



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

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Volume 37, Number 1

April/May 2015



SHE WORE HER
YELLOW SUN-BONNET,
SHE WORE HER
GREENEST GOWN;
SHE TURNED TO
THE SOUTH WIND
AND CURTSIED UP AND DOWN.
SHE TURNED TO
THE SUNLIGHT
AND SHOOK HER YELLOW HEAD,
AND WHISPERED TO
HER NEIGHBOR:
"WINTER IS DEAD."



DAFFODOWNDILLY

A.A. MILNE



Heath Herald

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The *Heath Herald* proudly features a reproduction of the original *Heath Herald* logo design by Harriet Reed for the *Heath Herald's* first edition in April 1979.

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There are three ways to submit your letters to the editor, articles and/or subscription forms:

- Send to our email address:
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- Send to our PO Box:
 The *Heath Herald*
 PO Box 54, Heath, MA 01346
- Drop off at our Town Hall box:
 Local residents can drop a letter or subscription form into the black box on the wall to the left of the post office boxes in the vestibule (no postage needed).

Submission Deadlines

January 10 for inclusion in February/March issue
 March 10 for inclusion in April/May issue
May 10 for inclusion in June/July issue
 July 10 for inclusion in August/September issue
 September 10 for inclusion in October/November issue
 November 10 for inclusion in December/January issue

Call for Contributions

The *Heath Herald's* goal is to inform our readership about our community—important and interesting events, experiences, people, places and information. We wish to be as inclusive of the entire Heath community as possible and we welcome your submission of articles, Letters to the Editor, human interest stories, photographs and artwork of local interest. While we cannot promise to publish all articles or artwork, all submissions will be carefully reviewed. In order to include as much variety as possible, submissions may also be edited for length. We always welcome suggestions for topics of interest to our readership.

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The many color photographs and images in each issue of the *Heath Herald* are funded in part by you, our readers. Through the sponsorship of generous individuals we are able to showcase the vibrancy of life here in Heath in such a way as would not otherwise be possible. Consider becoming a \$25 Color Sponsor for an upcoming edition of the *Heath Herald*. We strive to have a minimum of three Color Sponsors each edition. Should you wish to add your support, be sure to note “Color Sponsor” on your check so that we can acknowledge your contribution in a future edition. Thank you.

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Memories of Heath

I started my life in what was then the Franklin County General Hospital in Greenfield, Mass on August 1, 1946. I was the first-born grandchild of my grandparents, Fannie (Rice) Harmon & James Harmon of Charlemont, and Philippine Peters (Lively) and Leon Peters of Heath. My mother, Marie Harmon, was the third child of the Peters family, one that that consisted of 12 brothers and sisters. My Heath grandparents, called MeMere & PePere from the French side of the family, lived on a small farm on Number Nine Road, which was dirt at this time. Many folks may recall it as Peters General Store.

History shows that they started the store in 1923. They ran it for well over 50 years before turning the business over to one of their sons, my Uncle Cleon Peters, in 1972. I have many fond memories of helping out in that store and taking trips with my grandfather to Greenfield to get supplies for the store. On the return trip we would often stop at Avery's Store in Charlemont for additional supplies. I still remember the old hand-crank gas pump my grandparents had that I believe would only dispense about a quart at a time, before they got an electric pump. My grandmother had the old style cash register where the numbers would pop up at the top and show the price in dollars and cents. I guess before that they had just a drawer on the backside of the counter that I was shown which had indentations to hold change and bills.

Our relatives, the Livelys, lived just across the street. They had a good-sized dairy farm back when I was a youngster in the 50s. With as many children as they had, my grandparents always had a good vegetable garden. They also raised a flock of chickens and had a couple of dairy cows. I often would spend some of my summers with them and have fond memories of working in the garden, gathering vegetables, picking apples from the trees they had in the field just below their house. I remember helping milk the cows (the old method, by hand) and trying to keep the milk bucket from getting knocked over. I also remember cutting grass for my grandmother's hundreds of guinea pigs that she raised and sold to research firms in Pennsylvania. When it was feeding time those little guys would all start squealing and you could not even hear yourself talk.

I also remember playing in the hay on the upper level of the barn. We would climb up a ladder attached to the side of the barn and jump into the hay. Lots of fun even though we weren't supposed to do that. I recall how enjoyable it was to go down to the cellar to get some vegetables for supper as they kept a fairly good stockpile of vegetables down there in bins and it was always nice and cool in the summer. On the opposite side was a place where they kept wood stacked, as they heated and cooked with a wood stove back then. It wasn't as much fun carrying up a load of firewood on the return trip. Just outside the cellar was a big rain barrel which my grandfather would keep bullheads that were caught at Rowe Pond and kept alive until a fish fry was to take place.



Leon and Philippine (Lively) Peters

I have many fond memories of fishing with my grandfather at night at Rowe Pond (Pelham Lake). I learned only a couple of years ago, from my Grandma Fannie Harmon (Rice), that our about-eight-generations-ago Grandfather Mose Rice was the builder of Fort Pelham, just off the lake, in 1744. I remember one of the oars in my grandfather's rowboat had a huge piece missing from it and I was told that it was caused by a snapping turtle that got accidentally caught and when my grandfather tried to knock it off the line, it took a chunk out of the oar.

My grandfather was an avid fisherman and was good at it. I never remember any time that we would go fishing and not catch anything. I recall a couple of times I walked up the road about a mile or so from their house and took a trail that went down to the West Branch Brook and would fish that all the way down to the old Branch School House. I always would catch some trout there. I believe that they were native brook trout as I don't think they stocked that brook.

At that time the Branch School was open and I remember visiting there, I believe during a summer school program they had. If my memory serves me correctly, there were only one or two classrooms there.

Sunday was always family-gathering time and after attending church at the Catholic Church in Charlemont we would always buy some Sunday papers from Avery's and bring several to sell in the store in Heath which was open on Sunday afternoon. My Grandmother believed very strongly in the Lord and Church attendance was pretty much a required event. Back then, the ride from Charlemont to Heath seemed to take so long and when I was back in Heath for a family reunion a few years ago, I was quite surprised by how short a ride it was.



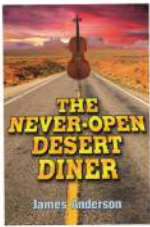
Left to right: Lorna (Peters) Ours, Linda (Lemay) Townsend, Leon Peters, Ron Harmon

Another memory was the old phone that had the mouth-piece you would talk into and hold the earpiece up to your ear and turn the crank for the operator to come on and then tell her who you wanted to talk with. Back then it was a party line, so you had to listen to see if anyone else was on the line before you could make your call. We were taught that you should never listen to someone's conversation.

Wintertime to me was very cold and long. There was a fairly good hollow just down the road from my grandparent's house where a small brook went under the road. I remember how the snow would really drift through there, even with the snow fences put up to keep it controlled. If my memory serves me correctly, there was a tracked vehicle that would plow that round with a huge V-shaped plow and the snow would be so high going through that hollow that you could not even see over the sides.

Continued on next page

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Memories of Heath, continued from previous page

I didn't spend too much time in Heath during the winter, but one fond memory is enjoying sugar on snow, where you would boil down maple syrup to a real thick texture and then get a bucket of snow and pour the syrup over the snow. Then I would get a fork and twirl it around, and what a delicious treat that was. Summers were a lot of fun as often on weekends many of the relatives would gather and have fellowship with one another.

The women would often help put up vegetables from the garden, canning them, and the men would help gather firewood for the upcoming winter. I still remember the old doodlebug that they used to drive across the pastures and into the woods. After work, we would get involved in some good croquet games on the lawn. On the back side of my grandparents' house was a porch which was a complete level higher on the back and we would watch the older folks spend hours pitching horseshoes.

One more thing that brings back a memory is picking blueberries on Burnt Hill. That was a treat and I remember always keeping my eyes open for any bears, but never did see one in all the times I picked. Of course many jams were put up as well and there was nothing like homemade jams.

So these are some of the memories I have of Heath as a child. Unfortunately my family moved to California about the time I turned 12 so I spent the rest of my childhood in a totally different environment, but I will always have the good country memories of living in a small town in the hills where peace and quiet abound. My roots go way back to this area and I feel real good about that.

—Ron Harmon

WIREDWEST FAQs

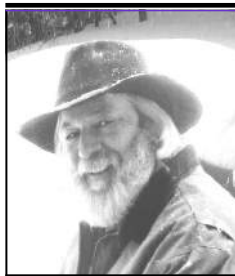
How can I learn more about the "nitty-gritty" and sign-up?

The WiredWest business model is on-line at www.wiredwest.net and will be reviewed in "kitchen" meetings and at Annual Town Meeting. Talk to Al Canali 337-4740 if you would like to attend a small group "kitchen" meeting, and be sure to attend Annual Town Meeting to make your voice heard. You are encouraged to sign-up now; either on-line or by mail (form located on their website, or in the Town Hall and library.)

What about my DSL?

The general counsel of the Federal Communications Commission predicts your landline will stop working within the next ten years, abandoned by companies like AT&T and Verizon in favor of wireless service in rural America or fiber (if you are lucky) in the cities. Verizon prefers a "gradual phase-out" according to Tom Maguire, Verizon's senior vice president of operations support. For more information see

<http://princetonbroadband.com/2014/11/10/dsl-phase-out/comment-page-1/>



Wild Ramblings

—Bill Lattrell

Beneath Deep Snows Mysteries in the Pukak



Deep snows on this north-facing hillside require the use of snowshoes while looking for animal tracks far into this mixed hardwood and conifer forest. I've used snowshoes since I was a child and so they seem to be a natural extension of my body when their use is required. My snowshoes are large, about three feet long and a foot wide, to support my 275 pound frame on these snow depths that exceed three feet. The snow is still light and fluffy, nearly unchanged since it accumulated in these woods, due to the very cold temperatures that have covered the entire region this winter. On this day, late in February it is a balmy 12 degrees, nearly 20 degrees warmer than yesterday morning.

I expect the tracking exercise in this significant snow coverage to be relatively unfruitful. Life in the northern woods compels that all wildlife be masters of survival. Surviving a cold winter with deep snow comes down to two primary elements: energy conservation and food. The food part is not a problem this year for most wildlife. There was a good crop of acorns this past autumn, a decent beechnut crop as well, and these woods hold large areas of accessible branches and buds due to past logging practices. The energy conservation issue is a gigantic problem. Traveling through deep snows in search of forage is more than difficult for both herbivores and those that predate them. The fact is that for most wildlife, both predators and non-predators, the act of seeking out food in these conditions will use more calories than the food can provide. This is quite simply a prescription for starvation.

