



VOL. 2 No. 1 APRIL 1980

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER IS ONE YEAR OLD!

25¢

OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY

With this, the first anniversary issue of the HEATH HERALD, we take the opportunity to thank all of you who have supported us in so many ways

... All of the contributors who have sent their stories to us by our deadline, bearing with us while we endeavored to figure out how much space would be available, and trying not to edit out important facts

... Those who have bought advertising space, without whose support we could not be solvent financially

... Teresa and Cleon Peters for the space in their store to offer the sale of the HEATH HERALD, and now Ray and Pam Galipo for continuing this invaluable service

... And lastly, a pat on the back for the staff who are all volunteers and have stuck together through thick and thin.

We ask for your continued support as we go into Volume 2, our second year. More reaction from our readers, pro or con, would help, as we are still in the learning stage and we look forward to another year of continuing improvement in the HEATH HERALD.

..... the Editors



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - MAY 5

Town Meeting Day is Monday, May 5, at the Heath Community Hall. All registered voters will have the opportunity to vote for the candidates of their choice between 1 and 7 PM. Then at 8 PM the Annual Meeting will be held to act on the articles on the Town Warrant. It is not only the right but also the responsibility of all citizens to participate in this Town Meeting Day.

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

Position	Term(yrs)	Candidate(s)
Selectman	3	David Howland Anne Steinbock
Finance Committee	3	Bruce Cromack Walter Gleason
Assessor	3	Raymond Pettengill
School Committee	3	Michael Chrisman
Library Trustee	3	Teresa Pettengill
Tree Warden	3	Thomas Lively
Auditor	1	none
Tax Collector	2*	Sheila Litchfield

* Remainder of unexpired term

The following statements have been submitted by the candidates on their background and qualifications:

AN APOLOGY

The editors wish to apologize to Carroll Stowe for a gross omission in his story "Bar-Ways and Stone Walls" which appeared in the last issue. An entire page of text was inadvertently left out and, with our apologies we will publish the complete story in a future issue.

LETTERS

To the Editors:

We wish to sincerely express our appreciation and gratitude to John Holdsworth, Walter Gleason and Alan Nichols for all their time and expertise in building and refinishing new shelving for the Heath Public Library. Also a grateful "Thank you" to all the people who have helped to restore order in the library. The finished product is in sight!

EDITH GLEASON, Librarian
ALLI I. THANE
TERESA C. PETTENGILL } Trustees
BRENDA SUMNER }

HEATH PRECIPITATION

By Ralph H. Dickinson, Observer
for Mass. Water Resources Commission

1980	Precipitation	Snow
February	1.24 inches	15 inches
March	8.16 inches	20.5 inches

This is next to the lowest precipitation for a February in 15 years. (Feb. 1978 was 1.11 inches). 1980 had the wettest March in over 15 years.

Snowfall from October 1979 through March 1980 was 43½ inches. This is below our average of about 92 inches per season, but it is quite possible we will have additional snow in April or early May. (In the 1973-4 season we had 61 inches of snow, and in the 1971-2 season 132 inches.)

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of

Shelburne Falls

Clothing

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HEATH HERALD

Volume 2 Number 1

April 1980

Editorial Staff

Pegge Howland
Caroline Smith
Alli Thane

Advertising
and Business
Art Design
Circulation

John Read
Harriet Read
Terry Pettengill

Contributors to this issue:

Edith Royer
Brenda Sumner

Catherine Cromack
Richards Steinbock

HEATH PEOPLE

Susan Gruen, who has been taking a nurse practitioner's course at Albany Medical College this year, is now performing her internship in Bennington.

Michael Pettengill, son of Raymond and Teresa Pettengill, is serving in the Navy and has been awarded the coveted "Silver Dolphin of Submarines".

MILESTONES

Mellisa Sue was born to Kenneth and Sandra (Rice) Gilbert on February 9.

Justin Thomas was born to Paul and Joanne (Giard) Fournier of Shelburne Falls on February 20.

