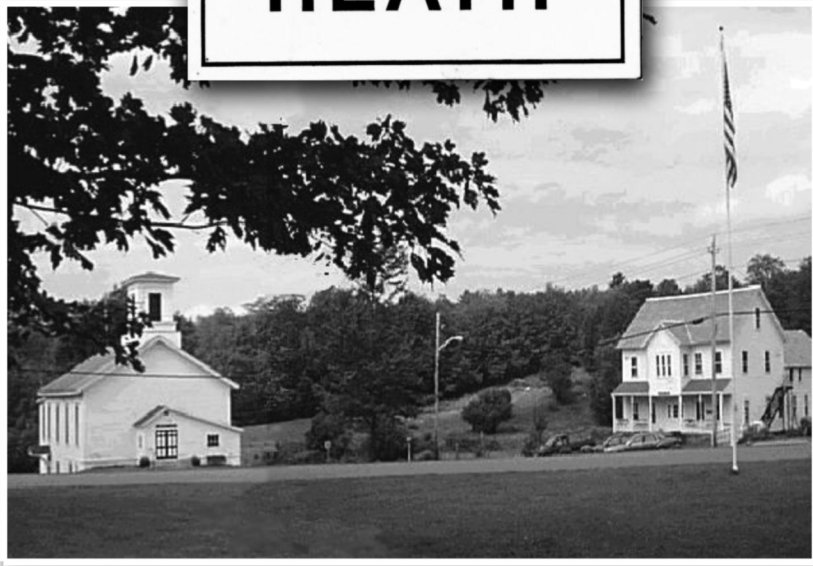


**2025
TOWN OF HEATH, MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL REPORT**



To download
THE TOWN OF HEATH ANNUAL REPORT 2025
visit our website at www.townofheath.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Town Office Hours & Board Meeting Dates	76
Massachusetts Legislators Representing Heath	77

Dedication - Tim Lively	4
Town Officers	5
Town Boards Appointed by Select Board	6
Select Board Appointments	7
Committees / Commissions	8
Appointed by Moderator	9
Appointed by Library Trustees	9
Appointed by Municipal Light Board	9

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Town Clerk's Report - Vital Records/Dog Licenses	11
Combined Balance Sheet	12
Schedule A - Revenue and Expenditures, All Parts	14
Tax Collector's Report	27
Treasurer's Report — Trusts & Other Funds	28

TOWN REPORTS

Select Board	29
Board of Assessors	31
Board of Health	32
Broadband Municipal Light Plant (MLP)	34
Building Use Committee	35
Cemetery Commission	36
Conservation Commission	37
Council on Aging	38
Cultural Council	39
Emergency Management	40
Energy Advisory Committee	40
Finance Committee	41
Fire Department	42
Heath Free Public Library	44
Heath Historical Commission	45
Heath Veteran's Memorial Committee	46

Highway Department	46
Parks and Recreation Committee	47
Planning Board	48
Police Department	49
Town Nurse	50
Zoning Board of Appeals	50

SCHOOL REPORTS

Colrain Central School - Principal's Report	51
Mohawk Trail Regional School District Principal's Report	52
Mohawk Trail Regional School District Superintendent's Report	53
Franklin County Technical School	59
Special Education and Pupil Services	60
Mary Lyon Foundation, Inc.	64
Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Fund	65

REGIONAL REPORTS

Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment	66
Franklin County Regional Retirement System	66
Animal Control Officer	66
Colrain Ambulance Association	67
Coop Public Health	67
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District	69
Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG)	70
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services	73
Fred W. Wells Trust Fund	74
Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA	75

DEDICATION: TIM LIVELY "HEATH'S VERY OWN UNSUNG HERO"



If you have resided in Heath, or in the Towns surrounding Heath, for any amount of time, you have most likely heard about the man referred to by many as, "Heath's Very Own Unsung Hero". That man is Tim Lively.

Tim Lively is a "true" Heath native. He was born in Heath and grew up on a family farm. Tim was the third generation of his family to be raised on that farm, and he now resides with his wife, Eileen, in a house that he and his father built on a piece of the original family farmland many years ago. Tim has been able to call the hills of Heath his home for his entire life.

Tim has dedicated his life to the residents of Heath and, due to the nature of his work, the residents of the surrounding towns as well.

For at least 40 years, Tim has been one of Heath's primary Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) responders. From the moment Tim took his first CPR class, his interest in first aid and emergency response was evident. Since that time, he has provided the residents of the community with care, compassion, an ear to listen, a hand to hold, and lifesaving skills and techniques. To his fellow emergency responders, Tim, known as "Heath-MED 1" is invaluable. He shows all those who work beside him the same level of care and compassion that he does for his calls.

As Heath's Emergency Management Director, Tim provides structure, organization, and the willingness and ability to respond to any one of the many emergencies that the Town faces. He assists the fire department on non-medical calls, he is the face of Heath when dealing with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), he has worked successfully with the Regional Emergency Preparedness Committee (REPC), and he has been a member of the local Emergency Dispensing Site team since its inception.

In the late 1980's and up until the school was closed in 2017, you could find Tim at his custodial job at Heath Elementary School. He was referred to as the "unsung hero of the school". Tim cared for the staff and students with as much care and professionalism as he did the physical building. He was the building handy man, both inside and out, he was their own in-house EMT, he attended staff meetings, he took part in all the school events. Tim was loved by staff and students alike, and when there was a task that needed to be accomplished, the common response was, "Oh, Tim can do that!".

In 2013, Tim became the Town of Heath Building Maintenance Coordinator. Tim has served the Town steadily in this position since that time. Tim is responsible for the oversight of all of the daily and long-term care of the Town-owned facilities. The list of his



responsibilities, at times, seems never ending. Tim has continued meeting his custodial responsibility at the now titled Jacobs Road Municipal Center as well as both Sawyer and Community Halls. He is responsible for snow clearing from walks at all of the buildings, he inspects the buildings for repairs and helps plan for long term maintenance and upkeep, he interfaces with outside contractors during projects, he answers and responds to emergencies calls, he sets up for town meetings, and he is always there to lend a hand to someone in need.

The list of Tim's service to the Town could go on and on, and the number of folks who have had something to add about Tim Lively is incredibly long. As a Town, we all want to say "thank you" to Tim for his years of dedication, his gentle and kind approach to resident care, and to his most humble attitude that he shares with all of us.

Thank you, Tim!

TOWN OFFICERS 2025

	Term Expires
Select Board (3)	
Robyn Provost-Carlson, Chair	2028
Elissa Viarengo, Secretary	2026
Will Emmet	2027
Assessors (3)	
Anne Emmet, Chair	2026
Robyn Provost-Carlson	2027
Alice Wozniak	2028
Moderator (3)	
Eric Sumner	2026
Constables (2)	
William Emmet	2026
Steve Thane	2027
School Committee (2)	
Budge Litchfield	2027
Vacant	2025
Planning Board (5)	
Douglas Mason, Chair	2028
Bill Fontes	(resigned 11/2025)
Peter Charow	2026
Will Emmet	2027
Robert Dane	2030
Finance Committee (5)	
Dena Briggs, Chair	2027
Edwin Wolf	2027
Robert McGahan	2027
Alice Wozniak	2028
Wendy Whalen	2026

TOWN OFFICERS 2025 (CONTINUED)

	Term expires
Library Trustees (3)	
Emily Cross, Chair	2026
Rebecca Johnston	2027
Gail Hubley	2028
Municipal Light Board (5)	
Art Schwenger, Chair	2027
Edwin Wolf	2027
Anne Emmet	2026
David Gordon	2026
David Peterson	2028
Fence Viewer	
Karen Brooks	2026
Anne Emmet	2026
Robyn Provost-Carlson	2026
Tree Warden	
Steven Thane	2026
Measurers of Wood & Bark	
Nathan Clark	2026
Daniel Clark	2026
Field Drivers	
Karen Brooks	2026
Nina Marshall	2025
Michael Freeman	2025
Jeff Peck	2025
Sexton	
Matthew Lively	2026
Burial Agent	
Mary Sumner, Town Clerk	2026

TOWN BOARDS APPOINTED BY SELECT BOARD

	Term Expires
Board of Health (5)	
Gene Garland, Chair	2027
Susan Gruen	2028
Sheila Litchfield	2026
Tucker Jenkins	2027
Jason Erali	2026
Zoning Board of Appeals (5)	
Alice Wozniak	2027
Alanson Nichols	2030
Steven Thane	2026
Dena Briggs	2028
Ken Gilbert	2029

SELECT BOARD APPOINTMENTS

**Hired + Stipend

MLP Manager**	Bailey Cole
Police Chief**	John McDonough
Police Officers**	Clay Herbert, Francis Noyes
Post Office Manager**	Charlene Reynolds
Post Office Substitutes**	Julie Smead, Lorena Loubsky
Election Workers+	Nancy Thane, Hilma Sumner,
	Cindie Garland, Sue Draxler,
	Dena Briggs, Cathy Wilkins
	Cathy Tallen, Jenna Day,
	Douglas Wilkins
Alternate Election Workers+	Lyra Johnson Fuller
Senior Program Coordinator+	Elissa Viarengo
Selectboard Correspondent to Heath Herald	Berenson & Bloom, Esq. Chairman,
Tax Title Attorney	Select Board/Robyn Provost-Carlson
	Elissa Viarengo
Secretary, Select Board	Hilma Sumner
Town Coordinator**	Nancy Thane
Office Assistant**	Cindie Garland
Boards Clerk	Kristi Nartowicz
Treasurer**	Hill-Town Municipal Accounting
Accountant**	Elizabeth Nichols
Tax Collector**	Maya Jalbert
Americans w/Disabilities Rep.	Aimee Jarvis
Animal Inspector+	Kyle Dragon (FC Sheriff's Office)
Animal Control Officer+	Elissa Viarengo
Board of Health Liaison	Timothy Lively
Building Maintenance Coordinator**	Robert Gruen
Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Rep.	Timothy Lively
Emergency Management Director+	Sheila Litchfield
Emergency Management Alternate+	Ken Gilbert
E 911 Coordinator	Robyn Provost-Carlson
FRCOG Councilor	Will Emmet
FRCOG Planning Board Rep.	Elissa Viarengo
FRCOG Alternate Planning Board Rep.	Will Emmet
FC Regional Dog Kennel Rep.	Elissa Viarengo
FC Regional Dog Kennel Rep. Alternate	Select Board/Will Emmet
Three-Town Landfill Committee Rep.	Robyn Provost-Carlson
FCCIP Representative	Nick Anzuoni
Fire Chief+	Nick Anzuoni
Forest Fire Warden	Will Emmet
Franklin Regional Transit Authority Rep.	Elissa Viarengo
Franklin County Solid Waste Mgmt Dist. Rep.	Dianne Grinnell
Fred G. Wells Trustee	Tyson Howard
Highway Road Supervisor**	Jason Lively, Jason Boutwell
Highway Personnel **	Kyle Jarvis(resigned 4/2025)
	Will Emmet
Highway Department Liaison	James Hawkins
Building Commissioner	Jeff Gougeon
Inspector, Local Building	Dana Spring
Inspector, Electrical	Andrew K. French
Inspector, Plumbing & Gas	Select Board/Robyn Provost-Carlson
Licensing Board	

SELECT BOARD APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

**Hired + Stipend

Local Emergency Planning Committee Rep.	Robyn Provost-Carlson
LEPC consists of:	Fire Chief, Police Chief Highway Supervisors, Selectboard Members, and Emergency Mgmt. Director
Town Counsel	KP Law, P. C.
Town Nurse**	Claire Rabbitt
Town Nurse Substitute**	Vacant
Transfer Station Attendant **	Lee Lively (resigned 7/25) Dan Richter
Veterans' Agent	Brian Brooks
Veterans' Graves Officer	Gene Garland
Veterans' Representative	Gene Garland

COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS

Agricultural Commission	Molly Lane Lorena Loubsky Sam Lane Austin Sumner Vacant
Cemetery Commission	Claire Rabbitt Jerry Gilbert Eric Sumner
Conservation Commission	Brian DeVriese, chair Pam Porter Sue Draxler Heather Row Lyra Johnson Fuller Bill Lattrell, Consultant
Council on Aging	Susan Lively, chair Donna Hyytinen Margaret Freeman Cathy Tallen Anne Emmet
Cultural Council (3 year)	Barbara Gordon, co-chair 2026 Heather Wynne, co-chair 2027 Heather Row 2026 Sarah Coe 2027 Cindy Davidson 2027 Doug Wilkins 2027
Energy Advisory Committee	Brian DeVriese Bill Lattrell Hilma Sumner Two vacancies

Heath Veteran's Memorial Committee (Inactive committee)	Jerry Gilbert (resigned 6/2025) Peter Smith (resigned 6/2025) Hormidas Lively (resigned 6/2025)
---	---

Historical Commission	Nina Marshall Susan Gruen Dana Davidson Kathy Stosz Vacancy
Parks and Recreation Committee	Mike Cucchiara, chair Shahid Jalil Don Lebreux Robert Dane Pat McGahan

— Ad-Hoc Committees —

Building Use Committee	Rebecca Dorr Sampson Alice Lee Thompson Lyra Johnson-Fuller Maris Findlay Amy Webb
-------------------------------	--

Woodlands Partnership Board of Directors (FRCOG)	Art Schwenger
--	---------------

Community Economic Development Strategy Representative (FRCOG) (3 year)	Art Schwenger 2026
---	--------------------

— Appointed by Moderator —

F. C. Technical School Rep	Art Schwenger
-----------------------------------	---------------

— Appointed by Library Trustees —

Library Director	Kate Barrows
Assistant Library Director	Lyra Johnson Fuller

— Appointed by Municipal Light Board —

WiredWest Delegate	Bailey Cole
WiredWest Alternate	David Gordon



FINANCIAL REPORTS

Note: The financial pages have been edited to fit this format. Visit our website at www.townofheath.org for the unedited version.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT 2025 VITAL RECORDS

The following is the number of vital records that have been recorded within the town during 2025.

Births - 2 Marriages - 1 Deaths - 6

2025 DOG LICENSES SOLD

Male Dogs	15 @\$10	\$150
Female Dog	11 @\$10	\$110
Neutered Male Dogs	49 @\$5	\$245
Spayed Female Dogs	76 @\$5	\$380
Replacement tags	0 @\$5	\$ 0
Kennel License	1 @\$25	\$ 25
Total: 151 Single Licenses		\$885.00
1 Kennel License		\$ 25.00
Less License & Tag Expense		-\$115.92
Paid to Revolving Dog Fund		\$794.08

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET

ALL FUND TYPES + ACCOUNT GROUPS, AS OF JUNE 30, 2025 (UNAUDITED)

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types		Account Groups	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise		
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	440,680.65	622,610.47	613.61			1,397,391.47
Investments					333,486.74	0.00
Receivables:						
Personal property taxes	206.32					206.32
Real estate taxes	60,974.51					60,974.51
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(22,347.93)					(22,347.93)
Tax liens	65,421.51					65,421.51
Deferred taxes						0.00
Motor vehicle excise	15,112.60					15,112.60
User fees						0.00
Utility liens added to taxes						0.00
Departmental	15,914.90					15,914.90
Special assessments						0.00
Due from other governments						0.00
Other receivables		18,126.58				18,126.58
Foreclosures/Possessions	32,080.46					32,080.46
Prepays						0.00
Due to/from other funds						0.00
Working deposit						0.00
Inventory						0.00
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation						0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds						0.00
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave						0.00
Total Assets	608,043.02	640,737.05	613.61	0.00	333,486.74	1,582,880.42
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY						
Liabilities:						
Warrants payable						0.00
Accounts payable	3,570.41					3,570.41
Accrued payroll	33,259.42					33,259.42
Withholdings						0.00
Accrued claims payable						0.00
Due to/from other funds						0.00
Due to other governments						0.00
Other liabilities	500.00					500.00

Deferred revenue:						
Real and personal property taxes	38,832.90					38,832.90
Tax liens	65,421.51					65,421.51
Deferred taxes	2,431.77					2,431.77
Foreclosures/Possessions	32,080.46					32,080.46
Motor vehicle excise	15,112.60					15,112.60
Other excises						0.00
User fees						0.00
Utility liens added to taxes						0.00
Departmental						0.00
Special assessments						0.00
Due from other governments						0.00
Other receivables		18,126.58				18,126.58
Deposits receivable						0.00
Prepaid taxes/fees						0.00
Tillings						0.00
IBNR						0.00
Agency Funds			975,403.00		4,765.39	4,765.39
Notes payable						0.00
Bonds payable						0.00
Vacation and sick leave liability						0.00
Total Liabilities	191,209.07	18,126.58	975,403.00	0.00	4,765.39	1,189,504.04
Fund Equity:						
Reserved for encumbrances	112,925.23					112,925.23
Reserved for expenditures						0.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations						0.00
Reserved for petty cash						0.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit						0.00
Reserved for snow and ice deficit						0.00
Reserved for COVID-19 deficit						0.00
Reserved for debt service						0.00
Reserved for premiums						0.00
Reserved for working deposit						0.00
Undesignated fund balance		622,610.47	(974,789.39)		328,721.35	280,451.15
Unreserved retained earnings	303,908.72					303,908.72
Investment in capital assets		622,610.47	(974,789.39)		328,721.35	393,376.38
Total Fund Equity	416,833.95	640,737.05	613.61	0.00	333,486.74	1,582,880.42
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	608,043.02	640,737.05	613.61	0.00	333,486.74	1,582,880.42
PROOF BALANCE SHEET IS IN BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

