



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

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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.

Correspondence

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

- Send to our email address:
TheHeathHerald@gmail.com
- 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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The Heath Telephone Company

By Clyde Churchill

In the 1880s two Heath neighbors, Isaac Stetson and Clifford Hager, sent away for two telephones. They strung the wire between their farmhouses on what is now the Sumner – Stetson Road, and were able to talk to each other. Soon other neighbors wanted telephone service. At first there were two lines with a simple switch at the home of Fred Gleason.

Mr. Hager was active in the sponsoring of the old original Heath Telephone Company, which was organized November 14, 1896. He was connected with the company as secretary and business manager until 1898 when he moved to Dell and operated a grocery store. At that time he gave up management of the business; he was also a major stockholder.

The company was quickly organized. It is interesting to note the costs of construction of the lines. Wages paid in those days were \$2.00 a day for expert linemen and \$1.00 a day for helpers. Only the linemen could use climbers (if they had them), so all others carried ladders to reach the tops of the polls. Work hours were from daylight until dark, yet by January 18, 1897, in a period of only about seven weeks, the telephone company had been organized, materials ordered, rights-of-way arranged, poles cut and strung with wire from North Heath through Heath Center to Dell and Charlemont, plus a branch line that was strung from the Center to Adamsville. The system was unique in that it consisted of only one wire, the circuit being completed through the ground, and each individual telephone was equipped with wet batteries. In order to become a subscriber it was necessary to purchase one share of stock for \$10.00. It was later worth \$30.00. Service was based on a flat rate and covered the whole system. The company prospered for years, laying away a sinking fund, and up until the time the system was sold out, it never paid less than 6% on the stock.

One of the tests for efficiency was for the service man to call on the line, and when someone would answer he would hold his watch to the transmitter, and if it could be heard on the other end of the line, it was considered to be in satisfactory condition. During the early days, subscribers were supposed to listen online so that in case of fire or other emergency the alarm would automatically be spread by word of mouth.

...

Feb 12, 1898. Up in Heath, it seems, there was still another method of driving dull care away. It was not enough for the people that they had sunrises and sunsets to look at from isolated hill farms. They wanted more of the human element, and so a good many of them strung themselves together by wire, and the telephone became the great part of their recreation. The Good Old Days when the minister carried the gossip as well as the Gospel were good but dreadfully slow. The telephone put most of Heath's lips at most of Heath's ears, and it was an insignificant member of the stock or poultry yards of the circle of household pets whose sudden demise was not quickly known in a score of sympathizing homes. It was wonderful what a sense of security the connection gave each subscriber. The people of this hilltown felt themselves quite in touch with the world as they looked from one of those farm homesteads down the snow-clad Valley, where there was nothing but winteriness to be seen. They were less lonely, less helpless. This little telephone circuit had been steadily growing in size and prosperity since it began.

Probably a person unfamiliar with winter life in the smaller towns of Franklin County cannot appreciate what the success-

ful continuance of this system of electric connections meant in the life of those who availed themselves of it. In business matters it was a help; in keeping interest closer it was a boon; moreover, it was a source of entertainment. Many a homely concert has flitted across the lonely, moonlit hills and dales on the wiry thread and has given pleasure not only to the nearest neighbor, but to many on the circuit who had only to hold the receiver to their ears. For them the Sunday evening singing in the faraway parlor was almost as if they were actually there. They knew just how it looked – the little family group around the organ, some singing, others playing the violin or flute.

...

February 4, 1905. A businessman who had a Heath telephone remarked although that the line was valuable to him as a means of getting business, its use was attended with considerable annoyance, because of the difficulty of getting the use of the line. There was much "visiting" on the line, largely by women in the farmhouses. An officer of the Heath company said that any businessman who was hindered in sending his telephone messages over the Heath line had a remedy easily in hand, as the rules required the "visitors" to give up their use of the line. This was not infrequently done. "Visiting" was regarded as a legitimate use of the line by the Heath people to a large extent. With country roads drifted from "two to twenty feet," it was no wonder that the farmers and their wives liked to get in a little gossip over the line. From 7:30 to 9:00 P.M. was the great time for visiting. Then often three, four, even half a dozen friends would get on the line, and the wires fairly hummed. Listening on the line was against the rules, and at least one telephone was taken out for that offense.

...

August 18, 1918. The switchboard was moved to Heath Center to John Stetson's home (later owned by his grandson, Philip Fournier). Bertha Stetson (Mrs. John Stetson) was paid \$39.15 per month for attending the switchboard. In 1926 this was increased to \$41.66 per month.

In the beginning you were not expected to trouble the operator after 9 p.m. or before 7 A.M. except in extreme emergency. There were nine lines in the town of Heath, all party lines, plus three trunk lines. By 1922 there were eighty-five telephones and seventy-five subscribers.

The telephone poles were cut in local wood lots. The price was .75 each; this was increased to \$1.25. In 1908 the expenses included two wall telephones (\$19.40), 125 batteries (\$21.19), fuses (\$2.60) and one hundred brackets (\$1.25).

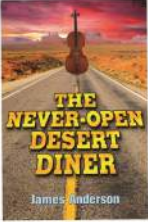
The collector or treasurer was paid four percent of the rentals collected.

January, 1921. There was much discussion on how to stop listening on the lines. It was finally left up to the directors to do their best to stop it.

December, 1921. A meeting was held to decide whether bills for October first to January first were to be sent for the usual amount on account of lack of service since the ice storm of November 29, 1921. The majority of directors were in favor of charging full price for service. It was finally decided that Director Arnedos Lively would accompany the collector and talk the matters over with subscribers as the bills were delivered.

May 22, 1922. A meeting was held to discuss the matter of damages to a horse that was hurt in the company wires near the home of W. E. Church in Whitingham, Vermont. The directors decided that Isaac Stetson and Fred Stone were to go and see the horse and talk with Mr. Church about the matter.

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Damages finally allowed amounted to \$25.00. Back phone bills and how to collect them were also discussed at several meetings. The Heath Telephone Company had to borrow money for current expenses from the bank.

...

June 13, 1930. A meeting was called to order by President F. E. Stone. The business at hand was to decide the future of the company. Mr. Clifford J. Hager made a motion to liquidate the company. Mr. H. E. Stetson supported this motion. The motion passed favorably. It was voted to accept the new offer of the New England Telephone Company, and the directors would deal directly with this company.



Clyde Churchill with
granddaughter Ruth Ayers

I was fortunate to be asked on occasion to take a ride with my parents to the boyhood home of my father, Charles S. Churchill. It was located in Heath, just six miles from our home in Charlemont. In the summer there was a two-seater surrey with the fringe on top, and in the winter we used a lightweight "travois" sled. Mother and the smaller ones would be comfortable and warm with blankets. Horsepower was used, sometimes one horse and sometimes two, depending on the condition of the road.

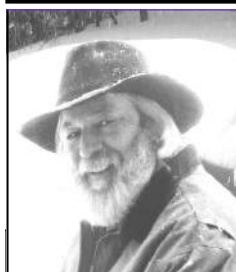
It seemed that Mother had a secret desire to surprise Grandmother Churchill upon arrival. She never called ahead. But Grandmother always knew that we were on the way. How? The Heath Telephone LOCAL was in use soon after we passed the Canedy place at the top of Dell Hill. Grandmother always had on a good clean dress and apron, and her hair was combed and in place (not a wig). Grandmother had a great deal of satisfaction from a telephone. I daresay that she did not think of it as a gossip instrument, only as a diversion from her daily household work. She never liked others to listen in on her conversations, yet as I recall, should the phone ring—not her number—she would drop what was at hand and dash to the phone and very carefully take up the receiver from the hook. Perhaps she wanted to make certain that there was no fire in the neighborhood.

...