The result is that much of the wildlife in this area, such as white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, fox and eastern coyotes, for example, have for the most part migrated to lower terrain. Areas along major rivers may now hold concentrations of wildlife. Although there is competition for food in those locations there is adequate sustenance to survive. The snow pack along rivers in the valleys is often not nearly as deep as in the higher terrain. Energy conservation is not as big an issue and there is a better chance for survival.

Other species, such as squirrels, porcupine, fisher and weasels, are not as impacted by deep snows. However the amount of time they spend in trees during the late winter may limit tracking to a tree-to-tree scenario.

On this day more than two hours of trekking in deep snows through a large area of the winter forest has yielded two sets of moose tracks, evidently a very large cow and her calf, and a set of bobcat tracks on top of a long stone wall. The winter forest feels empty and stark. There are long, dark shadows of trees swaying back and forth in a stiff breeze, looking like they are sweeping the surface of the snow. This seems to be the only active sign of life. I am in no way discouraged. I am cognizant of the mysteries of the winter woods and I know that the forest is multi-layered when it comes to wildlife and their habitats. There is likely much activity deep underneath my snowshoes amongst the leafy layer of the forest floor buried at the bottom of this significant snow pack.

I love that I have to use my imagination when thinking about life beneath the snow. In my mind I can see red-backed and woodland voles, short-tailed and pygmy shrews, white-footed and deer mice, and a host of other creatures living in tunnels in this dark, frozen environment. These animals, ranging from insects to small mammals, live in a seasonal and reasonable temperature of 32 degrees. Here some critters feed on seeds, vegetative remains and the cambium on small woody stem vegetation. Some critters feed on other critters. And some critters feed on both.

The real beauty of this "beneath-the-snow" environment, technically referred to as a subnivean habitat, is that it is the result of a complex network of pure physics, biologic activity and sheer happenstance. It is nearly the perfect environment for animals that are very small, in fact so perfect that it allows them to not only survive but flourish during the harshest time of year.

The Inuit, being intimately familiar with their cold world habitats, gave this particular subnivean habitat a name: pukak. The pukak tunnels are not, in fact, the result of small rodents tunneling through the snow as commonly believed but rather the result of physical processes that small animals and rodents utilize as part of their winter world. The formation of the tunnels within the pukak requires several key elements: vegetation beneath the snow, a semi-gradual change in outdoor temperature and snows of at least 6 inches, but preferably 12 inches or more.

The pukak tunnel begins forming in the late fall with the arrival of the first snows of the season where vegetation is present. The vegetation holds some of the snow off of the surface of the ground. Miniature snow caves are formed. Ice crystals develop underneath the thin layer of the early winter or late autumn snows. As winter progresses and the snow deepens a temperature gradient develops, caused by the warmer ground temperatures below and the colder air temperatures above. This causes water vapor to rise and freeze which creates small tunnels at the base of the snow pack, usually no more than 2 inches high. It is these small tunnels, some of them going for very long distances, that produce the subnivean habitat so readily used by small rodents, insects and other tiny animals that all contribute to this new winter habitat. These habitats stay right around the freezing mark. This is much more hospitable than temperatures above the snow, which can fall well below the zero degree mark for much of the winter. The warmer temperatures found within the pukak translate into better energy conservation. The more energy preserved the better the chance for survival.

Like any other ecosystem, the pukak is a well-developed, codependent habitat. Voles and mice consume seeds, roots and other vegetation matter. Shrews may consume insects, millipedes, baby voles and mice, and any other source of protein they can sink their teeth into. The fact is that some shrew species have

Continued on next page

Wild Ramblings, continued from previous page

to eat several times their own body weight every day. While consuming vegetation, voles and mice may move seeds to new locations, introduce fungi on translocated forage to new locations, and aid with the important process of decaying vegetable matter to make it more available as a food source for larger plants and animals.

While the pukak does offer a certain amount of safety for its inhabitants, given that they are visually hidden from above-the-snowpack predators, it does not give them absolute safe harbor. Ermines, or short-tailed weasels, are particularly adept at harvesting live food from these frost-lined channels underneath the deep snow. Ermines also have a voracious appetite, especially in the cold winter and may tunnel into the pukak layer for an absolute smorgasbord along the pukak food court. Fox, utilizing precise telemetric hearing, can locate the exact position of a rodent under the snow, pounce on it and capture the prey in a single attempt. Still, despite the risk of predators, the pukak does provide a wonderful habitat for many small creatures that otherwise would have a very difficult time surviving the harsh winters of the north.

I find great solace in knowing that there is a world full of life deep beneath the bottom of the snowshoes on which I stand. For now I will use my imagination to envision its activities. In the spring, when the snow is not quite melted I will be able to see the trails that remain at the bottom of the snow.

With these thoughts I start the cold yet beautiful walk home. A golden sun is sinking in the western sky. The once blue sky now yields to pink, orange and yellow colors. Even lower temperatures seem to be settling in with the approaching clear night. I will look forward to my own winter habitat; a chair next to a warm fire in the wood stove. I envision a cup of hot cocoa in my hand while thinking about critters happily scurrying about within tunnels in the Pukak under deep snows. I picture a smile on my face and a warm, warm feeling in my heart.

How can I not love the winter?

Heath Fair Goat Show Needs Sponsors

The 5th American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA)-sanctioned show will take place during Heath Fair on Saturday August 22, 2015. Goat breeders from across New England bring their purebred goats to compete. We anticipate seeing seven different dairy goat breeds, including Nubian, Lamancha, Alpine, Oberhasli, Nigerian Dwarf, Toggenburg and Saanan. The Goat Show, which is run by volunteers, gives the public an opportunity to see some beautiful purebred dairy goats and watch their handlers put the goats through their paces in front of a judge. You can hear the judges explain their decisions in selecting one goat over another.

Running this nationally sanctioned show is expensive and sponsors are needed to help defray the operating costs. These costs include the judges' time and expenses, purchase of the beautiful show ribbons, premiums, and the ADGA sanction application. If you would like to be a sponsor of the Goat Show, please send your donation to **Heath Agricultural Society c/o Sheila Litchfield, 220 Route 8A, Charlemont, MA 01339**. Thank you.



—Sheila Litchfield



Ted and Toby Go to Washington

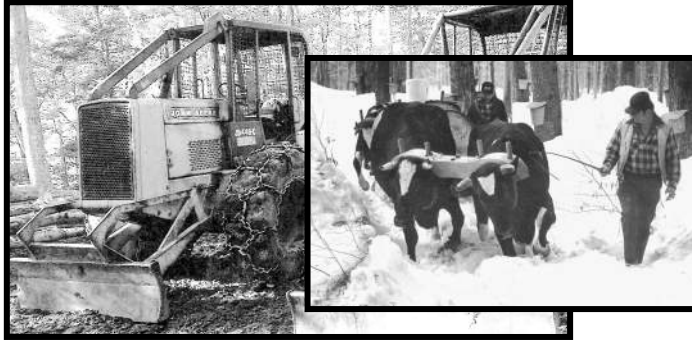
In the heart of our Nation's capital is the Smithsonian Institute, the world's largest museum and research complex. The Smithsonian, actually several museums combined, was established in 1846 for the purpose of the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." Ten of these museums span an approximately one mile expanse of lawn and gardens in Washington, D.C. The Washington Monument is on one end and the U.S. Capitol Building on the other. The National Mall, as this park-like area is called, is always crowded with visitors, picnickers and the occasional outdoor special museum exhibit. One such event, the Festival of American Folklife, billed as a "living cultural exhibit highlighting Massachusetts," took place during the summer of 1988. Among other things, this exhibit showcased something about which every Heath Fair attendee knows: an oxen draw. This was not just any ox draw, however; it was Heath's own Bill Clark and his son Kyle, showing oxen Ted and Toby at work before nearly two million visitors over a span of ten days! Of course they couldn't bring logs, or gallons of maple sap headed for the sugarhouse, so they brought Ted and Toby with the stone boat and a stone or two, instead. Kyle, who was a teenager at the time, recalls feeling "like a hero or something" given the crowd reactions during the twice-a-day demonstrations. He remembers being not very impressed with Washington, D.C., though. "I was there once on my sixth grade class trip and saw enough then," he explained.

The business of logging was a lot simpler back when Bill and his father, Darren Clark, Sr., used oxen and horses out in the woods. Bill, along with son Nathan, and later joined by his other son Kyle, started their own business 32 years ago with two chainsaws and two teams of bulls, working people's land throughout western Massachusetts and southern Vermont. Bill offered that one of the many advantages to using oxen for logging includes the fact that bulls with a sled or skidder could actually walk out of the woods by themselves. You wouldn't trust your truck to do that! Animals were also easier on the woods and the terrain, leaving less disturbed land in their wake. When Bill, his father and others before them worked the forests they often left the bulls and horses in the woods, bringing the sawmill along with them. This way, rough-sawn boards instead of whole trees were loaded up and carried out of the woods.



Photo by Art Schwenger

Bill, Nathan and Kyle continued to work using oxen much longer than some of their peers, changing completely over to heavy machinery in the 1990s. Never considering being without working teams of oxen, though, just about every weekend in the summer the Clark family takes teams to country fairs all around New England, proudly showing what oxen can do best: pull heavier and heavier loads, now stone boats, just like they used to pull logs on the skidder back in the day.



The transition to heavy machinery was inevitable, however, a necessity in order to make a living in the logging industry in the 21st Century. Now the amount of equipment needed to run the business includes two skidders, a bulldozer, an excavator, a log truck and a wood processor. These days Bill runs the sawmill at his home and Nathan and Kyle, with Nathan's son Danny alongside them, own and run Clark Logging, doing both logging and cutting firewood. The Clarks did some logging on our land a couple of years ago, so we witnessed firsthand how powerful (and huge!) the equipment is and how carefully the trees taken are selected. Chosen were hardwoods such as oak, maple, ash and yellow birch; the taller and straighter the better. Bill says that he hopes to get 8" x 12" x 24' boards, but it's awfully hard to find the right trees in our dense forests. Steve was particularly interested in having oak from our woods "quarter-sawn," an old method of cutting boards so the rays within the wood fibers are exposed as golden streaks, resulting in boards well suited for building fine furniture and in Steve's case, clocks with mechanical movements. The wood is cut, stacked, dried and ready to use. Now he just needs to find the time to build something with it!