PROOF FUND BALANCE DETAIL	
AGREE TO THE BALANCE SHEET	0.00
PROOF RECEIVABLES DETAIL	
AGREE TO THE BALANCE SHEET	0.00

SCHEDULE A PART 1 - GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (FUND 01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	Amount
A. TAXES		
4110	Personal Property Taxes	231,527
4120	Real Estate Taxes	2,196,941
4150	Motor Vehicle Excise	101,897
4179	Penalties and Interest	38,238
4180	In Lieu of Taxes	
4191	Hotel/Motel Excise	
4192	Meals Excise	
4193	Cannabis Excise	
4194	Boat Excise	
4198	Urban Redevelopment Excises	
4199	Other Taxes	
	A. TOTAL TAXES (NET OF REFUNDS)	2,568,603
B. CHARGES FOR SERVICES/OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES		
4211	Water Charges	
4212	Other Utility Charges	
4229	Other Charges	
4243	Parking Charges	
4244	Park and Recreation Charges	
4246	Sewerage Charges	
4247	Trash Collection Charges	29,057
4248	Transit Charges	
4370	Other Department Revenue	4,559
	B. TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES/OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES	33,616
C. LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES		
4322	Fees Retained from Tax Collection	
4323	Cannabis Impact Fee	
4324	Short-term Rental Community Impact Fee	
4400	Licenses and Permits	900
	C. TOTAL LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES	900
D. FEDERAL REVENUE		
4540	Unrestricted - Direct	22,362
4580	Unrestricted - Through the State	
	D. TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUE	22,362
E. REVENUES FROM STATE		
4600	State Revenue	114,461
	E. TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE	114,461
F. REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS		
4695	Court Fines	

Acct. No.	Item Description	Amount
4720	Received From the County for Services Performed	
4730	Received From Other Municipalities for Services Performed	
	F. TOTAL REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS	
G. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS		
4750	Special Assessments	
	G. TOTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS	
H. FINES, AND FOREFITURES		
4770	Fines and Forfeitures	
	H. TOTAL FINES AND FORFEITURES	
I. MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES		
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	29,067
4820	Earnings on Investments	691
	I. TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	29,758
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	2,769,700
J. OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		
4990	Other Financing Sources	
	J. TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCIAL SOURCES	2,769,700
K. INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS		
4972	Transfers from Special Revenue Funds	100,000
4973	Transfers from Capital Projects Funds	
4975	Transfers from Enterprise Funds	
4976	Transfers from Trust Funds	100,000
4977	Transfers from Agency Funds	
	K. TOTAL INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS	200,000
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES, OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, AND INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS	2,969,700



SCHEDULE A PART 2 - GENERAL GOVERNMENT (100)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Legislative	Executive	Accountant Auditor	Collector	Treasurer	Law Department Town/City Counsel	Public Buildings/ Properties Maintenance	Assessors	Operations Support	License and Registration	Land Use	Conservation Commission	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	3,500	84,199		21,357	15,485	39,550	22,885	6,246		20,172	1,375		31,377
5700	Expenditures	5,545		30,000	12,885	4,371	127,874	15,760	19,292		877	155	2,152	
5800A	Construction													
5800B	Capital Outlay													
TOTAL		9,045	84,199	30,000	34,192	19,866	167,424	38,645	25,538		21,049	1,530	2,152	31,377

SCHEDULE A PART 2 - PUBLIC SAFETY (200)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Police	Fire	Emerg. Med. Services	Inspection	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	31,955	14,849	1,350		
5700	Expenditures	4,950	21,799	24,393		4,194
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					
TOTAL		36,905	36,648	25,743		4,194

SCHEDULE A PART 2 - EDUCATION (300)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Education	Reg. School Assessment-1	Reg. School Assessment-2
5100	Salary and Wages	2,000		
5700	Expenditures	4,720	1,039,467	95,578
5800A	Construction			
5800B	Capital Outlay		2,140	2,372
TOTAL		6,720	1,041,607	97,950

SCHEDULE A PART 2 - PUBLIC WORKS (400)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Hwy/Streets (Snow/Ice)	Hwy/Streets (Other)	Waste Collect/Disp
5100	Salary and Wages	34,619	176,644	14,710
5700	Expenditures	97,432	92,876	44,751
5800A	Construction			
5800B	Capital Outlay		94,425	
TOTAL		132,051	363,945	59,461

SCHEDULE A PART 2 - HUMAN SERVICES (500)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Health Services	Clinical Services	Special Program	Veterans Services
5100	Salary and Wages	8,805		1,350	
5700	Expenditures	3,064		803	5,216
5800A	Construction				
5800B	Capital Outlay				
TOTAL		11,869		2,153	5,216

SCHEDULE A PART 2 - CULTURE AND RECREATION (600)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Library	Recreation	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	43,019		
5700	Expenditures	12,509	240	2,250
5800A	Construction			
5800B	Capital Outlay			
TOTAL		55,528	240	2,250

SCHEDULE A PART 2 - DEPT SERVICE (700)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Retirement of Debt Principal	Interest on Long Term Debt	Interest on Short Term Debt
5900	Debt Service	126,059	59,109	771
TOTAL		126,059	59,109	771

SCHEDULE A PART 2 - TRANSFERS/ OTHER FINANCING USES (0001)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Amount
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	53,475
5990	Other Financing Uses	
TOTAL		53,475

SCHEDULE A PART 2 - TOTAL ALL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Total
EXPENDITURES		
5100	Salary and Wages	575,457
5700	Expenditures	1,721,000
5800A	Construction	
5800B	Capital Outlay	98,937
5900	Debt Service	185,939
0001	Unclassified	262,875
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	2,844,208
OTHER FINANCING USES		
Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Total
USES		
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	53,475
5990	Other Financing Uses	
	TOTAL TRANSFERS AND OTHER FINANCING USES	53,475
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	2,897,683

SCHEDULE A PART 2 - UNCLASSIFIED (900)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Unemployment	Health Insurance	Other Emp. Benefits	Court Judgements	Other Insurance	Intergovt. Assessments	Retirement	Other
0001	Unclassified	122	60,865	20,599	61,663	19,745	92,134	7,747	7,747
TOTAL		122	60,865	20,599	61,663	19,745	92,134	7,747	7,747

SCHEDULE A PART 3 - FEDERAL GRANTS (FG01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	General Government	Public Safety	Public Works	Education	Federal Emerg. Mgmt. Agency	Culture and Recr.	Community Development Block	Other Housing Development	Other	Total
	REVENUES										
4100	Taxes and Excises										
4200	Charges for Services										
4500	Federal Revenue								36,925		36,925
4600	State Revenue										
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues										
4820	Earnings on Investments										
	TOTAL REVENUES								36,925		36,925
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES										
4910	Bond Proceeds										
4970	Transfers From Other Funds										
4990	Other Financing Sources										
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES										
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES								36,925		36,925
	EXPENDITURES										
5100	Salary and Wages										
5700	Expenditures								36,925		36,925
5800A	Construction										
5800B	Capital Outlay										
5900	Debt Service										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES								36,925		36,925
	OTHER FINANCING USES										
5960	Transfers to Other Funds										
5990	Other Financing Uses										
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES								36,925		36,925
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)										
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year									37,833	37,833
0003	Adjustments										
0004	Fund Balance End of Year									37,833	37,833

SCHEDULE A PART 3 - STATE GRANTS (SG01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	General Government	Public Safety	Public Works	Education	Mass. Emerg. Mgmt. Agency	Culture and Recr.	Council on Aging	Library	Other	Total
	REVENUES										
4100	Taxes and Excises										
4200	Charges for Services										
4500	Federal Revenue	26,918	7,043	5,154			5,700	7,500	5,028	59,408	59,408
4600	State Revenue									86,684	126,037
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues					40				852	892
4820	Earnings on Investments						452				452
	TOTAL REVENUES	26,918	7,043	5,154		40	6,152	7,500	5,028	125,954	165,789
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES										
4910	Bond Proceeds										
4970	Transfers From Other Funds										
4990	Other Financing Sources										
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES										
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	26,918	7,043	5,154		40	6,152	7,500	5,028	125,954	165,789
	EXPENDITURES										
5100	Salary and Wages										
5700	Expenditures	43,527	12,269	823			6,047	7,715	219		72,600
5800A	Construction										
5800B	Capital Outlay										
5900	Debt Service	169,835									169,835
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	213,362	12,269	823			6,047	7,715	219		242,435
	OTHER FINANCING USES										
5960	Transfers to Other Funds										
5990	Other Financing Uses										
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	213,362	12,269	823			6,047	7,715	219		242,435
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-186,444	-5,226	4,331		40	-1,895	-215	4,809	125,954	-56,646
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	395,566	5,281	-169,404	-9,259	-40	153,081	2,390	35,619	-48,556	364,679
0003	Adjustments										
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	211,122	55	-165,073	-9,258		151,186	2,175	40,828	77,398	308,233

SCHEDULE A PART 3 - RECEIPTS RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION (RA01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	Education	Highways Improvement	Wildlands Protection	Parking Meters	Ambulance	Lot Tickets over \$50.00	State of Real Estate	State of Cemetery Lots	Other	Total
REVENUES											
4100	Taxes and Excises										
4200	Charges for Services										
4500	Federal Revenue										
4600	State Revenue										
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues								1,050		1,050
4820	Earnings on Investments										
	TOTAL REVENUES								1,050		1,050
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES											
4810	Bond Proceeds										
4970	Transfers From Other Funds										
4990	Other Financing Sources										
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES								1,050		1,050
EXPENDITURES											
5100	Salary and Wages										
5700	Expenditures										
5800A	Construction										
5800B	Capital Outlay										
5900	Debt Service										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES										
OTHER FINANCING USES											
5960	Transfers to Other Funds										
5990	Other Financing Uses										
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES										
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES										
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)										
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year				1,058			92,155	10,116	1,050	1,050
0003	Adjustments										
0004	Fund Balance End of Year				1,058			92,155	11,166		104,379

SCHEDULE A PART 3 - REVOLVING FUNDS (RF01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	Parks and Recreation	Ch. 44, 53E 1/2	Other	Total
REVENUES					
4100	Taxes and Excises				
4200	Charges for Services				
4500	Federal Revenue				
4600	State Revenue				
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues			19,199	19,199
4820	Earnings on Investments				
	TOTAL REVENUES			19,199	19,199
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
4910	Bond Proceeds				
4970	Transfers From Other Funds				
4990	Other Financing Sources				
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			19,199	19,199
EXPENDITURES					
5100	Salary and Wages				
5700	Expenditures			22,397	22,397
5800A	Construction				
5800B	Capital Outlay				
5900	Debt Service				
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES			22,397	22,397
OTHER FINANCING USES					
5960	Transfers to Other Funds				
5990	Other Financing Uses				
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES				
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES			22,397	22,397
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)			-3,198	-3,198
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	1,768	36,233	61,512	99,513
0003	Adjustments				
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	1,768	36,233	58,314	96,315

SCHEDULE A PART 3 - OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE (OS01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	Water	Sewer	Title V	Gifts and Donations	Other	Total
REVENUES							
4100	Taxes and Excises						
4200	Charges for Services						
4500	Federal Revenue						
4600	State Revenue						
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues			76	16,902	105,295	122,273
4820	Earnings on Investments				106	1,264	1,370
	TOTAL REVENUES			76	17,008	106,559	123,643
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES							
4910	Bond Proceeds						
4970	Transfers From Other Funds						
4990	Other Financing Sources						
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES						
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			76	17,008	106,559	123,643
EXPENDITURES							
5100	Salary and Wages					10,522	10,522
5700	Expenditures	29			23,384	19,030	42,443
5800A	Construction						
5800B	Capital Outlay						
5900	Debt Service						
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	29			23,384	29,552	52,965
OTHER FINANCING USES							
5960	Transfers to Other Funds					105,205	105,205
5990	Other Financing Uses						
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES					105,205	105,205
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	29			23,384	134,757	158,170
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-29		76	-6,376	-28,198	-34,527
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	29		43,786	52,379	14,183	110,377
0003	Adjustments						
0004	Fund Balance End of Year			43,862	46,003	-14,015	75,850

SCHEDULE A PART 3 - TOTAL ALL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS AND EXPENDITURES

Acct. No.	Item Description	Total
REVENUES		
4100	Taxes and Excises	
4200	Charges for Services	
4500	Federal Revenue	97,333
4600	State Revenue	126,037
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	143,414
4820	Earnings on Investments	1,822
	TOTAL REVENUES	368,606
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		
4910	Bond Proceeds	
4970	Transfers From Other Funds	
4990	Other Financing Sources	
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	368,606
EXPENDITURES		
5100	Salary and Wages	10,522
5700	Expenditures	176,365
5800A	Construction	
5800B	Capital Outlay	
5900	Debt Service	169,835
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	356,722
OTHER FINANCING USES		
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	105,205
5990	Other Financing Uses	
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES	105,205
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	461,927
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-93,321
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	715,931
0003	Adjustments	
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	622,610

SCHEDULE A PART 4 - CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS

Acct. No.	Item Description	Highways (Chapter 90)	Other	Total
REVENUES				
4100	Taxes and Excises			
4200	Charges for Services			
4500	Federal Revenue			
4600	State Revenue		273,317	273,317
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues			
4820	Earnings on Investments			
	TOTAL REVENUES		273,317	273,317
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
4910	Bond Proceeds			
4970	Transfers From Other Funds		5,205	5,205
4990	Other Financing Sources			
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		5,205	5,205
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		278,522	278,522
EXPENDITURES				
5100	Salary and Wages			
5700	Expenditures			
5800A	Construction			
5800B	Capital Outlay			
5900	Debt Service			
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES			
OTHER FINANCING USES				
5960	Transfers to Other Funds			
5990	Other Financing Uses			
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES			
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES			
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)		278,522	278,522
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	-39,996	-1,213,315	-1,253,311
0003	Adjustments			
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	-39,996	-934,793	-974,789

SCHEDULE A PART 5 - ENTERPRISE FUNDS no information available

**SCHEDULE A PART 6 - NON-EXPENDABLE/
EXPENDABLE TRUSTS (NE01)**

Acct. No.	Item Description	Stabilization	Spl. Purpose Stabilization	Other	Total
REVENUES					
4100	Taxes and Excises				
4200	Charges for Services				
4500	Federal Revenue				
4600	State Revenue				
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues			411	411
4820	Earnings on Investments	848	4,868		5,716
	TOTAL REVENUES	848	4,868	411	6,127
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
4970	Transfers From Other Funds	37,975	15,500		53,475
4990	Other Financing Sources				
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	37,975	15,500		53,475
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	38,823	20,368	411	59,602
EXPENDITURES					
5100	Salary and Wages				
5700	Expenditures		72		72
5800A	Construction				
5800B	Capital Outlay				
5900	Debt Service				
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES		72		72
OTHER FINANCING USES					
5960	Transfers to Other Funds		100,000		100,000
5990	Other Financing Uses				
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES		100,000		100,000
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES		100,072		100,072
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	38,823	-79,704	411	-40,470
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	81,785	257,556	29,850	369,191
0003	Adjustments				
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	120,608	177,852	30,261	328,721

SCHEDULE A PART 7 - AGENCY FUNDS

Acct. No.	Item Description	Balance July 1,2024	Balance June 30,2025
ASSETS			
0005	Cash	1,487	1,487
0006	Accounts Receivable		
	TOTAL ASSETS	1,487	1,487
LIABILITIES			
0007	Police Outside Detail		
0008	Fire Off Duty Detail		
0009	Tax Due State		
0010	Meals Tax Due State		
0011	Licenses Due State		
0012	Due County/Retirement Systems		
0013	Guarantee Bid Deposits		
0014	Unclaimed Items		
0015	Other Liabilities	1,487	1,487
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,487	1,487

SCHEDULE A PART 8 - PERSONNEL EXPENDITURES

Total Salaries/Wages as of Dec. 31, -1 as Reported on IRS Form W-2 **626,906**
 Total Number of Employees (FTE) for Calendar Year Ending Dec. 31, -1 **56**

SCHEDULE A PART 9 - SCHEDULE OF CASH + INVESTMENTS

Acct. No.	Item Description	Cash and Investments
FUNDS		
0016	General Fund	440,681
0017	Special Revenue	622,610
0018	Debt Service Fund	
0019	Capital Project Funds	614
0020	Enterprise Funds	
0021	Trust Funds	328,721
0022	Agency Funds	4,765
	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,397,391

