



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

\$1.50

Volume 35, Number 4

October/November 2013



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The *Heath Herald* is staffed by volunteers and published six times a year with content provided by you, our subscribers.

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Mailing Address:

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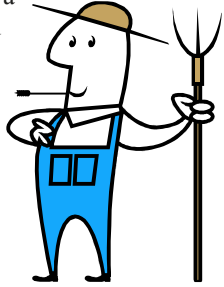
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Farming in Heath, Now and Then

On a crisp September afternoon that reminded me fall is nearly here, I had the pleasure of sitting down and talking with Steve Thane about growing up on a dairy farm in Heath. I was curious about his experiences and I had an urge to gather and share Heath's farm tales, since we are, after all, "a right-to-farm community." This story reveals more than a memory of life on the farm; it celebrates our community and the spirit of cooperation that makes Heath such a magical place to live.

So what was it like growing up on a dairy farm in Heath? The story begins in 1958 when Steve was a mere five years old and his family moved to Heath from the eastern part of the state. His father Ernest (Ernie), a mechanic by trade, had always longed to be a farmer and after searching in central Massachusetts, Connecticut, and even New York, they settled in Heath, and Heath, Steve told me, is where he has always considered his home.



Farming, Steve declares, is 25 hours a day, eight days a week, and on a dairy farm the cows get milked morning and night, like it or not. The Thanes milked 35 head and had 60-70 cows at a time including dry cows, heifers and young stock. With a farm come many chores. Steve's father was kind, in that he staggered morning chores among Steve and his brothers when school was in session, with one kid getting up at 5 a.m. to help his father with feeding and milking while the others were able to sleep. In the summer they all rose early to help. Steve told me that the cows always seemed to know they should sleep in the farthest corner of the field away from the barn "so you had to trek out there to rouse them up and get them moving into the barn for feeding and milking." He remembers occasionally doing his homework while sitting in the sawdust, waiting for a cow to get ready to give milk.

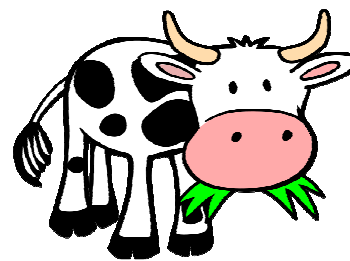
The cows fed on a combination of pasture, silage, hay and grain. Steve's family grew hay and corn, and would work with the Crowningshield family to process the corn into silage. Working together, they could harvest the corn in just two days, he said. The chopped corn, known as silage, was stored in a silo. Steve explained that when the silage was blown into the silo you had to make sure it was level or it would rot, so he and his brothers would take turns standing in the silo and raking it level as it was blown in. Steve recalls his dad being a "stickler for protective practices" and had them wear World War II army helmets to protect them from flying rocks while they performed this chore. Steve remembers his dad telling them "never walk under hydraulics, they can break," and credits his father's cautious measures with the fact that he and his brothers all have their fingers, toes, ears and eyes intact after years of working on the farm.

Beyond being cautious, Steve's dad was resourceful, as many farmers are. The Thane dairy used a milking machine and in the beginning ran two, one for each side of the barn. At the time, it was not uncommon to lose power in Heath. The milking machine ran on electricity, so his dad, drawing on his

mechanical skills, devised a way to ensure that their milk machine would always run, power or no power. The milking machine had a vacuum compressor that would alternately squeeze and release the rubber cups that drew the milk. Steve's dad attached a valve to the intake of their pickup truck and hooked up a hose to both the truck and the milking machine. When the truck was turned on, the intake created the suction necessary to milk the cows. "It was slow going," Steve said, "but you could get the milking done." This is just one example of the ingenuity it takes to be successful in farming.

Today there are no more dairies in Heath, but Steve shared with me why he thinks his family's farm was able to stay in business for as long as it did. They sold their milk to Hood, which meant their milk was sold in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Because the milk crossed state lines, their farm was inspected by both state and federal inspectors, who would make surprise visits annually. Each year the Thanes would have to make incremental changes to keep up with regulations. They had to move from milk cans to a bulk tank, install more lighting in the aisles, change how they washed the milk machines, etc. Each year his father made sure these items were taken care of. Other dairies in Heath sold in Massachusetts only, which meant they only had to adhere to state regulations. When Agrimark, a New England milk cooperative, came into existence, all the dairies found themselves having to sign on in order to continue selling their milk. It was difficult to convince a milk truck to come up to Heath for a single dairy, when they could otherwise come to collect from all the dairies associated with the co-op. This forced the dairies to upgrade their facilities according to federal regulations. For many, this was too expensive and resulted in their having to close. The Thane dairy was able to keep going because they had kept up with federal regulations throughout the years.

Having come to farming rather than being born into it, the Thanes were an anomaly at the time, and Steve imagines his neighbors likely felt sorry for them, thinking "we need to help these poor city folk," he laughs. His father learned a lot from



his neighbors and from just plain doing the hard work. Raking and baling hay were two skills their family had to learn. Before Ernie had the hang of the haying equipment, the rows weren't always tight and Steve, along with his mom and brothers

spent a whole summer morning raking in the edges. They retired to the kitchen table for lunch, which was situated in front of a window that looked out over the hay field.

Steve recalls a tornado that came up through the field. "It was our first summer so I was only five or six but I can still see that twister coming . . . it hit the house but there was little damage . . . the hay was everywhere, in the trees and in the power lines," and he remembers feeling like he was in the *Wizard of Oz*. After lunch they returned to the hay field to start all over again, only this time with less hay to rake.

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Farming in Heath, Now and Then, continued from Page 3

Steve recalls the spirit of cooperation and community in Heath as he grew up. "Everyone pitched in to help their neighbor without getting in each other's way. Heath was a large family. . . my dad knew what I had been up to before I arrived home . . . it was as if I had 20 sets of parents . . . but I knew if I got stuck in the snow or needed help, I could knock on anyone's door and they would help me." Steve shared an example of when his dad stepped through the floor in the barn and having fallen through up to his hip, was laid up. Without needing to be asked, all the neighbors came around and helped bring in the hay. This was the way things were. Neighbors helped neighbors and shared resources. Steve sees this cooperation and community spirit alive and well today in the voluntary efforts associated with the Heath Fair.

Beyond the dairy, the Thanes collected sap, but didn't have an evaporator to make syrup. They would collect sap and bring it to Howard Thompson, who would boil it all down and make the syrup, keeping some in trade for his services and the rest would go back to Steve's family. Smiling as he remembered a story that Oscar Thompson, Howard's father, had told to his mother Alli (who had never collected sap before moving to Heath), Steve shared that Oscar told her that she had to collect the sap every day or the trees would suck it back in at night. Alli diligently collected the sap every day. Steve doesn't know how long it took for his mom to realize he was pulling her leg.

When asked about the future of farming in Heath, Steve told me that he believes "Heath has the ability to adapt to an agricultural economy if the people are interested in doing so." He remembers more open fields where forest has now grown back, but states that those pastures could be reclaimed for agricultural use. He thinks farms will always be a part of Heath but will likely be focused on growing one's own food and won't necessarily play a large economic role in the town. He sees sheep, crops and orchards maintaining their popularity, but doesn't imagine dairies coming back due to federal regulations.

Steve ended our conversation by stating that he would have loved to continue farming in Heath on the dairy but that it simply wasn't possible to make a living. Today Steve resides at Pondside in The Dell, but farms a vegetable garden on his family farm on Jacobs Road where he grew up and where his mother resides. This garden supplies Steve and his wife Nancy with a bounty of locally grown food of which he is very proud. Next year he looks forward to an even bigger harvest. Ω

—Jessica Van Steensburg

Editor's Note: If you have a Heath farm story (past or present) to share, contact Jessica Van Steensburg at:

wecanfarminheath@gmail.com or call 413-339-4904.

As far as butter versus margarine, I trust cows more than chemists.

—Joan Gussow

To forget how to dig the earth and tend the soil is to forget ourselves.

