



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

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Volume 42, Number 4

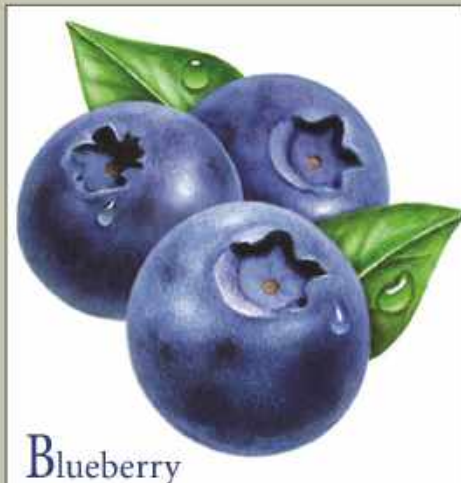
October/November 2020



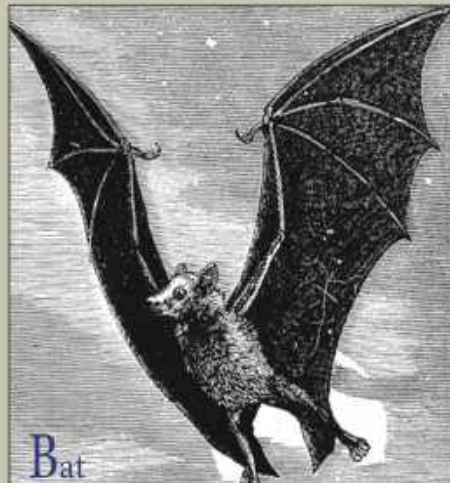
Blue Jay



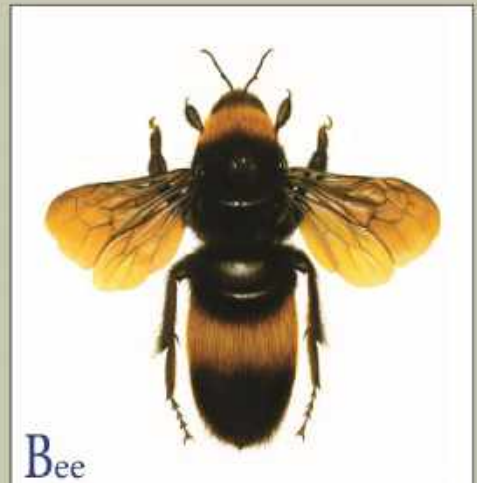
Brook Trout



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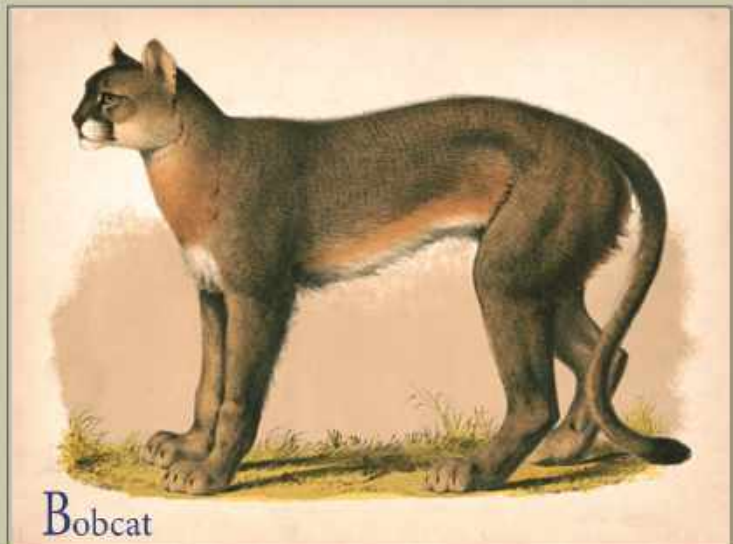
Bat



Bee



Bear



Bobcat

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On the Cover

This issue of the *Heath Herald* is brought to you by the letter B. As we were brainstorming articles to put in this issue, we realized, to our amusement, that many of our topics featured things beginning with B. We have highlighted the more prominent ones throughout the paper to enhance your reading pleasure!

The Heath Herald Logo

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

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- Send to our PO Box:
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- Drop off at our Town Hall box: Residents can drop a letter or subscription form into the black box on the wall to the left of the post office boxes in the vestibule (no postage needed).

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

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Here and Back

With hurricane season upon us, we thought we would share this letter from one summer resident (Reverend Worcester Perkins) to another (Newland Smith) about the infamous *Hurricane of '38*.

*Church of the Holy Communion
Forty-nine West Twentieth Street
New York City
Chelsea 3-5262*

September 30, 1938

My Dear Newland:

I received your letter this morning and I do not wonder that you are alarmed at the reports of New England. I have not gotten over the dreadful experience I myself had. On the day of the storm I was on my way down to New York for a funeral. Entire car was loaded down with household goods, etc. It had been raining quite hard all the morning. I had left Heath at about 10:30. I stopped in Pittsfield for an hour to get the car greased and some lunch. At Millbrook [NY] it rained harder, but the wind had not yet come up. I stopped at the Police Barracks there to inquire about the storm and road conditions on the Eastern States Parkway. They said the roads were okay and that the rain amounted to nothing. A little later after I had run down the Parkway for about 10 miles the full horrible blast of the hurricane struck me.

Trees began to fall around me, and high-tension wires snapped right and left. Water for long stretches of the road was well over the hubcaps on the car. A tree fell just in front of me and blocked the Parkway. I turned around and drove back into the wind, trying to make another road to Hopewell Junction [NY]. After I had made my turn I came upon another tree across the road with a car badly smashed resting under it. I got out to see if anyone was inside the run-about and the wind all but knocked me down. The driver of that car apparently had crawled out as he was nowhere to be seen. I then again turned around. I drove back into the wind, trying to make Millbrook. The water got in my brakes and they were absolutely useless. For a time I lost four of my six cylinders through short-circuit from water. I was plowing through water all the time. At Millbrook police told me to try to make Poughkeepsie. You see, I had this funeral in New York City. The road there was blocked, as I found out by a tree, the storm was getting worse and trees and wires falling more frequently. Laura, I knew, was with Nancy in Shelburne Falls at the time of the storm and radio reports over my car radio spoke of horrible devastation around Charlemont, Shelburne Falls, and North Adams. I simply could not proceed further, neither could I retrace my steps to Heath, so I spent the night in Millbrook with a clergyman friend. There were no telephones, telegraph, or lights. I couldn't get word back to Laura. The next morning I was told it would be hopeless to work my way back, and wanting to get rid of my load, I proceeded to New York City, worming my way between trees, landslides, and via detours. I finally reached the church, dumped my load, and in 15 minutes started back for Heath at 11 o'clock, with no hope of ever getting there. With detours and difficulties too numerous to mention I rolled into Pittsfield at about 6 o'clock. There I was told that seven miles out of North Adams the entire Mohawk Trail was washed out to Charlemont—that the Berkshire Trail is completely gone—that Jacobs Ladder was impassable. I still courageously made North Adams. There, all previous reports of trails being washed out were well confirmed. The havoc at North Adams was beyond description. A young gasoline salesman I knew told me he had sent two men over 116 from Adams via Savoy and Plainfield to Ashfield. They said if they did not get through they would come back. This left me with the thought that they might have gotten struck or killed. I called the police and they said this road might be open but it was highly dangerous; that I probably couldn't get from

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 3)

ditch by inches, while the right was doing the same on the other side. Gullies, bridges out, deep crevices in the road were everywhere. I met a little Ford car with three men in it which was desperately trying to make Shelburne Falls. So we decided to stay together. After great difficulty we reached Ashfield; and slowly started down Ashfield Mountain. The road was awful and then at the bottom the second bridge was out. Wreckage was everywhere, so I retraced my steps up the Ashfield Mountain.

