



April/May 2019

# CELEBRATING 40 YEARS



VOL. 1 NO. 1 APRIL 1979  
HERALD  
25¢  
ND VIEWS  
MYER HALL UPDATE  
Anderson

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER!  
By Harriet Read  
any newspaper

By Harriet Read

Spring is here. Read any newspaper or listen to any broadcast and you will become aware of all the many good things that happen in the spring except for this one, the arrival of the first edition of the Heath Herald. This is very good news! Some time ago the idea of a newspaper began to take root. There are now many topics of local interest and news source and now

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

The Heath Herald will be a non-partisan, informative and inspiring journal of events reaching the people of the town.

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

SAWYER HALL UPDATE  
By Anne Henderson

**SAWYER**  
By Anne Henderson

Work on Sawyer Hall is progressing should be completed soon, according to Selectmen. Structural renovations are handled by Whiteman Bros. of Colrain. plumbing and heating system has been ed by Don Ward of Buckland, and the b has been rewired by Charles York of S burne. Some unexpected problems were en renovation. Poor qu the corrected S

Some unexpected problems were encountered early in the renovation. Poor quality foundation work had to be corrected before upstairs remodeling could begin. Sealing basement walls and an ill-fitting boiler room door were replaced by a plastic drainage pipe was replaced by a better iron one as required by the building code. The contractors found that the stairs began the installation.

Upstairs the contractors found problems as they began the removal. A steel I-beam has to be installed back wall of the library. Shelves on one which has sagged. Shelves in old kitchenette was found to be on the floor upstairs and a new one installed there also. A small roof was also repaired.

The "new" Sawyer change from the old building has been blown into the wall heating system has replaced and space heaters. Wiring repaired. A wheel chair way have been created. Inside, the building The first

Inside, the building is more open. The first floor has a foyer with a public office, a combined Assembly and rest rooms, a large

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### On the Cover

The *Heath Herald* celebrates 40 years in print with an introduction to Heath's First Newspaper, Volume 1, Number 1, April/May 1979, written by Harriet Read.

### The Heath Herald Logo

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

### Payment Questions

If you have questions regarding payment, please contact Mary Sumner. Contact information above.

### Correspondence

There are three ways to submit your letters to the editor, articles, and/or subscription forms:

- Send to our email address:  
[TheHeathHerald@gmail.com](mailto:TheHeathHerald@gmail.com)
- Send to our PO Box:  
*Heath Herald*, PO Box 54, Heath, MA 01346
- Drop off at our Town Hall box:  
Local residents can drop a letter or subscription form into the black box on the wall to the left of the post office boxes in the vestibule (no postage needed).

### Submission Deadlines

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

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### Color Sponsorship

The color photographs and images in each issue of the *Heath Herald* are funded by you, our readers. Through the sponsorship of generous individuals, we are able to showcase the vibrancy of life here in Heath in such a way as would not otherwise be possible. Consider becoming a \$25 Color Sponsor for an upcoming edition of the *Heath Herald*. Should you wish to add your support, be sure to note "Color Sponsor" on your check so that we can acknowledge your contribution in a future edition.

*The views expressed in the Heath Herald are solely those of the authors and may not reflect those of the Heath Herald staff or advertisers.*

## A Kite to Fly

I bought myself a kite for Mother's Day.

I stood in a toy store in front of the display of kites and tried to select one that was colorful and easy to fly. I rejected one that was shaped and printed to look like a bat. It looked as if it would be hard to fly and, besides, it looked like Halloween and not like spring and Mother's Day.

A salesman approached me. "Can I help you?"

"I'm looking for a kite," I said.

"For someone how old?" he asked.

I thought for a moment, then I looked him in the eye and answered. "Forty-two."

For a brief moment he looked surprised. I continued to look at him firmly. He turned away.

"This kind is easy to fly," he said, pointing to three kites in the classic diamond kite shape.

"I think we can skip the one with the Teddy Bear on it," I said.

In the end I chose a simple diamond in dark blue and green-blue with tail pieces in the same colors. I would've preferred something more colorful. I have seen kites shaped like butterflies and colored in bright gem shades. But this store didn't have great variety. Anyway, the blue diamond looked like a real kite.

For the next week or so I was at work or otherwise occupied whenever the wind came up, so I didn't have a chance to fly the kite. Glenn obligingly offered to test drive it for me one evening when I had to go out. As I drove over the hill, the last thing I saw was the kite, high in the sky. The evening sun caught the mundane in shades of blue and brought to them a liveliness that I didn't expect.

I was getting frustrated. It was beginning to look as if I would have no opportunity to get together with the wind before the grass grew to be hay, not to be trampled by kite flyers.

But Sunday evening there was a gusty wind and I was available. I issued polite invitations to go kite flying to the members of my family who were at home. But they were involved in watching "Star Trek Rides Again," or something, on television. So I went alone, which is what I wanted to do anyway.

I had forgotten some of the things about kite flying, of course. I had forgotten the challenge of getting the kite up there. Someone who has qualified for Mother's Day gifts for more than 20 years is also not adept at running forward while looking backward over one shoulder



at a kite and holding up a reel of string. Then when the kite is up in the sky, if the wind is gusty, the kite will circle around and try to make a crash landing, seeming to aim always for the newly plowed ground.

I had forgotten how alive and strong a kite feels on the end of the string, tugging to be free with more force than any fish I ever tried to land. And I had forgotten about the way the string tangles when you least expect it, just like fishing line on a hidden snag, and as difficult to free.

But, if I felt uncoordinated and short of breath, I also felt pleasure in the evening outdoors—in the setting sun gleaming on the kite—in the crisp beauty of the mountains, providing a scenic backdrop to my efforts.

The grass is hay now so I won't be trampling it. It doesn't take long when spring finally comes. But I had my delayed Mother's Day gift. For a few minutes last Sunday, it was kite time.

—Susan P. Gleason  
*Echoes from Hill Farm, May 1988*

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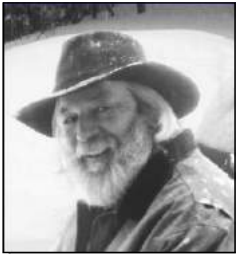
Saturday, May 18, 2019  
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 Program from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

All are welcome!

For information,  
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## *Wild Ramblings*

—Bill Lattrell

### **When All is Right and Good in the Forest**

Typical of April in these woods, the landscape has patchy snow cover. The snow is still deep in between rock crevices on this north-facing slope. The tree shadows are long and facing in a northwest direction as the sun peaks over the hill to the south. The contrast of the dark shadows and the white snow is striking. I am in awe of the short view in front of me. Even more shadows cast from the clouds above dance along the ground.

Traversing this hillside, I am mostly staying in terrain that is devoid of the last remnants of winter. These days I prefer the easier routes. They are less slippery, easier on the old knees, and provide access that is mostly devoid of potential problems. The ground under foot is soft where topsoil has melted over still frozen ground. Water flows across the forest floor in the wetter areas. The lug soles on my boots hold the muddy ground mostly in place. Last night coyotes spent significant time singing in this general area. Each series of howls started with high-pitched yips and squealing and ended in long, lower-pitched siren-like wails. These raucous communications drive my hounds crazy, and last night they responded with barks and howls that told the eastern coyotes to stay away. They were not welcome. Hounds are quite territorial and do not like other unknown canines in their dog zip code.

This morning I am alone looking for tracks. I am curious about both the numbers of coyotes and the age of the pack. Two or three eastern coyotes can sound like a dozen. People often tell me about the scores of coyotes they hear at night. While this does conjure up a distinct and tantalizing image, in reality eastern coyotes travel in small family groups of three or four. The pups don't start moving around with the adults until they are getting ready to move off on their own. These larger groups, two adults and the adolescent coyotes, will hunt together through the last stages of their adolescent period. The wild canine's ability to hunt is partially instinctual and partially learned.

After about an hour of scouring the landscape I notice a group of tracks in a muddy area of exposed rock out-

crops. The tracks are large, but one set is larger than the other. They are single file and the tracks frequently "directly register," meaning the hind foot steps in the track of the rear foot and the coyote in the rear also walks directly in the tracks of the coyote in front of it. Coyotes are, among many other things, stealth. They move in shadows, they leave as little tracking evidence as possible behind, and they only make sounds when they want to be heard. Which brings us to the howling that occurred last night.

The howling may have been to communicate with another nearby pack, or they may have been trying to locate another member of their pack. The howls may have also been to celebrate a kill. Eastern coyotes are not adverse to celebration. In fact, it is one of many behaviors that is somewhat unique, and they do it well.