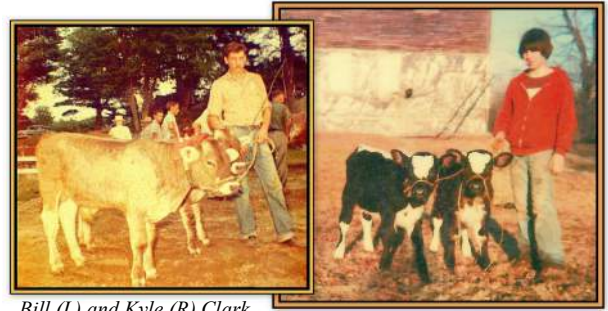


Photo by Art Schwenger

It was not just the Smithsonian that was attracted to Bill Clark and his logging family, though. Do you remember Charles Kuralt's "On the Road," a regular feature on the CBS evening news with Walter Cronkite? From the mid-1950s through the 1970s, Kuralt and a small crew traveled the country, driving the back roads in search of stories about the way ordinary people lived and worked to share with the viewing public each night. Kuralt won numerous awards for these "heartwarming and nostalgic vignettes," being most particularly cited for his work as the "United States Bicentennial Historian." One segment's focus was the logging industry, tracing



Photo by Will Draxler



Bill (L) and Kyle (R) Clark

its history from the time of oxen and horses to present-day equipment and trucking. Guess who was part of that feature one night? Humbly, Bill added this nugget to the interview almost as an afterthought, just as his conversation with Steve came to a close. In the case of the Clark family, I believe that Kuralt put it best: "I think all those people I did stories about measured their own success by the joy their work was giving them."

—Nancy Thane

Bill Clark interview by Steve Thane

Photos Courtesy of Daphne Clark unless otherwise noted



Call for Heath Herald Volunteers

The past two years have been a significant learning experience for all the new staff. We have had our ups and downs getting a new process to work and trying to share the load among ourselves. There are still opportunities for others to join the staff, however. We are most particularly seeking volunteers in the following areas:

- Someone for layout of the paper, familiar with MS Publisher.
- A second individual to help when called upon in the solicitation of content for each issue.
- Someone to keep track of the direct sales box in the Sawyer Hall hallway.

To learn more about these exciting opportunities or to express interest, please send an email to TheHeathHerald@gmail.com or call Nancy Thane at 337-5580.

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Green Thoughts

—Pat Leuchtman

Peter Kukielski, Rose Expert

I first met Peter Kukielski at New York Botanical Garden in 2009 when he was curator of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden. When I asked how you get to be a curator of a rose garden, he told me his career as a rosarian began the day he raised his hand. “I was working for a general landscaping company in Atlanta. One day, at our regular morning meeting the crew was asked who knew anything about roses. I looked around at the lack of response and then raised my hand. I helped my grandmother in her rose garden so I knew a little about roses.”

It turned out he knew enough. When he was taken to a sad rose garden on a large estate, he saw the roses needed water and fertilizer. “They needed someone to pay attention,” he said.

Soon Peter was known as the Rose Guy. He told me, “If someone was going to call me the Rose Guy, I better learn more.” He read every book available and began his rose education and career.

In 2006 he became the curator of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden. Within two years he had redesigned the garden and tripled the number of roses.

Things were going well, but in 2008 New York passed Local Law 37 which imposed new regulations on city-owned properties, including eliminating the kinds of poisons and fungicides routinely used on roses.

Peter had his own formulations that could no longer be used, so he began looking for roses that did not require poisons. Many of those poisons had been outlawed over 20 years earlier in Germany and hybridizer Kordes had been working to develop new disease-resistant roses that also bloomed for a long season. The French hybridizer, Meilland, was also working in this direction. They realized they could breed roses for disease resistance without losing beauty or long-season bloom.

In the United States, Peter found that Texas A&M’s Earth-Kind trials worked to identify existing roses like *Knock Out Red* and *The Fairy* that thrived in Texas without fertilizers, and were drought and disease resistant. He began to wonder what he could do to change the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden genetically.

New, more sustainable roses were planted. Now, when visitors to the garden told Peter that they hated using sprays and poisons, and that’s why they didn’t grow roses, he could advise them about new hybrids that would give them beautiful roses with the bloom season they wanted but without using poison.

Peter is now a member of the national Earth-Kind team, assembled to address some of the greatest concerns facing American landscapes: wasted water, misuse of fertilizers and pesticides, and overburdening of landfills with leaves, grass clippings and wood chips. He has organized observational trials for the northeast where gardeners can see roses being tested. Trial gardens have been set up at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Connecticut, Cornell University and in Maine at Portland’s Deering Oaks Park.

Peter is also an organizer of the new American Rose Trials for Sustainability, where gardeners will find information about disease-resistant roses as they are evaluated. www.americanrosetrialsforsustainability.org

In his new book, *Roses Without Chemicals: 150 disease free roses that will change the way you grow roses* (Timber Press \$19.95), Peter begins by saying “Failure isn’t your fault.” The fault may be in the roses you choose. “Do a little homework,” Peter says. “What do local gardeners grow successfully? What grows in local botanical gardens?”

Unfortunately, Peter feels staff at many local garden centers may not know any more about roses than most of us do. It is important to shop carefully locally, or to shop online with a list of sustainable roses you have put together.

Online nurseries include: www.antiqueroseemporium.com
www.chambleerose.com; <http://palatinerose.com>.

The once-blooming roses I have grown on my Rose Walk are hardy and disease resistant, mostly because they date back to when hybridizers were looking for those attributes. More recently hybridizers have concentrated on big blossoms, unusual colors and long bloom seasons. Along the way they forgot about disease resistance and fragrance. Now that poisons are being outlawed hybridizers are working to get back that disease resistance while keeping the long bloom season.

Here are Peter’s Picks for the Northeast:

Brothers Grimm (Kordes) floribunda: up to 5 feet. Blossoms are 3 to 4 inches across and borne in clusters. Deep orange color fades to a dusty pink, and the petals have an unexpected color reverse of golden-yellow.

Cinderella (Kordes): a shrub rose up to 6 feet. ‘Cinderella’ is a pretty pink with clusters of wonderfully frilly, full, old-fashioned flowers.

Crimson Meidiland (Meilland): up to 3 feet tall, spreading and bushy with large numbers of small red flowers. Good for mass planting.

Blush Knock Out and **Pink Knock Out** (Will Radler): bushy 3- to 4-foot roses in pale or bright pink with no dead-heading needed.

Coral Drift (Meilland): these tough winter hardy plants with small brilliant blossoms are no more than 2 feet tall, perfect for containers.

Kosmos (Kordes): Robust and resilient with white to cream old fashioned flowers, 3 feet tall and bushy.

Oso Easy Cherry Pie (Chris Warner): 2- to 4-foot tall and wide with bright single flowers. No deadheading necessary.

Basic Rose Care:

1. Roses need sun, at least six hours a day.
2. They need good soil enriched with compost and a layer of mulch after planting.
3. They need consistent water, especially the first year or two after planting, but the soil should drain well so that the roots do not rot.
4. They need yearly maintenance with a helping of an organic fertilizer like Rose Tone and a renewed layer of compost and mulch.



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A Rose By Any Other Name?



Few people know about a visit Heath received last summer from someone whose name is well known across the country and the world. Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft, and a man as well known for his philanthropy as for his business acumen, and family made a somewhat secretive visit to our town last August. Mr. and Mrs. Gates were scouting East Coast locations for a summer home, as they both felt their children would benefit from a change from the high technology, fast paced life they experience living only on the West Coast. As Mr. Gates has often stated in interviews, he and Melinda plan on leaving only a relatively small portion of their immense fortune to their children, trying to strike a balance, in Gates' words, to give them "...the freedom to do anything...but not so that they can go out and do nothing." He strongly believes that the close-knit communities and traditions of New England villages offer the optimum environment for raising a child who is responsible both financially and socially.

Heath was one of several area towns visited by the Gates in their search for a suitable location to build their new summer home. In a teleconference this past February, Mr. Gates advised town officials that he and Melinda felt Heath best fit the type of place they were looking for. They expressed their desire to become an integral part of the Heath community, establishing real roots for their children here. With a goal to assist his children in acclimating to small town life, and to establish a family presence and standing here, Mr. Gates brought forth a proposal that the town consider renaming the town Gatesville.

Although the Board and Finance Committee members acknowledge the gravity of the request, such a motion to rename the town is not unprecedented. Many have long lobbied to rename the town after local Revolutionary War hero Colonel Hugh Maxwell, whose service to our nascent nation included being wounded at the Battle of Bunker Hill. In 1784, Maxwell was instrumental in persuading the General Court in Boston to approve the separation of our area as a town separate from Charlemont. The newly formed town was then named (some feel inappropriately) after Colonel Maxwell's commanding officer, Major General William Heath, a native of Roxbury Massachusetts, an area some five miles southwest of Boston.

1965 saw the most serious push to rename the town to date, this time after summer resident Felix Frankfurter, who famously served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court between 1939 and 1962, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Lyndon B. Johnson in 1962. Proponents argued that Justice Frankfurter's presence in Heath brought many benefits to the town, including the early provision of our local Post Office

station. Upon Frankfurter's death in 1965, calls to rename the town in his honor were met with strong support from several members of the Selectboard and Planning Committee. However, this happened to be during the height of what has been called the "second wave of feminism." Local resident Emma Gyrle, who was very actively involved in the feminist movement, passionately testified before a meeting held to discuss the proposal, noting that just five years before, Frankfurter had refused to hire future Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg – despite her excellent qualifications including participation on law reviews at both Columbia and Harvard – because he was, as Bader later put it, "(J)ust not prepared to hire a woman." The heated debate that followed eventually led to the renaming proposal being dropped at that time.

A name change would be a matter of great magnitude, but the Board and Finance Committee members feel that it should be weighed against the benefits gaining the Gates family as residents would bring for our town. Times have changed, as have the revenue streams available to both corporations and municipalities. Universities have long named libraries, lecture halls and other on-campus buildings in recognition of the financial support of major donors; more recently, it has become commonplace for sporting venues to be renamed after corporate sponsors. Now, more and more municipalities are looking to renaming as a new source of revenue. The Gates Family and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are well-known for their generosity and social consciousness, and this is reflected in their proposal. If the name change goes forward, Mr. Gates has offered to match, dollar for dollar, any and all grants made to the town over the next five fiscal years, which would include meeting the \$2 million dollar matching funds requirement of the Community Innovation Challenge grant pending for the construction of a new Municipal Complex Project.