Abridged from *The Book of Heath*, Susan B. Sylvester, Editor © 1985 The Heath Historical Society. Used with permission of Hilma Sumner, daughter of Clyde Churchill.

[Editor's Note: In recent reminiscing about the olden times of party-line phones, Judy Clark mentioned that when she and Roger were courting, a certain relative was known to listen in on their calls. How did Judy know? She would hear a clock ticking and chiming in the background!]





Wild Ramblings

—Bill Lattrell

Long Before Al Gore Invented the Internet

It is mid afternoon. Save for the slight sound made by rustling leaves put in motion by a gentle breeze, the forest is quiet. I'm standing near the dead center of an area of forest that covers thousands and thousands of acres and is adjacent to and south of our homestead. It is rugged country full of high ridges and deep ravines. I am standing in one of the ravines; woods full of American beech, hophornbeam, sugar maple, black birch, red oak, and red maple. Striped maple and witch-hazel fill in the gaps underneath the tree branch canopy. Hugging the ground there is goldthread. Later in the year there will also be cinnamon fern and crested wood fern.

People once tried living here and failed. Old stone foundations to abandoned domiciles and barns dot the landscape. The area was too remote. There was too much bedrock close to the surface and the land was not conducive to farming. Sunlight was limited by high ridges both north and south. Access was difficult due to the topography. It is a place best left for wild-life and poorly suited for human habitation. At least for some. I find the remote location to be exactly what feeds my soul. The wild in the woods is holy to me. There is nothing more and nothing less required to make me full of joy.

It is the quiet that catches my attention on this cool April afternoon. Even the spring birds are silent. If I didn't know better I would think that the forest was still at rest from a long hard winter. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even though we are a month behind when it comes to spring-like conditions, there is still much biological springtime activity. Much of this takes place underground. The microbes in the soil are now active. The temperature is good for natural chemical reactions in the soil. And mycorrhizal fungi are busy transforming soil and making important elements available to the forest.

It is the thought of the symbiotic relationship between the subterranean fungi and the forest that catches my attention. Although we have been aware of mycorrhizal fungi since the latter half of the 18th century, we have only recently begun to understand its critical role in the natural world, particularly to plant communities. Not too long ago scientists found that there is a true symbiotic relationship between this underground fungi and the trees that inhabit forests. The fungi is comprised of huge numbers of filaments known as hyphae. The hyphae are so small that they can fill the tiniest of voids in the soil. So tiny, in fact, that a one-quart pot with a plant in it can have roots with over two kilometers of hyphae attached! The network of hyphae is often referred to as mycelium. The hyphae can process important nutrients like phosphate in a form that is significantly easier for a plant, a tree for instance, to utilize. The fungus can also extract water from the smallest fragment of soil. In turn the tree's root provides structure for the fungal system and the fungi can utilize carbohydrates and sugars that are made by the plant. In simple terms it is the perfect relationship. Each plant is, in essence, providing necessary sustenance for the other.

But recent discoveries by scientific researchers have taken the relationship between mycorrhizal fungi and the forest to another dimension. It turns out that plants have, and have had, an effective and communicative superhighway of information that can not only be shared between like species but also between different kinds of plants, a natural internet. A nature-wide web so to speak. And when you consider that 80-90 percent of all plant species have a relationship with mycorrhizal fungi and that there are thousands of different kinds of this subterranean fungi, the possibilities are nearly infinite. We now know that when a plant gets a disease or is infested by a pest, it relays a message through the hyphae. Many plants have defense mechanisms that can be activated which allow them to either survive the onslaught or prevent it from occurring at all. Even more interesting, one Canadian researcher, Suzanne Simard, has shown that a paper birch can share carbon with a completely different tree species, the Douglas fir, via the mycelium. Further, different plants have been shown to share phosphorous and nitrogen. This could be a miraculous advantage, for instance, for a waterlogged hemlock in standing water where nitrogen is not available to be able to get nitrogen from another nearby tree situated in well-drained soils where nitrogen is readily available! Ms. Simard also has demonstrated that mature trees utilizing connected mycelium often share carbon with saplings that may have a hard time extracting the element from the soil due to their young age and undeveloped roots. Old trees actively taking care of young trees! How wonderful is that!



Image courtesy of UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research

The mycorrhizal connections can span huge areas. Entire forests are connected via the mycelium network allowing plant communications to be shared amongst a variety of species. It is thought that this information is shared through the release of chemicals. Some believe the chemicals may induce an electromagnetic communication system; others believe the biological chemicals are directly responsible for the messages relayed. That plants have been communicating through a biologic broadband network is simply amazing. And because the communications within the massive network of fungi can transmit different messages, one can even say that it uses a language: a language of biochemical transmissions that relay necessary messages for other plants to survive. And while Al Gore did not say, "I invented the internet," but rather made a political gaffe when he stated in an interview that he "created the internet" through legislation, it is apparent that the original internet was not human made at all. It is pretty clear that the natural world had produced this miraculous creation for thousands and thousands of years before humans even started to use fire.

Continued on following page

Wild Ramblings, continued from previous page

And here I stand within a forest that has already achieved a marvelous level of communication, a level of natural sophistication that humans have only recently recognized and begun to understand. Natural ecosystems have evolved, perhaps even learned, to have mutualistic relationships that benefit the larger natural system. They seem to recognize the necessity of life and death for preservation of the greater good. They seem to utilize cooperation to achieve goals that benefit all in the long term. Natural ecosystems seem to have a way of recognizing and responding to threats that benefits each member of the ecological community. And they seem to have a communication system that is nearly universal and can be freely utilized by all other species connected.

In retrospect I can only conclude that these natural systems are far superior to the way humans perceive and relate to their environment. And though we may have given ourselves credit for being on top of the earth's natural hierarchy, we may, in fact, not be the most advanced species on the planet.

It makes one wonder.

—Bill Lattrell

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FRIDAY 5 P.M.—11 P.M.
SATURDAY 8 A.M.—10 P.M.
SUNDAY 8 A.M.—5 P.M.

Cellars & Cave Tour

The Second Annual Cellars & Cave Tour—a grand success!

The Heath Agricultural Society held the Second Annual Cellars & Cave Tour on the fourth Saturday of March. Amidst the cold and snow, attendees from near and far came up and over the hill, excited to be in Heath to learn new skills. This year, in order to expand our agricultural/artisanal offerings, we expanded to include our friends in Colrain.

A crowd of sixty showed up to enjoy a tour of four sites: The Col Maxwell Farm root cellar, hosted by Sue Draxler; The Manse cider cellar, hosted by Doug Mason & Nina Marshall; the Katywil Farm cheese cave, hosted by Haynes and Nancy Turkle, and the Stone Man Brewery, hosted by Justin Korby.

Participants spent the morning touring the various cellars and caves while learning the do's and don'ts associated with the arts of storing food, making cider, brewing beer and making cheese. We all returned to the Community Hall for a delicious lunch graciously donated by local members of the Heath Agricultural Society and its friends. We had 12 crocks of steaming hot soups and stews, accompanied by locally made breads, sweet cider. The energy and good spirit amongst the

crowd was contagious. One out-of-town participant told us "You could sum up the sense of community here in Heath by just looking at the beautiful line-up of locally made soups."

After lunch forty participants stayed on for the new afternoon workshops. Attendees could choose from Cider Making, with Bob Bourke; Cheese Making, with Sheila Litchfield; Beer Brewing, with Justin Korby; or Smoking and Curing Meats, with Haynes Turkle. These workshops offered hands-on learning and the feedback we received was fantastic!

One participant, when asked "what other subjects, relevant to an agricultural society, would you wish to see us include in future educational events?" said, "How can Heath take over the United States." What a nice compliment for our community!