The tracks that I have located move up the hill in a southerly direction. The track imprints still hold small



amounts of water that is not frozen. The temperatures were in the twenties last night, so I am guessing these tracks are from early this morning. Moving slowly and looking in front of me in hopes of

getting a glimpse of these beautiful creatures, I must be careful to move without making excess noise. Coyotes are well equipped. They see well, hear well, and have a terrific sense of smell. The northwest wind to my back does not help my cause, given my scent is blowing in their general direction. I am slightly puzzled given the coyotes prefer to work with their nose into the wind. Perhaps the wind has shifted directions and they are following an older scent. The scent blocker I am wearing is fairly protective, but not perfect despite the claims one reads on the container it comes in. Humans are always, always at a disadvantage when stalking wildlife.

Most of the time there are no visible tracks. Sign is limited to overturned, decaying leaves on the ground, evergreen wood ferns that lean in the direction of the path of travel, occasional tufts of fur that cling to a barberry thorn or blackberry bramble, and some disturbed lichen on a narrow passage-way of a bedrock outcrop.

Nearing the top of the hill the tracks split. One animal has gone east and one animal has gone west. What they are doing here is quite predictable, but only because I am intimately familiar with these woods. On the south side of

this hill there is a narrow bedrock trail that travels east and west. The south side of the narrow ledge trail is a 30 to 40 foot drop-off. The coyote on the eastern end will push the narrow trail in hopes of moving prey west where its pack mate can ambush the unsuspecting victim. This strategy is only semi-effective, but it is a technique that has worked before and is likely to work again. I follow the tracks of the larger coyote that is circling around this hill from the east.

Given all the bedrock near the top of this rocky knob, I am using my own instincts to guide me to where I think the hypothetical coyote trail leads. In about five minutes, coming to the narrow ledge trail, I peer across the length of it. Although there is no ice, the very narrow path and steep drop off in a southerly direction are not inviting. I would have taken this route not too many years back, but there is too much risk these days, especially in the early spring when conditions not anticipated can appear suddenly and without forgiveness.

I circle back around and hope to pick up a sign from the coyote that went to the west. A ten-minute walk, and I am at the ledge trail again on the western end. There I think I can see some minor disturbances in the small earthy pockets that grace the tiny crevices in the rock trail. At this location the ledge trail joins a well-used wildlife trail that leads to a stand of ancient red oaks ranging from two to five feet in diameter. The trail is well-worn and heavily disturbed by a variety of animals that likely includes white tailed deer, coyotes, fox, bobcats, fisher, porcupine, and more. The sun is getting higher in the sky and the morning is closing in on the afternoon. I know I am far, far, behind the coyotes I was originally tracking. But before I leave the area, I spend some time wondering what might have happened if I had at first followed the coyote that went west around the hill rather than the coyote that went east. The big question, of course, is would have I encountered the coyotes?

Before heading north on the half hour journey back to the homestead, I decide to sit on an old oak log that faces south and, for a moment, enjoy a splash of sun. The light from our great star feels good and warms my face. I wish the coyotes happy hunting and their potential prey safe haven. There are no guarantees in the natural world. The balance of nature seems to be in place, and I am at peace knowing that all is right and good in this forest.

Life is good. May the Great Spirit give me at least one more day like this one.

—Bill Lattrell

## Heath Puts the “Cat” in Library Catalog

Doors will open on Heath Library’s new Cat Café on Saturday, April 6 at noon, with a “Kibbles ’n Nibbles” potluck celebration in the library.

The café, the first of its kind in Franklin County, is the inspiration of Library Director, Don Purington (an apt last name). “Patrons of all ages will have the opportunity to come and enjoy these incredible pets while they read, relax, and peruse our shelves,” said Purington, who expects library traffic to increase significantly because of the friendly felines.



The idea for the café grew whiskers, so to speak, when Purington and Lyra Johnson-Fuller, Library Assistant, took in a feral cat found on the steps of Sawyer Hall. They named it Dewey (pictured left) after the library

decimal classification system. As it turns out, Dewey is more than a love; he is also quite skillful at checking mice out of the library, if you know what we mean.

Why not adopt more cats? thought Purington. So, with approval from the Selectboard, he and Johnson-Fuller visited Dakin Humane Society, where there is no shortage of cats for adoption.

When the café opens, it is no coincidence that the library will have nine lives. Along with Dewey, there’s Stax, Thriller, Bookmark, ISBN, Footnote, Ibid, Penny Past Due and Lewis Late Fee (the last two are from the same litter). When asked what provision has been made for those with a cat allergy, Purington said that the library will have an ample supply of antihistamine and tissues on hand.

With the cats come several new programs for Heath residents, including Cat Yoga, Crafting with Cat Hair, and Cat Therapy: Relaxing Feline Mindfulness. Suggested donations for classes include dry cat food, cat litter, cat toys, and/or or a monetary contribution to the “kitty.”

All are invited to stop by during regular library hours to spend time with the cats. With a current library card, you can even take one home for a week at a time. For those interested in volunteering to help care for the cats (i.e., feeding, scooping, cleaning, combing, clipping, etc.), call 277-3665 (apr-fool).

—Tabby Katz



## Senior Capstone Project

### Just (Bee)cause

For my Mohawk Trail Regional School District Senior Capstone Project and presentation I chose to do beekeeping. The Capstone course is required for Mohawk seniors as a way to explore a single topic in-depth. Beekeeping wasn't something I had a lot of education on, but if I was going to do a whole semester's worth of work, I wanted it to be interesting and fun to do. Last year I did an internship with the Hawlemont school, and one of the projects we spent a lot of time on was spinning honey. I went back to the Hawlemont teacher, Amber Tulloch, to gain further information on where I should start with my project. She was extremely helpful, and told me to first do some research on the topics I wanted to focus on and go from there. By doing this research before making my beehive, it made it easier for me to understand the importance of how the beehives worked, and how the bees themselves worked.

Making my hive wasn't as hard as I expected. It took maybe 30 minutes of my time, which is very good considering it was two boxes and a four-piece frame set. I've been waiting a few months now to get my hive up and running and I can't wait to do so and see the outcome. I never thought I would be so intrigued with this topic of study, but it's definitely something I want to do in the future and learn more about as I do my beekeeping. If this is something you're interested in, I recommend trying it. It is a wonderful learning experience, doesn't take up a lot of time to do, and will make a difference to the current bee population, which is highly important right now. Our world can't survive without bees so, with the help of us humans, hopefully we can make life a better environment for them.

—Taylor Williams

Senior, Mohawk Trail Regional School District

### What is it?



This is a close-up photograph of one of Heath's many natural wonders. Can you guess what it is?

See page 19 for answer



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## Town Nurse

—*Claire Rabbitt, RN*

### Cannabis

With the legalization of marijuana there is much to consider regarding how it will affect life in our society. There are some positive health benefits for medical marijuana and there are regulations in place for that as well as for recreational use. It will be a challenge for law enforcement in that blood tests do not accurately reflect the level of intoxication as they do with alcohol, but driving while intoxicated with marijuana also increases risk for accidents.

The March *Nutrition Action Health* letter has some good information to help understand some of the positive and negative effects regarding health.

#### **Cannabis comes in two forms:**

Hemp, which is low in THC, high in CBD, and not intoxicating.

Marijuana, which is high in THC, low in CBD, and is intoxicating.

THC, (tetrahydrocannabinol; found in high amounts in marijuana), is the compound that makes one feel “high,” relaxed, and stimulates appetite, but may have side effects of feeling paranoid or anxious.

CBD, (cannabidiol; found in high amounts in hemp), is promoted as having many healing and anti-inflammatory effects, and is available in stores in such things as oil, water, candy, and “Willie Nelson’s CBD-infused coffee.” Research is being done, but so far CBD has only been approved by the FDA to treat seizures in two rare forms of epilepsy. It is not regulated like marijuana and tests of products sold on-line found only 30% were labeled accurately. CBD was shown in some studies to interfere with medicines such as statins and calcium channel blockers, so before trying it, check with a doctor or pharmacist.

The National Academy of Medicine found conclusive evidence that marijuana can reduce nausea and vomiting induced by chemotherapy, and that there is substantial evidence of modest reduction of chronic pain. The FDA has approved three synthetic THC drugs to treat nausea and vomiting from chemotherapy.

An associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral

sciences at the John Hopkins School of Medicine, Ryan Vandrey, states; “Cannabis has the same types of effects on the reward pathway in the brain as alcohol, cocaine, opioids, and nicotine.” He thinks most people who use cannabis won’t have issues with it, but does indicate frequent users, young adolescents, and people with a family history of psychosis have a higher risk of developing psychotic disorders.

Marijuana can be consumed by smoking, vaping, eating, or drinking. The effects are felt almost immediately after inhaling, but may take 30 to 90 minutes after consuming edibles. It also varies in the content of milligrams of THC. Because it comes in edibles like cookies, brownies, and lollipops, it is very concerning that it is tempting to children. On a personal note, I have never tried marijuana and don’t intend to unless at some time in my life I need chemotherapy and might take it for nausea and vomiting. Remember, it is a drug.