—Mahatma Gandhi

Chester Tells All

Many of you probably admire me as you drive by the Danes' home and see me on the porch. I am a really popular cat this summer with lots of visits from my favorite girlfriends Jan Carr, Kara Leistyna and Janice Boudreau. They come by to give me treats and brush me, and I purr with delight. I also enjoy the political discussion with Bob Bourke and Cal Carr. I pretend to look pathetic to get sympathy, but I know that I am one lucky cat.

—Chester Dane



Photo by Janice Boudreau

Heath Historic District

Just before the Heath Fair this year, six signs appeared on the main roads leading into Heath that mark the boundaries of the Heath Historic District. The District was named to the National Register in 2008 after completion and publication in 2007 of the initial survey plan of Heath's historic features, including all buildings over 50 years old.

This survey project occupied Heath Historical Commissioners for several years as they drove the many dirt roads in Heath, recording and discovering the history of our town. The work involved visits to the Registry of Deeds in Greenfield, and many hours were spent poring over land titles reaching from the present far back into the 18th century.

Heathan members of the Commission engaged in this arduous but rewarding work included Del Viarengo (the Commission chair at the time), Janis Carr, Carol-Anne Eldridge, Donald C. Freeman, Eric Grinnell, Pegge Howland and Ned Wolf. Their work is documented in the Town of Heath Historic Properties Survey Plan of 2007, prepared by the Massachusetts Historical Commission with data provided by the Heath Commissioners.

Extra copies of the book may be purchased from the Heath Historic Society for \$10, with proceeds going to support the Society's work.

In the summer of 2008, Nina Marshall, a Commissioner and chair of the Heath Historical Society, and Del Viarengo,

Continued on following page

Heath Historic District, continued from Page 4

chair of the Heath Historical Commission, worked together to create an ice cream social on the Common to celebrate the establishment of the historic district. Certificates were handed out to the owners of the historic homes within the district, and old-timers shared their reminiscences of growing up in Heath.

Subsequent members of the Heath Historical Commission—Margaret Freeman, who took over the chairmanship from Del Viarengo in 2009, Bill Lattrell and Christine Luis-Schultz—along with the three remaining members, Janis Carr, Carol-Anne Eldridge, Pegge Howland and Nina Marshall, worked on creating the signs for the Historic District. We are grateful to A&E Custom Signs of Greenfield, who designed and made the signs for us, to Richards Steinbock for providing his original design of the Heath town logo, to Mike Smith and his crew for installation, and to the Town of Heath itself for providing funding to produce them. We hope that you will enjoy the signs welcoming both Heathans and visitors to the Heath Historic District.

We express our appreciation and gratitude to all who have worked on or with the Commission in fulfilling its state mandate to identify, preserve, and protect the historic resources of our town. Our current objectives are to organize the Commission's public records in the Town Hall and to complete a history of the Heath Historical Commission, formally established by a town vote on November 3, 1975, to serve as orientation for new members. Once we complete these tasks, we will be actively seeking new members to serve on the Commission. The work is engaging and rewarding, and we hope you will consider joining us as we continue our efforts to document the history and life of Heath. Ω

—*Heath Historical Commission*

Margaret H. Freeman (chair)

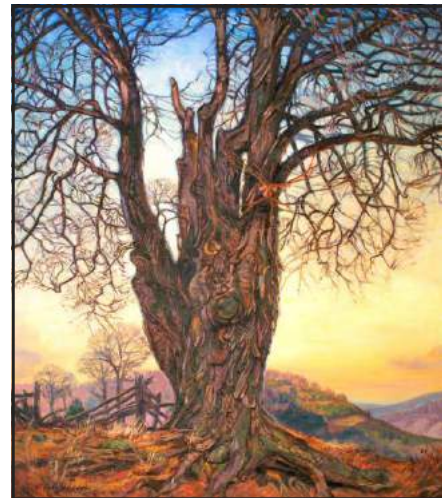
Kara Leistyna

Christine Luis-Schultz



Images courtesy of Heath Historical Commission

Robert Strong Woodward



Returns to Deerfield

September 21-October 14, 2013

An Exhibition of paintings by

New England artist,

Robert Strong Woodward (1885-1957)

Memorial Hall Museum

Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association

8 Memorial Street, in Old Deerfield, MA

Museum hours: 11 - 4:30

Tuesday-Sunday, plus Columbus Day, Oct. 14

Admission grants access to both the exhibition and the museum's collections.

Admission: \$6 for adults & \$3 for ages 6-12

Craft Fair tickets on September 21 and 22 include admission to the exhibit

Community Days on September 28 and 29 include Free Admission for residents of Heath, Colrain, Buckland, Plainfield and Shelburne (towns whose Cultural Councils helped to fund this exhibit).

www.Deerfield-MA.org

www.robertstrongwoodward.com

Sponsored by The Friends of RSW, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, several area businesses, and numerous individual donors.

After Haying

By John Palmer

Swallows dive and snap on long strings,
out early above the just-mown field, its grass and blue
and russet flowers
already rolled in orange ribbon, those bales
already looking like facts of summer.

Another hour, after a hawk has turned above the edge
of woods and field
and the ground-holding jets from their base a state away
have brought the next of the troubling clouds—

we'll walk the meadow again,
delighted by the rain, by the way the earth has reappeared
as hilltop
and curves away all around, passing
from this to another, almost repeatable day.

And tonight we'll watch a red moon clear Burnt Hill
and sail into place, making shadows across the underside
of clouds,
washing the barn in blood,
and so that everyday possess
its own unshared quality—
of observed desire, of cold temporality, of joy,
that wandering, incommunicable motion toward the sky—

we'll stray in place, in fields stripped clean, blade
and wing, our hearts stuttering a little, deliberate, while.

© John Palmer - Reprinted by permission

John Palmer is a Heath resident. Poems selected from his upcoming collection called *"Return to a Place like Seeing"*. The book, published by Pleasure Boat Studio, will be released soon.

"After Haying" was provided by Jack Estes. Jack, who is editor and publisher of the small literary press 'Pleasure Boat Studio', resides in Heath with his wife Betsy Kovacs and their two cats. Ω



"Haying Near New Rochelle, NY" John Henry Dolf



Ssserious Ssssummer Ssstory

What could be better on a nice warm summer's day in Heath than putting your feet up and gently turning the pages of a good book? Not a worry in the world! And then, your day turns on a dime and you're thrown into an adventure, a heart-pounding, life-or-death struggle with the forces of nature!

Have I got your attention? Good, now I can stop exaggerating (those of you who know me know I would NEVER do THAT) and get to the story at hand.

Living in the center of town has caused lots of people to knock at our door with requests for help, usually directions, a glass of water, or maybe air for their bicycle tire. This day brought a very different call for help. I had seen Jeanette Crowningshield and Esther Gallup arrive at the church to work in the kitchen downstairs, so when Esther came to the door, I was hoping maybe they had a pie that needed a taste test. Wrong! "Bob, we have a snake in the kitchen and can't get it out. Would you mind helping?" Without even going into a phone booth to change to my cape and tights, I grabbed my snake-catching tools (one Big Y plastic shopping bag) and headed out for the hunt!

Upon arrival in the basement, I found both ladies with large brooms playing what looked to be knock-hockey, with this fairly large snake. They were pushing it back and forth between themselves across the kitchen floor. Let me tell you, these ladies have skills the Bruins could use in defense of their NHL title! With a mere flick of the wrist, the reptile puck was placed perfectly on the blade of each broom!

My puzzled look generated this response: "We are trying to keep it out of the cabinets and cupboards!" So instead of joining in as a hockey forward, goalie seemed a better position. That forced me into action and I began my approach toward the anaconda-sized snake (oops, I promised not to exaggerate!) Well, maybe it was an extremely long-looking yard in length, but then again, I was measuring with my eyes and not a yardstick.

I carefully opened the plastic bag, but having forgotten to bring my snake charmer's kazoo to soothe and persuade, I was forced to lay out my shopping bag trap and hope for the best. Who knows, maybe something about me resembled the snake's mother, or maybe all those years of teaching sixth-graders (who by the way, can often resemble snakes in the grass . . . or class) had taught me the effective teacher's best tool for behavior modification, the dreaded "Stink Eye." Whatever the reason, that serpent looked at me and slithered right into the bag, no questions asked!