Beyond this generous financial commitment to the town as a whole, Mr. Gates plans to engage the community by offering any town resident over the age of eighteen who uses a Mac as their primary personal computer, the opportunity to participate in the launch and Beta testing of a new Microsoft product. The "WAC" (Wide Application Computer) is Microsoft's new "ultra computer." This product has the capability of using both IOS and Windows based software and applications. Microsoft believes this capability, combined with a very affordable purchase price, can recapture market share lost in the recent past to Apple's Mac computers. At the conclusion of the Beta phase of testing, Mr. Gates plans to present a new WAC computer at no cost to every legal resident, age eighteen and over.

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee members hope that the citizens of Heath will carefully consider this proposal at the Annual Town Meeting, bearing in mind its potential as a solution to the revenue issues currently challenging our town.

Continued on page 22

Finance Committee Report

The Heath Finance Committee continues to work closely with the Selectboard as the broad outlines of the Town's Fiscal 2016 budget begin to emerge.

We face two major issues this year: the Public Safety/Highway Building and the proposal from WiredWest for fiber-optic broadband in Heath. Each proposal will raise the tax rate somewhat, although the effect of the WiredWest project is likely to be delayed and may turn out to be substantially less than anticipated.

The Public Safety/Highway Building is much nearer to being realized, thanks to a \$2 million matching grant from the Commonwealth. In order to get the grant, the Town will have to obligate itself for a \$2 million bond issue (to match the grant). Once the project is finished, however, our obligation will be only our share, one half, of the final actual cost.

The committee working on the Public Safety/Highway Building proposal has refined the design so that the final cost to the Town, after the matching grant is applied, is unlikely to exceed \$1.5 million. A bond issue for that amount would, under the terms of a grant from the U. S. Department of Agriculture that is being investigated (3.75% for 30 years), cost the Town \$84,131 annually, and increase the tax rate by about 95¢ per \$1000 of property valuation.

Funding for the WiredWest proposal is more tentative and complicated. At present, Heath's share of the capital costs for the entire project is \$1.269 million, and the Town will have to issue a bond for that amount. However, for the first couple of years Heath's payments will be interest only, starting at \$2,700 a year and moving up to \$5,300, according to an analysis issued by WiredWest. Thereafter, the Town will be obligated for full payments on the bond.

The picture gets complicated when we consider the business model developed by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), which is coordinating the entire project for the 32 towns participating in the effort to bring broadband internet service to Western Massachusetts. According to this model, if 40% of Heath households sign up for the broadband service, the revenue from participants' payments for the service should be enough to pay for the debt service after the first year.

That means that the Town is likely to have a substantial payment, on the order of \$100,000 (or \$1.12 on our tax rate), during the first year that the project is in operation three to five years hence. The town should incur minimal-to-no payments for debt service thereafter, because revenue from the project should cover most or all of the debt payments.

If we get a sign-up rate higher than 40% for the broadband project, a portion of the extra revenue can come to the Town to be used to retire the debt earlier or for other public purposes. It is even possible, because WiredWest is a cooperative jointly owned by the participating towns, that in the long run the broadband project could turn out to be a money-maker for the Town. It is unlikely that voters will have to pass a Debt Exclusion measure in order to fund these projects.

The Finance Committee will be focusing most of its discussion on these projects over the weeks remaining between now and the Annual Town Meeting.

—Don Freeman

Selectboard Report

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting was held on Tuesday February 24 at the Heath Elementary School. The meeting was necessary to transfer some funds to accounts expected to run out of money before the end of the fiscal year. Most were related to highway expenditures resulting from the unusual winter weather we

have been experiencing this year and on unanticipated machinery breakdowns. All articles passed.

The meeting was followed by presentations from the Public Safety/Highway Building Committee and WiredWest (WW). Revised plans for the building were presented showing a reduction in floor area of approximately 3,444 square feet, reducing the cost by about \$1 million. The impact of the Community Innovation Challenge grant provided by the Commonwealth that will reduce the project cost to the town by 50% was discussed.



Photo by Eileen McVay Lively

WiredWest was represented by Al Canali, Heath's WW representative, and Jim Drawe, WW Treasurer. The finances, timeline and administration of the proposed fiber-optic broadband network project was presented and discussed. A 40% participation rate of households in each town is required to become a "fiber town". With this 40% rate of participation or higher the user fees will begin to cover the cost of building and operating the network. It was noted that the town-wide mailing regarding the project promised earlier by WiredWest had still not been received.

All Boards Meeting

The Selectboard hosted the Annual All Boards meeting to share the concerns and accomplishments of Town committees, boards and officials. It is always a good opportunity to brush up on what's happening in Town while enjoying snacks and beverages supplied by volunteers. This year much of the meeting time was devoted to reviewing the status of the proposed Public Safety/Highway building project and to the progress of WiredWest in getting a high-speed fiber-optic network established in Heath.

The Public Safety/Highway Building Committee shared changes to the original proposed plan that reduce the building area significantly and the project cost by approximately \$1 million. The revised budget of approximately \$3 million would be further offset by the grant from the state that will match our contribution dollar for dollar, cutting the cost to the town to \$1.5 million.

The WiredWest proposed project was reviewed and discussed for the attendees. It was noted again that no one had received the town-wide mailing promised earlier. Al Canali reminded people that they could sign up and make their deposit at www.wiredwest.net or wait for the mailing that is imminent. There is also a link on the town website. A concern was raised that the WW business model should be distributed for review by those who are interested in or concerned about the financial viability of the consortium. This would help those with an understanding of business development and practices defend the project to their local constituencies.

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

The Selectboard and Finance Committee continue to meet for preparation of the budget for FY16 that will be voted at the next Annual Town Meeting. All town departments have submitted their budget requests.

Annual Town Meeting
Mark your calendars for the
Annual Town Meeting May 9 at 9 a.m.
at the Heath School.

Heath Online

Please take some time to visit the Heath Town website at www.townofheath.org. You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, other Board meeting minutes, school information, various announcements and much more. You may contact the Board at BOS@townofheath.org. Send messages to any board or individual via the e-mail address, or visit the Heath web site.

—*Heath Selectboard*
Sheila Litchfield, Chair
Bill Lattrell
Brian De Vriese

A Preschool-Friendly Budget Plus Two Amendments

The Mohawk District budget for this coming year (FY 2016) will total just over 18 million dollars. This represents an increase of 3.6% over last year's budget but assessments to the member towns will increase by a total of 5.7%. However, as I write this, it looks like Heath's specific assessment may actually decrease by about 1% (*oh, the wonderful world of formulas*). The primary reason for the overall budget increase is actually very good news to many. The district is proposing to provide preschool programming to all three- and four-year olds, in five-day-a-week programs, at each of the four elementary schools in the district, with the morning portion of the program cost-free to parents. Afternoon programming would have a sliding-scale fee and we hope to use the monies routinely approved for the current preschool program at Heath town meeting to make even the afternoon portion free to Heath families. In the opinion of this career-long elementary school educator/administrator, this preschool news is outstanding.

In addition, at our town meeting we will be asked to vote on two amendments to the district agreement. One is fairly simple, to allow the Town of Rowe to join the District as a seven-to twelve-grade member. This is the same status that the towns of Charlemont and Hawley currently enjoy. The same financial and governance responsibilities would be in effect for Rowe if this amendment is approved by all the member towns.

The second amendment is a bit more complicated. It, and the preschool and Rowe actions, are all in response to recommendations contained in the Long Range Planning Committee's report. This amendment would change a portion of Section III of the Agreement, which deals with the placement of pupils in the district. It would allow two or more towns to use a streamlined process to place students from their towns in schools other than the schools specified in the Regional Agreement. The intent is to encourage and foster creative approaches to meeting our children's educational needs in ways which may enhance the sustainability of our district. For such an arrangement to be enacted, a majority vote of the school committee and approval at the town meetings of each involved town would be required.

Each of these proposals is intended to make our district a better and more sustainable educational entity. The Heath Elementary School is and will continue to be an active and vital part of the district if all of these proposals are approved.

—*Budge Litchfield*

Town of Heath Public Safety/Highway Building

A project initiated by concerned Town citizens

Taking into consideration feedback from concerned citizens, the Public Safety/Highway Building Committee modified their original building proposal, resulting in an approximately 3,444 sq. foot (25%) reduction, to approximately 12,800 sq. feet. This prefabricated metal building is the most cost-effective design to build, heat and maintain. One single building will house the Highway, Fire, Police and Emergency Operations. The new building is designed to last at least 50 years. The building site is located across from the Heath Fairgrounds, a central location that provides a wide woodland buffer to minimize the visual impact from both Bray Road and Branch Hill Road.

At May's Town Meeting, voters will be asked to authorize the borrowing of \$2 million dollars to supplement the matching grant from the state. As costs are incurred and paid, the Town will receive commensurate reimbursements from the state. Given the plan currently proposed, the Town would actually only need to spend \$1.5 million, not the full \$2 million as offered by the state, reducing the need to borrow the entire amount authorized. In other words, the Town will only spend half of the full cost of construction. The state will pay the other half, up to \$2 million.

The Town qualifies for a USDA loan at a 3.75% interest rate for 30 years. A draft analysis by the Finance Committee shows that if we borrow \$1.5 million at 3.7%, 94¢ would be added to the tax rate. This translates to approximately an additional \$164 per year for the average property valuation of \$174,598.

If approved at May's Town Meeting, the building would be put out to bid and ideally finished by the middle of 2017.

**A final Informational Meeting will take place Thursday,
April 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall.**

In addition, some of the committee members plan to talk about the building at the Senior Meal on April 16 and host a daytime Open House on April 25 at the present Highway/Fire building, corresponding with the Fire Fighters' Pancake Breakfast.

—*Public Safety/Highway Building Committee*
Bob Bourke, Chair
Ken Gilbert, Bob Viarengo,
Brian De Vries,, Calvin Carr, Mike Smith

Email Comments: buildingcomplex@townofheath.org



The School Community

From the Heath School Principal

As I sit at my desk writing this newsletter entry there's about three feet of snow on the ground. However, when you read the entry we will be fully into the spring season! We've had a wonderful school year with much to be proud of. Our students will complete the English MCAS assessment in early April, and we will be taking the Math assessment in May. We have some of the hardest working students and staff in the district and I'm confident that we'll retain our Level I State designation again next year.

We will be hosting our annual drama production at the Heath School on April 16 and 17. This year we are presenting *The Chronicles of Narnia*. We are so lucky to have such a strong group of community volunteers who support student enrichment. We've been able to offer after-school writing workshops, drama club, soccer, baseball, basketball, music, dance, science clubs and much more, due in large part to our parent and community volunteers.

In February, Kerrie McNay, a Heath parent, wrote and directed a Stone Soup production with our whole school. We hosted the Heath Senior Center participants for lunch and they stayed for the play. It was well received by our friends from the senior center and we hope to invite them back this spring.