To download
THE TOWN OF HEATH ANNUAL REPORT 2025
 visit our website at www.townofheath.org

SCHEDULE A PART 10 - SCHEDULE OF DEBT OUTSTANDING, ISSUED AND RETIRED THIS FISCAL YEAR

Acct. No.	Item Description	Outstanding July 1,2024	Issued this Fiscal Year	Retired this Fiscal Year	Outstanding June 30,2025	Interest this Fiscal Year
A. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS						
INSIDE DEBT LIMIT						
D001	BUILDINGS					
D002	DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT	21,999		21,999		1,350
D003	SCHOOL BUILDINGS					
D004	SCHOOL - ALL OTHER					
D005	SEWER					
D006	SOLID WASTE					
D007	OTHER INSIDE LIMIT					
	TOTAL INSIDE DEBT LIMIT	21,999		21,999		1,350
OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT						
D008	AIRPORT					
D009	HOSPITAL					
D010	ELECTRIC					
D011	GAS					
D012	SCHOOL BUILDINGS					
D013	SEWER					
D014	SOLID WASTE					
D015	WATER					
D016	OTHER OUTSIDE LIMIT					
	TOTAL OUTSIDE DEBT LIMIT					
	TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT	21,999		21,999		1,350
D023	TOTAL DEBT REFUNDING					
B. REVENUE AND NONGUARANTEED BONDS						
D021	REVENUE AND NONGUARANTEED BONDS					
C. SHORT TERM DEBT						
D017	TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES					
D018	BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES					
D019	GRANT ANTICIPATION NOTES					
D020	OTHER SHORT TERM DEBT	1,248,719		273,316	975,403	59,109
	TOTAL SHORT TERM DEBT	1,248,719		273,316	975,403	59,109
D. OTHER INTEREST						
D022	OTHER INTEREST					

Item Description	Authorized	Issued/Retired Rescinded	Unissued June 30, 2025
Authorized and Unissued - Inside Debt Limit			
Authorized and Unissued - Outside Debt Limit			
Total Authorized and Unissued			

SCHEDULE A PART 11 - RECONCILIATION OF FUND EQUITY (RETAINED EARNINGS) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR END JUNE 30, 2025

Item Description	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trust	Total
1 Total Revenue	2,769,700	368,606	273,317	6,127	3,417,750
2 Total Expenditures	2,844,208	356,722		72	3,201,002
3 TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES (LINE 1 - LINE 2)	-74,508	11,884	273,317	6,055	216,748
4 Transfers From Other Funds	200,000		5,205	53,475	258,680
5 Other Financing Sources					
6 Transfers To Other Funds	53,475	105,205		100,000	258,680
7 Other Financing Uses					
8 TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) SUM OF LINES 4 AND 5 MINUS LINES 6 AND 7	146,525	-105,205	5,205	-46,525	
9 TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) (SUM OF LINES 3 AND 8)	72,017	-93,321	278,522	-40,470	216,748
10 Fund Equity (Retained Earnings) Beginning of Year	344,817	715,931	-1,253,311	369,191	176,628
11 Other Adjustments					
12 TOTAL FUND EQUITY (RETAINED EARNINGS) END OF YEAR (SUM OF LINES 9 THROUGH 11)	416,834	622,610	-974,789	328,721	393,376

SCHEDULE A KAR-1

Cash Balance

Fund	Balance Sheet	Schedule A	Variance
General Fund	440,681	440,681	0
Special Revenue	622,610	622,610	0
Capital Project Funds	614	614	0
Enterprise Funds		0	0
Trust & Agency Funds	333,486	333,486	0
Debt Service Fund		0	0
Total	1,397,391	1,397,391	0

Fund Equity Balance

Fund	Balance Sheet	Schedule A	Variance
General Fund	416,834	416,834	0
Special Revenue	622,610	622,610	0
Capital Project Funds	-974,789	-974,789	0
Enterprise Funds		0	0
Trust Funds	328,721	328,721	0
Total	393,376	393,376	0

SCHEDULE A SUBMISSION

David Fierro, Town Accountant, Heath
 accountant@townofheath.org • 413-337-4934



TOWN OF HEATH - TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT BALANCES FOR FY 2025

REAL ESTATE	BALANCE ON 07/01/24	COMMITTED AFTER 06/30/24	COLLECTED	ABATED	EXEMPTED	REFUNDED	TAX TAKINGS	BALANCE
FY2025	\$0.00	\$2,152,224.94	\$2,072,192.28	\$968.79	\$5,800.00	\$11,360.67	\$23,488.84	\$61,135.70
FY 2024	\$101,460.08	\$0.00	\$91,925.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14.06	\$9,548.60	(\$0.00)
PERSONAL PROPERTY								
FY2025		\$231,293.94	\$231,223.12	\$50.52		\$72.56		\$92.86
FY 2024	\$489.98	\$0.00	\$376.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$113.46
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE								
FY2025	\$0.00	\$96,196.11	\$85,571.87	\$1,040.39		\$1,587.71		\$11,171.56
FY 2024	\$8,794.41	\$9,462.21	\$15,907.04	\$840.72		\$879.62		\$2,388.48
FY 2023	\$2,017.65	\$0.00	\$1,660.87	\$25.91		\$25.91		\$356.78
FY 2022	\$1,171.09	\$0.00	\$753.78	\$69.35		\$0.00		\$347.96
FY 2021	\$517.74	\$0.00	\$177.96	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$339.78
FY 2020	\$226.52	\$0.00	\$68.58	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$157.94
FY 2019	\$350.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$350.10

TREASURER'S REPORT OF TRUSTS & OTHER FUNDS

JANUARY 1, 2025 - DECEMBER 31, 2025

Cemetery Trust			
Sarah H. Symonds	50.00	The Whipples	250.00
Ellen N. Fiske	50.00	Elsom Elderidge	250.00
Chenery Fund	500.00	Nelle Porter	250.00
Lucy M. Gale	100.00	Jane Gribbin	100.00
Edwain Chapin	140.00	Barbara Wolf	250.00
Cliford J. Hager	100.00	Ralph Riddle	500.00
Walter S. Benson	200.00	Frances Malone	200.00
William Dickinson	200.00	Richard Hatch	50.00
George H. Gribbin	1,000.00	Michael Peters	250.00
Leon B. Stewart	25.00	Robert & Delores Viarengo	400.00
Ruth Whipple	250.00	Joan & Gerald Gilbert	400.00
Truman H. Safford	100.00	Joseph & Pamela Gilbert	200.00
Albert Burkhardt	200.00	Joan & Gerald Gilbert	200.00
Steven Wolf	250.00	Johs Clausen	225.00
Unknown	100.00	Charles Mackie	250.00
Total Cemetery Bequests		7,040.00	
Trust CD's	6,365.95		
Trust Checking	4,622.42		
Balance 12/31/2023	<u>10,988.37</u>		
Library Trust			
Felicia Welsh	500.00	Ralph Riddle	165.00
Hugh Maxwell	500.00	Leon Stewart	100.00
Charles Miller	176.00	Helen Nichols	75.00
Elizabeth Wilson	350.00	Thelma Meadon	200.00
Cultural Council Grant	88.36	Harriet Read	702.37
Building Needs - Wilmeth	50.00	Building Needs - Stein	100.00
Mildred Burrington Memoria	50.00		
Total Library Bequests		3,056.73	
Money Market Account	8,567.92		
	<u>8,567.92</u>		
Other Funds			
Cultural Council (Arts Lotter	8,782.51		
Hands Across Heath	8,355.86		
Heath General Funds	541,160.61		
Park & Recreation Departm	1,621.01		
Read Carpenter Scholarshi	2,488.29		
Septic Fund	43,937.05		
Stabilization Funds	362,722.84		
Last Mile Broadband	148.73		
Broadband	111,989.60		
Total Other Funds	<u>1,081,206.50</u>		
Total of All Funds	1,100,762.79		
		Tax Title Accounts	
		Account Balance 1/1/2025	62,857.67
		Taxes Added	47,221.51
		Payments Received	36,779.57
		Town Acquired Property	1,178.78
		Remove Tax title error	0.00
		Account Balance 12/31/2025	<u>72,120.83</u>



www.townofheath.org

TOWN REPORTS

SELECT BOARD

2025 brought the town a fair amount of change and improvements. Below is a summary of the year in review. For more detailed information, the approved Select Board minutes, and meeting audio recordings are available on the town's website.

Transitions...

Transitions among key town employees are a natural part of municipal life, and we are deeply grateful to those who have served our community by sharing their skills, expertise, guidance, and wisdom. Within the Highway Department, we wished Foreman Kyle Jarvis all the best as he pursued a new opportunity, and we welcomed Jason Boutwell of Shelburne to the crew. The transition was smooth, and we are pleased to have Jason as part of the team. We also bid Transfer Station Attendant Lee Lively well on his next adventure and welcomed Heath resident Dan Richter into the role. In our town offices, Nancy Thane resigned as trusted Office Assistant. Her dependable presence and ability to tackle major office projects have been invaluable. Most notably, Town Coordinator Hilma Sumner retired after serving the Town of Heath for decades in a variety of positions. While her retirement marked a significant transition for our town in many respects, we were fortunate to have Mia Francesconi of Colrain train under Hilma's guidance in preparation for taking on the position. Heath is truly fortunate to have such a dedicated team of town employees ensuring the smooth operation of town business each day.

Improvements....

Salt Shed

The long-awaited Salt Shed was completed in 2025 just in time for the winter season. Joint efforts from Heath Highway Department, Select Board Chair Robyn Provost-Carlson, Cudnohufsky Associates, Dick Hillman, and Iron Horse Structures helped bring to life the impressive hoop house structure that now stands where the old Salt Shed used to be. Congratulations to all on a job well done!

Community Hall Windows Restoration Project

One may recall back in 2024 the town was awarded a matching grant from Mass Cultural Council. Don Hayward, a skilled local window restorer, was awarded the project and has completed the beautiful restoration of the windows that now provide energy efficiency and charm to Community Hall.

Bridge Work on Route 8A

Construction on the Route 8A bridge near the intersection of Sumner Stetson Road started last winter. To date, one side of the bridge has been completed as a one – lane passage continues to be maintained with a traffic light on each side. Work is expected to continue throughout the coming year.

Wayfinding Road Signs

With unallocated funds from the Woodlands Partnership grant, in collaboration with Parks and Rec, the Highway Department, and Select Board, new street and road signs were ordered and installed to provide clear direction to those who are traveling through Heath. They immediately brought significant improvements for folks unfamiliar with town roads.

National Grid

After numerous productive discussions with residents and National Grid, the Select Board unanimously voted to allow the utility company to proceed with their three-phased cable project along Avery Brook Road and Taylor Brook Road. To date, tree trimming and removal have been completed along both roads and new pole locations have been marked.

Annual Town Meeting, Our Town Budget, and the Tax Rate

Each year, starting in the winter months, the Select Board begins preparations for the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) which is held in May. Our first step includes meeting with the town Finance Committee as well as department heads. The Select Board, with the on-going help of the Finance Committee, works for months to finalize an operating budget and warrant articles for presentation to the Town’s voters. At the May ATM, the warrant, including the budget, is submitted to the Town where it is reviewed, discussed, and voted upon. Once approved by the voters, those accepted values are reviewed and approved by the Department of Revenue (DOR). Once approved by DOR, the budget cost is divided by town assessments provided by the Assessors, and we arrive at a tax rate.

The Select Board, along with other town boards and committees, strive to consistently make the best possible decisions for the town that allow for sustainability, progressiveness, and strong sense of community. We welcome and encourage your participation! If you would like to learn more about getting involved, please contact our town coordinator for more information.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Robyn Provost-Carlson
 Elissa Viarengo
 Will Emmet

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The New Year started out with the Assessors processing abatements for Fiscal Year 2025.

In May, Alice Wozniak was re-elected to the Board for another 3-year term. Anne Emmet was voted Chair of the Board.

Education is very important in the Assessing field as the laws under which we operate continually change. The Board of Assessors is the only elected board that the state requires its members to successfully complete a 30-hour course and examination within two years of taking office. Failure to do so jeopardizes the DOR approval of the town’s tax rate.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the office granted 3 abatements totaling \$42,200 in value which translated into \$793.78 tax dollars. As we inspect properties in town, our property record card accuracy continues to improve, which promotes fair and equitable assessments. We encourage all residents to check the information on their property record cards periodically, especially after any building permit or demolition work has been completed. Our property cards and maps are available online at www.townofheath.org >under Town Office, Assessors’ Office.

The Heath tax rate for Fiscal Year 2026 was \$19.39/per \$1,000.00 of valuation. This is an increase of \$0.58 per thousand due to broadband not making a timely transfer of funds towards estimated receipts as they have done in previous years. Heath’s total assessed values for each major class of properties, and their percentage of the Levy Limit is as follows:

Classification	Valuation	% of Value
Residential	\$121,759,700	89.2233
Commercial	\$ 1,454,779	1.0660
Industrial	\$ 114,400	0.0838
Personal Property	\$ 13,137,482	9.6269
Total amount of 2026 Property Tax Valuation	\$136,466,361	100.00%

Heath continues to hire Muddy River Advisors LLC, an outside consulting firm, to value our electrical utilities and they continue to come back with a much higher value than the values that the utilities are reporting.

There are several statutory property tax exemptions for the elderly varying in amounts from \$175 to \$500. Each exemption is based on income guidelines and as economic times become more difficult, our elderly residents are encouraged to contact the Assessors’ office to see whether they may qualify. Any information that is provided to qualify for these exemptions is strictly confidential and is not available to the public. Also available are exemptions for the blind and veterans with a service-connected disability.

We want the public to know that assessment is a very complicated field, and the DOR sets forth very strict guidelines with which our office must comply. With that

said, please feel free to contact us by phone or email with any questions on Wednesdays. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet with the Board, please call the office at 337-4934 Ext. 003 or email us at assessors@townofheath.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Emmet, Chair
Robyn Provost-Carlson
Alice Wozniak, MAA-Assessor & Director of Assessing

BOARD OF HEALTH

2025 Board of Health (BOH) Members: Gene Garland (Chair), Sheila Litchfield, Susan Gruen, Tucker Jenkins, Jason Erali, and Elissa Viarengo- Select Board Representative. Boards Clerk: Cindie Garland

Regional Health Agent: Kurt Schellenberg- Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS)/Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG), and Town Nurse: Claire Rabbitt, RN

Chair's Message:

On behalf of the Heath Board of Health, I am pleased to present our 2025 Annual Report. This year reflected the Board's continued commitment to protecting public health through prevention, education, emergency preparedness, and compassionate response to community needs. From vaccine access and infectious disease monitoring to housing safety, environmental health oversight, and opioid response initiatives, our work remains grounded in safeguarding the well-being of all Heath residents. We are especially proud of our regional partnerships, which allow our small community to access professional public health services, surveillance systems, and educational programs that would otherwise be difficult to sustain locally. We thank our Town Nurse, Emergency Management personnel, regional partners, and fellow Town officials for their collaboration and dedication. Public health is strongest when it is proactive, transparent, and community-centered — and we remain committed to that mission in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Chair- Gene Garland, PHD

Vaccine Access & Public Health Nursing - A CPHS vaccination clinic was held at Hawlemont Regional School, along with home visits for residents unable to attend in person. Heath residents received 41 vaccines through these efforts and were also served by a regional clinic at Mohawk Trail Regional School. In partnership with the Heath Town Nurse, 22 home visits were conducted throughout the year. The Town Nurse continues to provide essential services including blood pressure checks, health screenings, assistance with health concerns, and home visits when appropriate. BOH members completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting by checking the Massachusetts reporting system daily and conducting follow-up investigations as required. In 2025, 10 communicable disease cases were reported in Heath.

Tick-Borne & Mosquito-Borne Disease Prevention - The BOH collaborated with CPHS to provide tick-bite prevention education and hosted two permethrin shoe-spraying events at Community Hall. A total of 88 shoes were treated. Through a district tick testing program, Heath residents used 50 low-cost tick tests, resulting in a community savings over \$1,000. Test results showed:

30% positive for Lyme disease
7% positive for Anaplasmosis
15% positive for Babesiosis

The BOH also partnered with the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) to suppress nuisance and disease-carrying mosquito populations. PVMCD collected 487 mosquitoes in Heath, of which 384 were identified as *Coquillettidia perturbans*. In Heath Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) risk was low and West Nile Virus (WNV) risk was moderate.

The BOH submitted a letter to Western Massachusetts State Legislators expressing concern that several neighboring communities do not participate in PVMCD due to funding limitations. Without membership, those municipalities lack routine mosquito surveillance and testing, potentially delaying virus detection by up to three weeks. The Board urged consideration of funding solutions to support comprehensive regional mosquito monitoring to protect public health.

