



VOL. 1 NO. 1 APRIL 1979

# HEATH HERALD

NEWS AND VIEWS

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## HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER!

By Harriet Read

Spring is here. Read any newspaper or listen to any broadcast and you will become aware of all the many good things that happen in the spring except for this one, the arrival of the first edition of the Heath Herald. This is very good news!

Some time ago the idea of a newspaper for Heath began to take root. There are advantages to having topics of local interest presented from one source and now, with our quiet little town of yesteryear experiencing many changes due to influences beyond its boundaries, these advantages are even more apparent. A group of enthusiastic "Heathens" got together early in March to discuss the philosophy of the paper, its title, and the technicalities of getting the first issue published.

The Heath Herald will be a non-partisan newspaper written by and for the people of Heath. It will be informative and inspirational only if the news of events reaches the paper. You may write directly to the Heath Herald, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA.

Let's make it a go, with all of us supporting Heath's very first newspaper by contributing to future issues and, of course, by subscribing to it. Here's to a Successful Heath Herald!

## SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

On Thursday, April 19 at 8 PM, a Special Town Meeting will be held to vote on an appropriation of \$8000 to cover additional finishing work on Sawyer Hall not covered in the original specifications. Of this amount, \$5000 is to be transferred from Revenue Sharing and \$3000 is to be raised by taxation.

Another article will call for \$7500 from Revenue Sharing to be used for the purchase of a wood chipper machine.

## SAWYER HALL UPDATE

By Anne Henderson

Work on Sawyer Hall is progressing and should be completed soon, according to the Selectmen. Structural renovations are being handled by Whiteman Bros. of Colrain. A new plumbing and heating system has been installed by Don Ward of Buckland, and the building has been rewired by Charles York of Shelburne.

Some unexpected problems were encountered early in the renovation. Poor quality foundation work had to be corrected before upstairs remodeling could begin. Some crumbling basement walls and an ill fitting boiler room door were repaired, and a plastic drainage pipe was replaced by a cast iron one as required by the building code.

Upstairs the contractors found more problems as they began the remodeling work. A steel I-beam has to be installed in the back wall of the library to replace a wooden one which has sagged. Shelving in the old kitchenette was found to be supporting the floor upstairs and a new beam will be installed there also. A small leak in the roof was also repaired.

The "new" Sawyer Hall will be quite a change from the old building. Insulation has been blown into the walls. A baseboard heating system has replaced the old furnace and space heaters. Windows have been repaired. A wheel chair ramp and new entryway have been created.

Inside, the building will be brighter and more open. The first floor will provide a foyer with a public phone, the Selectmen's office, a combined Assessors'/Town Clerk's office, new rest rooms, a small storage closet, and the enlarged library. On the second floor, there will be two finished rooms and a large unfinished hall. One of the finished rooms has been designated as a library research center. The function of the other two rooms will be decided by future town needs.



## PLANNING BOARD MEETING

The Planning Board will conduct a public meeting on Thursday, April 12 at 8 PM at the Community Hall, to discuss several proposed changes in the Town Bylaws.

Currently, the Planning Board is also working on developing a 5-year plan to increase the tax base of the Town. More on this in the next issue.



## HEATH FAIR

Remember, when you are setting out your seedlings, to include something to exhibit at the Heath Fair August 17, 18, & 19. Also get your ads for the Fair Book to Grace Crowningshield by April 15th.



## HEATH HERALD

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Address all comments, suggestion, and inquires to P.O. Box 54 Heath, MA.

## TAXPAYERS TURNOUT IN HEATH

By Pegge Howland

A whopping 30% increase in taxes this year has finally stirred the people of Heath to action!

One new resident was so incensed that he wrote to the Selectmen requesting an explanation. The result was that they called a special meeting on Tuesday, March 6, to answer questions and to provide general information on the status of Heath's finances. The Board of Assessors and the Finance Committee were all there with the Selectmen armed with charts, ledgers, and reports.

It was one of the best attended special meetings ever held in Heath. An estimated 50-60 persons turned out despite torrential rains and ankle-deep mud to air their concerns. The meeting was moderated by First Selectman Ken Cole who handled the sensitive subject matter and restive crowd deftly.

