

HEATH HERALD Heath's First Newspaper

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Heath Herald

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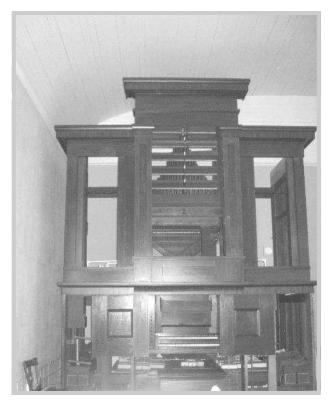
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Heath Union Church News

MOST IMPORTANT NEWS ... THE ORGAN IS HOME!



Our Johnson Organ Opus 16 is in its rightful place. Plan to join us for the dedication next spring and for concerts during the summer.

During Pastor Phill's vacation we had as guest speakers former pastor Hilma Sumner on October 7, and on October 14, Neil (Skip) Stetson. Skip and his wife Rosemary will be going to Haiti as missionaries in the new year.

Meredith Stewart from Colrain is our organist on alternate Sundays. We are still looking for someone to play the other weeks.

Come and join us for our Christmas Sunday Service on December 23 and our candlelight service on Christmas Eve.

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 337-5367 Ruth Johnson 337-4367 Walt Gleason 337-4479 Alli Thane-Stetson 337-4852

~ The Deacons



A Christmas Surprise for Grandma

By Gloria J. Shuttleworth

Grandma lived on Sugar Creek Mountain all alone. It was a beautiful mountain, with tall cedar trees all over the mountain top. In the middle of the mountain was a crystal clear lake. The water in the lake was the prettiest blue you've ever seen. When the water was calm, you could see the fish swimming around in the lake.

I loved sitting by the lake when I was a little girl. Grandma would pack us a lunch, and we would sit at the lake for hours on end. Hour after hour, grandma would tell me stories about her life on the mountain.

I remember the day that grandpa drowned in the lake. My parents had tried to talk grandma into moving into town, but she wouldn't hear of it. My parents knew not to argue with her, because they knew that grandma was set in her ways. "I've been on this mountain for so long that I've forgotten which is the oldest, me or the mountain," grandma had said, with a twinkle in her eyes. I knew my parents worried about her being alone, because grandma was the only person who lived on Sugar Cliff Mountain.

Today I was going to visit grandma, and the excitement grew inside me at the thought of spending time on the mountain once more. After all, it had been ten years since I had seen grandma. It's hard to believe that my career had kept me away for so long. As I approached the top of the mountain, I could see grandma staring out the window of her little log cabin home. Grandma greeted me at the door with a big hug. "I am so happy that you could come to visit with me," said grandma. This Christmas is going to be so wonderful! I have a special surprise for you dear. Little did grandma know that I had a very special surprise for her as well.

"Well, we can't stand around here all day," said grandma. There's a lot of work to get done. I have invited the people from the village to come to my Christmas party on Saturday evening.

After I had freshened up a bit, we spent the day baking all sorts of cookies and candies. Grandma had a story to tell as we baked the goodies for the party.

She told me about how she used to bake apple pies for grandpa. "He loved apple pies," said grandma. Those were his favorite. She said that after the pies would cool off, that grandpa would send her into the living room, under the pretense that he would clean up the kitchen. Grandma knew what he was really up to, but she never let on that she knew. Grandma would go into the living room and sit in her rocking chair. She would sing some of the songs that she knew grandpa loved. About an hour later, grandma would wander back into the kitchen. "Why Henry!" she said, as she tried to look surprised, "This kitchen isn't clean and what happened to that pie?" Grandma could see that he had eaten two slices of the apple pie. Keeping as straight a face as he could grandpa would go into a wild story. He'd say, "Gee Emmy, you know that when our horses smell those apple pies, they prance right up to the window and snatch them!" "How is it that they only got two pieces?" asked grandma. "Well, if I hadn't snatched it away they would have eaten the whole pie," chuckled grandpa! Grandma said it was the same routine every time she baked an apple pie.

Grandma's eyes would sparkle and twinkle whenever she relived her memories of grandpa. Listening to her talk about him was a real experience. You could see the love she had for him on her face as she spoke. Whenever she would talk about grandpa, you could feel the love for him in every word.

After the last of the cleaning up was done in the kitchen, grandma retired for the evening. I made myself a cup of tea and sat down in front of the fireplace.

Sitting alone in the quiet house, I pondered my childhood memories of my grandparents. They had always been such a fun loving and happy couple. Shortly after they were married, grandpa built the log cabin home for his "Little ole Emmy", as he called her. Just before Christmas, almost twelve years ago, grandpa was outside gathering firewood, when grandma heard a horrible scream and a terrible noise. She ran outside to find that an area of the ice on the lake had fallen through. She yelled for grandpa over and over but no reply ever came. They searched the lake for over a week, but no trace of grandpa could be found. Finally, they called off the search. One of the men who had helped in the search said they'd probably never find grandpa now. Just then, as my thoughts were still racing around in my head, my grandmother brought me back to reality. "We have to be up very early in the morning dear, so off to bed now," she said. I slowly walked to my grandmother's room, and kissed her goodnight. Morning came early at grandma's house. As I entered the kitchen I could smell the homemade biscuits and gravy cooking on the stove. "What's on our list of things to do today?" I asked. "The men are coming from the village this morning to put the lights on the trees, and we have lots of presents to wrap for the children," she said.

Just then, there was a knock at the door. It was the men from the village ready to start putting up the lights. Grandma was so excited as she stepped back to watch them.

"Let's wrap those presents now Laura," said grandma. As I watched grandma wrap the presents and tie the ribbons, I knew that so much more was being placed around them. With each piece of wrapping paper grandma was also wrapping them with love. After the last present was wrapped, we realized that we'd been wrapping presents all day! It was now getting dark outside and grandma wanted to go outside to view the lights. As we stepped out onto the porch, we gasped. The sight that met our eyes was so beautiful to behold! The snow was glittering and the reflection of the lights on the snow was beyond words! It was breathtaking! That night I went to bed with a heart full of love for my grandmother. I knew that someday I wanted to be just like her, full of love for others.

Wild Ramblings





By Bill Lattrell

Like it is so often on this lake in southern Vermont, the winds blew from the northwest, clouds skated across the blue sky with abandon, and the sun played hide-and-seek keeping the temperatures in this wilderness on the cold side. It was mid October and we knew there weren't many outings left for our boat the *Fishound* this season so we let each moment soak in through our skin as a sponge absorbs water. The bass season had been good to us, not as wealthy as last year, but quite favorable nonetheless. Those angling off of the *Fishound*, usually myself and one of my sons or a friend, had caught 197 smallmouth bass thus far and we hoped the good fortune continued today. An angler's daily limit of smallmouth bass is five fish during bass season and so we had returned at least four bass for every one that we kept. Most of the fun is in catching the fish. And certainly there is more than modest pleasure in eating the fresh fish at the end of a good day of fishing.

Only the week before I had gone out with an old friend from my younger days. Dan was someone that I met when another friend, Jeff, and I had one of our first apartments in the early 1970s. He was a local fellow, someone who liked to party, and always had something funny to say or an interesting perspective on a topic. Dan and I liked each other instantly and have remained friends to this day. He now lives in the central part of Massachusetts near the New Hampshire state line so we only see each other about once a year. When we do get a chance to visit it is as if we just saw each other yesterday. After a little catching up we automatically fall into the old jokes and stories. Dan and I caught up on each other's families on the ride up to this glorious lake. After unloading the *Fishound* off the boat trailer Dan and I motored up to the northern end of the lake, some six miles away. We fished all of my favorite haunts.