It was then about 10 p.m. and I have been driving since 9 a.m. when I left Millbrook. I awoke a resident of Ashfield and was told of an almost impassable back road to Shelburne Falls. This road—a dirt lane—that is all it was—was the most treacherous of any I had traveled. Yards of mud and "thank-you-mums" were the nature of it with steep pitches and sharp banks to the right and left. How I ever got over it alive in the dead of night I don't know, but I reach Shelburne Falls at last. I got a cup of coffee, was told that not even a horse could walk down the Heath Road. Water had flowed through three feet over the bridge in Shelburne Falls but it had held. I drove onto the Avery Brook Road. That large bridge en route had fortunately held and I arrived at the foot of the hill at 1 a.m. I had been at the wheel for 16 hours and was feeling ill and exhausted; so I awoke a farmer and he took me in for the night, and the next morning I walked up the road. I found it almost unwalkable, and was told I had better walk up the South Heath Road. I finally got to Mrs. Burrington's and from there a car brought me home. Never again!! Only my great anxiety for Laura and Nancy compelled me to run the risks I did, and made me attempt the trip.

I should have told you I had sprained my ankle so I could not walk out to your house. All of the roads leading to it were very badly damaged and utterly impassable. But Mrs. Ernest Kinsman told me that outside of the roads that section of Heath where your house and hers is, was not badly hurt at all. If it hadn't been for my painful foot (which is still sore) I would have walked up to your place. This morning after I got your letter I telephoned Mrs. Kinsman and begged her to get Mr. K. to walk up and inspect your place and telegraph me. I'll let you know what I hear.

This has been too long a letter as it is, but I must add that Charlemont is terribly wrecked and that the wife of the postmaster there was drowned.

We are all well, so is Gilbert. Tell Cherub that the "Rosebud" almost became a faded flower in view of my trip. All our love to all of you.

Affectionately,

Worcester

P.S. I'll send you some snapshots later. The Olds is a good car. What about the tornado that visited you? Are you all safe?

[Editor Nancy Thane's note: Rev. Perkins' home was the first home on the North end of Avery Brook Road, and Newland Smith's home was on Hosmer Road.]



1938 Oldsmobile F38 Coupe, the model of car Worcester Perkins was driving during the storm.



Water raging in the Dell during hurricane Irene in 2011. The surge was even more powerful during the storm of '38.

Tropical Storm Isaias Getting Back Home Again, 2020

A big thank you to our Road Crew, our firefighters, and police who were out in the midst of tropical storm Isaias in early August, clearing the roads, keeping us safe from the downed power lines, and getting us all home safely. For myself, I foolishly ignored the warnings about the storm, thinking that when the morning scare of a tornado passed, the coast was clear. I realized too late how wrong I was. Heading home (to Number Nine Road) on Avery Brook Road, the wind suddenly began blowing in earnest, sending branches down all around me. As I neared the top, there was a large tree down in the middle of the road, and wires everywhere. Luckily there were also the flashing lights of the road crew already at work trying to clear the mess. I turned around and headed back down the hill once again, through a jumble of falling branches, warning others on their way up to turn around, as well. I then tried Burrington Hill, dodging downed trees all the way up and making it only as far as the Dickenson farm before coming to yet another tree in the road. Turning around once again, I drove back to the home of Art Schwenger/Carol Sartz, who kindly took me in and helped me figure out my next step. At this point the only way home was via Mountain Road, a terrifying prospect with no guarantee that 8A would not be closed as well. Art and Carol's son Olin made it through, but he is a little more adventuresome than me. At any rate, as we discussed the options, another large tree fell across South Road, making the decision for me. In the end, I headed back up toward the center of town, white-knuckling it all the way, and waited for an all-clear signal. It came by way of our highway boss Jeff Johnson who let me know that I could go on, as he himself went off to the next trouble spot. While the rest of my trip home was uneventful, I was sure that Jeff's next hours would be anything but. Before the night was through, the road crew, with the help of the firemen and police, had to clear trees from all of the roads leading to Heath, helping many get home safely.

Meanwhile on the other end of town, another, less dramatic story was unfolding. Back at the Emergency Operations Center, several firefighters were taking turns manning the radios, when an unusual visitor arrived. Sitting at the controls they heard a noise in the attic. Figuring that it was squirrels again, they slowly pulled down the stairs to have a look. To their surprise, they found themselves face to face with a very large and just

as startled racoon. Carefully closing the ladder back up, and hoping it would find its own way out, Greg Rode commented, "Well at least it has a mask on."

—Deb Porter



During tropical storm Isaias, Heath firefighters came face to face with a very large and just as startled racoon in the attic of the Emergency Operations Center.

B Bear Crossing

Steve Thane was driving north on 8A late one August afternoon, when he came upon a car with its flashers on at the curve just south of Rowe Road. Stopping to find out what was wrong, he learned that the woman inside had just hit a bear. Indicating that it was a "small" one, Steve warned her to stay in her car, as one should always assume that when you see a cub, the mother is likely close behind. Steve backed up to find the bear, and found it in the ferns on the side of the road. It appeared to him to be about the size of a last year's cub. There being no cell service, of course, Steve did the old-fashioned thing of going to the nearby house to use their phone to call Shelburne Dispatch for assistance. Chief McDonough arrived shortly thereafter. With a smile on his face, he asked the woman if she had a hunting permit before making arrangements for bear to be removed.

She stayed calm the whole time, and drove off to her destination in Rowe after Steve and the Chief determined that her car, while sustaining body damage, was drivable. All they could figure was that she actually drove over the bear as it ran into her. She reported that she didn't even see the bear. And I know how that can happen. The same thing happened to me with a deer at just about that same time of day and in the same location, last summer. So, the lesson of the story is: Be careful driving along the curves of 8A in the vicinity of Rowe Road, as you never know when you might be blindsided by a large animal thinking it has the right-of-way.

—Nancy Thane



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Wild Ramblings

—Bill Lattrell

B October, a New England Stream, and Brook Trout

Each day the sun is slightly lower in the sky. The days are getting shorter. Each day brings a bounty of colors across our hillsides. And the long dark nights are often clear, bright with stars, and challenge my imagination.

The tenth month of the year inspires me. October represents both endings and beginnings in the natural world. It is the month that since I was a child I have had the most spring in my step (granted the spring is a little more worn-out these days). In any case, crisp air, the bite of a crunchy local apple, the streams and rivers that are once again flowing with more vigor, and the vibrant red, yellow, and orange colors displayed throughout our New England forests are beyond stimulating. In my mind these October miracles are sustenance for the soul, body, and mind.