A big thank you to all of the local folks who helped to make this event possible. Special thanks to those who made/donated food and to the steering committee members: Kara Leistyna, Bob Bourke, Jeff Aho, Doug Mason, Nina Marshall, Nancy Turkle, Haynes Turkle, Justin Korby, Sue Draxler and Justin Lively.



Photos courtesy of Katywil Farm Community

The Heath Agricultural Society was thrilled at the event's success and is excited to bring it back next year. If you have ideas for other tour or workshop topics we would love to hear from you. We also welcome your attendance at our monthly meetings which are held the first Wednesday of the month at the Fairgrounds. Mark your calendars for the 98th AHeath Fair, August 21, 22 and 23 this year.

Contact tour organizer Jessica Van Steensburg at 413-339-4904 or email wecanfarminheath@gmail.com.

—Jessica Van Steensburg

Heath Fair Hosts 5th Nationally Sanctioned Dairy Goat Show

On Saturday August 22, beginning at 10 a.m., Heath Fair will once again host a dairy goat show that is nationally sanctioned by the American Dairy Goat Association (ADGA). We anticipate that eight different breeds of beautiful dairy goats will be competing. Entrants come from all over New England to this competition, and they tell us that they love coming to Heath Fair. Help us make them welcome! Come watch the show and thank them for coming.



ADGA

If you would like help sponsor the Dairy Goat Show, contributions would be greatly appreciated to help support the cost of ribbons, grand prizes and judging fees. Please send your donations to "Heath Fair" with "Goat Show" in the memo line and mail to Sheila Litchfield,

220 Route 8A South, Charlemont 01339. See you at the Heath Fair August 21, 22, 23!

—Sheila Litchfield

Congratulations Mohawk Trail School Graduates

Veronika Allen

Veronika Allen has lived in Heath since 2007. She attended the Heath Elementary School as a sixth grader and has been a member of the Mohawk community since 2008. Veronika wants to work in customer service or with children. She is happy to be a 2015 graduate but will miss the friends she has made through the years. Veronika would like to say thank you to the Heath community members that made her 12th birthday so special (her birthday was celebrated on the evening of December 12, 2008 at the Senior Center in the aftermath of the ice storm when the Center was being used as an emergency shelter for folks without power.)



Eric Shattuck

Eric Robert Shattuck was born in Greenfield MA and was raised in Heath since he was five years old by his loving grandparents, Lea and Charles Shattuck. His mother Theresa Shattuck resides in Turners Falls. Eric attended the Heath Elementary School and then Mohawk Trail High School. He played every sport except soccer. Eric loves skateboarding, swimming, and chilling with his friends. He will be attending Greenfield Community College in the fall, majoring in Criminal Justice with the intent of becoming a Law Enforcement Officer.

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Steve Charlton

We are very proud to announce our 2015 Mohawk High School graduate Stevie Charlton. Stevie has accomplished all of his requirements to graduate, and will continue his education toward learning working skills and becoming more efficient in everyday living in a Post-Graduate program at Mohawk High School. My son Stevie is a remarkable individual. He is always willing to lend a helping hand, and we are honored and blessed to have him in our lives.



Stevie attended the Heath school before going on to Mohawk. He lives on Number Nine Road with his dad, and three sisters.



Eli Smith

I am graduating this year from Mohawk Trail Regional High School. During my senior year I did dual enrollment at GCC. I also started playing the guitar in my senior year. In 9th grade I participated in track. I have been a Heath volunteer firefighter since I was 14 years old. I am currently in the process of obtaining my EMT certification. After I graduate I will pursue my goal of becoming a full time firefighter.

Caitlyn Wilkins

Being from a family of scuba divers, I have had an interest in the oceans since I was very little. I decided in middle school that I wanted to be a Marine Biologist and so far that interest has only deepened.

Next fall I will be attending Salem State University, majoring in Marine Biology with a minor in Chemistry. I have been accepted into the honors college, which I believe will help me achieve the goal I have been striving towards for so many years.

I am so thankful for all the experiences I have had in the past and I'm looking forward to the journey coming up in just a few months.



CLASS of 2015



Mohawk Trail Regional School Dates

June 4, Senior Awards Night, 6:30 p.m.

Mohawk Auditorium

June 7, Graduation, 1 p.m.

Mohawk Football Field

Contact Lynn Doyle

413-625-9811 or

ldole@mohawkschools.org

for more information



Thanks to all who
made this year's

Firemen's Pancake Breakfast

A Success !

We had a record turnout at the
breakfast on April 26 with around
136 people attending!

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Green Thoughts

—Pat Leuchtman

Annual Rose Viewing

For over 25 years the arrival of June for us means time to prepare for the Annual Rose Viewing here at the end of the road. It was not always so.

In 1980, our first spring in Heath, I planted Passionate Nymph's Thigh next to our front door where it still blooms, laughing away any damage caused by the icicles crashing down on it every winter. The Passionate Nymph is tough, as well as fragrant and delicately pink. I carried out plans to buy a few more roses, but I never planned on an Annual Rose Viewing.

In 1985 we invited friends over for tea and cake and to admire the dozen roses I had inexplicably planted in the middle of the lawn; the rose tour didn't take long. I clearly remember Sheila Litchfield asking for a second piece of cake, and saying "We should do this every year!"

And so we have. The Annual Rose Viewing finally found its ritual date on the last Sunday in June, which is June 28 this year. I am always glad when the last Sunday is late in the month because I usually start talking to the rose buds in mid-June, urging them not to be shy and to open for admiration before the Rose Viewing.

On May 1, I strolled down the Rose Walk and as I write I can see some leaf buds and it looks like most of the roses have come through our terrible winter in pretty good shape. Deep snow does provide good protection.

The very hardy rugosa roses are already producing lots of fat green leaf buds and sending out new shoots.

I have to admit that for every rose still surviving, another rose sighed her perfume into the air and then expired. That is because roses have a hard time in our Heath climate, where the Montreal Express comes whipping across our fields and down the Rose Walk every winter.

Many roses have proven too tender for Heath, and I believe a few have not been planted properly so I am personally responsible for those deaths.

It is true that some of the roses do not grow quite as vigorously as they might where temperatures are less frigid and winds are kinder. I always remember Elsa Bakalar's story about the time her brother visited from England. She gave him the tour of the garden and he stopped at Elsa's single rose bush. He asked what variety it was, and Elsa in exasperation said, "It's Queen Elizabeth, of course!" He sniffed and said, "Oh, I didn't know there was a dwarf variety," and continued on around the garden. Elsa said she limited herself to a silent grinding of teeth.

Later, as I added more and more roses, Elsa told me that she could never keep

a Queen Elizabeth rose alive for more than two or three years before she would have to plant a new one.

In addition to the antique and hardy roses like the rugosas, I have been given roses from other Heath farms. I call these the Farmgirls and named them after the farmer or the farm. They include Rachel, given to me by Rachel Sumner the year before she died; Alli's Pink, given to me by Alli Thane-Stetson; and Terri's Pink, given to me by Terri Pettingill from her mother's garden in Maine. Our librarian, Don Purington, arranged an invitation to his family farm in Colrain to collect some roses. I gained a spiny yellow rose, a vigorous pink rose that blooms in clusters, a wild and vicious pink rambler, and a tall romantic pink rose, all with a Woodslawn name – and a very good friend in his sister Carol.

After living here for several years I was doing a major pruning of the snowball bush at the corner of the house. There I found a small, but lovely and very hardy pink rose hiding amidst the snowball foliage. I call that rose Mabel, after Mabel Vreeland who once lived in our house, and who was our very good neighbor the first years we lived here.

