



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

\$1.50

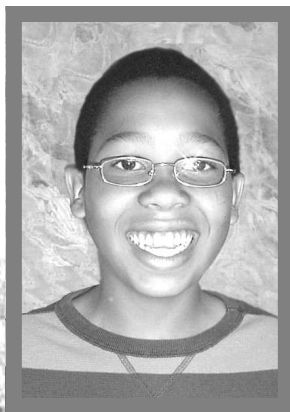
Volume 31, Number 2

June/July 2009

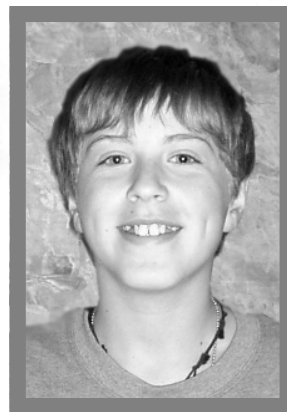


Veronika Allen

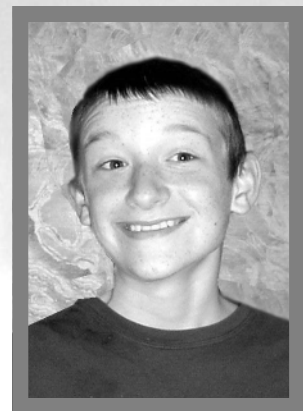
2009



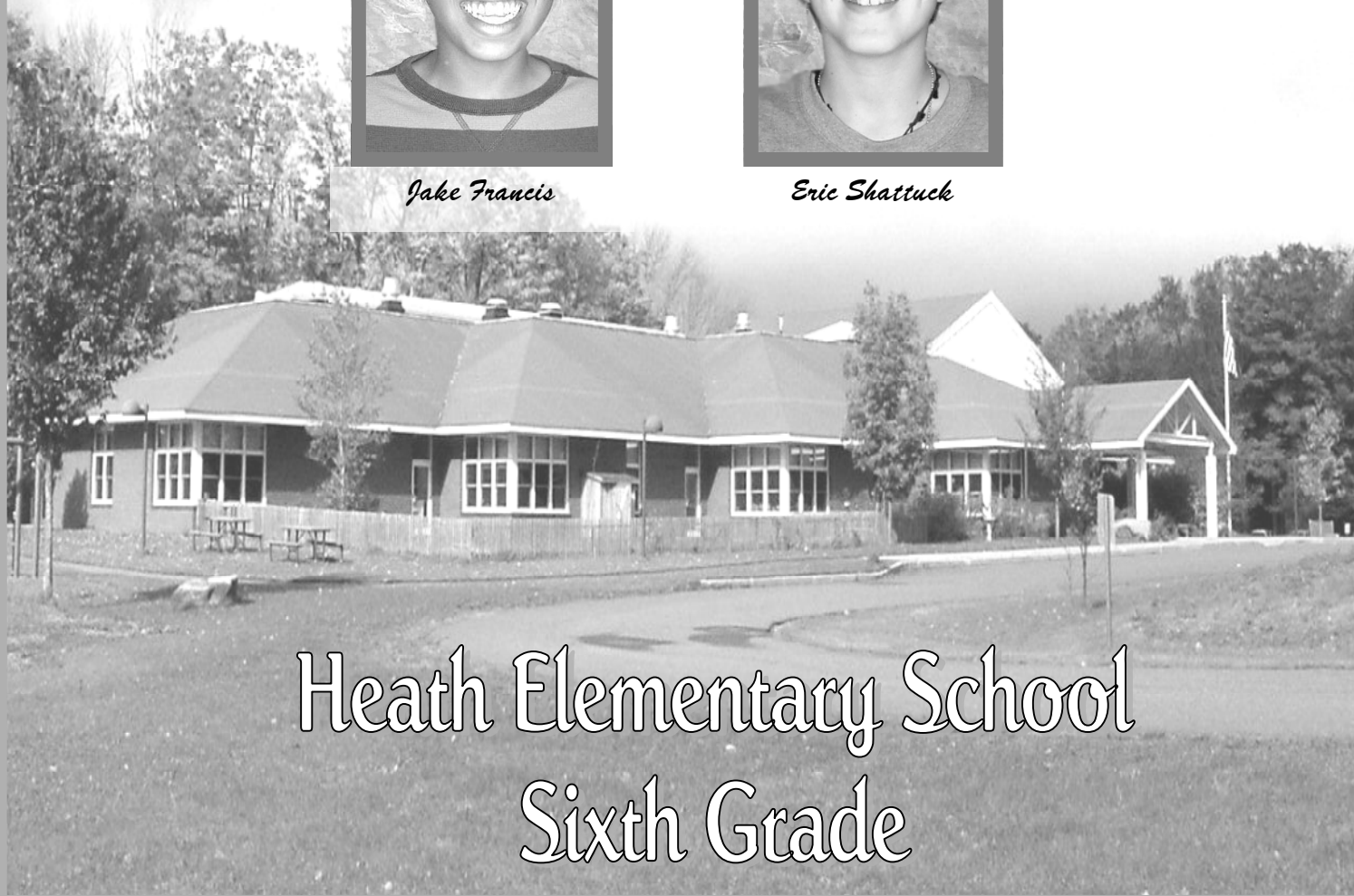
Jake Francis



Eric Shattuck



Stevie Charlton



Heath Elementary School

Sixth Grade

Heath Herald

Design and Layout Editor/Photographer

Copy Editor

Typographer

Business Manager

Advertising & Circulation

Coordinator

Technical Advisor

Columnists

Eileen A. Tougas

Jane de Leeuw

Jane de Leeuw

Jan Carr

Jan Carr

Dianne Cerone

Henry Leuchtman

Bill Lattrell, Pat Leuchtman,

Donald Purington, Claire Rabbitt

Contributors

Dana Blackburn, PTP, Dianne Cerone,

Jonathan Diamond, Finance Committee, Gloria Fisher,

Donald and Margaret Freeman, Michael Freeman, Rich-

ard and Esther Gallup, Virginia Gary & 1st and 2nd

graders, Heath School Staff & Students, Heath Union

Church, Lyra Johnson, Johnson Organ Restoration Fund,

Ruth Johnson, Brooks McCutchen and Janis Steele,

Leighton McCutchen, Timothy Lively, Pam Porter,

Selectboard, Kathy Sprague, Le-Ellen Weis

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 Aug./Sept. 2009 issue is July 10, 2009. 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 jdeleu@crock.com.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE ~ One Year: \$8.00 (payable in advance by check or money order).

ADVERTISING RATES ~ Display ads: \$5.00 per column inch. Contact Jan Carr at (413) 337-5747.

CLASSIFIED ADS ~ Free.

Send all correspondence to:
Heath Herald

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

HEATH HERALD

For only \$8.00 a year, 6 issues of the Heath Herald will be delivered to your home.

Name _____

Address _____

- Keep abreast of local happenings
- Give it as a gift to friends or family
- Support your local paper

The Heath Herald, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

Heath Union Church News

The family night on April 26 was well attended and enjoyed by all. Richard and Esther Gallup along with Tim Tessier, head of the Northwest Flyers Group, gave a fascinating presentation about racing pigeons. The evening was complete with live birds, plenty of pizza, and a baby goat as extra entertainment. Next family night will be on Sunday, June 7, at 5:00 p.m. at which Mike and Crystal Smith will give a presentation on their trip to the Mayan Ruins in Tulum, Mexico, and other spots they visited.

We wish to remind everyone that Pastor Phill has hours at the Church on Thursdays and is willing to visit at home with anyone who calls and, if desired, will bring Communion. Also, please contact him for hospital and nursing home visits.

You are welcome to call any of the Deacons as listed blow in case you cannot reach Pastor Phil.

Adult Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study, Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Pastor's hours, Thursday, 4:00-5:45 p.m.

Church Telephone, 337-4019

Pastor's, 413-648-9077

Deacons:

Richard Gallup, 337-5367

Tracey Brooks, 337-4008

Ruth Johnson, 337-4367

Walt Gleason, 337-4479

~ the Deacons

Two Fairs in Two Buildings

**Saturday, July 25
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Heath Ladies Aid Fair
Heath Union Church Lower Level
Crafts, Tag Sale, Food Table
2009 Quilt Raffle Tickets**

&

**Community Hall Craft Fair
Heath Community Hall, Upper Level**

**Senior Center Morning Coffee and Lunch
10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**



Weis Acres

I grew up in Heath, but I met and married a "New Yorker" and left my small hometown for the so-called big city lights at the ripe old age of eighteen. Of course, as a child you never appreciate what kind of life your parents tried to give you and you're very anxious to leave it. Oh, if only we knew then what we know now!!!

For thirty-three years I lived in New York and the one thing I learned and appreciated was that you can take the girl out of the country but you can't take the country out of the girl! Thank God! Give me my small hometown and its locals anytime! I didn't realize how much I missed it.

Since returning to Heath, I have been meeting and enjoying the "locals."

There have been some wonderful "characters," too. I can watch and listen to people all day with pure enjoyment, and because of that I have decided to try and follow in my Dad's footsteps (in some areas, not all, as he was quite a character, too!!). He used to write little stories about his life with wife and kids and locals, too, his Dad's stories, poems and jokes. ("Rays of Interest" for the *Herald*). My Mom says that I am just like him, HHHHHMMMMM...I'll have to think on that one.

Anyhow, (that's an expression I've picked up from hearing it all the time), I'd like to share some stories, anecdotes, quotes, local antics, and whatever stirs up a little, for your entertainment.

Here is a conversation I overheard at a local fair by the sheep barn. I recognized it as the "time-honored steps of bargaining."

"How much will you give?"

"How much will you take?"

"Gosh, I dunno."

"We l-l-l, I gotta get the haying done."

"Well, I don't need to sell that bad either."

"Well, I don't know as I want the critter anyhow."

"I guess we'll have to dicker over it for a bit."

Makes one wonder how any haying gets done with all that dicker going on! My Dad was famous for all his dickering and trading all sorts of items. He once traded a canoe for a set of bunk beds for my daughters to have. I would have loved to have listened in on that bargaining session!

Times Change

The sign in the country store window says, "Times Change and We Change With Them!!" Of course they do and they are rightfully proud of it! That's why the penny candy went up to three cents. By gosh, I'll take the slow, behind-the-times changes we have in our small towns anytime. Of course, I did notice that the gas prices were way ahead of time, but I'm sure that's just an oversight that will be corrected in their own time.

Here's a good one that had me hysterical. Friends of ours came up from New York to visit and see what kind of life we were having up here in the hills. They have the same New York mentality as my husband and just don't understand that the slow-paced life.

here is just what we want! Needless to say, he has some issues. I'll get around to telling you some stories about him, too.