On this day I am traveling along a small perennial stream that traverses down slope territory and is rife with riffles, pools, and small waterfalls. The tree over-story, branches and leaves that shade the brook and help to keep the water cool, catches rays of sunlight that seem to make the colors scream. Enough light reaches the water in the stream to highlight the glistening brook as it flows over smooth stones, partially covered with moss and algae that developed when the stream held less water during the summer months. The replenishing of the water in the stream takes place as precipitation increases in the autumn and the vast surrounding forests of trees use less water as they go into dormancy. Water levels in many of these small streams can easily double. The ample quantities of ground water, formerly used by trees, move both within the soils and on top of the ground over lower topographic areas of the forest towards and into the plethora of streams and brooks that grace our mountainous terrain.

In locations where the channel of the brook is less steep and flattens out, there are large, flat-topped boulders that I can step on and view the stream from the

center of the water course. Up gradient of me I can see sections of riffles where the channel is slightly narrower and the water ripples as it passes over small rocks made nearly round by the polishing action of tumbling in the stream for eons and the powerful erosive force of moving water. At the base of the riffles there are two large six-foot by four-foot boulders that block the stream. This forces the water through a narrow crevice between the two stones into a plunge pool below. There is a shallow waterfall created here as the water drops from one level to the next into the pool. The pool has what seems to be millions of bubbles as oxygen is introduced by the falling water into the stream below. The pool is about eight feet wide and two-and-a-half feet deep in the center of the stream where the channel bottom has collected a deep sand and gravel deposit over a long period of time. The overhang from the boulders above creates a miniature water cave that is dark. There a gravelly bottom and the highly oxygenated water produces the perfect brook trout haven where males and females can congregate



Brook Trout

Photo: Trout Unlimited

as water temperatures fall just prior to the spawning season.

Brook trout, inaptly named because they are really char, spawn and lay their eggs in the autumn,

typically in the month of October when water temperatures reach less than 49 degrees but stay above 40 degrees. The mature male brook trout will encourage females by nudging them towards small, deep, rocky riffle areas where the female trout will make a "redd" which is a small mounded nest of rocks where hundreds of eggs will be laid. The male will fertilize the eggs and the female will bury the eggs within the mound. The female trout will then create a downstream wall to keep the eggs from being swept downstream during periods of high water. The female trout, after getting all of her eggs straightened away, may move to a different location in the stream where she may create another redd and start the whole process all over again, sometimes with the same male, and sometimes with a different male.

The eggs will hatch during late winter of the following year, typically late February to early April (a 95- to 100-day time length) where most of the fry will be predated and few will survive. Those that do get through the



Brook trout eggs

Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

juvenile stage will be ready to spawn in about a year and a half.

Brook trout in these small streams are highly dependent upon healthy macroinverte-

brate populations that live within the water column of the stream. Many insects that we think of as air-flying insects start and spend the majority of their lives within the water of small streams. Black fly, caddisfly, and mayfly nymphs are all found in our local streams, as are many aquatic annelids and other small invertebrate creatures that never leave this watery, ever-changing habitat.

After thinking about the brook trout (in my opinion one of the most beautiful fish in the world), I step off the boulders and back to the top of the stream bank. As I travel downstream along the bank, I notice numerous trees downed by winter ice, high winds, and the erosion of stream banks crossing the brook. The trees bridge the brook. Some of them are wide enough to walk on, and some of them are narrower but still can be utilized to sit on and dangle your feet in the water. It's a warm day so I decide to do just that. I take off my boots and socks and slide out along the fallen red maple tree where I can sit on the log and put my feet into the chilling water.

The cold water chills my tired feet, awakens my brain, and feeds my soul. I am feeling giddy and alive. And all this as I wade into my seventh decade of living on, learning about, and loving every single minute on this wonderful blue planet we call Earth.

Perfect

—Bill Lattrell



Heath Foot Clinic

Congratulations to Eileen Lively for obtaining the Federal Grant for the foot clinic for the fourth time in a row. The clinic is available to all Heath residents age 60 and older, and those with foot-related health problems. During this time of COVID-19, the time and location for sessions will be announced. For information and an appointment; contact Eileen at 337-4742.

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Matt Lively Resurrects His Family's Silage Trailer

Earlier this summer, Matt Lively began work on a trailer that included an unusually V-shaped trailer bed. Now what could that possibly be used for?

Here is the story:

In 1969, Matt's father, Paul Lively, wanted to be able to chop silage without bringing in outside help. He designed a V-shaped trailer bed with a hydraulic system to lift and dump the silage, much like a front-end loader. At four years old Matt remembers watching him work out the design on his drafting board to determine the component lengths and clearances.

There were two stages to deliver silage from the field to the silage bunker:



1) Filling the V-shaped trailer bed, which was directly behind the mower/harvester (photo at left).

2) Loading the silage into the truck, using the hydraulic system to lift

the trailer bed, and dump the silage into a truck bed or the ground (photo below).

Paul took in silage this way until 1973 when they switched to baling hay. The trailer was not used for four or five years until they dismantled it and recycled the hardware.

Forty-seven years later and after many years of haying, Matt decided to go back to silage for pretty much the same reasons as his father; he can do it himself, it eliminates the need to find a patch of dry weather, and it is faster than haying. He reclaimed the hydraulic hardware and rebuilt the trailer. Matt has used the hydraulic system on his backhoe this year, but plans to install a new hydraulic unit on the same tractor that pulls the trailer for next year.



To watch a video of the silage trailer in action, visit the *Herald's* Facebook page @heathherald.

—John Henry

B



A Berry Good Year

This summer you had to look far and wide for good news but we did find some! According to several sources this has been a great year for berries of all kinds. Strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, elderberries, and of course blueberries. It started last spring when conditions were just right for good pollination—warm, sunny days and plants in full bloom. Apparently if you walked through the blueberry fields of Heath, you could hear the bees a-buzzin'. Beyond what many of us picked in our own backyards and favorite patches, the two berry farms, the *Benson Place* and *Burnt Hill Blueberry Farm*, harvested almost 25 tons of berries. That is good news!



A bear enjoying the Benson Place blueberries.



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Library Lines

—Donald Purington

Herald readers who have been checking out books, DVDs, and magazines from the library, and have your email address registered with your library account, may have noticed you get reminders to return items even after you have brought them back to the outdoor return bin. This is caused by the seven-day quarantine we place on all returned items to be sure there is no risk of transfer of the COVID-19 virus. We box the items when they are returned, date the box, and then do not handle them again for a week. This is part of our safety and sanitation protocols set up with the Board of Health prior to the opening of the takeout window. It does add time to the check-in process, but we feel the safety of our patrons and library employees is our first priority. The Heath Library does not charge overdue fines, and if the item has been borrowed from another library that does charge fines we waive any accumulated fines when we check the item in.

The library takeout window at the front of Sawyer Hall is open Monday 2 to 7 p.m., Wednesday 2 to 5 p.m., Thursday 2 to 6 p.m., and Saturday 2 to 5 p.m. Request materials by calling 337-4934, ext. 7, or emailing heath.library@gmail.com, or come to the window and we will help you find something. Please wear a mask when you come to the window.

