



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

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June/July 2016

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 March 5 for inclusion in April/May issue
May 5 for inclusion in June/July issue
 July 5 for inclusion in August/September issue
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 November 5 for inclusion in December/January issue

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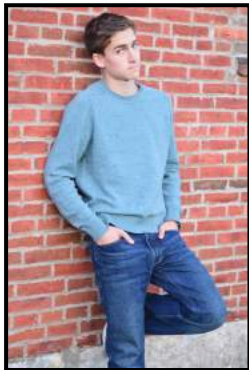
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HEATH GRADUATING SENIORS CLASS of 2016

Sam Rode



This coming fall I will be attending the Honors College at UMass Amherst to pursue a degree in Environmental Studies. In my time at MTRHS nothing has had as large and lasting an impact as my years in Track and Cross Country. I plan on continuing these sports in some capacity at the collegiate level. I'd like to thank my family for their continued support of all my endeavors; without their guidance I have no idea where I would be. I'd also like to thank all of those from Heath Elementary and Mohawk, as well as the rest of this nine-town community for the humble and nurturing environment they have granted me with. I owe all my success, past, present, and future, to this area and the values of charity, community, and stewardship that thrive within it.

My future goals consist of going to the Southeast Lineman Training Center in Trenton, Georgia. There I will begin my training and start my career of becoming a lineman. My hopes for the future after attending the training center would be to work with one of the local companies that provide services to areas including my hometown. After working there for some time, I would like to be able to work for a company that offers opportunities to travel across the country.

Colton Yeziarski

My future goals consist of going to the Southeast Lineman Training Center in Trenton, Georgia. There I will begin my training and start my career of becoming a lineman. My hopes for the future after attending the training center would be to work with one of the local companies that provide services to areas including my hometown. After working there for some time, I would like to be able to work for a company that offers opportunities to travel across the country.



Hope Lively

After graduating high school, in the fall of 2016 I will be attending Fitchburg State University. I will be majoring in nursing and trying out to be a part of the women's soccer team. While studying nursing I plan to focus on becoming either an obstetric or emergency depart-

ment nurse. Becoming a nurse has always been a dream of mine and I plan to achieve that throughout my years in college, while hopefully becoming a Lady Falcon and pursuing another passion of mine. I loved high school but I am ready to start the next chapter in my life.

Julian Diamond



I've spent my past four years of high school at Mohawk, and while I'll miss the close community I have here in the Hill Towns, I look forward to moving on to the next chapter which will be spent on the West Coast. I will be attending Occidental College in Los Angeles where I will play football and possibly baseball as well—two activities I've enjoyed

starting in elementary school and throughout high school. I'm considering majoring in economics which is an area I've always found interesting in the classroom at Mohawk. I want to thank everyone who has helped me get to where I am today including my family, friends, teachers, and especially those from Heath school who set the foundation for me as a person. I look forward to the future but will always remember and visit the place where I grew up.

Eric Osman

I am a graduate of Franklin County Technical School. My shop was Machine Tech. My goals are to get a job in this field when I turn 18. I have a couple of prospects in the works, one being Smith and Wesson in Springfield, MA.



Edward Muenkel

I am a senior at Mohawk Trail Regional High School. For the past two years I participated in the Moody Mega Math Challenge and the Invitational Mathematics Meet at WPI. I have been on the school track team since Grade 7. I have lived in Heath my entire life, previously having attended the Heath Elementary School and Pre-school. In the fall I will be attending UMass Amherst, majoring in Mathematics.



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FOURTH OF JULY, 1776

Selections from: *The Christian Patriot*

*Some Recollections of the Late Col. Hugh Maxwell
of Heath, Massachusetts*

*Collected and Preserved by a Daughter
New York, 1833*

My father was a true lover of this country and took a deep interest in all that concerned her welfare. He watched with a jealous eye, all the doings of the English Parliament designed to humble and subjugate the colonies. He used to take a Boston newspaper, the only one taken in all the region round about. He also procured all the pamphlets, publications, addresses, etc. which came out. These he would read to his neighbors, accompanied with explanations and remarks, calculated to make them understand the true nature of the controversy between the colonies and the mother country, and to fire their minds with patriotic zeal against oppression. Often, especially at the arrival of the papers, would his house be filled from morning till night with men who came to read the news and to talk politics. Thus was he able to instill into the mind of almost every man around, a portion of the same ardor that fired his own. The two succeeding winters after he removed [to Charlemont, now Heath], he kept a small school; and there too he was careful to instill into the minds of the young men the love of liberty, and a determination to resist oppression, and to preserve the rights which God had given them. The consequence was, that in 1775, it appeared that every man in that and the neighboring towns, was in favor of liberty.

When he joined the Army, he left his family in that small house, without barn or shed; they were on a new farm, with only a few neighbors, and all in the same situation, that part of the town being but little cultivated; his wife at the charge of seven children, the eldest daughter 10 or 11 years old, and the oldest son about three, the youngest scarce a week old; with no man to assist them or do anything for them, and no security or provisions for the future. Their water was 20 rods from the house. Their grain must be procured from the distance of seven or 8 miles, and carried 5 miles to mill, and this must be done by mother or daughters; the country was entering upon a contest of which no one could foresee the issue; he was taking a course, which if unsuccessful might bring him to the scaffold or the halter as a rebel; it was indeed a time of darkness and trouble, within and without; it was not the rumor of war but actual war that had reached them. But he considered the call of his distressed and bleeding country as paramount to every personal or

domestic consideration, and he could neither please God nor satisfy his own conscience, if he flinched from the call. And indeed a kind Providence seemed to watch over that helpless family, far beyond their expectations. Helpers were raised up; the neighbors were very kind as far as they could be; with their help they continued to raise every year a little patch of corn, and another of potatoes; of the last they always had a supply, so that they never came to actual want.

The family, who'd been left in such trying circumstances, soon realized the effects of war in a different way. Besides their deprivations, hardships and anxieties, news soon came, that their husband and father was dangerously wounded in battle. This was in the first regular battle of the war, on the 17th June, at Bunker Hill.

During the action on the hill, my father was wounded, by a ball passing through his right shoulder. It entered just under the collar bone and came out through the shoulder blade. ... For some time his life was despaired of, the weather being very hot and the wound in a critical place. Indeed there seemed but a small chance for his recovery. A gangrene commenced, but through the blessing of God and the good management of Doctor Hart, he recovered; although he was never afterwards able to do the work of a farmer.

In September, he was sufficiently recovered to come home to his family where he spent six or seven weeks.

Late in the fall he left home again, to return to his company. It was against the remonstrance and tears of his wife, who could not bear the thought of being again left in such circumstances of privation and hardship. But he considered the call of his distressed country paramount to every other; and he tore himself away from his helpless family, after commending them to the care of that God who had made it his duty to leave them. O where would have been the liberties of America, if her sons had taken counsel of domestic affection, or selfish ease? Without any organized general government, denounced as rebels and traitors, without any revenue or any means of raising a revenue, to pay our support and Army, except the voluntary contributions of the people – manifestly it required some higher principle than is ordinarily found, to fill the ranks of the American host. That principle was found in a people who understood their rights and duties, and his religious principles were such that they did not shrink when duty called. Without a host of such hearts, nerved by the love of country, and steadied by the fear of God, American independence could never have been achieved.