Anyhow, we showed our friends all the local sites..field, field, trees, cows, field, and lots of woods, then decided to take them to a local diner and hobnob with the locals, having warned them of the intention and pure pleasure locals have of setting people aback by the dry-witted comments and terse remarks you may get when you ask questions about things you don't know about. ('Cause my girlfriend will do this a lot). Sitting at our table, close enough to join in on three different sides of conversations were some elderly gents in overalls and muddy boots discussing their animals and chores, etc. My friend was drawn into speaking with one of these gents with a pipe sticking out of the side of his mouth. She asked this and that so fast not noticing that he was not responding. When she asked if he had lived here all of his life, she paused for breath, and, in that pause, I heard him mutter, "Not yet."

Don't ya just love it!!

~ Le-Ellen Pettengill Weis

Ah Spring!

The seemingly endless days of winter have finally come to an end. It's so nice to feel the warmth of the sun even though the thermometer may read low. The joy of spotting the first bursting buds and blossoms reminds us that the cycle of the seasons never lets us down. It comes eventually.

Walking or driving along our country roads in April and May is a searching experience for the emerging wildflowers. The first hepaticas appear by Whittemore Spring and the dainty spring beauties grace the hummocks in the sugar bush on Town Farm Road. Soon trilliums, wild oats, adder's tongue, Solomon seals, violets of several shades, bluets, and wild lily of the valley appear. Not to leave out our state flower, the endangered arbutus. The patch we looked for when youngsters has now disappeared but my sister, Pearl, treated me to a lovely group in Shelburne.

These harbingers of the season bring back memories of South School days when we had a competition among the students to see who could find the most different kinds of wildflowers each spring. Our teacher had some little award for the successful child. Even in those days we were cautioned to be protective of the natural species and well warned not to pick any unless the number of plants was great (necessary to preserve our flora). A description of the area where the flower was found (with confirmation from a parent) was necessary when only a few specimens were growing.

My Mom knew all the names of the wildflowers, and we loved to stroll with her in search of each new spring emergence.

I hope everyone had time to peer into the matted leaves, twigs, and grassy knolls to find these little messengers of the new season, yearly proof of the continuation of life year after year—a truth that never lets us forget how insignificant we are!

~ Ruth Johnson



Wild Ramblings

Small, Dark, and Not Necessarily Handsome



By Bill Lattrell

Jeff sat in the other end of the 15-foot fiberglass water craft. It was an early evening during late May near the shores of Lake Ogascanon in the Abitibi-Temiscaming area of western Quebec. I was having difficulty seeing Jeff in the other end of the boat. From my vantage point I could see a fuzzy outline of the perimeter of his body. My face was covered with a veil no-see-um netting. This veil was part of the bug suit that I was wearing and it only partially obscured my vision; the real culprits were the thousands of black flies that filled the air.

Smitty sat in the middle of our fishing craft that day. I could see him fairly clearly slapping bugs as he tried to rig a new stick bait on his fishing line. I began to hum the old camping song "slap, slap, slap, the bugs are biting, cheer up, camper, I've got one."

It is hard to imagine so many bugs unless you have actually encountered them. In this wilderness there was no shortage of black flies on that evening. Only our bug suits and the oncoming night could save us. Black flies go away when the black shroud of darkness covers the sky. They are usually replaced by hordes of mosquitoes that can be every bit as troublesome. We weren't going to stop fishing. The walleye were striking for the first time on this trip so between casts we brushed the black flies off of our hands, trying to keep the bites to a minimum, and reeled in what fish we could. We would keep a few walleyes for our next meal, but most would be returned to the cold water in hopes that fishing for future generations would be just as productive as it was on this day.

Black flies are a curious feature of the outdoors. Outdoor enthusiasts often pretend that there are few bleak moments in their wilderness adventures. Those who travel significantly north, especially those who travel north of the 45th parallel and beyond, know that insects can be a serious problem, particularly in the spring. Some areas in the far north are known to be uninhabitable at certain times of the year because the insects are such a nuisance that they can create a serious impact on not only the enjoyment of the wilds, but the health of the person enjoying them. Millions of insects can hatch nearly simultaneously under the right circumstances and cover the landscape in a blanket-like fashion in search of the blood of animals.

Black flies require moving water. Here they lay their eggs. Moving water carries a lot of oxygen which provides critical habitat for the larval and pupal stage of the black fly. Black fly larvae can be found attached to rocks, vegetation, sticks, old decaying leaves, and all kinds of other debris as long as the water carries a lot of oxygen. It is mostly the individual species of black fly that will determine which larva is found on which medium. There are literally hundreds and hundreds of black fly species, each having its own requirement.

The larvae anchor themselves to some sort of debris with silk threads. They actually migrate downstream by producing a long strand of thread allowing movement within a streambed to more favorable conditions. Sometimes there are a few individuals attached to a single thread, and sometimes there are thousands of individuals; again this is dependent upon the type of species utilizing the ecosystem. In most cases the larvae are attached to a rock or other debris at the end of their abdomens. Their head faces downstream and they use mouth brushes to filter food out of the moving water.

The larvae can go through multiple stages, gradually maturing until they form a pupa, the final transformation stage before they emerge to the surface as an adult black fly. Black fly larvae can stay in the larval stage anywhere from a few weeks to many months, depending upon the species. When it is time for the adult to emerge from the pupal case, it hitches a ride on an air bubble and when the bubble reaches the surface the adult fly emerges into its new environment above the surface of the water for a short stint in the open air.

The adult black fly has a short time in this new environment, usually limited to only a few weeks. During this time only the female bites larger animals for their blood. She actually slits the skin with her mouth, administers an anticoagulant, and drinks as much blood as she can. Blood has some use in reproduction, but recent research has shown that some species can reproduce with no blood at all. Female black flies of different species have different blood preferences. Some prefer humans, while others may prefer particular birds, livestock, or members of the deer family. After the male and female breed, the female returns to her watery origin and lays eggs on some sort of debris in the moving water.

The prolific numbers of black flies in the North Country may be, in part, due to an abundance of clean moving water that favors this tiny fly. Wilderness areas, with only small areas of human influence that could degrade water quality, seem to be some of the best environments for this petulant little insect. It is ironic that as humans have cleaned moving waters near civilization in an effort to improve the environment, black fly populations have responded to this new-found environment with burgeoning populations.

As filter feeders, black fly larvae likely have a positive effect on water quality. Black flies are also an important source of forage for many insectivores.

(*"Small, Dark, and Not Necessarily Handsome"* continued on page 6)

A Report from Owl Hill Loft, North Heath

When we first went into pigeon-raising and racing, I imagined having a loft of a dozen or so birds would be just about right; we now have approximately fifty birds, and this morning we banded three more.

To give you an example of how things can get a tad out of hand, a few weeks ago, driving to the Spring Pigeon Auction at Haydenville, Esther and I discussed the number of birds we had and she said she was interested in only one more, perhaps a real nice hen. To make a longish story shorter, after the bidding fray had died down, we possessed five more real nice hens. All were top quality and would fit nicely into the loft-breeding schedule. However, it does illustrate how one's loft can grow.

Parts One and Two told of our purchase, at auction, of a Blue Bar from Oklahoma and a Red Check from Utah and their offspring, Eric the Red Check, who was quite successful our second year of racing. That's the goal – the ultimate winning racing bird., which requires extensive breeding records.

This year's old bird racing schedule is similar to last: May 10 – Albany; May 17 – Amsterdam; May 24 – Little Falls; May 31 – Utica, and June 7 – Syracuse. All races start in New York and the route follows the Thruway-Erie Barge Canal North, Albany to Syracuse.

My past comments have indicated a difficulty early going for us, in as much as most all of the Northwest Flyers Racing Pigeon Club member lofts are in the Northampton-Belchertown area. The difficulty arises when the birds are released in mass and our birds tend to stay longer than they should with the large group and not "break off" when necessary to give a good racing time. My theory is that as the release location moves north in New York and the flyover line moves closer to North Heath, we do better.

However, while it is depressing to be last, last, last in the early races, it is satisfying to have won the big end of the scheduled Money Race the past few years.

Now, for a small club, the competition is formidable. We have members who have been racing pigeons for many years and aren't in it to lose. Tim from Chesterfield and George and Ed from Belchertown are examples of longtime competitors who are smart bird owners. They train hard, breed aggressively, and leave no stone unturned when pursuing their competition. This is what makes winning against them so satisfying.

While much of raising pigeons is routine, there rise instances when it's not. Early one evening in April, Esther entered the flying loft to find feathers everywhere, a half-eaten pigeon, and a red shoulder hawk in the aviary. The hawk, having entered via the landing board through the one-way "Bob," had caused havoc in the flying loft, and then entered the raised aviary. Esther captured the hawk, grabbing it by its wings, and confined it. She admitted to being furious that it had killed her birds, but, at the same time, realized the hawk was starving and desperate. This gave us pause. Now what to do? Birds such as hawks are protected by law, yet we, David Thane, and Tom Flynn and others lose birds routinely to these guys. What to do? The hawk was a beautiful bird, and as Esther released it, we knew we had done the right thing. Maybe not the smartest thing when it comes to the preservation of pigeons, but, nevertheless, the right thing.

As the race-training season stars anew, I'm reminded of an encounter that happened last fall. I had pulled my pickup into the parking area at the Eastern Summit shop location on the Mohawk Trail early on a crisp, cloudless, blue-sky morning, and angled the truck so that I could drop the tailgate and release the birds, giving them the ideal flight patch free of poles, wires, and any other obstructions. While I was doing this, a lady in a large car pulled up near me and took out a map to study. I released the birds and they flew in an orderly manner around the site a few times before heading off ever higher toward the northeast. I put away the carrier, closed the tailgate, and noticed the lady motioning to me. She said she had seen the pigeon-release and wondered where they were flying to. I told her North Heath, that it was a training workout. She said she was from Tennessee, had flown to Boston to visit friends, and was now on her way to visit family in the Albany area. She further said, "This is my lucky day for that was the most beautiful thing I have ever seen."

As you might imagine, that comment made the exercise of pigeon-racing even more agreeable.

~Richard T. and Esther L. Gallup

Update on the Heath Farmers Market

After speaking with several local farmers, I find that a majority prefer to begin by having a farm stand at their own farms rather than gather weekly in the center of town. As a result for this year we will begin by establishing a "virtual farmers market" which will be a link on the new Web site for the town of Heath. The virtual farmers market will consist of a list of local farm stands, their products available, and a map for directions. Farmers interested in listing their farm stand can call or e-mail me. Once the Web page is active I will do weekly updates to keep the list of new produce/products current as the seasons change.

Interested farmers would need to contact me with any updates for their listing. If there is sufficient interest among farmers, we may gather for an actual farmers market on specific occasions. You may contact Sheila Litchfield at 337-4957 or Sheila@thedell.us.

PLANTS FOR PLEASURE "Your Full Service Florist"

15 Bridge Street
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
413-625-6066

Carolyn Armstrong & Family



The Lyceum Returns to Heath!

