



VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1

APRIL/MAY 1996

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

50 cents

HEATH PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Suzanne Crawford

The Heath preschoolers have been enjoying one of the great rites of spring in New England - making maple syrup. From the excitement of using real tools and the magic of seeing the sap drip into the bucket to the last sweet, sticky fingers following homemade French toast with homemade syrup, it is a wonderfully fun and educational time. It gives the children an opportunity to think about how plants grow and nourish themselves, that trees have roots (and other parts) we can not see, and that the holes can heal just as we can heal from a cut. It is a chance to learn about the cycles of the seasons. It allows the children to share in and learn about work that many people in their families and community do. Maple sugaring is a long, slow process that has a natural sequence of steps, helping children to develop a sense of patience (maybe!) and progression. It allows for some wonderful role-playing in the classroom as they act out various jobs of collecting sap, tending the "fire", boiling the syrup, bottling and "selling" the syrup, and working at or dining in a pretend pancake restaurant. While it all looks like fun and pretending, it provides a wealth of opportunity for developing language, math, beginning writing, and interpersonal skills.

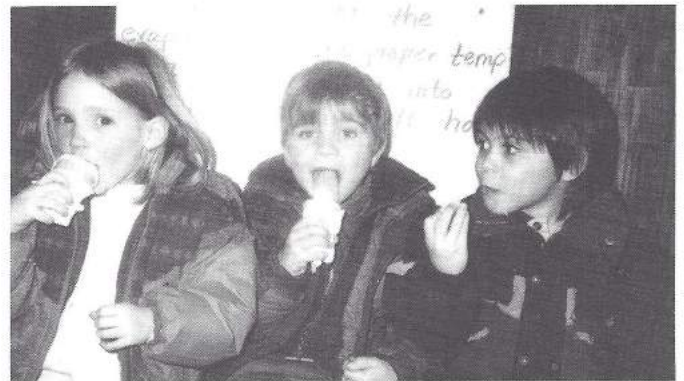
We continue to have full classes this year, with several new students joining us recently as others have moved. Next year's enrollment looks to be much smaller, with the possibility of having a morning session only. Children who are either 3 or 4 by August 31 will be eligible. Please contact me if you know of any potential young students so that we can plan for them. You may call me at work (337-4847) or home (339-4265).

We are beginning to plan for our move to the new school in September. It promises to be an exciting time, with opportunities for cooperation with other grade levels and for greater inclusion in all-school activities. We will continue to work out the details over the spring and summer. I am certainly appreciative, though, of all the wonderful aspects that the Community Hall has offered to the preschool over the years.

Each spring the Heath preschool does a program evaluation with parents, the Advisory Council and staff

taking time to consider the strengths of the program, as well as ways to improve it. I will compile this information as soon as I have all the forms back. Our 3-year accreditation from the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs was due to be renewed this May, but we have been granted an extension since we will be moving into the fall.

The Early Childhood Advisory Council has been involved in two fund raisers recently. In February we served lunch at the ski race, and in May we are planning to provide lunch to motorcycle riders participating in a 100 mile ride sponsored by AJ Cycle of Gill. Our thanks to David Adie and friends at AJ Cycle for their generosity and to all the parents and community members who helped with the luncheon.



ENJOYING ICE CREAM CONES AT GOULD'S SUGAR HOUSE

(Photo by Suzanne Crawford)



CHECKING THE SAP BUCKETS

(Photo by Suzanne Crawford)

MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Born March 7, a son, Clinton Mark to Vicky (Griswold) and Mark L. Patenaude of Heath, grandson of Arlene and Lyle Patenaude of Shelburne and Jan and Gordon Griswold of Hawley; great-grandson of Eunice Griswold of Shelburne and Nelda Patenaude of Greenfield and Virginia Taylor of Charlemont.

Sue Joan LaChapelle and Glenn Gary Gleason were married on March 17, 1996 at the Eagles Club in Buckland. The bride is the daughter of Joseph and Judy LaChapelle of East Hawley. The groom is the son of Susan Gleason of Rowe and Walter Gleason of Heath. Justice of the Peace, Kirby Thwing, performed the ceremony.



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CLASSIFIED ADS - \$2.00 per line.

Send all correspondence to: The Heath Herald, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346-0054.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Crystal A. Barton of Leyden and Michael D. Smith of Heath announce their engagement. Barton is the daughter of Patricia Early of Eden Trail, Leyden and Wendell Barton of Northfield. Smith is the son of Lyn Baker of Phoenix City, Alabama and Peter Smith of Colrain. A June 28 wedding is planned.

Jack and Beverly Cable attended a birthday celebration for Jack's mother in Cape Cod the weekend of March 2 and 3. Mrs. Helen Cable was eighty-eight (88) on March 6. All of the children attended including James from San Francisco; Lee and Joyce from Connecticut and Linda from the Cape. Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Cable reside in East Orleans on the Cape.