I'm also excited about a new opportunity for the Heath School that will benefit our children for many years to come.



We have been able to offer a three-day-per-week preschool for several years now, but we are making the move to a five-day-per-week program for all interested three- and four-year-olds. The town of Heath has graciously appropriated funds each year to keep our program free to Heath residents and I look forward to the town's continued generosity.

We are anticipating one of our largest Preschool/ Kindergarten classes in several years and are expecting to add an additional paraprofessional to support the students. As I stated, the town of Heath has always been very supportive of the school budget and I don't anticipate that will change, but I will ask that folks head to Town Meeting this May and support the school budget with the additional preschool paraprofessional. As always, feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. I can be reached at school at 413-337-5307 or by email at eglazier@mohawchools.org.

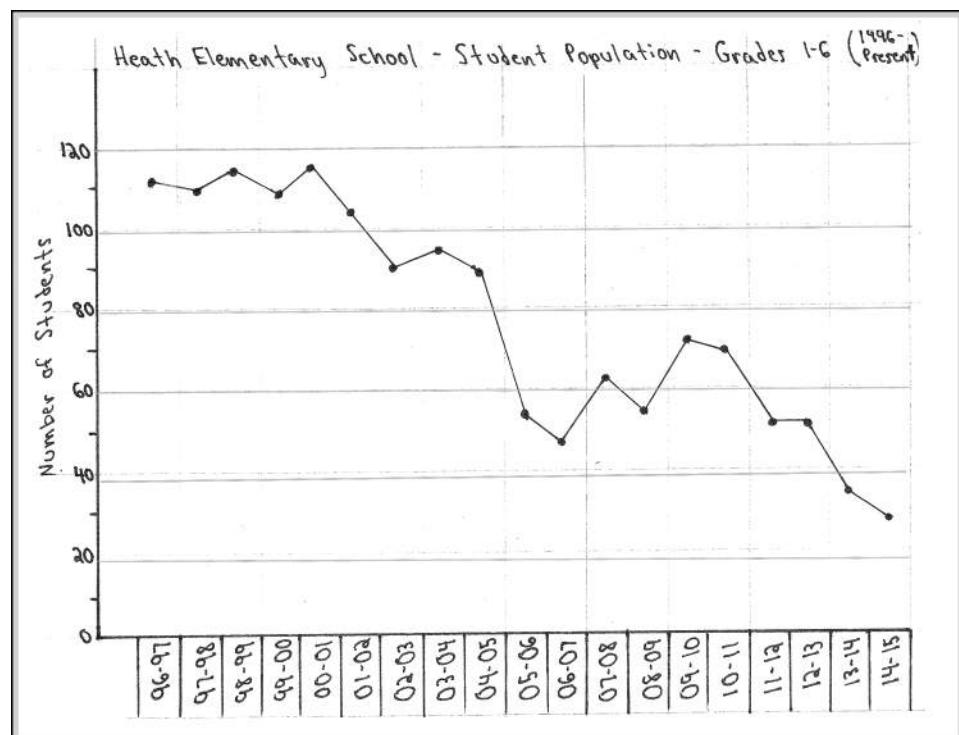
—Eric Glazier
Principal

Stone Soup is a folk tale in which hungry strangers trick local townspeople into sharing their food by boiling a stone in a large cooking pot. Curious townspeople come to see what the strangers are doing, each adding a bit of food from their households. Eventually a hearty "stone soup" is created that all may share. The story is usually told as a lesson in cooperation, especially amid scarcity.

Heath School Population from 1996 to Present

How this graph came to be is that I went to the office to get records on the school attendance to find out how many 1-6 graders there were each year. My graph shows from 1996 to present and I made a prototype, then I re-formatted the graph.

—Seth Healy
Grade 4



Middlesburg Project

Middlesburg started in the Middles classroom (grades three and four) at Heath Elementary School as a science project following the school-wide science theme of Changing Landscapes: Forest and Farmlands. The students initially created a model of a landscape. The students decided that soil would work best, as it can be molded and shaped to mimic a landscape that changes over time.

We built a 4' x 2.5' frame and attached it to a moveable table with wheels so it could be shared with the rest of the school. The students were so engaged in this project that I decided to carry it across the entire curriculum. We currently use Middlesburg, a colonial town, to learn about science, math and history, and also for personal narrative writing.



They are trying to build something that will stand the test of time. The students are learning that the decisions they make today will shape the future, so they consider pros and cons carefully before moving forward. The Middlesburg Project, beginning in colonial times, will continue through the end of the American Revolution. When all is done it will have covered over 100 years of American history through an engaging project that students have thoroughly enjoyed. Next we plan on jumping into explanatory/informative writing and eventually opinion pieces. The students will learn what it takes to build a community, how to work together, and how the decisions they make affect the world they live in.

—Scott Sarich
Middles Classroom Teacher

Student Responses to the Middlesburg Project

“We have been learning about how the earth changes through Middlesburg so we can understand what nature does since we can’t see it very much.”

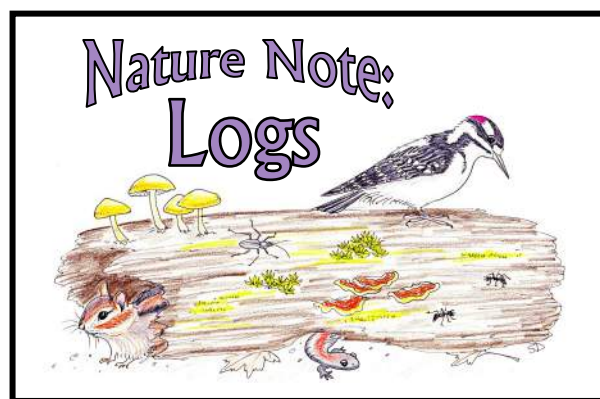
—Umi Burns, Grade 3

“It was fun! I learned what happens to Middlesburg when there are landslides and other things happening. I think my writing has improved from this.”

—Christian Eastman, Grade 3

“The project has helped me with learning more about nature and how landslides can be caused.”

—Kaylin Sumner, Grade 3



Some of the most important trees for wildlife in a forest are no longer alive or even standing. Fallen logs are essential as shelter, nesting sites, or sources of food for many species of animals.

Logs are the basis of entire food webs. As an example, **slugs, pill bugs, and centipedes** live off the decaying wood and in turn provide food for **ground beetles, salamanders, and shrews**. These are eaten by larger animals such as **skunks, owls, and foxes**. The mushrooms that grow on logs are eaten by **squirrels, mice, and deer**.

Hibernating animals from **black bears** to **garter snakes** to **mourning cloak butterflies** use hollow logs.

Squirrels and **chipmunks** use logs as roadways to cross the forest floor.

Logs give ground-nesting birds such as **hermit thrushes** a place to perch.

Ruffed grouse often choose a log as a platform for their drumming to attract a mate.

How many other creatures can you think of that use logs?

Note: If you roll over a log to look for animals beneath it, don't forget to carefully replace it and leave it the way you found it so that those creatures will still have their shelter.

—Susan Draxler

Mohawk Trail Regional School Junior Class Auction

11 a.m., Saturday April 25, MHTRHS
There will be a live auctioneer as well as a silent auction. Items include everything from local gift cards to work by local artisans and **even a tractor**. There will also be food, a bake sale and side activities for children.



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The Way We Love to Eat

Recipes using local foods, by local folks

Local Heritage Pulled Pork Chili Recipe

This recipe was adapted from a beef chili that I created and have been making for over thirty years. I also make pulled pork, so after buying a quantity of local Heritage Pork from our Heath neighbor Jessica Van Steensburg, I tried combining the two into a local Heritage Pulled Pork Chili. I virtually never follow written recipes when I cook, so naturally, I have never written down any of the "recipes" for dishes I have created myself.

There are some basics that go into each of my usual dishes, but every dish I cook is a new creation every time, using whatever we have available, in whatever quantity seems right at the time. I always start preparing the chili by trimming the excess fat off the outside of the 2 to 3 pound roast of meat (pork roast here) I am going to use. Normally, I use Copra onions because we always grow a large quantity of Copra onions. They are the longest-storing yellow onion so are usually available in our larder.

To proceed: coarsely chop 2 to 3 medium or large yellow storage onions, 4 to 5 stalks of celery (leaves and all), and 2 green and 2 red bell peppers. Finely chop 3 to 4 large cloves of fresh garlic. Sauté all the chopped vegetables with olive oil in a large soup pot. After the onions and celery are translucent and slightly browned, remove the vegetables into a bowl. Add more olive oil to the soup pot and brown each side of the pork roast in the same pot the vegetables were sautéed in. Then add 2 quarts home-canned or store-bought organic canned tomatoes (I prefer fire-roasted tomatoes when using canned), 1 pound (pre-cooked) dried black beans or 2 cans organic black beans, and the sautéed vegetables. Add one bottle stout or porter dark beer (optional).

Season to taste. This is where I get creative! Add as desired: salt and pepper, organic curry powder, ginger powder, Ceylon cinnamon, chili powder, crushed red pepper flakes, and hot pepper sauce such as tabasco or sriracha. Sometimes I add a slurp of molasses.

Add water until the pork roast is covered, then simmer slowly for 3 to 4 hours until the pork roast is well done. Remove the roast from the pot and place on a large platter. Shred the pork by using two forks to pull the roast apart until it is all loose fibers with no chunks. Remove any bones, cartilage, or fat you don't want in the chili. Then return the pulled pork to the pot and stir until blended all together.

If the chili is too thick, add more tomatoes, water or other liquids of your choice and simmer for another hour. Serve with finely chopped raw onions, shredded cheese, or sour cream on the side.

—Rol Hesselbart



Rol's Pulled Pork Chili.



LIBRARY LINES

—Donald Purington

It's time for a little "spring cleaning" at the library. We have been weeding the non-fiction collection. Weeding is examining each book on a shelf to see if it is still appropriate to retain in our collection. Some reasons for discarding? Poor condition, such as stained, torn, or water damaged, a broken spine, or an unpleasant smell; out-of-date information (especially important in health and technology books); or books that have not been checked out for more than seven years. There are always exceptions to these guidelines, especially with local history and books by local authors, and some classics, but we need to keep in mind that weeding is an important part of the process of keeping an up-to-date and appealing collection of materials for our patrons in the limited space that we have.

A Few of the New Items at the Library:

See all the new items added to our collection in the previous two weeks by using the [New Titles](#) link on the Library website.