The Myrfield Institute for Cognition and the Arts, founded in 2008 by Margaret and Donald Freeman of Heath, is sponsoring a free public presentation, "Mapping the Body: Experiencing Literature Through Physical Space," on Tuesday, June 16, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Community Hall, as part of a colloquium being hosted at Myrfield. The talk is an effort to revive the Lyceum movement, a 19th-century institution once alive and well in Heath, which provided local communities a shared educational experience before the rise of mass electronic media. A reception and refreshments will follow the talk.

The first Lyceum in the United States was started in Millbury, Massachusetts, by Josiah Holbrook in 1826. By 1840 there were 137 separate Lyceums registered in Massachusetts. Conceived primarily for the purposes of education by offering public lectures to residents of rural communities, the Lyceum movement broadened after the Civil War to include performances and other entertainments. Lyceum evenings in Heath were held frequently in various locations, including the Branch School on Route 8-A at the corner of Sumner Stetson Road, now a private residence.

Lois Stetson Buchiane of Heath, who is researching the history of the Lyceum movement in town, recently discovered a letter dated 1877 that refers to a Lyceum meeting at the #8 (North) School in North Heath. Unfortunately, her grandmother's diary, which ran from the 1870s to the 1940s, and mentioned several Lyceum occasions, was lost in a fire. The Lyceum circuit in Massachusetts was traveled by noted speakers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, who may very well have come to Heath. Lois would appreciate hearing from any Heathans who may have information on the Heath Lyceum in their attics or in family diaries.

The public talk on June 16 will focus on the topic "Mapping the Body: Experiencing Literature Through Physical Space." It will be led by Professor Christina Ljungberg of the University of Zürich, Switzerland, and Professor Vincent Colapietro of Pennsylvania State University.

In the 17th century it became popular to describe human experiences in terms of physical space, especially through maps. In England, John Bunyan wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*, an allegorical description of Christian's spiritual journey through terrain such as the Slough of Despond, the Hill of Difficulty, and the Valley of the Shadow of Death. Meanwhile, in France, Madame de Scudéry had already sketched out a much more secular journey in her novel *Clélie*, with her Map of Tenderness. The map details the distractions and pitfalls – depicted as towns and landmarks – that lovers encounter along their journey from the town of New Friendship at the bottom of the map to intimacy. In our century, such a mapping concept is evidenced in Nato Thompson's current traveling exhibition, "Experimental Geography," which he describes as a "catchphrase for an emerging genre, where academic influences blend with an acute sensibility for contemporary art skill sets: visual, spatial"; and the recently published debut novel of Reif Larsen, *The Selected Works of T. S. Spivet*. Larsen's protagonist is a 12-year-old mapmaker, and the book's margins are filled with his maps, images, etc. all of which reveal more about Spivet's character than the narrative itself does. This focus on mapping the body

through physical space is at the heart of human cognition — the ways we understand our world — and raises questions about how we relate to such experience in our literary reading.

But what actually happens when we read? What does reading "do" to our embodied minds? What do our bodies do – more or less spontaneously and unconsciously – when we read? What do we do in a deliberately reflective and conscious way? These questions have intrigued literary theorists, linguists, psychologists, and philosophers and have lately been the focus of research in cognitive science, whose discoveries have reoriented reading by presenting new insights into the interplay between reader and work. Experiencing rather than simply interpreting literature emphasizes embodied experiences and reactions in our everyday lives – how we interact with our environment and how we perform in everyday situations. Part of the pleasure of reading is precisely the mapping of everyday experience onto fictional experience and vice versa, cognitive processes that yield both insight and hindsight. We will be exploring these issues and more on June 16.

The Myrfield Institute for Cognition and the Arts brings together scholars and thinkers in the peaceful and restful surroundings of Myrfield to explore the future of research in the interdisciplinary relation of the cognitive sciences and the arts. This year the institute colloquium has invited five participants from the Iconicity Conference being held in Toronto, Canada, June 9-14, to come to Myrfield and join four colleagues from local universities and colleges to continue discussions on the ways in which the arts (and in this case literature) manifest the creative possibilities of human cognition. The talk at the Community Hall on June 16 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. offers Heathans and their friends the opportunity to meet with our Institute participants and explore the ways we map the body through literature. Please join us!

~ Donald and Margaret Freeman

("Small, Dark, and Not Necessarily Handsome" continued from page 4)

Many species of black flies prefer cooler weather and don't do well in warm weather conditions. As the sun gets higher in the sky and the days get longer, black fly populations drop off to a point where they are negligible.

Dusk approaches as the sun sinks below the horizon on the opposite side of Lake Ogascanon. The palate of colors disperses as an absence of light starts to consume the sky. The black flies are finding their way to shore and resting in the vegetation along the banks. I can now see more than Jeff's silhouette in the bow of our boat. He is fiddling with a tangled reel. He is still fully sheathed in his bug suit. Smitty, in the middle seat of our boat, unzips the veil of his bug suit. He is seeking freedom from the restrictions of the bug armor we are forced to wear. For one brief moment I forget and think we are home free. Just one moment without the aggravating nuisance of bugs would be greatly welcomed. Without warning the buzz of a mosquito is heard, and then another, and then many more. Smitty zips his bug suit veil shut, swears to himself, and the onslaught of a new invader is about to begin. I begin, once again, to hum, "slap, slap, slap, the bugs are biting" as I cast into the dark waters before me.



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

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

Bob Delisle Electrician

Prompt, Courteous, Reasonable

Lic. E34969

337-5716

Matt's Trucking

Matt Lively

Excavating-Loam-Sand-Fill 337-4331

- Screened Loam A Specialty -

Your independent Insurance Agency. . .

For all your insurance needs.



**Blackmer
Insurance
Agency, Inc.**

1000 Mohawk Trail
Shelburne, Massachusetts 01370
Tel. 413-625-6527



North River Winery

FREE TASTINGS



Open 7 Days — 10 am to 5 pm

FREE TOURS LATE MAY - DECEMBER

Located on Route 112, Jacksonville, Vermont

30 Minutes North of Shelburne Falls, MA

802-368-7557

**LOAM
ALTERNATIVE**
SCREENED
SILTY FILL

Spreads easily, grows
grass just as well!

Costs 1/2 the price!

We make regular deliveries to
Charlemont, Buckland, Hawley,
Heath, Rowe & Shelburne

**ZOAR STONE
AND GRAVEL**

300 Zoar Rd., Charlemont

413-339-0200

3064469

**CRUSHED
GRAVEL**
1 1/2"

Excellent For Repairing
Your Driveway

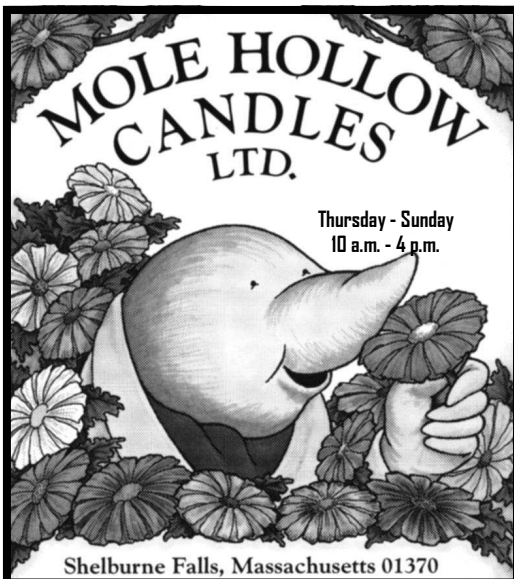
We make regular deliveries to
Charlemont, Buckland, Hawley,
Heath, Rowe & Shelburne

**ZOAR STONE
AND GRAVEL**

300 Zoar Rd., Charlemont

413-339-0200

3073760



**MOLE HOLLOW
CANDLES
LTD.**

Thursday - Sunday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts 01370

A.L. AVERY & SON

GENERAL STORE

Charlemont • 339-4915

Richard C. Bishop

Elder Law Attorney

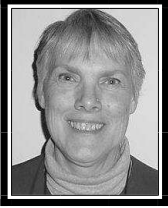
Massachusetts, Florida, Arizona

P.O. Box 121, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

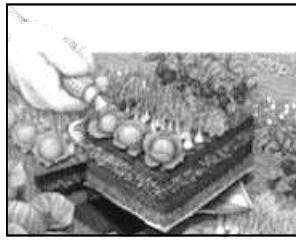
413-625-2574 / fax 625-8321

40 School St., Suite 5, Greenfield, MA 01302

413-773-1818 / fax 773-1881

Green Thoughts

Lasagna Gardening



By Pat Leuchtman

Last year when I realized my tiny 15 x 15 foot vegetable garden needed to be enlarged I decided that I would not break heavy sod, but would try the no-till technique that some have called 'lasagna' gardening.

Just as a lasagna is layered with good things, the lasagna garden is also built in layers. First, one has to begin with a scrubbed pan, and, in the gardener's case, with an area of the determined size that has been mowed or weed-whacked down as low as possible. The weed and grass roots may remain in the ground, but it helps if there is as little top growth as possible. Water the ground.

Then spread a 4- or 5-inch layer of compost or partially rotted manure. The compost does not have to be fully finished. Water this layer well.

Then layer on sheets of cardboard. Bob Herman at the Transfer Station will be glad to supply the cardboard. Large sheets of cardboard are best, but I have used smaller pieces of cardboard and covered them with larger pieces. It is vital to make sure all the edges are well overlapped, because that is where the weeds and grass below will try to creep through. Water the cardboard layer well.

Finally spread a 5-inch layer of compost on top of the cardboard and you are ready for planting.

That is the theory of lasagna garden construction. Now I will tell you how I deviated from the theory and what that meant.

In the early spring of 2008 I mowed, and spread compost and old chicken-house cleanings on a 10 x 10 foot area next to the vegetable garden and raspberry patch. I watered it well and laid on the cardboard.

I was almost out of compost so I ordered a yard or two of loam and spread that over the cardboard. I was ready to plant. I put in a couple of tomato seedlings I couldn't fit in the vegetable garden. I built two bean teepees, one for green beans and one for wax beans, and I planted hills of winter and summer squash. Of course, I kept everything watered during the early days of the season, as any newly planted garden demands.

Great success! Even though the soil I bought was not of great fertility the roots of my plants went into the riches below. All grew rampantly and there was a great harvest but the plants grew so vigorously that harvesting was difficult. There was no place to put my feet and I determined that I really needed good paths.

Last fall I mowed another extension and laid lots of cardboard on top. I did not put compost down first. However, I did get a load of beautiful compost from Bear Path Farm in Whately that I spread on top of the cardboard and was ready for spring planting.

Because I was lucky enough to get a free truckload of wood chips from a neighbor who took down some trees, I laid more cardboard all around the extension and covered that cardboard

with wood chips. My idea was to create a weed-stopping border all around this section of garden which I am now calling The Potager.