Thirty questions and answers had been prepared in advance and a lot of valuable information came out about where Heath's money goes. Many felt that the State is the real villain and that home rule is practically dead in Massachusetts.

The Assessors prepared an analysis of the trend of the Town's finances over the past four years. Richards Steinbock translated this information into a chart which we have reproduced on a separate page. It shows that our Town expenditures have increased markedly and our share of State Aid has not kept up.

## TAX BILL QUESTIONS?

The Board of Assessors meets Friday evenings at 8 PM at the Community Hall. Anyone with questions concerning their tax bill may attend a meeting or telephone the Hall at 337-4934.

The Assessors have met recently with a representative of a computer service company to investigate the advantages of having the tax records and bills handled on a computer. Several surrounding towns employ a computer service and the Assessors have discussed the system with officials in Buckland and Colrain. It is expected that a computer service would pay for itself in issuing tax bills more promptly and in reducing clerical work.



# HEATH 4-YEAR FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

## HEATH 4-YEAR FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

FISCAL YEAR →	1976	1977	1978	1979
TOWN BUDGET	\$ 312,260	\$ 355,330	\$ 393,683	\$ 433,398
INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS YR.		\$ 43,070	\$ 38,353	\$ 39,715
FREE CASH AVAILABLE TO OFFSET THE TAX RATE		\$ 59,404	\$ 60,109	\$ 6,749
RAISED BY TAXATION AND TAX RATE	\$ 147,755 (\$54.00)	\$ 180,465 (\$20.00)	\$ 235,713 (\$24.80)	\$ 307,655 (\$31.00)
INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS YR.		\$ 32,710	\$ 55,248	\$ 71,942
ASSESSOR'S OVERLAY TO COVER ABATEMENTS, EXEMPT.	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,509	\$ 6,513	\$ 7,473
STATE AID	\$ 90,553	\$ 81,147	\$ 77,456	\$ 74,946
STATE CHARGES	- 18,203	- 19,256	- 31,227	- 16,977
NET STATE \$ RCVD.	\$ 72,350	\$ 61,891	\$ 46,229	\$ 57,969
SOME FIGURES FROM THE TOWN WARRANTS				
TOWN BUILDINGS	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,500	\$ 9,000	\$ 12,000
CONTINGENCY FUND	\$ 1,900	\$ 2,250	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
INSURANCE	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 13,000
ARTICLE 3 TOTAL	\$ 25,740	\$ 31,044	\$ 40,453	\$ 49,175
SPRAYER HALL REPAIR				\$ 22,000
SCHOOLS	\$ 137,003	\$ 151,823	\$ 171,122	\$ 173,348
HIGHWAYS	\$ 28,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 49,917	\$ 46,469
MACHINERY	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 16,000
SOME FACTS ABOUT THE UTILITIES				
VALUES OF UTILITIES	MASS. ELEC. 130,300 NEPCO 400,000 TELEPHONE 43,200	261,000 604,500 43,200	262,500 604,500 43,200	264,500 604,500 47,200
TOTAL UTILITIES	\$ 573,500	\$ 908,700	\$ 910,200	\$ 916,200
TOWN VALUE INCL. UTILS.	\$ 2,504,325	\$ 9,023,273	\$ 9,504,560	
PERCENT OF VALUE INCREASE	UTILITIES TOWN	58% 420%	0016% 6%	0065% 6%
TAX PAID UTILITIES AND PERCENT OF TOTAL TAX	\$ 33,835 (23%)	\$ 18,174 (10%)	\$ 22,572 (9.6%)	\$ 28,402 (9.2%)
ASSESSED VALUE TOWN	\$ 2,504,325	\$ 9,023,273	\$ 9,504,560	\$ 9,924,358
EQUALIZED VALUE		\$ 12,200,000	\$ 13,200,000	\$ 12,400,000



