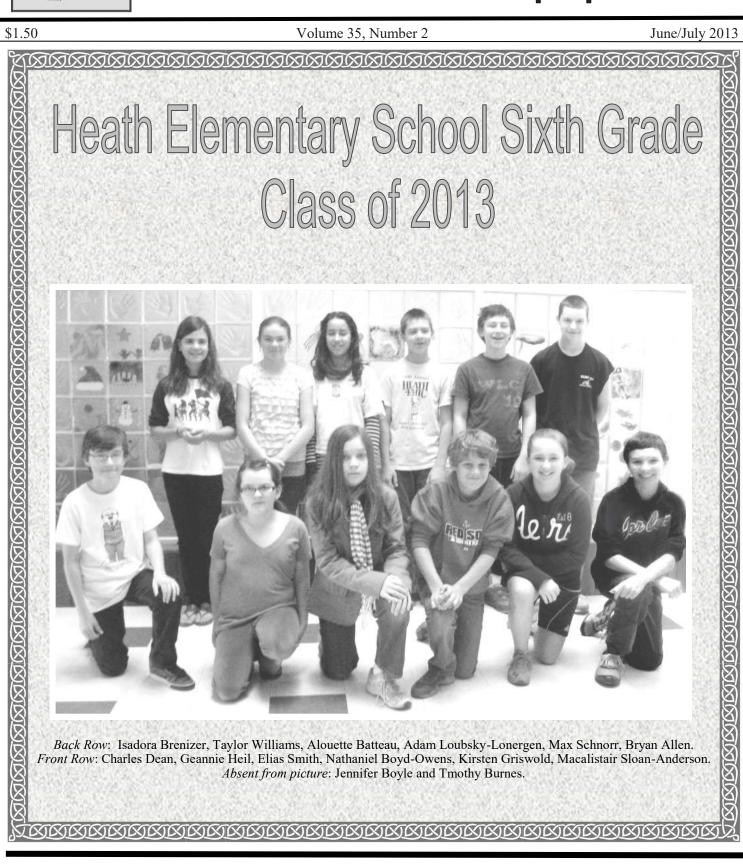


EATH HERALD

\$1.50 Volume 35, Number 2 June/July 2013



Heath Herald

Design and Layout Editor/Photographer Eileen A. Tougas Copy Editor Jane de Leeuw Typographer Jane de Leeuw Business Manager Jan Carr Advertising & Circulation Jan Carr Coordinator Dianne Cerone Technical Advisor Henry Leuchtman **Columnists** Eric Glazier, Bill Lattrell, Pat Leuchtman Donald Purington, Claire Rabbitt

Contributors

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Heath Union Church News

We had a very successful supper on the 27th of April and a potluck dinner on May 5. We thank all who attended our meals for their continuous support. The Pastor and Deacons are always available to the public, just call. We were treated with special music on the piano by Pastor Grant's granddaughter, Myah Grant.

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

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

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

Deacons

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

~ The Deacons

The Johnson Organ Restored and Installed

Our Johnson organ Opus 16 is now fully installed in its rightful place in the sanctuary of the Church. Our contract with Scot Huntington and Company of Stowington, CT, has been completed, and the Restoration Committee has been dissolved. This monumental task would not have come to fruition without the two-toone challenge proposed by a friend and summer resident of Heath, and an admirer of many native Heath families, especially the Dickinsons. So our special thanks go to him and his family. The Committee has our most ardent thanks for all of their hard work: Alli Thane-Stetson, Richard Gallup, Pam Porter, Eric Sumner, Ned Wolf, Carolyn Holstein, Jack Cable, and honorary member Don Conlan. We give our heartfelt thanks to all who so generously contributed to the project, lovers of organ music who attended concerts over the years, givers by mail, friends of the Heath Church and the Town of Heath. You were all a big part of the success of the campaign.

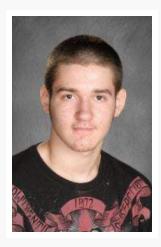
The rededication of the organ will be held on July 21 with a worship service and concert by the world renowned concert organist, composer, and Fulbright scholar Nathan Laube. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Philadelphia where he earned the two top prizes awarded to a graduate, he has performed in the major venues of the United States and Europe and has been the recipient of many prestigious awards. In the fall, he will join the faculty of the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY, as an assistant professor of organ.

Other concerts are being planned for the summer on this fabulous instrument. Watch for further announcements and for further details, contact Richard Gallup, 337-5367, or Ruth Johnson, 337-4367.

May we all come and enjoy the glorious music this treasure can produce for many years to come.

~ Ruth Johnson

Mohawk 2013 Graduates



ence or carpentry.

Java-112, a coffee shop manned by students. When thinking about the classes I took, I loved learning about the United States in both my U.S. History classes. I will miss the friends I have made here.

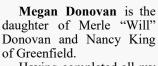
Kyle Cardaropoli the son of George Heil and Sandra

In my senior year, I en-

joyed working in Mohawk's

Donovan.

I plan to move to North Carolina to live with my Dad and hope to get a job and maybe pursue training at a technical school in automotive sci-



Having completed all my high school requirements midyear, I began taking nursing classes at Greenfield Community College. In addition to attending classes, I work part-time at Foster's Supermarket. I recently completed my CNA certificate and hope to start working in a nursing facility this summer, to gain experience and to earn money to continue my course work in



the fall.

I will cherish the friendships I have made at Mohawk.

The Heath Herald staff
wish to extend
sincere congratulations
to the
2013 Heath Graduates
and to their proud parents.



Connor Steele-McCutchen is the son of Brooks McCutchen and Janis Steele.

I would describe my high school experience as primarily defined by extracurricular activities, namely my work in preparation for joining my family's research vessel expedition. In addition, I coached soccer at Colrain Elementary School, worked as an Emergency Responder and EMT in Heath for the past two years, first as a Junior Firefighter and now as a full-time volunteer Firefighter and EMT, and

worked on my family's maple syrup farm.

My plans for the future include a Medical Doctorate. I have been accepted at Johns Hopkins University for pre-med and am still waiting to hear from McGill University, my preferred choice. Upon my return from the expedition, I plan to take a gap year during which I will continue my work with the Heath Volunteer Firefighters Association.



Norm Tatro is the son of Thomas Tatro and Leann Howe

I spent two years at Franklin County Technical School working in the auto body division before returning to Mohawk Trail Regional High School in my junior year.

I have worked for the last three years in the kitchen of a local restaurant. After graduation, I hope to get my CDL (Commercial Driver's) license and eventually a crane operator license.



Editors Note: In responding to our request to this year's graduates to tell us of their high school experience and future plans, Connor Steele-McCutchen wrote such an eloquent paean to his school and teachers that we felt it deserved additional space.

To Fiji and Beyond

Throughout the process of preparing for the research vessel's expedition this time to Fiji and beyond, MTRHS and the administration have been nothing but helpful. My vast personal and intellectual growth in this area including studies in the fields of meteorology, oceanography, environmental science, and anthropology as they pertain to coastal ecosystems and the people who live in them and harvest them, has only been possible thanks to the many independent studies set in place by Ms. Lynn Dole and Ms. Jane Shaney, coupled with an earnest and deep interest of theirs in what I was doing. This progressive approach of theirs allowed me to bring my extracurricular learning back to the community through class lectures and even a Skype presentation to three different classes while I was working in the La Caletta Marine Park in the Dominican Republic. This relationship is certainly education at its best.

To say I had a favorite class would do disservice to the numerous mentors I've had at Mohawk and the many different subjects they taught, I have nothing but the highest regard for the majority of the Mohawk faculty and the administration and am grateful for their above average teaching. Particular thanks are in order to Ms. Shaney for her outstanding support which continues to amaze (as does she) and without which I would not be where I am today; Madame Roxanne Trombly for her instruction-by-example in being audacious and caring, and Mr. Phil Lussier for instilling in me a love of medicine and for facilitating a connection between myself and the Mohawk community on my travels.

I've made so many friends at Mohawk and wouldn't even be able to begin to select a single memory that stood out from the other experiences I had there.

 $\sim Connor\ Steele\text{-}McCutchen$

For more information about the research vessel see Heath Herald June/July 2012.



Why Recycle?

