

HEATH HERALD Heath's First Newspaper

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The Oth Annual



August 17, 18, & 19, 2012

Heath Herald

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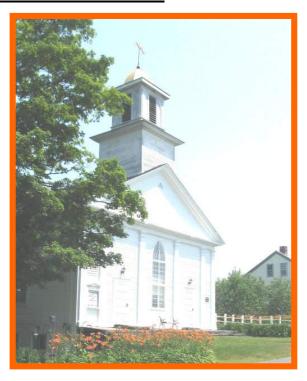
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Heath Union Church News



Joan Mayle, our organist of many years, has resigned to become the organist for the Wilmington, Vermont, Episcopal Church. She will be greatly missed.

We are searching for a permanent replacement and would welcome anyone with the desire to play our restored Johnson Opus 16 organ.

Recently we enjoyed a potluck dinner and, on June 24, Joe Canuel gave a well-attended concert of Gospel music. The Smiths hosted our annual picnic on July 15.

The Church boasts a new coat of paint thanks to inmates of the Franklin County House of Correction. Only the steeple remains to be finished.

In August, we will once again be furnishing food for the Beemers' annual get-together at the Fairgrounds the first weekend, and at the Fair, we will serve a ham and bean supper on Friday, the 17th. Sunday morning services will be held in the tent at 9:00 a.m. on the 19th.

Pastor Phill is always willing to call on anyone in the community and to offer Communion, if desired.

Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study and Prayers Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.
Pastor's Hours Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m

Church phone: 337-5367: Pastor Phill: (413)648-9077

The Deacons Richard Gallup Ruth Johnson

337-5367 337-4367 337-4479

Alli Thane-Stetson

Walt Gleason

337-4852

~ The Deacons

Life and Death in Blizzards



My father, Ted den Ouden, loved blizzards. He took pleasure in the cold but relished the wildest of snowstorms. On the most frigid of mornings he laughed before going out into sharp, cutting air with temperatures of 20 to 30 below and with windchill into the minus 70s to 90s. Blizzards, however, brought him joy. He not only laughed but he danced when one was coming in. His first concern was to keep the livestock alive but he could easily be inspired by a call of someone stranded. In the 20s, 30s, and 40s it was horses that would aid him, never faltering. In later years it was an H-Farmall farm tractor. Many times it was a team and a bobsled. In later years, it was an H with chains and a heat-houser.

During one of my visits, when multiple strokes and the inability to walk placed him in a nursing home, he and I had one of the many memorable and pleasurable encounters. A nurse at the

home who was named Mary Detmers came swishing by and said, "Ted, did you tell your son how you helped me get born?" "No," he said, "but that was a sweetheart of a blizzard."

In the late 1930s my parents farmed 3-80s north of Edgerton, Minnesota. Their closest neighbor was the Detmers family. It was a cold January day, and Mrs. Detmers was heavy with child. A blizzard came in wickedly from the west. When Mrs. Detmers went into labor, her husband called the doctor and said, "My wife needs your help, and so do I." The doctor replied, "My car, even with chains on, won't get me there."

John Detmers told him that he would send a neighbor, if he could, and briskly hung up the phone and called my father asking him to get the doctor from town. My Dad said he would do so but he asked if he could use John's younger and faster team of horses.

Pa walked the fence line between the two farms through the storm in near zero visibility with his hands reading the barbed wire. He had asked John to harness his team to a bobsled filled with straw and buffalo robes. They were ready after Pa walked the ¾ mile to the Detmers' farm. John said quietly to him,"This is a man-killing blizzard." "We will see," Pa said, calling to the horses and laughing as they turned into the wind.

He headed to town through the flats near the Rock River but soon found that the snow was so deep that the horses bellied up and began to flounder. In snow up to his waist, he led the team as he turned them around and said, "It's over Buffalo Ridge for us, boys." Instead of 3 ½ miles to town, it was nine miles along the Ridge and into the city limits. When he turned into the doctor's dooryard, he noticed that the storm had worsened. With the horses having grown pipes of ice from their nostrils and his face and coat covered with snow and ice, he pounded on the doctor's door. The physician in question opened the door a crack and said, "Ted, I knew it was you; no one else would be crazy enough to do this."

The doc was paralyzed with fright but my father commanded him to put on a coat, wrap himself up in the buffalo robes, lie in the straw, and keep his hands warm between his legs. Pa shouted to him and to the horses, "If we don't get there, this lady and child are going to die." He turned them back in their own tracks and yelled, "Fly, boys, fly," and indeed they did in the blinding snow over Buffalo Ridge. In less than a half hour they were there...John rushing from the house weeping for joy.

The doctor delivered Myra after many hours of labor. Pa was in the barn cooling down the horses telling them what they had accomplished. They listened attentively to him.

For many years my parents were guests at Myra's birthday parties. Pa spoke often about how tough and fast the Detmers' team was. In his waning years he would sit by a window during a blizzard, doze, and dream of ending his life in a man-killing storm. He asked me to help him do it but then retracted and commented that it would cause a lot of trouble. He did refuse feeding tubes and life support technology. He passed away in the presence of family and of nurses who loved and admired him.

~ Buck den Ouden

The author, a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hartford, is the author of five books and has given guest lectures in over twenty countries. He farms and logs part-time in North Heath He and his wife Beverly also own a farm in Minnesota within three miles of the 3-80s where his parents lived. He relishes the cold and heavy snow almost as much as his father.

Wild Ramblings



Call from the Wild



By Bill Lattrell

There are howls out there in the dark, inky night. They devour my sensibilities and allow my mind to wander into a quagmire of wonder, mystery, and trepidation. The howl is singular. Its pitch is low. The howl is similar to that I hear in the far northern regions of Quebec. It often is in response to the late night howling of eastern coyote packs. Their voices are shrill and less melodious. Their voices are many. It is not uncommon to hear packs of coyotes sing back and forth to each other in the deep New England woods. Typically one band of coyotes will howl over a kill and another band will respond. They howl back and forth and interestingly the two melodies never seem to emerge. But this is different. The coyotes howl; yipping and crooning wildly, but when this low, long drawn out howl responds, the coyote pack goes silent as if they do not want their location to be known.

Both my wife and I have noticed this over the last year or so. I have spent many hours trying to sort out the possibilities in my mind. My instinct says it is a gray wolf, but my more rational side says no. Wolves were thought to be extirpated in New England over 100 years ago but one was killed two years ago while killing sheep in Shelburne, only two towns away from here. The carcass was sent out west by Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife folks and, despite the fact the Fish and Game people initially denied it was a wolf, the DNA revealed that it was 100% gray wolf. No, not the hybrid between wolf and coyote known to inhabit this region called the Eastern Coyote which can contain from 10% to 80% gray wolf DNA, but a real wolf. It was a fluke, they said, unlikely to ever happen again. It was a rogue male that wandered down from a pack in southeastern Ontario (and had the exact DNA to prove it) precisely where it is believed that the coyotes that migrated eastward stopped and picked up their wolf DNA some 50 years ago. Curious minds, like mine, keep wondering and wandering.

There have been claims about the presence of wolves in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. The documentation is mostly anecdotal. At least two "wolves" killed in interior Maine contained a fraction of coyote DNA, not pure wolves but very close. The wilds of interior Maine are vast and unpopulated by humans. There are reaches of these deep woods that seldom see humans. It is entirely possible that the gray wolf has found its way back into these wilderness areas, but this, to the best of my knowledge, is unproven. The White Mountains in New Hampshire and the Green Mountains in Vermont have similar, but not so vast, wild areas.