## GRANGE REPORT

Grange members catered several dinners last fall in order to replenish their treasury. In the last several months attendance at regular meetings has been so poor that no business could be conducted due to the lack of a quorum. The officers would very much like to conduct an "interest campaign" to entice new candidates to join, and to lure back those who are already members. Interested persons may contact any of the following officers: Master, Peter Smith; Overseer, Ken Crowningshield; Steward, May Churchill; Assis't. Steward, Fred Crowningshield; Lady Assis't. Steward, Grace Crowningshield; Chaplain, Edith Royer; Treasurer, Esther Crowningshield; Secretary, Mildred Crowningshield; Ceres, Phyllis Crowningshield; Pomona, Brenda Clark; Flora, Theresa Peters. The Executive Committee consists of Andy Royer and Nora Galipo. Meetings are held at the Community Hall on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

## POLICE BLOTTER

Police Chief Lorin S. Gowdy reports that vandalism and theft are on the rise in all areas of Heath. Residents have lost thousands of dollars worth of property through theft and damage in the last few years.

The Heath Police need your help to stop these crimes. If you see anything suspicious around town, please call the Heath Police at 337-5505 or 337-4215. Let's make it hard on these law-breakers to commit crime. It appears that no one is immune.

The only way our law officers can serve the community effectively is to get more participation from the people they are sworn to protect. Give them a chance to help you. Give your Heath Police Department a call!

## TONGUE TWISTER

"THE HEATH POLICE DISMISSETH US"

(Repeat three times for best effect)

## COMING IN JUNE

- \* Report on the Annual Town Meeting
- \* Planning Board Plans
- \* Heath Fair
- \* School News
- \* More News and Views

This first issue of the Heath Herald was privately financed, but we desperately need your subscriptions and donations to continue to publish. Won't you help? Please make checks payable to the Heath Herald and mail to Box 54, Heath, Mass. 01341.



## FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

The annual meeting of the Heath Fireman's Association was held March 14. Election of officers was held and the following were elected: President, John Holdsworth; Vice President, Dawn Peters; Sec.-Treas., Richards Steinboch; Priority Committee Member for three years, Tim Henderson. It was voted to authorize J. Bradbury to purchase a new base radio station and accessories; voted not to purchase patches for shirts at this time and to turn the matter back to committee to study alternatives; voted to send an entry to Buckland Bicentennial parade; voted to send the new fire truck to the Tri-State Field Day at Mohawk Regional School in May. A motion to promote a drive to encourage residents to become associate members of the Fireman's Association was tabled.



## VOTE - VOTE - VOTE!

## CANDIDATE PROFILES

Monday, May 7, is TOWN MEETING DAY at the Heath Community Hall. From 1 to 7 PM Heath residents have the opportunity to vote for the candidates of their choice. Then, at 8 PM, the Annual Meeting will be held to act on the articles in the Town Warrant. It is not only the right but also the responsibility of all registered voters to participate in this Town Meeting Day.

There are nine important Town offices to be filled this year by ballot. These are listed below with the names of the candidates who have filed papers. In addition, write-in votes may be made for any other candidates.

Selectman (3 years)	Paul Lively
Treasurer (3 years)	Anne Henderson Catherine Nichols
Town Clerk (3 years)	Anne Henderson Catherine Nichols
Tax Collector (3 years)	Anne Henderson Catherine Nichols
Finance Committee	
Member (3 years)	David Howland
Auditor (1 year)	
Assessor (3 years)	*Richards Steinbock
Library Trustee	
(3 years)	*Alli Thane
School Committee	
Member (3 years)	*Lynn Miller

\* Denotes incumbent

In order to acquaint you with the new candidates for these Town offices, we have asked them to prepare a brief statement on their background and qualifications.

### ANNE M. HENDERSON

Born to a career military family in Northampton, I spent my childhood in several parts of the U.S. including South Carolina, Texas, and Cape Cod. When my father was stationed in Europe, I attended the Alliance Francaise in Paris to study French.

In 1972, I graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a B.A. degree. I hold a Mass. Secondary School teaching certification. My work experience includes a bank teller in Las Vegas; teaching at Greenfield High School; and para-legal experience with former Town Counsel, Arthur Wald-er.

I am married to Tim Henderson, an engineer at Yankee Atomic in Rowe. We have two children, age 5 and 2.

