



VOLUME 15 NUMBER 1

APRIL/MAY 1993

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢

LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane

The library has been busier than ever this winter, possibly due to the abundance of snow. We've all had more time to read, do crafting, and watch videocassettes. Now Spring is on the way and gardening books are on the top of the borrowing list.

The Preschool children have been coming in again for stories and films and are a delight. Our Valentine workshop was quite a success with 26 attending. We appreciate the efforts of Rhodessa Peace, Carolyn Armstrong, Michelle Cutter, and Kim Richter for making this possible. The free pass for four to the Children's Museum in Holyoke is available. Sign up for it on the calendar on the library door.

I'm searching for talent for summer programs. Are you interested in reading to youngsters, conducting a craft workshop, teaching songs, etc.? Anything you think would be fun for a summer activity. Suggested times are Mondays and Wednesdays, but we can be flexible.

New books at the library:

It Doesn't Take a Hero - Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf

The Way Things Ought to Be - Russ Limbaugh

The Sword and the Grail - Andrew Sinclair

Driving Force - Dick Francis

Dolores Claiborne - Stephen King

Continued on page 3



PREPARING FOR VALENTINE'S DAY
GORDON CUTTER, LOREN BURKE, MATT ARMSTRONG,
ALEXANDRA THANE, ANNA ARMSTRONG
(Photo by Bob Gruen)

DO YOU HAVE A TREE TO GIVE?

by Pegge Howland

The Heath Historical Society and the Heath Agricultural Society are looking for trees. Yes, in this mostly forested town, we are looking for trees! Ah, but not just any old trees. What we need are mature timber trees of pine, spruce or hemlock. What in the world, you say, do they need trees for?

Well, you see, the Historical Society wants to build a barn to house a display of Heath farm implements (you know, tractors, hay rakes, mowing machines, even looms). The Agricultural Society thinks it's a great idea and has offered to locate said barn on the Heath fairgrounds.

Actually it all started at the Historical Society Annual Meeting last August when I announced that we had rescued two antique wagons (one the Dickinson milk wagon) from the lawn of the Ox Bow Restaurant. Of course the Society had no place to even store them, much less display them. Buck DenOuden piped up and suggested that we acquire or build a barn, an idea that was enthusiastically embraced by the folks at the meeting, and Don Conlon offered to look into funding the project. The next thing I knew, Mike Peters called to say the Agricultural Society supported the idea too and could provide the site. After I had received several more calls encouraging us to proceed, I concluded that there was a grassroots ground-swell of interest in the project and we had better do something about it. So David and I got together a Committee of interested parties including Mike Peters, Buck DenOuden, Carroll Stowe, Bruce and Catherine Cromack, Paul Burrington and Jack Cable, and we met at my house on March 7. The consensus of this group of experts was that we should build a replica of a significant 19th century Heath barn on the Fairgrounds site with volunteer help and donated materials.

So that's where we're at right now. If any of you have ideas as to what Heath barn would be a good model (standing or not), please call me at 337-4980. If it is no longer extant, we would need pictures to help us out.

And, if any of you have timber trees or cut lumber of pine, spruce or hemlock to donate, please call one of our Timber Managers, Buck DenOuden at 337-4002 or Carroll Stowe at 337-4498.

This is going to be a big barn, of post and beam construction and perhaps 2 or 3 stories, so we need lots of board feet. Maybe we can even have an old fashioned barn-raising party for the whole town when we get ready to erect it, O.K.?!

MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Warren Farnsworth, a son, was born December 28. Parents are Peggy and Lawrence C. Smith of Minneapolis, MN. He is the grandson of Caroline and Newland F. Smith Jr. formerly of Heath.

Born on January 21, Skye Marie, a daughter, to Georgia and Robert Cass of Buckland. Grandparents are Douglas and Gloria Decker of Hawley, Lloyd and Audrey Cass of Buckland. Great grandparents are Mildred Decker of Heath, Gordon and Esther Pratt of Charlemont, Emory and Jane Broadhurst of Ashfield and Carrie Cass of Buckland. Her great great grandfather is Harold Pratt of Greenfield.

On February 2, a daughter, Jessica Lynn was born to Amy and Jeffrey Hicks of Charlemont. Grandparents are Rose Kaiser and Clarence Tanguay of Hawley, and Betty and Norman Hicks of Charlemont and Chester Kaiser of Heath. Great grandmothers are Avis Hitchcock of Hawley and Nell Slaunwhite of Charlemont.

Lisa Michelle was born February 20 to Kimberly Shippee and Luke Venneri of Buckland. She is the granddaughter of Sharon and Raymond Shippee of Buckland and Patricia O'Neil and Patrick Venneri of Heath. Great grandparents are Silvia and Allen Coates of Charlemont and Mary and Patrick Venneri of CT.

In Manchester, NH, a son, Jason Paul was born on January 13 to Mark and Karen Eldridge. On February 12, a son, Matthew, was born to Tripp and Nina Eldridge. They are grandsons of Carol and Elson Eldridge of NH and Heath. Great grandmother is Betty Eldridge of St. Louis and Heath.

A son, Daniel Raymond, was born March 17 to Jacquelyn and Warren Boyden of Millers Falls. He is the

grandson of Sally Aldrich of Sunderland, Thomas Murray of Norfolk, VA, Janet and George Mello of Apache Junction AZ and Judie Boyden of Conway. Daniel is the great grandson of Marie and Louis Kushi of Millers Falls, Anna Koski of Norfolk, VA, Dorothy Sessions of Heath and Linda Boyden of Conway.

Beverly Jeanne Thane and John Henry Cable were married on March 20 at their new home on Burnt Hill. Beverly is the daughter of Ernest and Alli Thane of Jacobs Road and the mother of Olga Peters. Jack is the son of Helen and Chauncey Cable of East Orleans, MA and is our local road superintendent and the proprietor of Burnt Hill Blueberries.

Paul G. Lemelin, formerly of Unionville, CT, died January 31 at the home of his son, Paul L. in Heath. Besides his son, he leaves a daughter, Anne of Plantsville, CT, two brothers, Arthur and Roger of Winsted, CT and four grandchildren. Services were held in Unionville, CT with burial in Avon, CT.

