



HEATH HERALD

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Staff Contact Information

Christine Luis-Schultz, *capama98@gmail.com*
 Nancy Thane, *nancythane@yahoo.com* 413-337-5580
 Pat McGahan, *pmcgahan@comcast.net* 413-337-4078
 Jessica Van Steensburg,
wecanfarminheath@gmail.com.....413-339-4904

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Topics of the Times

Of the many topics which Lewis Nichols wrote for the *New York Times* during the 1950s and '60s, a few were printed in a book for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren by which to remember him and to have the pleasure of getting to know him. The following article is reprinted here through the permission of his son, Alan Nichols, long-time resident of Heath.

Voice of the Peeper

In the northeast part of the country these days, there is a substitute for the Biblical voice of the turtle as a symbol of spring—the voice of the peeper. He can be heard calling from the swamps, and from the edges of sluggish brooks, and he ranks with the asparagus, the strawberry and shad roe as token of the year's best season. In some parts of the peeper country, although admittedly not in all, there is a legend about him. Whatever you may be doing when you hear the first peeper of spring, this says that you will continue to do throughout the summer. It is a bit like wishing on the evening star, and nothing but good is expected to come from it. One factor is ignored, however. The first note of the peeper as he greets a warm day is very soft, very tentative, and to hear it at all you must almost be there beside him in the swamp. Unless you wish a summer of contemplation in a swamp—there was always Thoreau—it might be well not to be overeager.

The first note aside, it always is possible to treat the first peeper like the first star, so arranging the hearing that nothing but a whole summer's good will come of it. The peeper, in fact, will be an excellent collaborator on this. Due to the cool mornings of spring, often a bit of white frost on the ground—and over the swamp—he sleeps late. Thus it is that rushing for the commuting train or bus it will not be necessary to hear him. The morning depression is bad enough on its own, without being warned by hearing the first song of the peeper, that every morning this summer through will be spent in going to work. At twilight, after he has basked in the sunshine of a warm day, the peeper is in good voice. He is lyrical and gay, and who would not be with the message he carries? No one will mind it at all if he is expected to spend the entire summer coming home from work, particularly if the first peeper picks his shots well and gives voice on a pay day. A pay day and promotion day are the sign of an extraordinarily alert peeper but, alas, this has been a funny sort of spring, and there seem to be few of the alert kind around.



Many a legend can be regarded as just an old wives' tale, and in a scientific era can be dismissed as so much foolishness. Do not put the peeper's first song in this category, any more than the evening's first star. Better, indeed, to make preliminary arrangements that the peeper be heard at everyone's best, thus playing it safe on all sides. It would be a dismal peeper who is heard by a motorist on his way to traffic court.

Of the things to do, after making certain the first peeper is clearing his throat, opinion must vary, poison being to some what meat is to another. If the thumb is a green one, and besides is itching after a long winter, it will be good to listen for the first peeper while surveying the garden area just before supper. If the thumb is pointed down on the agricultural avocation—well, there are children's TV programs so filled with gunfire that no taunting peeper could be heard above them. If the first peeper is heard while on the way fishing, clearly trout can be expected for breakfast right through until Labor Day. If it is heard while wandering backwoodland roads, then let the summer be spent drifting, with the reward of a hidden-away inn as the summer's nightfall approaches. If it is heard while taking a stroll in the woods, nothing could be better than walking there throughout the summer, until the turning leaves mean autumn and the spell of the peeper is gone. But perhaps the best moment to stop still in time—with the aid of the peeper—is that most obvious one at all. What could offer a better summer than a continuation of that soaring feeling which comes only when hearing the first notes of the spring peeper?

—Lewis Nichols




Oscillogram of spring peeper's call
courtesy of Freesound.org



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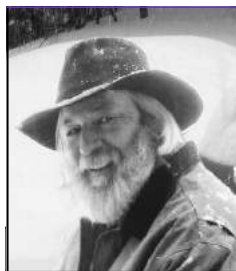
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Wild Ramblings

—Bill Lattrell

Off Trail

This steep side hill full of craggy boulders plucked from the bedrock above me by glaciers thousands of years ago is a solid challenge for my legs on this cold March day. The slope, generally greater than 60 degrees and in some places containing sheer drop-offs, is south facing and now devoid of ice, unlike the north facing slopes on the opposite side of this mountain. I find myself here as a result of wandering these woods in search of nothing other than a morning reacquainting myself with this oft-ignored piece of forest. I suppose it is overlooked because the terrain is so difficult, but it is these untraveled areas that give us the best glimpse of life in the wild. The telltale four-foot-diameter red oak and sugar maple trees reveal that this area is relatively intact, far too steep to be altered by humans removing trees for either pasture or timber harvesting.

There are dark shadows provided by overhanging bedrock knobs that provide shelter for animals during inclement weather. The tops of these remarkable natural architectural features are used as sunning spots by bobcats, snakes, porcupines, and fishers.

There are narrow paths at several different vertical intervals, perhaps only two feet in width, which are used by all of the forenamed animal species but also used by deer, bear, and coyotes. These pathways have precipitous drops, some 40 to 50 feet in height, and one missed step could prove to be more than disabling. I can't resist these areas and still find them invigorating and full of wonder.

Unlike many who enjoy our native landscapes, I am not a trail-type of person. At least not trails created by human traffic. Following the tracks of a myriad of people before me is just not my cup of tea. Areas of repeated travel, even if infrequent, lack the full embodiment of unadulterated wild. And keeping that in mind, I seldom even repeat my own wanderings twice.

I find a quiet perch, a flat schist boulder that is just above knee high, where I can rest my weary legs. It occurs to me that I won't always be able to come here, or to other spots like it. Eventually time catches up to all of us. I've seen the signs. A chronic back issue has already

limited my activity on some days. It is simply part of life. But today, at this moment, I can feel the exuberance through the cool fresh air I breathe, the sun-laden view of the forest as far as I can see, and all of the signs of wildlife that adorn this precipice. I am nothing more and nothing less than a piece of the puzzle, a link in the chain, an artifact of this forest at this exact moment in time.

Sitting here I remember a place in the woods from long ago. I was alone and seven years old, more or less, and I found a magical spot, a huge piece of bedrock, striped with quartz, overhanging a cool and wild mountain stream. I could see only the complete, wild forest. I could hear only water rushing over rocks and birds singing from the treetops. I could smell only the raw, musty earth of those woods. My thoughts were nothing specific, their only focus being to absorb the world around me. The general feeling enveloped me. I somehow felt free and yet protected. It was my first full realization that nature was my salvation.

By some sort of incredible coincidence I witnessed



my first river otter while sitting there. The otter effortlessly glided among the wet boulders in the stream in search of brook trout. The way it slipped into the water and emerged out of the water without making a splash was spellbinding. It was this experience that cemented my emotional and spiritual connection to the natural world. It was the first time that I had ever felt secure in any environment.

Looking back, this watershed moment charted a course for much of my days on this green earth. In most of the walks of life, I chose the path less traveled or not traveled at all. The beauty of life was clear when I looked at it through my own eyes, from my own perspective, and without influence from others. Eventually I would learn that I could learn from others' mistakes, but that took quite awhile. And so I stumbled quite a few times, only to get up and take a different route, which always proved to be enlightening in one way or another.

But right now, in this skin and held by this deep forest, I am willing to still explore my own personal uncharted territory. I am but a child among ancient trees. A babe in the woods, so to speak. Every plant, fungi, animal, horizon of soil and piece of rock has a lesson to teach, a story to tell and a mystery to be unraveled.

And with luck I'll be out here somewhere off the beaten path for some time to come, in search of what it is that this world holds for all of us. And that is nothing short of miraculous.



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Broadband On Hold

Heath's attempt to bring broadband to everyone in town that desires it is now in a state-mandated "pause."

The quest for reliable broadband moved forward when Heath voters, in a 2/3 majority vote on June 30, 2015, authorized the town to borrow \$1.4 million as its share of building a fiber-optic network serving western Massachusetts. The organization of choice to get this done in Heath and most western Mass. towns is WiredWest, a municipal Light Plant cooperative of which Heath is a charter member. The WiredWest plan proposes joint ownership and management of a fiber optic network through a cooperative of member towns.

With a thoroughly studied and vetted plan devised by WiredWest over five years, Heath voters agreed that this plan would give us the best chance to get a network built, while providing a means of payment through revenue sharing. We were on our way!

Support was boosted by an appropriation of \$40 million by the state legislature to get the project started. Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), the agency charged with administering this money, came to every town, professing their desire to help us get this network built.

Our understanding was that the choice to join WiredWest would pave the way for the completion within three years. Unfortunately, what was approved as a sound plan by nearly 30 towns was rejected by MBI. Why MBI chose this path is not clear.

After Director Eric Nakajima met with individual town selectboards, finance committees, and interested citizens, the project seemed on track. WiredWest officers were present to answer questions and hear suggestions. The MBI desire to help towns achieve access to broadband was always in the forefront. We were all working together. Not once was there an expression of concern nor mention of a possible change of heart by MBI. MBI would build the network and turn it over to WiredWest.

WiredWest continued to work with MBI to get the initial stages of the project started. Then, with WiredWest's plan to submit its new Operating Agreement to transition from an informational organization to a Limited Liability Corporation a few weeks away, MBI issued a statement that it would not support the WiredWest financial plan or operating agreement. None of the \$40 million would be released to WiredWest towns. Included in the announcement was the statement that MBI would itself design, build, and operate the network.

The initial plan by MBI to build the network under WiredWest oversight and turn it over to WiredWest on completion disappeared. Towns would now be putting up 2/3 of the cost of the network with no say in how it

was spent. MBI also announced a new policy that supported regional cooperation but required each town to own the individual assets in their town. This was a new development to all town and WiredWest participants. Faced with a lack of control over management of a project of this size, a reversal of plans and a new policy from MBI, towns represented by WiredWest began questioning the role of MBI.