- Saves money for you: If your town requires "Pay As You Throw" trash bags or stickers, you can save money by keeping recyclables OUT of your trash bag. Your town saves tax dollars when less trash is disposed of and more is recycled.
- Saves money for your school or business: Recyclables are usually hauled away for less than trash.
- Saves fossil fuels: Recycling 200 pounds of aluminum saves 166 gallons of oil.
- Slows climate change: Recycling all of your home's newspaper, cardboard, glass, metal, and plastic can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 850 pounds a year.
- Creates jobs: 14,000 jobs in Massachusetts are related to recyding.
- Saves energy: Recycled plastic saves 88% of the energy required to produce

Over 50% of your trash is recyclable! Not recyclable = 45% Recyclable = 55%

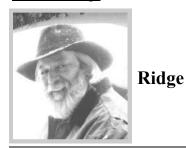
Food & Yard OLASS waste 27% PLASTIC 12%

Recycling is easy...

- Use a paper bag in the kitchen to collect mixed paper products: cereal and pasta boxes, paper towel rolls, newspapers, office paper, and junk mail.
- Use a recycling bin or any sturdy bin to collect bottles, cans, milk/juice cartons, and containers.
- Containers do not need to be super dean: a simple rinse will
- Recycling bins are available at many transfer stations and the Solid Waste District office.

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District serves 22 member towns in Franklin County. For more information about recyding, composting and household hazardous waste disposal, visit www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or contact us at (413) 772-2438, or at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired; 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TPYTDD). The District is an equal apportunity provider.

Wild Ramblings



Beech Notes; Thoughts on a High New England



By Bill Lattrell

On a ridge southwest of our little spot on the planet there is a tremendous beech grove. The ridge has relatively thin soils, save two large areas where the bedrock dips far beneath the dirt on the surface and where this wonderful member of the tree family *Fagacea* has found a perfect place to dwell. It is a difficult place to access; the climb to the site is steep, without trails, and fraught with debris left behind by the great ice storm of 2008. Speaking of which, about half of the beech trees in this locale were either moderately or severely damaged by the record layer of frozen water whose weight was too great to bear for even the strong limbs of these wonderful trees. Despite the damage, a good number of trees are still surviving, still somewhat healthy, and still producing heavy crops of beechnuts every couple of years.

The reason I say that this large grove of beech trees is "somewhat healthy" is that almost all of the trees have contracted beech bark scale disease. This disease is prevalent throughout the northeast United States and eastern Canada and has made a real dent in the overall health of our American beech tree population. The disease was first found in the maritime provinces of Canada in the 1920s. It is presumed to have been introduced by the importation of European beeches for landscaping. The disease is fatal to many native beech trees: a long, drawn out process that may eventually leave the tree without a solid protective layer of bark. This beech bark scale disease is complicated. It is a cascading set of events started by the introduction of a very small beech scale insect carrying a fungus known as *Nectria coccinea*. The scale insect and the fungus have a commensalistic association where one organism is benefited by the relationship but the other organism is not. In this case the insect is simply a mode of transportation for the fungus that reaps the benefit of a new host once introduced to the unsuspecting beech tree.

The adult scale insects aren't capable of mobility on their own. They have no wings and effective distribution would happen too slowly by crawling through the dense forest duff found on the surface of most woodlands. Rather they are carried by wind. These tiny insects can travel significant distances on windy days introducing them to new territory where fresh populations have the resources to propagate and introduce the *Nectria* fungus to a new beech grove. The adults typically move in the autumn, hiding in the bark through the winter where a cotton-like blanket protects them to minus thirty degrees Fahrenheit. Late the next spring, or in the beginning of summer, the adults lay eggs on the bark. These insects mature by autumn. Some move on, others remain in their present habitats.

The scale insects, so small that they cannot be seen with the naked eye without aid of magnification, feed on the sap of the beech. These minute critters have specialized mouth parts that help them to pierce the bark. These tiny wounds may introduce the *Nectria* fungus. The fungus alters typical bark growth resulting in abnormalities that appear as pits, splits, and discoloration. The weakened bark leaves the entire tree vulnerable. Bark is the first defense for these magnificent trees against invading insects, other fungi, and climatic elements.

Over the years, and this disease has been prevalent in these parts for a few decades, the cascading impact of scale insects, *Nectria* fungus, other invading insects like carpenter ants and termites, and other fungi that decays the wood, especially the heartwood, leaves the tree open to a phenomenon know as beech snap. Beech snap results in the tree breaking off about 20 feet up the trunk from the root crown.

But beech trees have a uncanny will to survive. When stressed the roots produce sprouts that emerge from the forest floor as a new thicket of beech saplings. These saplings are an exact genetic copy of the tree that is about to survive. This is both good news and bad news. Perhaps a little explanation is necessary.

Recent studies in Vermont have brought about encouragement for the native beech populations. It appears that some trees are somewhat disease-resistant to the *Nectria* fungus. These trees only suffer minor damage from *Nectria*. The exact reason for this resistance is not fully understood. Is it a natural genetic resistance to the fungus found in the DNA of some beech trees? Or is it an adaptation that some trees are developing, the production of a chemical that kills the invading fungus? Only time will tell why this happens only in some beech trees. The important and critical issue is that some trees appear to be *somewhat* resistant to the fungus, meaning they are not seriously impacted by the cascading set of events that so often occurs when the scale insect introduces *Nectria* to a beech tree.

The current thought is that by encouraging the trees that seem to be resistant to the disease and by culling the trees that have no resistance to the disease we may be able to stem the tide to the end of a healthy beech forest as we know it. New management techniques are being actively pursued. And the initial results of these management methods are promising.

("Beach Notes" continued on page 6)

("Beach Notes" continued from page 5)

Still, there are remnant populations of healthy beech trees that have not been exposed to beech bark scale disease. High ridge-tops where winds have not introduced the scale insect and have been isolated from other infected beech groves. Winds are not as

likely to carry this forest pest to high altitudes, although it is certainly not outside the realm of possibility. The lower temperatures on northern high ridges where beech are found is also a major discouragement for *Nectria*.

Since the loss of the mighty American chestnut in the beginning half of the 20th century oaks and beech have had to provide the hard mast so critical to not only their own survival but as a forage crop for an abundant number of wildlife species. Although nothing can ever replace the American chestnut, a tree lost to a disease introduced by importing foreign chestnuts from the Far East. Native chestnuts, a part of the northeastern climatic forest, produced huge hard mast crops. The loss of these steady and plentiful sources of food has been hard felt by forest critters for generations. The forage gap was filled by the oaks and beeches. Not only did these trees physically fill the voids left in the forest but they brought new, but less plentiful, hard mast to the woods. Beechnuts, in particular, are a very nutritious source of proteins, carbohydrates, fats, and essential minerals. They are the preferred food for many of our wildlife species including black bears, wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, and white-tailed deer, not to mention all of the rodents that enjoy this wonderful forage supply.

On this day I am simply on this ridge to enjoy this grove of beeches. I look for old claw scars left behind where black bears climb the trees to harvest the premium crop before it falls to the forest floor to be consumed by the other wildlife. These scars are deep and will stay for years. They look like four vertical and parallel stripes, usually formed as the heavy bear descends the tree its claws tearing the bark under the heft of the bruin. I often see parallel dots in beech trees as well, remaining clues where the bear climbed up the tree using its claws to hold it in place as it got a new grip. Only once have I watched a bear climb a beech tree. I was in a tree stand while hunting deer. The bear climbed a massive beech tree downwind and about a hundred yards away. It was shocking how agile the large black bear was in ascending the tree. Both athletic and powerful the bear managed to maneuver its way to the top of the tree and out onto a sturdy branch where it used the large claws on its paws while raking in beechnuts. When the bear descended a couple of hours later it did so quickly and efficiently. Clearly this bear was an expert tree climber with a tremendous amount of experience.

I have noticed over the years that the majority of bearclimbing scars left behind by black bears are on relatively few trees. They seem to gravitate towards the same trees every year when there is a good beechnut crop. I'm guessing these trees produce larger yields and sweeter nuts. And given I've never really had the opportunity to quiz a black bear about its foraging habits this conclusion will have to remain with some doubt.