Preschool Story Hour resumed in September via online Zoom sessions. The next two sessions are October 9 and 23, both at 10:30 a.m. Contact Lyra at the Library for information on how to participate by computer or telephone. Check our website for more Story Hour dates in November and December.

A Few of the New Items at the Library

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

Fiction Books for Adults: *The Orphan's Guilt* by Archer Mayor, *The Darkest Evening* by Ann Cleeves, *The Wright Sister* by Patty Dann, *A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham, *1st Case* by James Patterson

Non-fiction Books for Adults: *Public Libraries in the Hilltowns of Western Franklin County, Massachusetts: Volume I*, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Heath,

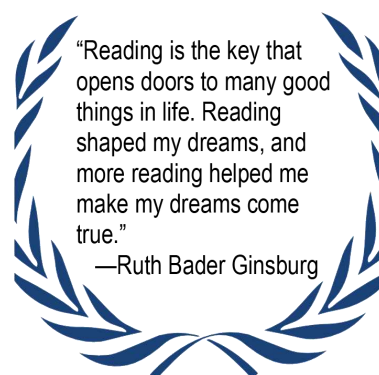
Leyden, Monroe and Rowe by Katherine St. Germain Heligmann, photographs by Carlos Heligmann, *Countdown 1945: The Extraordinary Story of the Atomic Bomb and the 116 Days That Changed the World* by Chris Wallace, *Vespar Flights* by Helen MacDonald

Audiobooks on CD: *Winter Counts* by David Weiden, *The Lewis Man* by Peter May

Books for Young/Teen Readers: *How to Be a Person: 65 Hugely Useful, Super-Important Skills to Learn Before You're Grown Up* by Catherine Newman, *The Tower of Nero* by Rick Riordan, *Kiki's Delivery Service* by Elko Kadano

Children's Picture Books/Boardbooks: *The Night is for Darkness* by Jonathan Stutzman, *R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul* by Carol Boston Weatherford, *Making Faces: A First Book of Emotions* (boardbook)

DVDs: *Outlander Season 5*, *Endeavour Season 7*, *Beecham House*, *Mary Poppins*, *The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh*



"Reading is the key that opens doors to many good things in life. Reading shaped my dreams, and more reading helped me make my dreams come true."

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg



People in the News



Thank you Tim Lively for helping to restore the water service to Sawyer Hall, which involved working in an eight-foot deep hole, full of close to a foot of standing water. We are fortunate to have such a conscientious licensed water operator here in town.



Heath Agricultural Society News

As the leaves begin to turn and the night sky greets us ever earlier, the members of the Heath Agricultural Society (HAS) move into the fall and winter months with a deep appreciation for the courage and creativity that our community has shown throughout a year rife with a racial awakening and a pandemic that has spared no one, forcing each of us to re-imagine our future while we remember and reckon with our past.

Despite the cancelation of what would have been the 103rd Heath Fair, the members of HAS have kept busy. We successfully launched a Virtual Exhibit Hall that welcomed young and old to submit pictures of their agricultural successes. Pictures of tomatoes, geese, pigs, peaches, pies, flowers, herbs, art, quilts, and more create this virtual space, revealing that despite a pandemic, for some as a result of the pandemic, we are growing and raising food again. We are participating in agriculture at home.

As we look at the impact of the pandemic on seed and feed sales alone, we see evidence that despite the generations that have passed between the days when most people subsisted from the food they grew themselves and modern times when we rely on the grocery store to meet most of our food needs, we still have the ability to plant a seed and grow our own food. More people are home and getting back to growing and raising their own food than in recent history, proving once more that we can sustain ourselves through the simple act of planting seeds in the ground, caring for our crops, harvesting our bounty, and putting food by. The Virtual Exhibit Hall is a great showcase of our community's commitment to agriculture. Many thanks to Kate Peppard, Chelsea Jordan-Makely, and Pat McGahan for their leadership in making this possible. To view the exhibits, visit heathfair.org and click on Virtual Exhibit Hall.

In addition to the Virtual Exhibit Hall, HAS members have kept busy developing our hopes and dreams for the fairgrounds, by investing time in thinking about what infrastructure improvements could be made this year. On the list for consideration are: 1) improvements to the midway and roadway to increase accessibility, especially

for those in wheelchairs and with walkers; 2) re-siding the Exhibit Hall to bring it more into the aesthetic of the rest of the fairgrounds; 3) adding a pavilion where the food tent typically is erected. We hope to have news on

"Heath Fair went solar in August.

Solar panels were installed on the roof of the pulling pit at the rear of the fairgrounds."

this in the next issue of the *Heath Herald*.

In other news, the Heath Fair went solar in the month of August. Solar panels were installed on the roof of the pulling pit at the rear of the fairgrounds. The power generated will go into the grid, offset electricity costs of the Fair, and generate income to support the sustainability of the Heath Fair once the array is paid off. Thanks to Sean O'Neill for his leadership in making this possible.

HAS will hold our Annual Meeting virtually for the first time on November 9, 2020. All are welcome to attend. Email heathagsociety@gmail.com for a Zoom invite. The agenda will include voting in new officers, welcoming new members, and celebrating a year we will not soon forget. We encourage everyone to get involved and join HAS. It is free and all are welcome. We are wishing everyone well as we enter the holiday season. Stay warm and take good care.

With gratitude and hope,
—Jessica O'Neill, President

Check out some of the Virtual Exhibit Hall entries on pages 12 and 13 in this issue, or visit heathfair.org

Heath Herald Volunteer Needed

The *Herald* is seeking an enthusiastic volunteer to join our staff and provide light bookkeeping and business management functions for the newspaper. No formal bookkeeping experience is needed, but a facility with numbers will be helpful. We will train you to successfully perform all required tasks.

This is an opportunity to contribute to a valued community resource, as well as to work with a great group of people.

For more information, contact Nancy Thane, Managing Editor, at 337-5580 or email nancythane@yahoo.com

2020 LOCAL HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE

Are you a local purveyor of gifts, goods, foods, or services? If so, sign up for a FREE listing in the next issue of the *Heath Herald*.

Listing forms are available in the town hall vestibule, or email *rachel.grabelsky@gmail.com*

Listing Deadline: Nov. 3, 2020

SHOP LOCAL!



HEATH, MA

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THIS WINTER!

Christmas trees, wreath sales and gift shop with handmade crafts from local vendors, open weekends:

Saturday, November 28 through
Sunday, December 20,
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Check our website for pop up sale dates!

branchviewfarm.com

Virtually



Baby quilt, Deb Porter



Plum tomatoes, Jessica O'Neill



Pig waterer, Haynes, Stowe Farm



Kale bouquet, Chelsea Jordan



Crochet hot pad, Tammy Zellman



Chessie in crewel, Joyce Sterling



Quilted dahlias, Tye Sterling



Bread, cheese, salsa, Judy, Stowe Farm

*Thank you to all
the spirit of the*

yours from the Neath Fair



Dill spears, Sue Draxler



Sebastapol goose, Nancy, Stowe Farm



Peaches, Tammy Zellman



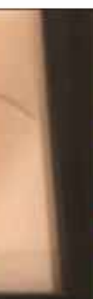
Chelsea Jordan Makely



Cupcakes, Chelsea Jordan Makely



Original design top, Deb Porter



Handmade quilt, Cynthia Johnson



Soon to be tomato soup, Kathryn Basyk



Cut flowers, Jessica O'Neill



Stowe Farm



Cut flowers, Nancy Thane



Peach pie, Chelsea Jordan Makely



Bouquet, Tammy Zellman

all of the 2020 Virtual Exhibit participants for keeping the Neath Fair alive during these challenging times.