Visitors to the Rose Viewing are drawn to different roses. Some admire the stature and unusual foliage of *Rosa glauca* even though the flowers are not notable, some like the varied shades of pink that Rachel wears, some the pristine white of elegant Mount Blanc, and some admire Applejack and the stories of its hybridizer Griffith Buck. After World War II Buck got his Bachelor's degree and his PhD at Iowa State University. There he began hybridizing roses for hardiness. While it was not his original intention, he also bred for disease resistance, partly because his program did not have money for chemical sprays.

I have enjoyed learning all the stories and making so many associations. And I enjoy sharing the stories with visitors who attend the Rose Viewing. Many visitors have stories for me to enjoy. Of course, some visitors simply want to enjoy the sun (it never rains on the Rose Viewing) and the perfumed Heath breezes. Did I mention lemonade and cookies in the Cottage Ornee?

Our garden party is about the roses, but I have often wondered if there are other gardeners with gardens that are at their peak in high summer with perennials like astilbe, hibiscus, or ligularia and all the sunny flowers, such as heliopsis and helemiums. An early autumn garden can be glamorous with dahlias, chrysanthemums, and asters. I've thought about gardeners with specialty gardens like a woodland garden with spring bloomers as well as ferns and hostas, or a garden featuring ornamental grasses. Think of all the special Open Garden Days one could have in a town every year.

The invitation is open and I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Rose Viewing on Sunday, June 28 from 1 to 4 p.m. Mark your calendar. The peonies will be blooming too.



[Editor's Note: Elsa Bakalar was a Heath garden designer and author of several articles and books; 1919 - 2010.]

Late breaking news—Pat and Henry have purchased a new home in Greenfield, hence, this is to be *The Last Rose Walk*. Don't miss it!

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Immigration: Proud Past, Troubled Present

The Charlemon Forum, an annual topic-specific informational and educational program, is scheduled to take place June 19, July 8, and August 6. All programs begin at 7 p.m. at the Charlemon Federated Church. The Council for Massachusetts Humanities, which receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, has provided a grant of \$5,000 in support of the 2015 Forum series. These monies, combined with local cultural council grants from Charlemon/Hawley, Buckland, Amherst, Shelburne, Rowe, and Heath make this annual series possible.

On Friday, June 19, archeologist Dr. Aaron Miller, in the context of celebrating Charlemon’s 250th anniversary, will focus on the history of Charlemon from the earliest identified Native American occupation, approximately 6,000 years ago, to the arrival of Anglo-European settlers in the mid-18th century. A showing of local artifacts will accompany his talk.

[Editor’s note: In its earliest days, Charlemon included the area that became Heath in 1785.]

On Wednesday July 8, David Hernandez, Assistant Professor of Latin American Studies at Mt. Holyoke College, will give a brief historical overview of immigration waves in the United States and focus on current detention/deportation proceedings. He will be joined by the Honorable William Joyce, former immigration judge and practicing lawyer, to discuss his experience from the bench in interpreting current immigration law.

On Thursday, August 6, Mayor Alex Morse of Holyoke will share his experience as mayor of a city with a significant immigrant population. He will be joined by Dr. David Martin, a leading national scholar on immigration and advisor to two Presidents, on the ethical and moral considerations relating to immigration.

In both Sessions II and III we will also hear from an immigrant to this country who will present his/her views from personal experience on the complex issues surrounding the immigration debate.

Time is allowed for a question-and-answer session at the end of each presentation.

All are invited to attend some or all of these exciting programs.



Franklin Land Trust 24th Annual Self-Guided Farm & Garden Tour

Saturday, June 27, 2015, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A one-day self-guided tour of the secret gardens, working farms and special places in Ashfield and Conway. A map will be provided with your ticket.

Some of this year’s highlights include:

A certified organic small fruit farm with perennial gardens and winding trails to explore . . .

An organic vegetable garden with value-added products and hundreds of chickens to entertain guests. . .

An off the grid home with numerous vegetable and flower gardens, fruit trees, blueberries, and a bee yard as well as beautiful rock walls, walks, & grape arbors to meander through. . .

A wattle fence woven of alder whips, an espaliered star magnolia, a collection of heirloom roses (one dating to the Roman Empire), a cutting garden, orchard trees, a woodland daffodil grove and much more. . .

A distinctly non-traditional edible landscape, rich in wild flora and fauna emphasizing permaculture, storage crops, herbs, green fertilizers and food and habitat for native pollinators. . .

A meadow garden centered by a formal urn and interplanted with vegetables and flowers bordered by beds on three sides and a rustic arbor, home to a host of roses, vines, and perennials. . .

A one-of-a-kind barn that has been artistically decorated with glass beads, old jewelry pieces and miscellaneous gew-gaws surrounded by equally stunningly-crafted gardens. . .

A thriving perennial, herb and cut flower nursery where you can wander through gorgeous display gardens and multiple stone installations. . .

A half-acre “country casual garden” with first masses and drifts of “easy-care plants” such as hosta, fern, rudbeckia, rosa rugosa, bamboo, phlox, pachysandra monkshood and iris all embracing a 1771 Cape and an 1850’s English-style milk barn. . .

Tickets are \$15 for members & \$20 for non-members.

Tickets may be purchased any time prior to the tour at the Franklin Land Trust office at 5 Mechanic Street, Shelburne Falls, MA, or on the day of the tour at the Ashfield Farmer’s Market on the Ashfield Common from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Please contact Mary Sabourin with questions or to order tickets at 413-625-9151 or send her email at:

mlsabourin@franklinlandtrust.org

[Editor’s note: The northwest region of the Franklin Land Trust includes Heath, Buckland, Charlemon, Colrain, Hawley, Monroe, Rowe, Shelburne.]

The School Community

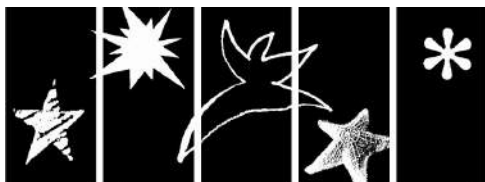
From the Heath School Principal

Another school year is winding down and we have been busy. Students have been hard at work preparing for our MCAS tests. Our students took the math MCAS in May. Our school's drama club recently performed "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" to a packed house. It was literally standing room only. Heath resident and returning director Jonathan Diamond does a wonderful job with each group of kids. They admire him as a director and he respects their individuality and talent. The students rehearsed for about eight weeks in all aspects of drama, including dance, singing, acting, acrobatics, and aerial skill work. I don't like to brag, but we have some of the most talented students in the county.

I must point out that without our many, many parent volunteers this work would not be possible. We also received several generous donations from community members, as well as a grant from the Mary Lyon Foundation, to fund our drama production. I'd like to offer a huge thank you to all who gave their time to make this a success.

Our students are not only talented, but they are also caring and giving. We continue to collect food for the Good Neighbors Food Pantry and this spring we collected items to be delivered by the Steele-McCutcheon family to the Island of Vanuatu. In May many of our students performed community service by raking leaves and doing simple yard work for several Heath senior citizens.

We also partnered with our friends at the Hitchcock Center this spring. Our students spent many hours with Ms. Helen-Anne, a teacher from the Center. Students also went on several local field trips, including farms, sugar houses, and vernal pools. These experiences were made possible through a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant. We have also been fortunate to receive the STARS residency grant for \$5,000 many years in a row.



Massachusetts Cultural Council

In addition, our students performed in the *Kids in Concert* event at Mohawk. Our 6th grade class took a CPR workshop with the EMT's from Colrain Fire Department. Several of our students participated in the district Spelling Bee at Mohawk. We hosted a very successful Math Night, organized by Marilyn O'Brien. Our music teacher, Gina Glover, also wrote a grant to bring the Springfield Symphony Orchestra Instrument Petting Zoo to our school. As I said, we've been very busy.

Have a great summer and I look forward to another successful school year in 2015-2016. Thank you, Eric M. Glazier, Principal.