Septic, Well & Environmental Health Permitting - In partnership with FRCOG, the BOH

- Reviewed 39 septic-related applications and Title 5 inspections associated with property transfers
- Reviewed soil evaluations (perc tests)
- Installation inspections prior to issuing Certificates of Compliance
- Permitted one new well
- Reviewed potability reports
- Issued 10 Temporary Occupancy Permits
- Offered Food Protection & Training
- Sixteen food establishment permits were reviewed
- Responded to 15 housing safety complaints in Heath. Cases involved vulnerable residents, including older adults, individuals with disabilities, children, and veterans
- BOH members and Animal Control responded to three animal-related complaints

Opioid Response & Settlement Funds - The BOH worked with Town officials to address the ongoing opioid crisis. Efforts included:

- Hosting a public opioid listening session to gather resident input
- Proactively allocating Opioid Settlement funds to provide resources and services for individuals and families affected by substance use disorder

The Massachusetts Attorney General's Office provided a briefing on the Receivership Expense Assistance for Creating Housing (REACH) Program, a statewide initiative offering low-interest loans to court-appointed receivers to rehabilitate unsafe residential properties. The program supports compliance with the

State Sanitary Code, neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing expansion, and municipal tax recovery.

Emergency Management & Shelter Operations - Emergency Management personnel and BOH members activated warming centers and shelters at JRMC during a storm-related power outage to support residents. The BOH continues to improve the Shelter Operations Manual by identifying essential roles for each shelter type and developing role-specific guidance and responsibilities.

Community Communication - BOH members provided regular articles to the Heath Herald with updates on public health topics, CPHS services, trainings, events, local data, and relevant epidemiological information.

If you have questions, concerns, or are interested in serving on the Board, please contact the Heath Board of Health at boh@townofheath.org.

BROADBAND - MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT (MLP)

2025 saw the Heath Municipal Light Plant (MLP) business continue steady with full operations for consistent customer numbers and reliable system performance. Heath MLP maintains service for approximately 350 subscribers enjoying high-speed fiber-optic broadband service. The MLP continues to maintain the fiber-optic network and remains in sound financial condition. The network experienced no system-wide outages in 2025 and maintained service during extended power outages, including the February ice storm, thanks to reliable backup power.

In 2025, Bailey Cole was hired as MLP Manager to replace Sheila Litchfield who retired from the position. The MLP Manager and an elected 5-member Municipal Light Board (MLB) oversee the operation of the MLP. Decisions are made consistent with prudent industry practice to provide reliable and affordable internet service to Heath Broadband customers. Operating expenses and necessary maintenance and repairs are covered by revenue generated by customer subscriptions – not by the Town budget. Revenue continues to exceed operating expenses, and cash flow remains positive.

In 2025, the MLP paid for critical network needs and repairs and continued to fund a Depreciation Reserve to ensure adequate future funds for replacing equipment at the end-of-life. In addition, the MLP paid the salary of the MLP Manager and provided broadband service to town facilities at no charge to the town.

In 2025, the MLB voted to transfer \$60,000 to the town. This brings the total transferred to the town through FY 2025 to \$290,000. The source of these funds includes net revenue earned, grants from the state, and unused construction funds. Future transfers to the town will be funded from net revenue alone, since all unused construction funds and state grants have been depleted.

Heath MLP continues to be a member of the six-town WiredWest cooperative and finds many benefits to this collaboration, including services such as:

- Review of and processing of payments to the Internet service provider,

- including customer and technical support services
- Staff to resolve maintenance and other technical issues in a swift, timely manner
- Bookkeeping & processing of invoices for hub electricity, service visits, maintenance and repairs, pole licensing, pole bonds, insurance, audits, preventive maintenance contracts, and related expenses
- Management of network operator and internet provider services through contracts with Whip City Fiber
- Opportunities for bulk pricing for insurance, preventive maintenance agreements, and security systems
- A reserve fund for unanticipated operating expenses such as repairs, pole transfers, and tree work
- Rapid mobilization of emergency funds in the event of widespread storm damage to the fiber network through a \$500,000 line of credit

Heath MLP continues to monitor network capacity and performance. If internet performance does not meet their expectations, customers are advised to contact customer support at 833-991-9378. This number is also listed on the MLP web page on the Town of Heath website. heathbroadband@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Bailey Cole, *Heath MLP Manager*,
Heath Representative on the WiredWest Board of Directors
Art Schwenger, *MLB, Chair*
David Gordon, *MLB member, and Heath's alternate representative on the WiredWest Board*
Ned Wolf, *MLB member*
Anne Emmet, *MLB member*
David Peterson, *MLB member*

BUILDING USE COMMITTEE

The Building Use Committee (BUC) oversees short-term rentals for the Community Hall (both floors and the kitchen) and the common spaces at the Jacobs Road Municipal Center (kitchen, cafeteria, and gym, and outside business hours, the grounds and atrium). We are also charged with maintaining a calendar for the common spaces at Jacobs Road and for the Community Hall. The calendar includes municipal events like Select Board meetings, community events like Library workshops and Senior Meals, and private rentals. It can be viewed at www.townofheath.org on the Building Use Committee page.

The BUC has five members appointed annually by the Select Board. Current members include: Rebecca Dorr Sampson, Chair; Lyra Johnson-Fuller, Rents Manager; Alice Lee Thompson, Kitchen Manager; Maris Findlay, and Amy Webb.

The year 2025 was quiet for the committee. With newly updated rental information and documents online, and a newly opened Community Hall, we managed a small uptick in space rentals. As reported last year, the kitchens at both Jacobs Road

and Community Hall were reinspected for health permits in January 2025 in anticipation of continued commercial use. The permits were issued for 2026, and we anticipate another inspection in the coming year.

We have seen a lively use of the Jacobs Road Municipal Center for private functions such as birthday parties and baby showers; a craft fair; film events and speakers; as well as the Firefighters' Association annual fundraisers. Since reopening the Community Hall, that space has also had consistent use: an art exhibit; appreciation events; the Heath Historical Society's Dining with History; and several Community Conversations.

The Committee has recently organized a new recurring event to be held upstairs in the Community Hall on Second Sundays from 10-1 called the Communi-tea Cafe. This will be a casual space for the community to come together over tea and coffee, with board games provided, and a different pop-up event or theme for each Cafe. Those events will be held on April 12, May 10, and June 14, 2026, and the first Cafe on April 12 will feature a Kids Craft Fair and Sale.

We look forward to continued interest in these town building spaces and are on the cusp of placing small advertisements about short-term rental opportunities in local newspapers in the surrounding hill towns. Please visit our web page at www.townofheath.org for more information about renting or reserving space.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Dorr Sampson, Chair

CEMETERY COMMISSION

In 2025, in the Center Cemetery, 20 plus stones were reset by a contractor thru the Viarengo Family Donation Account. Unfortunately, the contractor did not have time available to work in the North Cemetery which would also be funded with a designated donation. Plans are to do more work this summer (2026).

Three lots located in the South Cemetery have been added back onto that Cemetery map and are available "for sale". If someone, or their family, have a lot in one of the town cemeteries that will not be used, they can donate it back to the Town to be resold. This helps make better use of our cemeteries.

In 2025, three lots have been sold in Center Cemetery and two lots sold in South Cemetery.

In future meetings, the Commission hopes to discuss ways to control the selling of a lot to nonresidents, if the need arises. Having to have a connection to Heath in the past or present could be one idea.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jerry Gilbert, Center Cemetery
Claire Rabbitt, North Cemetery
Eric Sumner, South Cemetery
Heath Cemetery Commission

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission has been meeting on an as-needed basis over the past year. In 2025 the ConCom reviewed two Requests for Determination (RFD). One of them was establishing a parking area off Hosmer Road in a wetland buffer zone and one was for construction of a carport. The commission issued one certificate of compliance for an Order of Conditions for construction of a bridge on a driveway and issued an extension of an Order of Conditions for maintenance of a fire pond.

The commission held public hearings for two Notices of Intent, one for a Western Mass Electric pole installation project through Heath Center and one for the replacement of a septic system. One Enforcement Order was issued to the Town of Heath for wetlands violations in construction of the Burnt Hill-Catamount Trail. The Town is hiring a consultant to work on this. The commission also approved an application for a conservation restriction on a residential property.

A number of building and septic system sites were reviewed for the presence of wetlands or other resource areas as part of the required official signoffs for building and septic permit applications. Bill Lattrell continues to serve as a consultant to the Commission and does most of the permit reviews for the FCCIP building inspection sign-off requirement. The FCCIP online permitting system allows the Conservation Commission to access and sign off on permits online. Comments may also be posted on the permit application regarding the status of the ConCom review.

The Select Board appointed Lyra Johnson to fill the remaining vacancy on the commission.

The Conservation Commission will continue to meet on an as-needed basis for the coming year.

Site visits will be scheduled and conducted by Bill Lattrell, the consultant to the Conservation Commission.

Current members of the Conservation Commission are: Pam Porter, Heather Row, Susan Draxler, Lyra Johnson, Brian De Vriese, Chair

Respectfully submitted,
Brian De Vriese
Heath Conservation Commission

COUNCIL ON AGING

Age-and Dementia-Friendly Community

The Council on Aging (COA) continued to work throughout the year on preparing the Heath Action Plan for AARP's eight livability domains. Lyra Johnson-Fuller and Anne Emmet are completing AARP's required six hourly online classes for becoming an Age- and Dementia-Friendly Community.

Finances

COA depends on donations, grants, and community support, and is thankful for grants received this year:

- Fred Wells Trust: \$1,000 for foot clinic.
- Heath Cultural Council: \$280 for a beginner's painting workshop.
- Renewal of two LifePath grants: \$1,500 – foot clinic; \$2,241 – chef's senior-meal wages.

Activities

COA received positive evaluations for the monthly senior meals. A meal was served in December for the November/December holiday season. The red chairs originally purchased for the senior meals in the Community Hall were cleaned and moved to the municipal (JRMC) cafeteria. The monthly brownbag lunches continued in the JRMC senior room 135, which was open every Saturday during library hours for intergenerational socializing, games, and refreshments. COA offered a walk-safe program in JRMC, and co-sponsored the annual winter solstice celebration with the Heath Public Library.

Further activities included ongoing taichiquan classes, art program, Needle/Arts group, a weekly men's group; a grief support group; two hikes; workshops for egg decorating, silk painting, scrapbooking, beeswax; and two veterans' informational and celebration meetings.

In May, COA hosted an ice-cream social for all ages and Heath Library's story-hour children. Regular articles appeared in the Heath Herald, and monthly flyers were circulated and emails sent to inform residents of activities. To receive information for all COA announcements, send email address to seniorcenter@townofheath.org.

COA thanks all who have volunteered throughout the year, and express gratitude to Pat McGahan for her work on the COA town website and to Gene and Cindy Garland for donating a window air conditioner for the senior room. Financial contributions and donations were gratefully received to support our activities.

And, with thanks to our Senior Program Coordinator,
COA won first prize for its Heath Fair display!

Sue Lively, chair
Margaret Freeman, secretary
Anne Emmet
Donna Hyytinen
Cathy Tallen

Lyra Johnson-Fuller, Senior Program Coordinator

CULTURAL COUNCIL

In 2025, the Heath Cultural Council membership continued to consist of: Doug Wilkins, Sarah Coe, Heather Wynne, Cindy Davidson, Heather Row and Barbara Gordon. Heather Wynne and Barbara Gordon co-chaired the council to facilitate the transfer of institutional knowledge in preparation for the state mandated rolling off of committee by Barbara and Heather Row in June of 2026.

In the 2024-'25 grant cycle, we had approved 13 projects for local grants totaling \$6,700. All approved projects were successfully completed and reimbursed. Unclaimed reimbursements from the previous 2023-24 grant cycle totaling \$525 were retained for future granting in the FY2025-26 cycle per state guidelines.

Notable successful projects executed in 2025 supported by our funding included: a MTRSD based Smithsonian initiative, "Museum on Main Street: Voices and Votes," The Winter Hoo-Pla held by the The Art Garden in Shelburne Falls, The Charlemont Forum Speaker Series, Mohawk Trail Concert Series, Heath Fair Music live programming, square dancing at the Heath Fair organized by Doug Wilkins, a film series screened in Heath by the Franklin Land Trust, an Arts Workshops series hosted by the Heath Council on Aging, support for the Heath Herald, a Colrain Center School field trip to the Wilder Homestead to augment their Colonial Period curriculum, and a series of "Evening Sky Tours" given by Jonathan Rhemus at the Benson Place. We also supported Pothole Pictures at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls as well as the annual Heath Artists' Exhibition. All ages enjoyed the Davis Bates performance, "A Celtic Celebration" hosted by the Heath Public Library which was partially funded by our council.

Last November, our council reviewed 27 grant applications requesting a total of \$15,635 for the 2025-26 grant cycle. With a budget of \$6,764, we were able to approve partial or full support for 18 diverse projects that we deemed relevant to our local community. We elected to repeat support for the annual Colrain Center School field trip to Wilder Homestead, the Charlemont Forum speaker series, Mohawk Trail Concerts, Pothole Pictures, The Heath Artists' Exhibition, Hilltown Families Suggests: an on-line family activity magazine, live music programming for the Heath Fair, and square dancing at the Heath Fairgrounds. Funding was also directed again to the well-loved Heath Herald for operational support, as well as to the Heath Council on Aging for a beginning painting class at our Senior Center. We approved funding to the Franklin Land Trust for more nature workshops in Heath. In February our grant will, once again, help the Winter HooPla celebration hosted by the Art Garden in Shelburne Falls light up the night. Student education-related funding this year will help to support a new MHTRS enrichment program, "Students Doing Cabaret" which will culminate in public performances. Additional new projects we are excited to see launched include "Cooking Connections, a culinary workshop series for the whole family" which will include a hands-on event at the Jacobs Road Municipal Center kitchen, as well as "Quilts for a Cause", a community textile project led by Eileen McVay-Lively at the Heath Union Church. Financial support is also being provided to the Heath Historical Society for participation in a regional Hilltown History Trail Museums and Culture Tour, as well as to the Heath Parks and Recreation Committee for an initiative to help give the Community Hall an interior "facelift".

We have approved funding to help the Mary Lyon Foundation add children's cultural activities to their annual West County Resource Fair. We hope that our fellow Heathans will have the opportunity to enjoy some of these wonderful offerings this year! As always, we welcome your suggestions and feedback to help us with our mission to enrich the cultural landscape in Heath and nearby communities. Contact us at: HeathCulturalCouncil@gmail.com. For more information you can find us at: <https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/heath> , or on our local Town web page: <https://townofheath.org/g/52/Heath-Cultural-Council>.

"Like" us on our Heath Cultural Council FaceBook page to keep up with our news!
Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Gordon and Heather Wynne, Co-Chairs

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

During 2025, I attended virtual Regional Emergency Management Director and Regional Emergency Planning Committee meetings as well as a FRCOG meeting regarding the updating of the county's flood maps.

The yearly EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) of \$2,500.00 was applied for and received. We purchased dehumidifiers for the fire station, office supplies and some printing cost.

Three events happened that required the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to activate. The first one was a snow/sleet and windstorm on February 17th -19th which caused an extended power outage with winds gusting generally around 50-75 miles an hour. The second event was caused by the need to open a cooling center on June 23 & 24. The final event happened on August 18th when the EOC opened for two days to act as a backup communication center when a lightning strike started a 4-acre wildland fire in the H.O. Cook state forest.

I am now working with the assistant EMD, members of the Board of Health, and the Senior Programs Coordinator in developing a procedure plan for operating a shelter.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Lively, Emergency Management Director

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2025 the Heath Energy Advisory Committee worked to complete the lighting upgrades at the Jacobs Road Municipal Center. The Franklin Technical School Electrical Department completed most of the lighting projects inside and outside of the building. Palmieri Electric was hired to replace some of the lighting fixtures that were above the height that the Tech School students were permitted to work, such as the atrium and gym lighting. The Tech School students did great work and helped to stretch the grant funds to cover much more than if all the work had been awarded to a private contractor.

After all the planned electrical work was completed, there was still a balance in the grant that needed to be expended. The EAC solicited a quote for a mini-split heat pump project for the administrative office suite. This was approved by the state DOER and the Selectboard as part of a previously approved energy reduction plan for the building. Completion of the mini-split project will close out the Green Communities Designation Grant. Next, the Energy Advisory Committee will work with the Town on applying for a Green Communities Competitive Grant of \$200,000 for implementing the rest of the Town's Energy Reduction Plan. This plan includes adding a heat pump system to 18 Jacobs Rd. that would supply at least 50% of the building's heating and cooling requirements.

Current members of the Committee are: Bill Lattrell, Hilma Sumner,
Brian De Vriese, email: bdevriese45@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,
Brian De Vriese - Chair
Heath Energy Advisory Committee

FINANCE COMMITTEE

In 2025 the Finance Committee continued to serve the Town of Heath by providing the Select Board with consistent and fiscally responsible recommendations regarding the expenditure and allocation of town funds. The committee's membership remained unchanged from FY24 and included Dena Briggs (Chair), Ned Wolf (Secretary), Robert McGahan, Alice Wozniak, and Wendy Whalen.