Meanwhile, questions about MBI's administration of the \$40 million prompted the office of Governor Charlie Baker to put the project on pause so that it could be studied further. The pause was announced at the end of January and was expected to last ten days. Shortly after the pause was announced, MBI Director Nakajima submitted his resignation. As of this writing, no information regarding this pause has been announced.

Most perplexing is the lack of a plan from MBI to meet their policy demands and to counter the WiredWest plan. As of this date, MBI has neither presented a plan to build this network nor provided relevant information regarding their policy of individual town ownership.

WiredWest continues its negotiation with MBI to gain acceptance of the operating agreement, but without any counter-proposal from MBI there is very little progress to report. With the resignation of Director Nakajima, there will be a new director who will have to adhere to the new MBI plan and policies.

State elected officials in western Massachusetts are dialed-in to the project and have been instrumental in keeping MBI engaged with WiredWest, but the project is on hold. An estimate on the delayed building of the network and its expected finish is, therefore, still unavailable.

—Al Canali



The Way We Love to Eat Local Recipes by Local Folks

Thankfully, my childhood days of chicken-fried steak, biscuits with gravy, and Twinkies™ have given way to cooking and eating in a more healthful manner. Add exercise to the new diet and voila—not only do you have more energy, you have more longevity.

In an attempt to foster heart-health, Cal and I changed the way we ate about five or six years ago. Fruits, vegetables, nuts, and whole grains make up a large percentage of what we now eat. So do farm-fresh Heath eggs, chicken, and fish. Some foods are left behind, mainly those high in saturated fats—goodbye to many meats, cream, butter, and cheeses.

As an avid bedtime cookbook reader I am always trying new recipes, especially desserts, but made with healthy substitutions. This is trial and error, and believe me we have sampled many an error—substitutions simply don't always work. Lucky for us, ice cream has met its match in sorbet.

Many desserts are especially delicious when made with canola or olive oil, both of which are high in “good” monounsaturated fats. Who needs butter! I was at the library a while ago and came across a new cookbook, one of several books that Don had purchased from a donation made in memory of Jeff Aho. *Cooking Close To Home, A Year of Seasonal Recipes* is a definite Jeff-book and indeed a gem. The following recipe did not need any substitutions. It definitely is a keeper!

—Jan Carr

Maple oatmeal cookies with dark chocolate

¾ c canola oil
1 ¼ c brown sugar
2 eggs, beaten well
¼ c maple syrup
1 T cinnamon
1 tsp nutmeg
1 T vanilla
1 ½ tsp baking soda
¼ tsp salt



1 ¾ c whole wheat flour
1 ¼ c rolled oats
1 ¼ c chopped pecans, lightly toasted
1 c dried cranberries
4 oz dark chocolate, finely chopped

Combine the first nine ingredients in a large bowl and mix until well blended and smooth. Add the remaining five ingredients and mix until the dough is formed and all ingredients are well blended.

Spoon out on a greased cookie sheet or parchment paper, dropping dough the size of a silver dollar. Bake at 350° for 15 to 17 minutes. Cool on a rack, let set for 5 minutes.



Pat Sullivan, Associated Press

UMass and Harvard Announce Joint Project

Plans are moving forward for the sale of 300 acres owned by the town of Heath (part of a parcel sometimes called the Shapiro Tract in the Mohawk Estates area). The land will be purchased by the Phoenix Project, a collaborative undertaking by the UMass Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and Harvard's Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering. The purchase was made possible by a Revive and Restore Grant from the Long Now Foundation (longnow.org/revive).

The land will be used to construct a new biological research compound in support of the project, which will build on the pioneering research in cloning and genetic engineering of Dr. James Robl, a former UMASS Professor of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and Dr. George McDonald Church, Professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School and founding member of the Wyss Institute.

A previous collaboration project between Dr. Robl, and UMass Adjunct Professor Dr. Steven Stice (at that time, also serving as CSO of Advanced Cell Technology, Inc.) produced Charlie and George, two Holstein calves, the birth of which was first announced at a meeting of the International Embryo Transfer Society held in Boston in January, 1998. The calves, born at the former UMass biological research center in Franklin, Texas, were the first cloned, transgenic calves in the world—not only identical genetically, but also carrying a non-native gene that had been introduced by the scientists.

After Dr. Robl’s departure from UMass (he currently serves on the Scientific Advisory Board for SAB Biotherapeutics), the Veterinary and Animal Sciences Department has continued to stand in the vanguard of genetic engineering. With this new grant from LNF, Project Phoenix will undertake the quest for what some consider the Holy Grail in this field—the revival of an extinct animal species.

Although the woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*) has often been discussed as the potential target for revival, Project Director Dr. Ian Malcolm says they will focus instead on the mastodon (*Mammuth americanum*). Dr. Malcolm anticipates a minimum of five years before a successful live birth might be achieved, but he felt it was crucial to procure an affordable, adequately large parcel in reasonable proximity to the UMass flagship campus in Amherst as soon as possible. “We can only anticipate a continuing loss of undeveloped land here in the Pioneer Valley,” Dr. Malcolm observed, “and our project would simply not be possible on a smaller compound.”

“We are assuming the mastodon will be a highly social animal, based both on the fossil record and behavior of its nearest living relative, the Indian elephant. Our hope is to create a herd of at least four individuals.” Though this is a larger undertaking than producing a single viable animal, it will allow for the loss of one or more of the animals. “These animals are living things that have no idea what century they’re living in, and they’ll defend themselves—violently if necessary. An aggressive interaction within the herd could result in an injury or even a mortality,” Dr. Malcolm said, “And this plan also addresses the ethical concern many anti-revivalists have voiced about creating a ‘lone survivor.’”

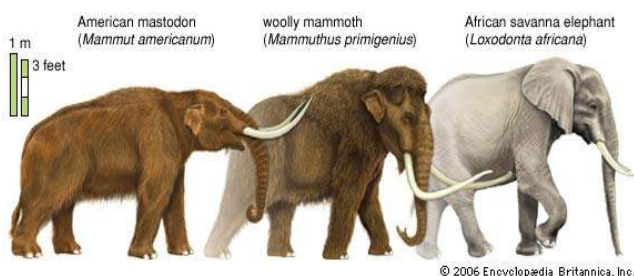
Dr. Ellen Sattler, with a background that includes PhDs in both Animal Biology and Paleo-Botany, will be in charge of the day-to-day care of any animals produced. She feels that the selection of the mastodon as the target animal greatly increases the Project’s chances for a successful outcome. The mastodon is much smaller than the mammoth, standing only 6½-10 feet at the shoulder, reducing the risk of distress or injury to the surrogate mother, likely to be an Indian elephant, during birth.

Dr. Sattler accepts that there will be unpredictable challenges ahead for the project. “Living systems are never in equilibrium. They are inherently unstable.” Sattler-Grant acknowledges. Therefore, knowing as much as possible about how these animals lived is critical to their husbandry, another reason why the mastodon was selected for de-extinction. “Many specimens have been recovered, and many of these include actual stomach contents which were analyzed to determine dietary needs.” Sattler notes. These specimens include a nearly intact and extremely well-preserved individual unearthed in a peat bog in Newark, Ohio in 1989. The “Burning Tree Mastodon”, which died approximately 11,000 years ago, was found to have a spear tip imbedded in its rib, and showed clear evidence of human butchering. Dr. Sattler points out that the co-existence of mastodons and humans is an important fact to be considered in the revival of a breed long extinct.



“Co-existence and demonstrated interaction proves that the possibility of re-introducing an unknown pathogen that could be harmful to people is virtually non-existent.”

Dr. Malcolm knows it’s natural for the public to be somewhat concerned, however. “Genetic power is the most awesome force the planet’s ever seen,” he says, “but most people don’t know how much it is already a part of the animal and agricultural sciences.” Direct genetic modification is fast replacing traditional breeding methods for the selection of desirable genetic traits, and continues to be used to produce so called “transgenic animals.” Transgenic mice have long been used in medical research; Harvard received the first U.S. patent for a higher life form in April of 1988 for mice that were engineered to be predisposed to cancer (the *Oncomouse*) for use in cancer research. We now have transgenic cows already producing milk that is non-allergenic, that kills bacteria, or that is protein-enriched. Still, Dr. Malcolm assures the public that no expense will be spared in ensuring that the most stringent safety precautions will be in place at the Phoenix Project compound. In addition to the facility-wide deployment of LU45 Nuwave pathogen sensors, the compound will be physically secured with surrounding cement moats (which have proven their reliability in zoos and wildlife preserves worldwide) and motion sensor tracking systems to support round-the-clock monitoring of the facility.



(Continued on page 26)

Dear Fellow Heathans,

Winter—which seemed rather withdrawn this year—appears to be retiring in favor of longer days and warmer weather. Naturally that means that it is time for the Heath Agricultural Society (HAS) to begin its activities: The Cellar and Cave Tour, the June Draw, and the Heath Fair.



Our April 16 Cellar and Cave Tour, organized by Jessica Van Steensburg, kicks off our season. Jessica and a small committee of others from Heath and Colrain have been working on this event since January, and it will undoubtedly be a huge hit. Interest in this event (now in its third year) began strong and has only grown in popularity.

This year's June Draw will be held on the weekend of June 25. This year the local 4H Chapter will be holding their annual event at the Fairgrounds on June 25. Their event will be augmented by a tractor parade. The Ox Teamsters will be pulling as well. This will be like a small fair, so please show your support to the 4H group by attending. On June 26 the Heath Agricultural Society will hold its annual Horse Draw orchestrated by the Clarks. Please come watch these amazing animals and see how effectively they work with their people!