The cardboard not only acts as a weed barrier, it provides an excellent climate for worms. This spring I found many many worms where the cardboard had been. Cardboard also decomposes and it has completely disappeared from the extension I built in 2008.

A note about cardboard as weed barrier. It has worked to keep weeds down from below, but weed seeds are in the air, so mulching the garden as it grows will help keep other weeds under control.

This spring I applauded the Selectboard for making available a public pile of wood chips on Bray Road. I have used more cardboard and public chips to make all the paths in the old vegetable garden and the new Potager.

Potager is a French word, but it has come into general usage for a kitchen garden that is not only utilitarian, but also beautiful, including, as it does, herbs and flowers. We'll see if I manage to make it more beautiful than any productive vegetable garden. I have already used the ends of a white metal crib I pulled out of the metal bin to use as a White Trellis for flowering sweet peas.

The white metal looks quite startling right now, but I am proceeding with the theory that white things scare deer. I also have white milk bottles hanging around the periphery of the garden. No one explained why white things are a deer deterrent, but I think maybe the deer see misty white shapes in the gloaming light of dawn or dusk and think ghosts are abroad.

The garden is now big enough and fertile enough that I can easily consider I have Planted a Row for the Hungry and will be bringing my extra produce down to the Center for Self Reliance on Osgood Street in Greenfield. Our own Heathen Dino Schnelle of The Hunger Project will soon have a list of all the organizations in the area that are eager to have donations of fresh produce. Don't throw that extra zucchini on the compost pile!

Don't forget June means roses at the End of the Road. I hope you will all stop and smell the roses. Hope to see you on the 28th.!

**Garden open today
at
End of the Road
Pat and Henry Leuchtman**

Annual Rose Viewing

**Sunday, June 28
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Knott Road**

Roses, Cookies, and Lemonade

Support Heath Agriculture



Benson Place



* Orders for fresh picked *Sustainably Grown Lowbush Blueberries* may be placed after June 1. The starting date for picking your own fruit will be known in July.

* *Wonderfully Wild Blueberry Spread* is made from our own berries and organic Massachusetts cranberries. It is lightly sweetened with honey from Apex Orchards in Shelburne. Find it at our farm, Peters' Store, Avery's Store, Shelburne Falls Market, McCusker's Market, Davenport's Service Station, Rte 91 Visitors' Center, Green Fields Market, and other area outlets (see website for those locations).

* *8th Annual Wild Blueberry Jubilee*, Saturday, August 1 2-8PM! Rain or shine. Great food and music, farm education, family activities, super views.

* Contact us to *Walk this Beautiful Land* and to see how you can assist in the *Community Effort to Preserve this Farm*.

* Box 89, 182 Flagg Hill Road, Heath. 413-337-5340,
www.bensonplace.org, benplace@gis.net



Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple Farm Heath, MA

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

(888) 576-2753 or BerkshireSweetGold.com

Freeman Farm



Grass-fed beef for your freezer.
Reserve a beeper in the spring.
Maple syrup, field brush hog mowing,
and hay also available.

20 Town Farm Road
337-4766



Wild Native Blueberries Burnt Hill Farm

Pre-picked 10 lb & 20 lb boxes
Available late July to mid-August
Call to order

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

118 Flagg Hill Rd, Heath, MA



Raw Milk For Sale Hager Bros. Farm

Farm Fresh High Quality Available by
order at 413 624-3200 or hagersmp@mtdata.com.

*Order by Sunday p.m. for Monday pickup or Thursday
p.m. for Friday pickup at:*

11 Merrifield Lane
Colrain, MA 01340

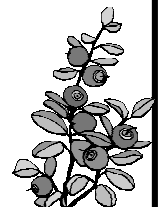
Also available, a full line of maple products and Cabot
cheese at farm prices.

Tripp's Blueberries 64 Taylor Brook Road Heath, MA

Sweet, Wild, Lowbush
picked, cleaned freezer ready
10 lb or 20 lb boxes



Call to reserve
413-337-4964



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 FAIR NEWS

In sweet May evenings when the grass is newly green and the air is mellow and perfumed by apple blossoms, you never drive by the Clark place without seeing Nathan or Kyle or Danny out working their oxen. You can be sure they don't wait until the Fair or even the June draw to get their teams pulling together. It's the same for all fair lovers who are already at work to make this year's Fair a winner. You don't have to wait until **August 20, 21, and 22** to enjoy the stimulation and companionship of the **92nd Annual Heath Fair!** It's already begun. There is plenty to see and do right now, and we need you!

June Draws

June Draws are scheduled for June 27 and 28. Oxen pull on Saturday and horses on Sunday. Admission is only \$5.00 for a whole day of entertainment. Nathan and Kyle Clark are in charge. You can reach Nathan at 337-6697.

Midway News

Heidi Crowningshield has taken the reins as Midway Superintendent. Some invitations to vendors have gone out. There is always room for more. Contact Heidi for information.

We'd like to continue the work begun by Jenna Day to help the Fair go green by improving the way we handle trash. Last year we asked vendors to sort recycling and compost out from trash. Many West County Fairs are doing this. A couple have reported that at last year's fair they were able to reduce the amount of trash that went to the land-fill to a few bags. The rest was sent to recycle and compost. Some of us have attended workshops, and we are working on a plan. What we need is a crew. So if you interested in being a vendor or a member of the Green Team, call Heidi at 337-4079.

Heath Fair Music

Heath Fair Music is always a strong draw. The other day I had a call from a fan from Boston University wanting to know the dates so she and a group of her friends could plan their summer get-together around being out here for the Fair and the music. Heath Fair Music lovers can lend support by helping to underwrite the program. Credit will be given at the Music Tent. Contact Carol Sartz, Heath Fair Music, at Box 10, Heath, MA. We are grateful to the Cultural Councils of Heath, Rowe, Colrain, Hawley, Charlemont, Buckland, and Shelburne Falls for their grants in support of the music.

Wednesday Work Bees

The ice storm has left us with plenty to do at the Fairgrounds and work bees are already underway. Come any and every Wednesday evening from 6:00 until dusk. There's yard work, mowing, building repairs, sign-making, and general sprucing up the place. Bring tools and friends. The company is good and the work is satisfying. If you would like to help but can't come on Wednesdays, call Christine O'Brien (337-4766) or Pam Porter (337-5525). We can fix you up with a project you can do on your own time-table.

New Flower Container Competition

We have voted to include a new category in our Exhibit Hall. Well, not exactly **in** the Hall. It's all over the Fairgrounds. It's a Container Garden Competition. We will supply a container for you or you and your family to plant. First, second, and third prizes will be awarded. You can find more information in the Premium Book or by calling Gloria Fisher 337-6626 or Jan Car (337-5747).

Premium Book

The premium book will be out soon, and we want to express our gratitude for the many folks who have continued their contributions in support of it and of the Fair. We have had terrific response to our decision to eliminate ads in order to save paper. So far, over \$1000 dollars has been contributed. If you would like to make a contribution you can mail it to Carol-Anne Eldridge, Box 10, Heath, MA 01346.

If you are looking for other ways to participate in the 92nd Annual Heath Fair, here are more people you can contact.

Publicity: Gloria Fisher (337-6626)

Exhibit Hall: Robin Jenkins (337-4389)

Attractions: Pam Porter (337-5525)

Food Booth: Deb Porter (337-4715)

Ticket Booth: Emily Cross (337-4817) or Jesse Porter-Henry (413 522-5574)

Mowing: Dave Freeman (337-4766)

Parking: Justin Lively (413 834-0168)

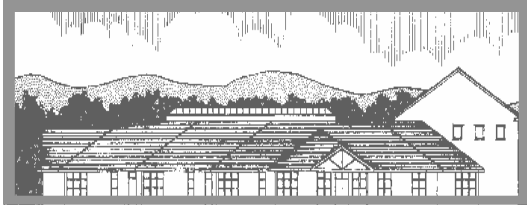
Goat Exhibition: Sheila Litchfield (337-4957)

Fairgrounds Rentals: Christine O'Brien (337-4766)

Kids Games: Camille Freeman (337-4239)

~ Pam Porter
Gloria Fisher
Copresidents

Heath Elementary School News



Our Amaryllis Project

Have you ever seen an amaryllis? Well, after working on this project we all agree, it is one of the most beautiful plants to grow! We combined math and science in our work with this flower. Miss Gary applied for a grant with the Mary Lyon Foundation Teacher Center Grants. We were very excited when Amy Love, a representative of this foundation, came to deliver the news that we would receive funding for our project. We bought twelve bulbs from Shelburne Farm and Garden.

We planted the bulbs with the help of our substitute teacher, Cyndie Stetson, and Miss Gary. Cyndie has been a great resource and help during this project. We divided into groups of two students. Each pair planted a bulb. As we were planting them, Cyndie showed us how to gently tease the roots apart without breaking them. Alouette shares, "I had a hard time peeling the roots apart without breaking them." She also helped show how deep we needed to plant each bulb.



We made books for our amaryllis project with help from our grandparent volunteer, Laura Huff. She organized the books and used the binding machine to bind them. Each book had one piece of graph paper as the first page. This would become the line graph, which we created by measuring the growth of the plant. We also had many pages for our observations. We would measure our plants at least twice a week. We made new marks on our graph every time we measured. We would also draw and write our observations in our science journals. Catherine shares, "I thought the covers of our books had pretty drawings of the amaryllis flower." We worked closely with our partners to record the information correctly. All the students' bulbs had buds but the bulb that the teachers had never had a bud so it did not bloom.

Timmy shares, "Bryan and I had the first amaryllis blossom and the last!" "Geannie and I thought our amaryllis plant would never grow!" Taylor states. Macalstair observed, "When some of the

amaryllis plants opened, they fell over because they were so heavy." "Isis and I had an amaryllis that grew to 24 inches," reported Jennifer. Charles remembers, "I noticed that one of the bulbs was growing before we took it out of the box. It bloomed first." "Haley's and my amaryllis grew first one bud and then another," observed Gwyneth. Ryan shares, "I noticed my amaryllis bloomed a day before my prediction." James shares, "It was hard at first to know where to mark the spot on the line graph, but we all got better at it." Nathaniel adds, "We had to use rulers to make sure the lines were straight on the line graph."