Charles H. Seaver, Jr. died February 6 at home after a lengthy illness. He and his family moved to Heath from New York City in 1971. He was a builder and built his own home in South Heath. He leaves his wife, Juliet, three sons, Christopher and Jesse of Heath and Arlo of Rowe. He is survived by his father, Charles H. Seaver, Sr. of Pebble Beach, CA, two sisters, Kate Jones of Michigan and Carol Boku of FL and a brother George T. of CT. A memorial service was held in the Heath Church on February 13 with Rev. Alan Comstock officiating.

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Matthew W. Den Ouden has completed his Juris Doctor at the University of Connecticut Law School. He was awarded the American Jurisprudence Award in Advanced Torts. Matt and his wife, Amy, now make their home in Hebron, CT. Matt is practicing law with the firm of O'Connell, Flaherty, Atmore and Forsythe in downtown Hartford. Amy is enrolled in a doctoral program in anthropology at the University of Connecticut.

Matt's education came full circle at the University of Connecticut Law School. The physical plant which now houses the Law School was, back in 1967 and 1968 known as the Hartford Seminary Foundation. There Matthew had his first educational experiences in Knight Hall Nursery School as a four year old, while his father, Buck, was pursuing his master's degree in Philosophy.

Senior Joel Porter-DeVriese played a lead role in the recent musical production of "Oklahoma!" at Mo-hawk Trail Regional School. Congratulations for an outstanding performance.

HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph H. Dickinson

Observer for Mass. Division of Water Resources

During the month of February precipitation was 3.37 inches with a snowfall total of 28 inches. March continued the winter season with 7.82 inches of precipitation and 43 inches of snow. Total snowfall this season is 128 inches. This is the most snow in the month of March in over 25 years. If the last few days of March had been snow instead of rain we would have had much more snow. So far our snowfall is more than any years except 71-72 and 72-73 in the past quarter century.



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And several new books in large print.



VALENTINE WORKSHOP FUN
 STEPHEN SMEAD, DYLAN JOHNSON, CARLY NARTOWICZ
 (Photo by Bob Gruen)

HEATH'S NEW VIDEO STAR

by Alli Thane

The library has a new video; the town has a new video star: Elsa Bakalar in Portrait of a Gardener. Elsa's usual witty and personal approach to the place of gardens in our lives has given us a marvelous video. It is Elsa at her best teaching philosophy, basic technique and the fun of gardening.

Presented by National Treasures Series and produced by Virginia Sullivan, the video is available at the library. Don't miss it.

Your own copy may be purchased at Boswell's Books in Buckland.

CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Roger Peace

Driving around the area and seeing sap buckets hanging from the trees puts the idea of spring getting closer; but with so much snow and the possibility of more, you realize that winter is trying to hang on a while longer. For those few of us who enjoy the snow, that is fine. Yet with the snow comes cancellations. For the very first time I can remember, I sat home and watched a church service. It was a good service, but something was missing. I believe it was the fellowship at the Heath Church. We also cancelled a puppet performance and postponed another. Still, there are other puppet ministries ahead. One was in Florence on the 28th of March. One thing we can all be thankful to the Lord about, is the safety He gave us through these storms in the area.

The West County Good Friday Service will be held in Colrain at the First Baptist Church at 7:30 PM. Six area churches will be joining for this service. Then on Easter morning we begin the day at 6 AM at the top of Bray Road for our Sunrise Service followed by breakfast at the Community Hall. At the 10 AM Worship Service the Heath Union Church Choir will be singing a cantata entitled "I Know My Redeemer Lives". If you never heard the choir, you will be surprised at the talent and quality. But that should be of no surprise - they are Heath people! Because of the generosity of two families, we will be using our new sound system. PTL.

Our youth group remains active in puppets and raising support for their upcoming trip to western NY with the puppets. Any help you can give them toward this end will be appreciated. The Sunday School children are all working hard to earn their perfect attendance pins. If you are interested in being part of the Sunday School, you're not too late to join us at 9 AM every Sunday morning. We now have five classes for all age groups from 4 to 100.

Hope you can visit, and even become part of the Heath Union Church. Have a safe spring and enjoy the change in weather soon! May God bless you through the Easter season and beyond.

OLD ROSE SWAP

by Pat Leuchtman

Pat Leuchtman is planning an Old Rose Sale or Swap for sometime early in May. Anyone who has a division or root of an old farm rose, and is willing to sell or swap it for another rose, should call Pat at 337-4316 for information about date and location - which have not been set at press time. Many local farms have roses that continue to thrive and bloom, even though the name of the rose is forgotten; roses for the swap should come with a brief description and any history that is known.

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CONNECTIONS

by
PAT LEUCHTMAN

SUE CRAWFORD

Sue Crawford, the new director of the Heath Preschool, has been preparing for this job for a long time. She studied at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, stopped out for a while and finished her undergraduate degree in special education at Eastern Michigan University.

She met Lloyd Crawford in 1971, but it wasn't until 1977 that he brought her to an old piece of family property in Hawley with the dream of turning it into a cross-country ski lodge. Sue wanted to teach and began at Mohawk as a full time tutor, and later worked for the Franklin County Educational Collaborative. Then she went to teach in North Adams for three and a half years, mostly in special education.

When her daughter, Katy, who is now 10 was born, she decided to stay home, take care of the baby, and join Lloyd in working at the lodge. Stump Sprouts was becoming busier and busier. She also went back to school part-time and got her Master's degree at UMass, focusing on young children with special needs.

Nick was born five years ago and is still in kindergarten so Sue wasn't really looking for work when the job at the Heath Preschool was advertised, but she couldn't resist the opportunity.

"The Heath Preschool is a wonderful place. The parents are so supportive, and Judy Clark, the assistant teacher is highly skilled, and a wonderfully warm person. Ruth Fournier is our senior aide and the kids just love her, too."

Sue says the school program is designed to teach children to learn to make choices and cooperate with each other. The whole group gets together at the beginning and the end of the session; they also get to choose which activities they want to participate in. "We have a listening center with books on tape, an art area for cutting, gluing and collage, a work bench with wood scraps, manipulative toys, easels for painting or drawing with chalk, blocks, a housekeeping area and a book corner.

"Each day one of the children is chosen as person of the day, which involves responsibility as well as a privilege."

Stump Sprouts still takes some of Sue's time. She says she and Lloyd used to split cooking chores pretty evenly, but since she started working in Heath she doesn't cook as much for evening guests. Fortunately Lloyd is a fine cook and can manage.