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And when anyone would ask, whether it was the duty of the farmers and mechanics of New England to make the sacrifices they did, and to tear themselves from their homes, and leave their families to suffer such hardship; let him look at the benefits which America has already yielded to the world since her independence, and to the richer blessings, temporal and spiritual, which she is yet to yield, and then say, which was better, to have lost all these, or that these hardships should have been incurred.

On 4 July (1776), the Congress at Philadelphia, published their declaration that the United States are "free, sovereign, and independent," and dissolved all connection with the British government.



Heath Artists Exhibit

There are more than rocks in Heath: the Heath Artists Exhibit opens Labor Day Weekend.

Scarcely two weeks after the celebrated Heath Fair, Heath will have another reason to bring visitors out to the hills.

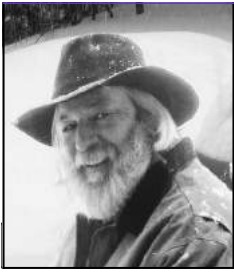
It is Heath resident Harry Hallman's brainchild—to mount an exhibit of the art works of local artists. With help from a grant provided by the Heath Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Heath Artists Exhibit will take over the Heath Community Hall for the week of September 3 through 10, with an opening reception on Sunday, September 4, 2016.

Hallman, with the assistance of Eileen Lively and Suzanne Hannay, is currently working to identify local artists, requesting participation. Depending on the space available and the number of artists applying, artists are encouraged to submit one to four works of original art. Paintings in a variety of mediums, sculpture, pottery, glasswork and photography head the list of artifacts for exhibit.

You don't have to have something on display in the Metropolitan and you don't have to be a professional. If you love art and have created something that delights you, you are encouraged to contact the committee directly—Harry Hallman hwhallman@hotmail.com, Suzanne Hannay shannay614@gmail.com, and Eileen Lively at 413-337-4742.

Look for the Art Exhibit table at the Memorial Day Tag Sale on the Common, then on Labor Day Weekend and the days following, come discover what Heath has to offer the world of art.

—Suzanne Hannay



Wild Ramblings

—Bill Lattrell

On the Water: Morning with a Rookery

I'd intended on getting here awhile ago but the stars apparently weren't aligned for me to have an early arrival. My aching back would not cooperate. Straightening up was only done with great difficulty. I spent a half an hour lying on my back, my buttocks against the wall, and my legs outstretched vertically up the pine board wall in our spare bedroom. After a while I could feel the pain subsiding enough to where I felt comfortable heading out to the rookery. An hour and a half later, after a short drive and a hike through the woods, I arrived some 30 miles north at a remote wetland in southern Vermont.

I'd hoped for a dazzling display of blue sky, bright sun, and sparkling water on the large beaver pond. What I got was drizzle, gray skies, and water speckled with rain drops. Still, from this shoreline I could see the heron rookery. Any day is a good day when I'm out in the wild and this was not an exception. It's a small rookery, ten nests in all. It reminds me of a rookery that peaked years ago in Heath, only about a mile from my house. Although the herons still nest there, many of the dead hemlocks surrounded by water have toppled over. The large rookery is a lost treasure there (the landowners and I hope to revive it soon by building tall man-made tripods that will serve as nesting sites) but here the tree snags are still solid and should last for some time to come. It is remote and full to the brim with only the peace that wild nature can bring. The herons are already nesting. There is a parent in almost every nest. I assume they are watching over the egg clutch. It's a serious responsibility that both nesting parents take very seriously.

Great blue herons, one of our wetland's most majestic birds, select new mates each year. While unintended,

this helps with genetic diversity in the heron community. Mating rituals are exquisite and include stick exchanging, beak clapping, and feather ruffling. Herons typically mate for the first time when they are about 22 months old. Once a mate is selected and breeding takes place, the male will gather large sticks and other materials and present them to the female who generally constructs the nest. Nest building can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. Keep in mind that herons are not shy about using old great blue nests and redecorating them to their own satisfaction.

Nests in dead trees are typically located in open water areas. Beaver-flooded swamps where dead trees exist with good branching make perfect nesting habitat for herons. They seem to like nesting in communities. These pods of nests are referred to as rookeries. Rookeries can range in size from a couple of nests to hundreds. Although herons don't allow other herons in their nests, the community approach to living has a distinct advantage in

that many nesting pairs can easily spot predators and alert other nesting birds as to the predator's whereabouts. Many eyes yield success when it comes to watching for nesting threats.

Once the basic framework of the nest is constructed out of large sticks found on the ground in the surrounding area, the female lines the nest with peat moss, reeds, pine needles, and leaves of many types of deciduous trees. The final product can range in size from 2 to 4 feet in diameter and 18 to 30 inches deep. Older, reworked nests are often nests built on old



nests and can reach very large sizes.

The female lays two to six pale blue eggs in the nest. The eggs are laid over a period of days. The brooding period lasts for about four weeks. Herons sometimes raise two broods in one nesting season over a two-and-a-half month nesting season. Both females and males sit on the eggs. The time frame really varies from twenty-minute to twenty-hour intervals. On warmer days both may leave the nest. The eggs are frequently rolled to allow the large eggs to be warmed evenly on all sides.

I watch the birds glide effortlessly as they leave the nest. One or two flaps of the wings and they sail across

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the swamp to a hunting spot near the edge of the pond where unsuspecting prey can be found. Some of the herons fly off over the tree tops in search of other feeding areas. Their huge size makes it hard to fathom that they can fly at all.

Great blue herons are wading birds. Their long legs, long neck, keen eyesight, and unbelievable patience make this large bird a perfect predator. When wading, they move slowly and wait. And wait. And wait. When the right moment arises, they use their specially jointed long neck and long beak to grab prey with lightning-quick speed. A great variety of fish, reptiles, small mammals, insects, and amphibians are considered to be good food by the blue heron. They hunt effectively in both day and night because they have special photoreceptors in their eyes that give them astounding night vision, especially at close range. They will travel up to four miles for food, especially during the nesting season when they have hungry chicks to feed.

Blue herons, despite their huge physical size (up to four feet long and 30 inches in height when standing), typically weigh between 4.5 and 5.5 pounds. Their bones are strong but super lightweight. The geometry of the structure of their bones gives them superior strength.

Interestingly, the chest feathers of the great blue heron contain a powdery down that they harvest with their claws. The down is used on other feathers to clean the feathers of fish oils and swamp scum. Preening is a normal and consistent activity for herons.

Out of the corner of my eye, I see a nesting heron suddenly stand straight up in its nest. It keenly watches the water in a westerly direction. It's not long and then I spot an otter. Otters love these deep-water beaver pond habitats. There is much for them: good foraging and a lot of room to play, which are activities done especially well

by otters. The heron does not seem too alarmed, but another heron from a different nest flies toward and over the otter to investigate. Also seeing nothing too alarming, it returns to its nest.



