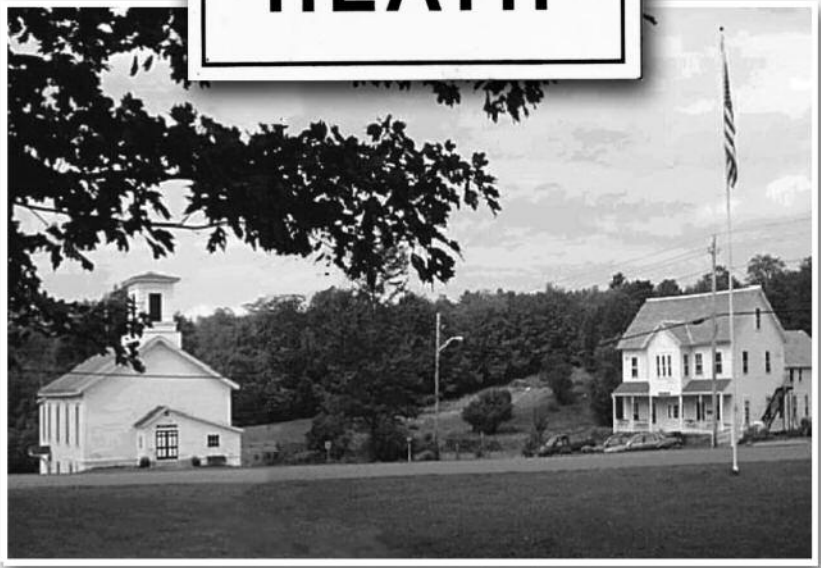


2024
TOWN OF HEATH, MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL REPORT



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DEDICATION
VICTORIA BARRINGTON:
A HELPING HAND FOR EVERYONE



When Victoria moved to town, she quickly became absorbed in local activities and adopted Heath's traditional values. She looked for ways she could become involved in a committee where she would contribute to the welfare of the community and its residents.

For several years Victoria served on the newly formed Building Use Committee and helped to flesh out the current policies. From there she became active in the Council on Aging that was revived mid-pandemic. Realizing that a substantial number of residents are in the "senior citizen" age bracket, she felt deeply that there were older people who needed support from their town.

Whether it was for social or physical needs, Victoria was a mastermind at finding resources to meet the needs and care of others. Through the COA she supported grant applications, facilitated in the beginning, or restart, of services such as the foot clinic, brown-bag lunch, and the monthly hot lunch. Determined that her seniors needed an opportunity to gather for a prepared hot meal with time to socialize, Victoria kept pursuing that goal until she had engaged a chef and volunteers to help serve. With the other COA members, a contact list of seniors was compiled, and the monthly "senior lunch" was functioning once again—this time at the Jacobs Road facility.

As a well-trained registered nurse, and someone with a heart for the welfare of others, Victoria could not help but keep her eyes and ears tuned in to the people of her town. Behind the scenes she would express concern to individuals and encourage them to address the personal needs they might have. Her goal was to give her best for the best welfare of her fellow Heathans.

Although it seems as though Victoria's life was cut short, she has left an important legacy. She took her moments, long or short, to use her time for the betterment of her community and its residents.

photo from Fred Burrington

TOWN OFFICERS 2024

	Term Expires
Select Board (3)	
Robyn Provost-Carlson, Chair	2025
Elissa Viarengo, Secretary	2026
Will Emmet	2027
Assessors (3)	
Anne Emmet, Chair	2026
Robyn Provost-Carlson	2027
Alice Wozniak	2025
Moderator (3)	
Eric Sumner	2026
Constables	
William Emmet	2026
Steve Thane	2027
School Committee	
Budge Litchfield	2027
Vacant	2025
Planning Board (5)	
Douglas Mason, Chair	2028
Bill Fontes	2029
Peter Charow	2026
Will Emmet	2027
Steven Thane	2025
Finance Committee (3)	
Dena Briggs, Chair	2027
Edwin Wolf	2027
Robert McGahan	2027
Alice Wozniak	2025
Wendy Whalen	appt. 2025
Library Trustees (3)	
Emily Cross, Chair	2026
Rebecca Johnston	2027
Don Freeman	Resigned
Gail Hubley	appt. 2025
Municipal Light Board (5)	
Art Schwenger, Chair	2027
Edwin Wolf	2027
Anne Emmet	2026
David Gordon	2026
Bill Fontes	2025