I have been intensely fishing this lake for years and know many of the best bass fishing spots like the back of my hand. Our luck was minimal at first until I noticed that many of the bass were suspended in 16 to 20 feet of water. They wouldn't bite if they were in deeper water at those levels but I knew that if we could find a spot where we had those depths right up against the shore that our luck might change. Once we started fishing against some steep ledges the fish found their way onto our lines. If you've never fished for smallmouth bass it is hard to describe how hard they fight. They take the end of your line straight to the bottom and then launch themselves to the surface occasionally jumping three or four feet into the air. It's easy to lose one of these crafty competitors, especially if you are not used to their shenanigans. Dan had a hard time getting them into the boat. Each time he lost one he'd say goodbye to the fish as if they had just been visiting. I laughed and laughed at his antics and his constant sense of humor reminded me of how much I enjoyed his company. At the end of the day we filled our creel. I may have helped Dan a little bit in that department. When we returned to Heath Dan went off without any fanfare. We talked about hunting together this winter but I knew the chances were slim and I felt sad to see him go his way at the end of day.

On this day Liam and I were a duo in search of bass. Liam, my youngest son, really enjoys fishing as a way to get away from the challenges of graduate school. He is an accomplished fisherman. The last outing he caught nearly two fish for every one that I landed. I let him revel in his success and hoped that this time the fishing gods would grant me more fortune. An even score between the two of us was all that I asked. Of course, the fishing gods do not always answer my prayers.

The *Fishound* smoothly motored up the lake on this blustery day. Judging from the trailers in the parking lot near the boat launch there were only two other fishing boats on the lake and they were nowhere to be seen. The brisk temperatures were keeping the kayakers home. Between the wind and the cold it was not ideal for this peaceful aquatic sport. On warm weekend days it is not unusual to see a couple dozen people in kayaks and a few more in canoes. With an irregular rocky shoreline, many islands, loons, bald eagles, heron, otters, and beaver this wild lake offers a lot of entertainment for those who are inspired by nature. Perhaps the best feature is that it has no cottages or cabins, camping is not allowed (although the kayakers frequently camp on the islands), and it is far, far away from any paved road. The ten-mile dirt road that leads to the lake is a pleasant journey in and of itself. On the way the traveler gets to pass through one township, population 6 (no, I'm not kidding!).

The wind was picking up and white caps adorned the lake. We knew it would be hard to hold anchor if we left ourselves exposed to the strong northwest winds so we looked for steep rock walls on the southeast side of an island. Our collective memories reminded us of one such place. Upon arrival we dropped our lines into the water after Liam slid the anchor into the water. I laughed as he gently placed the anchor over the hull of the *Fishound*. About four years before, the first time he put the anchor over the side, he tossed it into the air like he was throwing a shot put in a track and field event. It made a gigantic splash. As the wake from the displaced water made a wave at the shoreline I suggested we might want to move. Liam asked why. And then I said, "Well, there used to be fish here but they might have moved on."

("End of the Season" continued from page 5)

("End of the Season" continued from page 4)

Liam caught the first smallmouth bass. A decent-sized fish, perhaps two pounds, and we decided to keep it. He caught the second and third fish as well, each about the same size. I was beginning to wonder if I had lost my touch when my line went taut and I found myself fighting a mighty female smallmouth. The female of this species is considerably larger than the male. This one would prove to be three and a half pounds, not too much over an average female bass in this lake. Once I had landed the big bass I looked up and Liam was landing another. This proved to be a large white sucker although you'd never know it from the fight in the fish.

As quickly as the bite had started it stopped. This is typical for smallmouth bass fishing on this lake. There have been days when we fished for eight hours and caught 30 fish; all of them in fifteen to thirty minute spans spread out throughout the day. Many times I have seen a boat full of fisherman launch their boat, fish for a few hours, and give up without a bite. In that same time the anglers in the *Fishound* did not catch anything significant either. Invariably, within an hour or two we got into a slew of fish, and later left the lake knowing that we have given it our all.

These in-between times, when the fish are hanging out on the bottom of the lake laughing at us, are often some of the best parts of our day. We watch beavers swim by, eagles cruise the lake for an easy meal on the water's surface, and big white clouds drift overhead. As we wait for the bite to return we go from one potential fishing honey hole to the next. At each stop we set the anchor, dangle the line, and talk about current events, school, my business, family affairs, politics, and our favorite sports. And when Brendan, my oldest son, comes home from the eastern seaboard to spend a day fishing, we spend the day jibing each other. The kidding is all good natured and in many ways has actually made the three of us closer. The naked truth can be very funny and sharing our observations about each other joins us in the most intimate way: through humor.

The absolute solitude that can be found on this lake nestled in the Green Mountains is astounding. Often the only sound is the wind whipping over the water. The air smells crisp and clean. A hint of sun every once in a while warms the cheeks on your face. And a wild blue lake cradled between two forested mountains defines the essence of visual beauty. The experience is nothing less than breathtaking and significant enough that a single day can be remembered for years. Being on a quiet lake can resolve conflicts, melt away stress, and make problems irrelevant. The power of the natural world demands your complete attention. It has a way of letting you know that you are really not in control of the important parts of life. And for those who seek inner peace it is an essential foundation.

Before we knew it we could see the sun approaching the western horizon. One disadvantage of October angling excursions is that the days are shorter. Loading a boat onto a trailer in the dark in thigh-deep frigid water is not exactly the most pleasant activity in the world so it is better to be off the water well before night sets in. Liam and I noticed that the sun, as infrequent a visitor as it had been on this day, was getting ready to give up for the day. We held on for a few more fish

and the fishing gods let us have a few on this day. But all good things must come to an end, at least temporarily, and Liam pulled the anchor as I started the motors.

He piloted us back that late afternoon. I watched the forested shoreline go by. I wanted to hold on to each and every moment that we had left in this little piece of heaven. Just to the north of the boat launch in an eastern cove I noticed a bald eagle sitting on top of a white pine tree. His white head caught the last rays of the evening sun. As we turned around a long point on the shoreline I thought I saw him look directly in my direction. And then he flew off to the north. Like us he knew that night would shroud the lake in blackness within the hour.

Another peaceful day was coming to an end. And it occurred to me that this is what memories are made from.

Children's Shopping Spree!

Support the Sixth Grade Quest to Nature's Classroom and an educational opportunity in applied mathematics. The fifth & sixth graders will transform the art room into a Holiday Bazaar. All items will range in price from .50 to \$3.00. Students from each grade will be able to come and shop in an affordable setting to buy gifts for their family & friends.

In order for us to have enough items to sell at the Bazaar, YOUR DONATIONS ARE NEEDED.

If you have items you no longer need or want, they might just be the perfect treasure awaiting discovery at the sale.

Ideal Items Include:

Clean & Complete: Toys, Puzzles, Games, Stuffed Animals, Costume Jewelry, Kitchenware, Clothing Accessories, Keepsakes, Collectibles, Craft Items and Home Décor items.

Items must be dropped off at the school or sent with the child prior to the sale or by December 17. Please label boxes of donations *Shopping Spree*.