Dr. Michael Coe has been fishing on the Amazon in South America and lecturing in Cuba when not on an island off the coast of Florida this winter.

1996 CENSUS

by June Day

I have been working to complete the data entry into the motor voter registry. All registered voters are entered. I have also added children and non-voters from the street lists returns from last spring as well as any new residents that came to my attention. (I found I had to have a birth date in order for the computer to accept an entry.) By mid-April the mailing to each of the houses in town will be printed and sent. The form will have information that I have entered. Please edit the information per the instructions and return the form to me at the Town Hall as soon as possible. I skipped adding the dog information that was on the old street list, so do note if you own a dog or dogs. There is even a column for cats! If a blank form arrives, please fill in with the pertinent information for the Heath census. If you are a part-time resident only and vote and live elsewhere, I would appreciate a note to that effect. I hope to come up with an accurate 1996 census of all who reside in Heath.

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by CAPE COD CRANBERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

WE SUPPORT JANE SWIFT FOR U. S. CONGRESS

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

by Magen MacDougall

The first three quarters of the school year are over. The last half of the year is the one which is perhaps the busiest time all year for students. It is this time when spring sports are starting, the all school musical "Will Rogers Follies" is over, and the Mohawk theater project is beginning, along with various other activities throughout the month taking place.

Those Heath students who made the honor roll for the second quarter were Seniors: Bradley Peace, William Nartowicz, and Nicole Rainville; Juniors: Magen MacDougall, Justin Lively, and Tim Porter-Devriese; Freshmen: Donnie Ginman; 8th grade: Christina Beaudoin; 7th grade: Deirdre Gleason, Brendan Lattrell, Jillian Lively, Maya Rocke, David Smead, Daniel Levitch, Joseph Lively, Amie Pettengill.

March marked the beginning of the second year of the Mohawk theater project. This year the play is "You Can't Take It With You" by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. A group of around 15 people chose this play out of several choices. The directors are Mark Gaudet and Ginny Mayer. This year's cast includes Kathy Tuturice as Essie, Cory Rothwell as Ed, Magen MacDougall as Alice, Renee Boudreau as Henderson and Mrs. Kirby, and Seth Brower as Mr. Kirby. This is a comedy which is set in the home of the slightly "less normal" family of the Vanderhofs. Each family member has their own little off beat hobby. Essie ballet dances whenever music is played and is always making candy, Ed runs a printing press printing out random words and distributing them as circulars. The only member in touch with reality is Alice. The play is centered around her relationship with her boss's son. This play will be performed on Friday, May 3, and on Saturday, May 4.

LIBRARY LINES

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

"It was a dark and snowy night...", probably, when last you read the Heath Herald and it was a mystery as to who would be the new librarian.

If I have not introduced myself to you when you've come into the library, let me do so now. My name is Laurie Wheeler Burrington. I have lived in Heath for nine years, and originally hail from Colrain and Shelburne, MA. I have spent a good deal of my adult career working in bookstores, including "World Eye" and most recently, "Boswell's Books".

Our times are exciting ones. Not only is our small town in a state of flux, but libraries themselves are also in the process of changing. I hope to be able to gracefully strike a balance between maintaining our old dear library while implementing the new technologies becoming available, and in response to the needs of our library patrons.

And speaking of new technologies, the dedicated line for our new computer system has been installed. I am learning the details of our MLIN program, so that I can in turn teach others how to access information from the MLIN system and the internet. I promise to let you know when it is all "up and running."

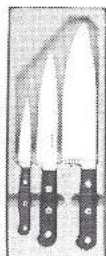
And thanks to everyone who has made me feel so welcome at the library.

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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**

ANOTHER SELDOM SEEN LOGGING TASK

In this Franklin County area, logging has changed drastically in the past forty years. Small logging operations have been an important part of earning a living and helping to pay taxes and such.

As the area to be harvested is decided upon the area to yard the logs to load onto a woodshod sled should be cleared. I'm writing this as it could have happened forty years past. This is how it would have been done with a team of horses. It could have been a job to cut trees that were needed to create lumber for farm building construction or for sale. Hemlock was very much used for lots of local buildings.

Consider that you have a well broke 2800 pound team of horses well schooled at the logging artistry. One horse should be well adjusted to working alone to do the skidding of single logs. If one could be so fortunate as to have both horses work well at skidding the work can be shared. Work one in the AM and the other later in that day or the next day. A well educated skid horse is a pleasure to work with and to watch at the task. I never broke a skid horse but have worked several good animals that had learned the job well. To have watched a good skid horse work a log out of a tight spot is very satisfying. Logs taken to a landing area to be loaded onto the sled will likely be positioned in an area where a small skid way will be fashioned with two small logs laid with the big end on another log to bring to the level of the bunks of the woodshod sled.