### In Praise of Town Meeting and the Democratic Process

Preparing for Annual Town Meeting is a good time to reflect on how special New England’s democratic process of Town Meeting decision-making really is. In the *Herald’s* April/May 2014 issue, we devoted several articles to this special form of government. In one of these articles, Doug Wilkins described the process, reflecting that; “Any registered voter may attend, and all have an equal say—one person, one vote... We the people really DO run the government here in Heath!”



At Town Meetings, we the people recognize that our debate is between friends and neighbors who might strongly disagree, and we honor the fact that open and honest discussion is paramount for thoughtful decision-making. After all, in the end we really do come together as friends and neighbors for the good of this town that we love.

We will have the opportunity to make many important decisions in just a few weeks, at Annual Town Meeting, May 11. The Warrant is available on the town’s web site, [www.townofheath.org](http://www.townofheath.org) and is posted in the town hall and at the transfer station. Copies are also available in the town offices in Sawyer Hall. Become informed and come together to make decisions that are for the best of Heath, our hometown. See you then!

—Heath Herald Staff

  
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## Heath Agricultural Society News

By the time you read this, winter will technically be behind us, and spring will be here. Regardless of what it feels like outside, we know one thing is true and that is that the 102nd Heath Fair will be here before we know it. August 16, 17, and 18 are what we are gearing up for, and the members of the Heath Agricultural Society are eager to get busy. The grounds of the Heath Fair are our home. As we all know, maintaining our home takes a lot of consistent work, time, and resources. Here is where the magic happens, and people from town and some from neighboring towns begin to get busy with Work Bees. These are the days that slowly, but surely, lead to the grounds looking the way we all remember it on fair day: beautiful flowers adorning window boxes, planters, wagons, shiny red barns, and meticulously mowed grounds. I say the word “magic” a lot, but that isn’t to imply that the work just happens. Nope. It is the dedicated volunteerism that does it. Every fair that I know of, or have heard of, struggles to attract and maintain its volunteer base. The base becomes older, and young adults are busy with careers and kids. While we are not alone in this concern/need, we continue to think and strategize about what we can do to be an organization that attracts YOU to come and pitch in. How can we be sure you know that you are welcome, and that we can’t wait for you to show up?

I had the pleasure of meeting Kathy Stosz, a relatively new-comer to Heath. She lives here with her husband, Stan, on the corner of Bassett and South Roads. When we were having our get-to-know-you chitchat, I mentioned the fair. Kathy’s face lit up! She exclaimed to me about how she wants to get involved, “Anything I can do!” she said. She then went on to share with me about the moment she first got involved. It was a Saturday in the summer of 2018, and she and Stan were coming back from their run to the transfer station. They ran into Walt Gleason and did what any of us would do, pulled over to the side of the road to chat. While Stanley and Walt caught up, Kathy wandered into the fairgrounds. She told me that she remembers thinking she wasn’t sure if this was allowed... could she just venture in? But she carried on into the grounds and began to inspect the flowers in the stone circle at the top of the Midway. The flowers needed some care, like watering, and deadheading. (I’m betting many of you readers can relate to that pull you feel inside you when you are presented with flowers that need deadheading.) Well, it turns out Kathy felt the pull,

and got to work. Kathy shared with me how she loved being able to help, and would relish the opportunity to do more. She plans on attending the next meeting, and will join the flower committee this 2019 Work Bee season. We are lucky to have her.

What I learned from talking with Kathy was that 1) people love the fair, 2) not everyone knows how to become engaged and that our door is open to new members to help out in whatever way they can, and 3) volunteering is an important way for members of our community (especially new members) to meet their neighbors and contribute to the town that we all LOVE, and the fair that we can’t imagine living without.

So I invite you to join Kathy and join all of us at the Heath Agricultural Society meetings this spring. The fair is for everyone, so roll up your sleeves and dig in. We can’t wait to welcome you.

### News related to the Heath Fair:

**Music:** The line-up is nearly complete, and we have some exciting new acts, and some old favorites too.

**Food Booth:** Charlie Cornish is eager to hear from you if you have ideas for the food booth.

**New Attractions:** We are in conversation with Marla from Hilltown Sled Dogs about bringing her team of sled dogs to perform a demonstration.

For those of you who love the Zucchini Race, we are considering creating an OPEN class. All adults—we want to hear if you would compete in a Zucchini Race? Email [jvansteensburg@gmail.com](mailto:jvansteensburg@gmail.com) to let us know.

**Call for Vendors:** We are beginning to sign up vendors. If you know of any food or artisan vendors who would be a good fit for the fair, please send an email to [sean@cycle-7.com](mailto:sean@cycle-7.com).

All member meetings take place the second Wednesday of the month and are in a NEW location: the bottom floor of the Heath Church. As the weather warms, we will move our meetings to the Exhibit Hall at the fairgrounds. Work Bees will begin when the snow yields, so stay tuned.

Visit us at [heathfair.org](http://heathfair.org) and like us on Facebook.

If you have questions about getting involved, please contact me: [jvansteensburg@gmail.com](mailto:jvansteensburg@gmail.com).

—Jessica O’Neill  
President, Heath Agricultural Society



## Green Thoughts

—Pat Leuchtman



### Madame Queen and Noble Bees The Leuchtman's Honeybee Project Third and Final Installment: Settling In

The weekend after installation, we inspected the hive. We got the smoker going and ascended the ladder. Inside, the frames were covered with hard working and buzzing bees. The queen cage was empty as was the starter-syrup jar. Since the bees were clearly at work in the hive, we assumed that all was well.

Mid-week, I called Dick Bonney, our mentor, to give an update and for additional instruction. I could hear the intake of his breath when I mentioned that the syrup jar was empty. Despite the fact that plants are in bloom with nectar and pollen, he said that you must keep your bees fed with sugar syrup for the first month. Evidently, the hive is actually declining in population during that time. It's hard work setting up a new hive and the bees will only live for about a month. It takes three weeks for new bees to hatch, so the food supply has to be readily accessible and very dependable. If they can't count on the food supply, they'll tell the queen to stop laying so many eggs.

"Now wait. How can the workers tell the queen what to do? I never heard that the queen bee presided over a constitutional monarchy?"

Evidently the workers absolutely influence the queen. They control how many eggs she lays by the amount that they feed her. It was clear to me that being a queen bee wasn't quite all I had imagined.

The next weeks brought weather that was either too hot, or too cold and rainy to comfortably open the hive. Then, one night in the midst of a heat wave, Henry came to me, flashlight in hand. I wanted nothing more than to sit in front of the fan with a cold drink, but Henry took my arm and steered me out to the backyard. Even at that time of night the air was stifling.

He turned the beam of the flashlight onto the beehive—and there, all over the hive, and clinging in undulating curtains around the hive, were all our bees, hundreds and thousands of bees humming in their sleep. The sight of the bees blanketing the hive, and the walls of the

shed around the hive, terrified me. I was rooted to the spot as Henry played the flashlight beam over the throbbing mass of bees. He laughed. He only meant to amaze, not scare me.

"I called Dick and he said it doesn't mean anything except that it's too hot for the bees to be inside the hive."

"Are you telling me the bees are camping out under the stars because it's too hot inside?" I was incredulous.

"Essentially. They will not swarm or anything, but the population of the hive is high enough. We obviously have a good strong, healthy hive. They would just produce too much heat if they were all inside."

During that week we even had a couple of heavy rainstorms, but since the rain did nothing to reduce the temperature or the humidity, most of the bees still stayed outside. I wondered if they thanked us for locating the hive under a roof that kept them reasonably dry.

The hive was obviously strong and the population high, and Dick recommended one final examination, to make sure there was enough stored honey and pollen to get through the winter. Weather conditions were too cool, but finally, just before Columbus Day the temperature was almost 70, and Henry was at work. I opened the hive once more. As I smoked the bees I spoke to them, to explain that my next actions were not hostile.

"Madame Queen and Noble Bees, before you settle in for the winter, I must examine your stores. I only disrupt you to know whether I should feed you or not."

All together the hive's ten frames were so heavy I could not lift the top hive body off to examine the bottom hive body. Henry tried, too, but was unsuccessful. We took that to mean that the hive was well stocked for the winter. A few days later we marveled at the unpredictability of Heath's weather—an October snowstorm and the bees were now on their own for the winter.

All winter the hive looked silent, but when we climbed into the loft and put our ears to the hive we could hear soft humming. I imagined them dreaming their honeyed sleep, waiting for spring. The bees survived that winter and my dreams of eating sweet honey in the glow of fragrant beeswax candles came true.

In the warmth of one bright spring day I made my obeisance. With my ear to the humming hive I whispered, "Madame Queen and Noble Bees, I thank you for dancing in the golden sun, and bringing me golden honey." I hesitated. And then even more softly, I whispered, "And thank you for not stinging."