Wednesday, December 19
Snow Pate:
Friday, December 21

Green Thoughts



Books for Holiday Giving



By Pat Leuchtman

In all gift-giving seasons I think of books. My grandchildren know this. One granddaughter said she always knew what my gift would be, she just didn't know which. So as the holiday season begins I am suggesting three books that I think might be of special interest to us Heathans.



Many of us treasure our trees even if we are not very particular about the details. Can we identify every variety? Maybe not, but still we enjoy their shade, their autumnal colors and the sculpture of their branches in winter. In their book Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees. Author Nancy Ross Hugo and photographer Robert

Llewellyn show us details in ways that have never been possible before.

Llewellyn used "a new form of photography. Using software developed for work with microscopes, he created sharp close-ups by stitching together 8 to 45 images of each subject – each shot at a different focal point." I don't really understand how that works, but I can tell you that the result is a gorgeously illustrated book.

Hugo and Llewellyn have devoted the major part of their book to ten chapters about common trees that most of us have in our own backyards. I have been fascinated by the American beech in our woodland because I've noticed that many hold their dead brown leaves through the winter. Only in the spring do the new leaves push the old leaves off the twig in a process called marcescense.

I never really noticed that the sex life of the white pines around our house is quite visible. White pines, like all pines, have male and female cones on the same tree. Hugo quotes a U.S. Department of Agriculture publication from 1899 that described the "purplish rose lips of the erect pistillate cone (of the white pine)." What prose!

In addition to the beech and white pine, they also examine the

red maple, American sycamore, black walnut, southern magnolia, tulip poplar, white oak, and eastern red cedar. The details of leaf, bud, and twig are photographed in an amazing way.

Some of us may take a more literary or historic view of gardens. Jane Roy Brown of Ashfield teamed up with Susan Haltom who has supervised the restoration of Eurdora Welty's garden



in Jackson, Mississippi, to write *One Writer's Garden: Eudora Welty's Home Place*. This book, illustrated not only with gorgeous photographs of the restored garden, but family photos as well, sent me back to reread Welty's wonderful stories filled with unforgettable characters.

Haltom had access to Eudora Welty's letters and her mother Chestine's garden journals, and both Haltom and Brown had garden magazines of the period to help illustrate the aesthetics and practices of the time. Chestina was an avid and skilled gardener; the garden she created is an example of what the typical residential garden in the south looked like in the first half of the twentieth century. Though the garden had been overgrown and the lines were lost, Haltom was able use almost archeological methods to find and reveal the beds and paths of the original garden.

Though she traveled widely, Welty made the house on Pinehurst Street her home all her life. She always thought of the garden as "Chestina's garden" even after her mother's death, and exhorted Haltom not to make the garden anything more than it was during her mother's lifetime.

The story of Chestina's garden is also the story of a remarkable progressive woman who lived at a time when work outside the home was discouraged, but who found ways to engage with other women and the community, to keep learning, and to support her daughter Eudora in her desire for a different kind of life.

Brown has shown that the story of a garden is also a story of a particular time and place, of social movements and important personal events.



The Green Garden: A New England Guide to Planning, Planting, and Maintaining the Eco-Friendly Habitat Garden by Ellen Sousa of Spencer will be of interest and value to those of us who are looking for ways that we can support the food web of all the creatures we welcome to our landscapes, birds, butterflies and even the less visible creatures like toads.

The chapters on planning, rethinking the lawn, and adding water to your gar-

den or landscape show that you can make a difference even if you live on a suburban street. Sousa lists plants for shade and sun. She reminds us of vines that can climb and give our gardens an extra dimension. Native trees and shrubs can add habitat for wildlife. A browse through the final section of the book, "Best Plants for New England Gardens," will help us plan a garden rich in native plants, one that welcomes birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects.

Sousa had done all the research and made lists of plants appropriate to every situation from dry sun to damp shade and bog so that everyone who wants to welcome birdsong and butterflies, those flowers of the air, to their garden, large or small, will know how to begin and how to carry on.

Who on your gift list might welcome one of these beautifully illustrated and useful books?

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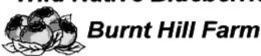


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Heath Fair News

With the approach of winter the Heath Agricultural Society is able to consider the coming year with a more relaxed demeanor which is very relieving following the hectic months of August and September. We have winterized the buildings, packed away the picnic tables, and drained the water lines. Various individuals are making arrangements to store their boats, cars, and other seasonal equipment in what would otherwise be vacant, quiet buildings. And the only grounds preparation that remains is the installation of the framework for the Skating Rink that will be in the lower Cattle Barn (temperatures permitting...). The Heath School PTP and the Heath Agricultural Society work together to make this available to the public.

The Heath Agricultural Society conducted its Annual Meeting as it does every year in November. At this meeting we elect the officers for the coming year; review our rental agreements, our active committees, our bylaws, and our membership, among other things. The officers for the coming year are as follows:

President:
Vice President:
Shirley Tombs
Treasurer:
Heidi Griswold
Premiums Secretary:
Recording Secretary:
Member at Large:
Member at Large:
Lively
Shirley Tombs
Kara Leistyna
Emily Cross
Conrad Halberg
Eric Sumner

Special thanks to Christine O'Brien who has stepped down from her position as Recording Secretary after approximately seven years of dutifully recording the activities of our meetings. Christine also does a lot for the Heath Agricultural Society outside of her former role as the Recording Secretary and has generously agreed to continue offering her support. And additional thanks go to Emily Cross who has agreed to fill the position of Recording Secretary. Emily has been a committed member of the Heath Ag Society for years and we are very pleased that she has agreed to fulfill this role. And finally, a big thank-you, and congratulations to all who support the Heath Agricultural Society.

Also, during this year's Annual, we made an adjustment to our bylaws which enables us to build our membership more fluidly. The relevant excerpt from our bylaws now reads like this (with the agreed-upon change underlined):

Any person is eligible to become a member of the Heath Agricultural Society provided they have demonstrated regular attendance at meetings <u>and/or</u> actively contributed to the betterment of the Heath Agricultural Society. A candidate may be accepted into membership by vote of the Membership at any meeting, to become effective at the next regular meeting.

Changing this language makes joining the Heath Agricultural Society easier. and, by the way, we are excited to have new members in the Society. We meet monthly (though we will NOT be meeting this December) to discuss any number of matters pertaining to our stated goal which put very simply is:

The encouragement, preservation, advancement, and celebration of the knowledge and practice of agriculture. (For a fuller explanation of our purposes, please see our bylaws on the Web site at www.heathfair.org. Anyone may attend a meeting even if only to witness our proceedings and to consider membership. Our next meeting will be on January 9 at 6:30 p.m.at the Heath Community Hall.

During our Annual meeting Conrad Halberg brought a pile of Media awards that were granted to us by the Mass Agricultural Fair Association. We received a total of five awards for our brochure, Web site, radio commercials, T-shirt, and poster A big thank- you to Conrad for entering this material in the contest and a big thank-you to those who committed so much of their time to the task of artfully advertising the Heath Fair, especially Rachel Porter, Gloria Fisher, Kara Leistyna, and Liz and Al Canali. These awards will be on display at the Library.

With only about nine months remaining until the next Annual Heath Fair there are matters which we will be setting our minds to and not the least of them is the ongoing search for a new Superintendent of Car Parking. We are very much in need of someone to fill this position. Please consider this and contact Justin Lively with questions or concerns.

Thank you and Happy Holidays.

Justin Lively, President.

Playing with Fire!