The few trees in this grove that have not been heavily impacted by the beech fungus are remarkable. Their smooth gray bark and towering stature is awe inspiring. One beech even has a carving of some love lost hiker or hunter. The scars from this carving are now black and contrast sharply with the slate gray bark. Presumably these are the initials of the carver and that of an equally unknown love interest. Normally I would object to this type of vandalism and I certainly would not encourage these activities in the future, but somehow I am struck by this romantic proclamation. I wonder if their love lasted. There is nothing quite so sweet as lasting love.

As I turn to the east and head towards our homestead I

hear the whisper of the wind. Music-like notes that can be deciphered in the soft breeze seems to be telling me something. My imagination interprets the message and I smile. Long after I'm gone this forest will remain. Both the forest's will to survive and its valuable contribution to our ecosystem will endure.

And with that I descend this steep and rugged hill happily knowing that I am a child of these woods. My journey home will be with a warm feeling in my heart and a renewed and everlasting love for these hills through which I wander.

Life is good.

Visit me at: www.wildramblings.com

Cane Tradition

Living and surviving to a ripe old age is noteworthy in this world today. Those who have counted many birthdays should be rewarded for making it this far!

In 1909 the *Boston Globe*, recognizing the senior citizens in the state, donated a gold-headed cane to each town to be given to the oldest citizen of the town and then handed down to the next citizen to hold the title.

The cane was treasured by the holder of the prize. The *Boston Globe* has since discontinued this practice, and the canes are no

longer available.



Heath did have, at one time, a cane that was presented to the oldest citizen but at some point over the years the whereabouts of the cane became unknown, and, in time, the tradition was all but forgotten. If the cane was found the tradition could be continued. If not, perhaps another type of recognition could take the place of the cane, and the tradition could be revived once again.

Would any person, committee, or group of citizens be interested in reviving this historic tradition? If so, please contact Eileen Tougas at 337-8558.

~ Ruth Corey



Heath Finance Committee

If one big "if" goes Heath's way next December, the Town's tax rate for the 2014 fiscal year should drop by 88¢ from the FY 2013 rate, to \$19.16 per \$1,000 of valuation. That "if" is the state's certification process for our tax rate and so-called Free Cash. In recent years the Finance Committee got closest to the certified rate in FY 2013, when we estimated \$20.07 and the certified rate was \$20.04. But our estimates have been both over and under the final certified rate, and we're hoping that we've gotten at least that close to the final number this time around.

It would be pretty to think, cribbing a line from Hemingway, that this happy state of affairs is attributable to Herculean labors by your Finance Committee (although we did indeed work hard on this year's budget), but in fact the drop is a consequence of several factors: the Heath School mortgage was finally paid off; the Franklin Technical School operating and capital assessments dropped substantially; the Mohawk Trail Regional School District operating and capital assessments dropped a little; the Town's Total Valuation rose by a bit over 1% (remember that when valuations go up, the rate goes down, assuming a constant budget). The result was a recommended tax levy of \$1,700,153, some \$58,814 or 3.3% less than last year. If the state certifies this rate, the average property tax bill will go down by \$163.

Because this benign perfect storm is unlikely to occur any time soon, we took a step toward providing the Town with a way of smoothing out future rate increases. We had a relatively high balance in Free Cash of \$164,226. The voters agreed with our recommendation to take \$50,000 of this sum to buy down the tax rate, as we have done in recent years, and to put \$80,000 additional into the Stabilization fund, bringing the Town's balance to \$193,688. Stabilization is the Town's rainy day fund, and, unlike Free Cash, it isn't subject to the vagaries of the state's certification process. So while our Free Cash balance, at \$34,226, will be about 10% below the average of recent years at this point in the process, our Stabilization is about 10% of one year's gross budget, a level consistent with that of comparable nearby towns.

Over the next couple of years we're likely to recommend bigger capital investments than we had to budget for this year, and, if doing so looks like it's going to drive the estimated rate back up again, the voters can moderate that increase at the Annual Town Meeting by making transfers from the Stabilization fund, which is under the control of the voters at all times, with a 2/3 vote required to spend from it. We think that's the right place for the Town's savings account.

We also recommended and the voters approved a 3% across-the-board rise in compensation for Town employees. Of this amount, 1.7% was a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) based on the Social Security COLA, which is our benchmark. The remaining 1.3% was our effort to put Town wage scales on a par with surrounding towns after several years of "chasing" higher wages paid elsewhere. During the coming year the Finance Committee will be working with the Selectboard to review Town stipends, something that has not been done for quite some time.

Finance Committee, Town of Heath

Donald Freeman, Chair

Ned Wolf, Secretary

Gloria Fisher, Kathryn Inman, Jeff Simmons

4-H Franklin County Youth Fair

On Saturday, June 22, the Franklin County 4-H Fair will be held at the Fairgrounds from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Throughout the day the 4-H Food Booth will be open and, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., the Dairy Cattle, the Sheep, and Beef Shows will take place in their respective rings. The poultry barn and the rabbit/cavy barn will be open with poultry and rabbit exhibits. The main exhibition hall will feature clothing, canning, food, arts and crafts, quilts, posters, photography, fruit, flower, vegetable, woodworking, computer, and equine arts exhibits. Horse-drawn wagon rides also will be available.

There is no entrance fee and parking is free.

For further information contact Shirley Toombs at 625-2168.

Tom Waskiewicz, UMASS 4-H educator, announces that this year's Fair showcases the continued achievements and skills that 4-H and other youth have learned throughout the year. 4-H but also projects from Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school and other youth organizations are welcome.

The Fair is open to any young person who meets the age eligibility listed in the general rules. To obtain an entry form and a list of classes and rules, contact the Western Massachusetts 4-H Office, 101 University Drive, Slobody Building Suite A4, Amherst, MA 01002. You can reach Tom with Fair questions at 413-545-0611 0r <u>Waskiewicz@umext.umass.edu</u>

~ Nancy Dole

Heath Historical Society

"OUT TOWN'S FOREFAthers!"

Sunday, June 16, 2013

The Center Schoolhouse and Old Town House Will be open between

3:00 and 5:00 p.m. With a May Pole/June Pole activity at approximately 4:45

The Heath Herald to Continue with Exciting New Possibilities!

A small group of concerned community members gathered recently with Jan Carr and Eileen Tougas, retiring *Heath Herald* staff, to discuss the future of the town's beloved *Heath Herald*. It was concluded that the current print-only format is no longer sustainable, necessitating real changes. What these changes look like and how they affect you depends upon **you**, our readers. The next step is yours: We value your input, and ask you to provide your e-mail address to the contact address below for future communication about next steps. If you do not have an e-mail account, or cannot readily access the Internet, we still need to hear from you. Please let us know by snail mail.

We also need others to come forward to participate in a leadership capacity.

To subscribe to the Heath Herald online, go to: http://heathherald.blogspot.com

Contact us at: TheHeathHerald @gmail.com

~ Pat McGahan, Deb Porter, Rebecca Dorr Sampson, Nancy Thane, Jessica Van Steensburg

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

Letters to the Editors



I just do not want to think about saying goodbye to the wonderful people who have produced this *Heath Herald* for the last ten years. Each issue is looked forward to with anticipation knowing it contains pertinent news of Heath and interesting articles from a variety of contributors. In my estimation these people can be replaced but no one

will ever match their quality of journalism. All readers will feel a great loss.

So may you all retire to other endeavors knowing you have served our town well.

An ardent supporter! Ruth Johnson

After recovering from the shock, I/we just want to acknowledge and thank you for the wonderful work "you and all the other caring members of the *Heath Herald* organization have done" (as listed on page two of the paper) as well as all those who volunteered their services since 1979. Thirtyfour years is quite a run! Our hope, which many might be thinking of as well, is that others might step forward before the next issue and offer their services. I imagine an online edition has been thought of also. Should others take over or should an online edition take place we hope one or two of you would continue an advisory role long enough to see the *Heath Herald* maintain its standards.

Our best wishes, Dave and Pegge Howland

May I thank you for many years of hard work to record accurately our history year by year. Your gift to Heath, to each one of us, is great, and we will miss you and your work.

> Thank you, Hazel Porter

I got my copy of the *Heath Herald* a couple of days ago and was very saddened to hear that the paper may not continue. I have loved it over the years and all that you have done with it. It's a terrific little paper, and particularly for people like us, who are out of the town most of the year, it helps us to keep up and to feel connected.

So thanks for all the work that you've put into it. I hope you can find some new people to step up.