Pamela Clark and Robert Belval were married on February 9 in the Heath Church after which a reception was held at the Community Hall. Pamela is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Clark, Jr. of Hawley. Robert is the son of Mrs. Jeanette Crowningshield.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Decker celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on March 28. They were given a surprise party by their children at the Community Hall.

Randolph H. Dyer died at his home in Marlboro on February 24 and was buried in the South Cemetery. He and his family had been summer residents of Heath since about 1933. He was a Vice President of the Heath Historical Society for many years.

Rev. Eugene J. Graebner of Winfield, Kansas died in January. He and his wife lived in Heath and he was the minister of the Heath and Rowe churches in the 1960s.

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By Ed Calver

The cultivation of native plants has an appeal for some gardeners. They belong to our landscape and fit it, perhaps too closely for some tastes. The effect is subtle. Transplanted (not in formal beds or borders!) they may flourish and show to greater advantage than they do in the wild, where they are often crowded and compete for light, water, nutrients. Some are vigorous and prolific but many are small, shy, unassuming; and these, if cultivated, need a situation where they can be seen close by. Many are suitable for planting near an outcropping of ledge or along a stone wall if there is one near a window, an entrance, a walk.

To some the thought may seem precious, but it happens that in this area several plants of the heath family grow well. All have a bell-shaped blossom, with at least a touch of pink to it. Some are evergreen. A collection of them might be the beginning of a rock garden, or for emblematic reasons might be complete in itself in an informal planting. All grow slowly, so that the effect will not be mature for a few years. All like the native acid soil; they grow best in semi-shade; and they should not be fertilized, merely given space above and below ground. They appreciate leaf-mold, preferably from under conifers. none has a really vigorous root system and some have sparse and fine roots, so that they must be moved with care and only small specimens should be taken.

Mountain laurel should be moved when it is in bud or blossom. It and our azalea, the swamp pink, will become quite large in time. Occasional pruning is good for them. Sheep laurel is a smaller daintier shrub. The native low blueberry, which may and perhaps should be made compact by clipping, is still lower. The checkerberry, or wintergreen, would do well under the larger shrubs. It needs shade. Trailing arbutus, or mayflower, has a botanical name which translated means "lying on the ground." It deserves foreground placement and may become a ground cover. With a cool and shaded root-run I have one growing over a rock. Cranberries, smallest of all, slender of stem and tiny of leaf, like to run a little.

There are other laurels, azaleas, and blueberries, even a lingenberry, native to New England if not to Heath--and of course the heaths and heathers themselves, which come from Europe but do well in this climate. I myself am not a purist.

GIRL SCOUT NEWS

Girl Scouts have been busy working on several badges during meetings and at home. The last meeting of each month is badge day when girls report their progress to leader Chris Tower.

Twenty girls went swimming at the YMCA in Greenfield in March after which all went to McDonald's for supper. Another outing is planned for April 24.

Cookies are scheduled for delivery the first week in May. Marisa Housner, Ree Sumner, and Brownie Heidi Crowningshield sold over 100 boxes each. Cookies must be ordered in cases so we will have extra boxes for sale, and anyone interested in purchasing cookies should call Brenda Sumner at 337-4930.

Christine A. Tower of Rowe has been appointed Sustaining Membership Enrollment Chairman for that community and Heath by the Western Massachusetts Girl Scout Council. The enrollment, which will take place April 3 to 26, offers families and friends of Girl Scouting an opportunity to give direct support to the Council over and above what they may contribute to United Way. Sustaining Membership enrollment is a means of supplementing the Franklin County United Way allocation to support the area's Girl Scout program.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

By David Howland

At the Town Meeting on May 5, the major business to be transacted will involve Article 3, the town's budget. The format of the article compares the appropriations of fiscal 1980 and the proposed for fiscal 1981. Further, if the recommendations of the Finance Committee differ from those proposed, there will be comments on each item accordingly. The Committee suggests that taxpayers take a good look at the Town Report as soon as it is received and particularly the items noted under General Government and under Schools. The General Government items noted refer to across the board 4% increases to most of the town officers indicating that such increases should be awarded on an annual basis. The Finance Committee believes it is unwise to establish such precedents and practices for elective, management type positions. We think that such adjustments should be made from time as in the past when they are warranted, and not indexed to outside factors that render this portion of the budget as an uncontrollable expense. Items 23 and 24 under Schools pertain to the same subject for School Committee members. Item 25, however, refers to the 20% increase in the Mohawk Regional School assessment, which is largely due to a decrease in the available surplus fund. Heath and several other towns have expressed concern about this situation and have recommended staying within the 10 1/4% tax cap which will still result in a 16% increase to the town. The recommendations to the Mohawk School Committee have focused on reducing operating expenses. There have been no recommendations to reduce services, personnel, or programs.