Flying great blues resemble something prehistoric. Perhaps a pterodactyl. They fold their long neck into a flat "S" pattern that makes them more aerodynamic and keeps their elongated neck free from collisions with branches and other dangerous objects. They flap their wings slowly and gracefully. On a sunny day they cast a majestic shadow on the water below. Well after nesting season, as food gets scarce, herons migrate in a southerly direction, often to previously used haunts

where food supplies are adequate. Some birds migrate to close-by locations. Others migrate hundreds of miles.

The morning air is filled with quacking wood frogs, peeping spring peepers, and the occasional rapid tapping of a nearby pileated woodpecker. This concert has no rivals. It is the original symphony.

My mind wanders. I think back to when I was a child hanging out in the swamps almost 60 years ago. It was there that I found a sanctuary. It was there that I found safety and peace. In many ways, I've never left. Morning swamps still recharge my spirit.

It's been more than an hour. The black flies have found me. It seems as though they have decided that I am a mighty big breakfast. It occurs to me that although I don't mind donating blood, there might be places where the donation would be more useful. And so, I head back to the truck, about a mile through deep woods from this remote wetland.

As I enter into the thick black spruce forest, I turn around to take one last look at the rookery. A heron, apparently confident that the sun will soon appear, is attempting to dry its wings. It is standing up with its wings nearly straight out to either side appearing as a seven-foot cross on top of this dead tree.

I smile as I remember that it is Sunday. Nature at its best.

—Bill Lattrell



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Green Thoughts

—Pat Leuchtman

Right Plant, Right Place

Our move to a new house with new garden space has put us on a fast learning curve to find sustainable plants for the new garden which is very wet. When we lived at the end of the road my only worry was about whether a desired plant was hardy enough to survive Heath winters, especially when compounded by the Montreal Express that came roaring down our hill.

Our forester once showed us a soil map of the area and told us that we were lucky because our soil was of a relatively good type. It was acidic, of course, but it was not heavy clay and it drained well. As organic gardeners we improved that soil over the years with pig and chicken manure produced on site, as well as homemade compost. One year Henry gave me a whole truck load of Obear's compost for a birthday present so we could improve the soil in every area of the garden; the rose walk, the peony border, the lawn beds and the fenced in vegetable garden with its raspberry patch. What luxury that was.

With all those benefits I felt I could plant just about anything I wanted. Now, instead of endless space on a sunny hill with rich soil, I am in the process of creating a garden in a spot that has a fair amount of shade (and I plan to create more shade) with very poor, heavy, clay soil and poor drainage. After 35 years in Heath I know a lot about improving soil, but I don't have any experience with wet gardens. I do know that I have to find and choose plants that do not mind flooding and extended periods of standing water.

When we bought our house we knew there was a large 'wet spot.' We did not realize the full extent of that wet spot or that it was caused by the clay soil, a high water table, and our lower-than-our-neighbors site which means that rains falling on their large paved areas drain into our yard.

What to do?

There is great wisdom in the advice not to do anything with a new yard for a year, so that the benefits and drawbacks of the site can be fully understood. There was no way I could go a whole planting season beginning in June without starting my garden. At least I had a strategy. I thought I knew where the wet spot was last sum-

mer, so after we laid out and began planting the south shrub border which was reliably dry, we laid out beds in the backyard. The area closest to the house was also relatively dry but got increasingly wetter towards the back property border.

All our plantings made use of the lasagna method. The whole property did not have any notable landscaping—just lawn. We were not going to dig up all that sod; with the help of lots and lots of cardboard and 10 yards of compost and loam from Martin's Farm, we essentially created several raised beds. Even so, we knew just about everything we planted in the backyard needed to love water.

Our first goal was to create a less labor-intensive garden which means trees and shrubs. Our second goal was to plant many native plants that would support the whole ecological system including pollinators and other bugs.

An important secret to success in any garden is to choose the right plant for the right spot. I am becoming an expert on plants that tolerate and love water. The first shrubs we planted in the backyard last summer included three winterberries (male and female), buttonbush, elderberry, yellow twig dogwood, *Clethra alnifolia*, Joe Pye weed, a dappled willow, and a river birch tree. All the shrubs are budding and leafing out as I write and I can celebrate their surviving their first winter.

We also brought down a few divisions from the Heath garden or from friends: Siberian irises, daylilies, tiarella, lady's mantle, bee balm, yarrow, coral bells, and a low growing Woods Blue aster. Some of these had to be planted in the drier south border. I've bought other perennials that are said to enjoy (or tolerate) water: *Sanguisorba canadensis*, aka American burnet, Culver's root, lady ferns, and a brilliant red cardinal flower.

This spring we planted an osier dogwood and a red twig dogwood. We were able to get quite large specimens. For the first time in our gardening life we are planting large shrubs because at our age we no longer have time to let small whips (our previous system) become large enough to provide the effect we want. We want to enjoy the beauties of a substantial garden right away.

In addition to large shrubs, I've added water-loving perennials like Japanese primroses and Japanese irises (both gifts from friends), supermarket primroses, and bog rosemary.

Fortunately, the drier soil and dependable sun on the south side of the house have allowed us to plant a border of hydrangeas, lilacs, viburnums, roses, and a few perennials. We have found the right plants for the right spaces

(Continued on page 11)



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(Continued from page 9)

so far, but we may find the need for adjustments as we go forward.

This year I am planting a small herb bed and raising a few vegetables in Smart Pots, felty-looking soft containers that air prune roots instead of going round and round in tight knots. Four blueberries went in last summer, but a real vegetable garden will have to wait.

Photographs do not show the amount of progress we have made very well because it is too early in the season. You'll have to take my word for it that the garden is well underway! Or come and visit!

—Pat Leuchtman



Nature Note: A Complex Relationship

A most unusual wildflower can be found growing in our area, known by several names. Indian Pipe describes its shape and Ghost Flower refers to its color.

Not only the flower but the entire plant is white as it lacks the green pigment chlorophyll. As a result, Indian Pipe doesn't use photosynthesis to make its own food but instead is a parasite, tapping into an amazing mutually-beneficial relationship between trees and fungus.

Underground is a vast network of intertwining tree roots and fungus. The fungus is more efficient at taking up water and minerals from the soil which get "passed" to the tree roots. The trees, in return, supply some of the sugars they make from photosynthesis to the fungus. Indian Pipe plants spend most of their lives underground benefiting from their association with this system. Once a year they send up the stalks that we see bloom and produce seeds.

This summer look for Indian Pipes growing under beech trees and when you find them, take a minute to appreciate that some of the most important interactions in the forest are below the ground.

—Susan Draxler



Heath Fairgrounds

Saturday, June 25

Franklin County 4-H Fair

FREE Admission and Parking

9 a.m. Horse Show

10 a.m. Animal Shows

Dairy and Beef Cattle Show

Sheep and Goat Demonstrations

Poultry and Duck Show

Rabbit Show



All day: Exhibit Hall will be open to display items made by 4-H members, Wagon rides, food booth, K-9 demo. Come see what 4-H clubs are doing and come and support these kids!