I have learned a few things over the more than three decades that I have been an ecologist. The first, and the most important lesson, is to not make assumptions. The easy answer is not always the correct answer. In fact it has been my experience that the easy answer is seldom the correct answer. And so my mind keeps considering and reconsidering the possibilities.

With as much time as I spend in the woods it is amazing how little real data I was able to find with regards to this mystery. Nearly zilch. Almost nothing, essentially nada. But every once in a while I get lucky. Last autumn I put out some trail cameras on the western edge of our land where I had noticed some deer sign. A mature buck had made a scrape and I wanted to see what the buck looked like. I located a trail camera about 20-25 feet from the scrape in hopes of getting a good picture. If you are not familiar with these trail cameras they are pretty sophisticated. The trigger of the camera is tripped by motion detectors and infrared sensors. If an object is moving and warm, the camera will take a photograph. The time of day doesn't matter. Night or day these cameras are active and effective. Two or three days later, I returned to retrieve the data card from the camera. I had my male bloodhound, Cooper, with me and he started crooning and running back and forth as we approached the area. I assumed a deer had been through and took the card out of the camera, replacing it with another one. I

went about my merry way, and Cooper and I visited a couple other trail cameras that I had located over about 100 acres of woods.

That evening I was going through the pictures. They were interesting, but mostly photographs of the same three or four female deer that run around in these woods. When I put in the SD card from the camera where Cooper had gotten excited I hoped to see a buck visiting the scrape. As I scrolled through the pictures on my computer monitor there were a couple of does, in fact the same ones that I had seen in other locations. And then there was a picture of what I thought was a coyote. It was stocky and seemed fairly large. I didn't notice anything too unusual until a couple of pictures later there was a picture of me and Cooper standing in almost the exact same location. Something immediately caught my eye and so I scrolled back to the photo of the canine that had visited the scrape. And sure enough, I had more information on the canine beast that has mysteriously been wandering these woods. In fact I had actually photographed it!



Wild Canine, November 2011

("Call from the Wild" continued from page 4)



Cooper smells the canine tracks.

The clue that I had noticed when looking at Cooper and me standing at the scrape was that the "coyote" was about the same size as Cooper, perhaps just a tad larger. Cooper is a big fellow. He stands over 28 inches at the shoulder and weighs in at over 130 pounds. This is twice the size of a large eastern coyote; the hybrid between coyote and wolf that inhabits this area. In fact, a 65-pound eastern coyote would be considered huge. This discovery was beyond lucky. The odds of my actually getting a photograph of this canine seemed infinitesimally small. But sometimes luck just comes your way. And now I knew why Cooper was so excited on that day we picked up the SD card out of the camera.

Months passed. I spent hours and hours in the woods looking for tracks in the snow. I was looking for larger solo canine tracks. I found lots of tracks this past winter, and lots of coyotes, but none that were alone and large enough to be the

animal I sought. The cameras stayed in the woods but to no avail. It seemed my luck had run out, and I was at a dead end. Sometimes a little information is more frustrating than no information at all.

And then one day in late winter while at home at about nine o'clock in the morning our female bloodhound, Adia, started growling and asked to go out onto the deck. I was upstairs on the computer and my wife, Maureen, yelled for me to come downstairs. She was on the deck with Adia and she said she had just seen a very large coyote on the other side of the field. And then she looked at me with wide eyes and said, "Really, really big!"

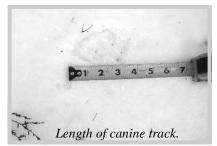
I asked her which way it was traveling and she pointed north. I looked north. I waited. Suddenly there it was, on the other side of the road, emerging from a gully and scrambling up a hill in the hardwoods. It was tall. It had long legs. It was tawny and thin. It was bigger than eastern coyotes ever get. I only had a few seconds to see this wonderful animal before it disappeared.

Adia was beside herself with excitement. She tried jumping the railing on the deck. Maureen held her back and shuffled her inside back through the sliding, plate-glass doors. I stood there looking, hoping to get one more glimpse. It was not meant to be.

I went down to where Maureen had first seen the canine. She told me it was moving steadily, but not running. Only after Adia barked did it break into a quicker pace, still not a run, but a faster gait with longer strides. The tracks in the snow could not have been fresher. There was no distortion from melting. What I witnessed, photographed, and measured was astounding.

The footprints were three-and-three-quarters-inches long and nearly three-inches-wide. The strides were measured from the furthest front foot forward to the furthest back foot and were from 57 to 60 inches! By comparison, Cooper's tracks are four and a half inches by three and a half inches; his paws are enormous by dog standards. His large feet are meant to keep him afloat in mud and wetlands when tracking in wet territory. Adia's tracks are three and a half by two and three quarters inches and she weighs about 120 pounds. The normal fast walking stride of both Cooper and Adia is about 54 inches, some six inches less than the canine Maureen and Adia saw in our field.







I tracked the animal for a ways but lost it as soon as it crossed an open field where the snow had melted. By now it was at least a mile away. I stopped to think how unbelievably fortuitous it was to have seen this magnificent canine. I live amongst thousands of acres of woods and these animals have territories of tens of square miles and it just happened to cross our field in a place where Adia would smell it and Maureen would call it to my attention. Again, what are the odds?!

So what do I know? I know there is a large wild canine that wanders this forest. It has a very low pitch howl. I have a photograph of him (or her). I have seen it with my own eyes and because it was much thinner than the photo. I cannot even be sure it is the same animal. There is little doubt that the cold winter months and difficult hunting conditions could easily account for weight loss though. I have measured and photographed the tracks and the gait. And I can only be sure it is a very large wild canine. It could be an eastern coyote, like those in Maine that are over 90% gray wolf. Or it could be a wolf.

I just don't know.

Tonight I hear those low howls once again. They sound like they are from an era long ago. They are wild and send chills down through each vertebra of my spine. They call to me. Cooper and Adia, now by my side, howl back. The call from the wild brings them back through the ages to their primordial roots. And, for the moment, they wish to be free. They wish to run wild. They wish to be what they came from.

As do I.

Written in April, 2012, for www.wildramblings.com.

Green Thoughts



Summer Berries Red, Black, and Blue



By Pat Leuchtman

Heath's lowbush blueberries are legendary of course, and I always buy a box, even when I don't have young grandchildren to pick them. Still, I love having my own blueberries.

The first spring we were here we planted eight highbush blueberries in back of the house. I knew that they needed to be cross-pollinated and ordered early Blueray and Bluerop, then midseason Atlantic and Herbert which have enormous berries. There are people who only like lowbush berries, but I am glad to have both varieties. There is nothing like going to the berry patch early in the morning and picking blueberries for breakfast.

We were lucky to begin with a 'can't fail' crop. We pretty much just dug a hole and stuck the young bushes in. We have occasionally sprinkled rotted manure and compost around them, but have taken no particular care. We naturally have the acid soil they require. They started bearing in just two or three years and continue to bear heavily. One of the things I especially appreciate about blueberries is that they hang on the bush until you are ready to pick. There is less urgency than with raspberries. The only pruning necessary is taking out winterkill.