Visit Pat's blog at [www.commonweeder.com](http://www.commonweeder.com)



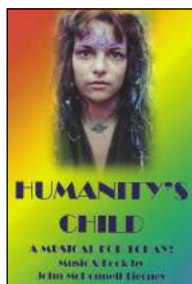
## People in the News

**Gwyneth Clark, Bryan Allen,  
and Kristen Griswold**

### John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients

Gwyneth Clark, Bryan Allen, and Kristen Griswold of Heath, were recently awarded the John and Abigail Adams scholarship from the Franklin County Technical School. This scholarship provides a tuition waiver for eight consecutive semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts State University, college or community college for students who score at the advanced and proficient levels on the grade 10 and the MCAS tests in English and Math. Congratulations Gwyneth, Bryan, and Kristen!

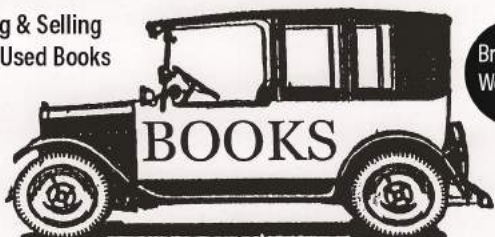
### John Tierney's *Humanity's Child* Heads to New York Theater Festival



Composer and lyricist Dr. John Tierney's musical, *Humanity's Child: A Musical For Today!* is being brought to the New York Theater Festival this summer. The musical comes out of the non-profit foundation, the Peaceful Educator Foundation Incorporated, which John founded. The goal of the Foundation is to "exponentially increase the number of humans actively contributing to a peaceful, just and sustainable future." For more information about John Tierney's work, visit [www.thepeacefuleducator.com](http://www.thepeacefuleducator.com). John and his wife, Patricia, divide their time between Heath and Connecticut.

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## Library Lines

—Donald Purington

**Preschool Story Hour:** please join us with the young children in your life on Friday, April 5 and Friday, April 19 (Egg Hunt!), at 11 a.m. More dates for May and June will be posted in the library and on the library website when the schedule is set.

A reminder about the many museum (and other) passes we have available: Berkshire Museum, Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, Clark Art Institute, Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, MASS MoCA, Pioneer Valley Symphony, and Parking Passes valid at many of the Massachusetts State Parks. A major exhibit is coming to the Clark Art Institute this summer: *Renoir: The Body, The Senses*, including about 60 paintings, drawings, pastels, and sculptures.

### A Few of the New Items at the Library

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



**Fiction Books for Adults:** *The American Agent* by Jacqueline Winspear, *The Chef* by James Patterson, *Redemption* by David Baldacci, *Unto Us a Son is Given* by Donna Leon

**Non-fiction Books for Adults:** *The Chronicles of Patriot Abel Sprague* by David F. Howland, *The Mueller Report* (when available), *Devotions: the Selected Poems of Mary Oliver* by Mary Oliver, *Women Rowing North* by Mary Pipher

**Audiobooks on CD:** *The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations* by Toni Morrison, *Unto Us a Son is Given* by Donna Leon

**Books for Young/Teen Readers:** *The Storm Keeper's Island* by Catherine Doyle, *Truly Devious: A Mystery* by Maureen Johnson

**Children's Picture Books/Boardbooks:** *The Good Egg* by Jory John, *Lady Pancake & Sir French Toast* by Josh Funk

**DVDs:** We have some of the new Oscar winners and nominees including: *Green Book*, *BlacKKKlansman*, *The Favourite*, *The Wife*, *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, and *Vice*







## Nature Note

—Susan Draxler

### Looking Forward to More Monarchs



After several discouraging years of seeing fewer and fewer monarch butterflies, the summer of 2018 was a good one. Monarchs floating over meadows and feeding in flower gardens were a more common sight. Their striped caterpillars (shown left) were easily found in milkweed patches.

The real evidence of the status of monarch populations is found by surveying their wintering grounds. All of the monarchs in the Eastern U.S. migrate to a relatively small area in Mexico's Sierra Madre mountains, where they clump together on the branches of oyamel fir trees. Scientists there are able to estimate the area of forest occupied by the butterflies. This winter (2018-2019), 14 colonies were found which added up to a total of 6.05 hectares (approximately 15 acres). This was a 144% increase from last year.

The size of the wintering population fluctuates greatly from year to year and, even with the past year's success, the last 20 years of data seem to indicate a downward trend. Year to year fluctuations are mostly due to weather which influences whether the butterflies survive the winter and are able to make the migration north, going through three or four generations along the way, and then make it back to Mexico. The downward trend is a result of changing long-term weather (climate), habitat destruction, and pesticide and herbicide use.

The count results for the western population of monarchs was not good news with only 30,000 individuals, which is an 86% decline from the previous year and an alarming drop from the estimated 4.5 million butterflies in the 1980s. This population winters in southern California and Baja, Mexico and, unlike the preserved wintering grounds in the Sierra Madre, this area has no protection. A massive campaign to preserve habitat and protect the wintering butterflies will be needed to save this population.

Here are some easy things that we can all do to help monarchs:

- Preserve or plant milkweed. Plant only species

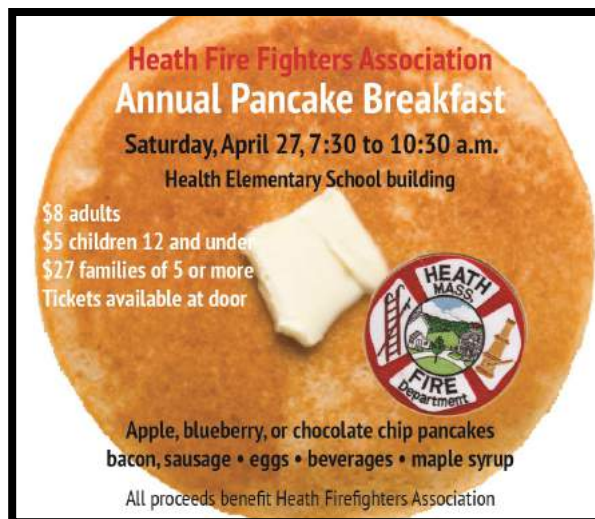
native to our area such as Common, Swamp, or Purple Milkweed, or Butterflyweed.

- Buy organic corn and soy products. Most of the conventional soybeans and corn grown in the U.S. are genetically modified to be resistant to the glyphosate herbicide known as Roundup. This means that farmers can spray their entire field with the herbicide, which will kill the weeds but not their corn or soybeans. The resulting widespread use of this herbicide is responsible for wiping out milkweed in large parts of the monarch's range. Support organic farmers who don't grow GMO crops.

- Write to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They are considering using the Endangered Species Act to protect the monarch butterfly. Let them know that you support that designation and any efforts to insure that we see monarchs soaring over meadows for years to come.



*Monarch on Milkweed*



## The Way We Love To Eat

### Wild Greens

Back in the early 1960s, school lunch preparation at Branch School was an all-school affair. Steve Thane tells about picking milkweed leaves during morning recess for the school cook, Mrs. Howe, to prepare for the kids' lunch. They were sent to the bank behind the school, where they were supposed to pick the milkweed leaves. When asked if they picked tender new leaves or more mature ones, Steve said, "I don't know. We were third graders. We just picked everything and left it to Mrs. Howe to sort them out."

Although now it is best to save the milkweed for the monarchs, foraging for wild greens has a long history in Heath. However, it has become somewhat of a lost art. For those who would like to learn more about these edibles beneath our feet, I asked Kathy O'Rourke, author and naturalist, who knows about such things, to share some of her knowledge.

—Deb Porter

**Fiddleheads** are ferns that have not yet unfurled their leaves (aka fronds). You can't eat just any fiddlehead; none are poisonous, but some will make you sick, and others require several changes of cooking water to be palatable. Ostrich ferns, known for their delicate flavor, are the ones we eat most often (bracken are also good, but harder to identify). Finding ostrich fiddleheads when they are in the edible stage, tightly coiled like a violin head, covered with brown papery scales, and barely visible on the ground, can be difficult unless you know what the dark, stiff, one to two inches, feather-shaped fertile-frond looks like. Unfortunately, to the untrained eye, the sensitive fern has a similar looking fertile-frond, but their fiddleheads are the kind that make you sick, so use a good field guide or go with someone who is experienced. I like to simmer the ostrich fiddleheads in a little water and tamari, along with wild leeks, for about 10 minutes. They're both great in a quiche, too.



Ostrich  
Fiddleheads

The invasive plant, **Japanese knotweed**, is good eating when the bare shoots are only eight to ten inches high. A bit like rhubarb when cooked, this vegetable is well known in Japan for helping the heart, cholesterol, and blood pressure.