The ladies offered their kind applause, but turned down my offer to keep it as a trophy. What to do next? Although Susan's and my anniversary was the next night, I doubted she would accept it as a romantic gesture for our 42 years together. I have heard that snakes "taste like chicken," but then, doesn't everything?

I think I'll add Snake Charmer to my resume. Ω

— Bob Gruen

Opus 16 Re-dedication Service and Organ Concert



Image Courtesy of Scot Huntington

The Heath church was full to overflowing on July 21 as the Opus 16 organ of the William Johnson Organ Company was re-dedicated. This combination service of re-dedication and organ concert was attended by members of this and neighboring communities, also including organ lovers from around the state and beyond. We were treated to a concert of extraordinary proportions by a young classical musician, Nathan J. Laube. Laube, who performs in major venues both here in the United States and throughout Europe, has received numerous prizes from several distinguished competitions. He played pieces from the time period during which this organ was built through those of modern times.

Opus 16, the organ at Heath Union Evangelical Church, was built by William Johnson of Westfield. Johnson was considered one of New England's most prominent organ builders. This organ has passed from church to church, with significant modifications along the way. Opus 16 had its beginnings in the Haydenville Congregational Church in 1849. It was sold and moved to the Congregational Church in Whately in 1874, and was finally relocated to the Heath church in 1914. Funding organized by Mrs. Anna Burrington covered the \$100 purchase of Opus 16, which was then moved by horse and wagon to be reassembled in Heath. Ralph Dickinson and Dick Tanner were among those responsible for hand pumping the organ during church services until sometime around 1940, when an electric blower was installed. The organ functioned beautifully for the next 40 years or so, but was then found to be in need of significant repair.

A funding effort was begun for the repair and restoration of the instrument, but the project needed to be set aside until significant improvements to the building itself took place. In 2008, fundraising efforts picked up again with a generous challenge grant in honor of the Dickinson family as startup money. Donations came in from far and wide, with sufficient funds raised in less than two years. This restoration, which strictly followed the Organ Historical Society's Guidelines for Conservation, was completed in March 2013 by the Stonington, CT firm of S. L. Huntington and Company. All in attendance that beautiful summer day agreed that the work of Scott Huntington and his collaborators, including the country's leading experts on antique pipe organ decoration, Mary Lou Davis and Messrs Czelusniak et Dugal, Inc. was completed magnificently.

Congratulations to Ruth Johnson (chairperson), Jack Cable, Richard Gallup, Caroline Holstein, Pamela Porter, Eric Sumner, Alli Thane-Stetson, Ned Wolf, Don Conlon (Honorary Member), and all who contributed toward the restoration of this beautiful instrument. Your efforts to restore this piece of our church and town's rich history have been well rewarded and are much appreciated. It is anticipated that more concerts, including possible "Hymn Sings" will be offered in the months ahead, and into the next season and beyond. Ω

— Nancy Thane



Photo by Paul Turnbull

Heath Union Church

We have a communion service the first Sunday of each month. We enjoy a pot "blessing" luncheon every other month on Sundays and an evening program of fun and entertainment on the alternate months.

Adult Sunday School	9 a.m.
Sunday Worship	10 a.m.
Bible Study and Prayers	Thursdays, 6 p.m. at Buckley
Pastor's Hours	Thursdays, 4 to 6 p.m.

Church phone: 337-5367

Pastor Phill Grant: 413-648-9077

Deacons

Richard Gallup	337-5367
Ruth Johnson	337-4367
Walt Gleason	337-4379
Mike Smith	337-4429
Alli Thane-Stetson	337-4852

The Pastor is always available to the public. Just call.

Church News

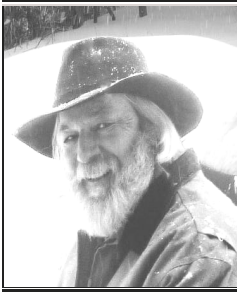
We enjoyed a very successful ham and bean supper at Heath Fair. This fundraiser was to raise money for repairs on our church steeple.

Our August pot-luncheon was enjoyed by all. Our next one will be on November 3. All are welcome.

Adult Sunday School started September 8. This year's theme is "What on Earth am I here for?" Join us at 9 a.m. every Sunday.

We are hoping to enjoy some organ music an evening or two and to all join in with an old-fashioned "Hymn Sing" in the upcoming months. Keep posted for details. Ω

— Alli Thane-Stetson



Wild Ramblings -

Bill Lattrell

Autumnal Waters Spawning New Thoughts

The water in this frothy brook is decidedly colder than it was a few weeks ago. As autumn approaches the weather will only get cooler, and we can expect a corresponding drop in water temperatures as well. Cold water in these upper reaches of Taylor Brook will encourage brook trout to migrate upstream from deeper pools in downstream areas in search of breeding habitat for the upcoming spawning season. I am checking out some pools that are situated below shaded, steep drop-offs, places where gravel collects: the precise habitat needed for brook trout spawning.

Today I am using a kick net. This information-gathering device is really quite simple. It is about as low-tech as one can get in gathering ecological data. The net has a long handle. At the end there is a broad, very fine meshed net. The dimensions of the net are about two feet by one foot wide. The beige net (it was once bright white many years ago), so finely meshed that a grain of sand can't pass through, is relatively shallow - about six inches in depth. The idea is to hold the net downstream from yourself and disturb all of the gravel in a square meter area by kicking at the gravel with your feet (hence the name kick net) in an effort to try to catch benthic invertebrates (essentially water-loving bugs) in the net. These benthic invertebrates reveal data about both water quality and available forage, critical elements when it comes to brook trout.

We can estimate water quality by identifying the particular species that are caught in the net. Benthic invertebrates have a wide variety of preferred habitats and we are looking for those that indicate clean, well-oxygenated water. The raw numbers of benthic invertebrates, larval dobsonflies, caddisflies, mayflies, diptera, craneflies, stoneflies, midges, and annelids will give us an indication of both food quality and amount. Brook trout will migrate into or near breeding areas as soon as the water cools down. Optimally they are looking for water temperatures in the mid 50s Fahrenheit, where they will gorge for a while prior to the spawn. Brook trout in our area typically spawn in mid to late October. The spawn seems to be occurring later in recent years, perhaps a result of our ever-changing climate.

On this particular day my kick net yields about 100 specimens per sampling. This is about average for our area and it can vary from season to season and from day to day. The most common critters are mayflies, diptera, and stoneflies. There are lesser numbers of caddisflies, hellgrammites and annelids. I will have to wait to get back to my office to key out the exact species that I've sampled, but based on past experience this is a healthy crop indeed and one that indicates very clean and well-oxygenated water. Brook trout are a true water quality barome-

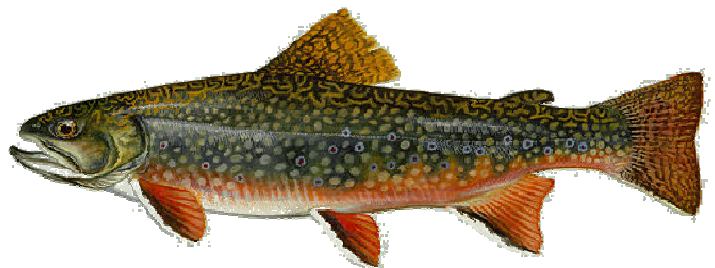
ter. If they are present the water is clean, seldom turbid (except for after large storm events), cold, and full of oxygen. Their mere presence tells me I am a lucky man. Living near clean water in this world is an ever-lessening opportunity.

There is nothing quite so precious as clean, clear, cool water. In New England we are very fortunate to have many streams with nearly perfect water quality. Hill towns and remote areas with steep slopes, ample water, and thriving cold-water streams are ripe for one of the region's premier fish, the brook trout.

Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) are the only native trout in our area. Actually they are not trout at all. They are truly a char, a close family cousin to the trout group. Locally they are often referred to as squaretails or speckled trout. Some consider the brook trout to be the most beautiful of all freshwater fish. I would have a difficult time disagreeing with this opinion. The dark mottled back, dark-green to bluish-gray sides, a contrasting red to orange underbelly, and dorsal and anal fins that are edged with a bright white stripe are a combination of patterns and colors that is both striking and awe-inspiring. Their striking beauty is somewhat of a mystery. The best theory that I've heard is that the most brilliant fish use their stunning appearance as part of the defense of their mating territory. Perhaps what humans call beautiful instills fear in other trout. Who knows?

I am most interested in the upcoming spawn. The female brook trout will locate good breeding grounds. Pools with a gravelly bed, high oxygen content and very cold temperatures are perfect. Most of the chosen pools are well-shaded out-of-the-way places that get little disturbance. The female prepares the bed by creating a nest or redd, as it is referred to by biologists. The female uses her tail to sweep the gravel creating a nesting area of one to two feet in size. There she will deposit up to 400 eggs, later to be fertilized by a dominant male. After the eggs are fertilized the female uses her tail again to cover the eggs with gravel. The primary critical objective is for the eggs to get a steady supply of oxygen while they incubate. Two or three months later, depending upon the water temperature, the eggs will hatch. These hatchlings, called sac fry, will remain in the redd until the yolk sac is fully absorbed. They will venture away from their birthing grounds when they are about 1.5 inches in length, where most will fall prey to a variety of predators, stream conditions, or just plain bad luck.

Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)



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Roundup: 96th Annual Heath Fair

Congratulations and appreciations to those innumerable volunteers who offered their time, good energy and support before, during and after the Fair. The Heath Fair would not survive without the support of hundreds of volunteers who help in hundreds of ways, from working in the food booth to parking cars to selling tickets to picking up trash to organizing animals and craft exhibitions to organizing the parade and kids games. There are so many different parts of the Fair and each is made possible by the efforts of volunteers. It mystifies me that it all works so well. So a big thank you to all who contributed and to those who continue to contribute!

And to those who attended the Fair: It is a pleasure to find so many wonderful individuals attending the Fair. Friends, friends of friends, parents, infants, grandparents, great-grandparents, strangers — everyone attending carried such terrific energy and interest. Were it not for such an idyllic crowd of fairgoers the Heath Fair would have no reason to be. Thank you one and all for showing your support to the Fair.

And finally we must thank Mother Nature for unmistakably perfect weather. History tells us to expect at least one day of rain, heavy wind or tornado warnings. It has happened often enough that the threat of weather often brings a knowing smile before any real concern. This was not to be the case this year though: cool nights and comfortable, sunny days. It was perfect.

With this year's Fair wrapped up, the Heath Agricultural Society begins to reflect upon the various nuances of the Fair in preparation for next year's 97th Annual Heath Fair. In the time between now and then the Heath Agricultural Society will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of every month. At these meetings we'll begin organizing goals and ideas for next year and for our impending 100th Anniversary celebration. Please consider becoming a member of the Heath Agricultural Society and being a part of an amazing team of people who are interested in preserving the Fair and supporting and celebrating agriculture!

Please contact me at justin@thelivelyheathan.com if you wish to learn more about volunteering with the Heath Agricultural Society. Ω

Thank you all very much.
Justin Lively, President



Photo by Art Schwenger



Photo by Doug Mason

Veterans on the Midway

The midway of the Heath Fair Grounds was packed. Crowds were enjoying the sunshine, food, games and comradeship on the last day of the Heath Fair, Sunday, August 18. Near the first aid station was a standing sandwich board listing Heath Veterans. Its purpose was not only to bring to the attention of the public the work of the Heath War Memorial Veterans Committee (HVMC), but also to welcome comments, corrections and additions to the list.

The Committee was established by the Selectboard in the summer of 2012 with members Bob Bourke, Jerry Gilbert, Dave Howland, Dennis Peters and Peter Smith, whose first task was to update the names of veterans who entered the military from Heath. Not easy! The Memorial Stone on the Town Green lists veterans from World Wars I and II, and there were plaques in the Community Hall but without connection to a conflict. With diligent research and phone calls a comprehensive list was created starting with the Revolutionary War up to the present time. Obtaining accurate information occupied much of the Committee's time. The sandwich board was the creation of Bob Bourke with the very able assistance of computer-literate Kara Leistyna.

Also, as a gesture to the veterans of World War II living in Heath, four senior citizens participated in the Parade. Hilma Sumner provided her convertible Toyota for transportation with appropriate signs and Parade Superintendent Joey Kotright-Clark put the car near the head of the Parade. Fran Rice and Bud Kaempfer of the U.S. Navy and Cleon Peters, the only native of Heath, and Dave Howland of the U.S. Army held flags as the car proceeded down the midway with cheering throngs on both sides. Only later did they learn they won first prize for their "float" in the Parade! That was not the purpose of their ride! Rather, it was just thought to be a nice idea for the World War II vets to participate in the Parade. The four decided to contribute their winnings of \$10 as the first contribution to a fund to be established by the HVMC in support of a War Memorial on the Town Green. Ω

—Dave Howland



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Green Thoughts

Pat Leuchtman



On the Threshold of the Millennium . . .

Every once in a while I look back over the past so I can see where I am going in the future. I wrote this at such a moment in December of 1999. It seems apropos, although I now have to say great-grandchildren now play cards with us in the completed Cottage Orne, and the Family Trees are now diminished in number by storms. Sadly, Peters Store is no more, but Internet access continues to improve, some measure of solar power has arrived, and the Heath Herald is available online. Change means life.

As I write this, Henry and I are celebrating the 20th anniversary of our arrival at the End of the Road. There have been lots of changes over the past 20 years. Children have grown up and moved away. Grandchildren have been born and now visit Granny and the Major.

The house has been repaired and is warmer, one barn burned, one shed built and the Cottage Orne is nearly complete. The garden has taken many shapes, the barn that was is now a sunken garden, the Family Trees grow taller every year and The Rose Walk blooms extravagantly every June. What has not changed is my feeling that Heath is a blessed spot and my gratitude for being able to live here. As we stand at the threshold of a new millennium I find myself reviewing the blessings of life in Heath, and resolving to act in ways that will preserve this fount of blessings.

In a way, all of Heath has been reviewing and resolving as we have gone through the Visioning Process. At one point there was a public meeting when those assembled described how they came to Heath. It was amazing how many were brought by friends who wanted to share the joy and pleasure they found there; it was wonderful how many felt in their heart that this is where they were meant to be. One friend told me she thought we had all come to Heath to work out our mutual destinies, and I think she may be right.

During the Visioning process we've been looking at what we like about Heath, what we want to keep and what we might be able to improve. In a sense we have been making a set of New Year's Resolutions writ large — Millennial Resolutions for our town.

The first blessing is the landscape: meadows, blueberry fields, sugar bush, woods and streams, all uphill from everywhere. We have the sense that we live in glorious isolation; the air is fresh, the land is fragrant and fertile, and yet we are not isolated at all. In this modern world the media connects us to cities, the concerns of our state and country, and even other countries.

I would not have it any other way. In fact, many of us can live in our rural splendor because Boston and New York are so near, because phones, modems, satellites and cars allow us to do business with the greater world and earn our livings from

our studies, studios and shops.

Second, we are connected to an ideal of rural life. The Heath School is certainly tangible evidence of our commitment to that rural ideal. There are not many schools being built these days for fewer than 150 students. When Henry was interviewed by Heath students at the end of the Heath School's first year he said that the Heath School was going forward into the past. He meant that Heath was returning to a past when Heath children went to school in their own small school and had a very particular and strong sense of community.

The Heath Fair is another instance of our appreciation of rural life, rural skills, rural responsibilities and rural pleasures. It is remarkable when you consider how many Heathans participate in the Fair every year preparing the Fairgrounds, planning, organizing, staffing, preparing exhibits and finally enjoying the fruits of the community's labor.