The biggest problem is the birds. We used to throw nets over the bushes and put out mylar 'fire tape' that was supposed to scare them away, and these were moderately successful. Inspired by a neighbor who put up a cage for netting we finally followed suit, and that has worked very well, until last year when the berries disappeared while we weren't looking. How? Chipmunks? I never saw chipmunks, but more little critters seem to have made their way to The End of the Road. Rabbits, too.

There was the remnant of a raspberry patch next to the henhouse when we moved here and that sufficed for several years, but it ultimately died out. It was time to plant our own patch next to the new small vegetable garden at the end of the Rose Walk. We ordered 20 mid-season bushes, name lost, and five late-season from Nourse Farm. Name also lost.

This time we planted with more care, digging in compost and mulching the new bushes. I think we planted them about 10 years ago and they continue to renew themselves and give us a good harvest. Birds don't like raspberries so we don't have to bother with nets.

Raspberry canes need to be cut down after fruiting. I never seem to cut out all the spent canes in the fall, so there is always more to do in the spring. Red raspberries require little other care. Weeds are a special problem for us because of the adjoining field which is infested with tansy and mint. When I get to weeding, most of the weeds, or those without roots, end up between the three rows to act as mulch. I have also laid down cardboard and autumn leaves for mulch in the paths,

but it is never enough to eliminate all weeds..

Again, I occasionally throw in compost that includes rotted chicken manure, as well as greensand for potassium. I don't worry about this because I once had a neighbor who mulched his wonderful raspberry patch only with autumn leaves and he said they provided all necessary nutrition.

Raspberries are only demanding at harvest time. If they are not picked when they are ripe they will be rotted or moldy the next day, especially if there is rain. Close attention needs to be paid.

About three years ago at the Heath Fair someone gave me a taste of homemade black raspberry jam. Heaven! I had to get black raspberries and ordered ten from Nourse. Name lost already. This time I confess I did not plant them with much care, and certainly not with any thought to their growth habits.

Black raspberries and red raspberries send out new shoots from the root, but left unpruned the canes of the black raspberry will bend down to the ground and given very little encouragement the tip will root and make a new plant. I have allowed this and have done very little pruning. Big mistake. Instead of allowing the row of berries to advance across the garden I finally realize I have to take charge. I must take control. This means not only cutting spent canes out at soil level after fruiting in the fall or early winter, the new canes need to be pruned in the summer to a height of about three feet. I still have time to do that. During the very early spring I will have to thin the new canes which had been pruned during the summer, and cut back lateral branches to about a foot. This will not only give me a better harvest, it will give me a harvest that is easier to reach.

Berries are a wonderful perennial crop, needing relatively little care. A soil pH between 5.5 and 6.5 is ideal. Sun and good drainage are vital. During a dry season it is important to irrigate if you are going to get a good harvest.

And how nice that we can feel free to gorge ourselves now that we know these berries are full of health-giving nutrients, antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals.

New Winter Hours for Transfer Station

The Transfer Station Winter Hours have been changed to Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. These hours will take effect starting November 1, 2012, and end on Memorial Day, May 27, 2013. The Select-board voted to make this change on a trial basis for one year and to revisit the issue prior to the next winter period beginning in October of 2013.

Jerry Ferguson

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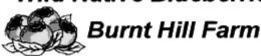


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Heath Fair News

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: THE 95TH ANNUAL HEATH FAIR HAS ALL BUT BEGUN!!!

I suspect that by now you have made all the necessary arrangements for your attendance: You know that the Fair begins precisely at 5:00 p.m. on **Friday**, **August 17**; you're aware that the Fireworks and Square Dance will be held on Friday night; you've prepared, or have begun preparing your exhibition entries and in so doing have discovered the option to register your entry online; you've taken a look at the schedule and know all of the musicians who'll be performing and you have a keen sense of when to be where; and you are anticipating your first bite of maple-covered fried dough.

The Heath Agricultural Society has been working hard to organize this year's Fair. We hope that you'll make every effort to attend this celebration of community and of our agricultural heritage. There are several new things that we would like you to be aware of:

1 COMPOSTING:

We will composting our waste this year. There will be separate receptacles located on the grounds that specify the kinds of waste that may be composted.

2 BIKE RAFFLE:

On Friday night we will be holding a Bicycle Raffle. The winner will receive a Raleigh Bicycle from Bicycle World in Greenfield. To participate in the Raffle you must be 9, or younger, and you must have been admitted to the Fair. Raffle Tickets may be requested at the gate as you pay for admission. The drawing will be held at 8:15 p.m. and the winning number will be announced over the loudspeaker. The winner must be present to claim his or her prize, so please pay close attention.

3 ONLINE REGISTRATION:

This year, for the first time, we are offering a choice to register entries online. This service currently extends to the following categories of entry: Exhibit Hall, Sheep, Goats, and Poultry. If all goes well this year more categories of entry will be available. Look for the Link on our Web site and please pay close attention to Entry Deadlines.

4 PARADE:

Larry Sampson and Lyra Johnson have been working with Lyra's Wednesday Night Library Craft Group to put together an exciting puppet for the Parade: *Mother Earth* is what she is being called. You might find her in the Exhibition Hall prior to the Parade.

It is important to remember that the Heath Agricultural Society is a volunteer organization and an immense amount of work has been devoted to making the Heath Fair possible. Indeed, the commitment demonstrated to Fair by volunteers is astounding: Mowing, Painting, Planting, Planting, Planning, P

Justin Lively, Car Parking	(413)	834-0168
Robin Jenkins, Exhibit Hall		337-4389
Deb Porter, Food Booth		337-4715
Emily Cross, Tickets		337-4816
Pam Porter, Recycling		337-5525

WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE FAIR.

~ Justin Lively, President

VISIT US AT THE FAIR

SPEAKERS & TOPICS

One of our newer traditions at the Fair is to offer speakers on agricultural topics of current interest. Presentations are at the Speakers Tent by the Solomon Temple Barn.

Here is the lineup for this year.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Jim Wallace, Cheese Making	6:30 p.m.
Charlie Olchowski, Cider Making	7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Mike Smith, Chain Saw Safety and Techniques	1:00 p.m.
Clare Pearson, Medicinal Herbs	3:00 p.m.
Rick Intres, Beekeeping	5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY ALL DAY

Gardening the Community, Urban Farming	10:00 a.m.
Rep. Paul Mark, MA Department of	11:30 a.m.
Agriculture, Environment, and Natural	
Resources	
Loril Moondream, Wildlife Rehabilitator	3:00 p.m.
Modicine Mammals	_

(Suggestions for next year are welcome any time. Contact Pam Porter, 337-5525 or Rebecca Dorr Sampson, 337-4407.)

PTP BOOTH

Come see us at the Heath Parent Teacher Partnership booth at the Fair this year. Activities in the works include: a children's craft station, Henna Art, a refreshing dunking booth, school tees, a fidget ladder, and our annual raffle and watermelon eating contest! If you want to help running the booth or are ready to be dunked, drop a note to Lorena at mailto:lloubskylonergan@netzero.com.

FAMILY TENT

The Family Tent returns this year in the Heath Fair to provide a comfy spot for nursing moms and toys for kids to play with.

Many thanks for Baystate-Franklin Medical Center for funding the tent.

FRIENDS OF THE HEATH FREE PUBLIC



The Friends of the Heath Free Public Library's Annual Book Sale will be open on Friday, August 17, from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m., on Saturday, August 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and on Sunday, August 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

As always there will be a full selection of books for young and old alike.