Back-40 Tractor Ride

Watch the tractors leave the fairgrounds at 9:30 a.m. for a back country ride. Prizes for the oldest tractor, oldest driver, youngest driver, and farthest traveled.

For drivers only, no riders or wagons. Information below.

June Draw

Ox Teamsters' Annual June Draw



Sunday, June 26

Annual Horse Draw orchestrated by the Clarks.

Come watch these amazing animals and see how effectively they work with their people!

Back-40 Tractor Ride Entry Information

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

Franklin County Farm Bureau,
c/o 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.

Questions?

Call Gina, 860-510-2464

The School Community

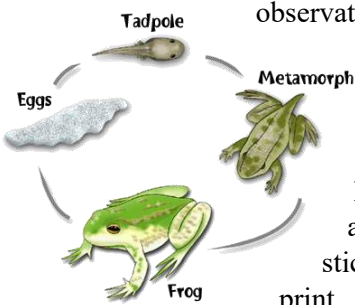
Another school year is drawing to a close and what a year it's been. I know I say this every year, but we have the hardest-working students, teachers, staff, and parents in the entire county! It's amazing how fast 180 school days can pass when our classes are fully engaged in reading, writing, math, science, social studies, art, music, and physical education. Not only are our kids engaged during the school day, but also many of them participate in extracurricular activities beyond the school day. We have athletes, musicians, dancers, 4-H members, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, artists, and much more.

Over the summer we will be replacing the exterior drainage around the entire school building. This project has been on the docket for many years and was an approved capital project two years ago, but we are just getting the project completed now. I anticipate that our building will be used over the summer for tutoring services also. If any town residents would like to visit the Heath School and take a tour during school hours or after school hours, please feel free to call me to arrange a visit.

Prime Blue (Preschool/Kindergarten)

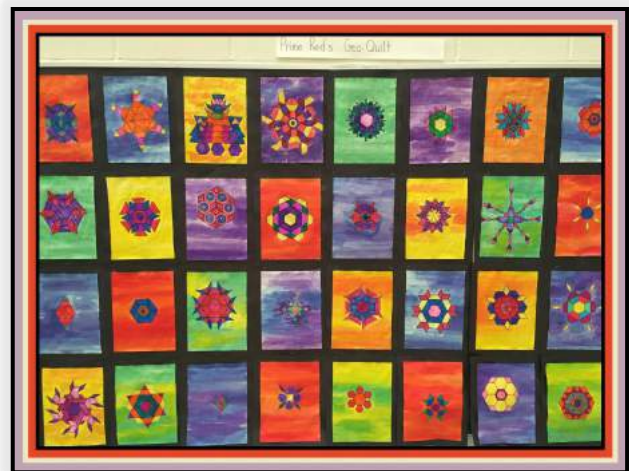
The class has been focusing on life cycles with the return of spring! The children started with plants and have been making careful observations and measurements of the peas we planted. To help learn about the needs of plants, they are experimenting with growing grass seeds with no soil, no sun, or no water, and comparing them with seeds that have all three. They also placed fresh celery in colored water to observe how the celery drinks up the water. And they built mazes out of cardboard boxes with holes cut in the top to see how potato plants seek out sunlight with their vines.

Next, the class will turn its attention to the life cycle of frogs. The frog eggs in a tank in the classroom are already hatching, and the class will start their careful observation and documentation of the tadpoles' changes next week. Upcoming activities to help the children learn the stages of the frog life cycle include acting out a life cycle poem using stick puppets, making fingerprint lifecycle art, plus other songs, books, and poetry. The children will release the frogs back to the pond from which they got the eggs on an end-of-year field trip.



Prime Red (Grade 1/2)

The first and second graders in the Prime Red class have been learning about geometric shapes. They learned about different shapes such as the rectangle, square, triangle, and hexagon. The students had to learn about how many sides and corners each shape has. They needed to know how the size of the sides helped determine what kind of shape it is. The concept that a square is a special kind of rectangle is an important fact for the students to understand. They looked at the shapes and compared and contrasted them. Then the students needed to be able to draw the different shapes correctly. To help them with this task, they used stencils of the shapes. As they became comfortable with the stencils, they were asked to create a symmetrical shape or quilt square made up of different shapes put together which was then made into a geometric quilt. Geometry is always one of the students' favorite math topics.



Middles (Grade 3/4)

In May, the class began work on a play with the local Piti Theatre Company. The project involved the Heath School 3rd- and 4th-grade classes and was coordinated by Mr. Sarich (teacher), and Jonathan Mirin & Godelieve Richard (Piti Theatre Company). The subject was endangered species with a specific focus on the American Bald Eagle and its dramatic recovery over the past 50 years. The project had been in the works since October 2014, and we were so happy to have secured the grant money needed to bring this project to fruition. It was a "movement type" play with some individual and many group lines. Woven with narration, students used their bodies and movement to tell the amazing story of American Bald Eagles, our national symbol. Students each

made their own Bald Eagle masks and were active in choreographing the play. The performance was on Friday, May 6 at 2:30 at the Heath School.



Uppers (Grade 5/6)

The class is halfway through our mystery unit, reading *The Westing Game*. *The Westing Game* is a favorite mystery book of many readers, young and old. In fact, many parents have asked to borrow classroom copies of the book so they can read along with their children. This puzzle-mystery involves sixteen heirs who are all trying to win the inheritance of their "Uncle Sam" - entrepreneur Samuel W. Westing. To win, they must use clues to solve Sam Westing's murder.

The Westing Game is a challenging text for students because of its genre: mystery. When reading a mystery book, readers have to keep track of a long list of characters and plot-twisting events. The reader can expect his or her opinion of the characters to change across the text. Ellen Raskin, the author, describes the characters in *The Westing Game* as "im perfect," yet the reader gets to like them and realizes they're not the way they seem.

Symbolism woven throughout the book provides another level of challenge. As Ellen Raskin began writing *The Westing Game*, she was inspired by bicentennial celebrations, fireworks, patriotism, and the American Dream. During this unit, students will read about the American Bicentennial, the American Dream, American symbolism, the Salem witch trials, and the life of Andrew Carnegie. Students will infer how Ellen Raskin's storyline may have been inspired by these symbols and events.

Students will draw inferences about how the American Dream influenced the economy and spirit of the American people during the time of the Great Depression. As they

begin to read their companion books, *Children of the Dust Bowl* by Jerry Stanley and *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan, in small reading groups, students will be able to make these connections across the texts.

—Eric Glazier

A Rock Is Just a Rock

(until it needs to come out of the ground!)

Every year we (Ernie/Dad, Steve, David, and Bill Thane) would plow up the field where the Heath Elementary School now sits and plant either hay or corn. And every year after the field was plowed and harrowed, we had to pick out all of the unearthed rocks before we could plant the field, as everyone always has to do here in Heath. Some rocks were high enough to interfere with planting and harvesting but deep enough to need to be pried out of the earth with a pry bar.

The way you can tell if a stone is loose enough to be pried out is by bouncing the pry bar on the rock (a vertical drop of the pry bar down onto the top of the rock). If the bar bounces back up, you know that the stone is solid enough to make it too big or too deep to pry out. If the bar moves, it can probably be pried out of the field.

