 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

Heath Board of Health

The Heath Board of Health (BOH) is now meeting weekly: Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m.

Our current membership is:

Kris Burnes, chair 339-4246

Jenna Day 339-8321(h) or 834-0034 (c)

Jeff Peck 339-8321 (h) or 834-0034 (c)

Dawn Peters 337-4014

Jeff Simmons 337-4994

We would like to thank the town voters for approving the line item for clerk to the BOH and for the funds to subcontract some services to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Jenna Day is the clerk to the BOH and Jeff Simmons will be overseeing Glen Ayres from FRCOG to implement the Camper/Trailer occupancy permit program.

The Board has divided the responsibilities for our programs among the five members. Please look to our poster board downstairs at the Town Hall for this information and updates on all of our programs. For now our minutes are still upstairs in the office. We have been receiving water quality test results on Pa-poose Lake that look good. We will post them downstairs.

A reminder to all: if you are selling or buying a residence in Massachusetts, a Title V inspection is required. This is the seller's responsibility.

The clerk will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Our e-mail is boh@townofheath.org.

~ Jenna Day

New Program for Disposal of Latex Paint

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is offering a new product to assist District residents in disposing of latex (water-based) paint: latex paint hardener. State law prohibits the disposal of liquid waste with trash, so residents must dry out liquid latex paint before disposing of it. For \$1 per bag, residents can purchase enough paint hardener for one gallon of paint. Once the paint is hardened and dry, residents can put it in their trash or in a bulky waste container, if their town's transfer station has one. Latex paint is not hazardous and is not accepted at the District's annual or regional hazardous waste collections. To purchase a bag of paint hardener, call (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD)

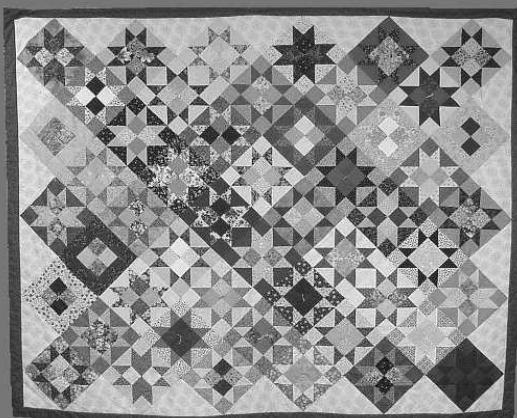
Remember to reduce: When purchasing paint, buy only the amount you will need.

Remember to reuse: If you have latex paint that is still usable, consider giving it away to neighbors, friends, schools, or nonprofit organizations. It may be usable as a primer if it is not the right final color. For more information about disposal of hazardous products, visit the Franklin County Solid Waste District Web site at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or call (413) 772-2438.

MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD)

The District is an equal opportunity provider.

Ladies Aid Raffle



The raffle drawing for the new Ladies Aid quilt will be held at the Fair on Sunday, August 19, 3:30 p.m. Until then, tickets, 6 for \$5.00, will be available from Ladies Aid members.

The Heath Historical Society

Notice to all area residents – The history of Heath is a vital part of our community. We urge you to join the Society and take part in preserving Heath's past. We are proud of our collections and buildings as well as the Fort Shirley site, dating from 1744, and the Anna Norton gravesite. The Old Town House, the Center Schoolhouse, and the Solomon Temple Barn Museums all contain historic artifacts and documents. All are preserved for present and future generations. Please join us – your participation and contributions will be greatly appreciated.

~ Jack Cable
President

Application for Membership

Please enroll me as a:

- 1 Regular Membership (\$5.00)
- 2 Contributing Member (\$15.00)
- 3 Life Member (\$75.00)
- 4 Patron (\$100.00)
- 5 Junior Member (under 18 years, \$1.00)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Mail to: The Heath Historical Society
Post Office Box 698
Heath, MA 01346



Heath Business Directory

Bald Mountain Pottery

625-8110

The Benson Place

Wild Blueberries & Blueberry Spread
337-5340

Fred Burrington

Artist
337-4302

Dave Cote Builders

Branch Hill Road
337-4705

Robert Delisle

Electrician
337-5716

Russell E. Donelson

Design/Construction/Cabinetry
337-4460

Jerry Ferguson

Home Improvement
Lic. Electrician
337-4317

Earl M. Gleason

Fire Equipment
337-4948

Heath Brook Studio

Glass and Baskets
337-5736

Maple Ledge Goldens

AKC Registered Golden Retrievers
337-4705

John Mooney

Custom Remodeling
337-8344

Wanda Mooney

Realtor
337-8344

Tripp's Blueberries

Taylor Brook Road
337-4964

Paul Turnbull

Janice Boudreau
Commercial/Wedding Photographers
337-4033

Bonnie Wodin

Custom Gardens & Landscapes
337-5529

Support Your Local Businesses

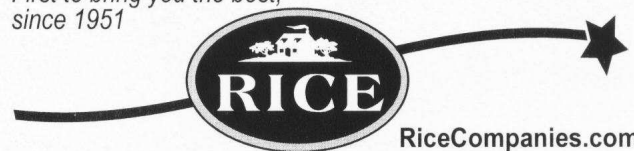
If you would like more information about the Heath Enterprise Council, please call Alicia Tripp at 337-4964