The greatest blessing for me is my Heath neighbors — by which I mean the town officers and board and committee members, the volunteer fire department, the Friends of the Library, the road crew, the owners of Peters Store, everyone who attends the Annual Town Meeting with me, the postmistress, the transfer station master, and the Heath Union Church congregation as well as The Gourmet Club, the Book Club and my Knott Road neighbors, because they all make Heath the congenial, cooperative and comfortable town that it is.

The number of cows has declined, but the town population has doubled since we moved here 20 years ago. I do not know all my Heath neighbors by name, but I wave as we pass on the road and I know that if I get in trouble on the road I can count on those neighbors to stop and offer aid, as I would stop to help them.

Change will come to Heath, as it always has. Only death stops change and it is a measure of Heath's strength and vitality that it has embraced change. Change can pinch sometimes, or even be painful for a while, but we Heathans seem to know that it is necessary. After all, Reinhold Niebuhr, arguably the greatest theologian of the 20th century, was inspired by Heath to pray:

"God give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other." Amen! Ω



Courtesy of www.robertstrongwoodward.com



Heath Fair 2013





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Library Notes

Website: www.HeathLibrary.org
413-337-4934 extension 7

Donald Purrington, Director

Library Hours

Monday 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Wednesday 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Friends of the Heath Library book sale at the Heath Fair. Many hands made light work of the boxes of books moved to the tent by the carload and truckload and sold during the three days of the Fair.. The book sale tent was, as always, a gathering place for old friends and new acquaintances to chat as they browsed the loaded tables for treasures and admired the raffle prizes, hoping theirs would be the winning ticket.



Children and their families from Heath and other surrounding towns are invited to a program at the Rowe Library titled *Blood and Guts*, on Friday, October 25 from 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by Baystate Franklin Medical Center, this program offers an up-close look at different aspects of health care: Respiratory and Heart, Physical Therapy, Blood and Circulation, Emergency Room, Surgery, Germs, Radiology/X-Ray, Blood Laboratory and Nutrition. View germs, look at X-Rays, examine the effects of smoking, and more. This is a hands-on science learning experience for the whole family.

The program is designed to give people a greater understanding of human anatomy, to lessen their fears about hospitals and health care, and to introduce them to the many career opportunities available in health care. The program also provides participants with a chance to meet health care professionals from surgery, radiology, laboratory, cardiopulmonary, rehabilitation, and nursing, and to ask questions about health careers and education. Free admission and refreshments.

A Few of the New Items at the Library:

See all the new items added to our collection in the previous two weeks on the Library website. Look for the **New Titles** link on the left side of the page

Photos on CD-ROM:

Hundreds (perhaps thousands?) of photos of the 2013 Heath Fair, taken by Art Schwenger, Doug Mason, Bob Viarengo, and Ron & Tiger Waterman. This is a three-disc set and we have two sets available to borrow.

Fiction Books for Adults:

How the Light Gets In by Louise Penny
Doctor Sleep by Stephen King
W is for Wasted by Sue Grafton
Eternal Wonder by Pearl Buck
Just One Evil Act by Elizabeth George
A Question of Honor by Charles Todd
The Longest Ride by Nicholas Sparks

Non-fiction Books for Adults:

Gaining Ground: a Story of Farmers' Markets
Local Food, and Saving the Family Farm by Forrest Pritchard

Maximizing Your Mini-Farm by Brett Markham
The Heart of the Plate: Vegetarian Recipes for a New Planet by Molly Katzen
Masterminds and Wingmen: Helping our Boys Cope by Rosalind Wiseman

Books for Young/Teen Readers:

Lookaway by Wilton, Barnhardt
On Little Wings by Regina Sirois
Sidekicked by John David Anderson, Jr.
Songs of Willow Frost by Jamie Ford

Children's Picture Books/Boardbooks:

If You Were a Panda Bear by Florence Minor
Harold Finds a Voice by Courtney Dicmas
Count the Monkeys by Mac Barnett

DVDs:

The Quartet
The Big Wedding
Olympus Has Fallen
Epic
Pollyanna (BBC version)
Star Trek, Stargate Season 1
Guilty

Audio Books on CD:

How the Light Gets In by Louise Penny
Cannery Row by John Steinbeck
Life After Life by Kate Atkinson Ω

Good Neighbors

For nearly 30 years Good Neighbors Food Pantry has operated as an emergency food pantry providing nutritious supplemental food for neighbors in area towns. We are a member of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Food distributions occur on the third Tuesday of each month between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Charlemont Federated Church. During the summer months when school is not in session we also offer a lunch program for children and their family eligible for free or reduced meals through school. Good Neighbors also offers warm hats, gloves and holiday gifts for children at the December distribution.

Good Neighbors Food pantry distribution dates remaining in 2013 are: October 15, November 19 and December 17. Donations of non-perishable food can be dropped off at the Charlemont Federated Church or at the Heath Town Hall. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to "Charlemont Federated Church" with "Good Neighbors" in the memo line. Volunteers are needed on distribution days beginning at 4 p.m. at the church. For questions or to receive food or volunteer to help, please call Sheila Litchfield at 337-4957. Ω

—Sheila Litchfield



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Heath School

Eric Glazier, Principal

I'm happy to report that we've had a wonderful start to the new school year. We have some new student faces and a few new staff members, too. Our new Middles teacher is William Burgess. Mr. Burgess is originally from Connecticut, but has recently relocated here. He was recruited to join the Shelburne Falls Military Band during his first week living in the area. Our Uppers teacher will be Mrs. Jaime Jackman. Mrs. Jackman grew up locally but has recently lived and worked in northern Vermont. She is excited to be living in the area again and working in Heath. Jaime was married last month! Congratulations, Mrs. Jackman! Mrs. Trish Aurigemma will be working in Heath as our Speech Pathologist. Mrs. Aurigemma is not new to the Mohawk district; she has worked at Sander-son Academy for many years and we are happy to have her working with our students.

As I write, Mrs. Lillian Whitsett has not had her baby, but we are eagerly awaiting the arrival. While Lillian is on her extended leave of absence, we have hired Mrs. Sue Guy-Greene to be our reading interventionist. Sue is a retired classroom teacher with many years of experience. We have also hired a teacher to cover our Physical Education classes this year. Ben Hause from Athol will be teaching PE in Heath for the 2013-14 school year. I am looking forward to working with all of our new staff and all of our returning staff this year.

We have lots of wonderful activities and events planned for this year and I look forward to reporting them to the Heath Community throughout the year. We also look forward to partnering with local community members. If you have a particular skill or talent that you would like to share with the students of Heath Elementary, please consider calling or emailing me at the school. We would love to showcase your skill or talent to our children. As always I have an open-door policy and welcome parent or community member feedback and questions. You can reach me at 337-5307 (school) or by email at eglazier@mohawkschools.org.

From the Pre-school/Kindergarten Classroom

The Prime Blue class is beginning their year with a study of the monarch butterfly life cycle. After several unsuccessful searches for wild caterpillars, Sarah bought "livestock" caterpillars from Magic Wings. The caterpillars are growing quickly and students are looking forward to seeing them transform into chrysalises. A parent also brought in a Cecropia moth caterpillar, which has made its cocoon in the outside corner of a classroom window. This cocoon will need to experience the cold of winter to complete its transformation into a moth in the spring.

Students are engaging in a variety of experiences to help them learn the stages of the butterfly life cycle, such as observation, art projects, dramatic renditions, writing, books, sorting/sequencing activities, and songs like this one (to the tune of "Up on the Housetop"):

First comes a butterfly and lays an egg;
Out comes the caterpillar with many legs;
Oh, see the caterpillar spin and spin;
A little chrysalis to sleep in.

Oh, oh, oh, look and see;
Oh, oh, oh, look and see;
Out of the chrysalis, my oh my;
Out comes a pretty butterfly! Ω



Parent-Teacher Partnership

The Heath Parent-Teacher Partnership will be hosting a school and community ice cream social immediately following our annual Open House on October 3. We will start at 6:30 p.m. with the open house, followed by the ice cream social at 7:30 p.m. Stay tuned for more PTP news in the next issue, or visit our school website for the weekly school newsletter, posted most Fridays: <http://www.mohawkschools.org/heath.php>.