Every year when he came over crest of the hill, my father would stop to check what looked like a small rock, 18 inches wide and 30 inches long or so, and would test it by bouncing the pry bar on its top. Every year the bar would bounce back, and Dad would decide the rock still was not ready to come out. And he was right, because this very rock is the one you can see in front of the school now. If you look closely enough, you can see the light patch on the top section of the rock that was the only part visible when we were picking stones. Little did we realize there was this VW-size part of the rock underground, which was discovered when the excavation of the school took place!

—Steve Thane



Photos by C. Luis-Schultz

Heath Fair News

Save the Date: August 19, 20, 21

Agricultural Tent

Have you ever made rope or tasted a “mortgage lifter” tomato? If not, then the Heath Fair Agricultural Tent is the place for you.

Here you can relive our agricultural past and see what our future could be. Write with a quill pen that you make yourself, shell corn with an antique sheller, light a light bulb with a bicycle-powered generator, or make butter or ice cream the old-fashioned way.

Come and sit down with weavers and learn what their craft is all about or sample our selection of heirloom tomatoes. You may be surprised at how good a tomato can taste.

Kids of all ages are amazed as the antique rope winder turns bailing twine into rope, and the younger set love to milk our cow. If the weather cooperates, we will cook with a solar cooker. We also have a selection of videos on topics of local interest.

New this year, we are planning on constructing bluebird houses and playing birdsong bingo. We also have a couple of other fun ideas in the works.

This is just some of what you can do in the Agricultural Tent. The tent is always looking for help and new ideas, so if any of this interests you, please contact Bob Delisle at 337-5716 or bobdelisle@hotmail.com.

Heath Fair Corn Poll

You know about the Iowa Caucus, the New Hampshire primary, Super Tuesday, and the 2016 presidential election, but did you know that the Heath Fair has its own election event? It's the Heath Fair Corn Poll.



That's right. You have a chance to pick the winner of the upcoming presidential election at the Heath Fair. No need to register, no need for three forms of identification, no official picture ID required. We trust you! No need to worry about hanging chads, butterfly ballots, or some partisan hack challenging your eligibility. No long waits in line, changes in your polling place location or hours of operation, and certainly none of those newfangled voting machines shutting down for no reason. And what about those machines, anyway? Do they actually record your ballot correctly? You just never know! There is no need to use outrageously expensive voting machines with only a 12-year life span when corn and jars will last for hundreds of years as long as the mice don't get into them. And you can be assured that gerrymandering will not be an issue in this election and that all candidates will have a valid birth certificate!

The *Heath Fair Corn Poll* is a straightforward, no nonsense, “fair and balanced” election where all eligible voters can cast a vote at the fair that they know will be counted simply by placing a kernel of corn in the jar representing their favorite presidential candidate. What could be simpler and more reliable? Yes, this is the way voting is supposed to be: easy and all-inclusive, with no hoops to jump through, no surprises, and none of those annoying conditional provisional ballots. You vote and it gets counted! Can't make it to the fair? We accept absentee ballots. Just send in your kernel of corn, along with your name and address (or anonymously if you prefer) and where you want us to cast your kernel, and we will take it from there. To be eligible voters must be 18 years old and a US citizen. Send your vote to The Heath Agricultural Society, c/o P.O. Box 3, Heath MA 01346 by August 19, 2016, in order to be counted.

We know that fair goers will treat this exercise in democracy with the respect and solemnity that it deserves. After all, we have watched Congress for the last four years and there is no doubt that we can do better. Elections are expensive, so we will happily accept contributions from all lobbyists and corporations. However, there is no *quid pro quo* here. We know that all contributions are made purely out of your concern for democracy and the welfare of the country and that the millions we will receive have no strings attached. Thank you!

The results of The Heath Fair Corn Poll will be published in the September/October issue of the *Heath Herald*, Heath's first newspaper and the paper of record for Heath.

—Bob Delisle



Photos by D. Mason, (top) and C. Luis-Schultz (bottom)



Town Nurse

—*Claire Rabbitt, RN*

Health Tips for Summer

The summer season is welcomed with joy by most of us in northern climates after the long months of cold, although this past winter was comparatively mild. Every season has its challenges and recent years have brought new ones to summer including Lyme disease, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, West Nile Virus, and now the Zika Virus. By the time you see this article we will be seeing mosquitoes in our area, although the *Aedes Albopictus* mosquito, that transmits the Zika virus, has not been found this far north, so far. Be aware, however, that travelers coming to the area may have contracted it. It should be noted that even if the person with it has no symptoms, the Zika virus can be sexually transmitted. There is particular concern for pregnant women because the baby may be born with a serious birth defect causing abnormal brain and head development. West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis are very serious diseases as well, and are carried by the mosquitoes in our area, so it is important to take measures to protect ourselves from mosquito bites.

On the CDC web site I found some recommendations for controlling mosquitoes at home:

Install or repair window and door screens. Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover or throw out any items that hold water such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, bird baths, flower pots and saucers, or trash containers. Use larvicides to treat large containers that will not be used for drinking and cannot be covered or dumped out. Carefully following instructions, use an outdoor flying insect spray where mosquitoes rest, such as dark humid areas like under patio furniture or under a carport, porch, or garage. If you have a septic tank, repair cracks or gaps and cover open vents or plumbing pipes with wire mesh with holes smaller than mosquitoes. (I think that would be a challenging task.) Kill mos-

quitoes inside, under sinks, closets, and under furniture using an indoor spray.

When engaging in outside activities, also keep in mind the need to protect yourself, children and pets from mosquitoes and ticks using insect repellants and protective clothing, and flea and tick collars for the pets. If you have been walking or working in brushy or tall grass areas, it's a good idea to shower afterward and check for ticks. Be sure to check children, and pets as well. If you or a family member develops flu-like symptoms and you think there may have been exposure to ticks or mosquitoes, call your healthcare provider for advice.

As the season approaches I'm sure we will be getting reports from the media regarding mosquitoes, ticks, and weather events. Take precautions and have a safe and healthy summer!

News from the Board of Health

The Heath BOH sometimes receives complaints about messy yards, dogs, unregistered vehicles, burning trash, abandoned refrigerators with doors left on, etc., and we thought it might be helpful if we address some of these topics here.

According to our Zoning Bylaws, each property is allowed only *two* unregistered vehicle. If you have unwanted vehicles or trailers, call the BOH for a list of contacts for inexpensive or free hauling.

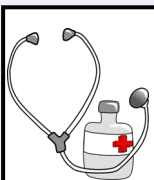
If you have an old refrigerator you are not currently using, make sure you remove the door as this can be a trapping hazard for small children.

Now is a good time to consider what you would like to bring to the annual Clean Sweep and Swap Day. This is a great way to get rid of unwanted items and at the same time clean up your yard. This year, Heath's Clean Sweep and Swap Day will be held on Aug 6. This is open to all Heath property owners and no dump sticker is required. We will take old appliances, air conditioners, tires, electronics, mattresses, furniture and most other household items and household trash for a modest fee. A price list will be posted and distributed in July. Recycling is free. We will also have a Salvation Army box for clothing, shoes, books, and fabric, including torn or stained fabric.