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HEATH FOOD CO-OP

By Sheila Litchfield

Our first order has been completed with 17 families ordering. We have made a few changes for smoother functioning. A 10% markup is necessary on orders to cover shrinkage and running expenses. Perhaps this figure can be lowered once we become more practiced. Work teams must have 10 to 12 people to cover all chores. We have implemented a system of rotating three different order forms to allow for a wider choice of foods. This will also allow us to quickly reach the minimum quantities we need. Food pickups will be every four weeks with food breakdown on Wednesday afternoon and evening, and pickup 4-7 on Thursday. Order forms are available from Debbie Porter or during co-op pickup hours. Next month's order form should be complete when you pick up your food.

All co-op members are responsible for attending meetings, volunteering for work, completing orders on time, picking up on time, and keeping track of deadlines. Meeting notices, lists of work-team members, and order forms are posted each pickup day. The next pickup day is May 8 from 4-7 PM at the Community Hall. Pickup for orders placed then will be on June 5.

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CANDIDATE PROFILES

RAYMOND PETTENGILL - Assessor

I was born in Weld, Maine. I graduated from Weld H.S.; had one year at Maine Central Institute; one year at University of N.H.; four years in U.S. Navy; graduated from Peterson's School of Steam Engineering, Boston. I have been married 25 years and have four children and two grandchildren. I have been a resident of Heath for 11 years; Selectman of Heath 1973-75; Employed at Yankee Atomic Electric for 11 years as Control Room Operator. I hold a 2nd class Steam Engineer's Mass. license, Mass. Reactor Operator's license, and Federal Nuclear Reactor Operator's license.

Qualification for Assessor: Have Calculator - will travel!

TERESA PETTENGILL - Library Trustee

I was born in Limestone, Maine; graduated from Maine Central Institute; graduated from Sisters of Charity, of St. Vincent de Paul Hospital; hold R.N. in Maine and Mass. I have been married for 25 years and have four children and two grandchildren. I have been a resident of Heath for 11 years, and a Library Trustee since 1972. I have worked as part-time or substitute nurse in the area for last 10 years; participant in several community projects since becoming a resident.

BRUCE A. CROMACK - Finance Committee

I moved to Heath in 1962 with my wife, the former Catherine Burrington. We have raised five children, one of whom is still with us.

I attended schools in Colrain and Shelburne, then served four years in the Navy. I have owned and operated a contracting business for over 15 years.

I have served in many capacities in social and fraternal groups and served 10 years on the Heath Planning Board.

I am interested in and concerned with fiscal responsibilities in government at all levels.

F. WALTER GLEASON - Finance Committee

I was born and attended schools in Heath. Besides running my own dairy operation, I have been a member of the Heath Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years, Assessor for several terms, Master of Heath Grange, 4-H leader, held offices in Heath Church and on the Planning Board for Mohawk Trail Regional High School.

While attending Arms Academy I received the American Farmer Degree of Future Farmers of America. I have contributed time to area farm organizations - F.F.A., Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, and Yankee Milk.

My financial experience includes courses at G.C.C. in town finance, serving on the Advisory Board for Production Credit Association, and training in estate planning through Farm Family Insurance Co.

MICHAEL CHRISMAN - School Committee

My decision to run for the school committee is a natural outgrowth of my long involvement with education. I have taught high school social studies, and I currently work at Greenfield H.S. TRADES Project, teaching a carpentry program for potential dropouts. I am just completing a Master of Fine Arts degree at U. Mass. in creative writing. I am on the Board of Directors of the Valley Play School in Shelburne Falls. My daughter will go to the Rowe School in another year; this fact actually decided me to run for School Committee - I want to take an active part in her education.