The Way We Love to Eat

—Deb Porter

B Blueberry Cornbread Muffins

This past Labor Day weekend, I was thinking about how hard it was to give up summer, this summer especially since so many of the summertime things we all enjoy never happened. The potluck picnics, family



gatherings, outdoor concerts, the Heath Fair, the Art Show, and the pig roast, not to mention trips to the library for the perfect beach book, and for that matter, trips to the beach

itself, all on hold 'til next year. The nights had cooled down and the weather was perfect so I could hardly complain, but I did and it was in this frame of mind that I wandered out to see if there were a few blueberries left on our bushes. To my surprise one bush that I thought I had picked clean was loaded with new berries, enough for morning cereal, perhaps a pie and for sure some muffins. I had given up on summer, but summer to my delight was not through with me.

Cathy Tallen had kindly shared this recipe from *joyofbaking.com* and I decided to give it a try. The muffins were delicious, and not just because I used the last of the fresh berries. As Cathy says, "They are sort of creamy and dense on the inside, crunchy on the outside with a full blueberry flavor." Cathy suggests you freeze some so you can have them whenever you want. A little bit of summer for the coming winter months.

- 1 cup (130 grams) all-purpose flour
- 1 cup (120 grams) cornmeal (white or yellow)
- 1/2 cup (100 grams) granulated white sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Zest (outer yellow skin) of one lemon (optional)
- 1 cup (240 ml) fresh or frozen blueberries (if using frozen, do not defrost)
- 1 large egg

1 cup (240 ml) milk

1/4 cup (60 ml) safflower, corn, vegetable or canola oil

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Place oven rack in center of oven. Butter, or spray with a non-stick cooking spray, 12 muffin cups. Can also line the muffin cups with paper liners.

In a large bowl combine the flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, salt, and lemon zest. Gently stir in the berries.

In another bowl whisk together the egg, milk, and oil.

With a rubber spatula fold the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and stir only until the ingredients are combined. Do not over mix the batter or tough muffins will result.

Evenly fill the muffin cups with batter, using two spoons or an ice cream scoop. Bake until lightly browned and a toothpick inserted in the center of a muffin comes out clean, about 15 to 20 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack and let cool for about 5 minutes before removing from pan.

Makes 12 regular-sized muffins.

Note: If using frozen berries you may have to bake the muffins a little longer than the stated time.

Spotted Around Town



We had about 15 chrysalises hatch that we knew about.

This one was on the back of a red tomato when I picked it.

—Mary Sumner

B First time I've had blue jays eating apples in my apple tree!

—Cathy Tallen



B The other day, a bobcat wandered up Brunelle Road and down Maple Lane. It didn't seem to have a care in the world.

—Bob DeLisle



Green Thoughts

—Pat Leuchtman

Time to Plant the Garlic

It is not widely known, but I was crowned the Garlic Queen at the Heath Fair in 2016. It is only right that I was crowned by Rol Hesselbart, expert Heath gardener, who gave me my first garlic cloves to use for planting. Hesselbart has been growing garlic and saving the best bulbs to use as seed for many years. The bulbs he gave me were easily twice as big as the garlic you usually buy at the supermarket.



It was hardneck garlic (left), *Allium sativum* var. *ophioscorodon*, that won me the Queen-ship. This is the species that is best suited to the northeast climate where the winter is cold and

spring cool and damp. Within this species there are many varieties that will give you a subtle variety of flavor, such as German Red, Purple Glazer, Siberian garlic, and others. Go to the Filaree Farm at filareefarm.com to get a good idea of how many varieties are available.

The hardneck is the remnant of the scape, the curly stem that will ultimately produce a seed head which looks a lot like a chive blossom. Scapes can be harvested when they are young and used just as you would garlic in your cooking. Softneck garlic, *Allium sativum* var. *sativum*, is the type of garlic that can be braided and it does have a longer shelf life, which means it is the type you usually find in supermarkets.

Growing Garlic

Garlic is very easy to grow. It will grow in almost any soil, but it prefers a fertile soil rich in organic matter. Planting in good soil is how you grow healthy large bulbs that you can save and use for your own seed. They prefer sun, but can tolerate a little bit of shade.

I wait until the end of October to plant. The clove will start sending out roots, and the soil will stay warm enough to sustain that slow root growth even when the air gets cold. I don't really want it to send out any green

growth. Still, if it should happen to send up shoots that will be killed by winter weather, the plant will send out new growth in the spring.

I plant in a wide row and make three furrows about three or four inches deep and about six to eight inches apart. I take my garlic bulb and break it into cloves. Plant each clove, pointy side up and cover with two or three inches of soil. Then mulch well with six or eight inches of leaves and/or straw.

Harvesting Garlic Scapes and Garlic Bulbs



In the spring, green shoots will grow up through the mulch. When the weather is warmer many people remove the mulch but I leave about half of mine on as a weed de-

terrent. Early in June the scapes will begin to appear. It is good to cut the scapes out, whether you use them for cooking or not, because they use up energy that should go into making nice fat garlic bulbs. Garlic scapes can also be frozen for later use.

In mid- to late-July the foliage will start to yellow. When a few of the lower leaves yellow, but the higher foliage is still green, it is time to dig up the garlic. And I do mean dig it up. Don't pull it the way you can onions which are nearly out of the ground when they are ready for harvest. Make sure you allow for the size of the bulbs when you begin using your shovel. I have cut into bulbs when I underestimated where they were underground.

Make sure you do not allow all the foliage to yellow. If the bulb is overripe the skin will split and the cloves will be loose in the soil. You may lose some of the cloves, and they will not store for very long.

I believe this is controversial, but I do give my newly dug bulbs a shower with the hose, washing off the loose dirt. I am careful not to damage the papery skins. Once washed and dried in the sun, I bring them indoors, out of direct sun, to cure, with their roots and stems, for four to eight weeks. Once they are cured in a space with good air circulation, I cut off the stems and roots. I use my garden pruner for this job. It is very important to leave the stems and roots on throughout the curing period. Garlic should be stored in a cool dry space.

The Commonweeder, October 8, 2016

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Nature Note

—Susan Draxler

B Are Bats to Blame?

This year, the bats used for Halloween decorations will seem especially scary. It is most likely that bats were the source of the COVID-19 virus, so there has been a lot of ill will directed at these creatures which were not so well-loved to begin with.

There are thought to be millions of different viruses in our world. In most cases, they inhabit a certain host species, like a bat, and there is little danger of them being passed on to humans. Bats, in particular, do carry quite a few viruses including other coronaviruses such as MERS and SARS.