The Fire Department and the BOH are both responsible for clean air and water in town, and the burning of trash is definitely a "no-no." Please get a fire permit if you want to do a brush fire but do not burn plastics or anything other than clean wood.

If you have four or more dogs, Heath now requires a

(Continued on page 16)



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



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(Continued from page 15)

"kennel license". Please speak to Hilma Sumner, our Town Clerk, for more information.

If you would like to sell baked goods at the upcoming Farmers Market (starting on Memorial Day weekend), we now have a local food permit application available for Heath residents only. There is no charge. If you want to sell outside of Heath, a great opportunity is coming up on June 21 for a local, one-day ServSafe certification offered at Berkshire East. Register online at FRCOG.org

And if you know anyone who is thinking about buying land in town and building, ask them to contact the town for a helpful list of who to talk to about what and what to do first, etc.—this will hopefully save some headaches in the long run.

Call Heath BOH for more info 413-337-4934 x 8, email boh@townofheath.org or see Kara in the Town Hall 337-4934 x 0.

Movie Matinee Series

The Council on Aging has obtained the right under copyright law to publicly perform certain lawfully obtained motion pictures at the Heath Senior Center (HSC). Movies will take place at the Heath Senior Center on a once-a-month basis. Admission is free, and open to adults and children alike. BYO snacks to share, if you wish. Our goal is to bring the community together for an enjoyable afternoon with a good movie.

The HSC kicked off its first Movie Matinee series on Saturday, April 30 with a sea-faring tale, *In the Heart of the Sea*, that was based on the true story behind Herman Melville's classic *Moby Dick*. The movie told the story of the whaling ship *Essex* that sailed in 1820 from Nantucket to the Pacific Ocean, where it was attacked by a sperm whale and sank, followed by the harrowing tale of the survivors. The movie was rated PG-13. This movie was in theaters in 2015 and the DVD was released for sale in March 2016.

Due to the license regulations, there are advertising limitations that we must follow. We are able to advertise the title of the movie, stars and studio or producer name inside the Senior Center or by direct correspondence to patrons by letter or email only. If we wish to advertise in the community at large, specific information cannot be used and must be substituted by using only a general description.

Call Eileen Tougas at 337-8558 for more information about the upcoming movie of the month or look for our posters at the Senior Center.

—Eileen Tougas



LIBRARY LINES

—Donald Purington

Our three museum passes are available year-round, but they get the most use in the summer. Entertaining guests or treating yourself to a relaxing staycation day, be sure to call or stop by the library to reserve a pass.

Clark Art Institute, 225 South Street Williamstown, MA. The Clark Art Institute is the exclusive venue for *Splendor, Myth, and Vision: Nudes from the Prado*, featuring twenty-eight Old Master paintings from the Museo Nacional del Prado that celebrate the role of the nude in Western painting. June 11–October 10, 2016.

MASS MoCA, 1040 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, MA

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St, Brattleboro, VT

We also have two **MassParks** passes that cover day use parking fees at most Massachusetts State Parks where parking fees are charged. Saves \$5-\$8.



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: *City of Secrets* by Stewart O'Nan, *Redemption Road* by John Hart, *Larose* by Louise Erdrich

Non-fiction Books for Adults: *Valiant Ambition* by Nathaniel Philbrick, *Cook it in Cast Iron* by America's Test Kitchen, *Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?* by Frans de Waal

Books for Young/Teen Readers: *The Trials of Apollo* by Rick Riordan, *Raymie Nightingale* by Kate DiCamillo

Children's Picture Books/Boardbooks: *The Night Gardener* by Terry Fan, *Baby Wren and the Great Gift* by Sally Lloyd-Jones

Audio Books on CD: *Missoula* by Jon Krakauer, *The Obsession* by Nora Roberts

On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!

This summer at the Heath Library we are celebrating fitness and wellness. And reading, of course! Children are invited to sign up for the Summer Reading 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 library welcomes all families to join us for two hikes and two kids' yoga sessions in July. Bob Richardson, local naturalist and Hawley Bog expert, will accompany us to the Hawley Bog in the morning on Friday, July 8. We hope to view the amazing plant-life that this unique eco-system has to offer. On July 15, we will be hiking at the Benson Place Blueberry Trail. A blueberry story and snack will be included! Please check at the library for more details about meeting places and times. These dates are tentatively set. Yoga for Kids will be on July 22 and 29, 10 a.m., Community Hall, Heath Center.

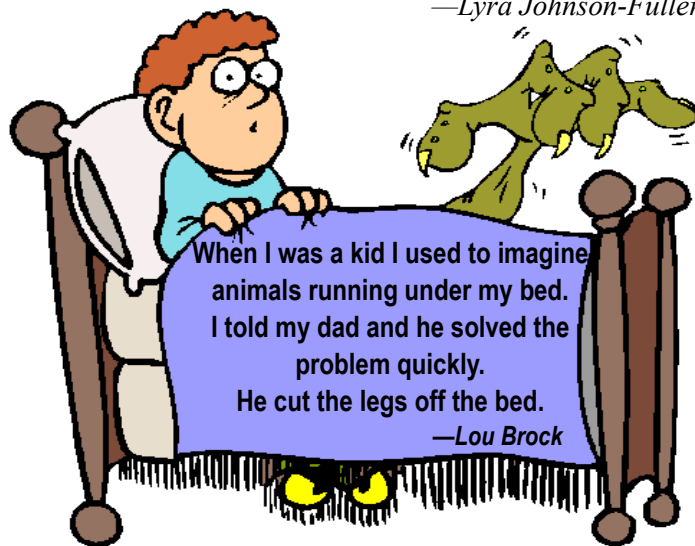
Both programs are free and are sponsored by the Friends of the Heath Library, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, the Massachusetts Board of Commissioners, and in part by a grant from the Heath Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council,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

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

Also, Eileen Lively is inviting all interested Heath folks to work on a community mosaic project, funded separately, depicting scenes of Heath. The finished mosaics will be installed at the fairgrounds, and she welcomes your ideas and help. We will meet on July 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 6 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

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

—Lyra Johnson-Fuller



Frog-Hearted

Spring's lovelorn caller, its brown loner croaks tonight. Desirer—right outside the window in the moon green and light rain. He'd surround himself with spawn foam and fill the ocean with his distillate ache. Be celebrant of a black mass wriggling. Lord it squatly for the season over a realm of unkissable princelings before following his own frog-future down a golden-red and reticulated throat. That bare gobbet of confusion within his breast would throb on a minute. Dinner-in-a-gullet, he'd burp once more in satisfied snake.

—John Palmer



The Heath Farmers Market Enters its Second Year

Heath Farmers Market kicked off Saturday, May 28, Memorial Day weekend on the Town Common. Local Heathans provide an array of veggies, flowers, plant starts, fresh baked breads, pastries, local meats such as lamb and pork, maple syrup and of course local, free-range eggs. The Heath Farmers Market is a great place to visit with neighbors, support your local economy, and meet your food needs.