I live with my wife, Karen, and our daughter at the top of Branch Hill Road.

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DAVID F. HOWLAND - Selectman

I was born and raised in upper N.Y. State and served in World War II, after which I obtained a degree from Hofstra Univ. Since then I have augmented my education with courses ranging from finance to animal husbandry. I married Margaret Clapp, have two grown children, and have been Personnel Officer at Amherst College for eleven years. While living in Windsor, Conn. I served on the Town Plan and Zoning Commission and as a Selectman. We have owned property in Heath since 1963 and moved here permanently in 1978. As a member of the Heath Finance Committee (from which I will resign, if elected), I have worked for prudent fiscal management and a stable tax base while retaining the rural nature of the town. Inflationary pressures make it imperative for the town to anticipate and plan for its needs if we are to maintain a quality education for our children, and still meet other requirements of the town. I welcome the opportunity to serve as Selectman and participate with other residents in making a contribution to Heath's future.

ANNE CRONIN STEINBOCK - Selectman

I grew up in Boston and lived there until I was 22 years old. I spent a year living in Sweden and five years in a rural area outside Philadelphia.

My husband and four children and I have lived the last seven years in our home in Heath. We hope someday to have a small self-sufficient farm. What with rising energy prices, transportation costs, taxes and inflation, one of my goals as selectman would be to take stock of the resources and assets of the town (and there are many) with the aim of creating more self-sufficiency within the town.

By promoting self-sufficiency in the areas of food, energy and transportation, we would be keeping town money in town. It would be a better solution to the financial burdens imposed on residents by inflation and taxation than bringing in industry and subdivisions to broaden the tax base, which would destroy the character of the town, that makes us all want to live here in the first place.

SHEILA M. LITCHFIELD - Tax Collector

I was raised in both Western New York and Boston's South Shore area, the oldest of six children. Budge and I moved from Ashfield to the Dell three years ago. I have a B.S. degree in nursing from the University of Massachusetts and worked in Franklin County as a visiting nurse until Tucker John was born last June. Currently I am a partner in the "Heath Play Group", a day care for preschool children. I fully enjoy remaining close to home with my son, yet find a need to add to our household income. Holding the position of Tax Collector for the town would in part allow for this. It would be an interesting and different challenge for me as well as an opportunity to meet people and become more familiar with how our town runs.

HEATH HAS NEW REAL ESTATE BROKER

Jim Coursey has joined the Douglas Galleries Auctioneers & Real Estate Brokers in South Deerfield. Jim passed his broker's examination in December and will be specializing in older homes. He plans to spend approximately half his time in Heath on this new venture.

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ASSESSORS' REPORT

By Richards Steinbock

In 1978 the State told us that our equalized valuation was \$13,300,000. We talked them down to \$12,400,000. Last week we were told our new valuation should be \$16,900,000 - a whopping 36% increase in two years, and 47% more than our own in-house revaluation indicates. We have yet to revalue the land, and doubt that we could in good conscience raise it to the \$500/acre that the State would like to see. However, we feel that our buildings are valued as high as they should be. If you feel that your residence is valued close to or above what you would get in selling it (or what you paid for it), please write the Assessors stating your facts, figures, and reasons. We will need all the ammunition we can get to fight the State on this arbitrary increase.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

By Chief Earl Gleason

The Fire Department has had a busy three months this year responding to 14 calls. Nine of these were chimney fires, reflecting the increased reliance on wood for heating.

The Department recommends that, if you burn wood, you should check your chimney closely for loose mortar, cracks, and remove combustibles from around the chimney. It is further recommended that wherever possible chimneys not be partitioned-in, as this provides space for cobwebs and other flammable products to accumulate, and prevents examination for fire extension.

Remember, many heating systems were converted to oil because of unsafe chimneys. These chimneys are still not safe!