In cases where these viruses made the jump from bats to people, it could be traced back to human activities. These include coming into direct contact with wildlife species (as when they are killed and processed for meat), clearing land for agriculture (which has caused viruses to make the jump from displaced wildlife to livestock and then to people), and any destruction of or disruption to an ecosystem (which places stress on a host species and can cause the virus to look for a new host). It appears that humans may be the real creatures to be feared!



If bats are left alone and their habitats are kept intact, they pose no risk to us. In addition to the benefits they provide, such as pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal, they can play a role in our fight

against viruses. Bats eat lots of mosquitoes, some of which might be carrying viruses such as West Nile or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

In addition, researchers are studying the immune systems of bats to see why they can carry so many viruses and not be sickened by them, which might provide insights into how we can prevent and treat viral infections. Their research is also looking at why bats, as small mammals, are so long-lived, which appears to be related to their immune system and ability to keep inflammation at bay.

There's a Bat in the House. Don't Panic!

A short while after turning out the light one night, I heard the sound of something flying around the room and it sounded too large to be a moth. I turned on the light to see a bat doing laps around the perimeter of the room. I immediately closed the bedroom door to make sure it stayed in the room, and then opened windows and removed screens. I turned off the lights, and eventually the bat made its way out of one of the windows.

Bats don't get tangled in your hair as folklore suggests, and, in fact, want nothing to do with you. When they end up inside a house, they will be in a frightened state and want nothing more than to get back outside. Staying calm and allowing them to leave on their own is the best solution.



If you find a bat inside during the day, however, it may be hanging on a wall asleep or lying on the floor awake and disoriented. To send it on

its way, you should always wear leather gloves, although the goal is to not actually handle the bat. Find a small box or container and punch some air holes into it. Put it down over the bat and then very gently slide a piece of cardboard under it, taking care not to catch any part of the bat between the two. You can then lift it up and place it somewhere safe and quiet until it can be released after dark (the bat will be vulnerable to predators if it is put outside during the day.)

Bats need to be up high in order to get flying, so it will need to be released from somewhere at least four feet off the ground, like a porch or the top of a ladder. Place the box on its side and allow the bat to crawl out on its own. If it doesn't leave, it might be injured or sick. Bats are protected in Massachusetts and you can find a directory of licensed rehabilitators on the mass.gov website who will care for such a bat. If the bat does leave, you can feel good about having helped a gentle little creature that helps us by catching the bugs in our neighborhood.



B Heath Broadband Network

Subscription Time is NOW!

Want high speed broadband internet service to your Heath home? The sign-up period is now through January 31, 2021. Visit wiredwestfiber.com/heath, find out your installation charge and sign up today!

Heath Drop Policy

- The premise must have electric service; service to off-grid dwellings will be negotiated separately outside of this policy. Electric service cannot be provided by extension cord from another property owners' premises.
- The premise must have a structure that is acceptable for network equipment to be installed and protected from the elements.
- The premise must have a posted E-911 street address.

Drop Installation Credit

In order to maximize the incentive for townspeople to take service during the startup period, the Heath Municipal Light Plant (MLP) will provide a drop installation credit of up to \$3,000 toward the drop installation costs for subscribers with an eligible premise when certain criteria have been met, as described in detail in the Drop Service Installation Policy found on the Broadband page of the Town website. This means that over 95% of residences will not have to pay for their broadband installation; drop installation costs beyond \$3,000 are the homeowner's responsibility.

Rates and Fees

- Standard 1 Gigabit internet service—\$75 per month
- Economy 25 Megabits internet service—\$59 per month
- Phone with internet service—\$19.99 per month, plus fees and taxes
- Phone only, no internet service—\$49 plus fees and taxes
- One-time start-up activation fee—\$99

Do you want broadband service on a part-time basis? Then the policy on suspending and reconnecting service may interest you.

Suspending/Reconnecting Service

- Customers are allowed to "suspend" internet service once per calendar year for up to 120 days, which means

they can request (via customer service) their internet service be shut off while maintaining an active account.

- Customers are not allowed to suspend phone service if they have it through this plan.
- While internet service is suspended, WiredWest may continue to charge the customer a fee to cover ongoing costs of maintaining the network. Such fee to be at WiredWest's discretion.
- If service has been suspended for more than 120 consecutive days and suspended customer requests to have their internet service reinstated, they will be charged a \$99 fee.
- If a suspended customer does not reinstate their service within one year of the suspension date, their account may be deactivated.
- If a deactivated customer requests their account be reinstated, it shall be treated as a new account, and they shall be charged the fee normally charged for new accounts.
- A customer may cancel their account at any time and be deactivated.

Do you want broadband fiber to your home to increase the value of your property, but are not ready to subscribe to active fiber service? Then a "Cold Drop" is just what you want.

Cold Drops

"Cold Drop" refers to an exterior Drop Fiber Installation only, with no interior installation, where the homeowner does not wish to take any service at this time. Cold Drops in Heath are eligible for the Drop Service Installation Credit and will be placed on a wait list for construction toward the end of project construction. Cold Drop conversion to a live/active drop before startup construction has ended will be coordinated through the MLP Manager. All costs of converting a Cold Drop to active service after completion of startup network construction are the customer's responsibility, including the cost to mobilize utility vehicles.

Heath broadband sign-up starts now and continues through January 31, 2021. Please go to wiredwestfiber.com/heath to find out your installation charge and sign up today!

Election Day in the Midst of a Pandemic

Efforts have been made to ensure that the process for voting in the Presidential Election on November 3 is safe for all. While there is the option to vote by mail or through an early vote in the Town Hall (see calendar on page 22), numerous precautions have been put into place to ensure your safety should you choose to vote in person on Election Day at the former Heath School building at 18 Jacobs Road. The process will be the same as the one employed during the Primary on September 1.

All who enter the building must wear a mask and maintain a social distance of six feet at all times. If you do not arrive with a mask, disposable ones will be available. Children must stay with their parent or guardian at all times.



You will be greeted at the door by a Registered Nurse who will perform the Center for Disease Control's recommended coronavirus screening. Should you not pass, or be unable to wear a mask, you will be registered and receive and return your ballot outside, or at an outdoor window. No one

who is a duly registered voter in the town of Heath will be prevented from casting a ballot.

Registration tables will have plexiglass shields to protect you and the registrar, and you will receive a single-use pencil with your ballot. Voting stations will be spaced the proper distance from each other and any traffic flow. Sign-out tables will be protected similarly to the registration table. All voters, except those with mobility issues, will exit at the side door to minimize contact at the entry.

We hope that an understanding of this elaborate set-up for voting will reassure you as to your safety at the polling place. No matter which method you plan to use to cast your ballot, please remember to exercise your civic duty and VOTE on November 3.



Flu Clinic

Hawlemont Region Emergency Dispensing Site
Former Heath school building, 18 Jacobs Road
Saturday, October 3 • 9 to 11 a.m.

A COVID self-screen is required of everyone attending. Facemasks are required and will be made available if needed. Physical distancing, as possible, is required.

Both injectable and flu mist formulas for kids will be available this year. Regular or Senior High-Dose formulas will be available for those over age 65.