Hours may vary but we expect to be open, rain or shine, from 10 a.m. to noon on the Town Common every Saturday from May 28 through the end of September. We hope to see you there.

Vendor details were still in the works at the time of publishing. For more information contact Jessica Van Steensburg at wecanfarminheath@gmail.com.

—Jessica Van Steensburg



Photo by Art Schwenger



Win This Quilt!
Heath Ladies Aid Fair
 Heath Church, Lower Level
 July 3, 2016 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Food sale, handcrafted items
Raffle tickets \$1 each or six for \$5
 Proceeds: Scholarships
 for students living in Heath.

The Way We Love to Eat Local Recipes by Local Folks

Food and Love Served Here

Nothing personified my grandmother Dot Gary's love quite like the food that she prepared for large or small meals. The kitchen was a place where family and friends came together to share stories and love for one another. It had the smell of home in it, and when I picture that kitchen I always see my grandmother sitting at the end of the table next to the window, delivering directions for the meal at hand to whoever was in earshot. The heat of the fire, on the other hand, would at times drive everyone out for a brief moment, depending on how many logs my grandfather would be able to coax Maya or me to add.



My grandmother had this uncanny ability to put up with pretty much anything I did, and I like to believe it was her endless love towards me that made that possible. For instance, when I was little, maybe three or four years old, she would let me play basketball with a nerf ball in the kitchen while dinner was being prepared. My grandfather nailed a plastic hoop to an old 6-foot tall barn board. He'd prop it up in the kitchen and I'd have my own court. I'd shoot and put on moves while Grandma shuffled in front of the stove with her cooking utensils. I'd only stop when the oven door was opened. She tolerated it all.

Now that I'm older, I can't play basketball in the kitchen any more. Instead I would stand within earshot

listening for her directions on the next meal. The last recipe my grandmother taught me was how to make a roux for gumbo. My sister accepted the challenge of baking the family caramel cake recipe. Both of these are staples of southern cooking and essential to where my grandmother came from and what she leaves behind. But to me, the recipes made more than just a meal, they wove her love, her stories, and her laughter into the amazing woman she was.

—*Samuel Kerstetter*

Gumbo

4 chicken legs

Oil to brown chicken in

Cayenne pepper

Roux Ingredients

3/4 c vegetable oil

1 cup flour

1 onion, finely chopped

1 green pepper, finely chopped

1 rib of celery, finely chopped

Bay leaf

4 1/2 c chicken stock at room temperature

1/2 lb okra, chopped

3-4 links of sausage- andouille or whatever you like, thinly sliced

1/2 tsp Tabasco, according to taste

Rice, to serve

1. Remove the skin from the chicken and dust with salt, black and cayenne pepper. Leave to sit for at least half an hour (you can prepare the rest of the ingredients while you're waiting).

2. Chop your onions, celery and peppers and set beside the stove ready to add to the roux once it is done (this step helps reduce the heat in the roux once you have browned it so it won't burn).

3. Set the flour, onion, pepper, celery and stock out beside the stove. Heat the oil in a large, heavy-based pot (not non-stick) over a medium-high heat and then brown the chicken well, in batches if necessary. Set aside.

4. Clean the heavy-based pot that you used to brown the chicken in. Then pour in the 3/4 cup of vegetable oil, then stir in the flour. Stir over a medium-low heat until it reaches a deep, rich brown color, about the shade of melted milk chocolate. If you are very brave and like bitter flavors, you can take it to dark chocolate. But be careful—it will burn quickly and then you will have to start all over. Burnt roux is nasty.

5. Tip in the onion, pepper and celery and cook, stirring, for a few minutes until softened.

6. Gradually stir in the stock, little by little, until you have a smooth sauce, scraping the bottom of the pot as you do so.

7. Add the chicken back into the pot, along with the bay leaf, and bring to a simmer. Turn down the heat, cover and simmer for an hour and a half.

8. Add the okra and sausage; stir, replace the lid and simmer for a further 45 minutes.

9. Remove the chicken (keeping the pot on the heat) and, when cool enough to handle, strip the meat from the bones and put it back into the pot, along with the Tabasco sauce and salt and pepper to taste.

10. Serve immediately on long grain white rice

Optional—you can add any seafood you like at the end before serving - shrimp especially.

Dot Gary was also known to add leftover duck, turkey, chicken, crabmeat, - anything that looked good and might taste good in a gumbo.

Firefighters Association Thanks

It was great to have so many of our community members join us for the Annual Heath Firefighters Pancake Breakfast on April 30. Our volunteer firefighters appreciate the opportunity to spend time with you and hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did. See you at the Heath Fair Chicken Barbecues!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

—*The Heath Firefighters Association*



Photos by Art Schwenger

Selectboard Report 5/10/16

Meeting Schedule: The Board will meet every other Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in Sawyer Hall from May until October, unless posted otherwise.

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting (ATM) was held at the Heath Elementary School on Saturday, May 7. The meeting was presided over by newly elected Town Moderator, Eric Sumner. Selectboard member Bill Lat-trell went off the Board and was replaced by Robyn Provost-Carlson, who won the write-in vote in the town election held on Friday, May 6.

The warrant this year consisted of 23 articles, with the Mohawk School Committee submitting three significant articles for the town to consider. Article 6 proposed a change to the regional agreement to allow a 2/3 vote of the member towns authority to approve changes to the regional agreement rather than requiring unanimous approval of member towns. Article 6 was not recom-mended by the Selectboard, Finance Committee or School Committee representatives and was voted down by the ATM. The article would have further weakened the standing of the smaller towns in the district and was not deemed in the interest of the town of Heath.

Article 7 asked the town to approve the admission of the town of Rowe as a member of the MTRSD grades 7-12 district. Article 7 was passed over because other towns had done the same and the town of Rowe did not place an equivalent article on its own town meeting warrant.

Article 8 proposed changes to the language in the regional agreement to correct outdated terminology and to define the district as a Pre-K through 12 district rather than K-12. Article 8 was considered a language “clean up” amendment and passed. Operating and capital budgets of both Mohawk and the Franklin County Tech School were unanimously approved.

Article 3 requested approval of a town budget with an increase of 0.98% this fiscal year and included an increase in the town’s minimum wage to \$12 with asso-ciate adjustments to salaries.

An article placed on the warrant by citizen’s petition

asked the ATM to rescind the vote of the 2015 ATM that authorized the town to borrow up to \$4 million to construct the new public safety facility. The BOS and Finance Committee did not support this action due to pending legislation that would grant \$2 million to the town for the project (see below). The article was rejected by a vote of 78 to 29.

Public Safety Building Project

Legislation is working its way through the state budget process to provide a grant of \$2 million to the town for the public safety building project. Members of the Building Committee remain in touch with our state representative and members of the governor’s admin-istration to secure this funding.

The land purchase previously approved is nearing completion. A final purchase and sale agreement is due to be submitted for review and approval of the Building Committee and BOS. Town Counsel indicated that this agreement could arrive any day now.

Heath has received a bid for the town-owned property on Bray Road that was approved for sale at last year’s ATM. The proceeds from this will help to offset the pur-chase of the property for the proposed public safety building near the intersection of Colrain Stage and Bray Roads. The purchase is in progress and will be completed in the near future.