The lodge is actually busy all year round, although in every season the middle of the week is quiet. The ski trails make good hiking trails, and Sue says they get a lot of repeat business, people who keep returning, just to get out into the country - and to enjoy Lloyd's good food. "People have suggested that we do a cookbook, but we rarely make anything the same way twice. We use produce from our garden, or whatever is plentiful, and we have recipes, but they only guide us.

Groups have reserved Stump Sprouts for program weekends (they can handle about 20 people at a time which is small enough to be friendly and manageable

and large enough to make it financially feasible) and they can ask for certain kinds of meals. "We do not have a large menu for people to choose from, but we can tell people what to expect."

"Stump Sprouts has been wonderful for Katy and Nick. They both like to ski. Even Nick is quite accomplished at this point. I don't feel we have to make a lot of allowances for him when we go out. Also, guests frequently come with their children, and they get to be friends."

Fortunately, Heath has a good friend in Sue Crawford. Nowhere is skill, intelligence and sensitivity more important than in caring for our children - and Sue has these in abundance.

MOHAWK VALLEY HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE 1993 SPRING - SUMMER "HEALTH THYSELF" CALENDAR

APRIL

- 12 Building Bridges with Parents in your Day Care
- 13 Visiting Nurse and Health Services
- 27 Acupuncture and Health
- 27 Prostate Screening

MAY

- 3 Weight Loss through Nutritional Awareness - Session 1
- 4 Layperson's CPR - Session 1
- 8 Herbal Identification Walk
- 10 Weight Loss through Nutritional Awareness - Session 2
- 11 Layperson's CPR - Session 2
- 11 Layperson's CPR recertification
- 12 Standard First Aid - Session 1
- 13 Elder Peer Counseling
- 17 Weight Loss through Nutritional Awareness - Session 3
- 19 Standard First Aid - Session 2
- 22 Mohawk Trail Forest Hike
- 26 Standard First Aid - Session 3
- 29 Dunbar Brook Hike

JUNE

- 6 Negus Mountain Hike
- 28 Babysitting Skills (Hawlemont) Session 1
- 30 Babysitting Skills (Hawlemont) Session 2

JULY

- 2 Babysitting Skills (Hawlemont) Session 3
- 5 Babysitting Skills (Buckland-Shelburne) Session 1
- 7 Babysitting Skills (Buckland-Shelburne) Session 2
- 9 Babysitting Skills (Buckland-Shelburne) Session 3
- 12 Babysitting Skills (Colrain) Session 1
- 14 Babysitting Skills (Colrain) Session 2
- 16 Babysitting Skills (Colrain) Session 3
- 19 Babysitting Skills (Sanderson) Session 1
- 21 Babysitting Skills (Sanderson) Session 2
- 23 Babysitting Skills (Sanderson) Session 3

Registration is required for all programs. Please call MVHES at 625-2503 to register. Since programs are planned months in advance, and some class sizes are limited, it is helpful if you register early, and we can inform you of any changes in class dates, location or times.



The Way It Is In The Country

*"If it's old, works well and has a purpose in life,
don't change it".*

by **CARROLL STOWE**

As the snow recedes I look forward to two events of early spring. April 24-25 will see the Heath Fairgrounds hopefully dotted with a display of vintage tractors, gas engines and their related accessories. I don't get very excited over the more modern agricultural machinery and that is perhaps because to me it is so complicated. I have in years past been able to make some of the older pieces work that had taken on a miss adjustment. I must confess in earlier times having campaigned to get machines to do the work of power that burned hay and oats. Now I would like to redeem myself by advocating a return to a mixed power operation. This old gas powered iron that shared the farm jobs with animals was for the most part intriguing with its simplicity. Hence the 4th annual old tractor and vintage power show. This little back-woods endeavor has grown and looks like it should continue. The exhibitors and spectators can partake of this show without charge. If a morsel of food and drink are needed that will cost a bit.

Come all who read this and those who don't and share an enjoyed task or moment with others and bring an item to swap or display along with a story of its use. Don't be turned off by bad weather as things will be undercover if it storms. This old tractor power show is conducted for the enjoyment of others and any who would care to help and be a part of it are most welcome.

Likewise after viewing old iron and stuff the last weekend of April plan to attend the 12th year plowing contest at Colrain on May 1. Here again is an opportunity to share some past days at the plow handles or on a sulky seat. This event is fumbled with each year and more recently at no charge to the spectators or participants. Food will be on the grounds - and it's good, too!

This plow day is held on the Scranton field in Colrain near the covered bridge. Good food and conversations.

Teams of oxen, mules and horses will know how it was done in the past. Never in my plow experience have I ever plowed like the soil in Scranton's field. Prizes are donated from area businesses. We plan to have ribbons for the various classes and those will be in addition to donations. This plow day needs the help of all like interested folks. The best part of the day is to listen to those of an age who have handled a plow and knew when was running smoothly.

Please plan to enjoy the first day of May at Colrain by watching the plowing and support the local Lions Club food booth.

For more information call Carroll Stowe, 413-337-4498.



THE DRAGON'S GARDEN

by L. K. Wheeler

Emerging from the wintry hills of Heath is The Dragon's Garden. A business with its roots, literally, in Heath, The Dragon's Garden is the culmination of the years of gardening experience and mid-winter ruminations of Paul Brouthers, Dino Schnelle and Laurie Wheeler.

At The Dragon's Garden we are attempting to develop a program of community supported agriculture, or CSA. Our CSA, called Partners in Produce, is a farm from which members of the community buy pre-paid shares; in return they receive the benefits of organic produce throughout the growing season.

In many countries where small villages abound it is a common practice for the local farmers to grow the majority of fresh produce. Small farmstands and weekend markets are the norm. Farming is kept on a manageable scale by having a primarily local clientele, and the community learns to depend upon a sustainable source of food which is healthy and reliable.

To fulfill needs we feel are not being met by our usual marketing methods we plan to offer a wide range of organically grown produce, cut flowers, unusual culinary and medicinal herbs, annual and perennial plants, and herbal products.

Locally grown, freshly picked produce, retains more of its nutrients, and always tastes better than supermarket offerings. Additionally, the seeds from which our plants are grown are open-pollinated; often heirloom varieties. With each progressing season the seeds we collect and the plants we tend will become more adapted to our unique Heath climate. In time the seeds of today will become the heirlooms of tomorrow.