Fiction Books for Adults: *Amherst* by William Nicholson, *Endangered* by C. J. Box, *Wolf Winter* by Cecilla Ekback, *Robogenesis* by Daniel Wilson, *The Bookseller* by Cynthia Swanson, *A Dangerous Place* by Jacqueline Winspear

Non-fiction Books for Adults: *Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad* by Eric Fonerby, *Maple Sugaring at Home* by Joe McHale, *The Teenage Brain* by Frances Jensen, *Rodale's Basic Organic Gardening* by Deborah Martin

Books for Young/Teen Readers: *Imagination According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney, *Dragons at Crumbling Castle* by Terry Pratchett, *The Penderwicks in Spring* by Jeanne Birdsall, *How to Draw Cool Stuff* by Catherine Holmes

Children's Picture Books/Boardbooks: *Home* by Carson Ellis, *In My Heart: A Book of Feelings* by Jo Witek, *The Mouse Mansion* by Karina Schaapman

Audio Books on CD: *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins, *Mightier Than the Sword* by Jeffrey Archer, *The Martian* by Andy Weir, *Some Luck* by Jane Smiley

DVDs: *The Judge* (many scenes filmed in Shelburne Falls), *My Old Lady*, *Begin Again*, *French Chef 1 & 2 with Julia Child*, *Maple Production for the Beginner*

Friends of the Heath School Library invite you to...

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
BREAKFAST BUFFET AND BAKE SALE**

May 9, 2015
9:00 a.m.—End of the Meeting

All proceeds go towards increasing our students' access to great literature through events and new book purchases.

Your support is most welcome whether you are inspired to bake, make a direct donation, volunteer time, or simply partake in the scrumptious treats available at our annual town meeting.

If you are willing to donate a food item for the sale please contact Emily Cross at 337-4816.

Thank you to all who have donated in the past!

Heath's Monthly Precipitation Observed by Heath School staff and students

In this reporting period:	Rain	Snow
From January 10	1"	13½"
February	0"	49 "
To March 10	0"	5½"

Overall the month of January was not quite as cold and snowy as last year, BUT old man winter was waiting till February to deliver bitter cold, windy and snowy weather with nary a thaw in the last two months. According to news media the month of February was the coldest on record. It was reported that there were only three days in February that reached the above freezing mark. The coldest spell was during Valentine's weekend with actual temperatures around 16 below zero along with a wind-chill of minus 42 degrees and up to 8" of snow.

As we ended this reporting period, forecasters were calling for a bit of a warm-up for March 10 through 11.

—Tim Lively and Heath School Students

Cynthia's Tailoring Shop
413 337-4814

Cynthia R Slattery
tailor dressmaker

Heath, Mass.

People in the News

Michael Maus of Anaheim, California married Wilhelmina Rodénté on February 2 at the Graceland Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, Nevada.



The new Mrs. Maus is the great granddaughter of Churchill Rodénté, formerly of Heath, and has hundreds of aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces residing in our area.

The couple plans to reside in Wilhelmina's home state of Florida.

From Ridge to Reef and Back Again

The New Year found us all in a deep-freeze here in Heath. For our family, it was a brief moment to pause and catch our breath before the maple harvest got underway. By March the sap was flowing and we were busy in the woods and sugarhouse. Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple Farm is now nearly two decades old, having emerged in the mid-90s from its origins in the McCutchen family's hobby farm activities begun in the early 70s. Farming the forest now provides our family's sole livelihood and it has given us the means to raise our three boys with a strong work ethic. Moreover, the farm has been a source of inspiration and motivation, leading us to investigate the value and challenges of sustainable, small-scale family farming not only at the local level but at a global one as well.



About five years ago we began to cut a new and parallel pathway for our family. As farmers and human ecologists, we found ourselves compelled to respond to the intensifying crises of our oceans and to the collapse of both biological and cultural diversity worldwide. We knew we had resources and skill sets that could be put to good use for conservation purposes. So we came up with this crazy idea to put our family of five on a boat and sail it halfway around the world to volunteer with fellow harvesters in underdeveloped regions to help them stem the collapse of their reefs and forests. For a while, we called ourselves Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple & Marine, but in 2013 we created a new entity to exist alongside BSG Farm and in collaboration with The Ocean Foundation, a 501c3, called Island Reach.

Working aboard Research Vessel Llyr, (meaning "of the sea"), acquired through a bank lien on the farm, we now spend five months a year based in Vanuatu, Melanesia, an archipelago lying on the eastern edge of the Coral Sea.

How did we end up on a boat on the other side of the planet, you might wonder?

First, though we weren't sailors to begin with, we knew from experience and research that coral reef and coastal conservation efforts in remote areas typically lack basic infrastructure such as transportation and other capacities that a boat can provide. Acquiring a boat would provide the core framework for our services. It took some years under the tutelage of a number of captains for us to "get our chops down" and figure out what we were doing at sea. Surprisingly, we found that being farmers helped a lot with both weather and the hands-on mechanical knowledge needed to become mariners.

Second, because of our harvest and market schedule, we must be at the farm from September into April, and therefore the months we have available to dedicate to maritime conservation work coincide with the hurricane season in the northern hemisphere, meaning we knew very early in the process that we'd have to head south of the equator to look for work.

Third, we knew that Island Reach could be of greatest service in an archipelago, or island chain, such as Vanuatu where there is great need for improved access and outreach across large expanses of water (as compared to a single-island country with roads such as those typically found in the Caribbean.) There are over 1000 villages spread across Vanuatu, with only limited access to many islands.

And fourth, of the many places we've had the good fortune to visit, we've been deeply moved by the cultures and traditions of Vanuatu and the wonderful people we have met. Their traditions remain vibrant including 120 active languages encompassing rich ecological knowledge and an intimate relationship between

Ni-Vanuatu (the people of Vanuatu) and their lands and seas endures. Almost every family has a forest garden where they grow root crops and vegetables, and communities have always tried to protect their reefs with the implementation of "Tabu" or no-access conservation areas. We strongly feel that protecting this rich cultural heritage and ecological knowledge is of vital importance for us all.

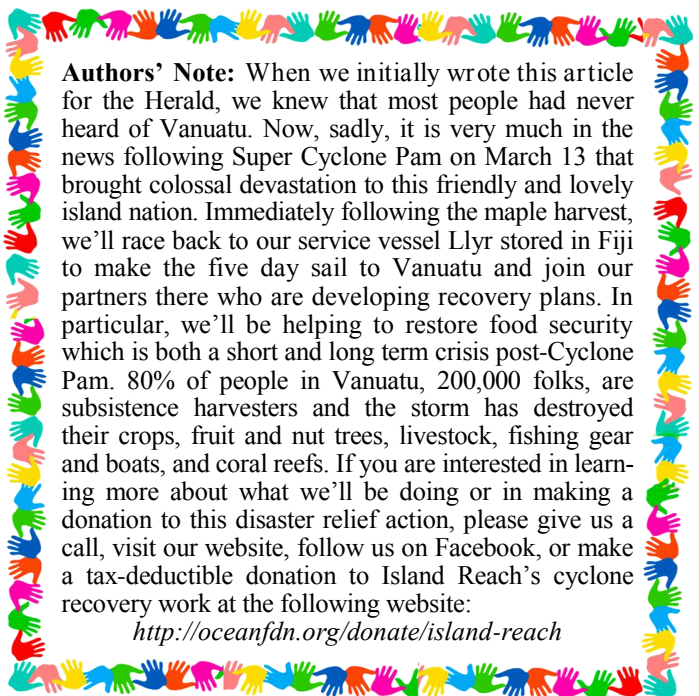
To answer a question many a Heathan has posed to us: When the harvest wraps up in April, we'll be packing our bags with equipment and "refit" gear to head back to Vanuatu and five more months of rugged life at sea aboard Research Vessel Llyr. We don't think of ourselves as "leaving" Heath, but rather knitting together far-flung places that, in fact, have a great deal in common.



This year we'll be partnering with a remarkable volunteer network of indigenous environmental stewards, known as the Vanua-tai (meaning "of land and sea"), to assist them in their communities as they develop strategies for dealing with issues ranging from coastal erosion to coral reefs in crisis, from climate change impacts on food and water security to sustainable tourism, to protecting species at risk and establishing marine and land conservation areas. We're honored to partner with the Vanua-tai and are eager to share stories about family farming, sustainability, and climate change adaptation, back and forth between the hills of Heath and the islands of Vanuatu—*From ridge to reef and back again!*

To learn more about our activities both here and there please visit our website www.BerkshireSweetGold.com; have a look at videos at the Island Reach channel on YouTube and come by for a visit at the sugarhouse during the harvest!

—Janis Steele & Brooks McCutchen
Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple Farm & Island Reach



Authors' Note: When we initially wrote this article for the Herald, we knew that most people had never heard of Vanuatu. Now, sadly, it is very much in the news following Super Cyclone Pam on March 13 that brought colossal devastation to this friendly and lovely island nation. Immediately following the maple harvest, we'll race back to our service vessel Llyr stored in Fiji to make the five day sail to Vanuatu and join our partners there who are developing recovery plans. In particular, we'll be helping to restore food security which is both a short and long term crisis post-Cyclone Pam. 80% of people in Vanuatu, 200,000 folks, are subsistence harvesters and the storm has destroyed their crops, fruit and nut trees, livestock, fishing gear and boats, and coral reefs. If you are interested in learning more about what we'll be doing or in making a donation to this disaster relief action, please give us a call, visit our website, follow us on Facebook, or make a tax-deductible donation to Island Reach's cyclone recovery work at the following website:

<http://oceanfdn.org/donate/island-reach>



Town Nurse

—Claire Rabbitt

Aging and Skin

I found the February Special Report from the Mayo Clinic Health Letter about skin problems that develop with age very informative. I have noticed how much more sensitive I am to the cold in recent years in comparison to my younger days when I really enjoyed getting out cross country skiing and horseback riding in the winter, but now I need more layers of clothes on just to take a walk. Our skin, which consists of three layers—epidermis, dermis and fat—thins out as we age and doesn't insulate us as well from cold or heat. It is also more susceptible to injury and infection and slower to heal. The number of nerve endings in our skin also decreases, making us less sensitive to pain pressure and temperature, but more susceptible to itch. This article explained how as we age we notice skin spots and wrinkles and graying hair that alter our appearance and some conditions develop that require medical intervention. There are fewer skin cells that fight infection, help produce vitamin D and protect against ultraviolet radiation.

Take heart. There are things we can do to make us more "comfortable in our skin." Moisturizing skin immediately after bathing and gently drying will help hold some moisture in. The article recommended Eucerin, Curel, Vanicream and Vaseline Intensive Care, but I prefer Aveeno body lotion. The key is getting it on before the skin is totally dry and it works best not to rub it in but let it absorb in. Unscented soaps and skin care products are recommended and those with deodorant and alcohol are not. Try not to have the water too warm (difficult for me), as hot water dries and or damages the skin more.