TOWN OFFICERS 2024 (CONTINUED)

	Term Expires
Fence Viewer	
Assessors	2025
Tree Warden	
Steven Thane	2025
Measurers of Wood & Bark	
Nathan Clark	2025
Daniel Clark	2025
Field Drivers	
Michelle Howe	2025
Jonathan Diamond	2025
Karen Brooks	2025
Nina Marshall	2025
Brian De Vriese	2025
Michael Freeman	2025
Jeff Peck	2025
Sexton	
Matthew Lively	2025
Burial Agent	
Mary Sumner, Town Clerk	2025

TOWN BOARDS APPOINTED BY SELECT BOARD

	Term Expires
Board of Health (3)	
Gene Garland, Chair	2026
Lorraine Berger	June 2023
Elissa Viarengo	May 2023
Susan Gruen	2025
Sheila Litchfield	2025
Vacant, two seats	
Zoning Board of Appeals (5)	
Alanson Nichols	2025
Steven Thane	2026
Alice Wozniak	2027
Dena Briggs	2028
Vacant	

SELECT BOARD APPOINTMENTS

**Hired + Stipend

Chairman, Select Board	Robyn Provost-Carlson
Secretary, Select Board	Elissa Viarengo
Town Coordinator**	Hilma Sumner
Office Assistant**	Nancy Thane
Boards Clerk	Cindie Garland
Treasurer**	Kristi Nartowicz
Accountant**	David Fierro
Tax Collector**	Elizabeth Nichols
Americans w/Disabilities Rep.	Maya Jalbert
Animal Inspector+	Aimee Jarvis
Animal Control Officer +	Kyle Dragon (FC Sheriff's Office)
Building Maintenance Coordinator**	Timothy Lively
Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Rep.	Robert Gruen
Emergency Management Director+	Timothy Lively
Emergency Management Alternate+	Sheila Litchfield
E 911 Coordinator	Ken Gilbert
FRCOG Representative	Robyn Provost Carlson
FRCOG Planning Board Rep.	Robyn Provost Carlson
FRCOG Alternate Planning Board Rep.	Elissa Viarengo
FC Regional Dog Kennel Rep.	Will Emmet
FC Regional Dog Kennel Rep. Alternate	Elissa Viarengo
Three-Town Landfill Committee Rep.	Select Board
FCCIP Representative	Robyn Provost Carlson
Fire Chief+	Nick Anzuoni
Forest Fire Warden	Nick Anzuoni
Franklin Regional Transit Authority Rep.	Will Emmet
Franklin County Solid Waste Mgmt Dist. Rep.	Elissa Viarengo
Fred G. Wells Trustee	Dianne Grinnell
Highway Road Supervisor**	Jeffrey Johnston (resigned 7/12)
Highway Road Supervisor**	Tyson Howard (appt. 10/23)
Highway Personnel **	Jason Lively, Kyle Jarvis
Highway Department Liaison	Will Emmet
Building Commissioner	James Hawkins
Inspector, Electrical	Dana Spring
Inspector, Plumbing & Gas	Andrew K. French
Licensing Board	Select Board/Robyn Provost Carlson
Local Emergency Planning Committee Rep.	Robyn Provost-Carlson
<i>LEPC consists of: Fire Chief, Police Chief Highway Supervisors, Selectboard Members, and Emergency Mgmt. Director</i>	
MLP Manager**	Sheila Litchfield
Police Chief**	John McDonough
Police Officers**	Clay Herbert, Frances 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, Esquires
Tax Title Attorney	