THE HEATH HERALD

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AT THE

FRIENDS OF THE

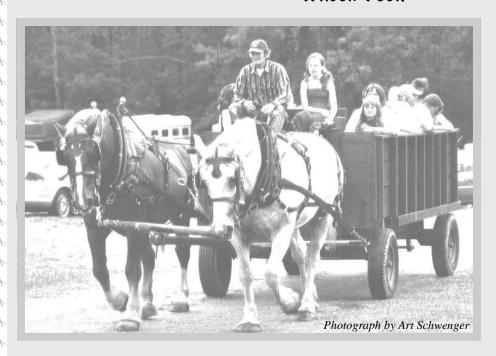
HEATH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S

BOOK SALE

THROUGHOUT THE FAIR

VISIT US AT THE FAIR

WAGON TOUR



A Big Fair attraction will be Tommy Flynn and his team of two, Victor and Orphy, who will provide a wagon tour around the Fairgrounds on both Saturday from noon to 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 2:00 p.m. until closing for about 17 adults and children per ride ("A good, safe ride," says Tommy).

The tour, lasting about 12-15 minutes, starts at the Exhibition Hall, goes down Hosmer Road to the Pull, then around the back side of the cow barn ending up at the starting point.

This a particular delight for the kids who, according to Tommy, "fight to sit up front."

HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT THE FAIR

The Society will sponsor a raffle again this year during the Fair. The drawing will be held following the Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the Heath Community Hall. You do not have to be present to win!

- **First Prize** will be an exquisite quilted "Throw" 54 in. x 46 in. This beautiful handmade quilt donated by Marcia Tiernan in the "Four Patch Posy" pattern will be on display during the Heath Fair in the Solomon Temple Barn.
- Second Prize will be an original painting of a rural scene by Frederick Burrington, a sixth generation native of Heath.
- Third Prize will be your choice of any book on the Society's Publication List.

You may purchase raffle tickets at the Solomon Temple Barn during the Fair or at the Annual Meeting before the drawing. Single raffle tickets will sell for \$1.00 or seven tickets for \$5.00. You do not need to be present to win but we do look forward to seeing you at the drawing.

The Solomon Temple Barn Museum will be open for visitors during the Heath Fair on Friday, August 17, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; on Saturday, August 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and on Sunday, August 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. The Society's publications will be on sale as usual including the latest edition of Ed Calver's *Heath, Massachusetts: A History and Guidebook* and Dave Howland's memoir, *A Snippet from the Greatest Generation*. Don't miss it!

The Future Looks Bright For Heath Little League Baseball

It was a great season for Heath baseball. Both our majors and our rookie league team made the playoffs. And our rookie team advanced to the championship game and won!

Rough Seas for the Mariners

Although our Major's division team, the Heath/Rowe Mariners, came up a game short of making our third appearance in the finals in three years it was a very good season! Our sportsmanship was stellar. There was not a single behavioral incident on the bench or the field or an unkind word exchanged between players all season. In my seven years of coaching I've never experienced anything like it. (Remember these are elementaryaged children we're talking about.) Behind the play of our team's most improved player Chandler Platek, we were competitive in all but one game (and that was our opener) and, more importantly, the kids never gave up on themselves or each other. One of the highlights of the season was a game against the eventual league runner-ups in which we were behind 10 - 0 going into the fourth inning that we won 15 - 11 in extra innings. Sixth graders Kurt Shippee, David Hobbs, Chandler Platek, Oshen Ramirez, and Oliver Diamond had stellar careers in their five years of play in the league. They will be missed! And a big shout out to my Mariner co-coach tenth grader Tucker Jenkins who had a great first year coaching in the league, and our base coaches, eighth grader Julian Diamond and seventh grader Christopher Graves. Other coaches often commented on the sense of family and pride they witnessed on the Mariner sidelines. We often had as many former players at our practices and games as we did current ones. It's a great tradition that I hope will continue.

League Expanding

We're not ready to play in Asia, Latin America, or other foreign markets just yet, but next year, the Mohawk Cal Ripkin League, made up of teams from Buckland-Shelburne, Colrain, Charlemont, and Heath, is merging with the Hilltown League, which includes the towns of Plainfield, Ashfield, Chesterfield, and West Chesterfield. In preparation for the merger, every team in both divisions played one intra-league game. At the end of the season, to celebrate and facilitate the transition an all-star game was held. Several Mariners participated in that contest. The leagues divided themselves into two squads, an A and a B team. Teammates stayed together but Mariners joined players from both the Mohawk and the Hilltown Leagues in a game against another team comprised of players from both leagues as well. The game was held in Goshen. It was an incredibly successful event and great fun! Kudos to Mohawk League president Jenn Morse and her counterpart in the Hilltown League, Joe Cliche, for making it all happen.

Birds of Prey

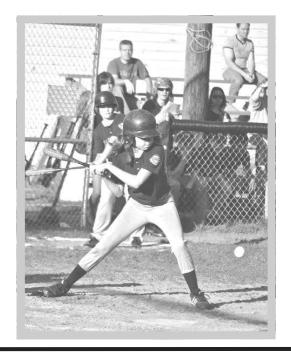
Meanwhile, in the Rookie division, the Heath Hawks, dropped one or two games early in the season and never looked back. Behind the pitching and hitting of third graders Keeman



Heath Hawks celebrate after winning the championship baseball game at Vets Field in Shelburne Falls.

Ramirez, McGrady Crossman, Sulli Wexler-Schnorr, Sovahn Crawford, and Muiris Loubsky-Lonergan, the Hawks found every possible way to win. They hit home runs in games in which the scores more closely resembled a basketball contest. And, in the playoffs, they won a nail-biter, a 2 - 0 pitchers' duel, which ushered them into the finals. In the championship they played a near perfect game and came away with an impressive 5 - 0 victory. But, mostly, they had fun and played well together as a team all season. Congratulations to all the Hawks players and to their Coaches Carin Burnes, Zeb Crossman, and Jess Erho. And a heartfelt embrace to this year's and every season's MVPs—the parents! Without all the moms, dads, aunts, uncles, and grandparents who drive, coach, bake, and volunteer their time, none of this would be possible. We are grateful.

~ Jonathan Diamond



The Friends of the Heath School Library



Friends of the Heath School Library Library The current Friends' Board is stepping down after an eleven-year tenure for some of us and will be succeeded by a new and younger group which will include one of our number, Lyra Johnson, who will now serve as a community member following the 6^{th} grade graduation of her daughter Vega.

It all began with a conversation at a school picnic between Heath School Librarian Wanda Musacchio and retired public library librarian Jane deLeeuw when it became clear that there would be no funds to purchase books for the school library for that school year, a situation clearly unacceptable to these two library devotees.

Agreeing that something needed to be done, they swiftly went about forming a group by sending out a series of letters to those they thought would be interested. From those replies, some agreeing to meet, others saying they had no time for another meeting but would certainly support our endeavors, we were able to form The Friends of the Heath School Library.

Our first meeting took place in the beautiful school library where it was decided that our mandate was to provide the funds to allow Wanda to purchase the books and materials needed to maintain a viable, up-to-date library collection for our children through a series of fund-raisers, chief among which would be an annual book fair. This past year we held our 10th.

In addition, over the years we tried a number of things at the Heath Fair including a Tag Sale which proved to be a discouraging amount of work and the sale of Frequent Flyer airline tickets generously donated by Jan and Cal Carr which netted us a goodly amount with minimum effort until discouraged by the airline.