What You Should Bring or Prepare

- Bring your insurance cards or a good paper copy of them—most forms of insurance are accepted—or, if you do not have a billable insurance, bring \$20 for the fee for adults and \$10 for kids. No one is turned away if not able to pay.
- Prepare forms and review information sheets ahead of time. Forms are available at [FRCOG.org/flu-clinic](https://www.frcog.org/flu-clinic). Paper copies are available in the Town Hall.

ALL Flu Vaccine Recipients

(Of standard, high-dose, and mist vaccines, all ages)

- Fill out and bring the insurance form (If you do not have insurance, skip this form.)
- Fill out and bring the screening form
- Review the injectable flu vaccine info sheet

FluMist Recipients

(Children age 2 to 18 only/Caregiver use)

- Fill out the additional screening/info form
- Review the mist vaccine information sheet

Bring a pen and something to write on. We'll have some on hand, too.

Contact Lisa White, RN, Regional Public Health Nurse of FRCOG, at 413-774-3167, ext. 156 if you have special needs, or for updated schedule, and more information.



Neighborliness In Heath



On the morning of August 25, 2020 I sold my Rosewood colored 1989 Buick Century Estate Station Wagon after 12 years of tender loving care. What happened

later that day has prompted me to write this article. As for the sale of the car, I tried to think of everything I needed at the closing, including a screwdriver to remove the license plates and a tube of whiteout if mistakes occurred with the paperwork. I drove the car to the buyer's house. The closing went well and I had cleaned the car out of everything. Son, Dave, had driven down from New Hampshire that day to meet me at the closing, and then take me back to Heath.

As we drove into my driveway, I suddenly remembered that I had not taken the garage door opener from the visor in the Buick, and also, that I did not have keys with me to my other Buick on which there is a key to the house. In addition, son Dave was driving his wife's car that day rather than his truck, so he did not have his truck's keys on which there is a key to the house!

Tension rose as Dave tried to call for help on his cell phone. He has a good cell phone, but it would not work in the dead area at my house. If I had thought a moment, we could have driven to the Town Hall where his phone might have worked. Anyway, I asked him to drive me to the Gruen's place next to the Town Hall, because Bob and Sue have been very helpful to me in the past. Sue was home and willing to call who I believed had keys to the house: Tom Lively, who takes care of my house and grounds and Jean Lamothe, who had helped Pegge and me for years. Neither one was home, but Sue left word. It was approaching 11 a.m. and Sue expected Bob to return reasonably soon. Son Dave had to leave because he had important commitments in Connecticut. It was a beautiful day, so Sue and I sat on her front porch. This was a Tuesday morning in downtown Heath. Big trucks were passing by going east and west, and people were busy picking up mail. A couple of drivers evened stopped their cars to say hello and ask if everything was all right! You wouldn't believe the volume of traffic in Heath Center on a Tuesday morning.

Bob eventually arrived and we chatted a bit about ways to get into the house. We had pretty much decided

to take a hammer and break a window in the back of the house, when both Tom and Jean called and agreed we all would meet at the house. Could have been about 12:30 p.m. at that time. It turned out that Tom did not have a key, and Jean's key did not work. The upshot of the situation was that Bob helped raise Tom enough to reach a back unlocked kitchen window, and with a jackknife slit the screen just enough so he could release the devices holding the screen in place. Bob then pushed Tom up again, so he could lift the window more and climb through. Tom was smiling, and so was everyone else, when he opened the front door. By that time, it was 1 p.m.

I have since given new keys to the front door to all the people who helped me that day. It turns out that the lock on that front door had to be replaced several months ago, and I "believed" I had distributed new keys to Tom and Jean, but I had not. I put one in my wallet.

I believe this may be a good time to say a THANK YOU to all the people in Heath who offered their help and condolences since Pegge passed away last March. Many have given me food to help me adapt to living alone, such as hard-boiled eggs, jams, muffins, cookies, Shepherd's Pie, prepared dinners, whole cooked chickens and fresh vegetables. Then there are close friends who have invited me into their homes for dinner. This is Heath, a small town with a heart. Pegge, son Dave, daughter Martha, and I have called Heath home for many, many years. For now, it still is.

—Dave Howland



Heath—Where neighbors Really Care

The eight days in the hospital combating a high fever, when the staff thought I had COVID, left me very weak. Thankfully, the symptoms were the result of a black legged tick bite, causing the treatable disease anaplasmosis.

When I returned home, our wonderful Heath neighbors plied us with food and support. In many ways, they continue to do so.

We count ourselves fortunate to live in such a caring community, and send deeply felt thanks to all who so graciously helped us.

With appreciation,

—Del Viarengo

Obituary

Richard R. Giard

Richard Giard was born in Heath to Anita and David Giard on September 9, 1942, and died in Heath on July 30, 2020. Except for a three-year tour in the Army, he was a lifelong resident of Heath. He was the youngest of nine, and is predeceased by sisters Florence and Irene (Sister Mary the Immaculate Conception) and brothers David, George, John, and Donald. He leaves behind a brother, Raymond, and sister, Rita. Richard ran the family farm, worked for Hardig Industries in South Deerfield, and retired as a rural route carrier for the Colrain Post Office after 20 years of service in 2007. He has also served the town of Heath in various elected, appointed, and volunteer positions for almost 20 years. He is missed.



Elder Communion

*Cunning of you, northern elderberry,
to elude me for a half century,
then pop up in a Berkshire backyard
and supply two full pints
of pellets the size of peppercorns
glinting purple-blueblack,
flavored between lingonberry
and black currant: cooked down
to a jam as cloyingly sweet
as my grandmother's face.
I daub you thinly on toast,
you caviar of berries.*

—Charles H. Miller, 1913-1992

Editor's Note: Charles Miller was the former husband of Lynn Perry. Many of us fondly remember Charlie's Heath days. He was known for being able to capture the spirit of rural and farming life in his writing and poetry. His books are available at the Heath Library.



Heath Union Church

The Rev. James Koyama, Minister
Dennis Ainsworth, Organist
Sunday Morning Worship 10 a.m.

All are Welcome

Rev. Koyama is in town on Thursdays, with church office hours in the afternoon. Cell phone: 808-282-6711; Church phone to leave a message: 413-337-4019

Board of Deacons

Hilma Sumner, Chair, 337-4845, Claudia Ainsworth 624-8952, Dana Blackburn 413-221-0961, Victoria Burrington 337-4425, Walt Gleason 337-4479

As summer begins to wane, our nation is still in the midst of pandemic, and my guess is that there is hope mingled with uncertainty in most every heart. Our uncertainties stem from the coronavirus, our politics, social and racial inequalities, you name it.

Our hope, I believe, stems from the likelihood that we are in a watershed moment. The shedding of the past may be a source of grief, but it will also create openings in which to make a fresh start. When our social lives start cranking up again, there will be a window in which to shake off old patterns that deepened and hardened the divisions that plagued us.

There is a method of field work in Anthropology in which the researcher looks at the pathways through a village to see how worn they are and where they lead. He or she then compares the resulting map to the villager's descriptions of their daily behavior. Predictably, there is a telling difference between the two. My guess is that if such a study was done here in Heath, you would find a similar gap. I think you would find that while we tend to see ourselves as open-minded and inclusive, the reality is that most of us only beat a path to a few select doors.