In order to feed the mind, as well as the body, we enhance our offerings with classes including organic gardening, seed-saving, and the cultivation and use of herbs in medicine and cooking.

For more information on any aspect of The Dragon's Garden we may be reached at 337-5393. For brochures on our Partners in Produce, our herb farm, or a current schedule of classes you may call 413-337-5393 or write to Box 53, Heath Ma 01346. Our location is on Flagg Hill Road on Burnt Hill in Heath.

POST OFFICE TECHNOLOGY

by Marcella Lively

We have a new stamp machine installed in the lobby. You may purchase either one stamp (.29) with .01 stamp change for .30 two .29's plus two .01's for .60 or five stamps (.29) for \$1.45 with change returned.

Hi-tech has finally reached Heath! Sure hope it continues to work A-ok, because it's innards are more complicated than our old machine, and me and machines don't always get along so well! Time will tell.



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SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield, Chair

Budgets, kindergarteners and school buildings will be the topics for this report. As many of you probably know from reading other newspapers, our school budgets are going up, a lot. Our high school assessment is supposed to go up 44.84% or \$81,294 in FY94. This is the largest percentage increase in the district. There are two primary reasons. First, necessary budget growth. The incoming seventh grade is quite large. If we are to avoid class sizes in the mid-thirties for these children, some new teachers must be added. There are also monies included in the budget to address instructional and physical deficiencies identified in the recent accreditation report. The second reason for our assessment jump is our growing high school enrollment. Our numbers continue to grow at a faster rate than the other towns which causes our assessment percentage to increase while some others actually decrease. During the past few lean budget years the high school has absorbed staffing and program cuts so that the elementary school budgets could pass without cuts. It is time that we did the right thing for our high school students. Please support the Mohawk budget.

Our elementary school cost will also be rising. The elementary and administration budget will increase 34.26% or \$77,963 in FY94. The primary reason for this is the increase in the tuition rate at Rowe School. Our per pupil cost this year has been about \$2,300. Next year it will be \$3,300, then \$4,000 the 2nd year and finally \$4,500. It would be pointless for me to list the many arguments on each side of this issue because in the end we have no choice but to accept these terms and pay, and pay, and pay.

Beginning in September 1993 there will be a cap of 12 on the kindergarten class size at Rowe School. The Rowe School Committee has decided to limit the overall enrollment of the school to 90 students. This will be achieved by limiting each kindergarten class and refusing to accept any first through sixth graders not previously enrolled at Rowe School. This means that your school committee must make arrangements for an alternate elementary school site and establish a procedure to select which kindergarteners will go to Rowe School and which will be placed in the alternate site. This procedure was not easy to create. Town Counsel told us that there is no legal precedent for a policy like this. The actual procedure is still being reviewed by our Counsel and the Department of Education so it has not yet been formally voted upon by this committee. I will share with you the highlights of the proposed procedure. We intend to notify parents where their kindergartener will be placed by May 1 of the year they would enter kindergarten. To the extent it is possible, kindergarteners with a sibling in grades one through five at Rowe School will be placed at Rowe School. In general a random selection process will be used to fill those "slots" available with the remaining students to be placed in a previously selected alternate elementary school site (most likely either Colrain Central School or Hawlemont Regional School). If a family requests placement in the alternate site we will honor that request. Any "new" (not previously attending) students in grades one through six will be placed in the alternate site. There are, of course, many other details and the full text of the procedure will be mailed to affected parents, published as a legal notice and posted around town as we vote on it (early April). If you have

questions please contact one of your school committee members. Budge's number is 337-4957; or Superintendent of Schools, Bruce Willard's number is 625-9811.

The School Building Committee has also been busy. We recently completed work on a request for proposals for land acquisition. Thanks to John Henry who provided great leadership on this task. Bids for land for the school project will be opened May 17 at 3 PM. For information contact Bob Clancy, the district's administrative assistant at 625-9811. Remember, all actions on land acquisition will be contingent upon town approval of the full project. At a recent meeting with the School Building Assistance Bureau's director we were told that we would need to request a waiver on a particular building site requirement. Work on that is underway as is preliminary work on developing a request for proposals for architectural services. The committee would like to see the town vote to authorize the hiring of an architect at the annual town meeting.

As you can see, there is a lot happening regarding education right now. I would like to thank all the people who have been attending our various meetings and particularly those who have been helping share information with the town.

REGISTRATION CHANGES RECOMMENDED

by Senator Jane Swift

I am currently lobbying the Governor to reduce the cost of registering pick-up trucks that are used as pleasure vehicles. Currently, all pick-ups regardless of use must be registered as commercial vehicles - at an added cost of \$28 to \$48 annually over the price of registering a car. It is unfair and unacceptable for the State to charge people extra who choose to drive a pick-up truck instead of a car as a pleasure vehicle.

The Governor has already proposed several registry fee cuts as part of his Fiscal Year 1994 budget proposal. If he is successful, registration fees for all vehicle types will be decreased by \$10, and the cost of renewing a license will go down from \$47 to \$37. I support these decreases and will continue to condemn the State's penchant for nickel and diming millions of dollars out of our citizens annually.

Those of you who own pick-up trucks used solely as pleasure vehicles may want to write Governor Weld to request that your registry fee be the same as that of a car. The Governor's address is: Executive Office/State House/Boston, MA 02133.

Please feel free to give my office a call if I can be of any assistance to you. I can be reached in Pittsfield at (413) 442-5240 or in Boston at (617) 722-1625.

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WILD RAMBLINGS

by BILL LATTRELL

FLYING MAMMALS

I'll be the first to admit that over the years I have held, deep inside me, a foolish fear of bats. I suppose as I grew up I was plagued with all of the wild myths that we all are exposed to. These myths still misrepresent an animal whose benefits far outweigh any inconveniences it may impose upon the human world. You may remember some of these myths. Some of them seem logical, some of them are nonsense, and most of them are untrue. Perhaps one of the most comical myths is the legend about bats flying and getting tangled in women's hair. I suppose this is possible, but highly unlikely due to the bat's incredible use of sonar which allows it to capture prey as well as avoid objects. The thought of a bat tangled in one's hair could be particularly frightening given the fact that many people assume bats to be potentially rabid. This is yet another myth. The fact is that less than 1/2% of 1% of bats contract rabies, and when they do, unlike other mammals, will not become aggressive and attack people. In fact, there are only 10 cases of people contracting rabies in the last 40 years in the United States and Canada. Another myth about bats is found in the expression "As blind as a bat". Bats do not have abnormally poor vision. The use of echolocation (sonar) by bats has led people to assume that they have poor sight. And don't forget the myth about Dracula turning into a bat, and the inherent association with vampire activities. There is one large South American bat that does partially subsist through its blood sucking activities, mostly from cows and other large mammals. It is actually a rather docile mammal that rarely, if ever, bothers humans. As for Dracula, now that's another matter.