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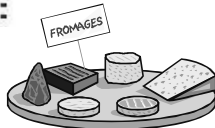
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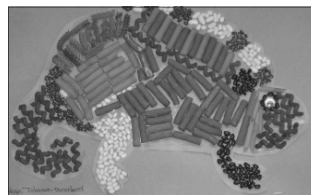
By Donald Purington

The Summer Reading Program kicked off on June 22, not with a bang, but with a strum of guitar strings. Sarah Pirtle brought her guitar, her beautiful voice, and an assortment of instruments from around the world to the Community Hall for a wonderful concert. Many people in the audience joined in to sing along and play instruments as they learned new songs and enjoyed old favorites.

The show was planned to be held outside on the Town Common, but a cold, rainy day made it an easy decision to move into the spacious upstairs of the Hall. Sarah opened her performance with "Over the Rainbow," a tribute to the faint rainbow she spotted over the eastern horizon as the setting sun peeked out of the clouds shortly before the show began.

Visitors to the library are enjoying our summer display of local arts and crafts. Children from the Heath School have loaned about 30 pieces created in their art classes, which are taught by Polly Anderson. Their work explores portraits, use of shapes, mixing of colors, and textures. We are also pleased to have Tucker Litchfield's blown glass in the display case.

The Friends of the Library will host their annual book sale under the big white tent at the Heath Fair. This is their biggest fund-raiser of the year and your support is appreciated. Please stop by to say hello and browse the large selection of used books.



New at the Library:

Adult Fiction Books: *In the Woods* by Tana French, *Life's a Beach* by Claire Cook, *Philosophy Made Simple* by Robert Hellenga, and *Vineyard Stalker* by Philip R. Craig.

Adult Nonfiction Books: *The Canon: a Whirligig Tour of the Beautiful Basics of Science* by Natalie Angier, *A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton* by Carl Bernstein, and *Gathering Peace* by Carol Purington

Books on CD: *The May Trees* by Annie Dillard (we also have the hardcover book), *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield, and *Einstein* by Walter Isaacson.

Books on Tape: *Angle of Repose* (winner of the 1972 Pulitzer Prize for fiction) by Wallace Stegner, and *On Writing: a Memoir of the Craft* by Stephen King.

Playaway Audiobooks: This is a new format for audiobooks. Smaller than a deck of cards, the battery powered player is controlled by a few buttons on the back and listened to with headphones, or it can be broadcast through your home or car stereo speakers. We have five books for you to try: *Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky, *Obsession* by Jonathan Kellerman, *Blessed are the Cheesemakers* by Sarah Kate Lynch, *Letters of a Woman Homesteader* by Elinore Pruitt Stuart, and *Founding Fathers: Architects of a Nation* by the editors of Encyclopedia Britannica.

Young Adult Books: *The White Giraffe* by Lauren St. John, *Things Hoped For* by Andrew Clements, and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by J. K. Rowling.

Young Adult Nonfiction Books: *Presidents of the United States* by the editors of *Time For Kids*, *Amelia to Zora: 26 Women Who Changed the World* by Cynthia Chin-Lee, and *Massachusetts* by Joan Leotta.

Children's Picture Books: *House Takes a Vacation* by Jacquel Davies, *Violet's Music* by Angela Johnson, *Here's a Little Poem* edited by Jane Yolen.

DVDs: *Catch and Release*, *Fast Food Nation*, *The Good Shepherd*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and *The Sopranos: The Complete First Season*.



Photos by
Don Purington



Heath Deed Transfers

Patricia M. Armenta of West Suffield, CT, to Santo Armenta of West Suffield, CT, 44 Papoose Lake Drive. \$1.00.

Dwight M. and Noelle R. Belville of Westfield to Leonard W. Ferst Jr. of Westfield, 5 West Brook Drive, Unit 3, Mohawk Estates. No consideration.

Luelle Benson to John C. Gary, Avery Brook Road, \$4,000.