Allergy season is beginning and **nettles** are a safe, effective remedy to help with the symptoms. Harvest,



Nettles

using gloves, before the end of June or when any flower buds appear; later nettles may irritate the kidneys. Briefly steam and eat the tops and leaves of the plant and dry some for making winter teas and soups.

Let **chickweed** grow wherever it pops up in the garden. Packed with nutrition, this common weed is known to be "good for whatever ails you." Harvest the tender stems and it will continue to grow, spread, and provide good eating spring-through-fall, either raw in salads, or lightly cooked. *Stellaria*, the smaller and smoother type is best; it has fine hairs on one side of the stem, switching sides at each pair of leaves. Chickweed helps organs become healthier, cleanses the gall bladder and kidneys, as well as congestion from irritated lungs. It's been known to help with weight loss, probably because it speeds fat metabolism, helps digestion, and it has an alkaline affect on the blood.

**Lamb's quarters** and **pigweed** (amaranth) will spring up in gardens and around compost piles. Break off the tops and add to salads. **Purslane** will later start to spread along the ground between veggie plants creating a natural mulch. Cook the stems, put in soups, or eat it raw. These weeds contain more nutrition than most of the greens we plant; you cannot grow or buy greens that have more vitamin and minerals. Use them in infusions, pesto, and freeze some green soups for winter!



Garlic  
Mustard

Have a wild green salad nightly. **Goutweed** (an invasive) grows abundantly just as the last of the snow melts. **Dandelion greens**, **garlic mustard** (invasive) and **violet leaves** are all good picking and eating in early tender stages, usually before your lettuce is ready to harvest.



Violet

Detox and nourish your spring body the way our ancestors did. Learn about wild greens, then search fields, lawns, gardens and woods. Just be sure to harvest from clean places and know what you are gathering.

My favorite books are *Edible and Medicinal Plants* by Steve Brill, which has beautiful accurate illustrations, as well as look-alikes, cautions, and recipes, and *Wild Plants I Have Known and Eaten* by Russ Cohen.

—Kathy O'Rourke

Local author and naturalist  
Illustrations by Susan Draxler

## Hawlemont-Heath Regionalization Study Group

Bob Gruen and Budge Litchfield were appointed by the Selectboard to join with a subcommittee of the Hawlemont Regional School Committee to explore realities associated with Heath joining the Hawlemont Regional School District. We began our work by asking senior administrative staff from the Hawlemont District to conduct both an educational and a financial feasibility study. The data gathered showed that it would be very much in the interests of all three towns to join together as a three-town elementary school regional school district. The Study Group decided that amending the current Hawlemont Regional Agreement in a way that would honor the fundamental elements of the 1952 document, while updating and modernizing it, would be the best path forward. We have developed a series of drafts which we feel will accomplish this. There are, however, certain elements that may require special legislation to become realities. We are actively exploring this. In general, the group feels positive about our work together and the potential benefits for all three communities.

In order for Heath to join the Hawlemont Regional School District, our town would need to withdraw from the Mohawk Trail Regional School District on a pre-kindergarten through sixth grade level. The Mohawk Regional Agreement allows a town to vote to withdraw if their outstanding capital debt (elementary school related only in this case) has been retired and some arrangement for Other Post Retirement Benefits (OPEB) liabilities has been agreed upon. The town will vote in early 2019 on retiring the debt in question. Bob and Budge have had a number of meetings with senior Mohawk District administrators to work on the OPEB matter and we find ourselves in strong conceptual agreement on the desired outcomes, but recognize the need for financial and legal guidance in developing the actual mechanisms for addressing this complex matter. Given this fact, we feel that it is unlikely that we will be able to have the OPEB agreement in place in time for the 2019 Annual Town Meeting. This would push the full formal votes on joining the Hawlemont Regional School District and partially withdrawing from the Mohawk Regional School District to a later date, possibly a Special Town Meeting in the fall, but no later than the May 2020 Annual Town Meeting. This said, the Study Group is seriously considering bringing a set of resolutions relating to

certain regional agreement elements to the 2019 Annual Town Meetings in each of the three towns. The purpose of this would be to demonstrate broad town support (assuming they pass) for these elements which will help our legislators get the special legislation, mentioned above, passed.

In summary, there are aspects of this project that are quite complex but, to date, all parties are working well together and see positive outcomes in the near future.

—Budge Litchfield



### People in the News

#### Lisa Wexler Featured in *The Magazine of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst*



Lisa Wexler, of Heath, was recently featured in the *Magazine of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst's* Fall 2018 issue. Lisa, an Associate Professor of Community Health Education in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences is known for her ongoing work studying suicide prevention and Alaska native communities, where suicide rates are among the highest in the world. Lisa has been the recipient of multiple grants from different agencies for her research. Lisa says about her work, "My job is to make the research as relevant as possible, step back and let the native communities take over."

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## 2019 Heath Cultural Council Calendar

Heath Cultural Council invites you to enjoy and/or visit events and projects that we are sponsoring this year.

### April

#### Hilltown Draw Around

April 27, Cowell Gym, Shelburne Falls

### May

See ongoing list below



### June/July

**Heath Summer Reading and Crafts**, Heath Library

**Charlemont Forum**, Charlemont Federated Church

**Mohawk Trail Concerts**

June 29—July 27, Charlemont Federated Church

**Double Edge Theatre**, July—August, Ashfield

### August

**Heath Summer Reading and Crafts**, Heath Library

**Nolumbeka Project**, August 3, Unity Park, Turners Falls

**Heath Arts Exhibition**

August 31—September 7, Heath Community Hall

**Charlemont Forum**, Charlemont Federated Church

**Music at the Heath Fair**

August 16—18, Heath Fairgrounds



### September

**Heath Arts Exhibition**

August 31—September 7, Heath Community Hall

**Footlights at the Falls: "Ropes"**

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls

### Ongoing throughout the Year

**Hawlemont Elementary School Weaving Project**

**Heath Herald**

**Hilltown Families**, [www.hilltownfamilies.org](http://www.hilltownfamilies.org)

**Racial Justice Rising**

First Saturday each month, Greenfield

[email@racialjusticerising.org](mailto:email@racialjusticerising.org)

**Collected Poets**, Mocha Maya's Coffee House,

Shelburne Falls, First Thursday of the month

**Art Garden**, Shelburne Falls

**Pothole Pictures**, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls



## Burnt Hill Farm Is Back!



The Nartowicz family has moved on up! Up the hill that is. Last summer, Kris and Sonny Nartowicz purchased Burnt Hill Farm (a.k.a. Cable's Blueberries) and moved from their log cabin down in the valley to what feels like the top of Heath on Burnt Hill. Working with their daughter, Carly, and husband, Pete Bassett, their plan is to continue the long tradition of harvesting the delicious wild blueberries of Heath. Their website states, "Our family has been in Heath for over one hundred years and we are looking forward to bringing our native berries to a community that is important to us."



According to Kris, this summer they will be selling the berries out the door with plans to bring pick-your-own back at a later date. While the snow is on the ground, both Kris and Sonny are already

busy researching growing blueberries while Carly manages their website.

In the past, Kris, like so many Heath teenagers, spent summers picking berries for the Cables as did both of her children, Carly and Brad. She said she feels like she has come full circle to be back on the hill again. In practical terms, both Sonny and Kris, who love to be active and outdoors see farming blueberries as a perfect retirement plan.

The Nartowicz family is very interested in bringing this special Heath spot back to the people of Heath. Throughout the year, if you would like to simply enjoy the view, give Kris a call at 337-4454. You can also sign up to be on the Burnt Hill Farm mailing list by going to their new website, [www.burnthillfarm.com](http://www.burnthillfarm.com).

—Deb Porter

Photos by Lisa Nartowicz Jablonski



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## Selectboard Report

### Special Town Meeting

After two weather delays and a February 23 information meeting, a Special Town Meeting was finally held on March 5 in the Community Hall. One hundred seventy-two registered voters attended as well as other interested members of the public.

#### Voters approved:

- A \$39,999.00 transfer from free cash to pay off the Heath School capital debt to Mohawk. This will enable the town to hold a vote at Annual Town Meeting asking to withdraw pre-K-6th grade from the Mohawk School District. Once pre-K-6 is withdrawn from Mohawk District, Heath will ask residents to vote on becoming a member of the Hawlemont School District.
- A \$2,175.50 transfer from the Assessors' Deed Project Consultant account to the Assessors' Stabilization Account to close out an account not needed.
- Transfers of \$3.15 and \$1,077.15 from Highway Dept. accounts to Town Garage Maintenance and Utilities account to help fund compliance with the new OSHA requirements.
- A \$100,000 transfer from free cash for the purchase and equipping of a new backhoe.
- A \$25,000 transfer from free cash for the purchase and equipping of a new highway multi-purpose truck.

Free cash was used for the above purchases in order to not incur debt that would be reflected in the tax rate.