There are hundreds of bat species throughout the world. In the northeast we have about 9 or 10 species that utilize the habitat throughout the range. The most common in our area are the little brown bat, the big brown bat, the keen myotis bat, the red bat, the hoary bat, the silver haired bat, and the eastern pipistrel. Each of these creatures has a wide variety of habits, behaviors, and characteristics. While most of the bats in our area are insectivores, bats in other parts of the world live off of nectar and other plant parts. This creature is truly one of the most adaptive families in the animal kingdom.

Two of the most remarkable features of bats are its ability to fly and its use of biosonar. Unlike the bird, which has feathers to help it with its flying activities, the bat simply has a skin membrane stretched between fingerlike digits, and another membrane that stretches between its hind legs and tail. Roger Caras, a well-known naturalist describes the bat as a "hairy little creature suspended in the middle of its own leather umbrella". The bat cannot only fly, it is generally considered to be an excellent flyer, able to cut to one direction or another at a moment's notice in order to catch its prey. The bats' use of echolocation, that is emitting high pitched sounds, reflecting them off an object, receiving the reflected sounds through the ears, and interpreting these sound bites as to direction, size, and speed is

truly a baffling ability. As the bat flies about it emits a steady stream of sounds (about 30 per second) at a pitch slightly above the human hearing range. Upon locating an object through echolocation the bat immediately increases the sounds to 60 per second, and just before contact or consumption of a flying insect the bat increases the sound emission and translation to 120 per second. It can fly through a maze of branches, missing every one of them, and snatch an unsuspecting insect out of the air with such amazing ease that most people cannot begin to comprehend the difficulty of the task.

Bats are exceedingly clean creatures. They spend much of their time while hanging upside down grooming themselves. It is particularly fussy about keeping the ears clean. This very important sensor receptor is the bat's meat and potatoes. Bats usually live long lives, from ten to twenty years! Bats generally mate in the fall with the birthing not occurring until spring. It is not that the bat has a very long gestation period, but rather the female bat delays the fertilization until all conditions are right. The mother moves to a maternity ward and actually switches her hanging position from heads down to heads up. The infant, usually born in June or July, suckles on milk, and is carried with the mother while flying about during the nightly hunt. The young bat is weaned in two or three weeks and fed regurgitated insects until it is ready to begin hunting on its own at four weeks of age. The female may breed again, and give birth to another brood or individual during the same hunting season.

In warm weather bats live in caves, rock crevices, trees, and yes, barns and attics. The proverbial attic bat is probably a little brown bat. It is more of a nuisance than any actual threat to a family that shares the house with this little creature or creatures. Our family shares space with these little guys, and I must admit to being intimidated by more than one when I found it flying around my head inside the house. One warm summer evening about 5 years ago my wife and I were getting ready for bed. Our youngest son, Liam, was having trouble sleeping at this time, and we decided to share our bed space with him in order to afford a more complete night's sleep to ourselves. A bat suddenly appeared in our room flying about in a seemingly reckless fashion trying to avoid the walls and other objects in the small 200 square foot flying space. Maureen and I jumped into bed, covering our heads in irrational fear, praying and hoping the little creature would find its way out of our room. Liam, also covered with our blanket, pulled back the covers, and exclaimed "Hey, there's a hawk in here" in what I believe was his first complete sentence. He wasn't the least bit afraid, but somewhat curious as to why his 250 pound father was cowering underneath the covers and not at all interested in observing the "hawk" in the bedroom.

Since then I have tried to retrain myself to not be afraid of this flying miracle. This truly admirable creature deserves our respect, if not our affection. And while I am not ready to invite a bat into bed with me, I have realized that the expression should not be "as blind as a bat", but rather "as blind as a human", at least this human.



HEATH'S FY94 BUDGET

The Selectmen and Finance Committee have been meeting with department heads and elected officials to discuss their needs for the FY94 budget. Under normal circumstances we can usually forecast or at least define the major dollar issues by this time of year. Not so this time around.

Why not? First, the Education Reform Act effort in the state Legislature has been through so many metamorphoses that the financial aid part of the package is still undefinable. The House has passed a version without telling cities and towns the financial implications; the Senate will now (soon we hope) take up its own version followed by conference committee action and then Governor Weld's acceptance or veto. This bill is very important to school aid.

The other legislation that is equally important is Local Aid. Both of these impact decisively on the 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. Last year Heath received \$53,016 in Equal Educational Opportunity (EEO) money and \$13,867 in school transportation reimbursement funds. Local Aid amounted to \$62,505. At this time we have no idea what these numbers will be for FY94 and it is possible that the formula for school aid will be entirely different. A positive K-12 vote to regionalize the schools in our district is expected to help us financially, but it will have to pass at the upcoming annual town meetings in its amended form. We do know that the proposed Rowe School budget is up from \$217,581 in FY93 to \$347,810 in FY94. May I quickly point out that the \$217,581 figure was reduced from \$270,597 via prepayment of EEO money, and we hope the FY94 figure can be reduced with EEO money also. The Mohawk Trail Regional High School's budget for Heath is up from \$181,302 to \$262,596 due to increased enrollment and less state aid. The Franklin County Tech School budget is down from \$39,241 to \$30,440. These are some of the major numbers we are dealing with.

The growth of the town has placed greater demands on highway and general government services. The Finance Committee spent considerable time reviewing the Highway Department's equipment requests and supporting contract requirements. No final decisions have been made, but undoubtedly there will be some increases. A new truck was purchased during the year; principle and interest payments over a five year period will start next year. While we are negotiating to increase our reimbursements from the state for town equipment used on Chapter 90 roadwork, we have to recognize that we have to have decent equipment available to do the job.