It must have been a ton of relentless work, but it's certainly been appreciated by me.

Love from all of us, Peter Brown and Family Houston, TX

Though my connection to Heath has always been as an occasional visitor through the years, I have always loved my time there, be it visiting the Fair, attending a town meeting, dinner with friends, old and new, driving through your beautiful countryside in all seasons with family - well, you understand. The spirit of the place has always affected me positively and, as a loyal and longtime subscriber to the Herald, it always interested me and pleased me that the paper so completely reflected those aspects of the place I so admired. Always intelligently written, it was a joy to read and be brought up-to-date with all the doings, past, present, and future and read so many heartfelt articles about the past lives of so many people there, written by the people themselves. The Herald always impressed me as a personal paper, a true document of the life and times of the inhabitants, acutely observed. I thank you, one and all, for giving of yourselves, your hearts and your intellects, to an endeavor that has enriched the soul of your town and the souls of all your readers, near and far.

My wife Betty joins me in sending all our good wishes,

Frank Birney Studio City, CA

Green Thoughts



Heath as Pleasure Ground

By Pat Leuchtman

As I go about my errands around town, our gardens are the main topic of conversation with every person I stop to chat with. Many of us have vegetable gardens, others have flower gardens, and some of us have both of varying sizes. While we may gnash our teeth over those eternal problems of rabbits or other pests, weather that does not cooperate, or other demands that keep us from spending every hour in the garden, what we all get from our garden is pleasure.

Pleasure is the reason we garden, and it is hard to break down the elements of that pleasure. There are the pleasures of the tasks themselves, digging, weeding, plucking flowers or produce; the pleasures of being in the sun and sweet Heath air; the pleasure of admiring the beautiful result of one's labors, and the pleasures of inviting friends to enjoy this pleasure garden with you.

It does not take a large garden to provide all these pleasures and, indeed, it has been said (often by my husband weary after digging and mowing) that a small garden may give the greatest pleasure. I also think that here in Heath, we are surrounded by Mother Nature's garden, with all the elements of a carefully designed British "pleasure ground." We have burbling streams and quiet ponds, shady paths, sunny fields, and abandoned fruit trees billowing with spring blossoms.

It is true that we may not be able to stroll gracefully through a picturesque shrubbery while imagining that Elizabeth Bennett and Mr. Darcy will greet us when we are done with pots of reviving tea and cakes. Our strolls through the Heath woodlands may be more on the order of a trek over rough ground, but the shade and breeze will be the same, the birdsong as sweet. There may be no strategically sited ornamental bench for a contemplative rest, but really, a fallen log will do just as well, and our BPA-free water bottle will supply sips of good Heath water to refresh and revive us.

These delights and pleasures are ours for the taking, whether on our own acreage, in the state forest, or the Betty Maitland Memorial Forest.

It was in the Betty Maitland Memorial Forest that I realized that all of Heath is our pleasure ground, our pleasance, our pleasure garden. Early in May I joined a number of Heath neighbors for a tour of the Betty Maitland Memorial Forest led by Matthew Kamm of Mass Audubon and Will Anderson of the Franklin Land Trust. There are trails though the forest, and signs explaining the history of various areas, and/or the benefits to birds and other wildlife of the differing habitats.

We passed brush piles that provide shelter for a variety of wildlife, and admired a hermit thrush that artfully, and unexpectedly, posed for us on one of those brush piles. We admired the Bear Tree, with clear claw marks up and down a beech tree, proof of the bear's determination to get those beechnuts. We visited the vernal pool which provides a home for amphibians. One of the young Draxler boys found an eft,

the terrestrial juvenile stage of the newt.

Matt brought his device that played bird songs, and sometimes attracted that bird to respond to our group. It was odd to have this very modern tool out in the forest primeval, but it was useful in giving us instruction of the song or call of a particular bird. I was also reminded that the Cornell Ornithology Lab has extensive resources available online at www.allaboutbirds.org with birdsong clips and videos.

In 18th century England some planted a bosky 'wildernesse' where they could provide a home for those feathered minstrels, the lark and nightingale, but we can simply invite Matt Kamm to walk our land with us and give us a free individual assessment of our bird habitat and learn how we can attract our native song birds. If you are interested you can call Matt at 781-259-2164 or e-mail him at mkam@massaudubon.org.

Mass Audubon is actually one of the members of the Mass-Vermont Woodlands Partnership that includes the Franklin Land Trust, the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation, and similar groups in Vermont. Wendy Ferris of the FLT explained that this program was first developed by Vermont Audubon. The goal of the Partnership is "to get people more informed and more active on their land," Wendy said. "The bird walk/assessment in the Betty Maitland Forest was the launch of this project in Massachusetts."

Sue and Andy Draxler were on the walk and Sue said that out of Hitchcock Center's Ted Watt's desire to put on some free community programs, she and Ted have organized several, including a salamander outing in April and a bluebird program in May. Their final outing this spring is a visit to the heron rookery on Swamp Road on June 15 at 9:00 a.m. For more information call Sue at 339-8536.

Visit me at: www.commonweeder.com



GO WEST, YOUNG MAN...



Although I have no documentation of any ancestors joining the great trek west by covered wagon, I do recall Mother telling us that one of her forebears was the first woman in Missoula. Montana. However, I can relate some history told by my Dad when members of his family journeyed west. In this case, the route west was from Waltham, MA, to Heath, MA, about 120 miles.

The saga begins with Miss Ethel Paine of Brookline and Boston, coming to a boarding school started for young ladies in Heath. She had been enrolled by her father in the hope that the separation from a lover would end the romance. It didn't, but she did fall in love with Heath. Upon returning home she married her beau and, continuing her new-found love of Heath, over a period of time acquired the property now known as The Manse and the property on Town Farm Road I now own. She later also bought the farm owned by Walt Gleason as well as a lot adjoining The Manse in Charlemont, approximately 600 acres total.

Needing a caretaker for the land she approached my grandfather Victor Landstrom asking him to be her farmer. Grandfather Landstron with his wife Anna Matilda Larson Landstrom were immigrants from Sweden. He had been a gardener, landscaper, and handyman for the now Mrs. Moors's family on their estate in Brookline so she was well acquainted with his qualifications. An agreement was reached in 1911 – Westward Ho!

The first means of transportation was not by wagon but by the train to Charlemont. The family was met at the station and by horse and wagon were carried up the back roads of Charlemont into the hills of Heath to a big old farmhouse and three-story barn. The farm was called Overbrook Farm as it was over a brook from The Manse.

The family consisted of Grandpa and Grandma, son Joseph, the oldest daughter Judith, my Dad, and his younger sister Hannah. The eldest son Victor came some but remained working in the Boston area. Judith was married on the back porch that Grandpa built for the event. Her husband Leonard Helgeson was a Swede from Waltham so she returned there for her married life.

To get back to the arrival at the farm - discovering the expanse of this eleven-room house and three-story barn was quite the exciting adventure for the two youngest Landstroms. I was told that they raced from cellar to attic exploring every nook and cranny. They had lived in a small house in Waltham so the greatness of space was almost overwhelming though really fascinating. The house was unfurnished and their belongings were due to arrive the next day so the family spent the their first night in Heath at The Manse.

The Landstroms lived, worked the farm, and became established members of the Town of Heath until eleven years later when Grandpa and Grandma returned to Waltham. My Grandmother was happy to be back near her married daughter and among their Swedish friends. On December 13, 1921, my Dad had married Mom, Grace Gleason, who belonged to one of the oldest families of Heath and who taught school at the Center School. They took over running the farm for Mrs. Moors.

But to get back to becoming citizens of the country town of Heath – Dad and Aunt Hannah, ages 13 and 11, were at the right ages to become easily accustomed to farm life, the school, and the neighborhood. They both fell in love with Heath and, except for schooling, never left, putting down roots as Heathans forever, both marrying natives of the town. Mom and Dad loved the land and were on the farm for the rest of their lives, raising us, their three daughters, and working hard for themselves, the Church, and the Town of Heath. They eventually bought the farm from Mrs. Moors and my then husband Bob Law and I purchased it from them. So I am the third generation of Landstroms to live on this beautiful land.

This description of the westward journey of the Victor Landstrom family is strictly what my sisters and I remember and there is no member of that early family left to confirm or deny its accuracy.