OK, I know you were told not to play with fire, so was I. Maybe that is why I became a firefighter. Truth be told, most of the time firefighters don't play with fire at all. Even when we are training it is serious business for serious people.

On November 10 the Heath Fire Department along with members of the Colrain Fire Department had a "live-fire training." This training was located on Hosmer Road in Heath at the Prior (formerly Bakalar) residence. Mr. Prior had approached me about the possibility of having the house burnt rather than having a contractor demolish it. After he went through the process of removing all utilities and insurance from the property as well as items that could not be burnt like old paint and other hazards, I agreed to schedule the burn.

One of the first criteria for this type of thing is that the burning of any building must provide beneficial training to the fire-fighters. In other words, we do not burn buildings that have already collapsed or are piles of old junk. If a building is fairly sound and has door and windows then we have an opportunity to train.

Burning a building for training is not as simple as lighting a match and walking away. The process starts weeks before the actual fire. Other departments are invited and asked to provide extra equipment. Food has to be arranged for the firefighters. Training evolutions have to be developed that are specific to the building. In the case of the Prior residence we were able to train twice. We went out on our normal Thursday night training and practiced forcible entry and ventilation techniques. Then on Saturday, November 10, we conducted the live-fire portion.

The day started off with a safety meeting at the Heath Fire Station. All firefighters were briefed on the location and known hazards. Mayday procedures were discussed and an equipment and firefighter inspection was conducted. All equipment and firefighters have to meet NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) regulations. Only one firefighter was barred from using an SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) due to facial hair. However, he was allowed to participate in all other activities.

Firefighters must be able to think critically and clearly and solve problems quickly, under extreme stress. This can be especially difficult in an actual fire. One benefit of live-fire training is to provide the opportunity to develop these skills in a controlled environment of continued exposure.

Once we arrived at the location all firefighters and officers were required to don high-tech, multi-layered clothing called "turnout gear." This gear can withstand temperatures of 1200 degrees for a short time but it cannot withstand direct flame contact. We conducted an experiment with an old turnout coat to demonstrate the importance of this. This coat was hung in a window and left until it burned. It withstood an amazing amount of heat but as soon as flames touched it, it started to burn. In addition to turnout gear firefighters also donned an SCBA. The total weight of all this equipment is approximately 50lbs and this is before picking up a tool or hose!

The first training evolution involved all members, including the two junior firefighters, entering the building with no fire. All members then got down on the floor and a fire was lit to demonstrate fire growth. Once the flames started to move across the ceiling a short burst of water was applied to control the flame spread. This also filled the room with steam and caused the smoke layer to drop down and limited visibility. Firefighters then used a technique called hydraulic venting to clear the room of smoke. Simply stated, water is sprayed out an open window and it removes the smoke and gasses.

The next several hours were spent rotating firefighters in and out of the building with more aggressive fires to extinguish. Just before lunch a downed firefighter evolution took place and several firefighters were raised from the floor of one room up to the roof using ropes. This was done to simulate how a firefighter would be rescued from a basement or brought up through a floor in the event of a collapse.

While the downed FF evolution was taking place, some members participated in a fire-investigation evolution. Part of every Chief's job is to determine cause and origin of all fires. Crucial evidence can easily be destroyed by unknowing firefighters just doing their normal jobs. The investigation training shows them things to look for and protect so that during a real-world event evidence can be preserved. This is critical information needed by the Chief and insurance companies.

The last training evolution was exterior attack. The fire was allowed to build up and extend out the windows. Firefighters then used hose streams to control the fire from the outside of the building. Eventually all firefighters were pulled back to a safe distance and we waited for the building to collapse.

This type of training is extremely valuable and would not be possible without the help of many people and many thanks are needed. I want to thank the Priors for coming to me with the request and their cooperation during the process. Second, thanks to those who brought and cooked food for the firefighters and to the Colrain Fire Department for supplying extra equipment and firefighters. A thank-you to Art Schwenger and Jan Carr for providing pictures of the event. A special thanks to the families of all the firefighters who attended that day or had to spend the day without them and to our very own Heath firefighters and EMTs whose efforts are always amazing. I would also like to thank my Deputy Chief Ken Gilbert who dedicated many hours of time to this event both before and after. Firefighters are a strong breed of people and I am very proud to walk beside them.

Respectfully submitted, ~ Chief Michael D. Smith







Live-Fire Burn















Photographs by Art Schwenger

Hurricane Sandy

We were ready

How do you prepare for a hurricane? Well, I'm not sure what each individual does but as the head of two of the town departments that respond to emergencies related to a hurricane I can tell you what we did. First we started monitoring the National Weather Service (NWS) reports on Tuesday. The NWS offers some of the best weather forecasting available. Because they do not sell advertising there is no added hype to the report. As the storm drew closer and looked more definite the highway staff began making preparations.

Private contractors were called and plans were made to move equipment into town. Some equipment was actually moved in and staged just in case. Our own forces worked to check culverts and waterways to clear as much debris as possible before any rain arrived. All highway and fire vehicles were checked out, fueled, and started on Friday. Chainsaws were sharpened and fueled and personal protective equipment was laid out for rapid deployment.

On Saturday morning a meeting was held at our Emergency Operation Center with all town departments to discuss strategies for responding to emergencies. We all exchanged our schedules for the next several days so that we knew where everyone would be. By Saturday morning the NWS was predicting more of a wind event than a rain event. A decision was made to leave all our crews at home until needed or until 7:00 a.m. Monday, whichever came first.

During the next 48 hours conference calls were held with MEMA every 6 hours. During these calls we could call in and listen directly to the NWS, MEMA, FEMA and the Governor. We could also ask questions to help us be as ready as possible. On Sunday afternoon the decision was made to cancel school which was a relief to me as that was one less thing to think about. By Sunday night things were still rather tranquil and all crews remained at home.

Very early Monday morning I was awake and came into work early. At that time we did not have any damage but the wind was increasing and crews were arriving for duty. At 11:00 a.m. the EOC was opened and a staff meeting was held. Dispatchers were activated to operate the telephones and radios at the EOC, and Emergency Management Director Tim Lively stayed at the EOC to coordinate our needs with MEMA. By midday the Fire Department was fully activated and we started responding to calls for trees and wires down. By this time power was out to most of the Town and plans were in place to use portable generators to help those with medical needs.

Whenever possible the highway department would remove trees from the roads but the winds were so strong that it was a dangerous operation. During our evening EOC meeting it was decided that crews would not be out after dark unless an emergency call was received. Because all the phones had stopped working the EOC remained open all night in case someone had an emergency and came in to report it. From the EOC we have the ability to contact all of the fire and highway department personal.

On Tuesday morning crews were back at work by first light. Tree-damage was minimal and flooding did not happen. Crews from the highway and fire departments cleared downed trees and opened roads wherever we could. Fire Department. personnel along with the Police also checked on several residents who had special needs and had contacted us for help. By 4:00 p.m. power was back on to most of the Town and the wind had slowed down. At 6:00 p.m. a final meeting was held at the EOC and all crews were released.

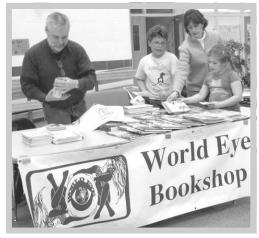
Thankfully this storm passed us by with just a taste of what could have been. Although crews were ready and equipment in place I am delighted that most of it was not needed.