If this were a one man operation he will have to cut the timber, mark the logs to length and get them ready for the skid horse to take away to the landing. If this logging operation was worked around daily farm chores most probably it would be done with some snow cover so the logs would be clean of mud and dirt.

A snow road would have been broke to the area to be logged and a turn around spot made in deep snow. Woodshod sleds don't turn very sharp so a circle to turn in is most satisfactory. The logs are on the skid way, the team on the sled is ready to take the logs to another landing where a truck can take them to the mill. If the road to the truck landing is not the best to negotiate, put on a light load to start with and gradually build the load larger as the track improves. If there's some down hill loaded, runner chains should be used and not expect the team to provide all the braking power. It is a very pleasing feeling to hear the runner chains cutting through the hard packed snow and ice in some places.

I never made a living doing this type of work but

have worked at it some years past and to have harvested the logs and gotten them loaded on a sled is most satisfying. The next step is to get the logs bound down with a chain and binder to prevent the logs moving. On the rear bunk of the sled there should be a spiked unit that the first layer of logs made contact with to prevent back or forth slipping.

All these stages of the whole operation are usually accomplished with an axe and cast hook or peave to work the logs into place. It was not good practice to go into the woods without an axe or cast hook. The logs are on the sled and secured with chains and binder; the team is at rest and awaits your command to pick up this load. Hopefully the teamster will have set the sled on a pole so that the sled isn't stuck in the snow. A seasoned team will swing left or right, gee or haw, to give the sled a bit of twist to start it.

Put the cast hook and axe in a secure place to be able to get a step up on the sled and pick up the lines. It's difficult not to feel rather satisfied with this first load of logs on its way to be unloaded. There's also much pleasure at being on the load of logs and feel the power of that good steady team out in front of you. The treasured feelings that have come back to me through the reins can never be described to those who've never felt them. To me there are few more pleasant situations than to have an honest team in my fingers atop a nice load of logs.

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8A - HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S VIEW

8A is a major collector road in Heath according to the Franklin County Commissioner, as are Avery Brook Road from the Charlemont line through the Center and Dell Road to Route 8A, and Adamsville Road (West Branch) from Colrain line to 8A. As I have observed during the early morning hours of snow weather, 8A is a major collector. Vehicles travel from/to Vermont to Adamsville Road, vehicles leave Sumner Stetson - Sadago Roads onto 8A North and South and Number Nine Road traffic goes north and south on 8A. The stretch of 8A between Number Nine Road and Branch Hill Road is the most traveled portion of any road in Heath. Then between Branch Hill and Dell are three other connector roads, Long Hill and Rowe Roads and Judd Road - Judd Road being the only road not a through road. Dell Road is also a very busy road to/from 8A to Charlemont. 8A is the longest road in Heath - seven miles and it bisects the town. When Avery Brook and Branch Hill Road are rebuilt, 8A will be the most sub-based road in town. The "band-aid fix" that was done will not last long - I question the stated 8 years - it is already deteriorating and this will accelerate rapidly. There are very dangerous curves and hills on this road which should be addressed. There has been a multitude of accidents in the Dell area - just look at the guard rails and check the different colors of paint. There were three mishaps of hitting the guard rails at pond side in one storm this winter! The police are not called unless the vehicle is unmovable - even then sometimes it is towed without police action. If anyone doubts the dangers of 8A, we welcome these critics to ride in a plow truck just once. It would be very convincing and scary.

8A is used by out-of-state people traveling to/from Vermont - Mt Snow region. I know people from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York (Northwestern sections) that use this route. Ask any of my crew about skiers and snowmobilers traveling 8A on any given weekend. 8A is a major factor in locating Heath on a map. 8A has always been the reference point to help people get to Heath. 8A reference helps our blueberry business as it must help other businesses in town.

8A is the major highway to the new school - buses which now use 8A from the Vermont line to Charlemont will certainly increase as they bring the children to school as will teachers and parents. The portion near the school was not upgraded when the state did 8A - this will need major work soon. 8A is a service road, but some areas need to be improved and can be done without taking the "scenic" away. Safety is still a concern to me - people who object to anything being done on 8A should be held responsible if someone is hurt or killed on this 1920's road - which goes to a 1990's school.

REMEMBER TO VOTE !

OF HERBS AND HEIRLOOMS

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Angelica archangelica is a statuesque beauty among herbs. She stands 5-7 feet high with thick fleshy stems, and bright green leaves unfurling outward. An umbelliferae, she is crowned by clusters of tiny white flowers. There are many types of *Angelica*, some of which are native to North America, which range in size from two to eight feet tall.