Fire Department Schedule: May 4, Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid Field Day at Turners Falls; May 14, 8 PM, Fire Association Meeting at Fire Station; May 28, 8 PM, Drill at Fire Station; June 11, 8 PM, Fire Association Meeting at Fire Station; June 25, 8 PM, Drill at Fire Station.

WARNING

Until the Building Inspector approves Sawyer Hall, the building is not officially open and can only be used at one's own risk.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

By First Selectman Ken Cole

We will shortly be calling for a special town meeting to request a transfer of funds from Revenue Sharing for the purchase of a new truck for the highway department. This action has been initiated as a result of a meeting with members of the Fire Department at which they expressed concern for the status of the old pump-er and the need for major repairs, namely a new cab and chassis, brakes, etc. On the Fire Department's recommendation it was unanimously agreed the best alternative would be to transfer the International truck, presently being used by the road crew, to the Fire Department for their use and purchase a new vehicle for the highway department. Present estimates indicate the amount of the transfer should approximate \$28,000, including costs to outfit the Fire Department's vehicle.

All materials for the Town Report have been delivered to Lamb Printers, and the final copies should be available for delivery the week prior to Town Meeting. Any additional articles for the warrant should be given to the Town Clerk at least one week prior to Town Meeting with the appropriate number of signatures.

HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

By Alli Thane

The Fairgrounds will have a new building this year according to President Ken Crowningshield. The state has donated \$3000 for the construction of a small stock barn to be used to exhibit poultry and rabbits.

Plans are well underway for the coming fair in August. All entertainment has been lined up with the exception of rides, which are difficult to contract. A new and popular contest this year will be a tractor pull.

DOG TAGS AVAILABLE

Catherine Nichols, the Town Clerk, is now issuing the 1980 Dog Tags. A new ruling this year states that all dogs must be vaccinated for rabies and a certificate from a veterinarian is required before a license is issued.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

By John Holdsworth

The five-year conservation and recreation plan finally seems to be finished. After receiving comments from town officials, it will be put on file with the State. At the April 14 meeting, the Planning Board hopes to establish a list of priorities for the coming year. Items certain to be included are; searching for ways to expand the tax base of the town; and solid waste disposal.

The Finance Committee met with the Board in February to discuss ways of increasing tax revenues without concurrently increasing town services. An influx of small businesses would help, but for any substantial effect there would have to be quite a few of them. One possibility might be to advertise the diverse skills of our citizens. We would certainly have much to offer any industry that might be interested in settling in Franklin County. It might even be feasible to join with neighboring communities in some joint economic venture. These and many other ideas will be explored in the year ahead.

In February, representatives of an engineering firm from New Hampshire addressed the Franklin County Planning Board on solid waste disposal. Methods presented were; incineration; shredding; and shredding and compacting. All methods would require some separation of the various categories of trash, and would only be feasible to pursue on a county-wide basis.

At the FCPB meeting of March 27, solid waste disposal was again a major topic. The 26 towns in the county presently spend over \$600,000 per year for all methods of disposal. Heath spends about \$7 per ton for its landfill; Rowe, by comparison, spends about \$45 per ton for its transfer station method of disposal. The county average for all methods is \$13 per ton. (Some industrial waste is removed by private contract; cost and tonnage figures for this are not included in the county figures.)

PLANNING BOARD REPORT .. CONT'D

The State Department of Environmental Quality Engineering has ordered several county landfills to close, and it is probably only a matter of time before all landfills will be closed. The FCPB approved a motion to hire an engineering consultant who would examine the disposal problem and offer possible solutions. It might be that a regional facility would be best for the county; it might be that alternative courses would better suit some of the towns. A plan may be available by September. The Heath Planning Board supported the County Board motion, feeling that it made sense to plan now on a county level to avoid later being bludgeoned by the State into some State plan designed for Boston.

Ed Calver recently reminded me that the Heath Bicentennial is just five years away. Interest has been expressed in producing a small volume of text and photographs of Heath history. It is not too soon to begin thinking about this and about appropriate celebrations. The Planning Board will discuss these things in future meetings this year and hopes for plenty of involvement on everyone's part.