I would like to thank all of those who helped out during this event from the dispatchers to firefighters, highway workers, police officers, town boards, and those who photographed this event and those who provided food for the EOC, and anyone I may have not mentioned here.

What a wonderful town we all live in.

 $\label{eq:continuity} \textbf{Respectfully,} \\ \sim \textit{Michael D. Smith} \\ \textbf{Heath Highway and Fire Departments} \\$

Friends of the Heath School Library Annual Book Fair





Photos by Virginia Gary

City of the Dead

Oaxaca, Mexico, lured a group of Franklin County residents including Deb Porter and myself to visit this city of the Dead over All Saints Day. Sarah McCusick and Penfield Chester organized a week of living in this environment where each family creates an altar to honor the people who have died in their family. The entire city celebrates with bands and costumed children and adults parading in the streets every night It is indeed a celebration.

Our group stayed in a villa where we created our altar, holding photographs of our beloveds who have passed on. These altars are decorated with flowers, candles, and the foods the person or persons enjoyed, so bread, oranges, cakes, and beans were on all the altars.

The week was basically to observe these customs, but also as a yoga and writing week led by Penfield Chester. During afternoons we would either go to museums, shop, or take a trip into the countryside where we were introduced to the ancient culture of candle and rug making. The magic of the arts and crafts in Oaxaca is in the materials, textures, and colors which express the richness of the city. Because of the industrialization of so many items, a group of women decided to bring back the original crafts of their culture, and have created a Regional Association of Craftswomen to produce and sell their crafts,

On one of the tours we went to the village of Teutitlan, In a long hallway many rugs were exhibited by laying them on the floor for us to see the many designs. Many small rugs were



purchased by women in our group without any idea how they would get them home. Back at the villa little bags appeared for carrying these items.

Then we went outside to see a woman grind dried beetles to produce a red dye or paint. She showed how she carded wool and made it into a string of wool to be woven. I wanted to bring home a memory of this woman who did such skillful work preparing the wool to be woven. When the men went to the webs to weave these beautiful rugs, they had a plan of design in their heads as to what the next step would be.

The man we watched was completely taken into another world as he stood weaving. His face and body were totally at ease as he wove red then black wool to create his pattern. Deb tried her hand at weaving and then bought a beautiful white rug with different birds up the sides, made by this man.

Next we went into the home of a couple who made candles. Around an iron circle were different sizes of candles hanging, waiting to be finished. The man brought out a bucket of hot wax, scooped out several cupfuls that he poured on a candle several times. When the wax dried, he went on to the next candle.

His wife brought out a bucket of hot wax which she placed in molds of animals and flowers. When she opened a mold, there was a creation! Many of these flowers were then carefully put on a candle with hot wire to make a bouquet,

One day we climbed Monte Alban to see the ancient ruins of previous inhabitants the Zapatec tribes.

We discovered that using a wheelchair in these huge airports was most helpful for an 85- year-old. The airports were requiring long hikes between where we landed and where we took the next flight. Some of the attendants pushing the wheelchair traveled so fast that Deb was literally running to keep up. Our favorite attendant was a man named George who wheeled us through immigration and onto a train and to the next check-in. He spoke perfect English and talked freely with us. He told us he has a wife and three children and enjoyed exchanging stories with us. We were grateful for how he helped us, and we gave him a good tip. When we left he had tears in his eyes.

This was a wonderful trip not only for the yoga and writing but also for getting to know something of Mexico.

~ Hazel Porter





By Eric Glazier, Principal

Winter at Heath School...

In early November our 6th grade class held their spaghetti dinner fund-raiser. I would like to thank the parents, students, and community members who came to support our 6th grade class as they raised funds for their trip to Nature's Classroom this coming spring. The class will be holding other fund-raisers throughout the winter and spring, so please call the school for more information if you would like to support the class. The class also held a Bake and Busk Sale this fall. Students sold delicious baked goods and also entertained Shelburne Falls residents with their musical talents.

Rehearsals for this year's drama production are in full swing. This year the students will be performing *Down the Rabbit Hole*, an adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*. Maeve Gallaghar is this year's production director and she has done a wonderful job in preparing the students. Please join us at Heath School for our winter production on January 11 and 12 You will not be disappointed!

We are continuing our partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA). Each year the SCA sends student teachers into schools to develop and teach science units with our students. We have two SCA teachers working two days per week at Heath School. This is a wonderful partnership that I hope will continue for many years to come.

I am also pleased to announce that we have been awarded several enrichment grants for the 2012-2013 school year. Just before she retired, Deb Porter wrote a STARS residency grant through the Massachusetts Cultural Council. We were awarded the \$5,000 grant to bring naturalist Ted Watt into our school. Ted will be joining us for several days throughout the winter and spring. Our residency will end with a week-long project and presentation that will be open to the public. Please stay tuned for more information. The school was also awarded a \$200 grant from the Mary Lyon Foundation to replenish our preschool sandbox with new beach sand. This past November we also held our annual Friends of the Heath School Library Book Fair. This was a very successful event to raise money for our school's library. I would like to send a very special thankyou to all who made this sale a success.

I continue to enjoy my time as the principal of Heath Elementary. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at the school.

Heath Elementary Parent Teacher Partnership Highlights

The Heath School Community would like to extend a big thank-you to all the volunteers with the Friends of Heath School

Library who organized a very successful annual Book Fair in partnership with the World Eye Bookshop at the school recently. THANK YOU!

Our big PTP event for this fall is our 3rd annual Heath & Hilltown Artisan & Gift Catalog which promotes and supports local artisans and farmers while raising needed funds for natural science and art enrichments at the school. Look for the catalog at the Town Hall and Library or pick one up at school. Orders will be accepted until December 10 but we are hosting an Artisan Fair and Bake Sale on December 15 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Heath Community Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

We are also looking forward to the upcoming partnership with the Senior Center and are honored to hear some of the rich and varied oral histories that our community holds.

Community members are ALWAYS WELCOME at the Friday all-school meetings, or to stop in for breakfast or lunch any day - just give a quick call to Kathy so we can make enough meals.

Other fantastic news, which we'll have more to share about in the next issue, is the school's successful grant application by Deb Porter for a special Mass Cultural Council Grant which will support extensive partnership with Ted Watt, a phenomenal local naturalist and gifted educator. The Horizon Fund and Heath Parent Teacher Partnership plan to additionally supplement the grant funds to allow even greater time for the children to work with him throughout the year.

Our PTP fund-raising efforts are all about supporting this kind of work and other cultural, scientific, and artistic enrichments. We are interested, too, in offering additional after school programs for children. If anyone has a skill they'd like to share, such as photography, knitting, sewing, foreign languages, gardening, et al., please contact Lorena about setting up an enrichment or series. At the last PTP meeting, parents expressed interest in exploring greater participation in local farm-to-school efforts and in a school and community dialogue across the District on ways of meeting the changing nutrition guidelines in a positive and creative way which allows both economy and autonomy for schools in providing healthful and tasty meals.

HILLTOWN ARTISAN FAIR AND BAKE SALE

DECEMBER 15 9:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

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- Jewelry, Candles, Delectable Gifts & Goodies.
- Cards, Prints, Glass, Hennatattoos, and more.

Heath Local Education Council

We've been able to meet twice this fall and are off to a collegial and productive start. The committee welcomes three new members, Rol Hesselbart, Alice Lemelin, and Valerie Lively. Thanks for stepping up! At our recent meeting we discussed the possibility of applying for a grant to purchase a generator for the school, after losing a large amount of produce during tropical storm Sandy. Having a large enough generator would allow the school to be an additional resource for the community as an emergency shelter. Eric Glazier, Heath's principal, is looking into a surplus program that has benefited Leyden by providing a number of community institutions, including their school, with generators.