~ Ruth Landstrom Law Johnson Ada Landstrom Duffy Pearl Landstrom Churchill

Jerry Ferguson

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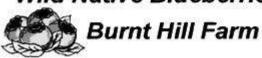


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June/July 2013

Heath Fair News

Citizens of Heath,

With this fine summer weather providing a reprieve from winter it may feel daunting to consider that the 96th Annual Heath Fair is only about three months away. August 16th is right around the corner and between now and then the Heath Agricultural Society will be working hard to make arrangements for what will surely be another terrific Fair: Musicians are being scheduled; promotional materials are being printed; arrangements are being made for the Friday night Bicycle Raffle; vendors are reserving their spaces, and the ever-expanding list of improvements to the Fairgrounds is being looked over. May and June are the months wherein the stage is set for our celebration of Community and Agriculture during the third weekend of August.

In addition to the Heath Fair, the Heath Agricultural Society is holding two important events in June. On the 22nd of June we are pleased to be hosting the Franklin County 4-H Fair which will be held at the Fairgrounds from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.. and one week later will be the annual June Draw which will be held on the 29th and 30th. Saturday the 29th will be a day of Oxen Pulls followed the next day by Horse Draws. Weigh-in and Breakfast begin at 7:00 a.m. and events begin at 9:00 a.m. Admission is \$7.00. Please show your support and attend this amazing event. Any questions regarding the June Draw should be directed to Nathan Clark at 337-6697.

Our workbees began on the 8th of May and will be continued on Wednesday nights at 6:30. There'll be a list of projects to attend to and there will always be weed-whacking and lawn-mowing to perform. ANY AMOUNT OF HELP WILL BE PROFOUNDLY APPRECIATED! Volunteering with the Heath Agricultural Society is a terrific way to meet new people and make an important contribution to a cultural celebration that has been going on for 96 years. In addition to volunteering at the Fairgrounds on Wednesday nights, one may also volunteer with the Heath Agricultural Society in its monthly meetings wherein we plan and organize the Heath Fair and the future of the Heath Agricultural Society. Volunteering at this level provides an opportunity to develop experience in innumerable ways - from publicity and advertising, to fund-raising, to event-planning. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The meetings are timely and interesting, and it is a terrific group of people who attend. Please consider becoming involved. You may contact me, Justin Lively, with any further questions: Justin@thelivelyheathan.com.

Finally, the Heath Agriculture Society wishes to express its deepest gratitude to the *Heath Herald* staff—past and present—for its consistent support of the Heath Fair (and for their indomitable patience with me in particular as I regularly required extensions to the deadline for submissions). While the Agricultural Society will miss having the *Heath Herald* as a way to communicate its activities, we understand well the need of an all-volunteer organization to have "new blood" to keep things going. For future updates on the activities of the Heath Agricultural Society please visit our Web site at www.HeathFair.org.

Thank you, Justin Lively, President



By Eric Glazier, Principal

Another school year in the books! This has been a truly wonderful school year at Heath Elementary. I feel truly honored to be a part of this amazing community. Our staff, students, and parents have accomplished many great things over this year.

Our 6th grade students successfully raised over \$5,000 for their weeklong trip to Nature's Classroom. The students traveled to Yarmouth Port during the week of May 20. Seth Gilbertson and Valerie Lively chaperoned the trip to the Cape. They departed Heath at 6:30 a.m. on Monday morning and arrived before noon in Yarmouth. Our students participated in some amazing and fun activities during the week including a whale-watch off the coast of Provincetown. The students made memories that they will carry with them for many years.

Our students in grades 3-6 successfully completed their MCAS testing in May. We are so proud of the students for their hard work and dedication. The students were focused and put forth their best effort. The MCAS scores will be returned to us sometime in the late summer or early fall. Our staff will begin to review the ELA, Math, and Science MCAS data in September.

We will be holding the Heath Elementary School 6th grade graduation on June 18 in our Open Space. This year's graduates are: Bryan Allen, Alouette Batteau, Nathaniel Boyd-Owens, Jennifer Boyle, Isadora Brenizer, Timothy Burnes, Charles Dean, Kirsten Griswold, Geannie Heil, Adam Loubsky-Lonergan, Maxwell Schnorr, Macalistair Sloan-Anderson, Elias Smith, and Taylor Williams. Good luck to all of our graduates as they head off to 7th grade. The transition from elementary to middle school can be difficult for some, but these are all capable young men and women and they should all be proud of their accomplishments!

We have had a busy May and June that included a band concert, a strings concert, a 5th grade colonial fair, an art show, school grounds clean-up day, a Memorial Day presentation, a volunteer brunch, Field Day, baseball season, and various educational field trips. Our students work so hard all year long on academics and it's nice to recognize their extracurricular activities as well.

The Heath School was very fortunate to have received a \$5,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The MCC grant allowed us to invite our good friend Ted Watt, Hitchcock Center Naturalist, to join us regularly throughout the winter and spring. Our students created projects, with the theme "The World Around Us," which were presented during a Museum Night in early June. An amazing natural environment surrounds the Heath Elementary School. Classroom teachers recognize this and look for ways to incorporate our natural setting into the work they do with students.

Thank you and have a restful summer!

LEC Update

The school budget passed throughout the nine district towns. Recently, Mohawk announced there is an expected \$250K shortfall due to unanticipated special education costs. We have yet to see how that will reflect in our school budget(s). Two paraprofessional positions were cut from the Heath budget to date. Longtime teacher, Jorie MacLeod, will be transitioning to Sanderson next fall to be closer to her grandchildren, and Seth Gilbertson, our 5-6 teacher, will be moving back down south to be closer to family. We will miss them both. Principal Glazier will be keeping us posted about hiring committee processes soon. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming openings or school, in general, feel free to contact Eric at: eglazier@mohawlscipp.org.

Other recent news at Mohawk relates to the position Jonathan Diamond, local drama director extraordinaire, has filled there during this past year. The District is looking at eliminating the benefited position, instead adopting a residency model. Please contact Principal, Lynn Dole, Idole@mohawkschools.org if you would like to share your thoughts about the future of drama at Mohawk. At a recent public dialogue, there was universal support to grow the program, but the District was concerned about using limited funds for a benefited position. There was also universal support from all the small groups to see a broad project-based interdisciplinary approach to drama. Jonathan brought tremendous vision, charisma, skill, a tireless work ethic, and an understanding of how to bring out the best in a diverse group of young people - to help them each find a voice or place in the process, whether troll-building, harmonizing about the Misty Mountains, or evoking their inner Goblin! While Mohawk staff at the dialogue emphasized you don't build a program around a person, having experienced Jonathan's work at Heath and his exemplary community-building mission, both within the District and among artists, theatre professionals, acrobats, musicians, and local private schools throughout the hill towns, it is arguable he could do what it is the public has clearly issued a mandate for at Mohawk. I hope that the District considers in their deliberations the great momentum and enthusiasm born out of *The Hobbitt* production and can find a way, even in the face of the constant fiscal crisis, to support both the drama program and the position currently held by Jon Diamond. Many families who spoke at the recent dialogue emphasized it as a step in the right direction in terms of holding and drawing back families who are either considering or currently opting for out-of-district school placements.

On another note, the LEC would like to thank, wholeheartedly, the dedicated outgoing staff at the *Herald* and wish everyone the best in their next adventures. Likewise, we look forward to continuing our installments in the coming *Herald*, whether it is a print, or online vehicle for Heath's news and happenings.

~ Lorena Loubsky

Middles (grades 3-4)

The Middles Class (grades 3-4) has been studying the United States. We began with landforms and regions and then moved on to individual states. Each student researched a state and used that information to create a travel brochure with maps and interesting facts. Students compiled atlases with maps and other geographic information.

We linked literature to our studies in a variety of ways. First, we read *American Tall Tales*. We used story maps to look at the elements of a tall tale, then created our own. Some students combined historical figures or mythological characters with a tall tale character. Then, we illustrated them. These are on a bulletin board in the Open Space; perhaps you saw them during town meeting or another visit to the school.

We also read about the tribes who were here before the European settlement. We finished up by reading many stories about immigrants from the many countries who settled here. We discovered what an amazing mosaic of cultures we have here in the U.S.A!