Brown Family Trust of Palo Alto, CA, Sydney T. Brown, Trustee, to Mark M. Brown, Peter T. Brown, Thomas S. Brown, and Alison Ehara-Brown, all of Palo Alto, CA, Branch Hill and Ledges Roads. \$1.00.

Philip G. Buker of Greenfield to Carol A. Buker of Shelburne Falls and Ruth E. Gray of Deerfield, Rowe Road, land also in Rowe. \$1.00.

Tom C. Carlson and Robyn S. Provost-Carlson to Robyn S. Provost-Carlson of Charlemont, 23 Jacksonville State Road, (Route 8A North). \$1.00.

Frederick A. Crowningshield to Michael D. Coe, Colrain Road, Lot A. \$30,000.

May B. Churchill to Claire L. Betit of Jacksonville, VT, 361 Route 8A. \$1.00.

Michael S. and Karen E. Dirck of Southington, CT, and Karen Dirck to NRLL East LLC of Irvine, CA, Sadoga Road, Lots 14 and 15, 10.01 acres. \$14,000.

Myron G. Ford estate, Ann Catherine Kaminsky, individually and Executor; Douglas David Ford, Matthew J. Ford, and Rod Joseph Ford to Michael deLeeuw, Long Hill Road. \$25,000.

Gwen E. Gurney to Gwen E. Gurney, 59 Waterfall Drive. \$1.00

James M. Grady of Holyoke to James M. and Johanna E. Grady, Irrevocable Trust of Allston, Maureen A. Grady, Trustee, Clearwater Drive, Lot 8. \$1.00.

James M. Grady to James M. and Johanna E. Grady, Irrevocable Trust, Maureen A. Grady, Trustee, Clearwater Drive, Lot 9. \$1.00.

James M. Grady to James M. and Johanna E. Grady, Irrevocable Trust, Maureen A. Grady, Trustee, Clearwater Drive, Lot 10. \$1.00.

William R. Jr. and Priscilla E. Handrich Family Trust of Hadley, William R. and Priscilla E. Handrich, Trustees, to Steven F. Smead, 37 Sherman Drive. \$72,500.

Smead A. Hillman to Sandra L. McCloud of Charlemont and Linda Chapin of Northfield, 27 Underwood Hill Road. \$1.00.

David Kratt by Novastar Mortgage Inc. to Novastar Mortgage Inc., 39 Modoc Street. \$66,200.

Robert T. and Karen Markert of Rowe to Jennifer T. Hyer, 11 Ledges Road. \$90,000.

Eric Maslak of Southampton to Dennis Wilder of Stonington, CT, Mohawk Estates, Lots 4-7. \$30,000.

Lynne McGarry of Stewartsville, NJ, to John S. and Andrea R. Kliphouse of Pompton Lakes, NJ, 47 Sumner Stetson Road, \$57,000.

Patricia A. McReynolds of Henderson, NV, to Daniel J. and Jennifer K. Sheridan of West Springfield, 199 South Road. \$180,000.

Richard Meyer and S. Ashley Thompson of Glastonbury, CT, to Richard Meyer of Middletown, CT, Underwood Hill

Road, Lot 2, 12.7 acres. \$1.00.

Mark J. Miller to James A. Miller of Hinsdale, NH, Deer Run Path, Lots 17 and 18. \$100.

James E. Morriss of Oak Beach, NY, and Donald N. Dekker to Donald N. Dekker, 6 Long Hill Road. Less than \$100.

Robert C. and June E. Opsitnick of Granby to Shawn E. and Kathy L. Monroe of Haddam, CT, Swamp Road, Lots 36 and 37. \$30,000.

Neil C. and Julie A. Pasquantonio to William T. II and Anne H. Emmet, 284 Number Nine Road. \$280,000.

Paul T. and Deborah A. Plante to Gary R. Josefiak, 191 Number Nine Road. \$137,000.

Vaughn D. and Joanna V. Robinson to Jansen T. McNay, 15 Swamp Road. \$212,000.

Richard C. and Sina Q. Romano of West Suffield, CT, to Patricia M. Armenta of West Suffield, CT, 44 Papoose Lake Drive. \$31,500.

Michael D. and Crystal A. Smith to Zebediah C. Crossman and Courtney L. Zarish of Colrain, 250 Route 8A North/Jacksonville Stage Road. \$158,000.

Philip Stanhope, bankrupt, Lynne F. Riley, Trustee, to Todd P. Richardson of Charlemont, South Road, also known as Harris Road, land also in Charlemont. \$40,000.

Pamela Stevens of Whately to Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc., 21 Navaho Lane, \$1.00.