My hope for the future of Heath, and every town in America, is that new and unexpected paths will appear, connecting households previously unconnected. For me, this would be a sign of the presence of Christ, whose footsteps through life led him to many and varied destinations and to sit at table in the most unlikely gatherings.

What lies in the hopefully not-too-distant future is a golden opportunity to beat new paths—before habit sets in. I certainly hope that new paths will appear leading both into and out of the church's doors. What new paths will you create when things open up again?

—Reverend Koyama

Important Notice:

Due to COVID-19, many events usually listed on Ongoing Calendar have been postponed. For updates, check notices around town—the outer room of the Town Hall, the Transfer Station—or the town website at townofheath.org

Community Calendar

- Oct 3** **Flu Clinic**
9 to 11 a.m. at 18 Jacobs Road, former school building. See page 19 for more information.
- Oct 9** **Virtual Preschool Story Hour**
10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Contact library to sign up to receive Zoom invite, 413-337-4934, ext. 7.
- Oct 17** **Early In-Person Voting**
18 10 a.m. to noon at Sawyer Hall.
- Oct 20** **Early In-Person Voting**
22 9 a.m. to noon at Sawyer Hall.
- Oct 24** **Early In-Person Voting**
25 2 to 4 p.m. on the 24th,
10 a.m. to noon on the 25th
at Sawyer Hall.
- Oct 24** **Voter Registration**
Last day to register to vote.
- Oct 28** **Voter-By-Mail Ballot**
Last day to request vote-by-mail ballot.
- Nov 3** **Election Day**
Vote in person between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. at 18 Jacobs Road, former school building.
- Nov 6** **Virtual Preschool Story Hour**
20 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Contact library to sign up to receive Zoom invite, 413-337-4934, ext. 7.
- Nov 9** **Heath Agricultural Society Annual Meeting**
Virtual meeting on Zoom.
Email heathagsociety@gmail.com for a Zoom invite.

Ongoing Calendar

Community Yoga

Online classes are happening now!

Contact Kate at kate@highlandyoga.studio

Check out the website: www.highlandyoga.studio



High-speed Internet Access

Town Center and at 18 Jacobs Road, the former Heath school building.

Heath Library Take-Out Window Hours

Monday • 2 to 7 p.m.
Wednesday • 2 to 5 p.m.
Thursday • 2 to 6 p.m.
Saturday • 2 to 5 p.m.



Both voting in person and voting by mail have a long history of trustworthiness in the U.S. You have options to vote safely during COVID-19, so go vote!

Online Voter Registration
Deadline Oct. 24 • sec.state.ma.us

Early In-Person Voting
Oct. 17 & 18 • 10 a.m. to noon, Sawyer Hall
Oct. 20 & 22 • 9 a.m. to noon, Sawyer Hall
Oct. 24 • 2 to 4 p.m., Sawyer Hall
Oct. 25 • 10 a.m. to noon, Sawyer Hall

Request Vote by Mail Ballot
Deadline: Oct. 28 • townclerk@townofheath.org

Vote by Mail Ballots Due
Return in person by Nov. 3, Sawyer Hall
Return by mail: must be postmarked by Nov. 3 and received by Nov. 6

Election Day In-Person Voting
Nov. 3 • 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., 18 Jacobs Road

Heath Town Offices

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

Town Coordinator, Hilma Sumner

bos@townofheath.org
Mon./Wed. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tues./Thurs.
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Select Board, bos@townofheath.org

Tuesday 7 p.m., Sawyer Hall
Brian DeVriese, 413-337-5525
Robyn Provost-Carlson, 413-337-5316
Gloria Fisher, 413-337-6626

Town Clerk, Hilma Sumner

townclerk@townofheath.org
Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to noon
Or call for appointment 413-337-4845

Accountant, Dave Fierro

accountant@townofheath.org
No regular hours
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 Nartowicz

Monday 3:30 p.m. (varies)
knartowicz@gmail.com

Boards and Committees

Board of Assessors

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. 413-337-4934, x3
assessors@townofheath.org
Alice Wozniak, Assistant Assessor
Robyn Provost-Carlson
Heather Hathwell, Heidi Griswold

Board of Health, 413-337-4934

Betsy Kovacs, Chair, 413-337-5346
Mary Sumner, Clerk
Armand Clavette, Henry Godek, Susan Gruen,
John Palmer, Gene Garland (ex-officio)

Finance Committee

Ned Wolf, Secretary, 413-337-4476
Ken Gilbert, 413-337-4461
Jan Carr, Alice Wozniak, Will Emmet

Library Board of Trustees

Deborah Porter, Chair, 413-337-4715
Emily Cross, 413-337-4816
Maureen O'Malley

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 O'Neill, 413-339-4820
Doug Mason, 413-339-4756
Nina Marshall, 413-339-4756

Sean O'Neill, 413-339-4820

Haynes Turkle

Cemetery Commission

Jerry Gilbert, Central Cemetery, 413-337-4355
Claire Rabbitt, North Cemetery, 413-337-8309
Eric Sumner, South Cemetery, 413-337-5330
Matthew Lively, Sexton, 413-337-4331
Hilma Sumner, Burial Agent, 413-337-4845

Conservation Commission

Brian DeVriese, Chair, 413-337-5525
Dennis Peters, 413-337-4014
Bernard "Buck" den Ouden, 413-337-4002
Jessica O'Neill, 413-339-4820

Historical Commission

Heather Hathwell and Jayne Dane, co-chairs
Susan Gruen, Nina Marshall

Community

Public Library, Don Purington, Director

Lyra Johnson-Fuller, Library Assistant
www.heathlibrary.org, heath.library@gmail.com
See page 22 for Window Hours; 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

Schools

MTRSD School Committee Representative

Budge Litchfield, 413-337-4957
Barbara Rode, brode@mtrsd.org, 413-337-5352

Franklin County Technical School Representative

Art Schwenger, 413-337-4077

Hawlemont Elementary School

Lindsay Rodriguez, Principal, 413-339-8316

Town Nurse, Claire Rabbitt, RN

Office hours, Senior Center, 413-337-4847
Tuesday 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. and Thursday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Voicemail: 413-337-4934, ext. 109
Home phone: 413-337-8309

Senior Center/Community Hall, 413-337-4847

Eileen Lively, Senior Coordinator, 413-337-4742

Public Works and Safety

Animal Control Officer, Kyle Dragon, 413-768-0983,

or if not available, call Shelburne Dispatch
413-625-8200. All emergencies, dial 911

Highway Department, Jeffrey Johnston, Road

Superintendent; 413-337-4462; cell, 413-406-4516

Police Department, John McDonough, Police Chief

Office hours: Tuesday 6 to 8 p.m. 413-337-4934, ext. 108, or call Shelburne Dispatch at 413-625-8200 to have paged. All emergencies, dial 911

Transfer Station, Ken Erho, Attendant

Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteer Fire Department

Nick Anzuoni, Fire Chief, 413-337-4461, or 911 for an emergency

Emergency Management Team, EMT

Tim Lively, Sheila Litchfield, BOH, Select Board



The goal of education is not to increase the amount of knowledge but to create the possibilities for a child to invent and discover, to create individuals who are capable of doing new things.

—Jean Piaget

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To contact the Selectboard, email bas@townofheath.org

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