Bryan shares, "When the amaryllis plants bloomed, and we made paintings of them for our mothers for Mother's Day. They were beautiful." Isis states, "All of our bulbs will be put in Miss Gary's garden for the summer." Haley adds, "Miss Gary will put them in the basement so they don't get cold during the winter." They will be used next year with another class of students. Katelyn shares, "My favorite part of the project was seeing all the flowers." Geannie states, "I liked Taylor's and my amaryllis because it was the last to grow and the second-to-last to bloom." "I think other kids would have a fun time doing this project because they would have fun learning," recommends Adam. Sovahn shares, "I enjoyed doing the amaryllis project with my buddy Adam because we helped each other. I was surprised at how big the amaryllis flowers were." Adam states, "When something is growing you use a line graph and when something is being added up, you use a bar graph." Logan says, "My favorite part of this project was growing the amaryllis." Max shares, "Drawing the amaryllis in my journal was my favorite part." Taylor shares, "I grew an amaryllis last year and this year. I liked partnering up with Geannie instead of sharing one bulb with the whole class." The whole class would like to say, we will never forget how an amaryllis looks after doing this fun and educational project.

~ Virginia Gary and her First and Second Graders

Heath Elementary School Parent-Teacher Partnership (PTP) News

Rounding the bend on another successful school year, we reflect on a year full of activity – in-school and after-school enrichments, sports, drama, our school naturalist's visits, staff materials funding, have all been possible by your support of our fund-raising activities. In this tough economy, we recognize that it is not easy to give, and we appreciate all of you who have donated your time, money, and/or energy to the cause this year. Many thanks!

This spring we are supporting a range of end-of-year activities in myriad ways, including: Field Day, Grounds Day, Rowe Lake Trip, Graduation, and Staff Appreciation Week – to name a few.

We are looking forward to the Heath Fair and will have a strong presence on the Midway, as always, with more exciting new offerings. We welcome volunteers and visitors at our fund-raising and activity booths. See you at the Fair!

~ Dana Blackburn

Co-chair, PTP
School-Community Relations

Mohawk Trail Regional High School



Mark Almeida

Mark is the son of Joseph and the late Judith Almeida. During his years at Mohawk Mark was quite involved with the music department, participating in chorus, musicals and select chorus. Mark played the lead role in this year's *Beauty and the Beast*, which he said was a fantastic experience. With his involvement in the music department, Mark found time to participate in volleyball and soccer.

Mark's favorite classes were the sciences and he said he also liked to tinker with computers as a hobby.

Mark plans on attending GCC in the fall where he hopes to complete his general education requirements in two years then transfer to a college in the Boston area. Mark has not decided on a specific career path. He expressed interest in the computer technology field or in a field where he could work outdoors.



Alex Hemingway

While at Mohawk, Alex enjoyed her time most in classes that required hands-on activity, such as art classes, the wood shop, and print shop. Alex also has fond memories of her work as a member of the yearbook staff, which spiked her interest in photography.

Alex hopes to do some traveling in the future as well as pursuing classes at GCC in one of the areas of art, photography, drawing and painting, or fashion design. Alex hopes to someday run a business such as an art or photo gallery.



Catherine Lemelin

Catherine is the daughter of Paul and Alice Lemelin of Heath. While attending Mohawk High School, Catherine was a member of the National Honor Society and the Peer Mentoring Program. Catherine stated that the yearly Booster Week events are probably the ones that she will most remember because they promoted and fostered school spirit, creativity, and healthy competition among peers.

Catherine has also participated in Read Across America, Relay for Life and was a volunteer at her church.

Although Catherine has not yet fully decided what her future career will be, she does plan on starting her college education at Greenfield Community College in the fall where she will earn an associate degree and then transfer to a four-year college or university.



Megan Kain

Megan has lived with her father, Bruce Kain in Heath since she was born. It was in Heath that she developed a love for outdoor activities such as fishing. In her years at Mohawk, Megan was part of the Peer Mentor Program and although she did not participate in sports directly, she enjoyed her time as a scorekeeper for the softball team.

Among her classes at Mohawk, she enjoyed sociology, psychology, and horticulture the most. Megan especially enjoyed the interactions with her classmates in these classes by describing the good discussions in psychology and the "frolicking" with peers in horticulture.

Megan hopes to start on her career at GCC. She plans to someday be a massage therapist working at rehabilitating clients of all ages who might have suffered life changing injuries so that they may return to productive lives.



2009

**"Congratulations to all graduates and
their proud parents.
Best wishes for a shining future."**



Catherine Moore

Catherine is the daughter of Donald Moore of Heath and Karen Moore of Shelburne. Catherine has been active in student government throughout her high school years as class secretary and student council member. She has played basketball and soccer each year. Her favorite classes at Mohawk were Post-Modern Literature and U.S.

History.

Catherine hopes to do some traveling in the future to Europe or South America. This fall she will be attending University of Massachusetts in Boston where she will pursue a degree in nursing.



Anne Muenkel

Anne is the daughter of Edward and Lisa Muenkel of Heath. Anne has been quite involved during her years at Mohawk participating in chorus and band, playing field hockey, softball and going out for track. She has been a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and the Key Club. Outside of school, Anne volunteers at her church in a variety of

ways. Looking back at her courses, Anne said that her English and science classes were the most enjoyable and memorable to her.

Anne will attend University of Massachusetts in the fall where she will work toward a degree in marketing. Anne hopes to have a career in commercial advertising.



Leah Posl-Lumbis

Leah is the daughter of Moni Posl and William Posl-Lumbis of Heath. While at Mohawk, Leah participated in tennis and in the productions of the school musicals. Among the classes she took in high school, she especially will remember her time in New England Ecology with Mr. Kiendzior as one of the most memorable and enjoyable.

In the fall Leah will attend American International College in Springfield, where she intends to pursue a degree in education. Leah plans to become an elementary school teacher when she finishes her college career.

The Academy at Charlemont



Reed Lockhart Phillips is the son of Bruce and Deborah Phillips and a 2009 graduate from The Academy at Charlemont.

I spent a Semester at Sea with Ocean's Classroom and Proctor Academy during the spring of my junior year sailing the 121' schooner *Harvey Gamage* throughout the Caribbean and along the Eastern Seaboard while taking classes in Marine Biology, Literature, and History. I played soccer and lacrosse at The Academy and was the team's captain for both sports this past year. I was also assistant to the Athletic Director, Jesse Porter-Henry. I am an avid snowboarder and surfer. My future plans include attending Endicott College just north of Boston where I will be studying Athletic Training.

Alternative Energy in Heath

There are citizens in our town who are experimenting with both conservation and production of *alternative energy*. There will be four articles, initially, describing some of these. The idea is to share the knowledge gained so far, and to stimulate others to try their hand as well. Dave Freeman initiated this project of sharing with the Agricultural Commission. They in turn have selected these topics:

Energy Conservation and Production at Berkshire
Sweet Gold Maple Farm
Biomass Boilers [and storage of heat]
Harvesting Sun and Wind Energy at the Manse
Hilltown Farmers Biodiesel Co-op.

The *Heath Herald* will carry two of these topics in the current and in the following issue. It may be that other people will want to tell their story as well, which can be published later. Please contact the Agricultural Commission and/or Leighton McCutchen, sec. at mccutchen@crocker.com if you have responses to these ideas, or want to share with the community. Or send your letters to the *Heath Herald*.

~ Leighton McCutchen

Energy Conservation and Generation at Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple Farm

As part of Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple Farm's commitment to sustainable agriculture and environmental sustainability, ongoing energy conservation efforts and renewable energy projects are two important goals we have pursued on the farm over the years. As a business enterprise we do not encounter conservation as cutting back or doing without. Rather, it drives a learning curve that enhances the precision of our work through the targeted application of materials and energy to produce a product. Following is a description of these activities. Much of this information is drawn from our Web site, www.berkshiresweetgold.com.

Energy Conservation

Maple sap collected from the farm's 4,000 trees tastes like cold, fresh, slightly sweet water. To reach the rich 67° Brix density of maple syrup the sap must be concentrated at ratios of often 30 gallons of sap to one gallon of syrup at the beginning of the harvest and up to 100 to 1 by the end of the harvest. Energy is required to accomplish this process. Burning wood or oil to boil maple sap and evaporate water uses kinetic energy to knock water molecules away from their weak bond to mineral molecules. There is a lot of wasted energy in the form of radiant heat. Using electricity, we can reduce the boiling time (and wasted heat) dramatically by first passing the bio-active sap through high pressure filtration, called Reverse Osmosis, which forces water away from minerals with a combination of pressure and spin (Imagine a fast merry-go-round where the big kids spin off the edges {mineral/sugars} and the little kids {water} stay in the center!). A further advantage of this step is

that it limits the amount of time the delicate maple sap is exposed to heat. A maple farm using oil alone can consume 3 to 5 gallons of oil per gallon of syrup produced. This 2009 harvest we were able to reduce our oil usage to under 6/10ths of one gallon per gallon of syrup produced!

The heating oil we buy for our evaporator has only a small amount of bio-diesel in it at present, however, we hope it will increase soon. We do not burn wood to produce maple syrup for several reasons. First, oil burning gives us much greater control over limiting the sap's heat exposure which impacts flavors. Second, our conservation shift towards electricity and solar power balances well with reducing oil consumption better than it would with reducing cordwood consumption. While there are wood burning evaporators that run at higher efficiency, most operate at lower efficiencies and put a tremendous amount of CO₂ and particles up into the air in exchange for the heat they transfer to the boiling sap. And third, there is a conservation argument for allowing forests to mature, or age within their own complex plant/animal diversity. While wood is a great renewable energy source that we use for our home, the extensive wood harvesting for heating sap would significantly alter the type of forest that we live in. Forests properly managed can be carbon neutral or even a carbon sink as they pull CO₂ from the air. Poorly handled, a forest can become a net carbon emitter through excessive decay and/or over-harvesting.

Our farm-to-table relationships with customers form an often overlooked, vital **conservation practice**. Farm Direct retail markets do eliminate the substantial energy consumption associated with wholesale distribution, transport, storage, and marketing. Yet most importantly, **customers' informed interest in family-scale farming forms the bedrock of a culture which conserves and sustains vital relationships between agricultural and urban lifestyles**. We all vote with our pocketbooks on what kinds of farms, conservation, and public access to lands we end up with. We couldn't agree more with farmer and poet Wendell Berry's statement that "eating is an agricultural act."

Many other daily commitments to conservation can be part of all of our ongoing efforts. For example, here on the farm we do our best to recycle while recognizing that we still produce a lot of waste that goes in to the compactor. We use CFL bulbs across the farm and are shifting to more efficient motors for pumps employed in harvesting. The framework of "reduce, reuse and recycle" outlines important goals, which includes for us raising and producing much of our own meats and vegetables and cramming into a Prius as our family car which we consider a carbon offset for the Ford E-150 we use to haul syrups to market.

Energy Generation

Energy **conservation** is clearly an activity in which everyone can participate. A next step can be to pursue alternatives for energy **generation**. Energy generation should logically begin with technologies that are mature, meaning that they are reliable and pay back investments within a reasonable time frame, like heating your home with a renewable fuel such as wood.

(*Energy Conservation and Generation*" continued from page 14)

In 2007 we installed a solar hot-water system on our farmhouse and then in 2008 we installed another on Leighton's and Martha McCutchen's home on the farm property. With the help of State and Federal tax credits solar hot-water recovers its costs quickly, within two to four years. The technology has been proven over decades.