### DAVID F. HOWLAND

I was born, raised, and educated in up-state New York. I am a veteran of World War II and received a B.A. degree from Hofstra University. I married Margaret Clapp and we lived in Windsor Conn. for 18 years. During that time I served on the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, Conservation Committee, and as a Selectman. When we moved to Amherst I served on the Personnel Board there. We have owned property in Heath for 15 years and became permanent residents in 1978. We have two grown children, a boy and a girl, who live elsewhere. I have been employed as Personnel Officer at Amherst College for 10 years and feel that I can contribute effectively to the welfare of Heath as a member of the Finance Committee.

### CATHERINE NICHOLS

I was born and grew up in Nyack, N.Y. Six years ago Alan, my husband, and I moved to Heath and built our house on land adjoining the Fairgrounds. In 1976 I graduated from UMass with a B.S. in Botany. We now have a daughter, Emily, who is nearly two.

I am seeking the offices of Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Tax Collector because they would give me a little income while allowing me to stay close to home. I also would enjoy meeting people and learning more about the Town of Heath. We like living in Heath and look forward to raising a family here.

### PAUL LIVELY

I was born in Heath in my present house as was my father before me. The following are some of my activities during my life to date:

Attended Heath Branch and Center Schools.  
Graduated from Arms Acadamey and the University of Massachusetts.

In 1961, married Marcella Vigneault of Manchester, N.H. and we have seven children.

Since college, have been in dairying for 12 years, a salesman for Agway for two years, a teacher at Arms Academy for one year, and in the excavation business for 9 years.

If elected, I will be the only self-employed member of the Board.



## FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

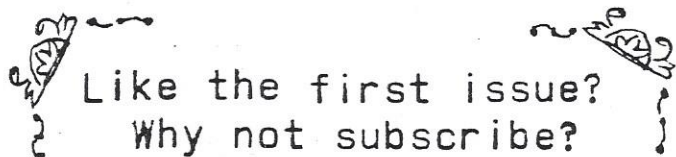
The Heath Fire Department is conducting a training school for future fire fighters. The enrollment consists of high school students who meet every Wednesday night for six weeks. They will learn to use fire equipment in the most effective ways and with the maximum of safety to the fire fighter.



## LIBRARY NOTES

The Heath Library sent a delegation to a hearing in Boston on March 14 and to Adams on March 22 relative to a proposed bill changing the formula for allocation of State Grant in Aid to Public Libraries. This will not directly affect the Heath Library, but will increase the Aid to Regional Libraries (Bookmobile), thus indirectly benefitting us. Heath's share of this grant is \$1000 a year. It supplements the annual Town appropriation and is administered by the Library Trustees.

Some of the newest books available at the Library are: Chesapeake by James Michener, Overload by Arthur Hailey, The Stories of John Cheevers by John Cheevers, Dress Gray by Lucian Truscott, The Sixth Commandment by Lawrence Sanders, The Far Pavillions by M.M. Kaye, Fools Die by Mario Puzo, A Distant Mirror by Barbara Tuchman, American Caesar by William Manchester, If Life is a Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in the Pits by Erma Bombeck.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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Clip out and mail to: HEATH HERALD  
P.O. Box 54  
Heath, MA 01346

## GIVE - GIVE - GIVE!

The annual drive of the American Cancer Society is now in progress in Heath. If you have not been contacted for a contribution and can give, please contact Caroline Smith at 337-4900.

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## CLASSIFIED

PAINTING CLASSES, 8 weeks, \$30.....  
.....Marlene Housner 337-4047

\*\*\*\*\*

FRESH WINDS FARM Paul and Marcella Lively & Sons. Excavating-Loam-Sand-Stone. 337-4331

\*\*\*\*\*

Shasta daisies, Iris, Daylilies, Yellow Marguerites, etc. Ready May 1; \$ 1.50; field-dug...The HILLTOP GARDENER 337-4416

\*\*\*\*\*

Start a Hobby: Military Models .....  
... BILL THANE 337-5388

\*\*\*\*\*

PETERS' GENERAL STORE: Food, Liquors, Gas.  
If We Don't Have It, We Can Get It! 337-5501

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Additional copies of the Heath Herald may be purchased at Peter's Store news stand.