#### Voters did not approve:

Article to repurpose the use of the elementary school building and put it up as surplus property, which would have enabled the Selectboard to sell or lease the building. One response to the Request for Proposals issued by the Selectboard through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments was received on February 15. The proposal was from Carnegie Arch, LLC, for the purpose of cultivation, manufacturing, packaging, and transportation of cannabis and cannabis-related products with the possibility of opening an adult use retail operation. The Finance Committee presented figures which detailed how the sale of the building and the income generated from the business would positively affect the tax rate. People were passionate with their questions and responses to this article. Some people wanted to keep the building for use as municipal offices; some wanted to sell the building, but at a higher price; some questioned how the cultivation and growth of cannabis fit into the social fabric of Heath; some people wanted to pass the article and

sell to Carnegie Arch for the potential revenue and property tax relief. In the end, the vote was 95 yes and 77 no. The article needed a two-thirds yes-vote to pass.

Town Informational Meetings will be held on April 6 and 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Community Hall. The Selectboard, Planning Board, Finance Committee, and Carnegie Arch, LLC will present and answer questions.

***"In the end, the vote was 95 yes and 77 no. The article needed a two-thirds yes-vote to pass."***

**Animal Control:** The FRCOG has been in negotiations with the Franklin County Sheriff's office for a shared Animal Control Officer. These discussions have been ongoing, and are now resolved. Town Coordinator Kara Leistyna has been Heath's representative to these negotiations. This is a shared proposal with six other towns and assessments will be based on EQV and population. This is set to take place July 1. In the meantime, Chief John McDonough is acting dog officer.

**Broadband:** Current projections put Heath at completion for 3rd Quarter 2019. Heath has no control on the timeframe as it depends on the utility companies. The make-ready needs to be complete prior to running fiber. The results of the pole survey will be available soon—Westfield Gas & Electric and the utility companies are in a negotiation phase to determine whether or not each pole is 'billable' or not. The State has promised to provide funds for any overruns if Heath's make-ready costs come in over the initial estimate of \$1.45 million dollars.

**FY 20 Budget:** The Selectboard and the Finance Committee are meeting to review budget requests from town departments for the coming fiscal year. This is careful, detailed work in light of the town's needs and the upcoming borrowing of \$1.45 million for broadband. A new highway truck and a tractor will most likely be included on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

**New Board/Committee Member:** Ned Wolf has been appointed to the Conservation Committee. Thank you, Ned.

**School Committee Member:** After many years of "temporarily" volunteering as a school committee member, Bob Gruen will be giving up this position. Please, we need another school committee member to fully represent Heath in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District school committee.

**Fire Engine:** The old fire engine that has been out of commission for two years has finally found a buyer.



## Finance Committee Report

At the March 5 Special Town Meeting the town voted that approximately \$165,000 of its Free Cash be used to pay off the balance of the capital debt on the Heath School building, and to purchase a new highway backhoe and a new highway pickup truck. That leaves approximately \$146,000 in Free Cash. The Finance Committee (FinCom) will recommend that in the FY2020 Budget approximately \$23,000 of Free Cash be used to pay off the two remaining payments of the 3-town landfill loan. The unusually large amount of Free Cash this year was due to the town's having sold several houses last year. That will not happen this year. We were cautioned by the DOR in 2016 that as the town's tax rate approaches \$25 per thousand the amount of Free Cash will shrink. The Department of Revenue (DOR) will not certify a tax rate of \$25.

An approach of the FinCom to the issue of what to do with the school building has been to focus on school building maintenance and broadband. Here, we will also take that approach, but not before asking how the town's finances would be if there were neither a broadband project nor a school building. If there was no broadband project and no school building the total assessed valuation would continue to stagnate or decrease. Meanwhile, the costs of education would continue to rise. Budget items over which Heath has no control such as insurance, county retirement, and utilities would continue to rise. The amount of money to be raised each year through taxes would rise (the average increase each year for the last three years is \$38,000), and with so limited a commercial tax base the tax rate would also rise. Because the town's levy limit hit the levy ceiling late in 2015, the Town could not use an override. The DOR will not certify a tax rate of \$25. We would have to make unprecedented, painful cuts.

Increasingly, many towns in western Massachusetts that are committed, as Heath is, to a broadband project, have also obtained what is called a debt exclusion for increased flexibility in borrowing. The Finance Committee and Selectboard favor Heath seeking a debt exclusion, which requires a majority vote of the Town. The Finance Committee will go into more detail about this and other issues at the Town Informational Meetings on April 6 and 13. See Selectboard report for details. For more information, see [www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/oq/levylimits.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/oq/levylimits.pdf).

The FinCom is glad that the broadband project is progressing. But we need to be aware that sometime during

the make-ready work, which will soon involve tree trimming and shifting electric wires on their poles, Heath will have to start borrowing. Later this year the construction phase, which involves stringing the fiber optic cable, will begin, and that will require more borrowing. If the \$1.45 million of borrowing were done with a 15-year loan at 4.1%, there would be 13 years of loan payments of \$130,000 (\$1.44 per thousand on the tax rate or \$0.93 for a 30-year loan).

If the town keeps the school building there will be an estimated annual maintenance of \$57,000 (\$0.63 per thousand on the tax rate). That's for an unoccupied school building. Over the last five years that the school building was in use the average cost of maintenance, utilities, and insurance was \$111,108 (\$1.23 per thousand on the tax rate). In contrast, the most recent annual cost of maintenance, utilities, and insurance for Sawyer Hall and the Community Hall combined is \$40,886 (\$0.45 per thousand on the tax rate), which includes maintenance of the elevators. In square footage the school building is more than three times the combined square footage of Sawyer Hall and the Community Hall.

In addition to the estimated \$57,000 yearly maintenance cost for the vacant school building there will be other significant costs. A roof repair job is needed at the estimated cost of \$250,000. For a 10-year loan at 4.1% interest this would add \$0.34 per thousand to the tax rate. During the next ten years other repairs will be needed to the school building, Sawyer Hall, and Community Hall.

Although the voters have just supported \$125,000 in Free Cash for highway vehicles, the FinCom sees other highway vehicle needs. A year ago, we considered asking voters to fund a replacement for the 2003 highway truck but decided not to because of budget pressures. At this year's Annual Town Meeting the FinCom will be recommending a replacement for that truck. In 2016 a new body was purchased for the 2004 truck with the plan to purchase a new cab/chassis in two or three years.

Turning to the 34-year-old tractor, we know that replacing parts is not cost effective. And, just as the cost of utilities will rise, so will the costs of materials like salt, sand, and asphalt.



### If Town Sells the Former Heath School Building to Carnegie Arch, LLC:

There will be a revenue stream beginning the year after purchase. The town would keep payments from the

Mohawk District of \$100,000. These will stop in FY21. The town would receive the \$250,000 purchase price of the building. There would be property tax revenue from the building which will have to be appraised. Carnegie Arch plans to invest \$5 to \$7 million in the building as it prepares to grow cannabis indoors. We estimate \$20,000+ yearly in property tax revenue. There will be a Community Impact Fee of 3% on all income per year in addition to a locally dedicated 3% excise tax on retail sales. The estimated yearly revenue to the Town after the first year is \$75,000 to \$150,000+. Moreover, there will be approximately 20 jobs with preference given to people from Heath and nearby communities. A critical part of the process would be negotiations involving town officials and Carnegie Arch in forming the Community Host Agreement.



### Estimating Property Taxes if Town Keeps Building:

Here we assume we are looking at FY2022 when the largest loan payments for broadband start. We also assume that the school building is in use but do not assume any rental income, nor do we consider the possible costs of such proposals as moving town offices to the school building. We do not include the Highway Department needs mentioned above nor the increasing costs also mentioned above, all of which the town cannot control. We are not assuming that a solar array provides electricity for the school building. We will assume borrowing as described above. We estimate that added to the FY2019 rate of \$21.60 will be \$1.23 for maintenance, utilities, and insurance, \$0.34 for roof repair, and \$1.44 for broadband for a total of \$24.61 which is much too close to \$25. The taxes on a property appraised at \$200,000 would be \$4,922.



### Estimating Property Taxes if Town Sells Building:

1. Assume that the revenue to the town from Carnegie Arch's yearly income is the minimum \$75,000 (subtract \$0.83 from tax rate) and that the yearly tax revenue to the town is just \$20,000 (subtract \$0.22). When the \$1.44 for broadband is added, the estimated tax rate is \$21.99 per thousand. The taxes on property appraised at \$200,000 would be \$4,398.

2. Assume that the revenue to the town from Carnegie Arch's yearly income is the maximum \$150,000

(subtract \$1.67 from the tax rate) and that the yearly tax revenue to the town is just \$20,000 (subtract \$0.22). When \$1.44 for broadband is added, the estimated tax rate is \$21.15 per thousand. In this case, the taxes on a property appraised at \$200,000 would be \$4,230. If the revenue from Carnegie Arch were \$250,000, as is possible, \$3.00 would be subtracted from the tax rate resulting in taxes on a \$200,000 property of \$4,008.