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ENERGY UPDATE

By Richards Steinbock
Heath Energy Committee

On Monday April 7, town officials and concerned citizens met with representatives of U.S. Windpower, a private company, to discuss the possibility of erecting 100 medium sized (60 ft. tall) wind generators in Heath. The electricity generated would be fed into the regional grid, and would represent about five times the amount of power used in Heath. This would be the first and largest "wind farm" in the world. Town officials and U.S. Windpower will continue meeting in the next few weeks, to discuss benefits and implications to the town. I'd like to hear from anyone who has any comments, questions, or observations.

Aside from the fact that one wind generator saves one barrel of imported oil per day, the thought that Heath could be the first step in controlling our national energy crisis is mind-boggling. If we want it to, national history can be made right here!

Please - let me have some input on how you all feel about this.

POLICE REPORT

By Chief Lorin S. Gowdy

Thank you readers of the HEATH HERALD for caring about your neighbors.

In the spring of 1979, the Town of Heath was plagued with burglaries. By the fall of 1979 the readers of the HERALD had come to the rescue. The calls and information received from readers have made it more and more difficult for the thieves to operate in Heath.

The cooperation and help of the readers have made Heath a better place to live. We are entering a new year and I hope all readers will continue to support their town and the Police Department. Thank you from all of us in the Heath Police Department.

ANNUAL CANCER DRIVE

The annual drive of the American Cancer Society is now in progress in Heath. Last year we went over the top. The need is very great, and if you have not been contacted and can give, please contact Caroline Smith at 337-4900.

LIBRARY NOTES

By Edith Gleason, Librarian

We now have the Library ready to open as soon as the building inspector gives us the word. In the meantime, I will be at the Library during regular hours, so feel free to come if there is anything you need. Our telephone has been connected, so you can contact me at 7-4934.

Materials purchased through the LSCA grant are beginning to arrive. We have received a new audio-visual projector and a listening station with eight headsets. This enables a group to watch a program without annoying someone who might like quiet. We also have a nice collection of film strips with sound.

In addition we bought books for the 9-18 age group. The titles include both fiction and non-fiction.

Two adult groups have reported on their reading. "Adventures in Reading", a Ladies Aid group of nine readers, read 134 books over the winter. "North Heath Neighbors" with six readers read 363 books. Both groups were formed independent of the Library. Maybe you and your friends would like to form your own club. We would be happy to loan the books.

Thanks to the Brownies, we have a beautiful Easter display. Come in and see what these juniors can do.

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CHURCH NEWS

By Rev. Ann Geer

With the return of spring, work will begin again on the new parsonage on Bray Road. Stop by anytime to see the building plans, and we won't be offended if you happen to bring a hammer with you! The first in a series of Ham Suppers for the benefit of the Parsonage Fund will be held on Saturday, May 3 in the Community Hall. The first seating will be at 5.30 PM.

Our Church School and Youth Group are planning a big day on May 25. They will hold a soup and sandwich luncheon at noon in the Community Hall. At 1.00 PM they will present a musical play, "Babble at Babel", based on the Biblical story of the Tower of Babel. The musical will be the culmination of this year's activities and promises to be an entertaining afternoon.

We cordially invite you to join in your Church's activities and we rejoice in the opportunity to become a part of your lives here in our hill town.

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RECYCLING CENTER

By Todd Sumner

As many readers of the Herald have heard, Charlemont Boy Scout Troop 86 is running a redemption Center for glass, newspapers and aluminum. The storage sheds are located in Charlemont down in back of the Highway Department garages where barrels are provided for the glass, which needs to be sorted by color and labels taken off, and space is designated for deposits of aluminum cans, bottle caps, etc. and newspapers. Newspapers should be tied or bagged and cans need not be crushed. If you have any questions, you can call me. (Thank you for your encouraging response.)

READERS' COMMENTS

"We enjoy the Herald so much and want to commend those responsible for its publication."

"We have really enjoyed the Heath Herald."

"Thank you for this publication."

"We enjoy the Herald very much."

"We always look forward to the Herald and keep our copies for reference. Your paper keeps us in touch with the community even when we can't be there."

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