We are now approaching the time of year when it is more inviting to be outdoors and, although we should use sunscreen year round on exposed skin, it is most important as the sun gets stronger. Using a sunscreen with SPF of at least 15 on our face every day is the single best way to prevent wrinkles! I used to use one from Avon, but now use the Aveeno brand. It is expensive, but it lasts a long time, so I don't have to buy it very often.

There are too many skin conditions and rashes to cover in this article, but some things you should see a doctor for are dry skin that gets worse or doesn't respond to home measures; severe flaky, itchy, and cracked skin; itching that wakes you from sleep; a new rash that comes on suddenly; pain and blistering on one side of your body (could be shingles); new growths or changes in existing moles; freckles; bumps and birthmarks; or an unusual number of bruises.

On shingles prevention, the article states that if you have never had chicken pox you can get the varicella vaccine if you are younger than 60. It does not guarantee you will not get chicken pox or shingles, but it will reduce severity of the disease and complications. The article states that the zostavax vaccine is approved for those aged 50 and older, whether or not you recall having chicken pox. Even if you have had shingles before, the vaccine can help prevent having it again. I had thought it was only available to those 60 and older, so check with your health care provider. I am available if you have any questions. Please see contact information on page 22.



"I need an ambulance!"

During an emergency we all know that even a few minutes can seem like a long time. So what happens when you call 911?

When you call 911, a dispatcher at Shelburne Control will answer your call and you will be notified that the call is being recorded. This recording documents all the information given to the dispatcher, including dispatch and response times and any other pertinent information broadcast to dispatch.

After you state your emergency you will be asked a set of questions to determine your level of need. After obtaining all the information from you, dispatch sends a tone to Heath First Responders/EMT's and Colrain Ambulance EMT's. Depending on the level of need, as determined by the information you supplied, Shelburne Control may also tone out a paramedic unit. Hence you will sometimes see two ambulances.

The difference between a basic ambulance response and a paramedic unit is that paramedics are certified at a higher level so they can administer lifesaving medications and drugs in the pre-hospital setting. Paramedic service in our area would come from either Medicare in Greenfield, Highland in Goshen, or Colrain ambulance, as soon as they get state approval. If warranted, a helicopter could also be sent.

Heath is part of the Mutual Aid system, which means that if the primary service is occupied the call goes to the next service available.

While waiting for help, you can facilitate the response by compiling a list of medications to go with the patient to the hospital. Many people keep this information updated in a File of Life magnetic pouch on their refrigerator door. Pouches will be available again this year at the Annual Town Meeting.

To expedite response and avoid missing your house it is **critical (and also the law)** that your **house or driveway** be properly marked with your 911 house number, especially if you have a long driveway.

When should I call for an ambulance? Anytime you feel that something is not quite as it should be. When in doubt, call 911. If you or someone you know has an interest in joining our emergency services team, please contact Chief Michael Smith at 413-337-4462.

—Heath First Responders

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- Table Etiquette
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"Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary!"



Obituaries



Anne Koscielny Hanson

Anne Koscielny Hanson, concert pianist and pedagogue, passed away on Sunday, February 15, 2015, from brain cancer. She died peacefully in her home in Heath, Massachusetts, surrounded by loving family and friends.

Anne studied at the Eastman School of Music (Rochester NY), with a Fulbright Scholarship in Vienna, Austria, and at the Manhattan School of Music. She taught at the Hartt School of Music in West Hartford, Connecticut; the University of Maryland in College Park; as a visiting professor at the Eastman School of Music, Furman University; and the Hartt School of Music. She performed in numerous solo piano recitals, with string quartets and with orchestras, across the United States in such venues as Kennedy Center, National Gallery of Art, and the Mohawk Trail Concert Series in Charlemont. Internationally, she performed in Canada, Great Britain, South America, and Asia.

Anne is survived by her husband, Raymond Hanson (Heath MA), her sister, Margaret Koscielny (Jacksonville FL), her children: Cecile and her husband, Jim Audette (Baltimore MD), Lisa Hanson (Middletown CT), Karen Hanson (West Hartford CT), Krystyn and her husband, Dana Kelley (Bailey Island ME), four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial will take place at Hartt School of Music, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, Connecticut in late May.

Donations may be sent to Tim Keller Ministries (Redeemer Presbyterian Church, NY, NY), Life Choice Hospice, or www.caringbridge.org.

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Remembering Anne



We would like to remember our neighbor Anne Koscielny Hanson as a dear friend and remarkable woman who seemed to enjoy life to the fullest.

During the summer months with windows open, we could often hear the laughter of Anne's voice, and dedication to her music, as she practiced on her piano for hours at a time, preparing for recitals and concerts that she performed around the world, as a famous pianist. Anne's music continues to be heard in their home through her recordings by her husband Ray, their health care team, and visitors who continue to visit and bring comfort to the family.

Anne also shared a love for her flower gardens, especially her large peonies and lavender that grew along their stone entryway. Arriving guests, probably in the thousands, would walk through the rows of lovely smelling lavender and hear the sounds of water trickling from the water foundation nearby.

Our youngest daughter Melissa told us that she will always remember the times Anne spent with her, either showing her around inside their beautiful home, giving to her school fundraising projects or simply making her a sandwich and strolling with Anne through her flower gardens. Anne was like a mentor to our girls growing up in Heath. We will miss her dearly.

—Ken and Sandy Gilbert and daughters,
Christine, Jennifer and Melissa

Allen L. Sessions

Allen L. Sessions, 68, of 280 Jacksonville Stage Rd., Heath, died Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield. Alan was born in Greenfield, Dec. 21, 1946, the son of Richard and Ellen (Hillman) Sessions. He attended grammar school in Heath.

Before becoming disabled Alan owned and operated his dairy farm in Heath. Allen enjoyed planting fruit trees and gardening in general.

Survivors include his sons Allen D., Robert, and David Sessions, all of Heath; brothers Richard and Robert, both of Heath; two sisters, Grace Vollings of Florence and Sarah Bernard of Jacksonville, VT; two grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife Nancy (Hurd) who died February 1, 1989, his brother Eugene Sessions and his sister Luella Bigelow.

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Sydney Brown

Sadly, as this issue went to print, we learned of the death of Sydney Brown. Sydney was a long time and beloved summer resident of Heath. We will have much to say in tribute in our next issue. Sydney died, peacefully, on March 17 at her residence in California.

Letters to the Herald

Dear Dohn (Dohn Sherman; Road Crew),

On a very cold and snowy day you pulled me and my daughter out of a ditch.

Thank you so much for your kindness and swift response. You did it all with a smile and I wasn't even a minute late for work.

The hard work that all of you do is appreciated!

Sincerely,

Kate Bailey, Heath

We love getting the *Heath Herald* (even though we live in Colrain).

Nancy & Haynes Turkle, Colrain

I thoroughly enjoy reading the articles in your publication. It is such an honor to have my ancestors come from the small town of Heath and I am certainly pleased that Heath has maintained its small-town feeling even with many new places that have sprung up since I was there back in the 50s. I did enjoy spending a couple of days there with my Uncle Cleon Peters and Aunt Teresa Peters two summers ago when I attended a Peters Family reunion and renewed many memories of days gone past.

Ron Harmon, Lewisburg, TN

LIVELY CARETAKING

Tom Lively

Phone 413-337-4061

Cell: 413-325-1065

Email: ThomasLively01@gmail.com



PO Box 55
Heath, MA 01346



Carpentry — Repairs — Remodeling
Mowing — Fields and Lawns — Painting

Letter to Heathans

Heath Firefighters' Association

March 9, 2015

We, the members of the Heath Firefighter's Association, strongly support the proposal to build a new Safety Building. We recognize the expense the project would mean to each of us and we want to explain why we believe it is necessary for our town to build it. We believe that a new building is essential for continuing to provide Fire and Emergency Medical services for our town's people.

- The current building hinders our ability to effectively and efficiently meet the emergency fire and medical needs of our town. There isn't enough space to house all of our apparatus or adequately perform required training.
- There isn't any running water and the Fire Department does not have any sanitary facilities. We do not have the means for washing the carcinogens from firefighting gear. Thus we are exposed to harmful toxins every time we don our gear. This is counter to National Firefighter Protection Association regulations and exposes our firefighters to carcinogens and toxins from the used gear.
- When there is a structure fire in town, we must have a fire crew from another town come to cover our station in the event of another emergency. There are no facilities for them such as cooking, a lounge area and again, a bathroom, when covering our town for us.
- We do not have the room to store needed equipment.
- The current fire station, while it does provide a heated space, is very poorly insulated. It has been renovated as effectively as possible over the years to prevent heat loss, but it still leaks terribly. The building cannot be renovated further as it would not be able to meet current Code requirements. We are wasting money heating a poorly insulated building.
- The structure is badly deteriorating and it is just a matter of time before the town will be *forced* into finding a solution to replace the current fire station. We suspect the cost to the taxpayers then will be even greater because there won't be a matching grant. Though we do not want to pay higher taxes we realize that it will be more expensive in the future.
- The fire station is the site for meetings of the Emergency Management Team in the event of town emergencies. It is not a good site for such meetings in its current state.

—The Heath Volunteer Firefighters' Association

Permanent Drug Drop-Box in Buckland

There is a new drug take-back box permanently located at the Buckland police station. People can safely dispose of unwanted prescription drugs here, getting them out of the wrong hands and out of the environment. Drugs collected from the box are incinerated at Covanta Energy in Springfield, free of charge.

Prescription and nonprescription drugs, vitamins, and veterinary meds are accepted. No liquids, syringes, IV equipment, or chemotherapy drugs are accepted. Thank you.

Please call me at home, at 337-6626 if you have any questions.

—Gloria Fisher
Heath BOH Clerk

Heath Historical Society

Vacancies on the Board of Directors

It is with great regret that the Heath Historical Society (HHS) announces the departure this year of three esteemed and long-time members of the Board of Directors. Dave Howland, Pegge Howland and Jack Cable have decided to step aside this year. The HHS is inviting interested candidates to contact the Search Committee. Three positions are available: Treasurer, Curator and Director. Successful candidates will be presented to the membership for approval at the Society's Annual Meeting in August 2015.