A long-lived biennial, *angelica* enjoys cool, moist places, and light shade; I have seen it do very well in a number of Heath gardens. There is even a beautiful stand of wild *angelica* growing alongside one of our town roads.

The plant's Latin name is thought to have been derived from several sources. It is said that the Archangel Michael appeared in a vision telling that *Angelica* would cure many evils; the plant also (in some areas) blooms around the time of his feast day, May 8.

Angelica has been used historically for culinary, medicinal and decorative purposes; all parts, the leaves, stems, roots, and seeds, have been used. Herbally, its actions are carminative, anti-spasmodic, expectorant, diuretic, and diaphoretic.

The leaves can be made into a hot tea which will rapidly break up a cold as well as act as a general tonic for the illness. It also helps the body get rid of coughs and bronchitis.

As a carminative *angelica* helps to relieve flatulence and indigestion, and stimulates the appetite; either drink a tea of it right before eating or chew some of the seeds directly afterward. It has been written that it could also be helpful in cases of anorexia. A tasty tea combines part *angelica*, part fennel, and part aniseed. Mix the seeds, then crunch them, and let steep for an after dinner tea.

And, lest we forget, *angelica* is quite edible. The seeds and stems can be candied and are classically used as cake decorations. An herb syrup can be made by simmering sugar, herb, and water together until they form a thick syrup. This may be frozen for year round use. And the fresh leaves add a nice flavor to summer teas and drinks; they also make a nice cool summer sandwich spread when chopped with mint.

Harvest of the various parts occurs during different times of the growing season. The leaves should be gathered in June, the stems before midsummer, the roots in the fall of its first year, and the ripened seed in late summer. For continuance of the plant never take all of its seeds, nor take the roots of all of your plants.

Angelica archangelica is such a favorite of mine that years ago I named it. Since then, several generations, "daughters of Jean" have sown themselves. In years past I have had a veritable forest of them; these seedlings have made their way into friends' gardens. This is a prolific and useful herb, and if all goes well, it or its descendants should be in your garden for many years to come.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

Spring is here - flocks of robins, geese and ducks flying north and our roads turning to mud. The long winter has taxed our strength and an editorial cartoon in the Recorder expressed my wish - it showed a man dragging a snow shovel; inside a cave occupied by bears. The man said, "Room for one more? I've had enough of this winter".

The bids have been awarded to get the three box culverts installed on Avery Brook. This project was started before I came to this job! There will be a public hearing soon on the Avery Brook Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) proposed project. I believe that the townspeople and Avery Brook property owners will be happy with the proposal - it's not going to be a "super-highway" but it will be safe and a pleasure to drive. Senator Jane Swift, Representative John Merrihan, Senator Rosenberg, and Representative Steve Kulik have been working hard to procure approval of the School Road and Avery Brook Road, and getting us money for snow budgets. We could not do these projects nor pay for the winter problems without outside help which these great representatives get for us. We will be securing Chapter 90 money sometime this summer (after July) as it looks like the Transportation Bond bill will pass.

I have presented the Highway Budget to the Selectmen. It includes level funding for all items except salaries which I requested an increase (we are the lowest paid in the area). One big item needs to be replaced and we shouldn't postpone a decision. Our **LOADER** is eleven years old, has over six thousand hours, is in good condition, highest trade in value - a good time to trade. The loader is the most important, most used, most versatile piece of equipment we own. Other towns with loaders of this vintage are into **MAJOR** repairs causing lost time (plus renting a machine) and lost money. The machine is worth less for trade. We should trade ours now to get the best trade in value - the money difference is important.

Proposed Chapter 90 projects we expect to work on are: improve gravel roads; Hosmer Road; finish grading and ditching; Colrain Stage upgrade and pave remaining 1000 feet to Colrain line; Branch Hill - start rehabilitating to 8A; oil and stone some roads; plus Jacobs Road for school and survey Admansville Road for TIP.

Transfer Station. SRRI expects the metals recycling to be in operation by September. Because Heath has received a Grade "A" in the Municipal Recycling Report Card for recycling 40% of its solid waste we are receiving another recycling container valued at \$4,400 from the Office of Environmental Affairs and DEP.

Along with attending SRRI meetings, Baystate Roads Seminar, MA Highway Association and Tri-County Highway Superintendent's meetings in Randolph and Holyoke respectively, I was on the 1997 Transportation Enhancement Project Proposal Ranking Committee under the management of the Franklin County Commissioner's Office with Senior Transportation Planner Maureen Mullaney as Chairman.

Dohn Sherman recently made his annual trip to the Heath Pre-School with his "Big Truck and Sander". As always, they gave him a huge thank you card "Thanks for keeping our roads safe for all of us this winter".