We will be running a lovely fall fundraiser with Eco-Tulips. They offer sustainably grown, bee-friendly organic bulbs (not just tulips). Order forms and brochures will be available at Town Hall soon. You may also place your bulb orders online at: <http://www.ecoflowerfundraising.com/heath-elementary/>. Half the proceeds go to Heath Elementary to support academic and other enrichments.

We are also looking to create a group that helps organize around the topics of Greening, Gardening, and Grant-writing. Grants can support a broad array of school enrichments and core curriculum in the areas of music, environmental science, sustainability, technology, gardening, etc. We are looking for a few parents, staff, and interested community members able to meet periodically to research grants and to partner with staff around school gardening and longer-term green initiatives (recycling, composting, energy efficiency, solar grants, etc.).

Feel free to join us at the school for our next meeting, tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 30 at 8:45 a.m. in the library. Call the school to confirm at 337-5307, or email Lorena Loubsky at: lloubskylonergan@netzero.com. Ω

—Lorena Loubsky

School Calendar

Wed. 10/2	After-school Spanish class begins.
Thur. 10/3	Open House 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Wed. 10/9	Early release 1:50 p.m.
Mon 10/14	School closed – Columbus Day.
Thur. 10/24	Early release 12:30 p.m.
Fri. 10/25	Parent / teacher conferences.
	Early release 12:30 p.m.
	Parent / teacher conferences.
Thur. 10/31	School closed.
	District-wide professional development day.
Wed. 11/6	Early release 1:50 p.m.
Fri. 11/8	School picture retakes 9-10 a.m.
Mon. 11/11	School closed – Veterans Day.
Wed. 11/20	Early release 1:50 p.m.
Wed. 11/27	Early release 12:30 – Thanksgiving break.
Thur. 11/28 & 11/29	School closed, Thanksgiving break

Wild Ramblings, continued from page 8

It is interesting to note that the brook trout that live primarily in lakes or large ponds and use feeder streams for breeding habitat are significantly bigger but not genetically different from those brook trout that spend their whole lives in small streams. It is not unusual for a brook trout in a lake to reach 24 inches and five pounds. I've personally caught some in the 20-inch and four-pound range in northern Maine.

So on this day when I have chosen to spend a couple of hours doing an informal aquatic census I feel privileged. I am lucky to be breathing clean air, standing in clean water and thinking pure thoughts about one of our glorious creatures. And though I'm sure the brook trout has absolutely no appreciation of me I am in awe of them. And as long as they are present I know that this brook is pristine – that is, if you describe pristine as being clean, pure and alive. I can't imagine wanting a brook to be any other way. Ω

—Bill Lattrell

Heath Historical Society News

The Heath Historical Society had its annual meeting and supper on August 24. During the annual meeting election of officers and directors took place. Board membership includes:

President: Nina Marshall
 Vice President: Kara Leistyna
 Treasurer: David Howland
 Secretary: Ned Wolf
 Curator: Pegge Howland

Directors:

Jack Cable
 Nancy Thane
 Carol-Anne Eldridge
 Claire Rabbitt



Image Courtesy Historic Deerfield

Our thanks go to Lois Buchaine for her years of devoted service to the Heath Historical Society.

After supper we enjoyed an informative talk by Anne Lanning from Historic Deerfield. Her talk was on the Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts Movement in Deerfield.



“Dining With History”

Saturday, October 19

5:30–7 p.m. in the Community Hall

Do you believe in ghosts? Have ghosts really haunted some houses here in Heath? Do they still? Come find out at the third “Dining with History” event presented by the Heath Historical Society.

A pot-luck supper, accompanied by some *real* ghost stories will take place in the Community Hall on Saturday, October 19. Supper begins at 5:30 p.m., with tales of ghosts and spirits unfolding over the course of the evening. Expect to go home with a new respect for the mysteries of life in Heath. Ω

—Nancy Thane

Heath Cultural Council Seeks Funding Proposals

The Heath Cultural Council has set an October 15 post-mark deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

According to Council spokesperson Kara Leistyna, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Heath and the surrounding area – including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures.

The Heath Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the Heath Cultural Council will distribute about \$4,250 in grants. Previously funded projects include: Heath School Strings Program, Heath Agricultural Society, Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, Pothole Pictures, and many others.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the Heath Cultural Council, contact Kara Leistyna at 339-4015 or lejardin64@aol.com. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at http://www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.aspx. Application forms are also available at the Town Hall or the Heath Free Public Library. In addition to contacting any of our members with questions or comments, feel free to fill out our community input survey which will be available at the Town Hall. Ω

—Lorena Loubsky



Photos by Art Schwenger



Town Nurse

Office Hours
Tuesday from 12 to 1:15 p.m.
Thursday from 11 to 1 p.m.
or by arrangement if needed

Claire Rabbitt, RN

Together We're Ready

September is Emergency Preparedness Month in Massachusetts with information available on the DPH website, www.Mass.gov/DPH/ready, to help communities and residents to be prepared for emergencies. There is detailed information and suggestions for getting ready by making a family-specific plan for communications and making an emergency kit for sheltering in place or for evacuation, if necessary. I have a worksheet available to help with making a plan, or you can get it from the website.

Being prepared includes getting your flu shot and practicing good hand hygiene. I plan to hold a flu clinic on Saturday October 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Community Hall/Senior Center. Phone: 337-4847 (office) 337-8309 (home). Ω

Senior Meals

The Meals Program at the Heath Senior Center is held on the 3rd Thursday of the month unless otherwise posted.

To insure that there is sufficient food for all who attend

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

and may be made by signing the reservation sheet at the Senior Center or by calling Val Kaempfer at 337-5728 between 9-11 a.m. on the Monday before the scheduled meal.

—Eileen Tougas



ATTENTION LOCAL TEENS

Do you like making art?
Come to a free after school art class at the Art School in Shelburne Falls
Oct. 22 to Dec. 3 (6 weeks)
Tuesdays 3 to 6
Applications are due by October 7 and are available at:
<http://theartgarden.wordpress.com/programs/for-teens/>

For More Information: The Art Garden 413.625.2782; csartgarden@gmail.com
Funding provided by the Eleanor and Philip Singleton Endowment Fund, James D. Watt Charitable Fund, the Community Foundation of Western MA, The Art Garden, and local community members.
See website for winter and spring schedule.

A House Fire

On a beautiful Saturday morning, September 7, our neighbors' children, Rachel, Geanie and Shawn Donovan, smelled smoke in their home. Their parents, Sandy and Merle Donovan, had driven to Charlemont to buy a few groceries and the children, ages eight, 12 and 16, were home alone. They opened the basement door and saw smoke. They quickly closed the door, grabbed the three dogs, and left the house. They went to a neighbor's home down the street to call 911 and their family's friend, Cathy Waldron, who picked them up and took them to her home.

The Heath Fire Department immediately responded with its three trucks and soon received support from eight neighboring fire departments. Sadly, the home was severely damaged and couldn't be saved. Fire Departments from Charlemont, Shelburne Falls, Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Rowe, Wilmington VT and Greenfield responded.

Neighbors stepped up, offering places to stay and clothing. The Red Cross arrived with comfort bags and emergency relief. Sandy vowed to rebuild, saying Heath is her family's home and she is committed to maintaining it.

A pot-luck/fundraising event to assist the family will be held at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, September 28 at the Recreation Hall in Mohawk Estates. Ω

—Sheila Litchfield

And the Lessons Learned

As difficult as these losses are, it is a testament to the excellent training in emergency preparedness provided by the Heath Fire Department that these children and their family received at the Heath School which taught them how to respond to smoke. Sandy Donovan said she practices and rehearses the emergency procedures with her children and husband, and the three children at home did all the right things.

Do you know what you and your family would do in the event of an emergency? Will you have the same presence of mind to grab the dogs and leave quickly even if that means leaving behind your valued treasures? Cell phones? Laptops? Photos?