During FY25, the Finance Committee supported significant capital expenditures, including the construction of a much-needed salt shed and the purchase of trucks for the Highway Department. Alarmed at the lack of free cash from FY24, the committee recommended that the Select Board reduce the grace period for delinquent tax payments from one year to 90 days and increase the demand fee.

Recognizing that ongoing litigation involving the town is unresolved and may escalate, the Finance Committee recommended budgeting \$35,000 for legal fees. Additionally, after finding no evidence that Heath students were regularly using the Late Bus—and some evidence indicating no usage—the committee voted to discontinue funding for the program. Although this recommendation was not adopted at the Annual Town Meeting, the Finance Committee continues to believe that Late Bus funding should be discontinued.

The FY 26 tax rate was certified in December at \$19.39 per thousand, an increase of \$0.58, or 3.08%. The total assessed valuation (TAV) for FY 26 was certified at \$136,466,361, an increase of \$9,751,168, or 7.70% from the TAV for FY 25.

The MLB did not meet the deadline for informing the Assessors of the amount of money to be transferred to the Town. This led to \$0.0 instead of \$60,000 being entered on the tax rate calculation sheet as revenue from broadband. If \$60,000 had been used as the revenue from broadband, the tax rate would have been \$18.95. The \$60,000 is available for the Select Board to use as it chooses.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Department Calls for 2025

Incident Type	Total Incidents	Percent
111- Building fire	1	1 . 1 0 %
114- Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue.	1	1 . 1 0 %
131- Passenger vehicle fire	1	1 . 1 0 %
141- Forest, woods or wildland fire	1	1 . 1 0 %
142- Brush or brush and grass fuel mixture	1	1 . 1 0 %
151- Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	1	1 . 1 0 %
162- Outside equipment fire	1	1 . 1 0 %
300- Rescue, EMS incident, other	1	1 . 1 0 %
311- Medical assist, assist EMS crew	57	55.76%
321- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	2	1 . 9 8 %
324- Motor vehicle accident with no injuries	1	1 . 1 0 %
412-Gas leak (natural or liquid propane gas)	1	1 . 1 0 %
444- Power line down	9	8 . 9 7 %
561- Unauthorized burning	2	1 . 9 8 %
571- Cover assignment, standby, move up	1	1 . 1 0 %
611- Dispatched and canceled enroute	7	6 . 8 9 %
735- Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1	1 . 1 0 %
736- CO detector activation due to malfunction	4	4 . 3 8 %
740- Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	3	3 . 5 4 %
743- Smoke detector activation, no fire – unintentional	1	1 . 1 0 %
744- Detector activation, no fire – unintentional	1	1 . 1 0 %
745- Alarm system activation, no fire- unintentional	1	1 . 1 0 %
Total Number of Incidents:	103	100.00%
Total Number of Incident Types:	23	

The fire department had a busy and interesting year, with a total of 102 calls. You may notice the different format for the incident reporting which has been changed to follow the State reporting codes. These codes break down the incidents to provide additional details for statistical analysis by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services. This information is used to assist in identifying potential grant needs, current trends in call types, and general tracking of fire and medical calls. This year (2026) all fire departments across the country will now be using the National Emergency Information Response System (NERIS) instead of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) which has been the standard reporting system. The new system will streamline the reporting system, utilize plain text fields, and incorporate GIS information for better accuracy. Time will tell if it delivers all it promises.

The department responded to a variety of emergency calls, supported the Heath Fair through no-cost vendor inspections, and fire/medical staffing throughout the event. The department also supported the fireworks display at the Mohawk Estates, provided assistance to townspeople during the power outage last winter, and provided resources for the Franklin County Wildfire Crew during the summer wildfire

in the H.O. Cook State Forest. The department also added a four-wheel drive Kawasaki UTV to the fleet to support rescue operations, brush fires, storm response, and medical coverage at the Heath Fair.

The open burning season is upon us as it opens in January and closes at the end of April. Open burning is regulated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through the Division of Fire Services and the Department of Environmental Protection, for the purpose of burning brush generated from downed limbs from storms, tree and shrub pruning, and general yard work. A free permit is required and may be obtained online at fcburnpermits.com. The online version provides you with the rules and regulations. At no time ever is household or commercial trash, building demolition material, furniture, tires or any other such material allowed to be burned. Campfires in contained pits are allowed year-round and reasonably sized bonfires are allowed by obtaining a free permit from the fire chief. Agricultural burning falls under separate regulations and is also limited to onsite brush and material generated from agricultural operations such as maintaining pastures, pruning, shrub trimming and burning blueberry fields. It is always advisable to burn when there is snow on the ground whenever possible to avoid unwanted fire spread. When in doubt please call the fire chief a 413-325- 6727. We would like to remind townspeople to check their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors at least once a year to be sure they are working properly and protecting you. If you have any questions about these and what they do please feel free to contact a member of the fire department and we can answer any questions you may have. This is especially important if you are burning wood or using any appliances that burn fossil fuels. Also be sure to have your chimney cleaned yearly if you are burning wood.

The fire department continues to actively recruit firefighters and junior firefighters to have a stronger team of dedicated volunteers. If you have the time and interest, please call the department. The first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 P.M is for fire department training unless otherwise noted. The fire department continues to house the administrative office, emergency operations center and training functions at 18 Jacobs Road. Feel free to check it out next time you are in the building.

We continue to do our best to provide a safe and workable environment for our volunteers serving Heath and our mutual aid communities. Lastly, but certainly not least, I want to thank all of the members (firefighters, EMTs and association members) and the highway department for their contributions to help those in need.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicholas Anzuoni
Fire Chief

**To download
THE TOWN OF HEATH ANNUAL REPORT 2025
visit our website at www.townofheath.org**

HEATH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

When Heath Free Public Library adopted our current Strategic Plan, the following list of values were highlighted: safe, friendly, transparent, accessible, and current/forward looking. In the last year, we have held these values at the forefront while working toward our goals, which are:

Engage with everybody
Curate our collections and a welcoming space
Grow our skills

The library staff aims for residents of Heath and visitors to feel engaged in our community, and safe and welcome in this public space. Here are some ways we have offered to help people to stay connected to each other and the broader world:

- Children’s Story Hour & Playtime sessions every other week, Sept-May
- Music with Special Guest, Doug Wilkins, at Story Hour
- Art by Heath resident, Eileen Lively, on display: a multi-media collage in honor of Del Viarengo
- Expanded Library of Things to include hand sewing notions and hosted Mending Day events where community members are invited to bring mending projects in, get advice, and borrow what is needed to repair an item.
- *A Celtic Celebration* performance by Davis Bates
- Egg Hunt
- Seed Exchange with Provider Green Bean seeds from the Common Seed Project
- Storytelling and musical performance with local author Eveline MacDougall, and musical guest, John Clark
- Fairy House workshop for kids
- Ice Cream Social for all ages co-sponsored by Council on Aging
- Summer Reading Program
- Children’s *Fun for the Whole Herd* Bike Decorating Party for Heath Fair Parade
- Local Author Poetry Reading – Gregg Orifici read from his book, *Rattle of the Sun*
- Mushroom Walk guided by Paul Lagreze
- Trunk-or-Treat Halloween Party
- Winter Solstice Party
- Carol Purington Poetry Collective, held monthly in partnership with Griswold Memorial Library in Colrain
- Community Mosaic Project with Friends of the Library and local artist, Cindy Fisher

How to Find Out What’s Going on at Heath Free Public Library

A great way to stay connected with the library is our weekly Wowbrary email newsletter. The newsletter includes information about new items at the library, book reviews, links to the online catalog and other resources, announcements, and notices about events. Visit our website www.heathlibrary.org to sign up for the newsletter, view the online library catalog, order materials, find links to resources, and information about programs and events. heath.library@gmail.com, or visit in person

Call us at 413-337-4934, ext. 007, email on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

Heath Free Public Library Statistics

	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Library Visitors	2,336	2,860	2,765
Material Circulation	10,798	12,840	12,446
Loans received from other libraries	1,278	1,636	1,593
Loans provided to other libraries	1,663	2,082	2,247
Audio/Video circulation	1,636	1,999	1,689
Ebook/E-audio circulation	3,380	3,641	3,244
Number of registered borrowers	375	392	374

Recognitions

The library would like to thank the Friends of the Library for continued support! The library relies on the Friends to help fund and organize programs that are outside what we can do with our library budget. This year, we are excited to share that the Friends of the Library was awarded a Creative Experiences Grant from the Mass Cultural Council. In this community-wide project, we are collaborating with local artist, Cindy Fisher, to create a large wall mounted mosaic for the library. Thanks to the Friends of the Library, the whole community is able to share in the experience of creating art together and enjoying it for years to come.

Board of Library Trustees

Chair: Gale Hubley (term expires May 2028)

Secretary: Becky Johnston (term expires May 2027)

Emily Cross (term expires May 2026)

HEATH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Heath Historical Commission is excited over the completion of the window restoration in the Community Hall building. We look forward to the completion of the three remaining planned projects, storm windows, painting of the interior walls upstairs and refinishing of the wood floors. HHC looks forward to supporting programs thought the year at the Heath Community Hall. Once the Window Restoration grant has been completed, HHC is eager to pursue other grants to assist in repairs needed for Sawyer Hall. Projects being considered are the foundation for the front porch, realigning the large slate porch slabs and replacement of the front door. All of this work will make it safer and more accessible for our handicapped residents. Several rooms in Sawyer have been rented this year and hopefully, these improvements will lead to even more revenue for the town. In closing, we would also mention that Kathy Stosz has expressed interest in moving on from HHC. If anyone is interested in helping keeping our town’s history alive and vibrant, please reach out and join our committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Co-Chairpersons: Susan M Gruen and Nina Marshall

HEATH VETERAN'S MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The last meeting of the Heath Veteran's Memorial Committee was May 28, 2025. The purpose of this meeting was to wrap up any loose ends, and for members (Peter Smith, Hormidas Lively, and Jerry Gilbert) to sign and submit their resignation letter, as we felt our original goals had been completed.

Our last project, the resurfacing of the walkway, was completed in September 2024.

We request the remaining funds of \$294.39 remain in "The Account" for future Monument use as needed. (Names may need to be added in the future.) A blank stone is also available, if needed, in the future.

We also thank the former members of this Committee: David Howland, Robert Bourke and Dennis Peters.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Gilbert, Recording Secretary

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Many new things happened during 2025, and the changes are clearly visible. In April, Kyle Jarvis resigned to return to work in the private sector. A new worker, Jason Boutwell, was hired to train for the skilled laborer-operator position. Since his start, he has received initiation and training under the watchful eye of our long-term worker, Jason Lively.

The demolition of both the old EOC office next to the Fire Station and the old salt shed was completed. Foundation preparation and grading was done by Dick Hillman Construction. The much-needed new salt shed was constructed by Iron Horse Structures in time to fill it with winter product. During 2026 completion of the final electric work and building a front retaining wall will complete the project.

The town has also seen the new small dump truck and the new-to-us large dump truck that have been added to the fleet. These two pieces of equipment have been instrumental in road clearing with the numerous snow and ice storms that we have dealt with this winter.

I would like to thank all the town residents for their patience as we dealt with temperamental winter weather while having to put in long hours of plowing and treating roads, and equipment repairs. A special "thank you" to the crew and to relief driver, Jason Clark, for his prompt response to my calls and willingness to work at any hour. Also thanks go to occasional relief drivers Matt Lovett and Aaron Steavens who were available when needed during extended hours.

As I write this, we are coming close to the end of the winter months and are looking forward to making the summer equipment ready, and taking on the many projects planned for this upcoming spring, summer, and fall. Some of the projects will be removing the standing dead trees on the roadside, brush clearing, and roadside ditching. We ask that you take care in driving and please be observant of "Road Work Ahead" signs.

Respectfully submitted,
Tyson Howard
Highway Superintendent

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Michael Cucchiara, Chair, Shahid Jalil, Bob Dane, Don Lebreax, Patricia McGahan.

The Parks and Recreation (P&R) Committee had a fruitful 2025 with its ongoing projects. As with prior years, a major key to the success of the P&R this past year has been our ongoing partnership with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Northeast Massachusetts Woodlands Partnership (MWTP) grant program. The MWTP grant program is geared toward enhancement of forestry-based economic development in the Northwestern Massachusetts region, which specifically includes improvement of forest-based recreational areas for participating towns. Since 2019, Heath has been the beneficiary of seven MWTP grants awards which have provided the Town with \$275,000 in funding for outdoor recreation projects geared toward promoting public access and improving recreational infrastructure.

MWTP grant funds have enabled the P&R to undertake many improvements to Town recreational assets. In 2024 Heath was awarded \$25,000 in grant funds to build new informational kiosks and to provide for new street signage around town. In 2025, the P&R partnered with Fire Chief Anzuoni to acquire a UTV to support emergency response for the Heath Fire Department. The UTV will enable the Fire Department to improve its response to off-road emergencies including forest fires and search and rescue. The UTV features a fully enclosed cabin to allow use in all seasons. The UTV is also adaptable to allow for the installation of treads for winter use, which will be particularly helpful for future winter storms (for those who remember the winter of 2025).

In closing, on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Committee, I would like to thank the dedicated Committee members, the Town Coordinator, the Conservation Commission, the Select Board, and, most importantly, our volunteers who have given of their free time and energy for the betterment of our community. If you'd like to get involved, or volunteer a couple of hours, please get in touch with your P&R members— there's always lots of work to go around.

We have many great plans for 2026 and look forward to seeing you out on the trails!

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Cucchiara, Committee Chair

PLANNING BOARD

Chair's Message:

The Heath Planning Board remains committed to thoughtful, balanced planning that protects the rural character of our community while ensuring compliance with state law and accommodating appropriate development. Over the past year, the Board has continued its work reviewing applications, updating bylaws, and preparing for emerging land use issues that will shape Heath's future. We appreciate the cooperation of applicants, town boards, and residents who contribute to a constructive planning process.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Mason, Chair

The Planning Board guides the town's development in the best interests of its residents. Our responsibilities include land use planning, zoning administration, and project review to promote orderly growth and maintain a well-designed rural community.

During 2025, the Board:

- Endorsed three Approval Not Required (ANR) plans, allowing land divisions that meet statutory requirements.
Locations: 141 and 144 Summer Stetson Road; 37 Number Nine Road; and 15 South Road.
- Reviewed and approved two site plans for ground-mounted solar arrays.
Locations: 10 South Road and Bassett Road.
- Updated the Heath Protective Zoning Bylaws by standardizing terminology, replacing "public way," "private way," "statutory private way," and "road" with the term "street" for clarity and consistency.
- Participated in infrastructure discussions regarding National Grid pole replacements in Heath.
- Attended a Short-Term Rental informational presentation hosted by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG).

Looking Ahead to 2026;

In the coming year, the Planning Board will review and consider updates to Heath's Zoning Bylaws related to:

- 5G Wireless Infrastructure
- Solar Energy Systems
- Short-Term Rentals (STR)
- Large Battery Storage Facilities and Data Centers
- Subdivision Regulations
- Protective Zoning Bylaw cleanup and modernization

These efforts aim to ensure that Heath's regulations remain aligned with Massachusetts state law while supporting the town's long-term planning goals and community needs.

Planning Board Members (2025): Doug Mason (Chair), Peter Charow, Bill Fontes, Will Emmet, and Bob Dane; Boards Clerk: Cindie Garland

Regional Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG) Representative:
Jessica Atwood

POLICE DEPARTMENT

In 2025 we handled 286 calls for service. We signed on to renew our affiliation with the West County co-responder/clinician. The co-responder rides along with an officer to check in on, or assist, an officer with mental health issues, elder/dementia types of issues, grievances, and many more concerns. She has been a great asset to us. We are affiliated with the Franklin County Sheriff's office animal control program. The animal control officers do a great job for Heath. I have had some residents stop in the station or send an email about issues and concerns (traffic, neighbor concerns, etc.) or just say hi.

I urge you all to stop in, email, or make a phone call. We have office hours on Tues, 6pm-8pm at 18 Jacobs Road.