The Highway Department welcomes our new **CHIEFS**: Police Chief Lorin Gowdy and Fire Chief Mike Smith. They have been informed that we will help them in any way necessary to improve the health and safety of the people of Heath.

As the Maple Syrup season winds down - support local business - buy your syrup from our local growers.

ARTS COUNCIL OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

17TH ANNUAL POTTERY SECONDS SALE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 26 AND 27. The 17th Annual Seconds Pottery Sale sponsored by the Arts Council of Franklin County will open with a Members' Preview on Friday, April 26, 6 PM at Greenfield High School. Arts Council members are admitted free. There is a \$5 admission for non-members. The sale will continue on Saturday, April 27, 10 AM to 2 PM and is open to the public free of charge. Approximately 30 craftspeople will participate in the sale that features pottery, silk screened shirts, glass, jewelry, wooden utensils, silk scarves, paintings and prints and handwoven clothing.

West County artists/crafts people participating in the sale are: glassblower Ed Branson and Dvora Cohen, weaver, both from Ashfield; painter/printmaker Polly French and designer Ruth Courtneil both from Shelburne Falls; painter Dorothy Osterman from Conway; potters Andrew Van Assche and Marilyn Andrews from Plainfield.

For more information about selling work or attending the sale, call the Arts Council at 413-772-6811.

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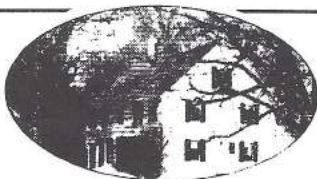
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Realtor, 337-8344

ALAN NICHOLS
Furniture Maker, 337-6665

PETERS STORE
337-5501

DANIEL RICHTER
Tile Installation, 339-4293

RUSSLIN SAW
Small Engine Repair/Sugaring Supplies
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JULIET SEAVER
Acupressure/Therapeutic Massage/Yoga
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LEE E. SHEPARD
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RICHARDS STEINBOCK
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HEATH TOWN ELECTIONS

Town elections will be held on May 10, 1996, at Sawyer Hall. Several people took out nomination papers and will be on the ballot. There will be three contests: (1) Selectman (one three year term): Brian DeVriese and Eileen Tougas; (2) Dog Officer (one one year term): Frederick Golba and Michelle Howe (incumbent); and (3) Finance Committee Member (two three year terms): Harvey Carter, David Howland and Leighton McCutchen (incumbent).

There are three candidates running unopposed. Each is an incumbent. (1) Moderator (one three year term): Douglas Wilkins; (2) Planning Board Member (one five year term): Valerie Kaempfer; and (3) Finance Committee Member (one two year term): Michael Smead.

Unfortunately, no one has come forward to run for the three year term as Assessor nor were any nomination papers taken out for the two constable positions. If there are any residents who are interested in being write-in candidates, please publicize your names.

There are other positions: Tree Warden, Sexton, Burial Agent, Fence Viewers, Field Drivers, and Measurers of Wood and Bark. These positions have traditionally been filled via nominations from the floor at the Annual Town Meeting.

STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR TOWN OFFICE

EILEEN A. TOUGAS - SELECTMAN



I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself in order to give the voters some idea of who I am and what I am about.

My husband and I purchased property in Heath in 1987. Back then, we never intended to become permanent residents, but soon we were

seized by the charm and beauty of the area, and became Heathens in 1989.

My husband and I reside on Swamp Road in Mohawk Estates where we have been actively involved in the Association. I am a former Vice President after having served four consecutive one-year terms. This experience led to my dealing with the Heath Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board and the Board of Health on various important matters. I also served as the Heath Town treasurer a few years ago, and presently am assistant treasurer as well as assistant postal clerk. You may have also seen me at the Town Hall operating the ballot box during elections.

My other professional experience includes working in the accounting department at the H. R. Hunting Co., in Chicopee after graduating from South Hadley High School in 1960. During the four years I was there I

became Billing Supervisor. Upon getting married in 1964, I traveled considerably because George, my husband, had a career in the US Air Force. After my family grew up I worked in banking for six years where I became the Administrator of Student Loans after serving in other customer service and teller positions. I took banking courses at Holyoke Community College and also became certified as a Savings Bank Life Insurance representative.

On a personal note, we have two grown children: a son Daniel, residing in Chicopee with his wife Chris and our grandson Nicholas and a daughter Sandra, a SGT in the US Army now serving in Bosnia with her husband, SGT Paul Baker. I belong to Saint Joseph's church where I do a great deal of volunteer work, which includes computer work, handling collections, art design, choir/folk music group.