We also discussed having additional professional development around social curriculum and conflict resolution tools. Most staff are now trained in second steps and responsive classroom on some level, but it was felt that refreshers could be beneficial. A parallel conversation at a recent staff meeting indicated support for bringing in a workshop leader focusing on the unique challenges and strengths of boys in their approach to learning and exploring reading and writing. Several book titles on the topic were shared: *Misreading Masculinity: Boys, Literacy, and Popular Culture* by Thomas Newkirk; *Boy Writers: Reclaiming Their Voices* by Ralph Fletcher, and *The Purpose of Boys: Helping Our Sons Find Meaning, Significance, and Direction in Their Lives* by Michael Gurian. We are researching having one of the authors come lead a professional development workshop.

Our meeting minutes are available and community members are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. If you have a topic, issue, or idea you would like to discuss, feel free to e-mail Principal Glazier at: eglazier@mohawkschools.org In the realm of technology, it was great to hear the computer lab is being used to great benefit. The District is purchasing Type to Learn 4 for all the schools. This typing program will also have a home-accessible component for families with Web access.

We discussed the Kahn Academy as a possible tool for math study. Eric is researching the purchase of an iPad cart and is committed to increasing technological literacy and in supporting its use as a teaching tool. The school saw an increase in its overall MCAS scores this year and had three children with perfect scores for their grade level! We discussed test-taking as a skill and how focusing earlier in the year on framing the MCAS positively might help reduce test-taking anxiety and give students strategies for a positive test experience.

It was acknowledged that the MCAS offer only one marker or measurement of learning and that there is a need for offering approaches to the state curriculum frameworks that, despite the constraints of time and specific curriculum, address the diversity of learning styles and developmental needs, whether a student needs greater support or additional academic challenge. Currently, the English Language Arts schedule allows for cross-grade developmental grouping. There is an effort to try and similarly schedule math in blocks to allow greater flexibility in developmental grouping, but this has proven difficult given limited staffing and the complexity of optimizing sched-

ules to allow for greatest continuity.

Last year, after-school-tutoring funds were available through a grant, which is no longer available. Possible tutoring options for this year will be discussed at our next LEC meeting. If you are interested in volunteering in this capacity, please let us know.

~ Lorena Loubsky

Teen Group

We would like to invite Heath teens in grades 7 - 12 to join in the fun!

We will meet every three weeks on Saturday nights from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Heath School. Our first teen night will be Saturday, December 8.

Supervised open gym, basketball, volleyball, games, hanging out, listening to music, and just having fun with your friends. And, at the same time, we will be planning ways we can work with younger children, our Senior Citizens, and the community at large. So teens come on out on Saturday, December 8!

If you have any questions or need further information, please call any of the following:

Robin Jenkins, 337-4389, Valerie Lively, 337-4489, Veronica Smead, 337-5389, or Mary Sumner, 337-5330

Holiday Book Drive

For the Parent Child Development Center Community Care Program

From November 5 through December 7 you can help children ages newborn through kindergarten by purchasing a children's book at either the

World Eye Bookshop, 156 Main Street, Greenfield, or at the new location at

1 North Main Street in Florence

- ♦ You pick a book
- ♦ We give you a 10% discount and we will deliver it to the organization who will in turn give it to the child for the holidays.

For more information, please call us at (413) 772-2186





Library Lines

What's New at the Library?



By Donald Purington

A Few of the New Items at the Library

Adult Fiction Books: Astray by Emma Donoghue, Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver, The Forgotten by David Baldacci, Notorious Nineteen by Janet Evanovich, The Round House by Louise Erdrich (winner of the 2012 National Book Award), V is for Vengeance by Sue Grafton

Adult Nonfiction Books: Royal Cities of the Ancient Maya by Michael D. Coe, Plover Hill Flowers by Bob Viarengo, Hallucinations by Oliver Sacks, The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook by Deb Perelman, A Thousand Mornings by Mary Oliver

Young/Teen Reader Books: Amulet #5: Prince of the Elves by Kazu Kibuishi, The Last Dragonslayer by Jasper Fforde, The Edge of Nowhere by Elizabeth George, Who Could That Be at This Hour? by Lemony Snicket, Guinness World Records 2013

Children's Picture Books/Boardbooks: Who Has This Tail? by Laura Hulbert, Mossy by Jan Brett, Cold Snap by Eileen Spinelli, The Going to Bed Book by Sandra Boynton, Bully by Patricia Polacco

DVDs: Call the Midwife: Season One, The Lord Peter Wimsey Mysteries, The Day After Tomorrow

Audiobooks on CD: Where We Belong by Emily Giffin

Music CDs: In the Hazel Wood by Fireseed (Crystalline Ruby Muse and Daniel Pac), 21 by Adele



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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

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

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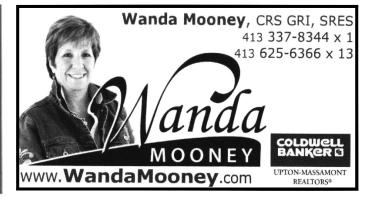
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Town Nurse News



Keep Moving



Claire Rabbitt, RN

I encourage everyone to be active, especially this time of year, when we enjoy the sweet treats that go with the holidays. If you're not physically fit enough to get out much in the winter there are things you can do inside. In Heath we have an osteoporosis prevention exercise class every Tuesday from 11:00 a.m.-12 at the Senior Center. Many of the exercises are done sitting in a chair and can be modified according to ability. That and an exercise class at the Rowe Town Hall are free to seniors.

Here are some benefits of exercise given in the December *Nutrition Action Heath Letter* from an interview with Timothy Church, a professor of preventive medicine at Louisiana State University. He says maintaining strength and function is critical for healthy aging, because after age 40 or 50 we lose 1 to 2 percent of our muscle every year. Exercise can help maintain the ability to move and participate in activities, as well as continue to be able to care for ourselves. We also lose bone as we age, but the more weight and stress you put on the bone, the more the bone tissue will be maintained. Exercise is also good for the brain. It helps to treat depression, to lower anxiety and stress, to make one feel more energized, and to improve sleep. It also can help improve circulation in the brain and may slow the progression of dementia. Exercise will help lower blood sugar because during and after exercise the muscle will use up sugar in the blood for up to 48 hours, so decreases the onset of diabetes, or helps diabetics gain better control of their blood sugar. It helps with cardiovascular health and weight loss, but even if there is no great weight loss, hopefully there will be loss of belly fat. He says fat cells in the abdomen produce more harmful substances than other areas and can affect the liver. We should avoid sitting too much and choose activities that get us out of our chairs. I try to alternate housework with sitting at the computer or reading or watching TV.

Just a reminder that flu vaccine is still available at the Town Nurse's office. I am there on Tuesdays from 12:15-1:15 p.m. and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.. If you can't come at that time, call me for an appointment at 337-8309.

("A Christmas Surprise for Grandma" continued from page 3)

Saturday evening the village people started arriving just after dark. Grandma always waited until evening to have her Christmas party, because she loved the lights. All the guests gathered around in the front yard and began to sing Christmas carols. Oh, how grandma loved that!