Solar Photo-Voltaic! In 2008 we were very pleased to be awarded three state and federal grants to install a solar photo-voltaic system at the farm! In March of 2009, a 9.3kw generating system was installed on BSG's circa 1830s red-barn roof at 110 8A North by Berkshire Photovoltaic Services, owned by Chris Kilfoyle. PV systems are also technologically mature, reliable systems. However, they are not yet financially mature, a situation which is improving as world markets substantially scale-up production. We're hearing that prices this year have dropped over 20%! Local and federal governments worldwide are boosting this process through investments in targeted regions and businesses. Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple Farm has been able to participate in these political and financial commitments with receipt of grants from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC), The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program in association with the **United States Department of Agriculture**, and the Massachusetts Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP). In addition, new Massachusetts legislation passed this summer also made this project possible. These solar panels "net meter" electricity into the electric grid which functions as an offset, or credit, for what Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple Farm uses harvesting, producing, and marketing syrups. The new legislation is part of the **Green Communities Act** and requires utility companies to reimburse all net metering into the grid at a retail rate. The system uses Massachusetts-made Schott panels and is estimated to be able to produce 80% or better of the farm's average annual electricity usage. This installation is compatible with our shift to electricity in processing with Reverse Osmosis along with supporting all the other farm equipment that uses electricity including sap pumps, vacuum pumps, compressors, syrup pumps, syrup and glass heaters, space heaters, ultraviolet lights, blower motors, heat tapes, and computers.

~ Brooks McCutchen and Janis Steele

The center of any good system is the boiler itself. H.S. Tarm has long been recognized as a leader in the field of wood boilers. The Tarm has a few features that allow it to operate at such high efficiency. One is a small draft fan that provides constant fresh air to the fireboxes during the burn. Two things happen as a result of this air injection. The fire will burn hot and clean from start to finish. First, the air is pushed down through the actual pieces of wood providing complete consumption. As the air then passes out of the firebox it enters a second burning chamber. Here the gases and any unburned solid matter have a chance to fully combust. The creosote and smoke are now fully burned inside the boiler and the exhaust leaving the chimney is much cleaner, safer, and less polluting. Another key to efficiency is the path of the heat on its way toward the flue. After passing through both burning chambers the exhaust also must travel through a group of smoke tubes. Here most of the remaining heat is extracted into the 65-gallon water jacket that surrounds all heated surfaces. As a result of all this, burning temperatures of 2000 degrees inside will exhaust a clean, smoke- and creosote-free vapor at only 350 degrees.

The best way to insure maximum efficiency is to integrate a heat storage tank with the boiler. Tanks range in size from 500 gallons up to 1200 gallons or more. The tank allows any heat that is produced, and is not immediately needed, to be stored in the form of heated water for hours or even days. The tank is fitted with copper exchange coils that will warm the reservoir up to 175 degrees. After the fire in the boiler has gone out, if there is a call for heat in the house, water can be cycled back through the tank and distributed throughout the heating zones. By saving excess heat in an insulated tank nearly all BTUs stay in the house and are not exhausted up the chimney.

These systems will provide constant heat at high efficiency and safety. The combination of boiler and storage tank will provide heat all day and *night* using considerably less wood with less pollution as compared to other commonly used wood-burning units. The option to use pellets and corn as a fuel only add to the versatility of the system. In our area the use of clean-burning **renewable** fuels is an easy way we can all make a positive difference.

~ Michael Freeman

Biomass Boilers

Today's biomass boilers have come a long way from the smoky, inefficient indoor or outdoor furnaces of a generation ago. New technology and forward thinking has led to an indoor whole house heat system that will burn cordwood, pellets, and corn at 85 % efficiency, with some units up to 92% with cordwood. To take full advantage of the heat produced large *heat storage tanks* can also be used to hold unused heat for later use.

"Sun for Rent"

According to an article, "Sun for Rent," in the May 24, 2009 *Boston Globe* by Beth Daley, federal grants are making it possible to rent instead of buy solar panels at a significantly reduced cost through Sun Run Inc. who partners with installers Alteris Renewables and GroSolar.

A copy of the *Globe* article is available in the Heath Library.

The Finance Committee

The Town of Heath is confronting a very difficult financial picture for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, which begins July 1, 2009. After extensive discussions among ourselves, with town department heads, and in several meetings with the Selectboard, the Finance Committee (FinCom) recommended for FY 2010 a budget plan requiring an estimated property tax rate for Heath of \$16.85. These budget and tax rate recommendations, adopted by the Selectboard and voted by the Annual Town Meeting on May 9, 2009, mean an increase of 4% (\$.65) over the FY 2009 rate of \$16.20. The estimated average tax bill will increase by \$128. The estimated tax bill for a property assessed at \$150,000 will be \$2,528; for a property assessed at \$300,000 the estimated tax bill will be \$5,055.

We keep using the adjective “estimated” in discussing the tax rate because many still-unresolved factors can increase or diminish that rate before it is finally certified by the State in the autumn. The most significant of these factors is the so-called “cherry sheet” number: the local aid that is part of the Commonwealth’s budget. We have seen three different numbers: from the Governor’s original budget, from the first version of the House’s budget, and from the revised budget recommended by the House Ways and Means Committee. After much discussion, we concluded that the most prudent course for the Town would be for us to assume the lowest of these numbers – \$77,792 – for local aid as we developed our recommendations to the Selectboard and the Town Meeting.

Even this assumption may not be pessimistic enough in light of the sharp drop in state revenue collections and other revenue sources, which may affect both our local aid and estimated receipts (such items as motor vehicle excise taxes, fees, rentals, licenses, etc.). We believe, however, that using any other numbers now would be guesswork. Under these assumptions the Town will sustain, compared to FY 2009, a cut of \$32,541, or 29.5%, in local aid from the state. On the other side of the ledger, the final tax rate may be reduced somewhat if the Town’s total property valuation increases. Any change in total valuation, however, is likely to be small.

Another factor bearing on the tax rate involves the Town’s required contribution to the Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) budget. Since 2007, the formula by which the State calculates this contribution has included the aggregate personal income of each town as well as property values. Heath’s aggregate income spiked from \$9 million in 2005 to \$19 million in 2006 (the year the State used for FY 2010 school assessments). This change resulted in an assessed increase from \$711,777 in FY 2009 to \$832,504 for the MTRSD in FY 2010, a difference of \$121,727, or 17.06%. Because of this increase and the assumed reduction in local aid, the Town must raise an additional \$154,268 in taxes, a sum equal to \$1.63 on the tax rate. Without these extraordinary changes, the estimated tax rate would be \$15.22.

That is not the whole story, however. Without these adverse changes, the FinCom would not have recommended dipping so deeply into the Free Cash and Stabilization funds – the Town’s “rainy day” money – in order to hold the increase in the estimated tax rate to 4%. We recommended that the Town fund two capital

outlay items – a wing plow (\$14,000) for the Highway Department and the Town’s contribution of \$32,300 to the cost of a new Charlemont ambulance (the present ambulance is 10 years old) – from the Stabilization Fund, reducing that fund from \$182,648.85 to \$136,348.85. We also recommended that the Town use \$118,000 from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate, diminishing the amount in that account from \$199,475 to \$20,811.78. We considered these balances to be prudent but irreducible. The Town Meeting voted in favor of these recommendations.

Had we not decided to recommend funding these capital items from the Stabilization account, and had we recommended using the same amount from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate as in FY 2009 (\$50,000), the Town budget would have increased by \$114,300, requiring an estimated tax rate of \$18.06, an increase of 11.5% in the rate, and on the estimated average tax bill of \$369. We considered that asking townspeople for a tax increase of this magnitude in these times would be unconscionable.

The Town has sought some relief from the big jump in our MTRSD assessment through our representatives in the legislature. Although our efforts have not succeeded thus far, Representative Dan Bosley and Senator Ben Downing continue to work on this issue, along with the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Depending on the outcome of these efforts and of several legislative proposals for increasing state revenues (most prominent among them, an increase in the state sales tax), our situation may improve. But we believe the wisest course is to estimate the FY 2010 tax rate using a worst-case scenario – at least we hope it’s the worst!

We share the concern voiced at Town Meeting about the low balance in the Free Cash account. We concluded that the Town could live temporarily with this large a reduction in light of the high likelihood that our Free Cash balance will be replenished by part of the estimated \$129,413 the Town expects to receive from FEMA as reimbursement of 75% of costs the Town incurred in cleaning up after the December 2008 ice storm. We cannot now predict how large a portion of the FEMA money will be available for Free Cash, but it is likely to be substantial. In light of recent press reports, we can’t be similarly optimistic about reimbursements from the State Emergency Management Agency, MEMA.

There is a small ray of sunshine amidst all this gloom. The Town is negotiating an agreement with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for it to provide a lump-sum payment to the Town of MSBA’s remaining obligation for the building mortgage on Heath Elementary School. This action will extinguish the mortgage note earlier than under the current arrangement and at a substantial long-term savings to the Town. The Town Treasurer, Kristi Nartowicz, is negotiating the details of this arrangement, which will oblige the Town to borrow the remaining balance of its share, about \$145,000. The first payment on this note will come due, if present plans mature, in FY 2011, so that we have a onetime reduction of \$60,029 in that line item in the FY 2010 budget. In the following years, however, we will have to make annual payments on this loan for the term that the Town undertakes. The FY 2010 budget contains, therefore, a windfall of about \$.63 on the tax rate.

(“The Finance Committee” continued on page 19)

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

LIVELY CARETAKING

Tom Lively

Phone 413-337-4061
Cell 413-325-1065

Email: Lively1@crocker.com

Carpentry - Repairs, Remodeling,
Mowing, Snow Removal, Painting



PO Box 55 Heath MA 01346

413-625-6623

HAIR BY HANA

102 Bridge Street - Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Support Local Agriculture

Free 1 inch advertising space for local farmers.

Send copy to: *The Heath Herald*
P.O. Box 54
Heath, MA 01346

Supported by a special grant made available

Dave Farrington
Jacksonville, VT
802-368-7456

38 Years of Experience

J.W. AUTO

Auto and Light Truck Repair
Elvis Presley Blvd., Rt. 100 S., 1/2 mile from center

ASE Certified Master Mechanic
Air Conditioning, Service Engine Lights, Auto Transmission

Maple House



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

Lodging and Breakfast from \$60. Call for Reservations.
Middletown Hill Road (413) 339-0107 Rowe, MA 01367

A College Preparatory Day School for
Grades 7-12 and Postgraduate



1359 MOHAWK TRAIL, CHARLEMONT, MA 01339
tel: 413.339.4912 – www.charlemont.org

SMITH HARDWOOD FLOOR COMPANY

Installation, Sanding, Refinishing

Oak, ash, maple, birch, etc.—strip or plank

P.O. Box 117, Buckland, MA 01338 (413) 489-3024

Free estimates—insured Joshua Smith



DAVE COTE BUILDERS

Custom Homes - Remodeling
Licensed - Insured - Free Estimates

David Cote
413-337-4705

Franklin Community Cooperative

Serving Your Community with
Deliciously Healthy Foods
with two co-op stores...