As the June Draw comes and goes, we all look toward the Annual Heath Fair. This year will be the *99th Annual Heath Fair!* New this year will be an updated online registration system and an increase in our premiums. Also new this year will be a category in the Exhibit Hall dedicated to HAS promotional art. This will be an opportunity for local artists, both children and adults, to win the honor of having their art on the upcoming year's t-shirt. Please see the forthcoming Premium Book for details. And, as usual, a new set of speakers and musicians will be announced as the fair approaches. We will begin updating our website in June, so look there for ongoing updates on events and scheduling: www.heathfair.org.

Amidst our planning for these events is a specific circumstance that bears some significance—Yankee Doodle Days. Charlemont's annual fair did not have the volunteer base to support the organization of the Yankee Doodle Days fair this July, necessitating the consideration of ending the fair. I am pleased to report that in the 11th hour, volunteers came forward to support the event, for which we are all grateful. It is valuable for the Heath Agricultural Society to give attention to the circumstances of other fair organizations, such as Yankee Doodle Days, whose events are cousins to our Heath Fair both geographically and culturally. Their challenges and suc-

cesses are very much like ours. Indeed, it was little more than a decade ago that the HAS was in precisely the same place, and a handful of individuals committed themselves to rebuilding and bolstering this important cultural event. The HAS and the Heath Fair have enjoyed a measure of success in the last ten years. A community of invested, skilled, and creative individuals supporting the agricultural society; the general cooperation of Mother Nature; and a smattering of lucky events are among the reasons for our modest success (as measured by the continuance of the Society and the smiling faces of those who've enjoyed our events).

We are approaching our 99th Fair event and looking forward to the big One Hundred. The Agricultural Society is beginning to consider other ideas for ways to celebrate and cultivate our community and its cultural heritage. The Cellar and Cave Tour is a manifestation of our modest success and strength. It is exciting to explore the viability of additional work and activities. However, a fact remains that threatens to undermine the Heath Agricultural Society's future and it is exemplified in the circumstances of Yankee Doodle Days. We are but a breath away from that very place.

100 Fairs

The 100th Anniversary of the Heath Fair will be in **August of 2017**. The Heath Agricultural Society would like to make this event extra special, and will be collaborating with the Heath Historical Society. In order to guarantee that we can make the 100th year something to remember, we'd like to invite the public to attend a meeting to be held at the Heath Fairgrounds wherein we can discuss ideas and garner additional support. The meeting will be held rain or shine on May 7 in the Exhibit Hall. Please join us!

Our volunteer base remains small and the additional volunteers we have enlisted over the years have been balanced by the "retirement" of some and by the tragic loss of others.

The Agricultural Society is threatened by 'volunteer burnout' as fewer volunteers have to take on more and more responsibilities.

Compounding volunteer burnout is the sense of obligation that members feel when they are ready to step down but find that there are no ready replacements stepping forward.

The Heath Agricultural Society has sought additional membership and volunteers for years. I have sought to

do it with humor, with gentle honesty, and by demonstrating direct, forthright interest. I do not wish to plead. However, the circumstances of Yankee Doodle Days are cause for reflection: Will the town of Heath and other communities who enjoy the Heath Fair and the celebration of our agricultural heritage wait until the 11th hour to show their support by volunteering? Or can we build our membership NOW before the Heath Agricultural Society is threatened by collapse? It is an unfortunate phenomenon in our American and perhaps human culture that we wait until a situation is dire—unavoidable—to give it attention. Let us not wait for this moment. If the Heath Agricultural Society is to thrive, it is critical that we have more volunteers.

Volunteers needn't take on more responsibility than they can handle. Even volunteering to do something as small as editing our solicitation letter and sending it to print can help better distribute the responsibilities so that there is less risk of volunteer burnout. Volunteers might also:

- Weed-whack, mow, paint, and perform other grounds maintenance tasks.
- Make signs for the fairgrounds and for roadside directions.
- Volunteer at the fair to park cars, work in the food booth, sell tickets at the gate, help organize the exhibit hall, or handle recycling.
- Participate in a planning committee: Attractions, Publicity, Long Range Planning, Fundraising, or 100th Anniversary.

Please contact me with any interest. As a member and volunteer you'd be asked to attend at least one meeting a year. How you participate is something you have complete control over!

For information regarding interest in volunteering, meeting times, and any other HAS information please contact me, Justin Lively, directly at:

justinofheath@gmail.com.

Please enjoy this fine spring weather.

We'll see you soon,

Justin Lively, President.

Back-40 Tractor Ride

Got Tractor Fever? Mark June 25 on your calendar! It's a real country tractor ride through the back roads, farms, and forests of the northern Berkshires sponsored by the Franklin County Farm Bureau. Whether in its work clothes or Sunday best, open the shed door, fire it up, and come out to enjoy the day.

Start and finish at the Heath Fairgrounds, 9 Hosmer Road, Heath, MA 01346. Proceeds will benefit Heath Elementary School PTA, Franklin County 4H, and Franklin County Farm Bureau. Prizes for the oldest tractor, oldest driver, youngest driver, and farthest traveled. Join us for door prizes, conversation, camaraderie.

The free 4H Fair takes place the same day, same place. See projects, farm animals, pets, exhibits, demonstrations, workshops, horse show, wagon rides, and more. Plenty of free parking.

Drivers' meeting at 9 a.m. The ride leaves the fairgrounds promptly at 9:30 a.m. Estimated return time 1:30 p.m.

Donuts and coffee – Franklin County Farm Bureau

Mid-ride snack – Heath Elementary School PTA

Lunch – Franklin County 4H

Mail entry fee of \$20 by June 15 to:

Franklin County Farm Bureau,
care of Gina Parker
49 Whately Rd.
Conway, MA 01341

Late entry \$25 the day of the ride.

Requirements:

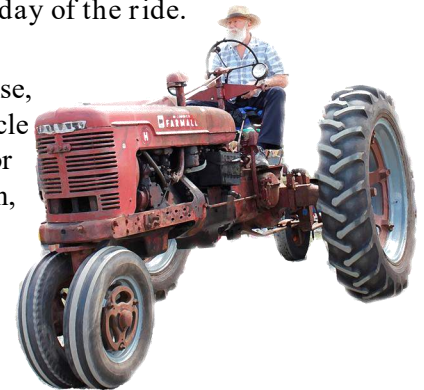
Valid driver's license, slow-moving vehicle sign (SMV), tractor capable of 12 mph, working brakes.

No riders.

No wagons.

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The School Community

Heath Elementary School

What Now?

A few months ago, great attention was drawn to the Heath Elementary School (HES) when a budget subcommittee of the Mohawk Regional District School Committee floated the idea of changing Heath School into a Pre-school/Kindergarten facility for Colrain and Heath while sending all children in grades 1-6 from Heath to the Colrain Elementary School. It was perceived that this would save the District a large sum of money. It was believed by some that, due to the low enrollment at Heath Elementary School and the high cost per pupil, this would be a way of helping the cash-strapped Regional School District. Although this idea was later dropped, this proposal brought the low enrollment of the Heath School back into the public eye.

In response to these concerns, the Heath Selectboard appointed a committee, the Heath Educational Initiative Task Force, to take an objective look at the issues surrounding and facing the Heath Elementary School and make recommendations of short- and long-term solutions. Ken Roche and Budge Litchfield (Heath MTRSD School Committee representatives), Gloria Fisher (Heath Finance Committee), Deb Porter (community member-at-large), Mary Holan (Heath Elementary School LEC representative), and Bill Lattrell (Heath Selectboard member) were appointed to this committee.

The task force began gathering data regarding the HES and it was apparent that enrollment at the Heath Elementary School is in steep decline, that small class sizes at HES may provide a less-than-optimal learning experience, and given the present political and fiscal climate, the MTRSD regional budget may not support a complete and effective pre-K-6 grade school in Heath.

At the first meeting four primary goals were established: 1) Any and all options must ensure a high-quality education for Heath children, 2) Any and all educational options must be sustainable in both the near and long term, 3) The options must be affordable and in keeping with a reasonable tax base for the town of Heath, and 4) Heath should maintain a realistic voice in the education of Heath children.

Heath's Elementary Schooling History:

Branch School to Heath Elementary School Today

During the 1967-68 school year, Heath had about sixty school-aged elementary children being educated at



the Branch School, located at the junction of Jacksonville Stage Road (8A) and Sumner-Stetson Road, but that would soon change. A few years earlier the town of Rowe had constructed a new elementary school using revenue from the various utility projects within its borders. Heath was invited to send its students there on a tuition basis. The tuition rate was favorable, but the town was to have no vote on the school committee. In the fall of 1968, Heath students joined Rowe students at the Rowe Elementary School, bringing the enrollment there up to 93 children.

For the next 20 years things went along in this way with total enrollment of around 90 students, with many of us feeling that our children received a fine education at the Rowe Elementary School. During the late 1980s, however, Heath's student population began to grow and the Rowe School became overcrowded. In 1988 the Heath School Committee proposed that the towns explore creating a regional school district, which could be a vehicle for expanding the school. In 1989 the total enrollment at the Rowe school was 116, with 89 of those children coming from Heath. After two-and-a-half years of work, the Regionalization Study Committee recommended a regionalization agreement to the towns. At the May 1991 town meetings, Heath voted "yes" on the proposal and Rowe voted "no." In January of 1992, Heath formed a School Building Committee. Discussions with all other neighboring towns had shown that they had no room for all of our children and no interest in expanding to make room. In October of 1992, an enrollment cap was placed on Heath students entering the Rowe Elementary School and tuition was sharply increased. This situation meant that we had to send some of our children elsewhere, distributing our children among three schools—Hawlemont, Buckland-Shelburne, and Rowe. Neither Hawlemont nor Buckland-Shelburne was interested in making this a permanent solution.

In March of 1994, voters in Heath approved the construction the Heath Elementary School. In September of 1995, the beautiful new Heath Elementary School opened with 116 pre-school through sixth-grade students, all from the town of Heath. In July of 1994, the Mohawk Kindergarten through Twelfth-grade District became operational.