Why have I chosen to run for Selectman? Simply put, I have a strong desire to be of service to the community we live in and love and where I can put my public service experience to use. All the wonderful qualities and rural characteristics Heath has to offer should be preserved and protected. This is, after all, the reason most of us were drawn to live here. We have our new school and along with it, many new avenues to explore, debate and make decisions on, decisions that will hopefully have a positive impact on our community. In a small town like ours, the financial resources we have to work with are limited and must be dealt with wisely.



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STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR TOWN OFFICE

BRIAN DE VRIESE - SELECTMAN

I have lived in Heath for the past eight years with my wife Pamela Porter and two sons Joel and Timothy, having returned to the area from Cambridge MA where I worked as an architect while Pam attended the Episcopal Divinity School. As many in town know, I have been intimately involved with the design and construction of the new school which has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of my career and one which brought me closer to many people in Heath. As a member of the Conservation Commission and Shapiro Land Tract Study Committee I have gained experience and understanding of many of the issues facing the town.

I am a candidate for selectman because I wish to lend a hand to the other selectmen and town board members in meeting the challenges of operating the town with a new school, initiating a master plan for the town, securing all state funding available to Heath, and attempting to get the tax rate under control. Many people have been pursuing these goals over the years and I would like to contribute to the effort. I believe that this is the beginning of an exciting new era in the town's history.

HARVEY CARTER - FINANCE COMMITTEE

I'm running for one of the two, 3-year term positions on the Finance Committee. I've learned quite a good deal about the town's fiscal situation from my work as chairman of the Tax Fairness Committee, and I'd like to know more. My background as a teacher, lawyer and farmer provides me a fairly broad understanding and balanced view of the matters that come to the Finance Committee. I have some experience in these areas, having served in the Vermont Legislature on the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees. I believe I can bring some new energy, a fresh curiosity, and a sense of honest cooperation to the serious and difficult issues we face here in Heath.

Whatever the issue at hand, I believe I can be open minded and resourceful enough to help accomplish positive solutions.

DAVID F. HOWLAND - FINANCE COMMITTEE

As reported earlier, I gave up the post of Selectman because I've reached a time in my life when more flexibility in my schedule is desirable and fewer less meetings preferable. However, I do want to continue participating in the Town's financial affairs as a member of the Finance Committee. I am reminded that I signed obligations for over 3 million dollars for the new school and I'd like to see that money expended to everyone's satisfaction. The Finance Committee has oversight responsibility in this regard. Also, the Town of Heath's financial commitments are still beyond its means and continued efforts are necessary, I believe, to somehow bring our tax rate down to a reasonable level. My hope is that my experience will be of some value in achieving that goal.

LEIGHTON McCUTCHEN - FINANCE COMMITTEE

My current term on the Finance Committee ends this year; I am therefore asking the townspeople of Heath to support my candidacy for one of the two full-term positions available (there is also a short term seat available).

In the twenty-three years I have lived here, the town's services, government and costs have increased steeply. At the same time, the tax base -- the land's value -- has sharply decreased. We need to face this dilemma realistically and work for a political and, perhaps, a legal remedy.

The Finance Committee works to hold down costs and taxes. We work to take the long view of fiscal plans and goals. We review the budgetary requests as they come up. Finally in an overview of their long term effects, we submit our independent assessment of the budgetary requests.

The guiding principle for me in such matters is fairness, trying to make the tax load fairly distributed among all citizens. In particular, as the Finance Committee's representative on the Tax Fairness Committee, I have tried to have citizens informed of their rights in abatements and deferrals of taxes. Additionally, I have worked with others to make the Commonwealth combine its demands on us for mandated services (such as in education and roads) with support for the unfair and inequitable tax burden our rural location has so far put on us. The declining value of land, and the increasing value of required services puts us all in a bind which we must find ways to relieve, if we are to continue to enjoy the rural life.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by D. F. Howland

The business of Heath has been very busy these last two months -Route 8A, School Choice, sludge, the FY 97 budget, road dis- continuance...the list goes on and on. The pace promises to continue through to the Annual Town Meeting at 9 AM on Saturday, May 11th. (Election Day is on Friday, May 10th. Voting hours are from 12 noon to 7 PM.)

The future of Route 8A has attracted much attention. A group led by Alistair Maitland raised issues about the kind of improvements that might be done on the road due to past requests by the Selectmen for support from the State and County. Fears were expressed that the rural character of the highway would be adversely affected. This group asked that the Town withdraw its request for financial help via the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Another group led by Steve Marcotte cited the need to improve the road. It should be noted that at this time there is no plan or money available to do improvement work on 8A. At their meeting on March 19, 1996, the BOS voted to leave 8A on the TIP as a future project. This decision was based primarily on the following points. First, if 8A is removed from the TIP now there is no certainty that we will be able to get it back on for funding in the future when we need it. Second, the soonest any funding will be available for 8A improvements is 3 - 5 years. This will allow ample time to develop sound use and design plans which will insure that the country character of the road is not destroyed. Included in the BOS March 19 was a request that the Planning Board make the road a priority consideration in the development of the Town's Master Plan.