The growth of bureaucracy in general government is incredible! Regulations for zoning, conservation, fire department and police operations, assessing, waste management and the environment are becoming more and more sophisticated even in a small town. Selectmen need more reports from June Day, our Accountant, and from elected officials to manage our million dollar budget. School concerns mean special committees and more meetings with various con-

stituencies. In general, the range of matters to deal with just takes more administration if you are going to stay on top of things.

Because of the confused budget situation at the state level it looks as if the annual town meeting will be held in two sessions again this year. The first session will be at 9AM on Saturday, May 7 in the Community Hall and the second session is now scheduled for 9AM on Saturday, June 26. More sessions are a possibility; we hope not, of course, but if the school budgets and local aid issues are not resolved we might have to go to 1/12th budget in FY94, ie. by the month, until they are squared away. Also an override is a distinct possibility, but we can only speculate at this time as to the amount.

The Selectmen and Finance Committee are well aware of the impact of tax increases on people with fixed incomes and on a town that is 341st in per capita income out of 351 cities and towns. We will try mightily to limit budgetary increases, but control of some governmental services and their resulting costs are not always easy nor predictable. Thank you for your patience. We will keep you informed as events unfold.

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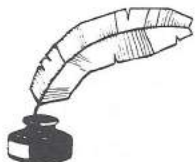
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ROWE SCHOOL MAPLE FESTIVAL A LOT OF FUN!!

by Becky Bradley

The weather certainly cooperated this time for the Rowe School Maple Festival. Over 100 people took advantage of the sun and warm weather to visit the Burke's sugar shack at Long Hill Farm in Heath, to taste the sap, watch the sugaring-off and have one of Carroll Stowe's famous sleigh rides through the fields. Thanks so much to the Burkes and Carroll Stowe.

It was a day for a step back in time as folks were transported to the farm and back by a horse-drawn wagon driven by Bob Markert. The sugaring process they saw is the same process that has been carried on in these hills of ours for centuries. To further the history tour the Heath Historical Museum opened its door for the day. Thanks Bob and Arlene and our thanks to the museum staff, also.

We had 2 purposes in mind when we planned the Maple Festival: a fun, educational family day and a fund-raiser for the Rowe School PTP to be used for field trips and assemblies next year.

It sure looked like families were having fun. We saw lots of smiles and many happy folks bouncing up and down on wagons. The maple sugaring video ran all day to tell the history and process of sugaring. That along with Chris Burke's personal tour of trees, taps, buckets, fires, and sugaring pans sure provided a wealth of information to those unfamiliar with sugaring. We even got front page coverage in the Franklin County section of the *Sunday Republican*!! Thanks to all the tappers who donated sap for the day: Leighton McCutchen, Dick Tower, George Veber, Mike Peters and 20 gallons from our principal, Phillip O'Reilly.

We are very thankful to all those who helped with the fund-raising end of the event. We raised \$95 selling raffle tickets to friends and neighbors and another \$45 at the festival. Thanks to everyone who bought or sold tickets! Thanks too, to those who donated the prizes: Bald Mountain Pottery's vase; Michelle Cutter's dried flower wreath; Loren Gowdy's adirondack chairs; Alli Thane's rag rug; Dolly Churchill's bunny doll; Bear River Sugar House's maple syrup; Bridge of Flowers Studio's basket of specialty food items; and Hagar Brothers gift set of maple products.

We also made \$134 at the PTP used toy and book sale and cake walk. Thanks to everyone who cleaned out their attics and toy closets to donate toys and books. And a big thanks to the people who baked cakes, cupcakes and brownies for the cake walk. The cake walks alone made about \$40 and the kids loved them. It's hard for a parent to say no when a child is begging for 50 cents to take a walk for a chance to win a cake!

Thanks to the Heath Preschool for providing lunch for all.

We were so pleased with the event that we hope to make it an Annual Maple Festival and add more family oriented happenings to make it a truly fun day for all. Save those toys! We'll be calling you next year!

RABIES CLINIC

Dr. Sidorsky will hold a rabies clinic on April 17 from 1-2 PM. Rabies shots will be provided for pets at the Community Hall at a cost of \$8 per rabies vaccination.

ACADEMY NEWS

by Todd Sumner

This piece is a hybrid, in part a reflection on community and education, in part a tribute to an extraordinary young woman whom many of you already know. It is her impending graduation that has occasioned both.

One of The Academy's founding principles is that of self-governance. It is our belief that students need to learn how to manage their time, respect others and themselves, make moral and ethical distinctions, and articulate their points of view. Both the honor code and the school's town meeting style of politics help to foster this kind of growth. In other days and times, these things would have been learned not only in school but also in the communities in which students lived. The hill towns, Heath included, still afford young people more opportunities of this kind than do many other towns, it seems to me.

And so it seems only fitting that I should celebrate, as best I can, Olga Peters. She will graduate in June and go off to college somewhere, and I will miss her next year. Here's why:

In seminar, the context in which Olga and I interact most regularly, she is a regular and valued participant in our discussions. She speaks with an astonishing amount of candor and openness; she is not afraid to speak her mind or to speak from her experience. Her peers have learned to value this and respect it. I think they were, for quite a long time, threatened by her willingness to "venture out on a limb", to take intellectual and rhetorical risks. This kind of courage, born of a solid self-knowledge, is rare in adolescents too often concerned about what everyone else is thinking or what they will think. It is Olga's chief asset and a great strength.

It seems fitting to me that Olga is now actually living in Heath, for she has long been associated in my mind with the kinds of learning within a community mentioned at the outset. The values of self-reliance, hard work, and principled action can be learned on the farm or in school, and Olga has made the most of both. Having learned her lessons well, she is a tribute to her family, her school, and her community. Join me in congratulating her as she moves on to a new set of challenges.



OLGA PETERS
(Family Photo)

HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Suzanne Crawford

What a snowy winter this has been! No one loves the snow more than children, so we've had a lot of happy times outside sledding, making snowmen, sledding more, examining snowflakes, and sledding even more. We have also gone cross country skiing a couple times, and we have some very talented young skiers to watch for in future Heath ski races.

A big part of our school day is devoted to free choice time during which the children may select from many different toys and activities. Although it may seem like the children are "just playing," this is actually when some of their most important lessons are being learned. Through their play, the children are learning how to take care of each other and our classroom environment while having fun, making choices, and satisfying their own needs. It reminds me a lot of international politics on a small scale!