Here is where you can learn how to develop a plan and what should be in it:

In conjunction with Fire Prevention Week in October, the Heath Fire Department is giving its fire prevention and emergency preparedness presentation to the students at the Heath Elementary School.

Review the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services site for guidelines and a pamphlet on Planning and Practicing Home Fire Drills. <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/dfs2/osfm/pubed/fs-topics/fs-topics-a/practicing-home-fire-drills.html>.

Remember: as our neighbors the Donovans learned, *When fire strikes...you may have less than one minute to safely get out of the building.*

Knowing what to do can mean the difference between life and death! Ω

—Mike Smith

Contact for the Heath Fire Department:
Mike Smith, Fire Chief, Phone: 413-337-4462
Email: HeathFD@Crocker.com

Selectboard Report – Sept. 10, 2013

Fall Meeting Schedule

The Board will meet every Tuesday evening beginning October 1 at 7 p.m. in the Community Hall unless posted otherwise. Budget Planning for the 2015 Fiscal Year will begin in October.

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting will be held on October 15 at 7 p.m. in the Heath Community Hall. A few transfers of funds from accounts with surpluses to accounts needing additional funds will be considered. Mowing expenses for the North Heath Cemetery and grant-writing assistance for the Small Town Road Assistance Program (STRAP) grant application are two items likely to require additional funds.

Transfer Station Stickers

Heath residents who intend use the transfer station need to obtain their FY 2014 stickers. They may be obtained at the Post Office during business hours. The stickers must be affixed to the window glass of the vehicle designated to enter the transfer station.

STRAP Grant

The Town Highway Department has completed an application for a STRAP Grant to fund the repaving of 8A from the Charlemont line to the Vermont line. According to Highway Superintendent Mike Smith, the proposal is for grinding and recycling the existing asphalt to a depth of 5" and resurfacing with a hot asphalt topping layer. The application was completed with the assistance of Kara Leistyna and Terry Walker, a professional grant writer with a very good track record. The total amount requested is \$983,102.

Congratulations to Mike Smith, Highway Superintendent

We would like to extend congratulations to Mike Smith on his recent completion of all of the requirements for the Bay-state Roads Scholar Program. We are very impressed with his accomplishment and his willingness to further his education through training workshops. We are fortunate to have such a qualified Highway Superintendent and would like to thank him for all he has done and continues to do for the Town of Heath.

Animal Control Officer

Ed Grinnell of Buckland, owner of Eddie's Wheels, was appointed Animal Control Officer (ACO) for the Town of Heath. Ed serves as ACO for the Towns of Buckland and Shelburne and has completed the state-mandated training under the new state Animal Control Law. Sarah Hettlinger of Heath has been appointed Assistant Animal Control Officer and will handle the majority of dog complaints in town on a day-to-day basis with backup assistance from Ed. Please be sure your dogs have current vaccinations and licenses. Call the Town Clerk at the Town Office for additional information about licensing and vaccinations at 337-4934, ext. 6.

Community Development Strategy Update

Art Schwenger has agreed to help the Board with updating the Community Development Strategy. It has been a number of years since the original plan was developed and a current up-to-date plan will be helpful to future grant applications such as the STRAP Grant that was recently completed.

Heath Online

Please take some time to visit the Town's Web site at www.townofheath.org. You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, other Board meeting minutes, school information, various announcements 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. Ω

—Heath Selectboard

Sheila Litchfield, Chair

Bill Lattrell

Brian De Vriese

Heath Finance Committee

The Heath Finance Committee was getting ready to begin work with the Selectboard on the Town budget for the 2015 Fiscal Year when we were informed of a last-minute change in the way the Commonwealth calculates the "minimum contribution" of towns to their school budgets.

Based on the new calculation Heath's minimum contribution for the current fiscal year to the Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) would rise by \$74,928, or 84¢ on the tax rate. However, the state memo also said towns that had already held town meeting votes on their school assessment were not required to take any action, but could voluntarily hold another town meeting to vote on the new assessment calculated based on the new minimum contribution numbers.

The FinCom met with the Selectboard and Heath School Committee representatives to discuss the matter at length. The Selectboard voted to take no action on the matter, which effectively killed the possibility of the MTRSD using the newly proposed assessments.

The FinCom and the Selectboard attended a meeting of the MTRSD School Committee called specifically to discuss the matter further because those towns whose proposed revised assessment would have decreased wanted further explanation. We learned that across the state no town had opted to go back to town meeting to adopt revised assessments based upon the new minimum contribution formula. To us it was clear that it would not be a good use of public funds to mount a Special Town Meeting to discuss this issue when the outcome was, we felt, not in doubt. Without favorable votes from all eight MTRSD towns, the new assessment numbers cannot go forward.

The decision from the Commonwealth came very late in the budget process, long after both the District and Heath had completed their budgets and after Heath had estimated its FY14 tax rate of \$19.16. This sudden and late change struck us as yet another instance of Boston-centrism on the part of the state legislature. A \$75,000 budget increase in a town the size of Framingham, say, would hardly be noticed. For Heath, this change would have meant an increase in the property tax bill of the average Heath homeowner of \$156. We thought that made no sense.

With that late-blooming crisis out of the way, the FinCom will begin work this month on the FY15 budget. We are now consulting with the Selectboard on the Budget Preparation

Heath Finance Committee continued from p. 20

Calendar, and expect to be able to issue that document soon. We will be looking at the stipends that the Town pays to various of its employees. Stipends, as opposed to salaries, are fixed amounts that don't participate in cost-of-living adjustments. We will be examining the practices of comparable towns to see whether our stipends are still competitive and whether the types of compensation should be changed for particular Town positions. Ω

—Don Freeman

Heath Finance Committee

Gloria Fisher
Kathryn Inman
Jeff Simmons
Ned Wolf, Secretary
Don Freeman, Chair



Heath Herald Staff Then and Now

Then it was only four. Now it takes nine. The new staff of the *Heath Herald* wishes to thank once again the previous staff, Eileen Tougas, Jan Carr, Dianne Cerone and Jane deLeeuw for putting out such wonderful issues over the years. We intend to follow in the tradition of presenting meaningful news and views from our beloved town.

We would now like to introduce ourselves to you:



Front row: Nancy Thane, Deb Porter, Christine Luis-Schultz, Pat McGahan, Janice Boudreau.
Back row: Rebecca Dorr Sampson, Jan Carr, Don Freeman, Jessica Van Steensburg

Don Freeman is a retired university professor of English and a former reporter and copy editor for *The Providence Journal*. He and his wife Margaret moved to Heath in 2002.

Jessica Van Steensburg owns and operates WeCanFarm in Heath, raising heritage-breed hogs and turkeys. She is the Associate Director of Just Roots which runs the Greenfield Community Farm.

Nancy Thane, who is also on the board of directors of the Heath Historical Society, is a retired teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing, coming from the Finger Lakes region of New York to live at Pondsides in the Dell, where she summered as a child.

Deb Porter is a retired Heath Elementary School teacher. She is active in our community as a library trustee, member of the Heath Agricultural Society, and Heath School volunteer.

Pat McGahan is a retired software quality assurance engineer, and formerly produced a monthly club newsletter. Currently she is chair of a community non-profit organization and provider of Gramma day care for two grandsons.

A native Californian, Christine Luis-Schultz moved to Massachusetts in 1989, becoming a full time Heathan in 2003. Her background includes designing and producing marketing and public relations materials in for-profit and non-profit settings.

Janice Boudreau, a 34-year resident of Heath, is a self-employed photographer. She and her husband hand-built their passive solar home in the 1980s.

Jan Carr and her husband Cal moved to Heath in 1999 after living in Asheville, NC for six years. Earlier she lived in Boston where she operated Legal Graphics.

Rebecca Dorr Sampson is a professional writer and active in the Heath Agricultural Society. Ω

—Nancy Thane



Photo by Art Schwenger

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Milestones

Birth

Carson Earl Boyd, August 22, 2013. Parents: Kayla Marie Boyd and Justin Ross Boyd. Their phone is 337-5783. Maternal grandparents: Kyle and Tammie Decker of Heath.