~ Jorie MacLeod

and wildflowers. Some of the birds and flowers that are native to Heath are: the downy woodpecker, the brown creeper, the cardinal, the painted lady's slipper, the morning glory, and the forget-me-not.

Our class spends a lot of time outdoors watching and listening to birds, gardening, and hiking in the North Woods. Recently we had a yellow bellied sapsucker fly into a window and we rescued him. After a little while he became strong again and we released him. The students observed a kestrel catch another bird and he flew off with it in his talons. Together with parent volunteers we planted a raised bed with strawberries from Norse Farms. Our students wrote poetry as we sat in the North Woods enjoying the peaceful woodland habitat. We are in the process of improving our North Woods hiking paths. We intend to create signs to identify trees, plants, and other natural wonders to help our community learn about this special habitat. Ted Watt, from the Hitchcock Center, is helping us with this North Woods Project through funding we received from a Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant!

~ Virginia Gary

Grades 5/6

It has been an exciting and productive year for the 5th and 6th graders at Heath Elementary. They have spent a great deal of time deepening their awareness of local history through exploring the events of King Philip's War and Shay's Rebellion. From the time of the first English settlements, students have learned about the significant role that Massachusetts has played in the establishment of our nation.

They have also extended their knowledge of their environment and electricity usage. They have closely compared and contrasted non-reusable energy sources with renewable sources. They have also researched and written about how their families can be more conscious about the electricity they use.

Over the course of the year, students have developed their research and critical thinking skills through a number of different projects. From planning and building a mini rubber-band powered car to presenting aspects of Native American life, from writing letters outlining ways to conserve electricity usage to imagining how plants and animals adapt to their environment, students have used their minds in different and creative ways.

~ Seth Gilbertson

Prime Blues

One of the major science topics for Preschool and Kindergarten is learning about life cycles. Our study started at the beginning of the school year with monarch butterflies. Students watched as real caterpillars transformed themselves into a chrysalis and then emerged as butterflies. It was precious to watch the children singing a butterfly song we had learned as they released the new butterflies back to nature.

Our study of life cycles continued with frogs and plants. We currently have a tank of tadpoles in our classroom for children to observe. And we are also growing beans, pumpkins, and sunflowers for the school garden. These projects give the students lots of opportunities to measure, compare, and discuss.

Finally, this month, Kindergarteners will complete a special life cycle project started years ago by Deb Porter. Students will create dolls that are the same size that they were when they were born, using information from their birth certificates. Many older children in the school report still having their Baby Me dolls they made when they were in Kindergarten.

Sincerely, Sarah Forbes, Michelle Howe, and Veronica Smead

The Prime Red News

We have been working on many projects this year. One of our recent projects was to write and then perform biography reports. We wrote our reports and then made box puppets of our historical figures. We performed our puppet reports in front of our parents, the third and fourth graders, and at an All School Meeting. Some of the historical figures were: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Jackie Robinson, Ruby Bridges, Rosa Parks, and Mary Ball Washington.

We have been learning about the living things in Heath. We created two bulletin boards which have many native birds and plants on them. We used field guides to sketch our native birds



Library Lines

Library Columns Past and Present



∎gton

Library Notes was the title of the article on page 6 of the first issue of the Heath Herald in April, 1979. It was written by Edith Gleason, who was Heath's librarian from 1966 to 1983. She wrote about a delegation sent by the Heath Library to hearings in Boston and Adams regarding changing the formula for State Aid to Public Libraries. She also listed ten of the newest books available at the library. For the next 34 years the library news has been shared in the pages of the Heath Herald. The column was renamed From the Library in the August/September 1981 issue, and changed again to Library Lines in the October/November 1983 issue. Jane Wishhart followed Mrs. Gleason starting in the August/September 1983 issue, followed by John Holdsworth (October/November 1984), Alli Thane (August/September 1985), Laurie Wheeler Burrington (April/May 1996), Charlene Churchill (October/November 2001), and then me starting in April/May 2006.

Thank you Heath Herald for giving the library a voice in your great community newspaper.

A Few of the New Items in the Library:

See all the new items added to our collection in the previous two weeks on the Library Web site (<u>www.heathlibrary.org</u> - look for the <u>New Titles</u> link on the left side of the homepage.)

Adult Fiction Books: The Inferno by Dan Brown, Habits of the House by Fay Weldon (for fans of Downton Abbey), A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki, A Delicate Truth by John le Carré, Best Kept Secret by Jeffrey Archer (book 3 in the Clifton Chronicles series), The Woman Upstairs by Claire Messud, Paris by Edward Rutherford

Adult Nonfiction Books: Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation by Michael Pollan, Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls by David Sedaris, Bunker Hill: A City, a Siege, a Revolution by Nathaniel Philbrick

Young /Teen Readers' Books: Look Up!: Henrietta Leavitt, Pioneering Woman Astronomer by Robert Burleigh, BZRK by Michael Grant, The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon by Jacqueline Davies, The 13th Sign by Kristin O'Donnell Tubb

Children's Picture Books/Board Books: Inside Outside by Lizi Boyd, Time-Out for Sophie by Rosemary Wells, Steam Train, Dream Train by Sherri Rinker, Miss Maple's Seeds by Eliza Wheeler

DVDs: Homeland (Season 1), The Intouchables, Sherlock (Season 2), MI-5 (Seasons 1 & 2), Anna Karenina, Macbeth, The Wire (Seasons 1–5), Jack Reacher

Audiobooks on CD: Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn, Best Kept Secret by Jeffrey Archer, On Looking: Eleven Walks With Expert Eyes by Alexandra Horowitz, A Study in Scarlet by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Time to "Dig Into Reading"

The Heath Free Public Library would like to invite children ages 5-12 to sign up for the free Summer Reading & Crafts



Program. Please come by the library and pick up a reading log to keep track of the books read during the summer. Later, turn them in to receive prizes and enter a free raffle. Sign up for some fun crafts sessions that include decorating your bicycles for the Heath Fair Parade and preparing the giant Mother Nature Marionette for her appearance at the Fair. The crafts will take place in the blue building on the Fairgrounds four Wednesday evenings: July 17, 24, 31, and August 7 at 6:00 p.m. For more information, please call 337-4934 ext. 7. Library hours are Monday, 3:00-7:00 p.m.,

Wednesday, 12:00-7:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Crafts sessions are sponsored by The Friends of the Heath Library and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Summer Reading Program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Library System, The Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

~ *Lyra Johnson-Fuller* Library Assistant

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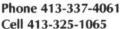
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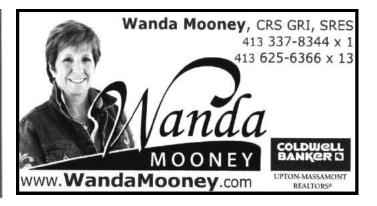
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Town Nurse News



Antibiotic Resistance



The May issue of the *Nutrition Action Health Letter* has an informative article about the use and abuse of antibiotics in this country and around the world and how that has contributed to the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria. It begins with the story of a woman from Maine who became very ill with bloody diarrhea and dehydration, after consuming meat contaminated with a new strain of Salmonella typhimurium, that was resistant to at least eight antibiotics. She was not diagnosed until her second hospitalization in the fall of 2011. The article reported 55 outbreaks of food poisoning since 1973, Salmonella typhimurium was the bacteria found most often, and occurred in dairy products (particularly raw milk of raw milk cheese), ground beef, poultry, produce, seafood, pork, and eggs.

The article continues to explain how some bacteria have genes that enable them to develop resistance to antibiotics. They are able to pump the drugs out of their cells or alter the antibiotic attack, so the cell is no longer vulnerable. This resistance has become widespread through chronic misuse of antibiotics, such as prescribing antibiotics for colds or flu, which are caused by viruses not susceptible to antibiotics. However, even more resistance has developed from the huge amounts of antibiotics given to farm animals.

In the 1950s scientists found that animals fed "sub-therapeutic" doses of antibiotics grew faster, so farmers began giving antibiotics to animals to increase production. This unfortunate use of antibiotics has caused huge increases of resistant bacteria. In 1995 the FDA approved the use of fluoroqinolone antibiotics in poultry. In 2000 chickens tested at slaughter houses and supermarkets were found to have greatly increased amounts of camplobacter bacteria and the FDA reversed its decision, but the ban of the use of these antibiotics was delayed five years while Bayer, the manufacturer of fluoroquinolones, fought the ban in court. The article goes on to list percentages of antibiotic resistant organisms, including Salmonella and E coli, found on samples of chicken, ground beef, and pork, and we have frequent reports of contaminations and illnesses in the news.