Anyone interested in learning more about the responsibilities of the positions should contact the President of the Board of Trustees, Nina Marshall:

By email: nmarshall@cepf.net (please make reference to "HHS, Attn: Search Committee" in the subject line)

By post: HHS, P.O. Box 698, Heath, MA 01346 (Attn: Nina Marshall, President)

By telephone: 413 339-4756

—Nina Marshall

Save the Date—May 30, 2015

The Historical Society is planning a spring "Dining with History" program around the topic of agriculture. We are pleased to be working with Buck denOuden, local farm history buff, to put together this exciting event. Plan to attend the potluck supper and program, 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 30, 2015, at the Community Hall.

In keeping with our theme of agriculture, we hope to put together an extensive slide show entitled *Farming Pictures: Then and Now*. If you have any images to share, please bring them to Kara Leistyna in the town offices or call Nancy Thane at 337- 5580. We will scan your pictures and get them right back to you.

—Nancy Thane



Sightings

Gray Wolf



About a month ago, I was fortunate to get an up-close view of a gray wolf crossing Avery Brook Road just below our house. As I stopped my car, the wolf also stopped and turned to take a long look at me before wandering off.

What an amazing mammal to see close up. It was just more proof to me that what we hear in the summer is perhaps a lonely wolf howling.

Big Bear

Last spring this big bear arrived to our feeder quite hungry. Perhaps there's a lesson here.

—Sandy Gilbert



Lost and Found: Rx Ray-Ban sunglasses left at the town coordinator's desk have been unclaimed for some time. Have you been wondering where you left them? See Kara Leistyna at the Town Hall. 337-4934 bos@townofheath.org



Heath Union Evangelical Church

Sunday morning worship is at 9 a.m.
March to November.
Everyone is welcome.

Easter Services are as follows:

Maundy Thursday: April 2 at 7 p.m. at the church

Sunrise Service: April 5 at 6 a.m. at Ruth Corey's (South Schoolhouse Road, Heath)

Breakfast at the church immediately following Sunrise Service

Morning Easter Service: 9 a.m. in the Church Sanctuary

We are pleased to welcome the Reverend James Koyama as our interim minister starting the beginning of April. Mr. Koyama is an ordained minister, recently from Hawaii.

For information, contact a member of the Board of Deacons:

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

To use the sanctuary or dining room, call Esther Gallup at 337-5367.

Find us on Facebook @ Heath Union Evangelical Church

A Rose By Any Other Name continued from page 11

There is one more important issue regarding this article—actually, regarding this entire issue. Did you notice anything... peculiar? Something seem a bit “off” or suspicious? Do the Gates even know that Heath exists? Will Mickey (Michael) and Minnie (Wilhelmina) live happily ever after? Has Edith really come across the pond to start a business that will help her care for little Marigold? Well...not really.

Happy April Fools Day!



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Town Contacts and Hours

www.townofheath.org

Heath Town Offices

1 East Main St Heath, MA 01346
Phone: 413-337-4934 / Fax: 413-337-8542

Town Coordinator Office

Kara Leistyna, bos@townofheath.org
Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Exceptions posted in Sawyer Hall

Town Clerk

Hilma Sumner, townclerk@townofheath.org
Monday 4 to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to noon
or call for appointment 413-337-4845

Select Board

Sheila Litchfield, Chair, bos@townofheath.org,
Tuesday 7 p.m., Phone: 413-337-4957

Accountant

Tracey Baronas, accountant@townofheath.org
Monday 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (varies)
Phone: 413-337-4934, ext. 5

Assessors

Margo Newton, Chair
Mondays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tax Collector

taxcollector@townofheath.org
Monday 4 to 6 p.m.
or call for appointment 413-337-6665
Phone: 413-337-4934 / Fax: 413-337-8542

Treasurer

Tuesday 2 to 4 p.m. (varies) or
email to knartowicz@gmail.com

Heath Elementary School

Phone: 413-337-5307

Heath Public Library

Don Purington, Library Director
Lyra Johnson-Fuller, Library Assistant
www.heathlibrary.org, heath.library@gmail.com
Monday 3 to 7 p.m., Wednesday noon to 7 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Phone: 413-337-4934, ext. 7

Highway & Volunteer Fire Department

Mike Smith, Superintendent
Phone: 413-337-4462

Police Department

Margo Newton, Chief
Office Hours: Tuesday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Phone: 413-337-4934, ext. 10

Town Nurse

Claire Rabbit, RN
Office Hours at the Senior Center/Community Hall
Tuesday noon to 1:15 p.m., Thursday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Phone during office hours: 413-337-4847
Voice mailbox: 417-337-4934 ext. 109
Home phone: 413-337-8309

Transfer Station

Tom Flynn, Attendant
Winter: Wednesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Summer: Monday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday 1 to 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone: 413-337-664

COMMUNITY CALENDAR**ONGOING****CRAFTY LADIES**

Second and Fourth Thursday of the month
4 to 6 p.m. at the Community Hall.
Open to all, call Kara at 337-4934 ext. 0 to
be added to the email list.

**FOOT CLINIC FOR SENIORS** with Kip Moeller

Third Monday of each month at the Senior Center.
Call Eileen McVay-Lively at 337-4742 to set up an
appointment and/or arrange transportation.

HATHA YOGA

Monday, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Community Hall.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY HOUR

Twice monthly, stop at the library for dates and times.

OPEN STUDIO

Check at Town Hall for schedule, call Eileen McVay-Lively
at 337-4742. Alternating weeks of art and sewing for all.

SENIOR BROWN BAG LUNCH

First Thursday of each month, dessert & games
11:45 a.m. at the Senior Center.

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS

Tuesday, 11 a.m. to noon and Thursday, 10 to 11 a.m.
at the Senior Center.
For prevention of osteoporosis for 55 years plus.

SENIOR LUNCHEON*

Third Thursday of each month at 11:45 a.m. in the
Senior Center—*RSVP at 337-8558 between 9 and 11 a.m.
the Monday before the scheduled meal.

APRIL 2015

- 16 & 17 **THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE**
Heath Elementary School Drama Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 **LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE**
at Annual Town Meeting.
- 25 **HEATH FIREFIGHTERS' PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Community Hall/Senior Center.
- 25 **MOHAWK JUNIOR CLASS AUCTION**
11 a.m., Saturday, Mohawk Regional School.
See School Community page.
- 28 **LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE**
at Special Town Meeting.

MAY 2015

- 8 **TOWN ELECTIONS**
7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Senior Center.
- 9 **TOWN MEETING at Heath Elementary School**
8:30 a.m. Special Town meeting.
9 a.m. Annual Town Meeting
- 16 **BULKY WASTE DAY.**
9 a.m. to noon, Buckland Recreational Facility off Rt
112 South. See notice on this page for details.
- 23 **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BAKE SALE**
10 a.m. to noon, Town Hall.
- 27 **TRANSFER STATION SUMMER HOURS BEGIN**
- 28 **HEATH SCHOOL PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
7:30 to 10 a.m. at the Heath Elementary School.
All proceeds benefit the sixth grade class trip to Nature's
Classroom.
- 30 **DINING WITH HISTORY**
5 to 7 p.m., Potluck Supper and Program, Community Hall.

FCSWMD News**Pellet Bag Recycling Program**

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District
wood pellet program is a hit! Heath residents may bring wood
pellet bags to the Greenfield Transfer Station during regular hours:

Wood pellet bags ONLY. See below for agricultural plastics.
All bags must be empty and dry. Wet bags will cause the entire
load to be rejected by the recycling company. Pellet bags are
baled and shipped to Trex to be recycled into plastic lumber.

Important: shake out all wood pellets before recycling. Gill
resident Ray Purington shares a tip: "I keep a pair of rugged
scissors on the shelf above the pellet stove and cut open the
top of the bag an inch or so below the heat-sealed area. I cut
across both sides of the bag, about 1/2 - 3/4 the width of the bag,
stopping in the middle. That way, the cut flap remains at-
tached, and I've got a smooth 'spout' that doesn't trap pellets
when I pour from it." When the bag is empty, cut open the
bottom of the bag to fully release any pellets. Store bags flat
and then roll or fold the pile into a pellet bag that has been cut
at the top only. Do not ball up or crumple the bags.

NEW Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program

FCSWMD has been awarded a Massachusetts Community
Innovation Challenge Grant and a grant from MassDEP to
implement a FREE recycling program for agricultural plastics.

- Acceptable items include hay bale wrap, greenhouse film, silage cover, maple tubing, and drip tape. Shake off loose dirt, stones, and hay. Keep dry.
- The following items will not be accepted: plastic mulch, garden pots, netting, row cover, twine.
- In West County, the collection site is the Charlemont/Shelburne Transfer Station, but Heath residents may also drop off at the Greenfield Transfer Station.
- Agricultural plastics will be baled and shipped to Delta Plastics in Arkansas to be recycled into 100% recycled content trash bags.

For more information about any waste programs, contact the
Franklin County Solid Waste District.

Phone: 413-772-2438

Email: info@franklincountywastedistrict.org

Website: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org

Pellet bag flier:

www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/PelletBagFlier2.pdf

MA Relay for the hearing impaired:

711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

Greenfield Transfer Station

Location: Cumberland Road, off Wisdom Way

Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 12:30-2:30 p.m.;

Thursday and Friday 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;

Saturday 7:30 a.m.-noon (until 2:30 p.m. after March 15)

Charlemont/Shelburne Transfer Station

Location: North River Road.

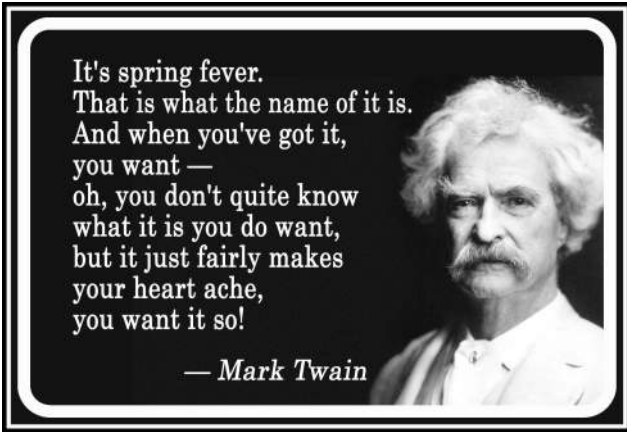
Hours: Tuesday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wednesday 3-7 p.m.;

Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bulky Waste Day [see calendar for time and location]

Bring tires, appliances, scrap metal, mattresses, construction
debris, computers, printers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and
other large items. You can also bring clean, dry and bagged
textiles and books for reuse or recycling. New in 2015: Bring
bulky rigid plastics. Materials will be recycled whenever poss-
ible. Pre-registration is not required. Disposal fees listed at:
www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html

—Amy Donovan
Program Director



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