[Editor's note: The Hitchcock Center is an Environmental Education Center in Amherst, funded in part by the MA Cultural Council].

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE



From an Actress

The *Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* took a while to learn, like when our scene was and where to stand. The lines took the longest to learn.

Our last dress rehearsal was not going well! It was in front of the whole school. We skipped lines plus a whole scene. It totally changed by that night.

I was nervous but I knew my lines well. I put on my beaver costume, then got my makeup done. The makeup felt weird. After it dried, my face felt stiff. Finally, it was time to begin. My first scene wasn't for a while, but I had to be in "beaver stance" the whole time. Eventually I got up and went to my spot. "I ain't gonna smell it if it's what you want." My first line was done. The play went on. Finally it was time to bow. I had to be on the outside of the line so I could lead the way running.

We bowed and I ran out up the stairs and back down the handicap ramp. Friday went in much the same order, except I got flowers at the end.

—Kaylin Sumner, Grade 3



From an Audience Member

From what I saw of the dress rehearsal, the background was nice. The performers did a great job and no one got hurt with all the stunts.

I saw that it took a lot of effort and time to make it be a good play and it paid off. I had a good time and so did the performers. This play was a huge success!

—Seth Healy, Grade 4


Marilyn O'Brien

A compilation of acrostic poems written in tribute to Ms. O'Brien, Heath school teacher

Math and school are what you make fun
A box of math just for us
Right away you know the answer
I like math when you teach
Laughing and learning are your favorite things to do,
 and I like you that way
You love your children and your students
Now you can spend more time with your dog, Wally
Outside is where you like to be
Beaches and New Zealand are places you like
Rowing in your canoe
I never want you to change
Every time you come in the room you make me smile
Nothing can stop you

—Ms. Gary's Prime Red Class

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Nature Note

Evening sights and sounds



Look for nectar-eating moths feeding at flowers at dusk. The largest and most attractive is the bedstraw hawk-moth with a 3-inch wingspan and stripes of black, brown, and pinkish orange. Hovering at flowers such as phlox, daylilies, milkweed, and lilac, these moths look amazingly like hummingbirds. They are sometimes seen resting on flowers during the day.



Listen for the loud trills of gray tree frogs at night. Like spring peepers, these frogs come down from the treetops to mate. They are 2-3 times larger than peepers but almost as hard to find. They camouflage by turning from gray to mossy green in a delicate mottled pattern. They are handsome frogs and you may be lucky enough to come upon one during the day resting on a branch.

—Susan Draxler
 Photos by Alec Draxler

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Town Meeting 2015

A 'yes' vote of 104 to 45 carried the day for this year's major issue, the building of a public safety facility to house the fire department, police department, highway department, and an emergency operations center. Discussion before the vote was far ranging, covering issues such as the location, deadlines, need for the complex, and, most importantly, the cost. From the original projected cost of four million dollars, the project has been down-sized, and with the one-time 'up to two million dollar' matching grant from the state, Heath's final cost is reduced considerably to approximately 1.8 million dollars. Borrowing to complete the new facility will increase the tax rate by approximately \$1.14 per thousand. While excavation and site preparation are included in this plan, purchasing the land will be an additional cost.



A Special Town Meeting will take place, hopefully in September, to seek approval of the land purchase. A committee of seven Heath residents, chaired by Robert Bourke, met 24 times over more than three years to bring the Public Safety Facility plans to the town.

All articles pertaining to the Mohawk school district and the Franklin County Technical School were passed unchallenged. \$772,079 for the Mohawk assessment passed unopposed, as were additional costs for Mohawk and a bus replacement. The Mohawk budget includes the cost of morning pre-school throughout the district. The budget item listed for Heath pre-school was then lowered to \$10,000 from \$15,000. That money was voted to provide full-day preschool in Heath.

The total town budget was passed after questions were answered on 13 items. All twelve articles involving transfers of monies passed after clarifications and discussion. The updated General Bylaws, which clarify and inform how the town is run, were also supported by the town. Hilma Sumner, Town Clerk, was responsible for the completion of this project.

A very special thank you to the town was offered by elementary school students represented by Austin Sumner and Will Draxler.

The meeting was attended by 167 voters.

Town Election Results

230 of the Town's 513 registered voters went to the polls, a 45% turnout.

In the only contested race, Sheila Litchfield was re-elected to the Selectboard, by a slim margin of 14 votes over Robyn Provost-Carlson.

Incumbents re-elected were:

- Town Clerk – Hilma Sumner
- Finance Committee – Gloria Fisher, Edwin Wolf, Janice Carr
- Library Trustee – Deborah Porter

- Planning Board – Robert Viarengo
- School Committee 3 years – Budge Litchfield
- School Committee 1 year – Kenneth Roche
- Constables – Steven Thane, Robert Bourke
- Assessor – Robyn Provost-Carlson was elected Assessor on a write-in vote. She accepted the position.

—Dianne Grinnell

[Editor's note: Also included in the Special Town Meeting will be the Selectboard's recommendation, after review of a more detailed business plan, regarding WiredWest fiber optics for the town. The other topic for this meeting will be the purchase of a wood pellet stove for the Heath Elementary School.

In addition, there will be a special district-wide vote on several capital improvements at the Franklin County Technical School. This ballot vote will take place on June 23 from noon to 8 p.m.]

Selectboard Report

Several months of preparation are required for an effective and informative Annual Town Meeting (ATM). Beginning in October the Selectboard meets every week up until the ATM. We hold joint meetings weekly as needed with the Finance Committee. We follow guidance in our Budget Planning Calendar, which includes target dates for actions such as the tasks for setting the tax rate, dates to submit department budget proposals, etc. The Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Planning Calendar is available at the town hall or on the Selectboard web page at www.townofheath.org.

On the town website you can find meeting agendas and also find minutes of Selectboard meetings. As you know Selectboard meetings are open to the public. We would be very happy to have you come to our meetings whenever you are interested in a subject on the agenda, or if you have agenda items you'd like to discuss with us, or anytime you just want to see how things work and what's going on. You can contact Town Coordinator Kara Leistyna to be added to the agenda if there is something you want to discuss; or you can just show up if you want to listen to the discussion. There is information on "How to be added to the agenda" on the Selectboard website page.

Selectboard business takes place in open meetings that have been posted at the Town Hall and on the Town website ahead of time, so you can always know what subjects we will be discussing. Occasionally, but usually only once or twice a year, an issue arises that needs to be addressed in executive session. But even Executive session minutes are made public in accordance with laws once the issue is no longer active. For example, minutes of a meeting held in Executive Session for litigation negotiation would be released to the public once legal proceedings were complete.

Your Selectboard values your input and makes every effort to be transparent and informative. If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or contact one of us at BOS@townofheath.org.

Sincerely,
Sheila Litchfield, 337-4957
Brian Devriese, 337-5525
Bill Lattrell, 337-5792

The Way We Love to Eat

Recipes using local foods, by local folks

Polenta Dinner Pie

This Polenta Dinner Pie makes use of fresh garden produce available now and into the fall. This recipe is versatile regarding ingredients, so it can have meat in it, or easily be vegetarian or vegan. It is also gluten-free because the polenta is made from corn-meal. I am rather proud that I made this one up myself and have often been asked for the recipe. Amounts can vary according to what you have and like, but end with a full pie dish. It is nice with a fresh green salad. Serves 6.

1. Make the crust from POLENTA: either make your own or use (as I do) an 18-ounce tube of ready-made polenta, available at McCusker's or Green Fields Market.

I mash the polenta from the tube to break up all the chunks and then press it evenly into an oiled or buttered deep-dish 9-inch pie plate.

2. Spread kernels of fresh sweet CORN (1-2 cups) over the bottom of the pie.

3. Top that with a couple of cups of steamed KALE (or any other preferred cooking green or greens), seasoned with a little tamari soy sauce or salt and some red pepper flakes or black pepper.