To protect ourselves from getting illnesses from contaminated food we must use care in buying, handling, and cooking foods. Buying locally offers some protection, but all produce should still be washed and meat, fish, and poultry should be well cooked and preparation areas and hands carefully washed after handling raw food. There is more information on food labels about the use of anti-biotics and environment in which livestock were raised, to help us make better choices.

It's up to us to do our part in decreasing antibiotic resistance, by not expecting antibiotics for colds and flu, for which antibiotics don't work. If we are prescribed an antibiotic for a bacterial infection we must be sure and complete the course as prescribed even though symptoms are gone, as resistance may develop in organisms not eradicated. Avoid using antibacterial soap and dish detergent containing triclosan, but do use good hand-washing with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

I hope everyone has a healthy summer. I am available in my office on Tuesdays from 12:15-1:15 p.m. and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., or call for an appointment. I am available for home visits if someone is unable to come to the office. 337-8309

Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

Dear friends!

I did it! You did it! We all did it! I'm very happy to report that last weekend's Walk was a huge success! I finished the entire 39.3-mile walk in 2 days! We had great weather, some of the best fans (including a dog in a pink tutu!) and fantastic crew members taking care of us all weekend. Each year I continue to be amazed at some of the fabulous people I meet throughout this event. The kindness, the generosity, the love, the support, and the pure passion to put an end to this disease are all reasons I keep coming back year after year.

This year, I met a 73- year- old woman who is a 30-year survivor! She was walking with her two daughters by her side. If this isn't inspiration, I don't know what is!

Over 2,500 participants were able to raise over \$4 million dollars for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer! My team, Charlie's Angels, achieved Platinum status and raised over \$65,000! My fund-raising total was over \$8000! One of my favorite parts about this event is seeing exactly where the money we have raised is distributed throughout the community. Yesterday, we watched Avon Representatives distribute checks to facilities such as Tufts University, Dana Farber, and Mass General Hospital. It's great to see all the money we raised get put to work right away!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting me in this journey to save more lives. This is a truly inspiring event that I am proud to be a part of each year. Thank you for helping me to walk in honor of my mother. See you next year!

Love, Jodi Walsh

Selectboard's Report

Summer Meeting Schedule

The Board will meet every other Tuesday evening beginning 6/4/13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall unless posted otherwise. This schedule will be maintained throughout the summer and into early fall.

Town Election Results

Bill Lattrell - Selectman Margo Newton - Assessor Jeffrey Simmons - Finance Committee Janis Carr - Library Trustee Douglas Mason - Planning Board Andrew Draxler - School Committee Jeffrey Simmons - Constable Robert Bourke - Constable

Special Town Meeting & Annual Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting was held on Saturday, May 11, 2013, to take care of year-end imbalances in some of the Town's accounts. All accounts with projected deficits were funded by transferring money from accounts with surpluses. There were 10 articles on the warrant which passed unanimously.

The Special Town meeting was followed by the Annual Town Meeting. There were 31 Articles to be voted on the warrant. All passed. Some of the notable articles were those concerning changes to the Town's Dog Bylaws, a zoning bylaw change to regulate Fixed Wireless Broadband Facilities, a zoning bylaw change to establish a limit on the decibel emissions from commercial wind generators, a zoning bylaw change to reduce required setbacks for accessory uses to camper trailers, and an article to allow Margo Newton to serve as Police Chief past the mandatory retirement age of 65. The meeting approved the purchase of a new roadside mowing machine and voted to send a petition to Baystate Health Systems urging them to maintain a full-service hospital at the Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield.

The Finance Committee provided a summary of the Town's financial status with a projected tax rate for the coming year before the details of Article three were considered.

The swearing in of Town elected officials was moved to

the end of the meeting so that Tom Lively could preside over the meeting as his last official act. After his resignation was announced he was given a standing ovation by all for his years of service to the Town. Tom was awarded the Marvin Shippee award for public service the previous week. A report of this event is found in this issue of the *Herald*. Bill Lattrell was elected to the Selectboard and will take his seat at the next meeting of the Board.

Animal Control Officer

All write-in candidates for Animal Control Officer declined the position. The Board will need to appoint someone to the position as soon as a suitable candidate can be found. Tom Lively has agreed to continue to serve as temporary Animal Control Officer until the Board appoints someone to the permanent position.

Municipal Complex Building Committee

The Municipal Complex Building Committee met on May 7, 2013, to begin drafting a Request for Proposals to hire a designer to produce a feasibility study for future Town facilities such as a Highway Garage, Fire Station, Emergency Operations Center, and Police Offices. The Committee reviewed sample documents from a similar local facility.

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

Town Offices' Refinished Floor -

MAJOR SUCCESS!



Photographed by Sheila Litchfield

Marvin J. Shippee Community Service Award presented to Thomas Lively



Each year the Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association presents to a deserving community member the Marvin J. Shippee Community Service Award at the Annual Spring Breakfast. The Marvin J. Shippee Community Service Award was awarded for the first time in 1998 in memory of Shippee's leadership and his commitment to volunteerism. Shippee, the founder of the business association, has offered inspired leadership and

involvement to countless community projects.

The award is based upon the following criteria:

- Level of community service
- Level of impact on the community
- Length of service (allowing for the possibility of youth nominees)
- Demonstrated leadership and involvement in community projects
- Respect within the community

Former recipients include: Michael McCusker, 1998; Marion J. Taylor, 1998; Rolland Gifford, 1999; Dorothy Giffin, 1999; Carol Bolduc, 2000; Susan Samoriski, 2001; Bernie Butler, 2002; Mark Zenick, 2003; Dick and Jeanne Bole, 2004; Ruth Anderson, 2005; Wesley Rice, 2006; Dr. Mark Purinton, 2007; Polly Bartlett, 2008; Hugh Knox, 2009: Lawrence Shearer; 2010; Stefan Racz, 2011; John Taylor, 2012.

Heath Selectman Thomas S. Lively was nominated for this prestigious award by fellow Selectboard members Brian Devriese and Sheila Litchfield and unanimously selected by the Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association as the 2013 recipient. The award was presented at a special breakfast presentation on May 17.

Tom Lively has been a selectman in Heath for the past 15 years and will be completing his 5th term in May 2013. He has been chair for most of his tenure. While serving on the board Tom was Heath's representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Government. He was also a member of the executive board of the Franklin County Selectmen's Association and served a term as president of that Association. He has been a leader among municipal officials in Franklin County.

A founding member of the Indianhead Snowmobile Club of Heath, Tom has worked tirelessly to negotiate trail access from private landowners and to help develop and maintain the trail network. He has been president of the Snowmobile Association Massachusetts where he lobbied the state to support recreational snowmobiling throughout the state especially on public land. He was a member of the Heath Fire Department for 16 years and functioned as Training Officer and firefighter, and was also active in the Heath Fair, serving as Superintendent of Cattle for many years.

Tom helped the Town negotiate an agreement with the Towns of Charlemont and Hawley to close the former Three-Town Landfill. This was an especially difficult process due to the high costs involved in capping and maintaining an abandoned landfill and the burden on the already stressed budgets of small rural towns. Tom as chair of the Heath Selectboard was instrumental in achieving a satisfactory agreement, presenting it at Town Meeting, and in helping to secure assistance from the state to help the three towns with the cost of capping the landfill.

Another important community project undertaken with Tom's assistance was the drafting and adoption of the Heath Zoning Bylaw. As a member of the Heath Planning Board for 10 years, he was involved during the development of the zoning bylaw. This was a massive undertaking for volunteers and a potentially very contentious issue for a town. The process was intense but ended successfully with a durable ordinance that remains in effect today.

All are examples of major projects initiated and seen through to successful conclusions with Tom's leadership and generous contribution of time. He has clearly demonstrated leadership as former chair of the Selectboard, president of the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts, a member of the Planning Board and Fire Department, and many other civic organizations. He is known as a respected member of the community who can be counted on in times of need.

A beacon for all.

~ Sheila Litchfield, Chair Heath Selectboard

Heath Hawks (rookie ball team)



A little torrential rain didn't dampen their sportsmanship.