Weddings

Nichols-Franklin

Emily Nichols and Nicholas Franklin were married on August 24 at the home of Alan and Elizabeth Nichols on South



Road. The Rev. Cara Hochhalter of the Charlemont Federated Church officiated. Ceremony readings were performed by Siena Chrisman and Michelle Meier, friends of the couple. Music was performed by John Franklin, the groom's uncle and a professional opera singer, and Jed Smith, Scott Hoffman, Carina Grenham and Joe O'Brien, friends of the couple. The celebration following was held in a tent erected in the hayfield east of the house.

Emily is the daughter of Alan Nichols and the late Catherine Heyl. She is a graduate of Mohawk Trail Regional High School and received a B.A. in history from Smith College and an M.L.S. from Queens College, City University of New York. She is currently the manager of the Chatham Square Branch of the New York Public Library. Nick is the son of Woody and Laurie Franklin of Brooklyn, NY. He is a graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School and received a B.A. in English from the University of New Mexico and an M.L.S. from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. He is the manager of the Bedford Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library. The couple spent a night at Bascom Lodge on Mt. Greylock before returning to their home in Long Island City, Queens, NY. Ω

—Betty Nichols



Litchfield-Coterwas

Katelyn Litchfield of Heath and Graham Coterwas of Plainfield were married on July 12. Katelyn is the daughter of

Budge and Sheila Litchfield of Heath, and Graham is the son of Lori Austin of Plainfield and Frank Coterwas of Nottingham, PA. The ceremony and reception were held at the Warfield House in Charlemont with the Rev. Cara Hochhalter of the Charlemont Federated Church officiating. Katelyn is employed as a paraprofessional at Mohawk Trail Regional High School. Graham is employed by the North Berkshire School Union as the IT professional and computer teacher. Katelyn and Graham live in Buckland. Ω

—Sheila Litchfield



Calendar of Events

September 28 4:30 p.m. Potluck Fundraiser at Mohawk Estates Recreation Hall for the family whose home was destroyed by fire.

September 28, 29 Robert Strong Woodward exhibit at Memorial Hall, Deerfield, MA. See p. 5 for details.

October 7 Deadline for ARTEens application. See p. 19 for application information.

October 12 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friends of the Heath Library Bake Sale at the library.

October 17 noon Senior Meal, Pot Roast, see p. 19 for reservation information.

October 19

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Fall "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Day, Buckland Recreation Facility (Route 112-S, one half mile south of Mohawk Trail High School). Dispose of large items. For more information: 413-772-2438.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The flu clinic at the Heath Community Hall. This is open to all ages. Call 337-4847 for more information.

5:30 p.m.

Dining with History at the Heath Community Hall. See p. 18 for details.

November 2 Winter hours for the transfer station begin.

November 21 noon Senior Meal, Turkey Dinner, see p. 19 for reservation information.

December 19 noon Senior Meal, see p. 19 for reservation information.

CLASSIFIEDS/BARTERING

Got Apple Drops (or peach)?

Our Heritage Hogs Love them
and we'll come and collect them.
Call Jessica & Jeff at WeCanFarm in Heath
413-339-4904, wecanfarminheath@gmail.com

Green Weddings

Looking to make your day completely magical, save money and be environmentally friendly? I can facilitate, coordinate and assist you with creating your dream green wedding, customized to your style and needs. Contact Arianna Grindrod at offeringsatarianna@gmail.com; 413-628-1773; www.offeringsforcommunitybuilding.com

To place an ad, send email to theHeathHerald@gmail.com

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

	Rain
From July 10	1 3/4"
August	3 3/4"
To September 10	1 3/4" spotty areas with more in storms.

In this reporting period:

The bulk of July was very warm and humid with not much rain. August followed much of the same suit as July, although during August 8 – 9 we were given a good 2½ inches of rain. This year the Heath Fair weekend weather was perfect. The first week of September had a couple of chilly mornings with most places hovering in the upper thirties. Ω

—Mike Lively and Heath School Students

More Signs Like Heath Fair's Are Needed, Doggone It!

This year the Heath Fair joined a growing international movement to protect innocent animals from horrifying suffering and death. We are talking about dogs being left in cars and the new warning signs that were displayed at the Fair this year. As far as we are aware, as dedicated attendees at several area fairs, Heath Fair is the first in the region to recognize the threat posed for beloved canine family members by the vast fields often utilized for fair parking.

The signs' compassionate intent held painful relevance soon after our fair when the tragic death of a dog left in a car at the New York State Fair was reported nationally, on September 3. A 2-year-old black Lab named "Ali" died on the fairgrounds minutes after being removed from the car. Emergency efforts to save her at the scene failed, according to police who attempted to cool her. According to a group of horrified onlookers who witnessed her death, a crowd had gathered after the dog was found unresponsive under the steering wheel and bystanders were reluctant to open the car. The incident was reported nationally and has resulted in a vigorous internet debate on inadequate legislation, the responsibility of event organizers, and appropriate action by individuals who find a dog inside a hot car.

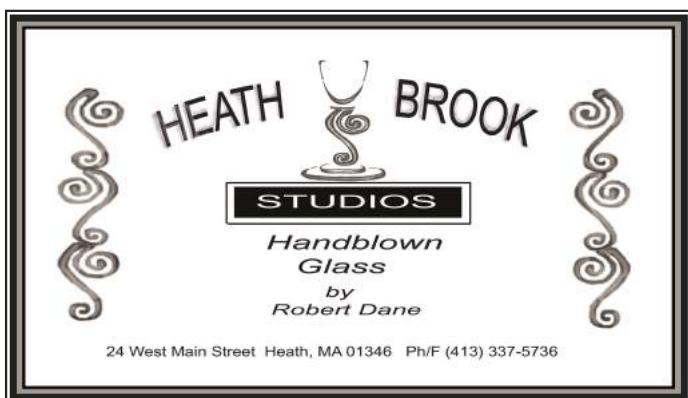
Veterinary science recognizes that dogs are at increased risk of fatal heat stroke due to their normally higher internal body temperature, which ranges from 100-102.5 degrees Fahrenheit. For a dog, a small rise in body temperature to over 104 degrees Fahrenheit is considered a veterinary medical emergency. Additionally, dogs do not sweat like humans do, which is a compensatory mechanism that acts to reduce internal body temperature. Dogs are dependent on panting and cooling through the pads of their feet. The stifling heat in a parked car can quickly result in cruel suffering and needless death for a trapped dog with only hot air to breathe. Studies on thermodynamics and heat rise inside of cars shows that a car can heat to 116 degrees Fahrenheit within an hour on a very mild 72-degree day. On an 85-degree day, a car can reach lethal temperatures for a dog within 20 minutes. Leaving windows open has little significant effect in preventing heat rise inside a car.

With cars arriving at the Heath Fair from Connecticut, Texas, Vermont, Maryland, Rhode Island, Maine, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New Hampshire and Quebec, Canada (to name only a few license plates we've noted) the message of the new Heath Fair signs hold the potential for promoting a change for more humane treatment of dogs at more fairs, far and wide. (For more information, please visit the My Dog is Cool campaign at: www.mydogiscool.com. You can also view Red Rover's press release about Heath Fair's new signs at: <http://redrover.org/press-release/heath-fair-sends-cool-message-dogs-hot-cars>). Ω

—Barry Adams and Kevin Maloney

Rowe Road residents Barry Adams and Kevin Maloney have been volunteer parking attendants at Heath Fair every year for over 10 years. They have been blessed with three very cool Chihuahuas: Taco Lee, Chili-Bob, and Milo Shamus Maloney.

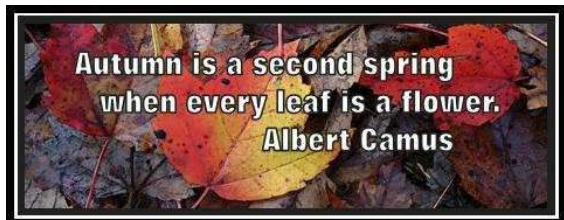




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Photos by D. Mason, A. Schwenger, R. Viarengo

Winter Hours for Transfer Station
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