Green Fields Market

144 Main St., Greenfield

M-F 8-8, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5

(413) 773-9567



McCusker's Market
3 State St., Shelburne Falls
Open Daily 7-7 (413) 625-9411

RUSSELL E. DONELSON

61 Sumner Stetson Road
Heath, MA

Design/Construction/Cabinetry
To New and Existing Buildings

413-337-4460

Licensed/Insured

Richard A. Sumner

Journeyman Electrician
Mass. License #E22622

30 Royer Rd., Heath, MA 01346

(413) 339-8357



Rowe Camp & Conference Center

PO Box 273 Rowe, MA 01367

413-339-4954

www.rowecenter.org

A magical place to explore new horizons, heal,
make new friends, have fun, be a part of community
or find your place in the world.
We offer weekend conferences on a wide variety
of topics as well as space for private retreats.

Retreat • Relax • Reflect • Relate • Revitalize

Wanda Mooney, CRS GRI, SRES

413 337-8344 x 1

413 625-6366 x 13



Wanda
MOONEY



UPTON-MASSAMONT
REALTORS®

www.WandaMooney.com



**The Baker
Pharmacy**

Tel: 625-6324

Week Days 8:30AM - 8PM

Saturdays 8:30AM - 5PM

Holidays 9AM - 12 Noon

52 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls

Town Nurse News

Suggestions for Improving Your Health This Summer



By Claire Rabbitt, RN

When making lifestyle changes, remember, do everything in moderation and set goals that are realistic for you.

As the warm season is here, it is so much easier to enjoy outside activities such as walking, biking, gardening, and swimming. An article in *USA Weekend* by Stephen R Covey reported low to moderate intensity exercise three times a week for six weeks increased energy levels. This same article stated: In an Italian study, seniors with high HDL levels, (HDL is the good cholesterol that reduces risk for heart disease.) did better in walking tests. Exercise, weight reduction, and a diet high in monounsaturated fats, such as olive oil, nuts, avocados, omega-3 fatty acid fish, and fish oil supplements, help to raise HDL.

Take advantage of locally grown fresh vegetables and fruits, rich in antioxidants, from your own garden or farm stands. At least five servings of vegetables and fruits are recommended daily.

I am in my office on Tuesdays from 12:15-1:15 p.m. and on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or you may call me to arrange an appointment for another time. If I am going to be away, I will post a notice in the Town Hall.

Heath Land Preservation Committee

The Heath Land Preservation Committee has been reorganized and reactivated. The HLPC is an ad hoc committee working to preserve the landscape of Heath by protecting land through Conservation Restrictions and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions. The original committee was formed as a result of the Visioning Project done by the Town twelve years ago. The top priority of all the participants in this study was preserving the rural character, open space, and agricultural activity in Heath. Over the course of the last twelve years, in conjunction with the Franklin Land Trust, we have helped to facilitate the preservation of over 2000 acres of land in Heath. These include Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on the Dickinson Farm and Luciana Ross's field next to the Center Cemetery, and Conservation Restrictions on numerous properties including Doug Mason's and Nina Marshall's Manse and Ned Wolf's property on Branch Hill Road. There are also many projects currently in the process of being preserved with both APRs and CRs.

The HLPC is a grassroots group whose purpose is primarily informational and educational. First, we are the eyes and ears of the community. As a local diverse group we strive to be aware of potential development in Heath especially of properties that contribute to the rural character of Heath and that are vulnerable to development. Second, we try to reach out and educate landowners about the options for preservation of their land, and to help them determine what meets their needs and desires for their land. Third, we help the landowners connect with organizations dedicated to land preservation, primarily the Franklin Land Trust, and work with all parties to come to a satisfactory outcome.

We welcome interest and involvement from everyone, both landowners interested in preserving their land in some way, and anyone interested in being involved in this important work for the good of the community of Heath. Development pressure is

increasing in this area, and while we support intelligent and affordable development, we are committed to preserving the rural character of Heath and assisting landowners who want to protect their land. Currently members include; Bob Dane, Jan Carr, Dave Freeman, Todd Sumner, Bob Viarengo, Ken Thane, and Doug Mason. Please feel free to call me or other members of the committee if you would like to participate in any way.

Thank you,
~ Bob Dane

(*"The Finance Committee"* continued from page 16)

The Assessors Mapping account was increased from \$1,000 to \$6,000 to update the Town's maps. The Franklin Tech costs diminished by about 1%. We recommended, and the Town Meeting approved, a onetime expenditure of \$4,592 for an upgrade to the electrical system in the Community Hall, the shortcomings of which became clear during the ice storm and consequent heavy use of this facility.

Salaries are being increased by 1%, an addition of \$2,731 or a bit over one tenth of 1% of the FY 2010 budget, an amount we consider to be a sound investment in the Town's greatest asset, its employees.

The FinCom recommended all Special Town Meeting articles and all Annual Town Meeting articles except Articles 18 through 21, which we considered were not in our purview. We are grateful for the department heads' understanding of the Town's difficult current financial situation and their cooperation with us in finding ways to deal with it.

~ Donald Freeman, Chair
Ned Wolf, Secretary
Janis Carr
Dave Gott
Jeff Simmons

Selectboard's Report

Summer Meeting Schedule

The Board will meet every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall unless posted otherwise. Tentative meeting dates are: 6/15, 6/29, 7/6, 7/27, 8/10, 8/24, 9/7, and 9/21.

Town Election

The Town of Heath held an election on Friday, May 8. The results are as follows:

Incumbents	Position	Term Length
Sheila Litchfield	Selectman	3 years
Hilma Sumner	Town Clerk	3 years
Richard Gallup	Assessor	3 years
Janis Carr	Finance Committee	3 years
David Gott	Finance Committee	3 years
Edwin Wolf	Finance Committee	3 years
Undetermined	Planning Board	5 years
Deborah Porter	Library Trustee	3 years
Robert Tanner Jr.	Constable	1 year
Jeffrey Simmons	Constable	1 year
Robert Tanner Jr.	Dog Officer	1 year

Ann Pacino was elected as a write-in candidate for the position of School Committee member for three years.

Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting was held at the Heath Elementary School on Saturday, May 9, 2009. It was preceded by a Special Town Meeting to transfer funds to make up for deficits and overages in FY 2009 accounts. There were three articles on the STM, all related to expenses incurred by the Highway Department for winter-related items. Sharp increases in the prices of salt and sand plus extra help needed to deal with the ice storm damage accounted for the bulk of the increased expenses. All three articles passed unanimously.

The Annual Town Meeting followed the STM. The warrant consisted of 23 articles. Articles of particular interest were Article 3, the budget for FY2010, Articles 18, 19, 20, and 21, all related to zoning bylaw changes, and Article 22, a change to the Mohawk Schools Regional Agreement. Article 3, the town budget, consisted of 130 line items and totaled \$985,022, an increase of \$27,500 over last year's budget or 5.5%. The school-related appropriations do not appear in Article 3 but are separate articles on the warrant. The total town budget for FY 2010 is \$ 1,920,672. Article 3 passed unanimously. Article 18 was a zoning bylaw change to require ownership of a parcel of land for one year before subdividing would be permitted. Concerns by Town Counsel about the legality of such a measure helped to defeat this proposal. Article 19, the phased growth measure, was a request to renew the limit of six building permits per year for new dwellings. This was also subject to legal challenge according to Town Counsel but still passed by a 2/3 majority. Article 20 proposed to amend the description of the area known as Mohawk Estates to correct errors in the current page and book numbers. The measure passed. Article 21 pro-

posed to allow camper/trailer owners to replace their camper/ trailers which are connected to a septic system with a permanent structure or to replace the camper/trailer. Confusion about the language of the article and an attempt to amend it on the floor contributed to its failure to receive the 2/3 majority needed to pass. Article 22 proposed to amend the Mohawk Regional School Agreement to include the Hawlemont School. Although the Town of Hawley voted down this article at their Annual Town Meeting, Mohawk Superintendent Michael Buoniconti asked the Town of Heath to support it in case the measure came back at a Special Town Meeting in Hawley at a later date. All towns would need to pass it for the agreement to be amended. Article 22 passed.

This year's Annual Report was dedicated to the "Spirit of Community in Heath" as evidenced by the response of residents to the ice storm emergency in December of the past year.

Free Wood Chips

Wood chips generated from chipping debris left over from the December ice storm are being stockpiled at the town property on Bray Road. Any town resident who needs wood chips is welcome to take them for personal use. There are also logs available to any town resident for personal use.

Mohawk School Assessment

The Board has been in discussions with officials from the State Department of Revenue, the Department of Education, and our Senator and Representative to see if there is any help available to the Town for the steep jump in our required minimum contribution assessment for Mohawk, as determined by the State.. The \$126,000 increase over the previous year represents an increase of 18%, the highest rate for any town in the state. No progress has been made on obtaining relief from this steep increase but officials from the State have assured us that this jump will only occur this year and will disappear after that.

Elementary School Mortgage

The Board together with the Finance Committee and the Treasurer have determined to pay off the elementary school mortgage early, thus saving the Town over \$100,000 and eliminating a mortgage payment in FY2010. The Massachusetts School Building Authority has agreed to give the Town its yearly contribution toward the mortgage in a lump sum. The remaining money due on the mortgage will be paid by a 3-year loan.

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.

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



Library Lines

New Acquisitions



By Donald Purington

A Few of the New Items at the Library:

Adult Fiction Books: *Finger Lickin' Fifteen* by Janet Evanovich, *Long Lost* by Harlen Coben, *Tea Time for the Traditionally Built* by Alexander McCall Smith, *The Wildwater Walking Club* by Claire Cook.

Adult Nonfiction Books: *The Allen Sisters: Pictorial Photographers 1885 – 1920* by Suzanne L. Flynt, *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell, *How We Decide* by Jonah Lehrer.

Books on CD: *The Private Patient* by P. D. James, *My Name is Red* by Orhan Pamuk.

Young Adult Books: *The Last Olympian* by Rick Riordan (fourth book in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series).

Children's Books: *Larry and Rita* by Jamie Michalak, *Mission Control, This is Apollo: the Story of the First Voyages to the Moon* by Andrew Chaiken, *You are the First Kid on Mars* by Patrick O'Brien.

DVDs: *Sideways*

Music CDs: *Beethoven/Schubert: Piano Trios No. 3, 5, & 7, From a Distance: the Very Best of Nanci Griffith*, *Roadsinger* by Yusuf.