SELECT BOARD APPOINTMENTS (CONTINUED)

**Hired + Stipend

Town Counsel	KP Law, P. C.
Town Nurse**	Claire Rabbitt
Town Nurse Substitute**	Vacant
Transfer Station Attendant **	Lee Lively
Veterans' Agent	Brian Brooks
Veterans' Graves Officer	Dennis Peters
Veterans' Representative	Dennis Peters

COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS

Agricultural Commission	Molly Lane Karen Brooks Lorena Loubisky Sam Lane Austin Sumner
Building Use Committee	Rebecca Dorr Sampson Alice Lee Thompson Lyra Johnson-Fuller Maris Findlay Amy Webb
Cemetery Commission	Claire Rabbitt Jerry Gilbert Eric Sumner
Community Hall Windows Fundraising Committee	Robert Gruen Karen Brooks Janis Carr Gloria Cronin Fisher Ex-officio, Elissa Viarengo
Conservation Commission	Heather Row Brian DeVriese Pam Porter Sue Draxler Vacant Bill Lattrell, Consultant
Council on Aging	Victoria Burrington (until 5/18) Susan Lively Donna Hyytinen Margaret Freeman Cathy Tallen Anne Emmet

Cultural Council (3 year)	Barbara Gordon 2026 Heather Row 2027 Sarah Coe 2027 Heather Wynne 2027 Doug Wilkins 2027
Energy Advisory Committee	Brian DeVriese Bill Lattrell Hilma Sumner Two vacancies
Heath Veteran's Memorial Committee	Jerry Gilbert Peter Smith Hormidas Lively
Historical Commission	Nina Marshall Susan Gruen Dana Davidson Kathy Stosz Vacancy
Parks and Recreation Committee	Shahid Jalil Mike Cucchiara Robert Dane Chelsea Jordan-Makely Vacancy Ex-officio, Lyra Johnson-Fuller Ex-officio, Pat McGahan
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 Assistant Library Director	Kate Barrows Lyra Johnson Fuller
Appointed by Municipal Light Board WiredWest Delegate WiredWest Alternate	Art Schwenger David Gordon



FINANCIAL REPORTS



**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
2024 VITAL RECORDS**

The following is the number of vital records that have been recorded within the town during 2024.

Births - 1 Marriages - 2 Deaths - 8

2024 DOG LICENSES SOLD

Male Dogs	16@\$10	\$160
Female Dogs	11@\$10	\$110
Neutered Male Dogs	43@\$5	\$215
Spayed Female	67@\$5	\$335
Replacement Tags	0@\$5	\$ 0
Kennel License	1@\$25	\$ 25
Total:		
137 Single Licenses		\$820.00
1 kennel License		\$ 25.00
Less License & Tag Expenses		-121.49
Paid to Revolving Dog Fund		\$608.51

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS TOWN OF HEATH FY 2024
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS AS OF JUNE 30, 2024
(UNAUDITED)

	Governmental Fund Types		
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Cash and cash equivalents	367,328.42	715,931.17	(4,591.98)
Investments			
Receivables:			
Personal property taxes	489.98		
Real estate taxes	99,574.09		
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(20,151.86)		
Tax liens	71,746.48		
Deferred taxes			
Motor vehicle excise	13,012.33		
Other receivables		18,126.58	
Foreclosures/Possessions	32,080.46		
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds			
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave			
Total Assets	564,079.90	734,057.75	(4,591.98)
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</u>			
Liabilities:			
Warrants payable			
Accounts payable	3,570.41		
Accrued payroll	17,990.34		
Withholdings	(1,981.53)		
Other liabilities	500.00		
Deferred revenue:			
Real and personal property taxes	79,912.21		
Tax liens	71,746.48		
Foreclosures/Possessions	32,080.46		
Motor vehicle excise	13,012.33		
Other receivables		18,126.58	
Deposits receivable			
Prepaid taxes/fees	2,431.77		
Agency Funds			
Notes payable			1,248,719.00
Bonds payable			
Vacation and sick leave liability			
Total Liabilities	219,262.47	18,126.58	1,248,719.00
Fund Equity:			
Reserved for encumbrances			
Reserved for expenditures	200,917.00		
Reserved for continuing appropriations	113,455.23		
Undesignated fund balance	30,445.20	715,931.17	(1,253,310.98)
Unreserved retained earnings			
Investment in capital assets			
Total Fund Equity	344,817.43	715,931.17	(1,253,310.98)
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	564,079.90	734,057.75	(4,591.98)