Respectfully submitted,
John McDonough
Chief of Police



911 call	14
911 mis dial.....	5
Alarm burglar.....	22
Ems alarm.....	9
Fire alarm.....	7
Animal complaint.....	14
Assist citizen.....	6
Assist other agency.....	3
Articles recovered.....	1
Check welfare.....	15
Car vs deer.....	2
Disturbance.....	6
Disabled MV.....	3
Drill/testing.....	4
Escort/transport.....	1
Fire/other.....	2
Brush fire.....	3
Vehicle Fire.....	1
Follow up invest.....	10
Gas leak.....	1
General info.....	1
Harassment.....	3
Keep the peace.....	1
Larceny.....	1
Line down.....	14
Lock out.....	1
Medical emergency.....	52
Mental health follow up.....	12
Mental health outreach.....	1
Missing Person.....	1
Miscellaneous.....	2
Motor vehicle accident.....	7
Notification.....	5
Officer wanted.....	9
Paperwork service.....	3
Safety hazard.....	2
Service call.....	1
Shots fired.....	2
Smoke invest.....	3
Soliciting.....	4
Suspicious vehicle.....	1
Traffic hazard.....	6
Unwanted person.....	1
Vandalism.....	1
Serve warrant.....	1

Total 286

TOWN NURSE

The Town Nurse office is located at 18 Jacobs Rd. Office hours are 9:15 to 10:45 and 12 to 1:30 on Tuesday and Thursday. I also will see someone in their home if unable to come into the office. Phone 337-4934 extension 9 and e-mail is nurse@townofheath.org. You may call me at home 337-8309, as I will only be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday at the above hours. Messages may be left on the office phone, but I won't see them until my usual office hours. I am available for home visits that can be worked into my schedule.

I held a flu clinic in October with few people coming in. With many pharmacies providing vaccinations people have other options for getting vaccine. I only have influenza vaccine as storage requirements are different for COVID vaccine. I also have equipment to check INR.

I lead Healthy Bones and Balance classes, also on Tuesdays and Thursdays, for people 55 and older through the Retired Senior Volunteer program of Hampshire, Hamden, and Franklin County. It is free, but a consent form must be signed.

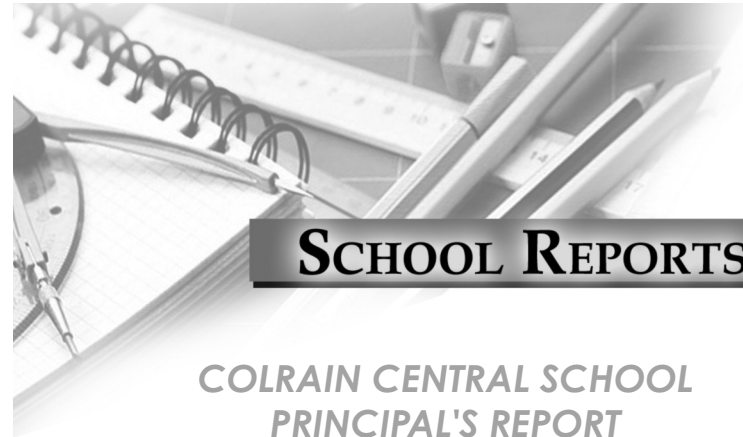
My plan is to retire as Town Nurse by November first as I will not be renewing my nursing license. I will continue to lead the Healthy Bones and Balance Classes.

Claire Rabbitt, RN

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals only met once in 2025, and it was in Executive Session to handle items related to a lawsuit brought partially against the Town of Heath by David Matusko & Jennifer Lerner for a property located at 47 Vincent Rd. As it is in litigation, no information is available at this time.

Alice Wozniak, Chair
Alanson Nichols
Dena Briggs
Steven Thane
Kenneth Gilbert



SCHOOL REPORTS

COLRAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

During the 2025-2026 school year, we had just under 100 students in grades PK-6 enrolled at Colrain Central School. We have one classroom per grade, along with a network of professional and support staff to meet students' educational needs.

Across all content areas, our academics strive to teach students how to be able to think creatively, critically, independently and express their ideas in meaningful ways. We encourage students to make meaning through conversations with their peers and teachers and generalize the skills learned into their greater lives in their communities. It is through this, that we believe that students acquire and master academic knowledge and use those skills to be agents of change in their communities, not just when they are adults, but now.

In addition to being good stewards of our students, we also strive to care for our building and campus. Some of the facility maintenance and improvement projects that took place in 2025 included:

HVAC and plumbing repairs

- Serviced and cleaned boilers
- Replacement of belts and motors for unit vents as needed.
- Replaced air filters in unit vents
- Cleaned grease trap in kitchen
- Toilet repairs (wax rings, bolt sets, flange rings etc.)
- Sink repairs as needed

Inspections

- Boilers, fire panel, smoke detectors, horns, and strobes (replaced as necessary)
- Fire extinguishers (changed and replaced as necessary)
- Emergency lighting (replaced as necessary)
- Integrated Pest Management plan
- Kitchen Hood
- Propane pressure test

Yard and Grounds

- Repoint blue stone on the café side of the building
- Sidewalk repairs parking lot side of the building
- Trimmed trees parking lot side hang over roof
- Added playground mulch to the play area
- Serviced mower
- Tick control

Water and Sewer

- Monthly bacteria testing and quarterly water quality sampling per MassDEP schedule (sampling reports results on file at Colrain Central School)
- Pump Sewer

Misc. Maintenance

- Three-year re-inspection of asbestos AHERA plan
- Painted some of the basement floor with 2-part epoxy to secure the asbestos tiles from popping up
- Flame proof stage curtains
- Shade replacement
- Tile replacement in halls and classrooms
- Kitchen walk in freezer glass window replacement

As always, I invite you to explore and see the wonderful things happening in our school. Our dedicated, hardworking staff continues to go above and beyond to meet the needs of all students and prepare them to be active, involved citizens and strong, creative problem solvers. I continue to be honored to serve this town, its families, and its children as principal.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy K. Looman

**MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Peer relationships and student-staff relationships continue to strengthen through our daily advisory program in grades 7-12, as well as regular student-led whole school assemblies on Wednesday mornings. Additionally, our focus on providing opportunities for student voice and students to authentically lead their own learning is apparent through our prioritizing student-led conferences and standards-based teaching and learning, and a concentration on the mastery and application of curricular skills beyond MTRS.

We continue to emphasize student autonomy through the three main pillars:

- I am part of this community
- I can contribute in a positive way
- I will be accountable for my words and actions

A new schedule has been implemented at the start of the 25-26 school year. This marks a move away from a block schedule, more typically used in a larger school, to a daily schedule and trimesters rather than semester-long classes. The intention

was to provide more opportunities for teachers to engage with students in all grade levels. Through the Flex block, there are opportunities for students to continue to participate in clubs and academic support blocks. Transparent communication continues to be important to MTRS. There are numerous ways for the community to provide continuous feedback to MTRS including bimonthly drop-in hours, a student advisory group, and an annual "How are we doing?" surveys to students, families, and staff. These ongoing structures, and the Local Educational Committee, continue to provide opportunities for community members to give immediate feedback on what goes on at MTRS.

In January of 2024, MTRS received the first of two annual \$450,000 grants from the Barr Foundation to support phase two of our unique Trailblazer model. This payment will allow us to continue implementing new initiatives and curricular programs to redesign the school experience for all students. This will provide students, staff, and community members with the opportunity to engage in professional development, working groups, and site visits in order to continue to implement and refine our Trailblazer Model.

The second phase of the Trailblazer Model continues to build on the existing key focus areas: high-quality instruction through a shift to standards-based teaching and learning; advisory and social-emotional learning; restorative practices; equitable educational experiences for all students; communications and community outreach; distributed leadership; and student-led conferences.

A number of staffing changes have been made in the service of continuing to promote and support the Trailblazer model of distributed leadership, opportunities for student voice, and increased Social and Emotional Learning. Lead teachers continue to provide leadership for staff and support with rolling out Standards-Based Teaching and Learning (SBTL) in grades 7-12. The District Athletic Director also continues to focus on the growth and promotion of sports in the district, as well as helping retain students at the end of grades 6 and 8. The district literacy and numeracy coaches have helped create and support data-driven grade-level numeracy and literacy teams in grades 7 and 8 to help strengthen the student learning experience.

MTRS continues to focus on supporting students in taking their learning beyond the classroom. Student participation in Dual Enrolment classes at GCC, the guidance team has focused on providing grade 12 students with the opportunity to extend their Capstone projects into work-based learning and Internship opportunities with businesses and organizations in the community. The team is also working with Masshire and other partners to look at ways to provide students with the opportunity to obtain certification for CPR, First Aid, ServeSafe, and Driver's Ed.

The guidance team held a second annual alumni college conversation with students in December. The guidance team helped provide grade 8 students with an information morning as well as the opportunity to experience a day in high school. Admin will visit grade 6 classes later in the winter/spring to talk with students about life and opportunities at MTRS.

Utilization of the two new district mini-buses for local trips has allowed us to continue to provide students with learning experiences outside of the classroom. To date this year, teachers have led field trips to the following locations: Smith College, GCC, UMASS Amherst, Springfield College, Amherst Art Museum, Boston Aquarium, Clarke Museum, Shelburne Falls, and numerous other locations are linked to classroom activities.

We continue to be thankful to parents and care providers for their active involvement in MTRS life through the Local Education Committee (LEC). Other community-wide opportunities, such as Open House, the Celebration of Learning, and the Mohawk Trail Athletic Association (MTAA), organized Spring Fling, continue to imbibe MTRS with positive community spirit. Graduation took place indoors in the MTRS auditorium in May of 2025, and we are planning for this to be the venue for a combined graduation and scholarship event for the Class of '26 on Friday, 29th May, 2025.

Communications and Outreach Coordinator Carol Foote continues to support all schools in the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts through internal and external coverage of school- and community-related news and events. She serves as a resource and point of contact for and to district staff, students, caregivers, community members, The Mary Lyon Foundation, school- and town-based newsletter editors, reporters from the Greenfield Recorder, town officials and legislators, organizations, and businesses. Her design and writing work may be seen around our buildings and towns, as well as on our websites and on social media.

The continued resurgence of music and drama at MTRS in the past year has included a spring musical in 2024, Charlie Brown, a winter play, And then there was one, took place in early January 2025. Our annual Winter Concert took place on December 18th, and our Spring school concert and district concerts are scheduled for later in 2026.

2025 was another incredible year for Mohawk Trail athletics! While continuing to offer programming for grades K-12, our athletic department benefited from record-breaking participation numbers in every athletic season. All told, over HALF of Mohawk Trail students participate in Mohawk Trail athletics EVERY season, well above both the State and National averages. After a 5-year hiatus, Boys Varsity Basketball is back! There is now a team at all three levels: middle school, junior varsity, and varsity! For the third time in four years, our girls' alpine ski team was able to bring home a State Championship! A truly dynastic run by our flagship program!

Mohawk Trail has continued to work closely with West County Baseball, West County Soccer, and the Hilltown Basketball League to offer seasonal athletic opportunities to our district students in grades K-6. Summer offerings through the Mohawk Trail Athletic Department include both the Summer Track Series and youth field hockey clinics. Both are held weekly throughout the summer months! All of these programs are run by community volunteers, as well as Mohawk Trail coaches and athletes. We cannot thank these contributors enough for all of the hard work and dedication they have put into ensuring the sustainability of our district's athletic programs.

Mohawk Trail continues to have incredibly high participation rates amongst our 7th and 8th- grade students. More than 77% of our Mohawk Trail middle school students participate in at least one athletic season, while many participate in as many as three! Middle school students have the ability to choose from 14 different athletic offerings, spread out over three seasons. In order to ensure the continued success and sustainability of athletic programs in rural areas, the MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association) has continued to allow smaller schools in rural areas to join forces in order to field teams that they would not be able to field on their own. Currently, the Mohawk Trail Regional School District is involved in eight separate cooperative programs. They include...

- Varsity Golf - Host School (w/ Greenfield High School)
- Wrestling - Host School (w/ Greenfield High School)
- Football - Guest School (w/ Greenfield High School)
- Boys and Girls High School Soccer - Guest School (w/ Greenfield High School)
- High School Baseball - Guest School (w/ Greenfield High School)
- Nordic Skiing - Host School (w/ Hampshire Regional)
- Hockey - Guest School (w/ Greenfield High School)
- Boys Tennis - Guest School (w/ Greenfield High School)

Curious as to how you can help facilitate the success of the Mohawk Trail Athletic Department? Please reach out to District Athletic Director Greg Lilly at gillyAD@mtrsd.org or Mohawk Trail Athletic Association President Jenn Pease at jpease@admin.umass.edu to see how you can lend a helping hand!

At the December mid-point of the 2025-2026 school year, student enrollment in grades 7-12 is 297. Current enrollment numbers for middle school include approximately 73 students in seventh grade and 74 students in eighth grade. Enrollment for ninth grade is 36 students; 10 th grade has 41 students; 44 members of the Junior class, and 29 MTRS seniors. We have 1 student enrolled in our post-graduate program.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Buckland, Principal

To read this report in its entirety, please go to the Town website:
www.townofheath.org.

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Where are We Focusing?

These are areas where specific attention has been paid to improving and strengthening performance, results, and communication across our schools and grades.

Instructional Leadership Focus

- Learning walks tied to ILT school-based planning guides
- Principal coaching cycles with Focus Schools
- Monthly DLT meetings with professional development in instructional leadership
- Accountability to district-wide assessment systems, data cycles, and curriculum implementation

District-wide Targeted Learning Focus: Writing

- Established a district-wide targeted learning focus
- Supported school-based targeted learning focus development
- Aligned current resources and initiatives to support writing across all content and grade levels
- Looking at local student work to compare with state student work exemplars

Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices

- Continued work with CES and the Joy and Justice team
- Training for all paraprofessionals
- Creation of a teacher toolkit to address incidents of bias in our schools
- Communication Tools

Area in development

Monthly newsletters to include:

- Curriculum, assessment, and instruction areas of growth
- Shared district-wide student achievement data for areas of celebration and growth

Enough Abuse Partnership (EAP)

The Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts have pursued a partnership with Enough Abuse, an organization dedicated to preventing sexual abuse of children in school districts across Massachusetts. A plan of action has been created that includes: 1.) safety education for all staff; 2.) requirement of an EAP course for all staff to establish clear and consistent expectations for appropriate relationships; and 3.) review of our policies, procedures and protocols by Enough Abuse to develop recognition and prevention of boundary-crossing behaviors. Annual staff training now includes Enough Abuse content as well as mandatory 51A training. Hiring policies include asking specific questions about prior DCF findings and former work experiences.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our students and staff is our highest priority. Please know that when an individual is hired in the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont School Districts, they must be fingerprinted and are subject to both a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) review and a Sexual Offender Registry Information (SORI) review. In addition, our employee handbook, policies, and procedures specifically outline the professional conduct we expect of all adults in our employment.

Curriculum Check: Assessing and Adjusting Toward Achievement

In our districts, with nearly 900 students and 200 staff, implementing practices and understanding how those changes affect learning takes time. We collect and use data to 1.) inform ourselves about student learning, and 2.) make decisions about instruction to best meet student needs. Some of the ways we collect information include:

- informally in the classroom through observation and discussion;
- regularly in small and ongoing assessments like quizzes, interviews, and exit tickets
- more formally through standardized assessments like DIBELS, unit tests, projects, and papers.

While our districts' schools, like those across the nation, still show learning loss from the pandemic, overall, our districts are classified as making "moderate progress" toward targets. All schools are performing at this level except for Colrain Central, which has an achievement level of "Substantial Progress" toward targets. And last year, Hawlemont Regional earned a "School of Distinction" recognition for its improvement efforts.

We continue to shift towards more meaningful teaching and learning strategies (like Standards-Based Teaching and Learning (SBTL)) that result in content mastery and the application of skills in the classroom, as well as measurable success on standardized state assessments.

Student Voice

Student-Led Conferences (SLCs) continue to be our version of a parent-teacher conference in which students take a leadership role and are held twice a year. To prepare for the conference, students have reflection time and mini-work sessions during their advisory block. A template is provided to ensure students address their progress toward academic standards, what they are most proud of, what can be celebrated, areas for growth, and what teachers and families can do to support their goals.

An additional forum in which MTRS high school students were encouraged was a summit focused on the theme "Your Voice. Your School. Your Future." Students were able to share their experiences and play a key role in reimagining the future of Mohawk Trail Regional School by discussing big ideas and practical actions related to what matters most to them at MTRS. This work will continue into 2026-2027.

Smithsonian Institute In District

Mohawk Trail Regional hosted the Smithsonian Institute's Museum on Main Street traveling exhibit from April 17 through May 29. Students from classrooms around the building and district visited with assignments in hand, allowing the exhibit to enrich their learning. Visitors from the community discovered the richness of the content that only the Smithsonian Institute can provide. Events hosted around the topic of Voices and Votes: Democracy In America demonstrated our appreciation for the depth and breadth of the topic and offered a forum for learning, sharing, and growth.

We offer our thanks to: Mass Humanities, Mass Cultural Council and other local cultural councils, local historical societies and organizations, The Mary Lyon Foundation, The Charlemont Forum, Center for New Americans, League of Women Voters of Franklin County, The Art Garden, and all speakers, panelists and special guests, Falls Cable TV, the group of dutiful volunteer docents, students and teachers who fortified their knowledge through the exhibit, all the visitors who made time to attend events and view the exhibit, and the planning committee.