Based on all of this information, and through careful thought, the FinCom recommends the sale of the school building to Carnegie Arch, LLC.



### Assessing of Electric Company Properties in Heath:

Among the pressures on last year's budget mentioned above was the \$3 million drop in the electric companies' assessed value of their properties. The Board of Assessors used chapter 38F of Massachusetts' General Laws to request more information from the companies on how they did their assessing. With the support of a two-thirds vote at the September 18 Special Town Meeting the town approved the transfer of \$7,500 from the Assessors Stabilization Account to the Assessors Consultant Expense account. The town hired Muddy River Advisors, LLC. Muddy River used the information obtained by the Assessors to obtain an independent assessed value for electric company properties that was about \$2 million higher than the electric companies' figure which was then used by the DOR in certifying Heath's FY2019 tax rate at \$21.60. The FinCom will support a request at the May 11 Annual Town Meeting to rehire Muddy River for FY2020.

—Finance Committee

## What is it?



*Answer from page 6*

This is a group of mushrooms called Amanitas, and this one is probably a Fly Agaric, which is very common here in the northeast. Fly agarics are poisonous and are one of the group of Amanitas known as Deathcaps.

Photo by Susan Draxler

## Obituaries

### Nancy Clark



Nancy P. Clark, 75, of Heath and New York City, moved on peacefully at home in Heath on January 29, 2019 surrounded with love.

Born on October 11, 1943 in Buffalo, NY, the first child of Irving and Ellen Madeleine Caflisch Puls, Nancy spent her childhood in the

countryside of southwestern New York State. When she was a teenager, her family moved to Oakfield, NY, a small town near Rochester, where she later met John Clark, her husband of 51 years.

A bright and curious student of life, Nancy earned a B.A. in Anthropology from The City College of New York and did her graduate work in Women's Studies at NYU. Nancy went on to work at the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in Manhattan, where she served as the Program Manager for the Academy's annual awards gala and its foundation.

Nancy and John moved to Heath in 1986 where, far from the madding crowd of Manhattan, she enjoyed gardening, caring for their horses, and operating a bed and breakfast for several years. Like so many, Nancy looked forward to the Heath Fair and volunteered every year in the food booth. Known for her delicious cooking and baking, she was particularly proud of the blue ribbon she received for her carrot cake.

Nancy was fascinated with genealogy and made great progress charting her family's history. She even found a couple of long-lost relatives with roots in Heath. Nancy also enjoyed watching foreign films (especially Indian movies) and international TV shows, cooking programs, and NBA basketball.

She always put others before herself. She was an excellent listener, had a terrific sense of humor, and possessed a quick wit with an endearing touch of irreverence.

In addition to John, Nancy is survived by her son, Trevor Clark and daughter, Sandy Clark of New York City, her brother, Irving Puls of New York City, her sister, Cindy Puls of Boston, and many cousins and their children.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 8 at the Heath Union Church. Donations in Nancy's memory can be made to the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library.

### Bruce Cromack

Bruce Alton Cromack, 90, of Northfield and previously of Heath, died at home on Feb. 26, 2019. Bruce attended the Brick School in East Colrain. While growing up he learned the carpentry trade from his father, and eventually left school at Arms Academy early, to work alongside his father building many homes, barns, and other buildings in the area.

In 1950 Bruce enlisted in the Navy and proudly served as a member of MCB-6 the Navy's Mobil Construction Battalion. As a Seabee Bruce continued to hone his skills as a builder and contractor setting up a lifelong love of building. During his career he had the pleasure of working with his father, brothers, brothers-in-law, son, sons-in-law, and many others whom he mentored. His children remember him researching building methods and design at Old Deerfield before beginning various restoration projects, work he was particularly passionate about. One of those passion projects and a monument to his skills is the Solomon Temple Barn that, under his supervision, was disassembled, moved, and carefully reconstructed at the Heath Fairgrounds where it stands today.

Bruce was married to Catherine Ann Burrington at the Heath Union Church on January 31, 1953 and then built a house in Colrain where they lived until moving their family to Heath in 1962. While raising five children, Bruce served the Heath Union Church as a Deacon and member of the Property and Search Committees as well as serving the Town of Heath as a member of the Planning Board, Town Lister, and as a tireless poll worker. Many will remember him as an active member of the Heath Grange and Heath Historical Society.

Bruce was predeceased by his wife, Catherine, his sister Mae (Ed) Moore, and brother Dana (Patricia) Cromack.

He is survived by his companion, Linda Leavis of Northfield, two brothers; Theodore (Mary) Cromack of Shelburne, and Duane (Janice) Cromack of Amherst, five children; Cynthia (Allan) Smith of Shelburne, Debra (Charles) Washer of Shelburne, Weston (Karen) Cromack of Bremerton, Washington, Lisa (Norman) Davenport of Shelburne, and Brenda (James) Gallagher of Okeechobee, Florida, 12 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.



## Memories of Bruce Cromack

When Deb Cromack Washer, daughter of Bruce Cromack, was asked if the family could give us a sense of how many houses Bruce worked on in Heath over the years, we were told that it would be quite a list. At 36 houses, the family stopped counting! Here is a sampling of houses that many of us would recognize: the former Cromack family home on Burrington Road; Windswept, Hazel Porter's house on Royer Road; the Parsonage on Bray Road; Peggy and Dave Howand's house on East Main Street; Pondside, Nancy and Steve Thane's house in the Dell; the Creamery on Ledges Road; Alastair Maitland's house on Route 8A; the Stone Cottage, formerly Reinhold Niebuhr's house on West Main Street.



*Maitland house*



*Howland house*



*Stone Cottage*

Photos by Bruce Phillips



## Heath Union Church

The Rev. James Koyama, Minister  
Dennis Ainsworth, Organist  
Sunday Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Thursday Bible Study 5:30 to 7 p.m.,  
at the church

### All Are Welcome!

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

### Board of Deacons:

Hilma Sumner, Chair, 337-4845  
Claudia Ainsworth 624-8952  
Dana Blackburn 413-221-0961  
Victoria Burrington 777-4425

Find us on Facebook: Heath Union Church. Church building facilities are available for private events. Call Victoria Burrington at 337-4425.

### Church News

In February, the church held its annual business meeting and election of officers. We welcome to the Board of Deacons two new members, Victoria Burrington and Claudia Ainsworth. Ruth Johnson has decided to step down from her long-held position as Deacon. We would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude for the many years of service that Ruth has provided to the church in this office. Her thoughts and wisdom will be missed in this capacity.

April brings true signs of spring here in Heath: early flowers, sprigs of green grass, swelling tree buds, and heightened bird song. This year, April also brings the celebration of Easter. In anticipation of that occasion, we would like to invite everyone to join us in our Holy Week services. We will hold our annual Maundy Thursday service on April 18 at 7 p.m. This is a time for quiet reflection of the final days in Christ's life on earth. We will celebrate Good Friday with a joint service with the Charlemont Federated Church at the Federated Church at 7 p.m. Two services will be held on Easter Sunday, April 21. Sunrise Service will be held in the field at the crest of Schoolhouse Road at 6:30 a.m. This will be followed by a breakfast at the church. Worship service in the church will be held at the usual hour of 10 a.m. with several choral selections included. We welcome one and all to join us during our services.

—Hilma Sumner

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

- Apr  
May **CAT LIBRARY PROGRAMS:**  
Cat Yoga, Crafting with Cat Hair, Cat Therapy  
**APRIL FOOL'S!**
- Apr  
5 **DRAMA PROGRAM: Lemony Snicket's, A**  
6 **Series of Unfortunate Events**  
6:30 p.m. at Heath School. Matinee Apr 5 TBD
- Apr  
5 **PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR**  
19 11 a.m. to noon at Heath Library  
Egg hunt on April 19
- Apr  
6 **HEATH INFORMATIONAL TOWN**  
13 **MEETINGS**  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Heath Community Hall
- Apr  
27 **HEATH FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**  
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
7:30 to 10:30 a.m., Heath School building  
*See more information on page 12*
- Apr  
27 **H.A.Y. CONFERENCE**  
9:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at Hawlemont School  
See classes and events on school website or  
call 413-339-8316, ext. 214
- May  
10 **ANNUAL HEATH TOWN ELECTIONS**  
Noon to 7 p.m. at Heath Senior Center/  
Community Hall
- May  
10 **HAWLEMONT ELEMENTARY**  
**SCHOOL'S ANNUAL SCHOOL**  
**CELEBRATION**  
4:30 to 7 p.m. at Hawlemont School  
Exhibits, plant and craft sale, guided tours,  
games and a simple dinner
- May  
11 **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
9 a.m. at Heath Community Hall
- May  
18 **HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**  
**DINING WITH HISTORY**  
5:30 to 7:15 p.m., Heath Community Hall.  
*See more information on page 3*
- May  
25 **BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT FRIENDS OF**  
**THE HEATH LIBRARY**  
10 a.m. to noon outside Sawyer Hall
- May  
25 **PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**  
Heath Community Hall, time TBA
- June  
2 **GRADUATION DAY MOHAWK TRAIL**  
**REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
1 p.m. at the school

**ONGOING CALENDAR****FOOT CLINIC FOR SENIORS**

Third Tuesday of each month at the Senior Center,  
downstairs in Heath Community Hall.