We enjoy planning some special activities in addition to the free choice time. The preschool visited the post office in February, and Marcella Lively gave us a great tour showing us the post office boxes, scales, stamps, keys, and more. We also went to the library to exchange books and hear a story. Doug Wilkins treated us to a sing-along one morning; and another day we baked our own corn muffins for snack. Most recently we tapped some of the maple trees behind the school, so we can make some maple syrup. Thanks to Mike Peters for providing us with the buckets.

Even though the primary focus of the preschool is on the children, we do have some activities that do not directly involve them. On Tuesday, March 30, from 6:30-8:00 PM, child psychologist Sheila Kelly presented a workshop for parents on ways to enhance young children's self-esteem. This workshop was co-sponsored by the Heath Preschool and the Rowe PTP; it was highly informative and practical. Also, the Heath Preschool has been participating in a self-study as part of the Early Childhood Quality Network project. This self-study is one step towards becoming accredited by the National Academy for the Education of Young Children. Parents, teachers, and administrators are all involved in evaluating the program with the goal of providing a high quality, developmentally appropriate program. We hope that this process will be completed later this spring.



PRESCHOOLERS PREPARE FOR FUTURE
HEATH SKI RACES
(Photo by Suzanne Crawford)

Finally, the Early Childhood Advisory Council and the parents of preschool students have been active in some fund raising efforts recently, selling food at the ski race and the Maple Festival. Thanks to all who have participated on behalf of the preschoolers.

We would like to thank the many local residents who attended our Annual Recognition Dinner on March 28 at the Swift River Inn and all those who supported the annual fundraising campaign. More than \$3,000 was raised for local education. Thank you!

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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

DAVID HOWLAND - SELECTMAN

I have been honored to serve the people of Heath as Selectman since 1988. With the help of Selectmen Richard Giard and Arthur Schwenger and former Selectman Walter Gleason there have been many accomplishments, but time and circumstances have conspired to force critical issues upon our community. The school situation is a case in point. The growth of elementary school enrollment has caused space and budgetary problems with the Rowe School. Mohawk Regional High School's space needs and loss of state aid put further pressure on our budget. In addition, there is the adverse impact of the closing of Yankee Atomic Electric Company on our local economy plus the administrative/regulatory/legal burdens placed on us due to the 50% growth in population over the last decade. The satisfactory resolution of these problems is important to all of us and I would like to hang in there to see that Heath comes through this period in our history in the best fashion possible.



DAVID HOWLAND - SELECTMAN

WILLIAM GRAN - FINANCE COMMITTEE

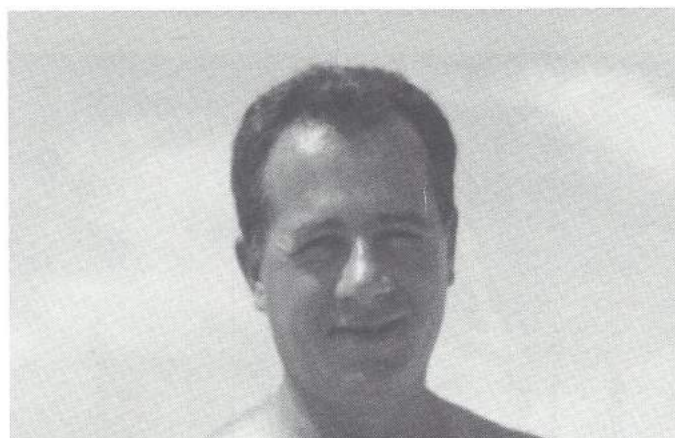
I have been a member of the Heath Finance Committee for two years and I serve on the Heath Management Task Force, which was established by the Board of Selectmen to study Heath's present and future management needs. Therefore, I am familiar with many of the fiscal problems and needs Heath presently faces including education, operating and capital budgets, and administrative management.

I have worked in the Town of Greenfield Office of Planning and Community Development for the last thirteen years, and I have served as Director of the office for the last six and a half years. This work includes planning, economic development, housing construction and rehabilitation, public infrastructure improvement, technical support to various town boards and committees, and grant management.

I believe my work in Heath and Greenfield town government and my experience with Massachusetts state government provides valuable experience which I can bring to the Heath Finance Committee.

JOHN MUSACCHIO - ASSESSOR

My name is John Musacchio and I am a candidate for the position of Assessor. I feel it is important to have all of the assessments understood and have them explained to residents. The Board of Assessors should be a sounding board for people to ask questions. The real issue is how much money we need to operate the town. It is important that the system be as fair and as efficient as possible. We shouldn't have to change the figures and cost the town money for a revaluation every three years. I believe it is important to help the town and make a contribution rather than sit on the fence and complain. My family has been coming to Heath for over twenty years; since 1988 I have been a permanent resident. I reside with my wife Wanda on Swamp Road and have two children, Sadye and Dominic.



JOHN MUSACCHIO - ASSESSOR

ROBERT MARKERT - CONSTABLE

I have served the town of Heath for the past 3 years as a constable. While the duties don't require weekly meetings and extensive paperwork, they are nonetheless very important to the town. I am very familiar with the responsibilities of this position and would like to continue to serve Heath for another year. Thank you for considering me for this position.

PAT LEUCHTMAN - LIBRARY TRUSTEE

The Heath Library is one of my favorite places in the world, and I am eager to continue to work on behalf of the Library. Over these past few years, everyone's personal budget has been feeling the pinch, which means the library has been used ever more heavily, by adults who are buying fewer books and magazines, and by children who need the library for their school work. The town needs the library more and more and I want to make sure the library can continue to meet those needs.



WINTER IN HEATH
(Photo by Grace Desrosier)



BLIZZARD OF '93
(Photo by Grace Desrosier)



WINTER ON AVERY BROOK
(Photo by Grace Desrosier)

PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

PERC TESTS

Percolation testing resumes in April and continues through June.

BUILDING PERMITS

Mary Carter, Hosmer Road, wood stove.
Alan Nichols, South Road, change of use/sign.
Helen Warner, Ben Road, 1-family/garage/carport.
Joseph DelRosso, Number Nine Road, wood stove.
Eileen Herman, Number Nine Road, wood stove.
TOTAL: \$65,780

DEED TRANSFERS

Gordon E. and Sandra D. Boutilier to Kelly Ann Boutilier of South Hadley, Papoose Lake Drive, Lots 14, 15, and 16. No consideration.