Following the Commonwealth's decision to allow "school choice" (an arrangement where parents could enroll their child in schools other than their local school), enrollment at our school climbed. In 2001 enrollment was 124 with 37 of those students entering through the "choice" program. At this time and for the next ten years, the school was respected by many people throughout region for providing a unique blend of educational opportunities focused on the environment and the arts, and a high-quality, standards-based education. By 2010, however, the overall enrollment was down to 81 students. In 2013 the HES earned the Commonwealth's highest academic achievement rating, Level 1, and, continues to hold that ranking. Few schools in the Commonwealth perform at this level. Yet in 2014 the total enrollment was down to 62 students with seven of them "choice." This school year our school continues to provide high-quality, diverse educational and cultural learning opportunities to 50 students, seven of whom are "choice" students.

Note: The above data comes directly from formal reports filed in Heath Annual Reports from the years 1967–2014, with some coming from recent District data, as well.

Where Are the Kids?

A very good question! For children below the age of five the only data-source is the town Street List that is unreliable since not everyone turns it in. For children aged 5 through 22 the data is a little better, but add to that the realities of tracking Out-of-District Choice, In-District Choice, Home Schoolers, and Private Schoolers and the fact that these choices can change during the year, we are left with only an estimate. What follows is our best appraisal of our current status.

We currently have 57 children in grades kindergarten through six living in Heath. Of those, 37 are enrolled at Heath Elementary School. Eight are enrolled at other schools in the Mohawk District, eight are enrolled at schools outside of our district and four are home-schooled. This means that approximately 35% of the elementary school-aged kids in town are enrolled someplace other than Heath Elementary School.

All indications are that low enrollment will continue to be an issue and may even worsen over the next seven or

so years. Even if all the families choosing to send their children elsewhere returned, it would not be sufficient to solve the problem. Low enrollment is an issue our town must face. We are not alone in this matter. Throughout the Berkshires the general population is shrinking and there are fewer and fewer young people. Almost every rural school in our area is experiencing serious declines in enrollment.

A Perfect Storm Is on the Way

We are facing a 'perfect storm' of declining enrollment, fixed state aid to our schools, and a looming budget crisis for the Mohawk School District.

Declining enrollment is a reality facing all of our schools, the district as a whole, and schools throughout the region. Enrollment is so low at Heath that both educational viability and fiscal sustainability are in question. Since Mohawk's enrollment has been in decline for many years, and since state educational aid is linked directly to enrollment, state aid has been essentially flat. We receive as much aid as we do only because that aid is grandfathered for our district and for many other districts like ours. We do receive modest per-pupil increases on a yearly basis (\$25 or so per pupil)

because of the efforts of our legislative team in Boston.

Since state aid makes up a very substantial part of the Mohawk budget (about a third) and that aid is fixed, modest inflationary increases in the Mohawk budget trigger district assessment increases that are much larger. Our proposed FY 17 Mohawk budget increase of 3.3% produces a district assessment increase of about 6%.

When town selectboards and finance committees see assessment increases greatly exceeding normal inflationary increases for other town services, calls are made for the schools to reduce their budgets.

This tension between town budgets and school budgets is likely to increase and intensify. The natural result will be greatly increased budgetary pressures on the Mohawk district.

If we do not, over time, take steps to make our schools and the district more fiscally sustainable, the likely result will be erosion of educational quality at both the elementary and secondary levels.

(Continued on page 14)

North Heath Schoolhouse, circa 1914



Photo courtesy of the Heath Historical Society

The School Community

(Continued from page 13)

Why Simply Closing the Heath School Now Won't Save Money

Many people have expressed the opinion that closing our school would save a fair amount of property tax dollars, but the financial reality is that closing the school now will save very little, if any, money for the taxpayers. We still would need to pay to educate our students elsewhere, transportation costs would increase, and we could spend a considerable amount of money to "mothball" the building.

In January 2007, the Mohawk Trail Regional School District released the Interim Planning Committee Report. The committee was tasked with exploring options, researching alternative ways of educating our children, collecting data, and recommending to the School Committee and the Superintendent ways to reduce school costs. They discovered that sending all Regional elementary-age children to Buckland-Shelburne would only buy the District two-to-three years before town assessments would creep back up. The committee also found that even if all the students were placed in one building at the High School, we would be facing a serious financial crisis within ten years.

Asking the state legislature for more funding is possible, but it is improbable that they would agree. The region is now receiving \$2,500 more per student than the Foundation Budget allows because of the grandfathered funding agreement for low-population school districts.

And then there is the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). The Heath school was built with a loan subsidized by the MSBA. Throughout the duration of the 20-year loan, MSBA reimbursed the town 75% of our loan payments. Under the loan agreement, the town was required to commit that the school would be used only for educational purposes for 50 years. If that requirement is not met, the town could have to pay millions of dollars back to the MSBA. It has been suggested that we could get special legislation passed to override this, and perhaps the legislature would agree. But after the State reneged on the Municipal Safety Complex contract, one wonders if this would be a wise path to follow.

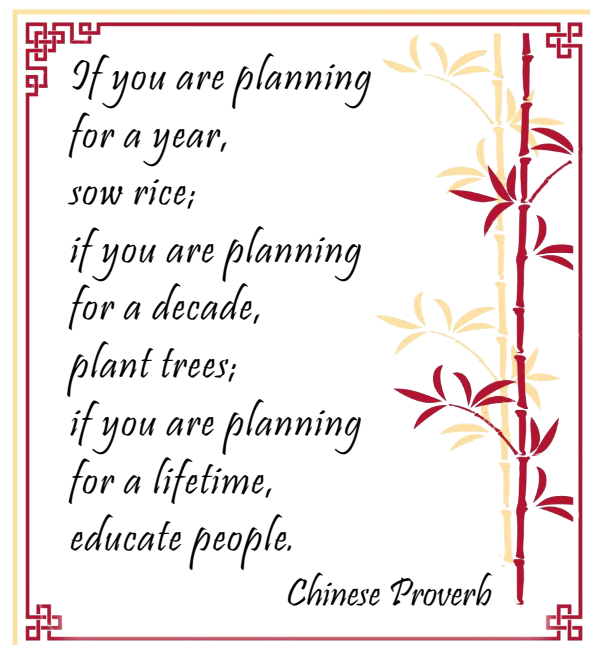
In light of all this, the Heath School Task Force has identified some essential elements to solving the problem of low-enrollment/high-cost that all of the towns in the district are facing:

- The current situation is not sustainable educationally and fiscally for all of the towns in the Mohawk District.
- The efforts of one town, especially the smallest, are not sufficient to solve the problem.
- All towns must collaborate to solve it together.
- The losses and benefits of any solution must be shared equally among the towns.

This being said, the task force will continue to work on this issue in concert with efforts being made in our neighboring towns. It will focus its efforts in two areas: 1) Promoting no change for next year by voting *for* the Mohawk budget at the Annual Town Meeting, while at the same time developing a back-up plan should the budget not pass and further cuts to our school be required, and 2) identifying and exploring a long-term realistic solution that would meet our goal of providing high-quality, sustainable, and affordable education for our children in which we as a town have a voice.

The task force is dedicated to exploring every option. This means looking at both in-district and out-of-district options. We invite you, the parents and residents of Heath, to help in this effort by adding ideas and suggestions to the mix. Our meetings are open to all. The Task Force meets at 7 p.m. each Thursday at the Town Hall. If you are unable to attend meetings, feel free to e-mail or mail your thoughts and ideas. Mail to the attention of Heath Educational Initiative Task Force, 1 East Main Street, Heath, MA 01346. E-mail to bos@townofheath.org.

—Heath Educational Initiative Task Force



MIDDLES POETRY

CAMPING

I'm lying in my sleeping bag,
I am really wide awake,
I jump out of my sleeping bag,
I hope a twig doesn't break.
I feel myself twirling like a maple seed,
I hear owl hooting while spotting her prey,
I see a fox with its prize ready to feed,
I taste the crisp air,
And now I smell the scent of breakfast here --
I mean waffles!

—*Maya, Grade 3*

CAKE

Me love cake,
me love bake cake,
me love eat cake,
and me love cheesecake.
Me love lots of cake.

—*Jaxon, Grade 3*



WINTER WIND

I hear the winter wind blowing,
it's so cold...brrr,
The wind is so cold and fierce,
When the wind blows you can hear the wind
making the trees crackle.
But mmmmm the taste of snow,
so good.
If you go outside you better be bundled up,
because the cold will get you if you don't.
You can see icicles dangling off your house,
I can hear a winter animal somewhere,
I think it's a moose but I'm not sure.
Melting ice from icicles,
and glistening ice on the trees.
Snow falling from the sky,
I can touch with my tongue.
I really hope it will be summer soon!

—*Jenna, Grade 3*

PERSPECTIVE

From above where the birds are, you can see the treetops.
From the middle where the butterflies are,
you can see grass, flowers, snow and leaves.
From below we can see the floor, rugs, roads and sidewalks.
Wherever you are, you can always see something.

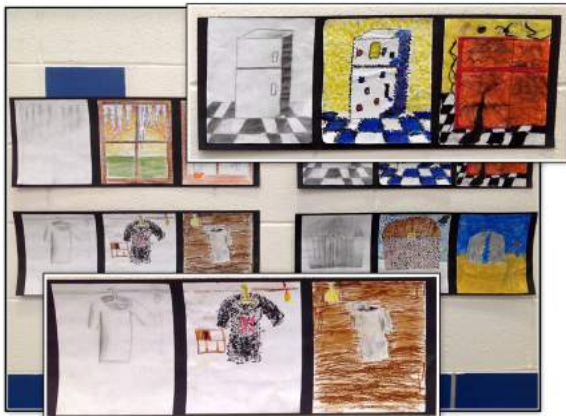
—*Hazel, Grade 3*

DARE

I sit in my chair and wait for the right moment to have the divine chocolate,
that lays right in front of me but I don't dare to move.
Cause when I look out one window the rain pours down as fast as lightning and splashes
on the pavement like rock.
But in the other window the mountain breeze is blowing across the tip of the brass horn
while wild animals roam the woods to seek what they're looking for.
So I do not dare to move out of my chair.