4. Sauté a large ONION in a tablespoon or two of butter or olive oil, then add one 25-ounce can of organic BLACK BEANS (juice and all), a tablespoon or so of cumin, a couple of tablespoons of maple syrup. Add salt and red pepper flakes to taste. Simmer gently until the black bean mixture is thick but not dry and can be spread over the top of the greens, completely covering them.

5. Decorate with fresh TOMATO slices (or other decorative seasonal vegetables, such as peppers). Top with grated CHEESE if you like (sharp cheddar or parmesan go well).

6. Bake at around 350° F for 30-45 minutes, until the pie is bubbling and the top is slightly browned.

Enjoy, and remember to substitute your favorite ingredients and whatever is freshly seasonal.

—Lynn Perry



Letters, We Get Letters

Thank You, Miles

We would like to say "thank you" to Miles Sweet for cleaning up trash on Avery Brook Road on Earth Day. Miles is from Newburyport, and is grandson to Ken and Sandy Gilbert.



Hi Heath Herald Staff,

I would like to comment on how wonderful your April/May issue was. I have to admit that I was taken in by the Bill Gates story and was about to sign my children up for the table manners class although the ad seemed a little odd (I didn't notice Edith Crawley at first). Well done!

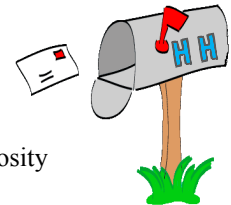
I also wanted to send my appreciation for the tribute for Andy in the previous issue. I have been sending copies to friends and family.

Thank you,
Sue Draxler

Thank You to All

Thank you to all of my friends and neighbors for your kindness and generosity during my recent convalescence.


Alli Thane



A Very Special Place

We knew the first time we came to Heath it was a very special place. These past few weeks have proven that is true. When the community learned of my illness, they did not hesitate to step up to the plate (literally), bringing delicious food, prayers, and well wishes. Myself and family can not express enough thanks and appreciation on paper for all you have done.

With Love,
Val Kaempfer and family



Congratulations

*to Janice Boudreau and Robert Dolan
on their May 8 wedding. Demonstrating true town spirit, Janice participated in the town elections on her wedding day and attended part of the Annual Town Meeting the day after!*



Town Nurse

—Claire Rabbitt

Slippers or No Slippers?

By Kip Moeller, Guest Contributor

After working many years as a foot-care nurse, I have observed a perennial problem: the drying out of the soles of many clients' feet. If left unchecked, bothersome and unsightly calluses and cracks can develop. Cracks that form, usually on the heels, can become painful and may lead to an infection. This can be especially problematic for diabetics and will require medical treatment.

Having puzzled over why this happens, I began to survey my clients. I now believe that the tendency to wear loose-fitting slippers indoors for part or most of the day causes the dryness. Unfortunately, the soles of the feet are more difficult to see as we age, so the owner doesn't always realize just how dry they may be. One way to check the soles is to place a mirror on the floor and hold the foot above it or to ask a willing friend or family member to have a look for you.

Slippers are convenient, "comfy," cheap, and easy to "slip" on and off. We don't have to bend over to put them on and can even throw them in the washing machine. Many people become attached to wearing their slippers all day.

Once upon a time, slippers, if we think back two or three decades, were relegated to the bedroom, to sit by the bed and be worn on the nightly or early morning trips to the bathroom. Slippers were usually matched with a bathrobe, and they lived close by each other.

Back then, having slippers on all day signaled that you were either sick or, perhaps, taking some downtime. Somehow, maybe because we like easy and convenient things too much, slippers found their way into daily use in other areas of the house. These days in many homes, they can be found sitting by the front door ready to "slip" on the feet upon the arrival of the wearer.

Like many things in life, easy doesn't always mean it's good for you. The cause of the dryness is friction, which occurs as the bottom of the loose slipper shifts back and forth, over and over, rubbing against the sole of the wearer's foot when walking. This gradual and repetitive frictional force generates heat on the skin, forcing moisture out, resulting in a build-up of dry skin, callouses, and, potentially, cracks. During the winter when more time is spent indoors, the dry soles become more evident, but they can persist during other seasons.

Wearing loose slippers can also have a negative effect on the way one walks. Seniors with loose slippers on their feet can develop an improper gait – essentially a shuffle. This instability or unsteadiness becomes a safety issue that could lead to an increase in falls and injuries. Occupational and physical therapists caution their patients about wearing footwear that slips off or can easily get caught on things when walking.



There are other ways to dry out the soles besides wearing loose slippers, such as walking with only socks on the feet, wearing shoes or sandals that are open in the back making the heel unstable, or by walking barefoot on carpeting. All cause friction on the soles of the feet.


Besides avoiding dry, callused feet and unwanted falls, seniors are also likely to be active for longer periods when wearing good shoes rather than slippers. I haven't yet seen a study on the use of slippers versus shoes, but after talking with many seniors over many years, I'm convinced that the actual benefits of wearing comfortable, well-fitting shoes throughout the day surpass any perceived benefits of slipper use. When it becomes difficult to bend over, Velcro shoes are available to make life a little easier. Another option is supportive, slip-on shoes with elastic laces, which, combined with a long-handled shoehorn, can make it easier to get shoes on.

As we age, our joints crave support while we walk about on hard, flat surfaces, whether indoors or outdoors. Unsupportive footwear causes not just our joints but our whole bodies to tire more easily, thus reducing how far we can walk and how long we can spend being active. Becoming more active is the result of wearing good-fitting, comfortable shoes that provide support and stability. In short, prevention is always the best medicine. Wearing good-fitting, comfortable shoes that provide support and stability can help our feet work for us. After all, we want our feet to be able to continue carrying us around for as long as possible.

—Kip Moeller, RN, CPN

Kip Moeller, RN, CPN, is a foot-care nurse working in Franklin and Hampshire counties. Send any comments or questions to kipmoe@gmail.com.

Kip is available to see seniors age 60 and older on the third Monday of each month at the Senior Center. For an appointment, contact Eileen McVay-Lively 337-4742.



Reminder

Permanent Drug Drop-Box in Buckland

There is a drug take-back box permanently located at the Buckland police station. People can safely dispose of unwanted prescription drugs there, 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




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The co-op is committed to having healthy food within everyone's reach---- check out our new **Food For All** program where SNAP & WIC recipients can receive 10% off their purchases. Stop in for an application.

Two co-op store locations, everyone welcome, every day.

Green Fields Market 144 Main St, Greenfield Mon-Sat 8-8 Sun 9-6 (413) 773-9567	McCusker's Market 3 State St, Shelburne Falls Open Daily 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (413) 625-9411
--	--

www.franklincommunity.coop



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 Heath, MA 01339

A Hat-Trick for Conservation

Start Tying Your Flies

The small twist of fate that resulted in conserving the Crowningshield farm in Heath has become a transformative experience for Franklin Land Trust (FLT) and its partner, Trout Unlimited (TU).

In a hat-trick for conservation, the collaborative project has conserved a family farm by the sale of the old farmhouse and surrounding acreage to a local farmer, protected valuable habitat for wild trout, and opened new possibilities for cooperative projects that involve riparian acreage.

For years, Frederick Crowningshield and his son, Arthur, ran their dairy farm, pasturing Ayrshire cattle. But when Arthur died in a farm accident, Frederick could no longer manage the farm alone. Fred hung on to his wish that the farm would maintain its character, but Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs) require that farms have a high percentage of soils of prime importance to the state's agriculture. No matter how one looked at it, the Crowningshield farm didn't meet those standards.