Proprietary Fund Types		Fund Types	Groups	Totals
Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
		374,959.33		1,453,626.94
				0.00
				489.98
				99,574.09
				(20,151.86)
				71,746.48
				0.00
				13,012.33
				18,126.58
				32,080.46
			22,000.00	22,000.00
				0.00
0.00	0.00	374,959.33	22,000.00	1,690,505.00
				0.00
				3,570.41
				17,990.34
				(1,981.53)
				500.00
				79,912.21
				71,746.48
				32,080.46
				13,012.33
				18,126.58
				0.00
				2,431.77
		5,769.13		5,769.13
				1,248,719.00
			22,000.00	22,000.00
				0.00
0.00	0.00	5,769.13	22,000.00	1,513,877.18
				0.00
				200,917.00
				113,455.23
		369,190.20		(137,744.41)
				0.00
				0.00
0.00	0.00	369,190.20	0.00	176,627.82
0.00	0.00	374,959.33	22,000.00	1,690,505.00

Schedule A All Parts
Schedule A Part 1 - Fiscal Year 2024

Schedule A Part 1 - General Fund Revenues and Other Financing Sources (Fund 01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	Amount
A. TAXES		
4110	Personal Property Taxes	224,434
4120	Real Estate Taxes	2,058,804
4150	Motor Vehicle Excise	92,276
4179	Penalties and Interest	22,231
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)		2,397,745
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	32,014
4248	Transit Charges	
4370	Other Department Revenue	703
	B. TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES/OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES	32,717
	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	603
	C. TOTAL LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES	603
	D. FEDERAL REVENUE	
4540	Unrestricted - Direct	20,642
4580	Unrestricted - Through the State	
	D. TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUE	20,642
	E. REVENUES FROM STATE	
4600	State Revenue	113,758
	E. TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE	113,758
	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 FOREFITURES	
	I. MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	31,082
4820	Earnings on Investments	449
	I. TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	31,531
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES	2,596,996
	J. OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	
4990	Other Financing Sources	30,000
	J. TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	30,000
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCIAL SOURCES	2,626,996
	K. INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS	
4972	Transfers from Special Revenue Funds	
4973	Transfers from Capital Projects Funds	
4975	Transfers from Enterprise Funds	

4976	Transfers from Trust Funds	
4977	Transfers from Agency Funds	
K. TOTAL INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS		
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES, OTHER FINANCING SOURCES, AND INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS		2,626,996

Schedule A Part 2 - General Government (100)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Legislative	Executive	Accountant Auditor	Collector	Treasurer	Law Department Town/City Counsel	Public Building/ Properties Maintenance	Assessors
5100	Salary and Wages	3,500	78,771	26,100	20,319	14,735		38,082	21,127
5700	Expenditures	3,480	2,642		8,278	4,870	11,846	167,299	15,897
5800A	Construction								
5800B	Capital Outlay								
TOTAL		6,980	81,413	26,100	28,597	19,605	11,846	205,381	37,024

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Operations Support	License and Registration	Land Use	Conservation Commission	Other
5100	Salary and Wages		20,811	1,375		32,826
5700	Expenditures		2,024	170	2,000	
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					
TOTAL			22,835	1,545	2,000	32,826

Schedule A Part 2 - Public Safety (200)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Police	Fire	Emerg. Med. Services	Inspection	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	28,212	15,124			4,288
5700	Expenditures	5,934	34,355	4,622		3,420
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					
	TOTAL	34,146	49,479	4,622		7,708