—*Raia, Grade 3*

Grade 5/6 students created three pieces of art, each inspired by a different style—Realism, Impressionism, and Expressionism..



(Continued from page 17)



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Mosquito Control

Much talk is in the news these days about the diseases that mosquitoes can transmit. Currently, West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis are threats in Massachusetts. But Zika virus is getting some well-deserved attention in the news. Although there is currently an extremely low chance of Zika transmitting via mosquitoes in Massachusetts, the rising average temperatures are allowing the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) to expand its range farther north. The mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus are now found in Connecticut. They are predicted to arrive in the Pioneer Valley by the 2020s, but might arrive sooner. While it is predicted that the higher elevations in hilltowns such as Heath should have more protection due to our colder winters, it is advisable to get into the habit of reducing mosquito habitat in your yard.

As the temperatures rise this spring, a simple step can keep the mosquito population down in your backyard. Some mosquito species travel only 300 yards from where they hatch in water, while others can go one to two miles. Still, why let them breed so close to your home? Experts suggest having a tipping party once a week in your yard where you tip over all items that contain rainwater. This will break the mosquito's egg-to-larva-to-pupa-to-adult cycle, which takes 8-10 days. Even better, remove any unneeded water retaining items to cut down on containers that need emptying.

For more information about mosquito prevention and the Zika virus, please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/dengue/resources/factSheets/mosquito-control.pdf> or <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>

—Betsy Kovacs
Heath Board of Health



**Heath Firefighters Association
Annual Pancake Breakfast**

Saturday, April 30, 7:30-10:30 a.m.
Heath Community Hall

Pancakes made to order by the HFD crew

- ◆ Homemade fruit toppings
- ◆ Scrambled eggs from local chickens

\$8.00 adults

\$5.00 12 years old and under

\$27.00 per family of 5 or more

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16



Town Nurse

—*Claire Rabbitt, RN*

Eye Health

I would like to share some suggestions for maintaining eye health, particularly as you age, given in the February 2016 Special Report supplement to the Mayo Clinic Health Letter.

Some common changes in vision that occur with age are floaters, dry eyes, and presbyopia. Floaters are tiny specks drifting in your field of vision sometimes looking like cobwebs or spots. They come from condensed strands of vitreous (the clear jellylike substance that fills the eye). They block light as it enters the eye, casting shadows on the retina. For the most part they can be ignored, but if very bothersome there is a procedure that can be done to remove them; however that can increase the risk of cataract development or retinal tears. A sudden increase in floaters accompanied by flashes of light or vision loss might be a sign of retinal detachment and is a medical emergency.

Dry eyes may be caused by failure of tear glands to produce enough tears or poor quality tears that evaporate too quickly so the eyes are not properly lubricated. It is more common in women because of hormonal changes after menopause. Dry eyes cause irritation, burning, grittiness, and redness. Over-the-counter eye drops may help, or prescription cyclosporine may be used to reduce inflammation and increase tear production. Other things you can do is avoid dry conditions, use a humidifier, blink frequently, and increase intake of omega-3 fatty acids.

Presbyopia means “aging sight.” The eyes can no longer focus properly on nearby objects because of loss of flexibility of the lens that occurs over time. It begins in the 40s and worsens until age 65 when the lenses have hardened and lost most of their elasticity. Presbyopia may cause headaches and difficulty focusing on nearby objects or reading small print. It is different from nearsightedness or farsightedness which are refractive errors

causing the eye to focus light in front of or behind the retina. Some of the treatments are the same, though.

More serious eye conditions:

Cataracts are formed when the proteins in the lens break down and clump together. The clumps scatter the incoming light resulting in a blurry or cloudy image. They develop slowly usually between ages 60 and 80 with symptoms of blurred vision, double vision, and light sensitivity. Vision may take on a yellow hue or colors may seem faded due to discoloration of the lens. Age is the primary risk factor, but smoking, alcohol consumption, sun exposure, poor nutrition, diabetes, and medications such as prednisone increase the risk. Surgery to remove the cataract with the implantation of an intraocular lens is the best known treatment when there is serious disruption of vision. Results are usually very good. Be sure and tell the doctor of all medications you take. If you have ever taken tamsulosin (Flomax), you may be at risk for intraoperative floppy iris syndrome, causing poor dilation and movement of the iris known to cause complications in cataract surgery.

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the United States. If caught and treated early, significant vision loss may be prevented. It is caused by damage to the optic nerve most often from abnormally high pressure in the eye. The pressure is caused when the aqueous humor—a fluid produced by the eye—fails to drain or drains too slowly. Total Blockage or Angle Closure glaucoma can be a medical emergency if pressure increases suddenly. Symptoms are eye pain, headache, nausea and vomiting, blurred vision, redness of the eye, or seeing rainbows or halos around lights. Get care right away, as permanent vision loss can occur within hours. Family history, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease are risk factors. Glaucoma is treated medically with eye drops or pills and requires lifelong monitoring.

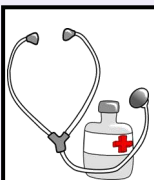
Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of vision loss in people 50 and over. The macula is the most light sensitive part of the retina, producing sharp central vision. Risk factors for AMD are; being over 50, female, white, a smoker, obese, having a poor diet or a family history of AMD. There is no cure but there are treatments to slow progression.

Things to do to preserve your vision:

Get regular eye exams every one to three years between ages 55 and 64, every one or two years after age 65, or more frequently if you have increased risks.

Know your family history.

(Continued on page 18)



**Contact information for
the Town Nurse can
be found on page 27.**



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Wear sunglasses. The sun's ultraviolet rays can increase your risk of cataracts and AMD.

Wear protective eyewear. Wear safety glasses or goggles when engaging in activities that could harm your eyes.

Rest your eyes. Whether reading, doing computer work, or watching TV, follow the 20-20-20 rule to reduce eye strain. Every 20 minutes, look about 20 feet in the distance for 20 seconds.

Don't smoke.

Maintain a healthy weight.

Eat a healthy diet.

Get moving. Even gentle, moderate activity can have benefits for your eyes and general health.

Don't skimp on sleep. During sleep your eyes are constantly lubricated and cleared of irritants.

Let's all do our best to preserve this great gift of sight!

—Claire Rabbitt, RN



Franklin County Technical School Update

The Franklin County Technical School is continuing to improve its educational programs and its facilities. The School Committee and the administration each year have presented a responsible budget for approval by the 19 towns that are members of the District. The best interests of the taxpayers are considered by the town school committee representatives during this process, and costs have consistently been held down.

Until 2015 (since opening in 1976), the Franklin County Technical School managed to make numerous significant improvements to its facilities without having to borrow money. These improvements included replacing the original roof in 1997; renovating the athletic fields, adding an irrigation system, replacing shop doors, and adding high performance lighting in 2003; and replacing walk-in refrigeration units in the Culinary Arts shop and school cafeteria, renovating indoor and replacing exterior bleachers, upgrading parking lot lighting, replacing carpeted flooring with vinyl tile, and constructing a vehicle storage building in 2006. Between 2007 and 2012 the school undertook a major energy-saving renovation and rooftop HVAC units were replaced. This \$5.1 million project was completed using a performance contract funded by operational savings. In 2011-2012, the gymnasium floor was replaced at a cost of \$150,000, and in 2014 the school's Machine Technology program was upgraded entirely through grants and private funding totaling \$750,000.

On June 23, 2015, Franklin County Technical School held a district-wide election to allow FCTS the authority

to borrow monies to upgrade the infrastructure for three distinct facility projects. FCTS received approval for a \$2.1 million project from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for new exterior windows and doors to be reimbursed at 73.89%. A new roof coating system was approved for \$975,000. The final project, approved for \$925,000, is for new paving of the 1976 original parking lot and track areas. Construction is scheduled this summer for all three projects.

FCTS meeting notices and minutes are regularly posted in Sawyer Hall. Heath has been a consistent supporter of the Tech School. Heath enrollment as of October 1 over the past seven years has been:

TOTAL ENROLLMENT	
2009	6
2010	5
2011	7
2012	2
2013	4
2014	7
2015	11

—Art Schwenger
FCTS Heath School
Committee Representative

Tax deductible contributions to support the work of the committee can be sent to:
HEATH VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND (HVMF)
c/o KRIS NARTOWICZ, TREASURER
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HEATH, MA 01346

Please send check or money order only, and include your name, date, address and phone number with the donation.

Thank you so much.



NATURE NOTE: PEEPERS



The arrival of spring brings with it sights, sounds, and smells that seem to wake up our senses after a long winter. One of these is a very loud sound made by a very small frog—the spring peeper. Driving around town on a spring evening, it is easy to determine where there is a pond, swamp, wet meadow, or even a drainage ditch because that is where you will hear a chorus of peeping. The frogs gather in these wet places to mate and lay eggs. The sound is amazingly loud (I have felt the need for ear protection at a nearby pond that has a large gathering of peepers!) for a frog that is only about an inch long.