Ole Ben was a jolly fellow who worked at the village store, and he was chosen to help Santa hand out the presents. The children shouted with glee, as they unwrapped their gifts. Grandma said, "Laura, come here dear, I have a surprise for you." As she handed me the present, I could see the love and pride in her eyes. "I love it grandma", I said, as I bent down to kiss her cheek, "I will cherish it forever." Grandma had made a quilt out of some of my dresses that I had worn as a little girl.

"Grandma, if you could have just one special gift for Christmas, what would it be?" I asked her. Without even stopping to think, she replied, "I would like to see your grandfather just one more time, so I could feed him the apple pie that the horses quit snatching when he left us."

Just then grandma's face lit up like the lights on the Christmas tree! Everyone turned to see what grandma was looking at. Walking slowly toward her, with an apple pie in his hand, was grandpa! There was two slices missing from the pie that he was holding. The village people were speechless, as they thought they were seeing a ghost. Grandpa chuckled, as he yelled out, "Emmy, those darn horses snatched the pie and got away with two pieces. They would have eaten it all if I hadn't snatched it back away from them!"

Tears of joy were flowing down grandma's cheeks as she threw

her arms around grandpa. Henry! We thought you had drowned!

I'll explain everything to you Emmy, but first let's thank God that we are together again. Everyone bowed their heads as grandpa thanked God for bringing him home to his "Little ole Emmy".

Grandpa told everyone to gather around the fireplace and he would tell them what had happened to him. For almost twelve years I couldn't remember anything," said grandpa, "Not even my name." Then about two months ago, Laura came to work at the county home where I have been living." I didn't recognize Laura at first," said grandpa. Especially, since she is all grown up now, but she did know who I was right away! She was so shocked to see me, that it took her a while to believe it was really me. She started to tell me some of the stories that Emmy used to tell me. She would sit there with me and sing me the songs that Emmy used to sing. At first it didn't make any difference to me, but slowly my memory started to return.

I remember now going out to gather firewood. There was a nice piece of wood on the lake. I thought the lake was frozen over so I stepped out on the lake to get the piece of wood. I remember hearing the lake crackle and that's the last I remember about the accident.

"Laura, how can I ever thank you for bringing grandpa home to me?" asked grandma. Laura replied, " Seeing the happiness and the love you have for each other is all the thanks I need."

As Laura retired to bed that night, she couldn't help but think about the surprise that she had given to grandma for Christmas. She knew in her heart that it was the best surprise present that grandma would ever get. What a warm and wonderful feeling came over Laura as she fell asleep, thinking of her grandparents.

Selectboard's Report

Meeting Schedule

The Board meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall, unless posted otherwise.

All Committees and Boards Meeting

The Annual All Committees and Boards Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 16, at the Community Hall. Members of the various committees and boards were invited to report on their activities over the past year and to share their goals for the coming year. This meeting also featured reviews of the Open Meeting Law, the noncriminal ticketing system for failure to comply with town bylaws, and the Code Red system which is a phone-based warning system for local emergencies. The Finance Committee reviewed the schedule and expectations for preparation of the coming year's budget with the group.

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting was held October 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Hall. There were eight articles to be considered. The first two were proposed by the Planning Board as amendments to the Zoning Bylaw to govern the installation of large-scale commercial ground-mounted solar electric generating facilities and another for the installation of fixed wireless broadband facilities. The third article was to transfer \$20,000 of unexpended funds from the McCloud property purchase account to fund a feasibility study for a municipal complex. Articles number four and five asked for a transfer of funds from various sources totaling \$10,000 to fund a study of existing town buildings.

Article number 6 requested transfers to fund an audit of town finances as required by the federal government when the Town receives and expends federal aid in excess of \$500,000.

Article number 7 asked to establish a revolving fund for money received from the Solid Waste District for receipts from recycled materials. Article number 8 asked that a revolving fund be established for receipts from vaccine reimbursements from Medicare to be used to purchase additional vaccines.

All articles passed.

Tropical Storm Sandy

The Emergency Management team received a storm briefing from MEMA via a teleconference call on Friday, October 26. The Governor declared a State of Emergency throughout the Commonwealth and the Emergency Operations Center was activated and staffed to follow developments in the storm and to be prepared to respond to any emergencies that might result from wind, rain, and power outages. Over the period from Sunday, October 28, to Tuesday, October 30, high winds knocked down trees and limbs causing power outages in most of the Town. Fortunately, no injuries and no significant property damage were reported. Rainfall was not as heavy as feared and did not cause much damage to roadways and culverts.

It seems everyone was better prepared from having dealt with the tropical storm Irene ordeal. Our Emergency Management Team was well prepared and on top of developing conditions throughout the period of the storm. The Code Red warning system

was put to use to alert Heath residents of the emergency.

Kudos to Tim Lively, Ken Gilbert, Mike Smith, Margo Newton, Sheila Litchfield and everyone else who helped during the emergency.

Wired West

Wired West needs the input and support of potential customers. Please visit The Town Web site and log on to the Wired West link (upper right corner of Web page). You will be able to access information about Wired West and fill out the online survey of interest and support.

Heath Online

Take some time to visit the Town's Web site at wwwtown-ofheath.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

Election Day

Election Day 2012 was nothing short of spectacular and amazing. Voters began lining up at 6:50 a.m. and the almost constant stream of people did not end until 8:00 p.m. when polls closed. Ballots cast totaled 435 which was over an 85% turnout: one of the highest in Franklin County for the day.

There were many thrilling moments during a day filled with the visible testimony that democracy is still essential to Heath residents. Many parents brought their children so that the next generation could witness first-hand a part of what makes our nation so unique in the world. During the day I could hear parents explaining to their offspring the process of evaluating the choices that were on the ballot.

In late morning a man came to me claiming he had registered to vote although his name was not on the list. When I explained that sometimes there are technology 'glitches' between the Registry of Motor Vehicles (where he had registered) and the clerks' computers, the man said he was going to Greenfield to get it "straightened out. I'll be back," he said, "this is one time I want my vote to count!" A few hours later he did return with a receipt stating that he had, indeed, registered to vote. The man marked and cast his ballot, satisfied that his voice had been heard.

What made the entire day run smoothly was the dedication of the many poll workers and ballot counters. In total, 27 volunteer workers lent their support in preparing for, and working throughout the day. To all of you who helped make democracy work on November 6, thank you from the bottom of my heart. It was a day that made history in Heath with the largest voter turnout that the Town has ever had.

~Hilma Sumner, Town Clerk

Finance Committee

The Heath Finance Committee is starting work on the Town budget for Fiscal Year 2014. We have two new members this year, Gloria Fisher and Kathy Inman, replacing Dave Gott and Jan Carr.

In early December, after conferring with the Selectboard on the budget calendar and budget preparation documents, the Finance Committee will send this year's budget request forms to Town department heads with a submission deadline of January 2, 2013. Thereafter, the FinCom and the Selectboard will conduct joint budget hearings with department heads in the Community Hall every Tuesday evening until February 26, 2013, as the first stage in developing the budget.

The Town has not, as of this writing, received certification of its tax rate for Fiscal Year 2013. We estimated the rate at \$20.07 at the Annual Town Meeting in May, but this estimate is necessarily an estimated guess, because we do not have all the information in hand that the State uses to arrive at the final rate.

We have, however, been notified that our Free Cash balance is \$177,449, somewhat more than in previous years. We are hopeful that the increase in the Town's Free Cash will enable us to recommend to the voters that the Stabilization account be replenished after several years in which it has been a bit low.