Mark Summers to Gregory W. and Barbara A. Rode, Sadoga Road, Lot 18. \$9,000.

Anne J. Szafranowicz of South Hadley to William A. and Staci D. Dralle of Middletown, CT, Mohawk Estates, Lots 22 and 23. \$5,500

James P. and Diane Thane to James P. Thane, 20 Knott Road. Less than \$100.

William R. Trumble of Mashpee to Colin David and Debbie J. Daniels of Mays Landing, NJ, 41 Deer Run Path, Lots 21 and 22. \$7,000.

David VanDerpoel and Theresa VanDerpoel to Olin Schwenger-Sartz, 45 Rowe Road. \$97,500.

Stanley P. and Mary Ann Waluk of South Deerfield to Earl D. Wickline, 208 Taylor Brook Road. \$215,000.

Suzanne E. Williams to Sandra Donovan, Clearwater Drive, Lots 5 and 18. \$1.00.

Wilmeth Family Trust of Providence, RI, Don B. and Judy E. Wilmeth, Trustees, to John C. and Judith B. Doherty, South Road, Parcel 2. \$30,000.

Compiled by
~ Pegge Howland

Errata

To clear up some confusion in the article by the Landstrom sisters about Mrs. Moors in the last issue (June/July 2007)....

In the seventh paragraph on page 9, it should read "After she restored the Manse, she bought the former Town Farm and later the farm where Walt Gleason now lives." Two different farms. Sincere apologies to the three sisters!

Community Calendar

August 2007

August 08 - Mohawk School Committee Meeting

August 16 - Fair Exhibits accepted between
4:00 and 8:00 p.m.

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

AUGUST 17, 18, 19 - HEATH FAIR

August 25 - Heath Historical Society Annual Supper,
Community Hall- Senior Center,
5:00 p.m. and Annual Meeting,
6: 30 p.m.

August 28 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Schools open half day to 12:45,
no kindergarten

August 29 - Schools open half day, no kindergarten

August 30 - Mohawk grades 7 – 12, full day
Heath School, full day
Kindergarten, half day

August 31 - Mohawk grades 7 – 12, full day
Heath School, full day
Kindergarten, half day

September 2007

September 01 - Heath Historical Society's Old School
House and Center Schoolhouse
open for visitors, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

September 03 - LABOR DAY

September 04 - Schools, all grades, full day
Heath School kindergarten , full day

September 06 - Senior Luncheon, Community
Hall-Senior Center, 11: 45 a.m.
PTP Family Potluck

September 14 - Heath Fair Volunteer Thank-You Party,
Fairgrounds, 5:30 p.m.

September 18 - Middle School Open House

September 19 - Mohawk School Committee Meeting

September 20 - Senior Luncheon, Community
Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
High School Open House

September 26 - All Schools early release day, 12:45 p.m.

September 27 - Heath School Open House

Hurricane Season

Now that we are in hurricane season again, below are a few tips that you can do well **AHEAD** of time to help protect your property. According to the National Weather Service in Albany and Taunton, the main threat from hurricanes and tropical storms here in western Franklin County is usually from heavy rains. Although the winds can be gusty during the storm, the full force of the winds inland is a lot less than those found on the coastline. The rains can cause flooding as well as saturate the ground, making it easier for tall trees to fall over.

- 1 Remove damaged or dead trees and limbs that might come down during the storm.
- 2 Make sure your rain gutters are clear. Sometimes they fill up with leaves/pine needles after the numerous thunderstorms during the summer.
- 3 Make sure that any storage sheds or tent-like structures are securely anchored.
- 4 Make a list ahead of time of items that should be brought indoors, such as hanging plants, children's toys, lawn furniture, etc., and post somewhere around your phone or key rack.
- 5 Make some plywood covers (stored in an easy location) that could be put up to protect large windows or sliding glass doors. Don't forget to number each of them so that you know which cover goes to which window/door.
- 6 Double check your insurance policy to see what coverage you have in the event of any damage.
- 7 Make sure you have plenty of batteries for radios and flashlights.
- 8 If you are on medication(s), check to see that you will have enough to get you through the storm and a few days after.
- 9 If you have a generator, make sure that you have the proper connections installed and connected to your main circuit breaker box before you use it.

~ Timothy Lively
Heath Emergency Management

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

| | <u>Rain</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|
| From May 11, 2007 | 1 ½ " |
| June | 4 ¾ " |
| To July 10 | 3 ¼ " |

In this reporting period:

There was a light frost around May 17. The remnants of tropical storm Barry dumped about 2- 2 ½ inches of rain on June 4. We had a high temperature of 87 degrees on June 27.

~ Timothy Lively



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