The BOS feels fortunate in being able to fill the vacancies of Fire Chief and Police Chief with experienced local people. Mike Smith, who has been the Acting Police Chief since Tom Rabbit resigned, agreed to become Fire Chief. Mike served many years in the Fire Department and noted that being a fireman was his first love. Lorin Gowdy, who was Police Chief for several years back in the 1980's, agreed to take on that job again. Lorin has been in police work for many years and is currently employed on the Security Staff at Yankee Atomic Electric Company and has been an active member of the Colrain Police Department. Along with these appointments, Bob Markert was reappointed as a police officer in the Town. Mike Smith will continue to help with police matters as needed. Again, the BOS thanks Mike and Lorin for their past service and for accepting these positions.

The Library Trustees recruited Laurie Wheeler Burrington as Librarian to replace Allie Thane, who retired. The BOS concurred with the appointment. We believe Laurie will bring the same enthusiasm to the administration that Allie did for so many years. Also, Ray Pettingill, a former selectman, was appointed to the Board of Health replacing Brooks McCutcheon, whose

resignation was accepted with regret. Janice Boudreau was appointed to the Business Loan Committee. Debra Porter's resignation from the Tax Fairness Committee (TFC) was accepted with regret and Ron Corey, a devoted member of the Cemetery Commission (CC) recently passed away. Anyone interested in serving on these committees should contact the BOS or Harvey Carter of the TFC or Dick Cary of the CC.

The BOS has taken an active interest in the issue of School Choice. While the decision is made by the Mohawk Trail School District Committee, this complicated matter is of concern to many townspeople. The BOS went on record as being against Choice at this time. At a meeting held by the School Committee on March 21st, public sentiment was generally against the idea. There was much sympathy, however, for those families in Rowe that want to send their children to Heath and suggestions were offered to accommodate them. The BOS supports this effort.

The issue of sludge being spread and stored on the former Sessions farm in North Heath by the Veritec Company of Colrain has caught our attention. While this is a Board of Health (BOH) matter, the fact that some 175 people signed a petition against approving the necessary permit for continued use of the land for this purpose is something the BOS has to consider. The BOS noted that while taxes are being paid on the land, the Town has lost about \$1500 in taxes because the house and barn were torn down.

The people who live in the area are not only very concerned about the odor of the sludge, but its effect on ground water and aquifers. The BOH has denied the application for a permit based upon the ground water issue, but the Company has appealed the decision to the Department of Environmental Protection. We'll see...

The budget process for FY 97 is underway. It is too soon to forecast next year's obligations, but it appears the Town's needs will continue to effect a tax rate in the \$22 to \$23 range. Despite the additional costs of opening a new school our education budget is expected to be close to this year's. This is because (1) we are part of a school district where towns share in the cost of education and (2) the inclusion of Excess Debt (for construction) in the Ed Reform computation. The TFC has been reviewing options relative to obtaining more State Aid for Heath. We expect the Foundation Reserve money, which helped us this year, will be appropriated again, but it is not a sure thing. We will keep you informed.

The BOS initiated an effort to gain a consensus about the management of the Shapiro Land. A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted creating an operating committee to share the care, custody, management and control of the property with a member each from the Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Park Committee, Planning Board and the Superintendent of Highways. A member of the BOS, which is responsible for the land, would act as Chair. The BOS perceive an urgent need to actively manage the land because of the 4 X 4 vehicle problem, the lack of rules relative to the uses

of the land, the need for forest management and the need for road/trail planning. Municipal uses and requests for funding, which have been problems, are restricted to Town Meeting action. The Memorandum will require a two thirds vote at the ATM.

The Planning Board has about completed a comprehensive approach to naming all the roads in Heath. It has taken years of work and study to reach this point. This is an integral part of the Town's planning and zoning regulations and is important to the long term stability of the Town. Essentially there are three components to the plan, which will be presented at the ATM. They are (1) designating all acceptable roads, (2) roads to be discontinued and (3) roads to be named as Statutory Private Ways. One hearing was already held on March 25th and another will be held Monday, April 29 at 7:30 PM in the Community Hall.