Nearly seven years ago, when FLT first became involved, Fred was frail and living with his daughter, Phyllis, in Greenfield. An APR was not feasible, but FLT hoped that, because the property had a fairly large area of open land, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game might be interested—they were not. Fred passed on, and Phyllis continued her effort to fulfill his wish. Phyllis was patient, but time was finally running out, the land would go up for sale.

Frustrated but determined, FLT's Josh Morse and Will Sloan walked the property again. Josh is a biologist and an avid fly fisherman. As he studied the pool and riffles in the river waters, he thought they looked like a great place for wild trout. He did more research, discovering that the North River, a tributary of the Deerfield, is one of the most important waters for native trout, not just in Massachusetts, but in the Northeast.

FLT contacted Trout Unlimited of Greater Boston as well as the local chapter explaining FLT would need 50 percent of the land cost to save the parcel from open market sale. Trout Unlimited was excited, but normally do not grant money for land purchase, that is, until an on-site presentation. For the first time, the council gave unanimous approval for a donation of \$45,000 toward purchase of the parcel. FLT then contacted MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, who agreed that the project was valuable to the state's fisheries and in turn, MA Department of Fish and Game offered its support for the purchase of a conservation restriction on 100 acres of the farm.

There were two pivot points in this process: FLT came to realize the value of the river, not just the land. For TU, it was a profound discovery that supporting a land purchase to conserve an intact river requires far less money, time and labor than restoring damaged habitat.

—Jan Carr





LIBRARY LINES

—Donald Purington

The library has three museum passes and a State Parks parking pass available to borrow: Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, The Clark Art Institute, MASS MoCA, and the Mass-Parks Parking Pass. Please take advantage of our passes and visit these nearby museums and parks this summer! One pass may be borrowed per household per day.

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: *A God in Ruins* by Kate Atkinson, *The Last Bookaneer* by Matthew Pearl, *Reykjavik Nights* by Arnuldur Indridason, *Blood on Snow* by Jo Nesbo, *Early Warning* by Jane Smiley

Non-fiction Books for Adults: *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough, *Straw Bale Gardens* by Joel Karsten, *The Last Village Smithy* by Ray Glabach (a memoir of growing up in Leyden, MA in the mid 20th century)

Books for Young/Teen Readers: *How Come?: Every Kid's Science Questions Explained* by Kathy Wollard, *Mosquitoland* by David Arnold, *The Tapper Twins Go to War (with Each Other)* by Geoff Rodkey

Children's Picture Books/Boardbooks: *I Wish You More* by Amy Rosenthal, *You Nest Here With Me* by Jane Yolen

Audio Books on CD: *A Touch of Stardust* by Kate Alcott, *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins, *Windigo Island* by William Kent Krueger

DVDs: *Big Hero 6*, *Grantchester*, *Interstellar*, *Outlander Season 1 Vol. 1*, *The Theory of Everything*, *Wild*

Every Hero Has a Story At the Heath Free Public Library

This summer at the Library we are celebrating Heroes: Real and Imagined! Children ages 5-12 are invited to sign up for the Summer Reading and Crafts Programs. Stop by this month to pick up a reading log to keep track of the books you and your family read together. Later in August, bring in your log to receive a gift certificate to World Eye Bookshop and other prizes.

The Crafts Program will meet at the Heath Fairgrounds four Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 on July 15, 22, 29, & August 5.



Come and make super-hero costumes with your friends and help show appreciation for our own local heroes.

Both programs are free and are sponsored by the Friends of the Heath Library, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, the Massachusetts Board of Commissioners, and in part by a grant from the Heath Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Please call the library or visit our website for information: 337-4934 ext. 7 or www.heathlibrary.org.

We would like to thank the Friends of the Library and our other sponsors for making our children's programming possible.

—Lyra Johnson-Fuller

LADIES AID BAKE SALE AND CRAFT FAIR

July 25, 2015—10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Heath Center

(look for the signs)

All of the proceeds from the Bake Sale and Craft Fair in addition to other fund-raisers are used for scholarships for high school seniors and occasionally for other causes. Last year five high school seniors received a \$200 scholarship, each. Applications for this year's awards can be found in High School guidance offices. Each recipient must demonstrate successful completion of one semester of higher education before actual receipt of their award.



This year the ladies are again offering a quilt raffle. This quilt was pieced by LeEllen Weis and finished by the entire group. The ladies are hoping to have another quilt completed in time for a raffle at the **Heath Fair**.

Obituaries



Frederick “Ray” Russell

Frederick “Ray” Russell of Heath, and beloved partner of Dolly Churchill, died this April. Respecting his wishes to move quietly into his next stage, we simply note his passing.

Sydney Thomas Brown

Sydney Thomson Brown died on March 17, 2015, early in the morning, passing away with family and friends at her bedside. Sydney was born in 1922 in Kuling, in the mountains of China. She grew up in Nanking and Shanghai during tumultuous times: there were family picnics, walks to school and the like—but also civil war and episodes of sorrow and loss.

At Smith College, Sydney met Robert McAfee Brown, then a student at Amherst. They were married in 1944 and created a marriage for the ages. The two were collaborators and companions throughout, a team that produced significant change. And they created a loving family: Peter, Mark, Alison and Tom, and built a gloriously beautiful summer home in Heath, Massachusetts, a family touchstone.

Sydney was a strong, beautiful, endlessly curious woman: an early feminist, a social activist, a teacher and educator. She fought against oppression everywhere. She was an artist, a mother, a grandmother, mother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, and friend. Here are a few remembrances by some of her “children”:

Remembering Sydney

Sydney Loved Heath

Sydney loved Heath. As she got into her late eighties and early nineties, we would ask her what she was looking forward to.

Sydney’s “to” she would always say, with that twinkle in her eye, “Being with all of you - up at Heath.”

Heath was her touchstone and it is ours too. She first lived in this magical place as an au pair for the Niebuhr family back in the forties. In the afternoons she would take Christopher and Elizabeth for walks from the Stone Cottage, and one day the three of them pushed up past the Creamery, along what was then called Ledges Road, through the woods to the top of the hill, and there she came upon one of the most beautiful views that she had ever seen. And she vowed to someday build a house on that spot.



Ned Wolf will write a bit about our parents’ courtship, which features Bob as a chore boy for the Landstroms with

Whittemore Spring as a meeting point—but fast forward a few years, and Bill Wolf, our dad’s seminary roommate, has purchased that hill, along with a house and more land, and for a wedding present sells our parents fifty acres for \$300. The inspired idea was that the Wolf kids and the Browns would grow up together – and for a few blessed decades, we did, with generations of Porters, William Wolfs, Fred Wolfs, McAfees, Wallers, Roberts, Newmans, Dyers, Deleeuws, Riggans, Comstocks, Stetsons, Thompsons, Churchills, Burringtons, Cromacks, Landstroms, Laws, Garys, Kincannons and so many others, all circling around and bound up in the generosity of spirit that emanated so strongly from Sydney.

We camped on our new land in the fifties, no house yet, and I remember my mother, an inspired cook, making breakfast over an open fire – followed by trips to the Dyers to clean up (and dress for dinner.)

Sydney loved birds and the outdoors and open views and the top of that hill was her ideal. It was her place, and by virtue of who she was and who our father was, it became everyone’s. We luxuriated in those academic summers – from early June till Labor Day. And Sydney gardened – both vegetable and flower, and took us again and again to Halifax Gorge and Harriman Reservoir, singing along the way – to Little League, and to auctions, and Shelburne Falls. She had a vision of a pond at the bottom of the Wolf’s orchard, and one was created: Pond Sydney.

Sydney’s doors were always open, and cousins and friends and aunts and uncles, and all sorts of wildlife made their way into the house. She bought a donkey and a cart. Cats on loan from the Thompsons. One summer we had a horse, raccoons another, always a snake or two. Birds with busted wings. Dogs. And students of my dad would show up, along with theologians, or Carroll Stowe. And she would greet everyone with enthusiasm. The house was full of light and fun and conversation and music – with the spirit of it all coming from her.