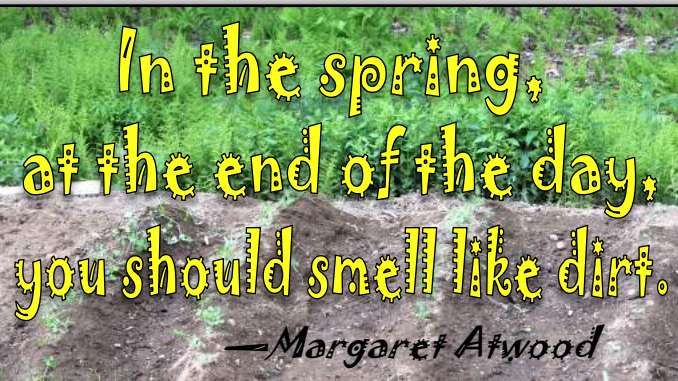
They are almost impossible to see but if you grab a flashlight and have patience, you might be able to sneak up on one and spot it on a stem or branch. If you move too loudly or quickly, they will become silent, but you can easily get them calling again by imitating their peeping. If you are lucky enough to spot one, you will see the male's vocal sac ballooning out as he calls.



—Susan Draxler
Photos by Susan Draxler

People in the News

Steven and Julie Smead welcomed a new baby boy into the world this past winter. Trevor Robert Smead was born on January 12, weighing 9 lbs 12 oz. He is the little brother to Landon and Charlotte Smead.

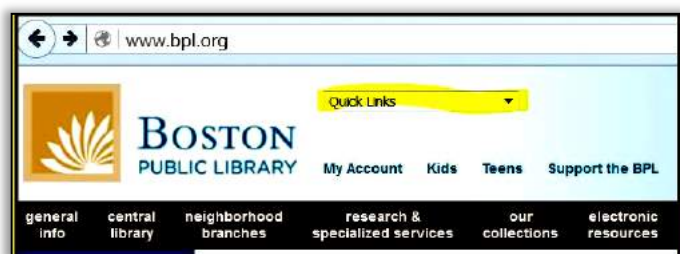




LIBRARY LINES

—Donald Purington

Did you know that as a Massachusetts resident you can get a Boston Public Library eCard which gives you instant access to thousands of ebooks, movies, audio files, magazines, and more? Try it from your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Go to <http://www.bpl.org/> and click on *eCards* in the Quick Links. Then follow the instructions to sign up for an eCard and start taking advantage of some of the vast resources of the Boston Public Library.



Reminder: The Friends of the Heath Free Public Library are holding their Memorial Day Weekend Bakesale on Saturday, May 28, from 10 a.m. to noon. We hope to see you on the porch of Sawyer Hall, swapping stories with your neighbors and buying some of their delicious baked goods!

A Few of the New Items at the Library:

Use the *New Titles* link on the Library website to see all the new items added to our collection in the previous two weeks.

Fiction Books for Adults: *The Theoretical Foot* by M. F. K. Fisher, *The Woman in Blue* by Elly Griffiths, *The Madwoman Upstairs* by Catherine Lowell, *Off the Grid* by C. J. Box

Non-fiction Books for Adults: *Gardening with Less Water: Low-Tech, Low-Cost Techniques* by David Bainbridge, *The Good Death: An Exploration of Dying in America* by Ann Neumann,

Books for Young/Teen Readers: *Spring According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney, *The Terrible Two* by Jory John

Children's Picture Books/Boardbooks: *The Story of Snowflake and Inkdrop* by Alessandro Gatti, *One Day on Our Blue Planet...In the Savannah* by Ella Bailey

Audio Books on CD: *The Guest Room* by Chris Bohjalian, *Hour of the Wolf* by Hakan Ne

Massachusetts Cultural Council New Grant Programs

The MCC is introducing two new grant programs for organizations not currently funded as Partners or Colleagues. These programs are replacing the CIP Peers grant program, which is being discontinued. Applications will be due this spring. Please see the CIP guidelines (PDF) for more information.

CIP Gateway is a two-year operating support grant program. Gateway is designed to be the entry, or gateway, for organizations into the Cultural Investment Portfolio (CIP). The program has been designed to be aligned with the funding goals of the Portfolio: supporting public value, organizational capacity, and organizational sustainability.

CIP Projects grants are one-year grants for specific cultural public programming and are not for general operating support. These grants will support cultural projects and are an option for organizations and programs that are not eligible for CIP Gateway, or those simply looking for one-year project support. Eligibility has been extended to organizations working with a fiscal agent.

Following are links to descriptions of the programs, including the full guidelines for the Cultural Investment Portfolio:

http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications/cip_projects_guidelines.asp

http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications/cip_gateway_guidelines.asp

If you have questions after reviewing the guidelines, please contact:

Sara S. Glidden

Program Manager, Cultural Investment Portfolio
Massachusetts Cultural Council

10 Saint James Ave, 3rd Floor

Boston, MA 02116-3803

617-858-2710 / 617-727-0044 fax

www.massculturalcouncil.org

Heath Fire Department Incident Report...911

The HFD responded to four medical calls and seven fire-related calls between the dates of January 1 and March 1, 2016. Thank you to those volunteer members who quickly responded to these emergency calls.



Respectfully submitted,
—HFD

Selectboard Report 3/5/16

Meeting Schedule

The Board meets every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in Sawyer Hall, unless posted otherwise.

Public Safety Building Project

The Building Committee continues to pursue restoration of the state’s share of funding for our project. We are following two tracks for the funding—one through the Executive branch where, under the Patrick administration, the original grant was offered, but then withdrawn by the current administration. The other track is through the Legislative branch where we have requested an earmark for our project in the upcoming budget.

The Governor’s representative for western Massachusetts, Ryan Chamberland, paid a visit to Heath on the 11th of February. The Building Committee met with him in Sawyer Hall where he reviewed his findings regarding the withdrawal of funding, and discussed options to pursue within the administration for assistance with the project. After this meeting the Committee gave Mr. Chamberland a tour of the Emergency Operations Center, firehouse, and highway garage. He immediately understood the urgency of our need to replace the aging and obsolete facility, as he had to squeeze by and climb over equipment to get from one side of the building to the other. The same was true of the highway garage, as he had to climb over a snowplow just to get into the building. Mr. Chamberland promised that he would help find assistance for the town within the administration.



Visit by Lt. Governor Karen Polito

The Lt. Governor also came to Heath on the 11th of February to preside over a signing ceremony for the Community Compact in the Community Hall. Representatives of the selectboards from Heath, Shelburne, and Rowe were present for the signing of Community Compacts for their respective towns. Representative Paul Mark, Paul Dunphy of Representative Steve Kulik’s office, and officials from the towns were in the audience. Heath Select-

board Chair Sheila Litchfield welcomed the Lt. Governor and gave the introductory remarks, taking the opportunity to stress the critical need for high-speed broadband service to Heath and surrounding communities and for the restoration of funding for our public safety building project that the present administration blocked last year. Sheila went on to describe the benefits of the Community Compact program for the town of Heath. The program provides financial and technical support to towns interested in pursuing “best practices” in a number of areas. Heath chose financial management, policy development, energy conservation (specifically Green Communities assistance), and exploration into shared diesel mechanic services as its primary areas of interest.

Town Coordinator Kara Leistyna had prepared presentation boards for the meeting with photographs and newspaper articles regarding the public safety building project which caught the eye of the Lt. Governor as she rose to address the audience. She said she had been unaware of the situation and would look into it. The Governor’s representative for the western region, Ryan Chamberland, was also in attendance having previously met with the Building Committee and toured the firehouse and highway garage. Both officials promised to assist the town in finding funding support for the project.

A number of people spoke in support of the need for high-speed broadband in the hilltowns, noting the lack of, and declining availability and quality of, DSL service in the area, and the impact of lack of service on property values, home sales, business development, education, and emergency response services. Lt. Gov. Polito assured the meeting that the administration was well aware of the critical need for high-speed broadband service out here and that they were working on a solution.

The Lt. Governor introduced the Community Compact program to the audience and explained the benefits of participation; however, the most intense discussion was devoted to broadband and the public safety building project. It seemed that the importance of the broadband issue was driven home and underscored by the inability of the Lt. Governor and her security and staff people to use their smartphones in Heath!

Heath Education Task Force

In response to declining school enrollment and cuts in school staffing proposed by the District, the Heath Selectboard has established a task force assigned to identify, evaluate, and recommend options for educating Heath preschool through grade 6 students against specific goals. See School Community pages 12-14.

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

Annual Town Meeting

Save the date of Saturday May 7, 2016, for Heath Annual Town Meeting at Heath Elementary School.

Heath Online

Please take some time to visit the town's 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 Selectboard at BOS@townofheath.org, or see page 27 for additional contact information.

—*Selectboard*

Finance Committee Report 3/5/16

The Heath Finance Committee has spent the winter months grappling with problems that have arisen with the financing of the Municipal Safety Complex (MSC) and with the WiredWest project to bring high-speed broadband internet access to the Town. Since mid-February, we have also been meeting with the Selectboard to develop the town budget for Fiscal Year 2017.

Our plans for the MSC came to a screeching halt last August when Governor Baker's office announced that the Commonwealth was renegeing on its agreement to provide a matching grant of up to \$2 million for the project. Since then we have learned that Representative Paul Mark plans to introduce legislation to restore that funding, but we may not know the outcome of that plan until September 2016.

A similar fate has befallen the WiredWest project. The Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI), which oversees the expenditure of the \$40 million voted by the state legislature to fund the "last mile" intended to bring broadband access to western Mass. towns, has stopped all expenditures on the project. MBI wants member towns of WiredWest to own the broadband facilities individually rather than have the facilities owned by WiredWest as a corporate entity (which is in turn owned by member towns). Since this announcement in December, Eric Nakajima, MBI's director, has resigned, but discussions between WiredWest and MBI are continuing.

Left in limbo are the issues that surround Heath voters' authorization of a \$1.45 million borrowing for the WiredWest project and the \$4 million borrowing for the MSC. The key factor in the MSC financing is that we were required to ask voters to authorize a \$4 million borrowing (which, on our present understanding, counts against the town's debt limit) even though we in fact planned to borrow only \$1.8 million, with \$1.8 million coming from the state matching grant. We did not intend

that the town would borrow on this scale in the absence of the promised support from the Commonwealth.