For one reason or another, chief among which was the fact that we were all otherwise engaged in Fair activities, we discontinued participating in the Fair, but added what has proved to be the very popular Breakfast at the Annual Town Meeting for which we baked and attendees ate and donated

In addition we established the Celebration Book Club, encouraging parents and friends to purchase books for the library in honor of birthdays, etc. or in memory of loved ones.

Through these activities over ten years we have raised \$25,000.

During this time, our Board has changed as members left to do other things but continued to support in many ways. The original core of Wanda, David Adie, who has served as treasurer all these years, and Jane deLeeuw has remained. Through the years we were joined by Jan Carr (often helped by husband Cal), Charlene Churchill, Pat Leuchtman, Helen Mackie, and Hazel Porter, who all served on the Board and then continued their support in many ways, and lastly by Lois Buchiane, Ruth Johnson, and Lyra Johnson, who after years of support stepped in to fill Board vacancies. Special mention must be made of Helen Mackie who lent us her creatitive powers by designing our striking logo and pins, which we have used ever after, as well as a series of beautiful bookmarks we sold at the Fairs; Eileen Tougas who designed and contributed our posters and vouchers; Heath Librarian Don Purington who aided the children to make their choices at the Fairs, and John Musacchio who helped to set up for the Fairs and carted the books from and back to World Eye Bookshop. And to World Eye, heartfelt gratitude for working with us and trusting us to carry away and return the books we had chosen but not sold.

Among the highlights of our years was the successful raising of the money needed to purchase a new set of The World Book Encyclopedia by offering a volume or volumes of their choice to participants for \$40.00 each .And another was, under our auspices, a visit to the Heath School by Betty G. Birney, creator of the immensely popular series about Humphrey the Classroom Hamster, whose talk enthralled the many Heath School Humphrey fans.

We feel we have fulfilled our original mandate and are now ready to pass the torch to the new group (see Lorena Loubsky's article). The fund-raisers will be continued including the annual Book Fair, an event always looked forward to and enjoyed by the students and staff alike. We have greatly appreciated their enthusiasm and support.

Our thanks to all the community members who have supported our activities over the years which have ensured that the library's collection remained an excellent one, and special thanks to those who, year after year, allowed us, through their generosity, to give vouchers to every child to purchase a book at each of our Fairs It needs to be mentioned that this Heath group included a couple of loyal supporters, namely Kathleen Stein of New Hampshire and Heath .and Frank and Betty Birney of California.

David Adie Lois Buchiane Jane deLeeuw Lyra Johnson

Ruth Johnson Wanda Musacchio



By Eric Glazier, principal

Greetings from Heath Elementary!

The hallways are empty as I write this submission, but how quickly that will change. I hope that everyone has enjoyed their summer breaks. I was able to spend some time at the beach with my own children. We had fun playing in the waves and fishing from the pier (we didn't catch any fish, but it was still fun).

I thoroughly enjoyed my first year as principal and I'm very excited about beginning my second. Students are scheduled to report back on August 29. During that time last year we were faced with the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, which delayed the opening of the school year by three days. Let's hope that we don't see another such storm for more than 100 years!

We are happy to be welcoming two new staff members to Heath Elementary School. Marilyn O'Brien is returning to Heath to fill the position of Title I teacher. Marilyn has worked in Heath as a Title I teacher previously and is very excited to be returning to our community. Seth Gilbertson has been hired to teach in our 5/6 classroom. Seth recently completed his Master's degree in elementary education at Roger Williams College. He and his wife have moved to the area and are expecting their first child this fall.

Another important note from Heath School is that we are extending our preschool hours. We will be offering a full-day preschool on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 8:45 a.m.- 3:15 p.m. Sarah Forbes and Michelle Howe will continue to educate our youngest students. Veronica Smead will be joining this classroom three days a week as a preschool aide.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns don't hesitate to call the school. Thanks and have a great fall!

PTP

We are delighted to have Marilyn O'Brien returning to her role as Title-I Math instructor. Our beloved Deb Porter will be retiring from this position come September, and, while we will miss her presence and exceptional wisdom and transformative dedication to the children and school, we are delighted she will be able to enjoy new adventures in grandparenting and travel with husband John Henry.

Also joining the Heath Elementary staff this fall in the role of 5th-6th grade teacher is Seth Gilbertson, recently of Rhode Island. He and his family look forward to joining the school and the broader Heath community this fall. We'll provide a fuller introduction next issue as well as a more in-depth honoring and interview with Deb.

Stay tuned, and we look forward to welcoming you to Heath School for another exciting year!.

~ Lorena Loubsky

Friends of the Heath School Library II

It is with much gratitude that we receive the torch from the outgoing members of the Friends of the Heath School Library who have helped grow and nurture the newly christened *Musacchio Library*. Despite the challenging politics and budget environment of the District, the group has managed to beautifully provide ongoing funding for a stunning and invigorating collection of books and educational materials for the students at Heath School. In partnership with library manager Alice Lemelin, the new members of the committee hope to carry on their good work and support youth literacy in Heath. We'd like to welcome and thank new members Dana Blackburn, Emily Cross, Susan Draxler, Lorena Loubsky, Deb Porter, and Mary Sumner. Gratefully, past Board member Lyra Johnson will continue with us, as well.

We wish all the best to the intrepid retiring members. Three hearty cheers for their service and dedication these past 11 years.

The Friends will continue to raise funds for book purchases through the Annual Town Meeting Breakfast and the fall Book Fair in partnership with the World Eye Bookshop. . Save the date for this year's Book Fair on November 15 at Heath Elementary School! Feel free to contact one of the members if you have any questions or would like to share ideas for supporting our young readers.

~ Lorena Loubsky

New Drama Coordinator For MTRSD

Jonathan Diamond is looking for someone to share in an adventure he is arranging, to paraphrase J.R.R. Tolkien, author of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

Jonathan, in his new post as Mohawk Trail Regional School District Drama Coordinator, will direct the annual spring musical at the high school. This year students will perform *The Hobbit*.

"Heath and the rest of the hilltowns are a lot like the shire where the story's protagonist, Bilbo Baggins, is from," says Jonathan. Buckland even shares its name with one of the villages in Tolkien's story. They're both peaceful, bucolic settings. Tolkien created this amazing fantasy world of Middle Earth but parts of it will feel very familiar to West County children and families."

"Mohawk is delighted to introduce Jonathan Diamond as the District's new Drama Coordinator," says Superintendent Michael Buoniconti. "Dr. Diamond played an instrumental role evolving the Heath Elementary drama program over the past eight years into a remarkable educational experience for students. We greatly look forward to Jonathan expanding this wonderful program to the high school and middle school and are very excited for our students."

("New Drama Coordinator For MTRSD" continued on page 15)

("New Drama Coordinator For MTRSD" continued from page 14)

In addition to directing the spring production at Mohawk, Jonathan will oversee a pilot internship model at the Heath Elementary School and co-teach an acting workshop for middle and high school students with Mohawk English teacher Leanne Blaszak. Ms. Blaszek did her student teaching residency at the high school and assisted with the musical last year.

"We're hoping to create a program that offers opportunities for high school juniors and seniors to direct productions in the elementary schools and use it to expand the performing arts curriculum for that age group," he said.

The Mohawk course will be offered both semesters. Students can sign up for fall or spring semesters or enroll for the year. The workshop teachers plan to use the first semester to build a core ensemble that can work together on the spring play and, in the second semester, to provide additional rehearsal time once that production is underway.