The contract for three box culverts on Avery Brook Road has been let. This project will cost over \$200,000 and is being paid for by other than Chapter 90 funds. Jack Cable has done a great job in bringing this important work to fruition. Rollo Kinsman is continuing to work the Tri-Town Landfill close-out. His current effort is to transfer ownership of the land from Mrs. Constance Burrington to the towns of Heath, Hawley and Charlemont. Mrs. Burrington has generously offered the land at no cost to the towns. Surveying is completed and area to be transferred agreed upon. However, legal council has advised that legislation will be required to authorize the towns of Hawley and Charlemont to assume joint ownership of land in Heath. All three towns must vote to seek such legislation. An article to gain this approval from Heath voters will be included at our ATM. Copies of the proposed article have been forwarded to the selectmen of Hawley and Charlemont for use at their ATMs in May 96. Rollo will keep us informed. Hilma Sumner continues to be the liaison to the Highway Department and runs our meetings effectively. Joyce Karpinski does a myriad of administrative tasks in coordinating matters affecting grants and necessary communications with county and state agencies.

This is my last report for the Selectmen. It has been a privilege to serve as a Selectman. Most of the time it has been fun, as in meeting challenges, and in trying to do what is best for the Town. It is seldom boring! My special thanks to the employees and those who have served on the many committees. Their support made my job easier.



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PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

Percolation Tests

Perc testing has been suspended until April, except for repairs.

Building Permits

No building permits were issued this period.

Deed Transfers

Leon and Simone Bloom Nathan to Charles Verrill and Karen Berley-Verrill of Brooklyn, N. Y. 8 West Main Street. \$140,000.

Town of Heath to William Handrich Jr., 14 Jacksonville Stage Road. \$7,500.

Edwin R. Stewart to John B. Stewart of West Springfield, Mohawk Estates. Lots 33 and 34. No consideration.

Christine F. Bergquist to Robert S. Bergquist and Christine F. Bergquist of Amherst. Bray Road. \$1.

Marion A. Flavin to Denis M. and Robin A. Maslak of Chicopee. Modoc Street. Lots 31-34. \$7,000.

Evelyn E. Whitney to Robert Barclay and Maureen Barclay of Garden City South, N.Y. Long Hill Road. Only \$500.

Richard A. and Bernadette M. Barbeau to Thomas J. Brocuglio of Enfield, CT. Modoc Street. \$3,500.

Ralph N. Hillman to Donald E. Hillman of Colrain. Underhill Road. No consideration.

Albert and Rita Gray to Rita Gray. Jackson Stage Road. Less than \$100.

Marshall S. Ackley to Rene J. Robitaille and Jeanne C. Robitaille of Chicopee. Mohawk Estates. Lots 9 and 10. No consideration.

Nancy A. Palmer to Nancy A. Palmer and Cynthia A. Henriquez of West Springfield. Mohawk Estates. Lot 21. No consideration.

Susan Gouin to Charlene Hevey of Westfield, Chippewa Street. Lots 8 and 9. \$2,500.

Town of Heath to Bruce and Karen Foote, Lakeview Drive. Lots 10 to 13. \$1,800.

George and Katherine S. Harris to Craig W. Barry Jr. of Shelburne Falls, 6 Ledges Road. No consideration.

Craig W. Barry Jr. to George and Katherine S. Harris of N.Y., 6 Ledges Road. No consideration.

James E. and Irene Wharem to Barbara Haskins of Turners Falls. 36 Colrain Brook Road. \$4,000.

Mary W. Spritzer, Heritage Bank for Savings by General Financial Services, Inc., to General Financial Services Inc., of Kansas. 8 Burrington Road. \$12,000.

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Wednesdays, April 3,10,24, 6-8 PM at Mohawk Trail Early Childhood Center. No charge. Free child care available. To register call #774-4678.

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experience both the calming and energizing aspects of touch. Ways to weave healing touch and massage into daily life will be discussed. Please wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring mats or blankets for floor work. Wednesday, April 17, 7-9 PM, Silver Birch Dance Studio. Fee \$15 per couple. Register at 625-2503.

TREATMENT OF CHOICE FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE. Rebecca P. Bradley, MS,RD, registered dietitian, will show you that you can do a lot to lower your blood pressure before resorting to medication. Find out how lifestyle and diet changes may work out to be your treatment of choice for elevated blood pressure. Thursday, April 25, 7-9 PM at MVHES. Fee \$8. Register at 625-2503.

THROW THE SALT SHAKER OUT THE WINDOW - SPICE UP YOUR LIFE WITH HERBS. Gail Ulrich, director of Blazing Star Herbal School will help us mix up a salt-free spice jar and tell us how to cook with herbs. Monday, April 29, 10:30 - 11:30 AM, Shelburne Senior Center. No fee. No registration required.

HEALING WITH FLOWERS. Learn the subtle yet powerful effects of flowers in their many forms. Gail Ulrich, director of Blazing Star Herbal School will help you explore flower essences, edible flowers, flower lore, flower elixir, flower alchemy and aroma therapy. Follow your heart into the garden of deep flower secrets. Thursday, May 2, 7-9 PM at MVHES. Fee \$8. Register at 625-2503.



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