Cedric T. and Helen K. Scott to Daniel J. Kelly of South Hadley, Mohawk Estates, Lots 20 through 24, 37, and 38. \$3,500.

Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc. to Raymond Mercier of Chicopee, Mohawk Estates, Lots 31-34. \$4,000.

Lester S. Hebbard of New York to Wayne J. DeAngelo of Glen Cove, NY, Jacksonville Stage Road, Parcel 1. \$20,000.

Mark P. and Roger B. Phoenix to Michael S. and Karen E. Dirck of Southington, CT, Sadoga Road, Lots 14 and 15. \$7,000.

Donna L. MacNicol as commissioner to Janet R. Giard of Ashfield, Jacksonville Stage Road, Lot 1. \$85,000.

Donna L. MacNicol as commissioner to Chester W. Kaiser of Charlemont, Jacksonville Stage Road. No consideration.

Claude G. Lively to Jude Lively of South Hero, VT, off Number Nine Road. \$1.

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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

The "Blizzard of '93" was a challenge to the department as it was throughout the east coast. The crew was at work Saturday morning double-checking the equipment and preparing for the storm. Our trucks started to roll about 11 AM. The Selectmen addressed the storm by calling a town state of emergency at 2:17 PM. Because of the intensity of the snow, at 4 PM I made a decision to pool our resources and try to keep all the main roads open and not attempt to keep secondary roads open. Burrington Hill, South Road, Avery Brook, Dell, 8A, Number Nine Road, Adamsville Road, Colrain Stage and Branch Hill Road were kept open. This we did by running a pick-up truck in front of a large truck to create a visible path and guide the large truck. This worked excellent and will be a factor in future large storms. At 6 AM Sunday I called in our resources including contractors and proceeded to open all other roads. By nightfall all roads were passable for emerging vehicles. Blowing snow Sunday night added to our dilemma, but diligent work by the crew and contractors cleaned the roads by Monday night. We have filed for Federal money to help defray some of the cost of the storm. I would like to thank the crew, relief drivers, volunteers, fire and police departments and contractors for their efforts in this storm. A special thanks to all the residents of Heath for their patience and understanding during this period.

Congratulations to Heath residents in their recycling commitment as our percentage of recycling of waste for the past year averaged 39.3% as the state mandates at least 25%. Our community is far above the average. As of April 1, the DEP will be policing the percentage of bottles and cans still in the waste material. They will be physically checking the transfer station waste container for bottles and cans. Possible fines and rejection of the load could be imposed, so please recycle these items. Also a reminder that NO building demolition material nor yard waste is allowed in the waste container.

With snow banks high and icy and muddy roads, please drive slowly and carefully. Drive with caution.



FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
(Photo by Jack Cable)

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

The only emergency call for the period was to a chimney fire on Route 8A, when seven firefighters responded. This response was on January 25. The next day two EMTs assisted at Rowe with an auto accident. This is not officially entered as a Heath run as they attended as Charlemont EMTs.

Two department drills were held, one on pumping apparatus and the second led by firefighter Mike Smith on breathing apparatus. Also two Association meetings were held. The EMS group met on two occasions with several committee meetings being held with other organizations. Also three EMTs stood by during the Ski Race.

The Chief attended eight various meetings and made one smoke detector inspection.

The Heath Fire Department was the recipient of a set of new CPR mannequins. The set includes one adult, one child, and one baby. They were made available through the EMS rural health grant through Franklin County. This is a three year grant to Franklin County from the federal government and includes such things as training, equipment and upgrading radio systems. This is the first equipment Heath has received, but our last CPR and First Responder training were paid for by the grant. We are also reaping benefits from improved radio communications.

On March 13, the Civil Defense Director activated the Emergency Dispatch Center to tell people to respond to the community hall if in need of shelter. The Selectmen issued a state of emergency early in the afternoon and the town emergency center was manned in conjunction with the highway department during the night. Fortunately the storm was not the storm of the century in Heath or if it was, I have to be over 100 years old.

The outdoor burning season is upon us. Permits are required for outdoor burning and may be made by calling the dispatch center after 8 AM of the day you wish to burn. Fires should not be started before 10 AM and must be out by 4 PM. The burning season will end at 4 PM on April 30, 1993. The State does not usually extend the season because of deep snow cover or wet weather, so please plan accordingly.

Remember the number of the Dispatch Center for emergencies and fire permits is 772-2133. Phone suckers are available at the town hall or from Chief Gleason.



TOWN LOADER ON LONG HILL ROAD
BOB GIARD, DRIVER
(Photo by Jack Cable)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

17 Rabies Clinic, 1-2 PM Community Hall
 19-23 School vacation
 24-25 Vintage Tractor Display
 Heath Fairgrounds
 30 Burning season ends, 4 PM

MAY

1 Annual Plowing Contest, Colrain
 6 Town Elections
 7 Town Meeting, Part I
 9 AM Community Hall
 20 Heath Herald deadline

JUNE

26 Town Meeting, Part II
 9 AM, Community Hall

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Selectmen: Tuesday 7:30 PM

Accountant Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 1 PM

Assessors: 1st & 3rd Monday, 9:30 AM - 12 PM

Town Clerk: Tuesday, 4 - 8:30 PM
 second Saturday of the month, 8 AM - 11:30 AM
 (call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268)

Town Treasurer: Monday, 3 - 7 PM
 Friday, 1 - 5 PM

Tax Collector: Tuesday, 4 - 8:30 PM
 Saturday, 8 AM - 11:30 AM
 (call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268)

Finance Committee: As posted

Planning Board: 2nd Monday of month 7 PM

Conservation Commission: 3rd Tuesday of month

Heath School Committee: 1st Tuesday of month
 7:30 PM Community Hall

Library Trustees: 3rd Monday of month 7:30 PM

Library: Monday 6-9 PM Wednesday 1-5 PM
 Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM

Town Nurse: Wednesday 9 - 11 AM
 (call 337-4323 for appointment)

Post Office: Monday through Saturday
 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Transfer Station Monday 9 AM - 1 PM
 Saturday 8 AM - 4 PM

Town Telephones: Town Hall 337-4934
 Community Hall 337-4847
 Town Garage 337-4462
 Fire, Police & Ambulance 1-772-2133

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