We will also consider whether to recommend the establishment of a special fund for large capital expenditures like highway and fire trucks. One topic that is likely to be discussed extensively during the budget process is a schedule for maintenance of and capital improvements to Town buildings.

The new budget procedures that we developed with the Selectboard last year seem to have worked reasonably well. We will continue to fine-tune them as this year's budget development moves forward. The effectiveness of the budget process depends to a substantial extent on our receiving information – budget requests, capital proposals, and other budgetary information – sooner rather than later, so we urge Town department heads and other interested parties to file their budget requests by or before the deadline that has been established.

The Heath Finance Committee

~ Don Freeman, Chair

Ned Wolf, Secretary

Gloria Fisher, Kathy Inman, Jeff Simmons

Local Cultural Council News:

Heath Cultural Council welcomes Bob Gruen back to the fold. Bob was on the very first Heath Cultural Council. We're also delighted to have Sue Draxler and Larry Sampson join the Committee. Lorena Loubsky will remain on as an ex-officio member. Janis Steele and Kara Leistyna round out the committee this year. Thanks again to Rachel Porter for her past support. Our grant-voting meeting was rescheduled so we will have more information for the next issue. As always, questions and ideas are welcome - please contact Lorena at loubskylon-ergan@netzero.com

Heath School Production



Cast members rehearse for *Down The Rabbit Hole* for the Heath School's adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS RECYCLING REMINDER

Happy Holidays! Thank you for your recycling efforts over the past year. Following are some guidelines for recycling during the holiday and winter months:

Please **<u>DO</u>** include the following items in your paper recycling mix:

- corrugated cardboard boxes
- paperboard gift boxes
- Gift wrap, gift bags, tissue wrap (except those with foil, metallic inks, or glitter)
- Paper shopping bags (any type of handle is okay)

Please **<u>DO NOT</u>** include the following items in your recycling mix:

- Ribbons, bows, and tinselPacking peanuts and Styrot
- Packing peanuts and Styrofoam (re-usable, contact your local pack and ship store)
- ♦ Holiday lights
- Plastic bags

If you have any questions about recycling, please contact Franklin County Solid Waste Management at (413) 772-2438 or info@franklincountywastedist.org, MA Relay for the hearing impaired:

711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD), or call the MRF Recycling Hotline at 888-888-0784 ext. 2293.



NO

Milestones

Paul H. Gilman of Granby died on October 13, 2012. Born on March 15, 1938, he was the son of Seth W. and Muriel Williams Gilman.

He was a master sergeant in the US Air Force, serving at the Westover Air Force Base for 30 years.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years Wendy Morgan Gilman of Granby; his four children , **Debbie Plante of Heath**, Paula Gilman-Robidoux of Feeding Hills, Dale Joaquin of Houston, TX, and Paul Gilman II of Indian Orchard; two sisters Susan Bullard of Dedham, ME, and Pamela Hill of Orrington, ME; a brother, Stephen Gilman of Bangor, ME; 14 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA.

Odette Sara Alexander Rice of Heath died on October 26, 2012. Born on March 18, 1920, in Hudson, ME, she was the daughter of Myron and Mabel McDaniel Alexander.

She moved to Heath several years ago, She is survived by her husband of 35 years, Frances A. Rice; a son, Craig A. Canales of Fargo, ND; a stepson Raymond Rice of Buckland; stepdaughters **Sandra Gilbert and Michelle Cutter, both of Heath, and** Pam Gilbert of Charlemont; a sister Doris Maher of Glenburn, ME, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be made to either Hospice of Franklin County, 329 Conway Street, Greenfield, MA 01301 or to the Charlene Manor Activities Fund, 130 Colrain Road, Greenfield, MA 01301.

Jean Stewart Tallen, recently of Bernardston, died on August 15, 2012. Born on April 13, 1923, in Maryville, MO, she was the daughter of Dale Stewart and Claire Eliza Kidder.

She is survived by her daughter **Catherine Claire Tallen of Heath**; her son George William Tallen II of Wyoming, and her grandson Daniel Tallen Levitch of Massachusetts.

Requiescat in pace

Save the Date! "Dining with History"

a new series presented by the Heath Historical Society

Enjoy a potluck supper with friends as we take a casual peek into the lives of Heath families of long ago through interpretive readings of some personal diaries.

January 26, 2013 5:00-7:30 pm at the Senior Center

Please bring a dish to share.

"One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change.

Every society has its protectors of the status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions.

Today our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adapt to new ideas, to remain vigilant, and to face the challenge of change."

Martin Kuther King 3r.

Community Calendar

December 2012

December 03 – Craft Enrichment, Heath School, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

December 05 – Schools Early Release, Mohawk, 11:30 a.m., Heath School, 12:30 p.m. Enrichment, Candle Making, Heath School, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

December 06 – Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m. Senior Center Program and lunch with grades 5/6, Heath School, 10:30 a.m. Schools Early Release,, Mohawk, 11:30 a.m.; Heath School, 12:30 p.m.

December 08 - HAPPY HANNUKAH!!!

December 10 – Craft Enrichment, Heath School, 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

December 11 – Holiday Concert, Mohawk, 6:30 p.m.

December 14 – Preschool Holiday Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Heath School Student Council 2nd Annual Cookie Swap, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Movie Night, Heath School, *Polar Express*, 6:00- 8:00 p.m.

December 15 – Artisan Holiday Fair, Community Hall, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

December 17 – Children's Shopping Spree, Heath School.

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

December 21 – Schools Early Release
WINTER HOLIDAY BEGINS
WINTER SOLSTICE

December 25 - HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!!

December 26 - HAPPY KWANZA!!!

December 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

January 2013

January 01 - HAPPY 2013!!!

January 02 - SCHOOLS REOPEN

January 03 – Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

January 09 – Schools Early Release, Mohawk, 11:30 a.m., Heath School. 12:30 p.m. Heath Agricultural Society Meeting, Community Hall, 6:30 p.m. January 11 – Preschool Story Hour, Heath School, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Heath School Production of *Down the Rabbit Hole*, an adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*, 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

& 12 – Performance 6:30 p.m.

January 16,17,18 - Mohawk Exams

January 17 – Senior Meal, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

January 21 – MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, NO SCHOOL

January 22 - Mohawk New Semester Begins

January 23 – Early Release, Heath School, 12:30 p.m.

January 25 – Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Heath School Report Cards Sent Home

January 26 – "Dining with History" Potluck, Heath Historical Society, Senior Center, 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.



Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

From September 11, 2012 $\frac{\text{Rain}}{3}$ $\frac{\text{Snow}}{3}$ October 5.75" To November 10 0" dusting

In this reporting period:

We had our first heavy frost on October 13 with temperatures between 19-23 degrees. October also provided us with yet another Halloween event (on the 29th), this one was named Hurricane Sandy. She did not hit us directly, but still provided us with very high winds (45-55 mph gusts) which brought down some trees and wires. We received about 2 inches of rain. The Town along with other towns did declare a State of Emergency for this event and school was cancelled for two days. In November we dodged another bullet, a Nor'easter, which gave us our first "trackable" snow. This came on the 8th from the back side of this storm.

~ Tim Lively

"Each day is a blank page in the diary of your life.

The secret of success is in turning that diary into the best story you possibly can.

I wish you Happy New Year and diary of the best stories ever written in your life."

Douglas Pagels
American Author

HEATH HERALD

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