Contact Margo Newton at 339-8580 to set up an  
appointment and/or arrange transportation.

**HAY PROGRAM FARMERS MARKET**

Thursdays, 2:30 to 3:15 p.m., Hawlemont School

**HEALTHY BONES AND BALANCE**

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to noon; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon  
at the Senior Center, downstairs in Community Hall.

This exercise program helps prevent osteoporosis and  
falls. For ages 55 and over.

**SENIOR BROWN BAG LUNCH**

First Thursday of each month, 11:45 a.m. at the  
Senior Center, downstairs in Heath Community Hall.  
Bring your own lunch, dessert provided.

**SENIOR LUNCHEON**

Third Thursday of each month, 11:45 a.m. at the  
Senior Center, downstairs in Heath Community Hall.  
A count is required by Monday before the  
scheduled meal. Sign up at the Senior Center, or call  
Margo Newton at 413-339-8580.

**TAI CHI**

Mondays, 10 to 10:45 a.m. upstairs in Heath  
Community Hall. Newcomers welcome! Suggested  
donation (\$5). Contact Lois Bascom,  
[lola621@comcast.net](mailto:lola621@comcast.net) for more information.

**YOGA**

Fridays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., downstairs in Heath Union  
Church. Led by Kate Peppard. Beginners welcome!  
Mats available. Suggested donations (\$5-10) accepted.  
Contact Kate at 617-669-4891 with questions.

**Scheduled activities will not take place on  
holidays or days with school weather  
closures/delays.**



## HEATH TOWN OFFICES

1 East Main St, Heath MA 01346  
Phone: 413-337-4934 Fax: 413-337-8542  
[www.townofheath.org](http://www.townofheath.org)

### **Town Coordinator, Kara Leistyna**

[bos@townofheath.org](mailto:bos@townofheath.org)  
Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with  
exceptions posted in Sawyer Hall

### **Selectboard, [bos@townofheath.org](mailto:bos@townofheath.org)**

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

### **Town Clerk, Hilma Sumner**

[townclerk@townofheath.org](mailto:townclerk@townofheath.org)  
Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to noon  
Or call for appointment 413-337-4845

### **Accountant, Tracey Baronas**

[accountant@townofheath.org](mailto:accountant@townofheath.org)  
Monday 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (varies)  
413-337-4934, ext. 5

### **Tax Collector, Elizabeth Nichols**

[taxcollector@townofheath.org](mailto:taxcollector@townofheath.org)  
Monday 4 to 6 p.m.  
or call for appointment 413-337-6665  
413-337-4934, ext. 2 / Fax: 413-337-8542

### **Treasurer, Kristi Nartowicz**

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

## BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

### **Board of Assessors**

Wednesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 413-337-4934 x 3  
[assessors@townofheath.org](mailto:assessors@townofheath.org)  
Alice Wozniak, Assistant Assessor  
Robyn Provost-Carlson  
Heather Hathwell  
Margo Newton

### **Board of Health, 413-337-4934**

Betsy Kovacs, Chair, 413-337-5346  
Mary Sumner, Clerk  
Armand Clavette  
Henry Godek  
Susan Gruen  
John Palmer

### **Finance Committee,**

Ned Wolf, Secretary, 413-337-4476  
Ken Gilbert, 413-337-4461  
Jan Carr  
Kathy Inman  
Paul Dabrody

### **Library Board of Trustees**

Deborah Porter, Chair, 413-337-4715  
Emily Cross, 413-337-4816  
Jan Carr

### **Planning Board**

Calvin Carr, Chair, [calvinccarr@verizon.net](mailto:calvinccarr@verizon.net)  
Douglas Mason, Sec., [dougmason@hughes.net](mailto:dougmason@hughes.net)  
Robert Viarengo, [viarengo932@crocker.com](mailto:viarengo932@crocker.com)  
Jo Travis, [jtravis156@verizon.net](mailto:jtravis156@verizon.net)  
Bill Gran, [whgran@gmail.com](mailto:whgran@gmail.com)

## Agricultural Commission

Jessica O'Neill  
Doug Mason, 413-339-4756  
Nina Marshall, 413-339-4756  
Sean O'Neill, 413-339-4820  
Haynes Turkle

## Cemetery Commission

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

## Conservation Commission

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

## Historical Commission, Heather Hathwell

## COMMUNITY

### **Public Library, Don Purington, Director**

Lyra Johnson-Fuller, Library Assistant  
[www.heathlibrary.org](http://www.heathlibrary.org), [heath.library@gmail.com](mailto:heath.library@gmail.com)  
Monday 3 to 7 p.m., Wednesday noon to 7 p.m.,  
Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; 413-337-4934, ext. 7

### **Post Office Manager, Charlene Reynolds**

Monday to Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
413-337-4934, ext. 4

## School

### **MTRSD School Committee Representative**

Budge Litchfield, 413-337-4957

### **Franklin County Technical School Representative**

Art Schwenger, 413-337-4077

### **Hawlemont Elementary School**

Lindsay Rodriguez, Principal, 413-339-8316

### **Town Nurse, Claire Rabbitt, RN**

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

### **Senior Center/Community Hall, 413-337-4847**

Eileen Lively, Senior Coordinator, 413-337-4742

## PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY

**Animal Control Officer, Town Office, 413-337-4934,**  
ext. 108, or Shelburne Control at 413-625-8200 to  
have paged. All emergencies, dial 911.

**Highway Department, Mike Shattuck, Road**  
Supervisor; Jeff Johnston, Shop Supervisor;  
413-337-4462; cell, 413-406-4516

**Police Department, John McDonough, Police Chief**  
Office hours: Tuesday 6 to 8 p.m. 413-337-4934,  
ext. 108, or call Shelburne Control at 413-625-8200  
to have paged. All emergencies, dial 911

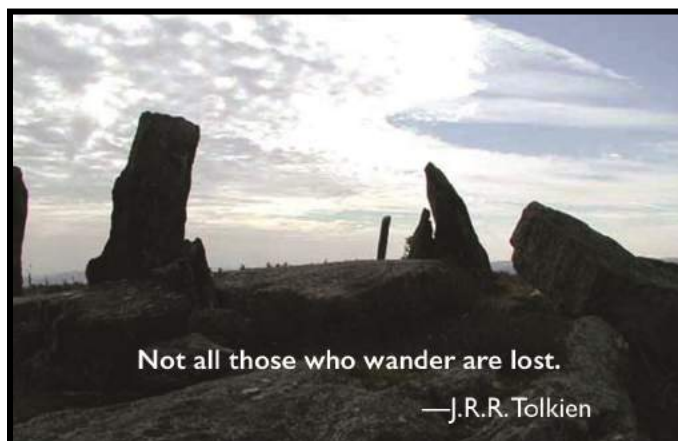
### **Transfer Station, Ken Erho, Attendant**

Wednesday, noon to 4 p.m. **all year**  
Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **all year**  
Monday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Memorial Day through  
October 31

### **Volunteer Fire Department**

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





**Special thanks to our color sponsors for this edition!**

**Carolyn Booth**  
**Donald and Margaret Freeman**  
**Bob and Susan Gruen**  
**In Memory of Twister Josephson Root**

Consider a gift of color for the *Heath Herald*.  
 Please send a check for \$25 made payable to the *Heath Herald*, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346.  
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Stay connected with what's happening in Heath.  
**Visit [www.townofheath.org](http://www.townofheath.org)**  
 Town Directory • Meeting Minutes • Community News  
 Upcoming Events • Emergency Announcements • and more

To contact the Selectboard, email [bos@townofheath.org](mailto:bos@townofheath.org)

**Saturday, May 25**  
**10 a.m.—noon**  
**Sawyer Hall Porch**

cookies • cakes • pies  
 breads • muffins • and  
 more!

Lots of delicious treats for sale, baked locally, to help support the Friends of the Heath Library.

**Heath Herald Reserved Pick-up Program**

You can help keep *Heath Herald* distribution costs down by enrolling in our Reserved Pick-up Program. We will notify you as soon as a new issue is available. Then, all you need to do is stop by Sawyer Hall and pick up your personally labeled copy in the box across from the library.

**Enroll today!** Simply send an email to: [theheathherald@gmail.com](mailto:theheathherald@gmail.com) or drop us a note at P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346.

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