"The students are going to help us develop the material, as first we'll need to compose the music and write the play," says Jonathan. "We'll draw from our talented faculty and student body and tap into the hilltowns' gifted performing arts community."

Jonathan has experience creating and adapting material in this way from his years directing and writing plays for the Heath School and at The Academy at Charlemont's Summer Drama Workshop. "Child and teen actors, especially, do not want to be passive vessels for playwrights," he observed. "Children are natural storytellers. They want to use their imaginations and develop the work themselves."

Although Jonathan is going to continue to help write the plays, former Drama Club student and longtime assistant director Maeve Gallagher will be directing the winter play in Heath. Jon and Maeve have already met with Heath School principal Eric Glazier to discuss the transition. Maeve will be teamed with another student intern. Once the material is chosen and the rehearsal schedule finalized the newly formed *Friends of the Heath*

School Drama Club (Jonathan, Deb Porter, Pam Porter, and Bob Gruen) will help raise funds for the project and determine what other kind of support is needed.

Jonathan has been directing in Heath on a volunteer basis all these years. His new position as drama coordinator is part-time. He plans on maintaining his private psychotherapy practice in Northampton and Shelburne Falls.

What excites him most about all this theater is "the larger sense of community it's creating in West County and the way in which it's helping not only to strengthen the connections among students but between their schools as well," he says. "We've worked very hard in Heath—everyone; students, teachers, parents, and community volunteers. And I think we've created something special and unique. I'm thrilled that I'm going to get to play a part in maintaining and growing it further."

Parts of this story were first printed in the Shelburne Falls & West County Independent.



The Dynamic Duo; Maeve Gallagher and Jonathan Diamond

Heath Historical Society Speaker

We are pleased to announce that *Professor Donald L. Robinson*, professor emeritus of Government and American Studies at Smith College, will be the speaker at our Annual Meeting. He is not only the author of numerous books on American politics and history, but is a resident of nearby Ashfield where he served on the Select Board from 1991 to 2000. His undergraduate degree is from Yale (1958) and PhD from Cornell (1966) and in between he graduated from Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 1962. At Union he came to know several Heathans – Theologians Reinhold Niebuhr and Robert McAfee Brown and the Reverend Dr. William Wolf, all of whom were members of our Society.

Professor Robinson will talk about his book *Town Meeting – Practicing Democracy in Rural New England*. It is a wonderful account of Ashfield's history from its very beginning up to the present day in which he expertly weaves local social and political attitudes with the impact of Massachusetts and U.S. Constitutions and ensuing legislation. The history of other towns in Western Massachusetts is remarkably similar. It is fitting that his talk occurs during the 225th Anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, and we believe oldsters and youngsters alike will find it interesting, entertaining, and educational.

~ Pegge Howland

Library Lines

We'll See You at the Heath Fair!



By Donald Purington

The Friends of the Heath Free Public Library will once again be selling used books, audiobooks, and movies under the big white tent on the Heath Fair midway. The tent will be open on Friday from 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This is their biggest fund-raiser of the year and your support is appreciated!

Participants in the library's Summer Crafts Program are building a giant (16' tall) Mother Nature puppet that will be featured in the Fair parade at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. Don't miss her debut!

A Few of the New Items at the Library

Adult Fiction Books: Miss Me When I'm Gone by Emily Arsenault (Shelburne Falls resident), I, Michael Bennett by James Patterson, Wicked Business by Janet Evanovich, The Sandcastle Girls by Chris Bohjalian, Gold by Chris Cleave, The Last Policeman by Ben Winters, Mrs. Robinson's Disgrace: The Private Diary of a Victorian Lady by Kate Summerscale

Adult Nonfiction Books: Barack Obama: The Story by David Maraness, The Happiest Baby Guide to Great Sleep by Harvey Karp, Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error by Kathryn Schulz, Food in Jars: Preserving in Small Batches Year-Round by Marissa McClellan

Books for Young/Teen Readers: Artemis Fowl: The Last Guardian by Eoin Colfer, The Obsidian Blade by Pete Hautman, Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage, My Mixed-Up Berry Blue Summer by Jennifer Gennari

Children's Picture Books/Boardbooks: Bink and Gollie, Two for One by Kate DiCamillo, Big Machines by Karen Wallace, Counting Kisses: A Kiss & Read Book by Karen Katz

DVDs: Forks Over Knives, Thin Ice, Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows, The Artist (black & white silent film, winner of 5 Academy Awards), The Secret World of Arrietty

Audiobooks on CD: Where We Belong by Emily Giffin, Coral Glynn by Peter Cameron

Museum Pass: The Friends of the Heath Free Public Library recently renewed our Library Pass to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA). The pass admits two adults and two children under age 16 to the MASS MoCA galleries for free. Please ask at the circulation desk to use or reserve the pass.



Photographs provided by Lyra Johnson

SUMMER LIBRARY CRAFTS

Excitement is building on Wednesday evenings at the Fairgrounds as work progresses on the 16-foot-tall Mother Nature puppet for the Fair parade. Heath Library children and parents are helping to adorn her with all natural materials. Local film set artist, Larry Sampson, designed and built the amazing structure with friends and created her beautiful face. Our Town Coordinator Kara Leistyna is making her giant gown. Larry designed the wheeled puppet armature so that a child can sit inside and control Mother Nature's head-she can turn and nod. Her arms will be maneuvered by two chil-

dren walking on either side, while a few children will work together to push her down the midway. She is indeed impressive; you won't be able to miss her as she makes her way through the Fairgrounds.

We welcome anyone who'd like to join us-please call the library for more details, 337-4934 ext. 7.

~ Lyra Johnson



Heath Business Directory

The Benson Place

Wild Blueberries & Blueberry Spread 337-5340

Fred Burrington

Artist 339-0030

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

Paul Turnbull Janice Boudreau

Commercial/Wedding Photographers 337-4033

Bonnie Wodin

Custom Gardens & Landscapes 337-5529

John Mooney

Custom Remodeling 337-8344

Wanda Mooney

Realtor 337-8344

Tripp's Blueberries

Taylor Brook Road 337-4964

Heath Brook Studio

Glass and Baskets 337-5736

Support Your Local Businesses

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

413-625-6623

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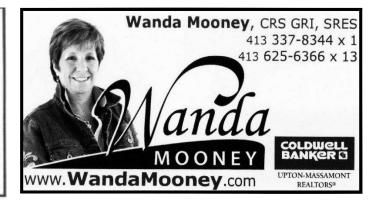
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Town Nurse News



Guidelines for Eating Fish Safely in Massachusetts



By Claire Rabbitt, RN

The following is from the Bureau of Environmental Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

"We advise pregnant women, nursing mothers and women who may become pregnant not to eat any fish from freshwater bodies or certain fish and shellfish caught in some Massachusetts coastal waters. Children under 12 years old are also at risk and should not eat these fish."

It goes on to explain that fish from these waters may contain mercury and PCBs, which are harmful in particular to babies and young children. "Developing fetuses, nursing babies, and young children are affected by mercury. Small amounts can damage a brain even before birth High levels of mercury can affect how well children learn, think, behave, and develop later in life." At higher levels, adults and older children can experience health effects from these chemicals." They may affect memory, behavior, cause numbness or tingling of the skin, liver problems, and cancer. It states that "fish that are stocked in streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds in Massachusetts are safe to eat." (I would not know how to tell the difference, but I'm sure there are many expert fishermen who do.) Cod, haddock, flounder, and pollock are also listed as safe to eat.