Dinners moved from the dining room, to dessert outdoors, to lying on blankets looking out for shooting stars.

And those well-chosen spouses! And the grandchildren! A bounty of family, friends, weddings, baptisms, memorials, fun. She entered a room and the world would brighten.

And always the Fair. People were the stuff of her life. Sydney will continue to be a part us and of Heath.

When I asked her as a kid what the purpose of life might be, she said without missing a beat: “To make the world a better place and to have a good time doing it.” And this she did.

—Peter Brown (son)

Photo by Mark Brown

Bob Meets Sydney

Bob Brown met Sydney Thompson when she was a student at Smith College. He always said that winning Sydney was difficult but he was determined. He knew that she would be working in Heath during the summer, caring for the Niebuhr children, Christopher and Elizabeth in the Stone Cottage near the Center, so he turned to his friend and Union Seminary classmate Bill Wolf for help. Bill himself had spent several summers working in Heath as a chauffeur to summer resident, Mrs. Paulina Drown, and had connections. He recommended Bob to Oscar Landstrom who needed an able farm hand and Oscar took Bob on.

Bill lent further aide to the cause by providing Bob with a hand-drawn map from the Landstrom farm on Town Farm Road to Whittemore Spring on South Road, a convenient half-

way spot for meeting Sydney. Heath's romantic setting, Bill's friendly meddling, and Bob's determined persuasion won the day. Not long after, Bob and Sydney were married. In the following years they came to Heath with their sons Peter and Mark (joined soon after by Alison and Tom) to build a house next door to our farm on land they bought from my parents. Thus began a lifelong friendship between our two families.

—Ned Wolf

There Were Always Flowers

There were always flowers on Sydney's dinner table and on the windowsill in front of the large picture window. She loved wild flowers and knew their names. She said if you ever found her car in a ditch you should look for chicory a few yards back. The beautiful blue of it would probably be what made her drive off the road. She also loved bee balm and bell-flowers. Her flower arrangements followed a special aesthetic. She never crowded the vase with blossoms. She wanted you to be able to see each blossom as an individual as well as a part of a larger arrangement. I always felt she looked at people the same way. She saw each person as someone unique and interesting in their own right as well as being an integral part of a wider community.

Sydney had a genius for friendship which she extended with the same unpretentious hospitality to visitors of every age. She leaned in to the conversation of even a gawky fifteen-year-old in a way that made you feel that what you had to say mattered and that there would always be a place for you by the fire or at the dinner table. "Put out the small plates," she would instruct with a conspiratorial smile if the dinner crowd was unexpectedly large. "People will put less on a small plate and the casserole will go further."

To the end of her life, Sydney was not one to stay at home if there was something interesting to do or see in the neighborhood. She liked to know what was going on in the world. She went out to it and brought it into her home. She had a good time and managed to see quite a lot of it. It will not be the same place without her.

There will be a memorial service in Heath on August 15.

—Pam Porter

Sadly, at press time, we heard of the deaths of Charles "Bud" Kaempfer on May 11 and his son Frank Kaempfer on May 14.

We will be including a fitting memorial in our next issue of the Heath Herald.



LIVELY CARETAKING

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 Phone 413-337-4061
 Cell: 413-325-1065
 Email: ThomasLively01@gmail.com



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**CALL FOR
HEATH HERALD VOLUNTEERS**

As we have settled in to the process of producing the Herald, we gained a deep appreciation for those who had kept this tradition alive since 1979. To keep the paper thriving, we need the energy and assistance of our fellow Heathans.

We are looking for new volunteers. We are specifically seeking volunteers in the following areas:

- Someone for paper layout, familiar with MS Publisher, or familiar with MS Word and willing to learn Publisher
- A second individual to help when needed in the solicitation of content for each issue.

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

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**Heath Union
Evangelical Church**

Sunday morning worship
is at 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome.

Reverend James Koyama
808-292-6711



For information, contact a member of the Board of Deacons

Chairperson: Hilma Sumner	337-4845
Walt Gleason	337-4379
Ruth Johnson	337-4367
Janice Barton	648-5243

News from the Heath Union Church

Come join us with our interim minister Rev James Koyama at the 9 a.m. service each Sunday morning. Also, Rev Koyama leads us in Bible Study Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the lower level of the church. Rev Koyama is in Heath each Thursday and holds office hours 4 to 6 p.m. at the church.



We hope to have a public supper in the near future, so look for a posting. Please note the changes in the list of Deacons as well as telephone number for Rev Koyama. To use the sanctuary or dining room, call Esther Gallup at 337-5367.

Find us on Facebook @ Heath Union Evangelical Church

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 1 to 4 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. to noon
or call for appointment 413-337-4845

Selectboard

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE 2015

- 3 **OPEN ART**
Wednesday noon to 3 p.m. at the Senior Center
- 10 **OPEN STUDIO**
Wednesday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Center
- 17 **HEATH SCHOOL GRADUATION 6:30 p.m.**
- 17 **OPEN ART**
Wednesday, noon to 3 p.m. at the Senior Center
- 20 **ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND OPEN HOUSE**
Saturday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Old Town House and Center Schoolhouse. Ice cream on the Center Schoolhouse lawn.
- 24 **OPEN STUDIO**
Wednesday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Center
- 27 **FARM AND GARDEN TOUR**
Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Franklin Land Trust. See announcement in this issue.
- 27 **4H FAIR**
Heath Fairgrounds
- 28 **LAST ANNUAL ROSE VIEWING 1 to 4 p.m.**
Knott Road off Rowe Road
- 28 **ANNUAL JUNE HORSE DRAW 11 a.m.**
Heath Fairgrounds

JULY 2015

- 15 **SUMMER CRAFT PROGRAM BEGINS**
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Heath Fairgrounds
- 2 **HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE**
Saturday 10 a.m. to noon at the Old Town House and Center Schoolhouse.
- 25 **DINING WITH HISTORY**
Saturday 5 to 7 p.m. at the Community Hall. Potluck supper and presentation of historic moments in Heath.
- 25 **LADIES AID BAKE SALE AND CRAFT FAIR**
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Heath Center. Watch for the signs.

ONGOING

CELEBRATE YOU!

Monday mornings, 10 a.m. upstairs in the Community Hall
Join a gentle exercise class done with DVD instruction. All ages and all ability levels welcome. Contact Eileen McVay-Lively at 337-4742 for further information.

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.
Contact 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

Alternating Wednesdays of art and sewing for all.
See the main calendar section for dates.
Contact Eileen McVay-Lively at 337-4742. for more info.

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.

Farmers Market in Heath?



Interested in a farmers market for Heath? Whether you would be selling or helping to organize the market, let us know about your interest.

Contact Jessica Van Steensburg at 413-339-4904 or email wecanfarminheath@gmail.com.

Local Eggs in Heath

Interested in participating in the Heath Egg Shed? Whether you are looking to sell or buy local eggs we would love to hear from you. Contact Jessica Van Steensburg at 413-339-4904 or email wecanfarminheath@gmail.com.



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

In this reporting period:	Rain	Snow
From March 10	0 "	4"
April	2¼"	2"
May 10	0 "	0"

In this reporting period:

The end of March was relatively quiet snow-wise except for the first day of spring which dumped up to 2 inches of snow, making for some very slippery conditions around the area, as well as a couple of snow "squall" days on April 23 and 24. We finally ended this very cold and snowy winter with **102** inches of snow.

With very little precipitation falling in April and the first part of May, the National Weather Service issued quite a few "Red Flag" days, which was indicated by many brush fires around the area.

—Tim Lively and Heath School Students



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massculturalcouncil.org

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Heath Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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