Summer Reading and Crafts

The schedule of the Heath Free Public Library's Summer Reading and Crafts Program for children 5 – 12 is as follows:

Wednesdays, July 8, 15, 29 and August 5 at the Heath Community Hall from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The Program is free and preregistration is required.

We will be making bottle rockets and other astronomy-related crafts for this year's theme, "Spaceship Adventure."

Please stop by or call the Library at 337-4934 for more information and to sign up.

~ Lyra Johnson

Johnson Organ Restoration Fund Committee

Once more we wish to thank all who have been so generous in giving to the fund. Special thanks to the Heath Fire Department. We are nearly two-thirds of the way to matching our challenge which must be met by August 2009 (but still have thousands to go). The Committee is constantly searching for other sources of funding.

We have scheduled the following benefit concerts for this summer.

June 21, 4:00 p.m. – The Reverend Carleen Reynolds Gerber, renowned organist, will perform an organ concert of classical works of contemplation by J.S. Bach, George Frideric Handel, Felix Mendelssohn, Georg Philipp Telemann, and others. She is Minister of Music for the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, Connecticut, where she is both organist and choir director.

July 19, 4:00 p.m. – The Da Camera Singers of Amherst with a

program of madrigals and art songs. The program will include madrigals by Claudio Monteverdi and settings of several Emily Dickinson poems by Alice Parker. The group is directed by Sheila Heffernon, chair of the Performing Arts Department at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Gill. Founded in 1973, the group has performed throughout the Pioneer Valley ever since. Don Freeman of Heath is a member.

August 9, 4:00 p.m. – Rollo Kinsman, Heath's own renowned tenor, with, as always, a wonderful repertoire.

September, 4:00 p.m. John Clark, French Horn Master and Friends (Date pending)

Also, we have several wonderful articles including a Fred Burrington work, a Tucker Litchfield glass piece, a Tom Jenkins plant stand, a Howard Crowningshield table, and an Alli Thane-Stetson rug to be raffled throughout the summer with the drawing at the last concert in September. Tickets will be on sale soon.

~ The Committee

Milestones

Twins Sofia Townsend Mason and Joseph Marshall Mason were born on April 15, 2009. They are the children of **Nina Marshall** and **Doug Mason of Heath**, and grandchildren of Cynthia and Donald Mason of Berlin, PA; Mary and Robert Mohr of Ocean City, NJ; Mimi Marshall of Mills, MA, and Martha and the late John H. Marshall of Westport, MA.

Carys Ania Ayers was born on May 23, 2009. She is the daughter of Carl and Emily Ayers of Guiderland, NY, the granddaughter of **Hilma Sumner of Heath** and Carrie and Kevin Bates of Canton, NY; niece of **Ruth Ayers of Heath**, and grandniece of Charlene Churchill of Ellsworth, ME.

Heath People in the News

Kevin R. Duda and **Jessica Edmonds** of Cambridge will be married on July 11, 2009, in Glenview, IL. Kevin is the son of Karen and Ronald Duda of Whately, and the grandson of Bernice and Paul Duda of Whately, and **Dorothy** and **Kenneth Stetson of Heath**. Jessica is the daughter of Cindy and Dusty Edmonds of Glenview, IL.

Both Kevin and Jessica received their PhDs from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where Kevin earned a master of science degree in Aeronautics/Astronautics, as well.

Jesse Porter-Henry and **Amy Scully** of Northampton will be married on Saturday, July 18, 2009, at the Warfield House in Charlemont with Jesse's aunt the Reverend Pamela Porter officiating. Jesse is the son of **Deborah Porter** and **John Henry of Heath**. Amy is the daughter of Linda and Fred Scully of North Adams.

Jesse teaches science and math at The Academy at Charlemont where he is also the Director of Athletics, and Amy is a guidance counselor at Monson High School.

Bob Gruen is retiring after forty years as an educator *extraordinaire*.

Dear Heath Drama Patrons and Families,

Carin Burnes and I just wanted to offer a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who helped make this year's drama season such a success. The play, the school, and the district received some great press, and we heard wonderful things about the production. Here are some of the highlights:

- ♦ We had 53 students involved in this year's production of *Lost Boys: The Nearly True Adventure of A One-Armed Pirate, A Flying Boy, His Friends, and Their Talking Dog*.
- ♦ We expanded our funding sources from one to three—the Mary Lyon Foundation, Northampton Arts Angels, and the Heath Cultural Council. We also received several gifts from private donors. (Individual donations are always welcome!)
- ♦ We contributed nearly half the proceeds from the sale of Believe Bars to Good Neighbors. On a field trip to their drop-off

site, Deb Porter's class presented their staff with groceries they collected and a check from Drama Club for \$200.

- ♦ Eight area business supported the production, including this year's "corporate sponsor," Zoar Outdoor.
- ♦ Our entire cast attended a half-day training with several of the amazing and talented faculty from Double Edge Theater at their performance space in Ashfield (thank you Adam, Hannah, Sarah, and Matthew!).
- ♦ Five out of the cast members in the 5/6 grade received four hours of training on the circus fabrics at the New England Center for Circus Arts in Brattleboro. (We hope to bring them to perform and give a workshop for the entire school next year.)
- ♦ Three alumnae and one alumnus from past productions—Maeve Gallagher, Annelise Cain, Hannah Lessels, and Tucker Jenkins—returned to help us train, build, and paint the set, and then play instruments and perform cameo roles in the performance. We want to continue to build on this tradition so that, eventually, when our graduates reach high school one or several of them can return to direct the plays.

And, finally, in, perhaps, the most exciting news of all, Double Edge Theater and the Heath Drama Club are recipients of this year's Mary Lyon Fund, "Spirit of Adventure" award, "for your work with drama for children and for theatre production and education for the entire community." In baseball speak, the kids really jerked one out of the park!!

Speaking of baseball (yes, it's that time of year again), we have THREE Rookie League teams and one majors team this year in Heath!! The Heath/Rowe Mariners are defending their title in the majors and in rookie League the Heath/Rowe Twins and Rowe/Heath Bluejays are back and will be joined by a new team the Heath/Rowe Highlanders. (A quick shout out to Kris and Carin Burnes as it is all the kids moving up from their incredibly successful T-ball and developmental league who are swelling our ranks. Only one new player is an older choice student, the rest all came up from our farm system!)

We are divvying up our equipment among the four teams and the Heath Fire Department is now sponsoring two of the younger squads—the Highlanders and the Twins—but they need help! **Any donation you can make to assist us in safely equipping all 48 BALLPLAYERS in uniforms and gear would be greatly appreciated.** Checks can be mailed or dropped off at the Heath School and should be made out to **HEATH/ROWE BASEBALL**.

My apologies to our drama patrons for this reckless act of sports promotion. OTOH, my sons', Julian and Oliver, favorite uncles, Chas and Paul, refer to the Arts and Leisure section of *The New York Times* as "The Gay sports pages," so I don't think the two passions are that far apart. What's more, the majority of our children participate in both. For many of us at the Heath School, Drama Club is our winter family and baseball, our spring one and, as I told some of our newer recruits during practice last week, "Baseball is just like theater. It doesn't matter if you win or lose, you just want to do your best every night and put on a good show!"

Come check us out!

~ Jonathan Diamond



Community Calendar

June 2009

- June 02** - LEC Meeting, Heath School, 3:30 p.m.
June 03 - Schools Early Release Day; Heath School, 12:45 p.m.
June 04 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
 Senior Awards Night, MTRHS
 Science MCAS
June 07 - **MTRHS Graduation**
June 10 - Heath School Grades 3 and 4 to Sturbridge Village
June 15 - Field Day, Heath School
June 16 - The Myrfield Institute for Cognition and the Arts, Lecture, Community Hall, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
June 17 - Heath School 6th Grade Visitation to Mohawk
June 18 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
 MTRHS Early Release
June 19 - Volunteer Brunch, Heath School, 9:30 a.m.
 Schools Early Release; Heath School, 12:45 p.m.
June 21 - Johnson Organ Benefit Organ Concert, Heath Union Church, 4:00 p.m.
June 22 - Heath School, Rowe Pond Trip, Lunch at Pond.
 Schools Early Release; Heath School, 12:45 p.m.
June 23 - Heath School Early Release, 12:45 p.m., No lunch served.
Heath School Graduation, 6:00 p.m.
June 23 and 24 - Mohawk Exams, Early Release
June 24 - **Last Day of School**; Heath School Early Release, 11:45 a.m., no lunch served.
HAPPY SUMMER!
June 28 - Rose Viewing, The Leuchtman, Knott Road, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

July 2009

- July 02** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
July 08 - Heath Library Summer Reading and Crafts Program, Community Hall, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
July 15 - Heath Library Summer Reading and Crafts Program, Community Hall, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
July 15 - July 19 - Improvisation Workshop for French Horn Players, Friday and Saturday Evening Concerts Open to the Public.
July 16 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
July 19 - Da Camera Singers Johnson Organ Benefit Concert, Heath Union Church, 4:00 p.m.
July 25 - Ladies Aid Summer Sale, Heath Union Church, Lower Level, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Community Hall Craft Sale, Community Hall, Upper Level
 Senior Center Morning Coffee and Lunch, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
July 29 - Heath Library Summer Reading and Crafts Program, Community Hall, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>	<u>Snow</u>
From March 11, 2009	1"	1 ½" sleet
April	2 ½"	0"
To May 10	2"	0 "

In this reporting period:

March went out (like a lamb) with a fairly early arrival to the spring season. Once all the snow disappeared, all the damage that happened last December was revealed. We ended the winter season with 88 inches of snow. April was fairly dry, which caused a concern with the brush fire season, well into the month of May. The end of April did give us some high temperatures close to ninety.

~ Timothy Lively





**A milestone passed,
New Things begun,
Dreams as shining as the sun,
A goal achieved,
A victory won!
That's graduation.**

---Anonymous

HEATH HERALD

Box 54

Heath, MA 01346-0054

Forwarding Service Requested

Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 11
Charlemont, MA 01339

JERRY FERGUSON

Electrician

MA Lic. 21493E

Home Improvement

HIC Reg. 142164

413-337-4317

Heath, MA

Insured-Honest-Reliable
Over 35 Years Experience



24 West Main Street, Heath, MA 01346 p/f 413.337.

PETER'S GENERAL STORE

Debbie and Paul Plante, Proprietors

Number Nine Road, Heath

337-5501

- ◆ Fresh Produce
- ◆ Freshly-baked pies
- ◆ Blue Seal products
- ◆ Family Videos
- ◆ Penny Candy
- ◆ Soda, Grinders, Ice Cream
- ◆ Beer, wine, liquor
- ◆ All food essentials



STORE HOURS

Monday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sunday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Our Customers are
our greatest asset.**

*Serving the financial needs of Western Massachusetts
for over 20 years.*



413.781. BANK- bankwmass.com - Member FDIC