Sustainability Study

The Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts acknowledge that the trends of declining enrollment, rising operational costs, relatively flat state aid, and increasing needs of our student body have made the districts' current operations

financially unsustainable. These trends are national and are directly affecting our communities, creating financial concerns for our school districts, our member towns, and their taxpayers. During 2025, in Phases I and II of the 2 Districts 8 Towns sustainability project, community conversations, meetings with town leaders, and extensive research and reporting took place. The project has moved into Phase III with consultant BERK12. Most recently, the Educational Visioning group has met to preserve what our community values most, expand opportunities for all learners, and enhance our schools with new possibilities that reflect the needs of today's students and families.

Rural Advocacy

In June, the Superintendent traveled to the State House with 4 students to lobby for increased rural aid. They participated in a hearing by sharing their personal stories on the floor. We are aligned with Rural Schools Advocacy in Massachusetts to create a movement to increase rural aid. As a rural school district, we struggle with bridging financial and other resource gaps. The 38 rural school districts that educate 38,000+ Massachusetts students need and deserve rural aid that addresses our needs. Our advocacy has been and will continue to be around these three issues:

- reinstating \$4 million in rural aid removed from the FY26 Massachusetts budget; the original proposed amount was \$16 million, but was later reduced to \$12 million.
- ensuring the legislature honors Governor Maura Healey's FY27 rural aid proposal of \$20 million.
- Since the Commission on the Fiscal Health of Rural School Districts report was released in July 2022, the State was recommended to appropriate \$60 million in rural school aid annually. Our voices will continue to advocate for that recommended amount.

Green Initiatives

Schools in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District are starting 2026 off with a renewed commitment to our composting program. We are partnered with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, which visits to present on composting and recycling in the school setting, which is an initiative that has been running since 2012 at Mohawk Trail Regional School.

Wrapping Up

It is a pleasure and an honor to continue serving as your Superintendent of Schools, and I look forward to our work together.

Sheryl L. Stanton
Superintendent

Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts

Where Learning and Growth is our Focus and Community, and Courage is our Path

To read this report in its entirety, please see the Town of Heath website at www.townofheath.org.

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL (FCTS)

FCTS Mission Statement: It is the mission of Franklin County Technical School to prepare all students to achieve a future of successful careers, technical and intellectual curiosity, healthy life choices and strength of character

We submit this annual report for the 2025-26 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students.

The enrollment numbers presented below are from the Statewide October 1, 2025, enrollment count, the State's annual "official" count. As of October 2025, the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) has an enrollment of 579 students with member town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	23	Erving	20	Montague	88	Sunderland	9
Buckland	23	Gill	14	New Salem	10	Warwick	4
Colrain	28	Greenfield	129	Northfield	58	Wendell	7
Conway	4	Heath	19	Orange	78	Whatley	13
Deerfield	29	Leyden	12	Shelburne	11		

FCTS awarded 152 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2025. The state has adjusted its measures for evaluating district/school accountability, and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 accountability status out of a 5- point scale, with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. Additionally, the district is meeting targets set by the Department of Education for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities.

FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, and advanced precision machining to provide maintenance and repairs to our school grounds and facility, saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. These shop programs also saved member towns an estimated \$100,000 in capital improvement projects. Trades Women of Tomorrow is a new state initiative over the last several years, providing female students at FCTS, with information and opportunity to experience successfully women business owners working in various non-traditional trade areas.

FCTS students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). FCTS has averaged more than 110 students placed on paid Coop jobs, which are directly correlated to their vocational field of study. FCTS has the strongest Coop placement % in the state of Massachusetts.

FCTS also offers excellent academic offerings with increased course offerings in advanced placement, honors, foreign language, credit recovery, and special education to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness.

Franklin County Technical School continues to experience popularity within Franklin County, which has translated to new vocational-technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science, Medical Assisting, and a new Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) program. FCTS students follow a strict Chapter 74 guided program where students are immersed in their trade for 6.5 hours a day, develop industry-recognized credentials, and are often placed in paid employment through COOP. This robust schedule allows students to meet industry competency guidelines.

The new Aviation program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials in Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT), upon program approval, which is anticipated for January 2026. FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.2-million-dollar competitive grant to build a new 12,000-square-foot aviation hangar and 1.4 million dollars of certified FAA equipment, aircraft, and training modules. This grant should cover the entire cost of the facility with no additional financial help needed from our member towns. With the new equipped hangar, FCTS will become one of the few high schools in the country to offer a credentialed FAA program. Students starting the program in the fall of 2026, will have the opportunity to obtain 1200 hours of FAA training, allowing them to sit for an FAA license exam.

FCTS is nearly 50 years old and has experienced electrical switch gear issues, roof leaks, plumbing and drainage issues, underground piping and conduit related issues, elimination of auditorium to accommodate enrollment, and a host of additional facility concerns to provide adequate student space and learning needs. This has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars to maintain the FCTS facility annually, over the last several years. To resolve this, FCTS has been approved for a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded project for a core building. FCTS has budgeted money over the last several years to fund a Feasibility Study without having to bond or charge our member towns with additional assessments. We have completed the eligibility and feasibility phases of the project and currently in the schematic design phase. The schematic design phase will be completed in the summer of 2026 and a district wide vote will occur in the fall of 2026 for all 19 member towns on the same day and hours.

FCTS's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.5 million dollars in competitive grants over the last 8 years and a total of 11.5 million since 2014. These funds have significantly enhanced our Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, Machine Technology, and Aviation vocational-technical programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer evening programs for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using the latest 21st-century technology in our CNC machines. Through these highly competitive skills grants, FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to develop technical skills for FCTS students toward certification. FCTS has begun partnering with the Franklin County House of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab and provide competency training to inmates.

FCTS applied for and received a total of 4 million dollars in grants over the last several years to implement new adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth Corporation's Career Technical Initiative (CTI). Since 2022, FCTS initiated adult training courses in Welding, Auto Technology, Electrical, Landscaping, Horticulture, and Carpentry through the CTI grant. FCTS continues to explore more programs for evening courses in 2025. The CTI grants are helping FCTS to start its adult program offerings, such as electrical and hobby courses with plans to add more in the future. FCTS has hired a full-time adult evening school coordinator to accomplish these goals and meet industry and community needs.

Franklin County Technical School remains committed to providing high-quality technical services to our member towns. FCTS vocational programs have supported the community in the following areas, while allowing our students to gain real-world experience and deliver significant cost savings and essential services to the community: Construction & Infrastructure Projects, Electrical department has managed several large-scale municipal renovations and new constructions, Programming & Web Development, Agriculture & Environmental Stewardship in horticulture and animal science, Health and Human Services in cosmetology and health & medical assisting, and Culinary Arts.

The Franklin County Technical School is forward-thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs to its offerings. The School Committee supports our students as they obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace or at college. Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those who allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Respectfully,
Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz Mr. Richard J. Martin
School Committee Chairman Superintendent-Director

To read this report in its entirety, please go to the Town website:
www.townofheath.org.

MTRSS SPECIAL EDUCATION & PUPIL SERVICES

The Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts provide special education and related services to students in five buildings: Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School, Colrain Central School, Sanderson Academy, Hawlemont Regional School, and Mohawk Trail Regional School. The primary function of special education is to ensure that students with disabilities who are eligible for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) are provided with a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). Students with disabilities who are not eligible for an IEP may qualify for a Section 504 Plan. A 504 plan provides accommodations for students in general education settings in order to ensure access to instruction among their peers. An IEP provides specialized instruction that is evidence-based and designed to meet the unique needs of the student, in addition to accommodations in general education settings. Under both plans, student progress is regularly monitored by teachers and specialists to ensure that students

with disabilities are making effective progress given the necessary supports and services.

The Mohawk Trail District currently employs four full-time Speech/Language Pathologists who provide services to students attending Buckland-Shelburne, Colrain, and the Mohawk Trail school. Speech and language service needs at Hawlemont and Sanderson Academy are met through contracted providers. The districts share one Physical Therapist (PT), and the equivalent of 1.5 Occupational Therapists (OTs): one OT is full-time, and one OT has a 0.5 contract. To meet the rising needs of students with fine and gross motor limitations in the classroom, as well as sensory challenges, Mohawk Trail contracts with an outside provider for an additional 0.4 OT. We employ two full-time school psychologists. Every school building has an assigned mental health counselor, and there are three counselors providing services to middle and high school students at Mohawk Trail. The number of service providers in each building is based on student population, student needs, and the legal requirements of the IEP.

Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont share one Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). This is a small group of volunteer parent leaders, in conjunction with the Director of Pupil Services, who work to build effective parent-school partnerships specifically designed for families of students with disabilities. Massachusetts state law assigns both an advisory and participatory function to SEPACs. Membership is offered to all parents of children with disabilities and other interested parties. Meetings are held monthly and are open to the public.

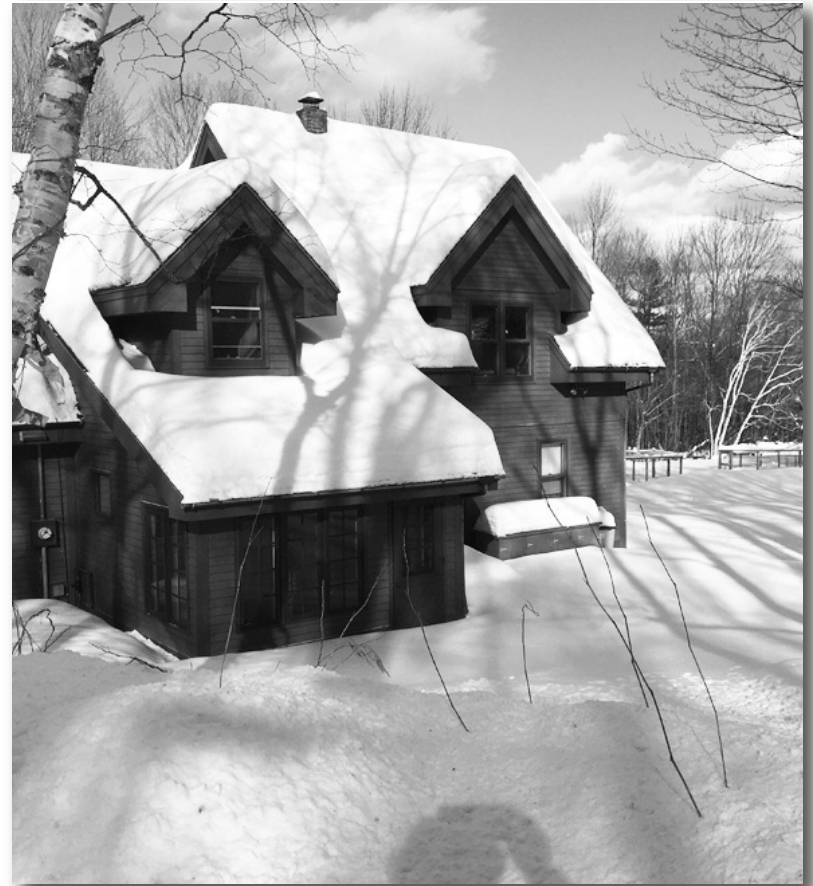
At the Buckland-Shelburne campus a substantially separate setting for students with cognitive and behavioral challenges is provided. This program, known as the HUB, is available to students across our two districts. The HUB is overseen by a special education teacher with expertise in severe-needs programming, as well as our Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Students access this separate setting to varying degrees according to their individual learning needs. On the Mohawk Trail campus, we offer two substantially separate classrooms for students in grades 7 and above which provides qualified specialists to encourage improved outcomes for students. The Mohawk Trail Vocational Program (MVP) provides life skills training and academic instruction that is modified to meet the needs of students who are working on common core curriculum standards below grade level. Students within the MVP program may receive educational services at Mohawk Trail until they are 22.

Demographic trends in special populations across both districts have largely mirrored trends at the state level, with the exception of the enrollment rate of English Language Learners and students for whom English is not their first language. As a district, Hawlemont serves a larger population of students identified as High

Needs compared to the state. The percentage of students identified as High Needs within the Mohawk Trail district is very near the state-wide average.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julia Lignori, Ed.S.
Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts

To read this report in its entirety, please go to the Town website:
www.townofheath.org.



MARY LYON FOUNDATION, INC.

2025 was a banner year for the Mary Lyon Foundation. We completed our \$5,000,000 Campaign for Student Success, surpassing our goal by \$100,000. This success highlights the strong support from our donors and partners, reinforcing their vital role in our progress. Our ongoing goals remain the same: stabilizing operations, securing funding, and expanding our support to more students, families, and educators. For example, we supported 1,100 students and families, demonstrating our tangible community impact.

Our vision for the future is to ensure that:

1. All students have the resources they need to be ready to learn, to succeed in school, and to thrive in the wider world.
2. All families have access to the services needed to foster a healthy and stable learning environment at home and school.
3. All educators have the tools and resources they need to give their students the very best education possible.

We have realized this vision through newly created programs, collaborations with other agencies, and the use of your fundraising dollars, which directly enable us to expand services like wrap-around support and community hubs, making you an essential part of our progress and impact.

Over the last year, our programs continued to expand, and we found ourselves in need of a Program Director. Liza Manchester joined our team in late July, and with her help, we were able to successfully supplement food to the students in the districts throughout the SNAP crisis.

As we enter 2026, we are focused on supporting families and educators today while planning for the future, reinforcing our commitment to community growth and shared success.

We enter 2026 inspired and motivated to continue offering, building, and creating a sustainable community resource in West County and continue to expand our help throughout Franklin County and areas of Hampshire County.

Total raised in 2025 in cash and pledges: \$1,134,266.74. This strong financial support enables us to sustain current programs and invest in new initiatives, such as expanding wrap-around services and community hubs, ensuring long-term impact and stability for the foundation's mission. The Mary Lyon Foundation depends on your generosity and grant funding to fulfill our mission. Your continued support enables us to grow our endowments and provide essential care and programs to those who need us most, fostering a sense of shared purpose and trust. Thank you for all the support and generosity in 2025, and we hope you will continue to join us in 2026.

Sincerely yours,
Kristen Tillona Baker, CEO/Executive Director

CARL H. NILMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This scholarship was established in Mr. Nilman's will and provides assistance in post high school education. Graduates of Mohawk Trail Regional High School living in the nine-town district who desire post high school education or training and need financial assistance are encouraged to apply.

The Committee awards between twenty and thirty scholarships each year. They are awarded to graduating seniors and past graduates who are continuing their higher education. Total funds awarded this past year were \$41,000, with seniors receiving \$12,300, and \$28,700 awarded to continuing education students.

From 1991-2024 a total of \$1,208,475 has been awarded in scholarships. Mohawk seniors have received \$369,825 and Mohawk graduates have received \$838,650. The members of the Nilman Fund Committee are honored to carry out his generous wishes.

Students of any age who are graduates of Mohawk and were living in the nine-town area at the time of graduation are encouraged to request an application from the guidance office at Mohawk Trail Regional High School.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Gruen, Heath Member, Nilman Scholarship Committee





REGIONAL REPORTS

FRANKLIN COUNTY REGIONAL
HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

For information visit www.fcrhra.org

FRANKLIN COUNTY REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Current reports and information at www.FRRSMA.com

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

In 2019, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in partnership with the Towns of Buckland, Colrain, Gill, Heath, Monroe, Northfield, and Shelburne joined to create the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program to provide Full-time services to these towns. Since its inception, the Franklin County Regional Animal Control program has expanded to provide these services to (20) towns in Franklin County, with the Towns of Deerfield, Montague, Shutesbury, Warwick, and the City of Greenfield joining the program in 2025.

During 2025, ACO Gower departed our agency. ACO Sonn was transitioned to fulltime and we added (2) additional full-time officers Hillary Szteliga and Kyle Sweeney.

Calls for Service:

- 🐾 70 – Animal Bite Reports.
- 🐾 643 – Animal Complaints or Concerns.
(Domestic, Livestock, and Wildlife)
- 🐾 120 – Investigations.
- 🐾 175 – Found or Lost animals.
- 🐾 35 – Inspections.
- 🐾 101 – Assistance to other agencies.
- 🐾 29 – Hearings, Meetings or Trainings.

**Note: The above does not represent all the calls that where received, this only highlights to majorities.*

Breakdown of calls by Town:

- 🐾 Bernardston: 56
- 🐾 Buckland: 46
- 🐾 Charlemont: 27
- 🐾 Colrain: 49
- 🐾 Conway: 36
- 🐾 Deerfield: 106
- 🐾 Gill: 54
- 🐾 Greenfield: 425
- 🐾 Heath: 47
- 🐾 Leyden: 19
- 🐾 Leverett: 45
- 🐾 Monroe: 7
- 🐾 Montague: 233
- 🐾 New Salem: 35
- 🐾 Northfield: 75
- 🐾 Shelburne: 56
- 🐾 Shutesbury: 21
- 🐾 Warwick: 13
- 🐾 Wendell: 29
- 🐾 Whately: 22

During 2025, Franklin County Regional Animal Control logged 1173 total events for service between January 1st and December 31st 2025

In the spring of 2025 with the assistance of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter and local veterinarians Rob Schmidt and Jaimie Remillard we were able to host rabies clinics in Greenfield and Heath.