"Chemicals and metals get into fish from pollution in the water and sediments where they live. Larger species feed on smaller species and the process of bioaccumulation begins. The larger older fish concentrate the most chemicals."

Other- "Do Not Eat for pregnant women and children under 12:"

Lobster from New Bedford Harbor, swordfish, shark, king mackerel, tilefish, tuna steak, bluefish caught off the Massachusetts coast, lobsters, flounder, soft-shell clams, and bivalves from Boston Harbor.

Safe Eating for Everyone Guidelines

Do Not Eat:

Fish and shellfish from the closed areas of New Bedford Harbor and do not eat lobster tomalley.

Still, fish is considered a good source of protein and should be included in a heart-healthy diet. The guidelines state: "12 oz, (about 2 meals) per week of fish or shellfish not covered in this advisory," is considered safe for pregnant or nursing mothers and children under 12. It's best to get a variety of fish from a variety of sources, including commercial fish and recreationally caught marine fish and shellfish. Chunk light tuna contains lesser amounts of mercury than white tuna. 12 ounces a week is considered safe except for very small children, who should eat less than 12 ounces per week.

For more information go to: http://www.mass.gov/dph/fishadvisories or call 617 624-5757

Town Nurse office hours continue to be on Tuesdays, 12:15-1:15 p.m.. and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m,. or call for an appointment at another time, if you can't make it at those times. 337-8309

Representative Richard Neal's June 11th Visit to Heath







Photographs by Art Schwenger

Selectboard's Report

Summer Meeting Schedule

The Board will meet every other Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall, unless posted otherwise.

Budget Transfers

According to state law it is permissible for Selectboards and Finance Committees to transfer funds at the end of the fiscal year without the need for a Special Town Meeting. This is meant to facilitate reconciling budget accounts with actual expenses for the past fiscal year. This June and July the Selectboard along with the Finance Committee made transfers of \$15,319.61 and \$2,144.51 respectively. Some of the larger overruns were in Highway Department machinery maintenance, vehicle gas and oil, legal fees, FICA Medicare, and dump transportation. Funds were available in other accounts to cover overages.

FY13 Appointments

The Board has finished making its appointments for the coming year. The full list will be posted on the Town Hall Bulletin Board or can be obtained from the Town Coordinator.

Sadoga Road Bridge

The Board has received notice that the bridge span on Sadoga Road that has been closed due to structural deterioration has been put on a federal bridge replacement list. The work is scheduled to begin in 2014. This will save the Town a considerable amount of money both in engineering and construction costs.

Three-Town Landfill

The Selectboard is working on long-term agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to reduce the amount of testing and monitoring of the landfill and nearby test wells. The abandonment of the residence and purchase of the former McCloud property by the Town of Charlemont has lessened the concerns of the DEP that drinking water could be subject to contamination by drainage from the landfill. Tests of water from existing test wells and other water supplies have not shown the presence of significant amounts of potentially hazardous substances.

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. The new Web page is up and running. Please have a look and let us know what you think.

~ Heath Selectboard Sheila Litchfield, Chair Thomas Lively Brian De Vriese

Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The District is holding its annual hazardous waste collection on **Saturday, September 22**, at GCC Main Campus and Orange Transfer Station.

This annual collection provides residents an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, fluorescent lamps, automobile batteries, and other household chemicals. For a complete list of acceptable items, please refer the District's Web site:

www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html.

To participate, residents must preregister by September 14. After registration is processed, your appointment time and directions to the location will be mailed to you. Businesses must preregister with an inventory of their wastes and will be charged for disposal. Starting in mid-late August, registration forms will be available in local newspapers, at town offices, transfer stations, and at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.

FALL "CLEAN SWEEP" BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

The District is holding its fall "Clean Sweep" bulky waste collection on **Saturday**, **October 20**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The drop-off site is: the Buckland Recreation Facility on Rt. 112 South.

District residents may bring a wide range of items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, monitors, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other bulky items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

Residents do not need to preregister for the bulky waste collection. However, there are charges for disposal. Disposal fees, in cash only, will be collected at each site. A complete list of prices for the most common items will be available at town halls, town transfer stations, the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield, and online at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html. Businesses may participate.

For more information on either event, contact the District office at (413) 772-2438, visit:

www.franklincountywastedistrict.org, or e-mail: info@franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

Town Clerk Office Hours

Beginning August 6 until further notice:

Monday: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 Other hours by appointment

*Any changes in office hours will be posted at Sawyer Hall.

Center Schoolhouse



The Landstrom sisters, Ada Duffy and Pearl Churchill, who fondly remember their school days in Heath's Center Schoolhouse, pictured with sister Ruth Johnson

On Saturday June 30, the Heath Historical Society held an Open House to celebrate the grand re-opening of the Center Schoolhouse. Visitors were welcomed into a newly painted building to see the collection, which was rearranged into several thematic exhibits. The walls, ceiling, and floor had been scraped and painted throughout the winter. This was no small task, requiring that artifacts and furniture be moved several times. Nevertheless, this back and forth across the room paved the way for thinking about new exhibits, and in May and June the collection was reorganized with a schoolroom being the central exhibit, complete with three rows of desks discovered in the attic.

The work was made possible through the generous support of the Dickinson Family Fund for Historical Heath, People's United Bank, and donations from our members and friends.

At the Open House, visitors lucky enough to come at midday were treated to ice cream, and at the late afternoon event visitors enjoyed wine and cheese. People had such a good time, and had such fun looking at the exhibits, that there is no doubt that the Society will have more festive summer events in the future. There are some truly amazing items in the collections, and we want to ensure that these go on display, for all to enjoy!

~ *Nina Marshall* President, Heath Historical Society

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS

As this year is the 225th anniversary of the United States Constitution, we became curious about who from Heath served in the Revolutionary War. The first place to find that out was Heath's War Memorial Stone on the Town Common. The plaque on the stone reads, "To the Memory of the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines from the Town of Heath who served in all Wars from 1775-1898" but lists no names. (We do know that Colonel Hugh Maxwell served in the Revolutionary War). The plaque does include a list of 31 World War I and World War II veterans.

Our immediate thought was that it would be appropriate to celebrate the anniversary of the U.S. Constitution by inviting veterans to parade at the Heath Fair at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 19. Consider yourself invited! YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE BEEN FROM HEATH TO TAKE PART, RATHER JUST LIVE IN HEATH NOW. Participation in the parade is voluntary and, as most of us in Heath know, the parade is put together sort of at the last minute, but we have some ideas of how it might be organized and would appreciate input from veterans.

We had a second idea relative to the Memorial Stone and that is "It is sadly in need of updating." This will be a project for after the Fair. But to be efficient in planning **BOTH** these events we need information about all veterans, men and women, in Heath and have designed the form below to get things started. The Heath Selectboard approved a "War Memorial Committee" and appointed Dave Howland (Army- World War II) and Bob Bourke (Navy – Grenada) as Cochairmen.

Name	Address		Zip	A C
Phone No	E-mail (Optional)			
Branch of Service		Unit (Optional)		
Conflict (If applicable)		_Location		
Were you a resident of Hea	ath when you entered the	Service? YesNo	Comments:	
(For example: any knowled	lge of veterans in your fa	amily or even other	families FROM HEATH	I as far back as 1775
Please copy the form and s	end to: War Memorial C	Committee, c/o P.O	D. Box 127, Heath, MA 013	346
Or E-mail:howlandd@croc	cker.com. THA	NK YOU VERY M	MUCH.	