Photographed by Lorena Lobsky-Lonergan

Milestones

M. Julietta Wolf-Foster of Rochester, NY, died on April 16, 2013. Born in 1949 in Belvidere, Illinois, she was the daughter of the Right Reverend Frederick Barton Wolf and Barbara Buckley Wolf.

She graduated from Bennington, VT, High School and attended Grinnell College in Iowa from 1966-1970. Her formal graduation never took place in the aftermath of the shooting at Kent State University in May of 1970. She then moved to Maine where her father had been appointed Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese and where she taught high school English and worked for the Maine Public Broadcasting Network.

Her family spent many summers in Heath where she met her first husband John Wolf, son of the Reverend William and Eleanor Wolf. Following marriage they moved to Rochester where John died suddenly in 1987. Julietta married Tom Foster in 1991. In Rochester, she worked for the Episcopal Diocese and earned a Master of Divinity from the Colgate Rochester Divinity School. In recent years she worked as a Senior Writing Consultant in the University of Rochester's College Writing Program.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her two daughters, Emily J. Wolf (Kevin Mialky) and Catherine D. Wolf, (John Doench); two grandchildren, and her sister Molly Wolf of Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Her sister Jane Wolf predeceased her.

Memorial gifts may be made to the University of Rochester College Writing Fund endowing an award in Julietta's name and mailed to Lydia Kociuba, Office of Advancement for Arts, Sciences and Engineering, 300 East River Road, Box 278701, Rochester, NY 14627, or to the Brian Tumor Patient Needs Fund, James P. Wilmot Cancer Center, Advancement Office, 300 East River Road, Box 278996, Rochester 14627.

Requiescat in pace

Ada Landstrom Duffy of Londonderry, NH, recently celebrated her 90th birthday with family and well-wishers at the homestead where she grew up, the home of her sister **Ruth Johnson**.

Heath People in the News

Tucker Jenkins, son of Tom and Robin Jenkins and grandson of Ruth Johnson, and a junior at Mohawk Trail Regional High School. was honored at the 13th Annual Peacemaker Awards Ceremony held at Greenfield Community College on May 16.

These awards are given to high school-age young people in recognition of their efforts toward peace and justice in our communities and in our world and are sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Franklin County and the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice.

To quote Ms. Lynn Dole, Mohawk's principal, Tucker Jenkins has been an advocate for increased student voice in our school and has been a leader in making this happen. He has worked with the school leadership to establish avenues for students to share their perspectives and voice, shaping the role of the Student Council so that it is more inclusive and responsive to student concerns. He was instrumental in organizing this year's Talent Show and in preparing the panel of speakers who will be addressing students on May 17 regarding the dangers of distracted driving. Tucker is a Heath volunteer firefighter who takes this responsibility to his local community seriously. He

serves on the Heath Fair Committee as an active member of the group that ensures the survival of this local tradition. In addition, he is a Little League Coach, and he talks passionately about his responsibility to ensure that the players and their parents are supported and treated with dignity.

At the Massachusetts Student Athlete Citizenship Awards Program, held recently at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mohawk Trail Regional High School student athletes, **Tucker Jenkins** and **Caity Wilkins**, two of the four students representing the high school, were recognized for excellence in academics, athletics, and citizenship.

Crystal Smith received her BSN (bachelor of nursing) from UMASS Amherst during the May graduation exercises The RN to BSN course that she completed was the accelerated version in that it is a two-year program that she accomplished in one.

Crystal has been an RN for many years and is also a Certified Pediatric RN. In this capacity, she worked for nine years at Baystate Springfield Children's Hospital in the infants and children's unit and most recently as a school nurse in Greenfield. Following time off to complete her class work at UMASS, she is presently considering a new job offer.

Crystal has been accepted to the UMass Honors Society.

From RN to BSN in a Year

About a year ago Crystal started the RN to BSN program at UMass and even though she told the kids and me that it would be a lot of work, we were not prepared!

Once she began the curriculum our dining room transformed itself into a classroom. Papers, books, and calculators took the place of plates and napkins. That was OK because we all started eating at our breakfast table which is almost like being on a diet because there is not a lot of room for food on it!

During the past year when I would ask the kids "where is your mother?" the answer was always the same, "working on school work." Crystal didn't just do the work, she crushed it. If the assignment was worth 25 points she got all of them, right up to the last assignment of the year. On a family assessment project, she got 40 out of a possible 40 points! A+

We all learned a few new choice phrases this past year when things were not working to her liking. But it always worked out in the end with amazing grades. Now that it's over she can look forward to more opportunities and dinner back where it belongs.

All kidding aside I am very proud of her and amazed at her effort. For the past year she has been as constant as the North Star and she deserves a break.

So congratulations, Crystal, everyone is very proud of you.

Your loving husband, Mike

Community Calendar

June 2013

Heath Fair Workbees very Wednesday until the Fair at the Fairgrounds from 6:30 p.m. until dark

Mohawk Trail Regional School System Summer Camp Middle/High School Sign up

June 03 - MTRHS GRADUATION, 1:00 p.m.

Seven Week-long Science Lab, Heath School Spelling Bee Rehearsal, Heath School Potluck for HH Staff, Community Hall, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

June 05 - Spelling Bee at Mohawk, 6:30 p.m.

June 06 - Senior Luncheon,

Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m. 7th Grade Trip to Boston

June 07 - 6th Grade Moving-Up Day

Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Science Museum Night and Art Show, Heath School, 6:30 p.m.

June 10 - Strings Concert, Heath School, 11:00 a.m.

June 11 - Volunteer Brunch, Heath School, 9:30 a.m.

June 12 - Middle School Band/Chorus Performance, Heath School, 1:00 p.m.

June 14 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library,

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. (final until September)

June 15 - Ted Watt Program, Visit to

Swamp Road Heron Rookery, 9:00 a.m.

June 16 - Historical Society, Dining with History,

Community Hall 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. May Pole/June Pole Center Schoolhouse, 4:45 p.m.

June 17 - Field Day, Heath School

June 18 - 6th GRADE GRADUATION, HEATH SCHOOL, 6:30 P.M.

June 19 - Heath School Pelham Lake Day, 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

June 19&20 - Mohawk Final Exams

June 20 - Senior Luncheon,

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

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL HAPPY SUMMER!!

June 22 - Franklin County 4-H Fair, Fairgrounds, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June 29&30 - Annual June Draw, Fairgrounds, 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

June 30 -Annual Rose Viewing,

End of Road (Leuchtman) 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

July 2013

Mohawk Summer Camp, Enrollment Open to all area students on a first come, first served basis.

> Session 1 - July 8 -12 Session 2 - July 15-19 Session 3 - July 22-26

July 21 - Rededication of the Johnson Organ, Heath Church

July 24 - Summer Crafts Program, Fairgrounds, 6:00 p.m.

July 31 - Summer Crafts Program, Fairgrounds, 6:00 p.m. (Last: August 7)



Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

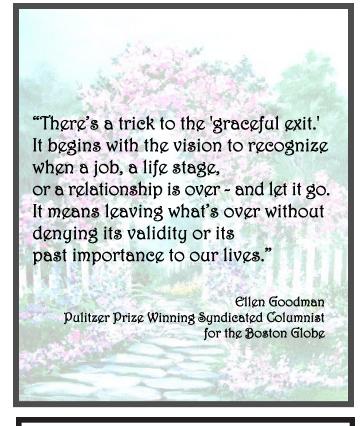
(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Kain</u>	Snow
From March 10, 2013	3/4"	19"
April	1 ½"	2" [Sleet]
To May10	0"	0"

In this reporting period:

March did some flip-flopping giving us a warm weekend on the 9th and 10th (temps around 50) and then some cold mornings on the 16th and 18th (7 above and 2 above, respectively). This was followed by storm UKKO which dumped 13-15 inches of snow on March 19. The remainder of March was relatively quiet with Easter on the 31st being mild, yet still a depth of snow on the ground in most, if not all, of Heath. April 1 through May 10, while on the cool side, was relatively quiet. The total snow amount for the 2012-2013 winter season was 95½ inches.

~ Timothy Lively



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Assistant Vice President Financial Service Manager



90 Bridge Street Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

T: 413.625.9807 F: 413.625.9421 E: vincent.traina@peoples.com

NMLS#592798