Anyone with Animal Control questions or issues can contact us by email at animal-control@fcso-ma.us or by phone at 413-774-7340 x2. If you have an urgent or immediate situation, please contact the Shelburne Falls Regional Communications Center at 413-625-8200.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kyle Dragon, Lead Regional Animal Control Officer
Heather Sonn, Regional Animal Control Officer
Hillary Szteliga, Regional Animal Control Officer

COLRAIN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Colrain Ambulance responded to 55 calls for service for Heath medical situations and provided stand-by services for the Heath Fair in Calendar year 2025.

Respectfully Submitted
Gary Ponce
CEO & Director

COOPERATIVE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The Town's Health Inspection Team

Randy Crochier, Kurt Schellenberg, Jasmine Ward, Maureen O'Reilly, JJ Prusak and Liz Jacobson-Carroll

- **Improving Food Safety:** For Heath, reviewed 16 food establishment permit applications for restaurants, schools, local organizations, home kitchens, food trucks and/or events, including the Heath Fair. During a nationwide recall of infant formula, assisted district businesses in interpreting and complying with official guidance. Offered a low-cost food safety training class (ServSafe® and Choke Saver with use of EpiPen® and Narcan®) for food-serving establishment workers throughout the region.

- **Protecting Water Quality** through enforcement of Title 5 (septic system) code: Reviewed and acted on 39 applications related to septic systems, including system inspections related to property ownership transfers, soil evaluations (perc tests), system design, construction, and repair. Inspected installations prior to issuing certificates of compliance. Permitted installers and waste haulers. Also permitted the drilling of a well, reviewed potability reports, and issued a well certificate of compliance.

- **Protecting Children:** Throughout the region, conducted numerous inspections and site visits at 12 camps (including 1 in Heath) serving over 1,400 children. Along with public health nurse colleagues, worked to ensure compliance with the state code for recreational camps for children.

• **Ensuring Housing Safety:** Responded to numerous housing safety complaints throughout the CPHS district, working to resolve dangerous living situations for vulnerable people including older adults, disabled people, children, and veterans. Addressed non-functioning bathroom facilities, lack of heating, hoarding issues, chronic moisture leading to mold, rodent infestation, and the presence of lead paint in houses with children. Worked with residents and owners, Housing Court, and supportive services.

The Town, along with the other member towns of Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Leyden, Monroe, Northfield, Rowe, and Shelburne, is served by the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a health district based at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. CPHS provides professional support to the Heath Board of Health for all public health issues. The following sections describe activities undertaken by CPHS staff, in 2025, in addition to their regular participation in Heath Board of Health meetings. Heath's representatives to the CPHS Oversight Board in 2024 were Susan Gruen and Sheila Litchfield. CPHS staff look forward to working with them, other members of the Heath Board of Health and residents to improve the health of the community in the coming year. For more information, see <https://frcog.org/project/cooperative-public-health-service>

The Town's Regional Public Health Nurses - *Lisa White and Meg Ryan*

• **Vaccine Access:** Public Health Nurses gave 288 Flu and 285 COVID vaccinations at district drop-in nursing hours, A CPHS vaccination clinic held at Hawlemont Regional School, and home visits. Heath residents received 41 vaccines at these visits and were served by a regional clinic at Mohawk Trail as well. Through partnership with Heath Town Nurse, made 22 home visits to Heath residents through the year.

• **Connections to Healthcare:** Attended the CFCE of Mohawk Trail Regional School District Trinity Church Playgroup monthly, connecting with 24 west county parents in 54 contacts. The Public Health Nurses provided screenings, referrals and vaccines to 48 west county residents in 131 client contacts at Hilltown Churches Food Pantry. Services included blood pressure, other health screenings, assistance addressing health concerns, and where appropriate, home visits. In 2025 staff collected and dropped off to the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District 63 boxes of used sharps and provided as many clean empty containers to residents at drop in nursing community sites. Provided SHINE Medicare insurance counseling to 30 CPHS residents, including Heath residents.

• **Communicable Disease Management/Epidemiology:** Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for reportable disease cases, checking state infectious disease reporting system daily and following up as required. 10 communicable diseases were reported in Heath in 2025.

• **Age- and Dementia-Friendly Community planning:** Continued to support the regional Age and Dementia Friendly initiative as member of steering committee. Presented program on Understanding Alzheimer's and other dementia attended by Heath residents.

• **Reducing Impact of Opioids:** Worked with the town to address the devastating impact of opioids in the community by: hosting an opioid listening session to hear how residents impacted by the opioid crisis recommend spending settlement funds; supplying 11 naloxone cabinets in the district, including two in Heath and distributing naloxone (Narcan). Supported the BOH and Select Board to spend Opioid Settlement funds proactively to support those in need.

• **Tick-Borne Disease:** Collaborated with the Board of Health to provide prevention materials and permethrin shoe-spraying events. Through a district program Heath residents used 11 low-cost tick tests, a saving value of \$385. Of the tested ticks, 30% were positive for the Lyme disease pathogen, 7% for Anaplasmosis, and 15% for Babesiosis.

• **Emergency Preparedness:** Prepared for possible mosquito borne disease outbreaks by serving as town's arbovirus coordinator, monitoring weekly mosquito disease data reports from the state and providing regular updates to the town.

• **Public Communication:** Provided a monthly newsletter with updates to pertinent public health topics, CPHS services, events, trainings, local data, and relevant epidemiological analyses. Provided public health topics for the Heath Herald.

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-one member towns through administrative support, hauling contracts, trainings, and educational outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2025 shows a 300 ton decrease in recycling tonnage from 2024. District residents recycled just over 2,300 tons of paper and containers through their town programs. The recyclables were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and sold, primarily to domestic companies, to be recycled.

We held a May and October Clean Sweep bulky waste collection in 2025. Events were held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Erving Highway Garage, and Whately Transfer Station. Combined, the events served 636 households and collected over 60 tons of bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, propane tanks, tires, and other items.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2025 at Greenfield Community College and Orange Transfer Station. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 380 households participated in this event. Residents have access every year to other hazardous waste collection events in the Pioneer Valley.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$146,000 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of successful waste management infrastructures and programs.

We also held our first Fix-It Clinic at the Franklin County Tech School in May. Residents brought in broken items and almost everything was repaired by students and teachers from the Tech School as well as resident volunteers. A \$7,500 DEP grant will help us expand this program to more towns in 2026.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or visit us at 117 Main St. in Greenfield.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Ameen - Executive Director
Chris Boutwell, Montague - Chair
Terry Narkewicz, Shelburne - Vice-Chair
M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield - Treasurer

FRCOG SERVICES TO HEATH **Franklin Regional Council of Governments**

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all Franklin County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, the Cooperative Public Health District, the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program – are available to any municipality. The Community Health Department gathers data and works to improve the factors that impact health in the region; the Planning Department helps municipalities plan for the future regarding transportation, livability, economic development, climate resilience and land use, while also working on regional-scale projects as well; the Emergency Preparedness Programs prepare and train first responders and local officials.

FRCOG reports highlights of regional effort and impacts each year with an organizational annual report; recent year's reports can be found at <https://frcog.org/publications/frcog-annual-report/>. The 2025 Annual Report will be available in March 2026. Find the most extensive list of current and past projects and services on the FRCOG web site.

The following pages list services specific to Heath.

Climate Resilience, Land Use and Housing

- Assisted with the Ten-Year Action Plan update to extend the term of the current Open Space and Recreation Plan to expire in 2031.
- Assisted the town coordinator with completing the FY24 MA Green Communities Annual Report.

Community Health

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Mohawk Trail Regional School administrators on results from 130 Mohawk students, representing 76% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning. The 2025 survey includes the Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA).
- Met with school district administrators and staff to present their individual district's 2025 survey results, share custom written reports, provide assistance with interpretation and ad hoc analyses, and discuss how the district might use their survey results.
- Staff supported the Town in spending its opioid settlement funds regionally to bring addiction recovery supports to local residents and hosted a regional listening session to ensure compliance with the state settlement agreement.
- Supported Mohawk Trail Regional School district in obtaining professional development in anti-bias education for middle and elementary school staff
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the evidence-based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program in the Mohawk school district.
- Collaborated with the Mohawk district's restorative practices coordinator on implementing Restorative Practices school climate improvements.
- To help the Town meet mandated Massachusetts workforce standards, staff mentored and provided training opportunities to CPHS public health inspectors who serve Heath. They gave technical assistance, reviewed documents, developed and distributed job aids, maintained resource and lending libraries, and taught multi-session courses leading to certification.

Shared Municipal Services

The Franklin County Cooperative Inspections program issued 45 building permits, 31 electrical permits, 17 plumbing/gas permits and 3 certificate of inspection for Heath in 2025. Heath is a member of the CPHS, a regional health district based at the FRCOG, which conducts all of the town's public health work. CPHS staff:

- Staff gave 288 Flu and 285 COVID vaccinations at district drop-in nursing hours, at Hawlemont Regional School, and home visits. Heath residents received 41 vaccines at these visits and were served by a regional clinic at Mohawk Trail as well.
- Hosted drop-in nursing hours at the Senior Center at Charlemont Federated Church serving 47 different people in 95 separate contacts.
- Made 23 home visits to Heath residents.
- Attended the CFCE of Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School District Trinity Church Playgroup monthly, connecting with 24 west county parents in 54 contacts.
- Staff provided screenings, referrals and vaccines to 35 west county residents in 81 client contacts at Good Neighbors Food Pantry.

- Staff provided screenings referrals and vaccines to 48 west county residents in 131 client contacts at Hilltown Churches Food Pantry.
- Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for cases in district member towns, checking state infectious disease system daily and following up as required, including for 10 Heath cases.
- Provided SHINE Medicare insurance counseling to 30 CPHS residents, including Heath residents.
- Harm Reduction: Distributed Naloxone overdose reversal medication through the Good Neighbors Food Pantry and cabinets at Sawyer Hall and the Municipal Center.
- Worked with the Selectboard and Board of Health to install an air sensor at the Municipal Center. Data from the sensor can be seen at <https://healthyairnetwork.org/>.
- Reviewed a total of 59 Heath permit applications, including 1 for a food establishment, and 39 related to septic systems.
- Supported town events through 16 temporary food inspections at the Heath Fair.
- Responded to complicated health- and safety-related housing complaints in Heath and worked with owners, occupants, Housing Court, and community resources to resolve them.

Training and Education

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables, and training sessions offered to public officials, staff, and residents of all Franklin County municipalities in 2025.

Emergency Preparedness & Homeland Security

- WRHSAC De-escalation Training
- SkyWarn Weather Watch (REPC)

Healthy Youth Partnership

- Active Bystander Training
- Youth Substance Misuse Prevention

Municipal Official Continuing Education Series

- State Contracts & Available Services
- Selectboard 101
- Highway Program Roundtable
- Accessory Dwelling Unit Presentation

Planning, Conservation & Development

- Floodplain Maps Workshop
- ServSafe Training
- BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) Safety Workshop
- Mass in Motion
- Addressing Hate in Schools and Communities
- Community Health Needs Assessment Overview

Transportation

- Wrote a successful grant to complete an ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan for town-owned facilities. This project will be completed in 2026.

UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES

Mission Statement: To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependants, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels

Office has maintained continued outreach operations across the district. We have recently started to see a slowdown to the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to the record number of claims we processed due to the PACT Act signing of August 2022.

- District now brings in \$2,186,859.54 in Federal money per month from the VA in Disability Compensation, Veteran Pension, DIC Compensation and Death Pension. This is an increase of \$126,234.11 from CY24.
- District has three qualified National Veteran Service Officers.
- We are now covering outreach in the following towns once a month
 - o Ashfield – Town Hall
 - o Bernardston – Senior Center
 - o Erving – Senior Center
 - o Deerfield – Town Hall
 - o Leverett – Leverett Co-op
 - o Montague – Senior Center
 - o Northfield – Town Hall/Senior Center
 - o Shelburne – Senior Center
 - o Wendell – Town Offices

• Office attended the yearly Executive Office of Veteran Services for Massachusetts mandatory training and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers annual training.

• VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load off the Senior Centers.

• Expect a much less increase to Chapter 115 due to inflation coming back under control

• We project a slight increase from the overall operational budget Fiscal Year 26 budget while continuing to expand services in 2027. Main increase will be retiree and employee health insurance costs.

• We have increased the number of VA Healthcare applications since the change in eligibility for VA Healthcare.

Christopher Demars, Director
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

FRED W. WELLS TRUST FUND

This trust fund was established under the Will of Fred W. Wells. Mr. Wells, a former resident of Greenfield, directed that a portion of income from the fund be used for awarding scholarships in agricultural, mechanical or professional fields. Funds available for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 were \$343,207.22 (inclusive of unused scholarship money from previous years that was reallocated to be granted this year).

EDUCATION

The Trustees received 180 applications and approved 178 of those received. Trustees awarded a total of \$271,520.00. This amount includes two \$1,000.00 scholarships in honor of Ralph and Hilda Haskins. The Trustees worked diligently throughout the year to provide all eligible applicants an award to assist in their education.

HEALTH

Ten applicants were provided grants totaling \$51,481.08

Bernardston Senior Center	\$ 2,000.00
Conway Council on Aging	\$ 2,000.00
Greenfield Council on Aging	\$10,000.00
Heath Council on Aging	\$ 1,000.00
Leyden Council on Aging	\$ 1,000.00
Life Path, Inc.	\$12,481.08
Northfield Senior Center	\$ 2,000.00
South County Senior Center	\$ 5,000.00
The Care Collaborative	\$10,000.00
The Senior Center – West County Consortium	\$ 6,000.00
Total Health Grants awarded were	\$51,481.08

AGRICULTURE

Three applicants were provided grants totaling \$17,160.00

Franklin County Agricultural Society	\$ 7,722.00
Heath Agricultural Society	\$ 7,722.00
Shelburne Grange Fair	\$ 1,716.00
Total Agriculture Grants awarded were	\$17,160.00

WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP OF NORTHWEST MA

To learn more visit woodlandpartnership.org

From planting trees in Hawley to studying the impacts of recreation in state forests on public safety services, below are some highlights of the Partnership's recent work.

- A state grant funded a Tourism & Municipal Public Safety Study by the Collins Center in June identifying insufficient staffing, need for joint equipment purchase by towns, regional trainings and improved signage at back-country trails to address recreation impacts on local emergency response.
- A \$25,000 grant from the Catalyst Fund of the Network for Landscape Conservation allowed the Woodlands Partnership to hire a consultant who completed a three-year fundraising plan which recommends exploring non-profit status, non-government funding and a list of grant prospects.
- A \$75,000 state grant titled Voices for the Forest awarded to the Ex. Com. of the Woodlands Partnership will fund production of a video series and school field trips focused on forest ecology and stewardship, programs for woodland owners and the How Do Forests Grow? webinar series.
- The Woodlands Partnership Board is working with an Indigenous-focused consultant and the Regional Planning Agencies to conduct research and contribute components of a feasibility study assessing the unique qualifications of the 21-town Northwest Massachusetts region to be designated a Heritage Area of the National Park Service. After Board review, the draft report will be shared for public feedback in 2026.
- The Partnership hosted State Auditor Diana DiZoglio and local officials at an April 7 public media event in Windsor highlighting inequities and reform proposals for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) on state land.
- In November, US Forest Service grant funds for riparian restoration supported local volunteers in planting 72 native and climate-adapted trees with deer protection tubes on the banks of the Chickley River behind the Hawley Town Garage, the site of severe flooding from storm Irene in 2011.



TOWN OFFICE HOURS and TELEPHONE NUMBERS

All Town Business Offices Located at 18 Jacobs Road

TOWN BOARDS MEETING DATES (subject to change)

Board of Assessors:	As posted
Select Board:	Tuesday 5 p.m. (or as posted)
Board of Health:	2nd Wednesday of the month
Conservation Commission:	Meets as posted
Finance Committee:	Meets as posted
Library Trustees:	3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
Planning Board:	Meets as posted
Zoning Board of Appeals:	Meets as needed



TOWN TELEPHONE NUMBERS

337-4934 (Main phone with directory of extensions) • 337-8542 (Fax)

Community Hall	337-4847
Transfer Station	337-6640
Pay Phone	337-8334
First Aid Booth Fairgrounds	339-4210
Mohawk Trail Regional School	625-0192
Colrain Central School	615-3451

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATORS REPRESENTING HEATH

SENATOR PAUL MARK

Boston Address

24 Beacon Street, Room 504
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-1625
paul.mark@masenate.gov

District Address

773 Tyler Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 464-5635

REPRESENTATIVE (OFFICE VACANT)

Boston Address

24 Beacon St., Room 443
Boston, MA 02133
(413) 362-9453

District Address

P.O. Box 450
Sunderland, MA 01375
413-362-9453

WESTERN MA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

State Office Building
436 Dwight Street, Suite 300
Springfield, MA 01103
413-784-1200

*Thank you Doug Mason, Sue Lively, Kate Barrows, Nancy Thane,
and Lyra Johnson for the photos in this year's annual report*

Design and Layout by Liz Canali