Before we learned that the MSC matching grant had been withdrawn, the town had spent about \$16,000 on early stages of the project. No further public money will be borrowed or spent on the MSC project until the Finance Committee and Selectboard are fully satisfied that the town will not exceed its debt limit and can make payments on these borrowings within a reasonable town budget. The Finance Committee had recommended that town voters authorize the MSC borrowing on what we believed was the safe assumption that the Commonwealth would keep its word on the \$2 million matching grant. Now that it has gone back on the agreement, the MSC and the borrowing to finance it are on hold while we seek out and consider alternatives. The Finance Committee has been meeting about these issues with the Selectboard, the treasurer, the town accountant, and Joseph Markarian, Jr., formerly of the state Department of Revenue, who now works for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments as a financial adviser to towns.



As for the FY 2017 budget itself, we have had extensive discussions with Ken Gilbert, the new Fire Chief. He has submitted a grant application for replacement of the Fire Department's self-contained breathing apparatus. The newest of the current sets are 14 years old. The Fire Department is also seeking a small increase in incentive payments and in the chief's stipend. The Finance Committee is considering financial alternatives for financing this expenditure.

The Finance Committee has also discussed with the Assessors their financial needs for FY 2017. Robyn Provost-Carlson, chair of the Assessors, recommended the implementation of a town-wide parcel-remapping project at a cost of \$32,500 per year for FYs 2017 and 2018. We were informed that the town, because it is now a member of the Community Compact (see Selectboard report for information on the Community Compact), is eligible to apply for an information technology grant that would cover the first year of these expenses.

In addition to the foregoing developments, the latest version of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District Budget calls for an increase of about 3% in Heath's contribution. Our payment to the Technical School will rise by about \$35,000. The Finance Committee will do its best to hold any tax increase to the absolute minimum. Realistically, however, we must acknowledge that this budget year will be an exceptionally difficult one.

—*Heath Finance Committee*

Battery Recycling and Proper Disposal

Free battery and cell phone recycling is available at all transfer stations within Franklin County Solid Waste District. Give batteries and cell phones to the transfer station attendant for separate processing; *never* place in recycling dumpsters!

There are many different types of batteries, some containing mercury and other heavy metals. Batteries can release mercury, cadmium, or other heavy metals into the air and water, ultimately entering the food chain and posing health threats to people and the environment. Please read below for disposal instructions for specific battery types.

Rechargeable batteries are found in those electronics and appliances that can be recharged, such as cell phones, cordless phones, iPads/tablets, laptops, power tools, Roomba vacuum cleaners, kid's ride-on toys, baby monitors, some digital cameras, and rechargeable toothbrushes, razors, flashlights, and handheld vacuum cleaners. In addition, batteries that can be recharged with a battery charger should also be recycled when they can no longer hold a charge. Rechargeable batteries and cell phones contain heavy metals and should *never* be thrown away. They should always be recycled. Give rechargeable batteries to your transfer station attendant. All cell phones should be recycled in this manner.

Specific batteries accepted are Nickel-cadmium (Ni-cad), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn), Lithium Ion batteries (Li-ion), and Small Sealed Lead (Pb). These abbreviations are printed on rechargeable batteries.

"Call 2 Recycle" boxes for free rechargeable battery recycling are available at Home Depot, Lowe's, and Radio Shack. Rechargeable batteries can also be taken to Household Hazardous Waste Collections.

Alkaline batteries are the most common household batteries. They are available in many sizes and shapes such as AA, C, D, and 9 volt. Alkaline batteries manufactured since 1996 do not contain mercury or other hazardous materials. Alkaline batteries are safe to throw in the trash, but tape the contacts on 9-volts before storage or disposal. All batteries should be checked carefully before disposal, as some rechargeable and lithium batteries resemble alkalines but should be recycled (as above).

If you would like to reduce the number of alkaline batteries you are using, consider purchasing an inexpensive battery charger and some compatible rechargeable batteries. These batteries can be recharged over and over again, but remember to recycle them (as above) when they cannot be charged anymore.

Carbon-zinc and Zinc-chloride batteries may be disposed of in the same manner as alkaline batteries (as above).

Lithium batteries are used in many applications but most often in cameras. The word "lithium" is printed on the battery. Be sure to check all batteries. Some lithium batteries, such as the AA size or the short and fat lithium batteries used in cameras, resemble alkaline batteries, but should be recycled by handing them to your transfer station attendant. Lithium batteries can also be taken to Household Hazardous Waste Collections.

Button batteries are the small round silver batteries found in watches, calculators, hearing aids, toys, remote car locks, flameless "flicker candles," electric fence dog collars, singing greeting cards, and singing balloons. Many button batteries contain mercury and therefore must be disposed of properly. Hand them to your transfer station attendant. Button batteries can also be taken to Household Hazardous Waste Collections.

Lead-acid batteries from cars, trucks, kids ride-on toys, etc., *must* be recycled, by law. Recycling programs, some for cash or credit back, are available at auto supply stores, local scrap metal recyclers, and at some transfer stations. Lead-acid batteries are also accepted at household hazardous waste collections.

—Amy Donovan
Program Director

Spring "Clean Sweep" Collection for Bulky Items

Save the date: Spring "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Day; May 21 from 9 a.m. to noon. The three drop-off sites are:

- Buckland Recreation Facility on Rt. 112 South,
- Northfield Highway Garage, Main Street,
- Whately Transfer Station, 73 Christian Lane

Bring tires, appliances, scrap metal, mattresses, construction debris, computers and computer equipment, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. You can also bring clean and dry (bagged) textiles and books for reuse or recycling. Certain bulky rigid plastics are accepted for a special recycling program. Materials will be recycled whenever possible. Pre-registration is not required. Disposal fees, subject to change, are listed at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html or call 413-772-2438.



—Amy Donovan
Program Director

Obituaries

Victor R. Giard

Victor R. Giard, of Colchester, Vermont passed away on February 7, 2016. Born in North Heath on September 27, 1940, he was the son of Joseph and Malvina (Chagnon) Giard. Victor leaves his wife Janice (Booth) Giard, two sons, Christopher of Milton, Vermont and Shawn and wife Amy of Colchester, Vermont. He leaves seven grandchildren, a sister, Germain Lively of Williston, Vermont, and many nieces and nephews.

Victor attended Branch School in North Heath, then graduated from Mount Assumption School in Plattsburgh, New York. Victor served in the U.S. Army from 1960 to 1963, and worked for New England Power Company, later moving to Burlington, Vermont to work for the Burlington Power Company.



Ada Mae Duffy

Ada Mae Duffy (Lannie), 92, of Londonderry, New Hampshire, died Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at home, surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Heath on May 20, 1923, the eldest daughter of the late Oscar and Grace (Gleason) Landstrom. Ada was a graduate of Waltham School of Nursing and a member of the U.S. Cadet Nurses Corps during World War II. She enjoyed all facets of nursing in her fifty-year career. Her family and friends were the focus of her life. She is survived by her son Joseph T. Duffy, III, her daughter Terri Grace Duffy, four grandchildren, two sisters, Pearl Churchill of Shelburne, Massachusetts, and Ruth Johnson of Heath, as well as many cherished nieces and nephews. Ada was predeceased by her husband, Joseph T. Duffy Jr. in 1988 and by her son, James Duffy, in 2012. A memorial service was held Sunday, March 6, 2016, at Heath Union Church.

Remembrance

Those Landstrom Girls—Less One

Pearl and I are feeling the great loss of our Big Sister, Ada, who was our leader and protector during our growing-up years at Overbrook Farm, here in Heath [Town Farm Road]. Memories of those years together come flooding back to both of us. We had a wonderful childhood on the farm and in the surrounding neighborhood. We think about the hours we spent hiking, sledding, skating, swimming, playing ball with Dad, learning to cook with Mom, doing barn chores and – on and on!



Ada spent her married life in Saugus, Mass., and recently lived with her daughter in Londonderry, but the farm in Heath was always home. As she will be buried next to our parents in the South Heath Cemetery, she will return to her roots. We three sisters were truly blessed all these years to be able to share our lives and maintain this strong relationship and the joys of sisterhood.

—Pearl Churchill and Ruth Johnson



Bertha A. "Betty" (Churchill) Rainville

Betty Rainville, 83, died at the Buckley Healthcare Center in Greenfield on March 8, 2016. Betty was born in Heath, Massachusetts on March 2, 1933, the daughter of Maxwell and Sara (Stetson) Churchill. She attended Arms Academy in Shelburne Falls. Betty was married to Wilbert L. "Sonny" Rainville, Jr., for 57 years prior to his passing on January 30, 2010. Betty was a homemaker who enjoyed her family, taking care of her flowers and feeding the birds that frequented her feeders. Survivors include her son, Wilbert L. "Champ" Rainville, III and his partner Sandy of Shelburne Falls, a daughter Cheryl Johnston and her husband Chris, also of Shelburne Falls; her beloved sister Judith Clark and husband Roger, of Heath, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, Sonny, Betty was predeceased by three brothers: Alton Churchill, John Churchill and Ralph Churchill.

Senior Center News

Come join an "Open Sew" time at the Heath Senior Center on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 4 to 6 p.m. on opposite days from the Crafty Ladies group. Sew on your own project, or be part of a community quilt project to support the Heath Historical Society. We will start on April 7 and continue until finished. This project needs both sewers and non-sewing assistants.

The community quilt project is also seeking fabric donations. We need neutrals (white-on-white and beiges) and small prints. Contact Eileen Lively 337-4742 if you have donations or questions about the project.

It's "Open Art" time again! Painting and/or drawing at the Senior Center returns on Mondays from noon to 3 p.m. All seniors with any level of skills are welcome. We supply the materials, but if you have any, please bring them along. Instructions are informal, but encouragement is always provided.