Heath Education Initiative Task Force

The Task Force continues to meet every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. in Sawyer Hall to explore options and opportunities for the education of Heath’s school-age chil-dren because of the challenges imposed by declining en-rollment and rising costs. A public presentation of findings to date will be made at a meeting scheduled for May 23 in the Community Hall at 7 p.m.

Heath Online

Take some time to visit the town’s website at www.townofheath.org. You’ll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. You may contact the Selectboard at bos@townofheath.org or see page 23 for additional contact information.

—Selectboard

Town Election Results

A total of 260 out of 500 voters cast a ballot, a 52% turnout. Election results are as follows:

- Selectman: Robyn Provost-Carlson 145
- Moderator: Eric Sumner.....229
- Planning Board: Calvin Carr211
- School Committee: Kenneth Rocke223
- Assessor: Heidi Griswold.....217
- Finance Committee: Jeffrey Simmons WI
- Library Trustee: Janis Carr211
- Constable: Steven Thane207
- Robert Bourke..... 183

—Hilma A. Sumner, Town Clerk

HEATH UNION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The Reverend James Koyama, Minister
Dennis Ainsworth, Organist
Sunday morning worship 10 a.m.
All are welcome

Church News

Please join us for Bible Study every Thursday at 6 p.m., held at the home of Dennis Ainsworth, 215 Ed Clark Road, Colrain. Anyone interested in carpooling should meet at the church at 5:30 p.m.

We are making plans for a summer concert series. Watch for details about upcoming concerts.

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 call Rev. Koyama or a member of the Board of Deacons:

- Hilma Sumner, Chair ...337-4845
- Ruth Johnson337-4367
- Walter Gleason337-4479

Church phone: 337-4019
to leave a message

Find us on Facebook
@ Heath Union Evangelical Church



Grace Crowningshield, 92, of Heath, passed away Monday, May 16, 2016 at Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility.



Heath Fire Department Incident Report...911

Between the dates of March 1 through May 1 volunteer fire department and EMS personal responded to 10 fire related calls and 3 medical emergencies.



Respectfully submitted,
—HFD

Heath's Monthly Precipitation

In this reporting period:	Rain	Snow
March	¾"	2"
April	1¼"	11"

March came in like a lion on the 1st with bare lawns and very strong winds. Heath Center weather station reported a gust of 50 mph in the early morning hours. Trees and limbs came down and knocked out power and phones for some for a good portion of the day. March 9 gave residents a temperature for the day of 70 degrees. Thereafter, until the first week of April, we had several mild days along with a few mornings of snow showers and some ice. April Fool's Day started out with 60 degrees in a lot of places, but between the 3rd (4" snow) and 4th (7" snow), a couple of clipper systems (one called Ursula) gave us more snow, it seemed, than we had all winter. The mornings of April 5 and 6 gave us morning temperatures in the single digits. The rest of the month was on the cool side for being a mild winter. We ended the winter season with a total snowfall amount of 31 inches.

—Tim Lively and Heath School Students

2016 Charlemont Forum

The Charlemont Forum is an ongoing lecture series that explores the causes of and possible solutions for one aspect of the current divisions in American political culture. Committed to inquiry not advocacy, the forum engages humanities scholars from various fields to bring information and discussion on important topics.

The series is slated to begin Monday, June 20, with the program *Migration, Resistance or Reform: Cuba's Uncertain Future*. Carlos Eire, Professor of History and Religious Studies at Yale University, will share his traumatic personal immigration experience in the 1950s, assess the recent reopening of U.S.-Cuban relations and reflect on how Cuba's young people see the future. Eire is author of his autobiography, *Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy*, winner of the National Book Award for Nonfiction of 2003.

The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. at the Charlemont Federated Church on the main street of Charlemont. The Charlemont Forum series continues to be free and open to all members of the greater hill town community.

This year's Charlemont Forum has received support from the Cultural Councils of Heath, Colrain, Hawley, and Charlemont in addition to individual contributions.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR.

- June 25-26** **4H FAIR • BACK-40 TRACTOR RIDE • JUNE DRAW**
Heath Fairgrounds. See page 11 for details.
- June 25** **ICE CREAM SOCIAL**
Presented by the Heath Historical Society
1 to 3 p.m. in Heath Center Museums are open.
- July 30** **LADIES AID FAIR**
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Heath Church hall
- July 30** **DINNING WITH HISTORY**
Being Kids in Heath Church in the 1960s and 70s
5 to 7 p.m. at the Heath Church

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

Every Thursday until done
4 to 6 p.m. in the Community Hall - Open to all.

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.

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
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 FAIRGROUND WORKBEES

Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Heath Fairgrounds
Please come and help out. Ask anyone there what needs to
be done or check the white board in the upper food booth.



Landscapes from a Passing New England

Open until August 14, 2016

Robert Strong Woodward was born on May 11, 1885, in Northampton, MA, and died in Buckland, MA, on June 26, 1957. At the age of 21, an accidental gunshot injury left him permanently paralyzed from the waist down. As an artist, he was largely self-taught, spending just a few months at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts School. Over the course of his life, three of his five studios were destroyed by fire.

Woodward's art is notable above all for its sense of place. The physical disability that limited his territory to western Massachusetts and southern Vermont, far from restricting his artistic vision, enabled him to focus with the passion of a preservationist on the landscapes that surrounded him. In his lifetime he created over 600 oil paintings and as many as 300 chalk drawings.

Presented by

The Friends of Robert Strong Woodward at
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital,
300 First Avenue, 2nd Floor
Charlestown, MA 02129

Public transportation is highly encouraged. For guests who are driving, limited on-site hourly parking is available.

FCSWMD

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District.
For more information 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).

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
Robyn Provost-Carlson, 337-5316

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

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, calvinccarr@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

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: 413-337-830

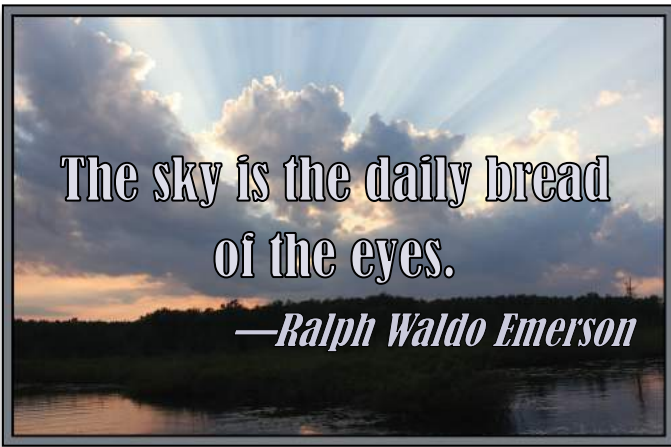
PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY

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. **June through September**

Volunteer Fire Department, Ken Gilbert, Chief
413-337-4461

* Thank you to **John and Wanda Musacchio** *
* of Heath and their Open Air Market in *
* Greenfield for the generous donation of *
* colorful annuals for the Transfer Station. *



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