Milestones

Jean F. Quinn Caracciola of Heath died on June 22, 2012. Born in Pittsfield on August 24, 1929, she was the daughter of John T. and Catherine Cullen Quinn.

She attended Pittsfield schools and received a BS degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in education.

Predeceased by her husband, Dr. Richard "Doc" Caracciola, she is survived by her children, Leslie Miller, Moira Stewart, Christopher Dutton, John Dutton, and Bernard Dutton; eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Following services in Greenfield, she was buried in the Heath Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Requiescat in pace

Heath People in the News

Caitlin Brown, daughter of Peter and Jill Brown of Houston, TX, and Heath, granddaughter of Sydney and the late Robert McAfee Brown, longtime summer residents of Heath, graduated from Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, with a BA in Public Policy, Phi Beta Kappa, and With Distinction. For the next two years, she will join Teach for America in Houston and will teach in a bilingual classroom. and then plans to go to law school for Environmental Law.



On June 30 **Richard Sumner** and **Hilma Sumner**, both of Heath, were reunited in marriage with the Reverend Murray Newman officiating. The ceremony took place in the gardens of their home and was witnessed by a small gathering of family and friends. A luncheon followed in the family picnic grove.

Remembering Kenneth Stetson



Photograph by Art Schwenger

What's missing? Something is different along Route 8A near #9 Road. For those who travel this route you soon realize there is no longer that wellgroomed garden, the work of Ken Stetson over so many years.

The garden is now replaced by lush green grass that blends into the surrounding lawn. Ken's gardening days and his nearly 90 years of life came to an end on May 27.

Ken was the oldest of five children who grew up in North Heath on a farm that has been in the Benson-Stetson family since the early 1800s. We all had our chores to do but Ken had the additional job during the fall and winter months of getting to the Branch School (one mile away) to start the woodstove fire so that the one classroom would be cozy by the 9:00 a.m. start of classes. He also gathered water from a spring across the field by the brook to fill the jugs that served the students and teacher in the eight grades during the day. When he graduated from the eighth grade he went on to Arms Academy in Shelburne Falls, working for his room and board with local families until he was old enough to get his driver's license after which he drove our Model A Ford, carrying brother Doug and me and the Stowe brothers in Colrain to school.

One of Ken's many talents was woodworking, and he made many lovely pieces for our mother. He also made rolling pins as wedding gifts for his many nieces. I remember also his drawing talent. He won at least one contest in a newspaper or magazine. What Ken could not tolerate, apparently- was off-key violin "music." I had sold vegetable

and flower seeds door-to-door, traveling several miles to earn a reward from the seed company- When the much-anticipated prize, a violin, arrived I retreated to our pine woods to practice, hoping to emulate Madeline Dixon, our Pastor's wife, who played her violin every Sunday during the church service. Weeks later I decided I was good enough to show off my "talent" to the family. About three minutes into the "concert" Ken dashed into the living room, snatched my tin fiddle from my hands and smashed it over my head! End of violin! End of my career as a violinist! Years later Ken presented me with a tiny violin programmed to play four tunes! Ken was part of a hiking group that included brother Doug, Howard Dickinson, and Bill Wolf. I remember one of their treks was to Maine and Mount Katahdin. He also loved snowmobiling, and my children recall coming up from New Jersey and having Uncle Ken take them through the woods behind his house.

Ken and wife Dot also took many camping trips cross-country, and shorter trips, took them to Tennessee and Ohio in April, 1990. By then I had been called to serve as Pastor of a church in Thornville, Ohio, midway between Columbus and Zanesville. One afternoon as I was working on a special bulletin for my upcoming Service of Installation, who should appear at my office door but Ken, announcing "What would our Mother think of you now?"

Our sister, Muriel, remembers how much her kids loved him, especially daughter Leslie. It was a mutual admiration. And she also said he would repair anything that was broken rather than throw it away, even a plastic bucket.

Ken worked with our father on the farm in his early years, but then worked at Kendall Mills before going to Yankee Atomic Plant in Rowe where he worked until his retirement.

So life goes on without a roadside garden and only memories of brother Ken.

~ Lois Stetson Buchiane



SCHOOL DAYS BEGIN

Welcome back to principal
Eric Glazier
and to
students and staff.

BEST WISHES FOR ANOTHER BANNER YEAR!!

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

 $\begin{array}{c|cc} & \underline{Rain} & \underline{Snow} \\ \hline From May 11, 2012 & 5 \frac{1}{4}" \\ \hline June & 5" \\ \hline To July 10 & 1" \\ \hline \end{array}$

In this reporting period:

May was normal in the type of weather we've had. A thunderstorm on May 16 showered us with a lot of lightning and some hail in places. Except for the thunderstorms, which can dump large amounts of rain, the last half of this reporting period was hot and dry.

 $\sim Tim\; Lively$

Community Calendar

August 2012

August 02 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior center, 11:45 a.m.

August 16 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m. Fair Entries Accepted at Exhibit Hall, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

August 17, 18, & 19 - 95th HEATH FAIR

August 25 - Heath Historical Society Annual Supper, 5:00 p.m.; Meeting, 6:30 , Speaker, 7:00 p.m., Senior Center & Community Hall

August 29 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, Early Release, Mohawk, 11:30 a.m., Heath School, 12:30 p.m.

August 30 & 31 - Full Days of School

September 2012

September 03 - LABOR DAY, No School

September 05 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

September 06 - STATE PRIMARY, Senior Center, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

September 12 - Schools Early Release Day, Mohawk, 11:30 a.m., Heath School, 12:30 p.m.

September 20 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

September 21 - Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. **International Day of Peace**

September 22 - Autumnal Equinox – Fall Begins
Annual Hazardous Waste Collection,

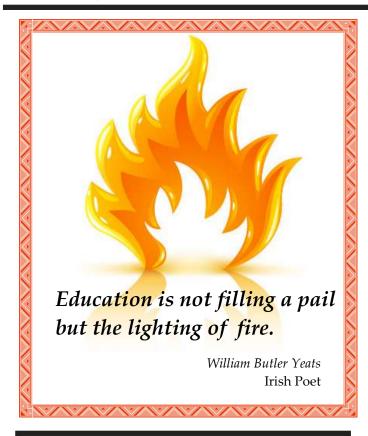
GCC Main Campus. Registration by 9/14

September 22 - Early Release Day, Heath School, 12:30 p.m.

State Primary

The State Primary election will take place this year on Thursday, September 6. Polling hours are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Senior Center. Applications for absentee ballots may be submitted at any time up to noon of September 5. Consistent with other primaries, a voter may only cast a ballot for the party in which s/he is enrolled. Any voter not enrolled in a party may choose a ballot from any of the three state parties: Democrat, Green-Rainbow, or Republican. Please note: voter registration or change of party affiliation must be done by 5:00 p.m. of August 15 in order to vote on September 6. There are forms available in Sawyer Hall. This year there are several contested races for office on the Democratic ballot including for the office of Representative in Congress for our District. There is one race on the Republican ballot and none on the Green-Rainbow ballot.

~ Hilma Sumner, Town Clerk





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."

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.

HEATH HERALD

Box 54 Heath, MA 01346-0054

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