Call Eileen Lively at 337-4742 with any questions.

—Eileen lively



HEATH UNION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The Reverend James Koyama, Minister
Dennis Ainsworth, Organist

Sunday morning worship is at 10 a.m.
All are welcome



Church News

Our March 6 potluck meal was canceled because of the memorial service for Ada Landstrom Duffy. Please join us for the next meal on May 1. Bring your favorite dish and plan to enjoy good conversation. Rev. Koyama will resume Bible Study after Easter on Thursdays at 6 p.m. Check with him or one of the deacons for more information, including location.

We are excited to report that a choir is being formed for Sunday morning services. We would welcome anyone who would like to join the group. Do come and enjoy Reverend Koyama's sermons and Dennis Ainsworth at the organ. Always expect good fellowship, as well!

Rev. Koyama is in town on Thursdays, with office hours at the church in the afternoon. You can also contact him on his cell phone anytime: 808-282-6711.

Our building facilities are available for private events. Call Esther Gallup for details: 337-5367.

—The Deacons

For information about our church, call Rev. Koyama or a member of the Board of Deacons:

- Hilma Sumner, Chair337-4845
- Ruth Johnson337-4367
- Walter Gleason337-4479

Church phone: 337-4019 to leave a message

Find us on Facebook
@ Heath Union Evangelical Church

Heath's Monthly Precipitation

In this reporting period:	Rain	Snow
January	1"	3½"
February	6"	11½"

January started out with some very cold weather on the fifth, with a morning low of -2 degrees and a wind-chill of -9 degrees. The blizzard of January 23 (whether you were pro or con) missed us completely. On the very last day of January the temperature was in the low-to mid-fifties, making for a fairly tranquil and "snow little" month.

February started where January left off, then gave us a good dousing of rain (1 to 2") on the third. Two big nor'easters February 5 and February 8 left us with 4" total. Valentine's weekend saw us bundled up with actual temperatures between -19 and -22 degrees. By the following weekend, temperatures were back into the low 50's. We ended this reporting period with a heavy rainstorm on February 25 which dumped anywhere from 2½ to 4½ inches of rain. This caused a lot of "road scour" around town as well as damage to a lot of dirt roads, such as Brunelle Rd.

—Tim Lively and Heath School Students

New Transfer Station Hours

Starting Memorial Day, May 30, 2016:

- Monday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 30 to Nov 1 only
- Wednesday, noon to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, 8 am to 4 pm

Starting November 1, 2016:

- Wednesday, noon to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The only difference is NO MONDAY service during winter hours.

Transfer Station Permits will be available for sale at the post office during regular scheduled hours beginning in June for FY17 (starting July 1). As always, thank you for recycling!

FCSWMD

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District
For more information on any programs or events,
contact the FCSWMD at: 413-772-2438,
info@franklincountywastedistrict.org,
www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.
MA Relay for the hearing impaired:
711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

COMMUNITY CALENDAR.

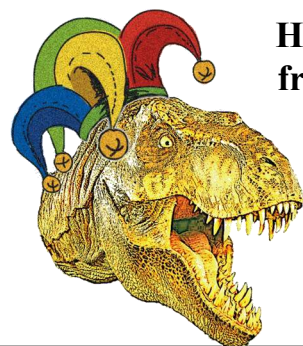
- Apr 9 PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
7:30 TO 10:30 a.m., at the Heath School
- Apr 13 SCHOOL REGISTRATION**
Pre-K, 9 to 10 a.m.
Kindergarten, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
at the Heath School
- Apr 23 CELLARS AND CAVE TOUR**
Heath Agricultural Society
8:30 to 9 a.m. sign in at the Community Hall
- Apr 30 FIREFIGHTERS ANNUAL PANCAKE-BREAKFAST**
7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center
- May 5 KIDS IN CONCERT**
6:30 p.m. at Mohawk Trail Regional
Junior Senior High School
- May 6 TOWN ELECTIONS**
Noon to 7 p.m. at Heath Elementary School
- May 21 SPRING “CLEAN SWEEP”**
9 a.m. to noon at three locations.
See news item for more information.
- May 28 LIBRARY BAKE SALE**
Friends of the Heath Public Library
10 a.m. to noon at Sawyer Hall

(Continued from page 9)

Although Charlie, George, the Burning Tree Mastodon and the Oncomouse are real, and although much of the information in this article is factual...

If you didn't catch the quotes sprinkled throughout the story—“Genetic power is the most awesome force the planet's ever seen”? “Living systems are never in equilibrium. They are inherently unstable”?—perhaps the names ‘Dr. Ellie Sattler’ or ‘Dr. Ian Malcolm’ caught your eye.

Needless to say, there is no Phoenix Project and mastodons will not be grazing in Heath anytime soon!



**Happy April Fools Day
from the *Heath Herald*
and
JURASSIC PARK**

—Christine Luis-Schultz

ONGOING

CELEBRATE YOU!

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

COMMUNITY SEWING PROJECT

First and third Thursday of the month
4 to 6 p.m. in the Community Hall
Open to all.

CRAFTY LADIES

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

FOOT CLINIC FOR SENIORS

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

HATHA YOGA

Sunday, 9 to 10:15 a.m. in the Community Hall
Contact Betty Kovacs at 337-5346

OPEN ART

Monday, noon to 3 p.m. in the Senior Center
Restarting March 28, all are welcome.
Contact Eileen McVay-Lively at 337-4742
for more information .

PRE-SCHOOL STORY HOUR

Every other Friday 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the library
Apr 8 and 22. Check at the library for updated information.

SENIOR BROWN BAG LUNCH

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

HEALTHY BONES AND BALANCE

Tuesday, 11 a.m. to noon, and Thursday, 10 to 11 a.m. in
the Senior Center
Helps prevent falls & osteoporosis, for ages 55 and over.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Thursday, 11 a.m. to noon in the Senior Center
Weight loss through developing a healthier lifestyle

SENIOR LUNCHEON*

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



HEATH TOWN OFFICES

1 East Main St
Heath MA 01346
Phone: 413-337-4934
Fax: 413-337-8542
www.townofheath.org

- Town Coordinator, Kara Leistyna**
bos@townofheath.org
Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with exceptions posted in Sawyer Hall
- Selectboard, *bos@townofheath.org***
Tuesday 7 p.m., Sawyer Hall
Sheila Litchfield, Chair, 337-4957
Brian DeVriese, 337-5525
Bill Lattrell, 337-5792
- Town Clerk, Hilma Sumner**
townclerk@townofheath.org
Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to noon
Monday 4 to 5 p.m. or call for appointment, 413-337-4845
- Accountant, Tracey Baronas**
accountant@townofheath.org
Monday 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (varies)
413-337-4934, ext. 5
- Tax Collector, Elizabeth Nichols**
taxcollector@townofheath.org
Monday 4 to 6 p.m.
or call for appointment 413-337-6665
413-337-4934, ext. 2 / Fax: 413-337-8542
- Treasurer, Kristi Narktowicz**
Monday 2 to 4 p.m. (varies) or email to *knartowicz@gmail.com*

COMMUNITY

- Public Library, Don Purington, 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.
413-337-4934, ext. 7
- Post Office Manager, Charlene Reynolds**
Monday to Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
413-337-4934, ext. 4
- School**
Heath Principal Eric Glazier, 413-337-5307
MTRSD School Committee Representatives
Budge Litchfield, 337-4957
Kenneth Rocke, 337-5753
- Town Nurse, Claire Rabbitt, RN**
Office hours, Senior Center, 413-337-4847
Tuesday 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.,
Thursday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Voice mailbox: 413-337-4934, ext. 109
Home phone: 413-337-8309

PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY

- Police Department, Margo Newton, Chief**
Office hours: Tuesday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
413-337-4934, ext. 108
- Transfer Station, Ken Erho, Attendant**
Wednesday, noon to 4 p.m. all year
Saturday, 8 am to 4 p.m. all year
Monday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **May 30 to Nov 1 only**
- Volunteer Fire Department, Ken Gilbert, Chief**
413-337-4461

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- Board of Assessors**
Monday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Robyn Provost-Carlson, 337-5316
Alice Wozniak, 337-4949
Heidi Griswold, 337-4079
- Board of Health**
Karen Brooks, Chair, 337-6614
Charlie Cornish, 339-8309
Betsy Kovacs, 337-5346
Mike Freeman, 339-4239
Armand Clavette, 337-4065
- Finance Committee**
Don Freeman, Chair, 337-4854
Ned Wolf, Secretary, 337-4476
Jeff Simmons, 337-4994
Gloria Fisher, 337-6626
Jan Carr, 337-5747
- Library Board of Trustees**
Deborah Porter, Chair, 337-4715
Kate Bailey, Secretary
Janis Carr, 337-5747
- Planning Board**
Calvin Carr, Chair, *calvincarr@verizon.net*
Douglas Mason, Sec, *dougmason@hughes.net*
Robert Viarengo, *viarengo932@crocker.com*
Jo Travis, *jtravis156@verizon.net*
Bill Gran, *whgran@gmail.com*
- Agricultural Commission**
Jessica Van Steensburg, 339-4904
Nina Marshall, 339-4756
Walter Gleason, 337-4479
- Cemetery Commission**
Jerry Gilbert, Central Cemetery, 337-4355
Claire Rabbitt, North Cemetery, 337-8309
Eric Sumner, South Cemetery, 337-5330
Matthew Lively, Sexton, 337-4331
Hilma Sumner, Burial Agent, 337-4845
- Conservation Commission**
Brian DeVriese, Chair, 337-5525
Dennis Peters, 337-4014
Ellen Jenkins, 337-5353
Bernard "Buck" den Ouden, 337-4002
Jessica Van Steensburg, 339-4904
- Historical Commission**
Margaret Freeman, Chair, 337-4854



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