Schedule A Part 2 - Education (300)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Education	Reg. School Assessment-1	Reg. School Assessment-2	Reg. School Assessment-3	Reg. School Assessment-4
5100	Salary and Wages	2,000				
5700	Expenditures		1,021,277	75,200		
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay	4,569	12,436	2,325		
	TOTAL	6,569	1,033,713	77,525		

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Hwy/Streets (Snow/Ice)	Hwy/Streets (Other)	Waste Collect/Disp	Sewer Collect/Disp	Water Distribution	Parking Garage	Street Lighting	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	18,868	166,479	14,176					
5700	Expenditures	100,564	118,412	42,825				1,303	
5800A	Construction								
5800B	Capital Outlay								
	TOTAL	119,432	284,891	57,001				1,303	

Schedule A Part 2 - Human Services (500)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Health Services	Clinical Services	Special Program	Veterans Services	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	9,828		1,853		
5700	Expenditures	2,013			4,862	
5800A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay					
	TOTAL	11,841		1,853	4,862	

Schedule A Part 2 - Culture and Recreation (600)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Library	Recreation	Parks	Historical Commission	Celebrations	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	40,441					
5700	Expenditures	12,113			251		2,250
5800A	Construction						
5800B	Capital Outlay						
	TOTAL	52,554			251		2,250

Schedule A Part 2 - Debt Service (700)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Retirement of Debt Principal	Interest on Long Term Debt	Interest on Short Term Debt	Other Interest
5900	Debt Service	126,059		47,505	
	TOTAL	126,059		47,505	

Schedule A Part 2 - Unclassified (900)

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Workers Compensation	Unemployment	Health Insurance	Other Emp. Benefits	Court Judgements	Other Insurance	Intergovt. Assessments
0001	Unclassified		561	59,704	16,407		62,123	1,639
	TOTAL		561	59,704	16,407		62,123	1,639

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Retirement	Other
0001	Unclassified	107,420	6,712
	TOTAL	107,420	6,712

Schedule A Part 2 - Transfers/Other Financing Uses (0001)

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

Schedule A Part 2 - Total All General Fund Expenditures

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Total
	EXPENDITURES	
5100	Salary and Wages	558,915
5700	Expenditures	1,647,907
5800A	Construction	
5800B	Capital Outlay	19,330
5900	Debt Service	173,564
0001	Unclassified	254,566
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	2,654,282
	OTHER FINANCING	

Acct. No.	Object of Expenditure	Total
	USES	
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	
5990	Other Financing Uses	
	TOTAL TRANSFERS AND OTHER FINANCING USES	
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	2,654,282

Schedule A Part 3 - Federal Grants (FG01)

Acct. No.	Item Description
REVENUES	
4100	Taxes and Excises
4200	Charges for Services
4500	Federal Revenue
4600	State Revenue
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues
4820	Earnings on Investments
	TOTAL REVENUES
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
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
0003	Adjustments
0004	Fund Balance End of Year

Schedule A Part 3 - State Grants (SG01)

Acct. No.	Item Description	General Government	Public Safety
REVENUES			
4100	Taxes and Excises		
4200	Charges for Services		
4500	Federal Revenue		
4600	State Revenue	257,179	4,088
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues		
4820	Earnings on Investments		
	TOTAL REVENUES	257,179	4,088
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	257,179	4,088
EXPENDITURES			
5100	Salary and Wages		
5700	Expenditures	101,337	3,603
5800A	Construction		
5800B	Capital Outlay		
5900	Debt Service		
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	101,337	3,603
OTHER FINANCING USES			
5960	Transfers to Other Funds		
5990	Other Financing Uses		
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES		
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	101,337	3,603
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	155,842	485
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	239,724	4,796
0003	Adjustments		
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	395,566	5,281

Public Works	Education	Mass Emer. Man. Agency	Culture and Recr.	Council on Aging	Library	Other	Total
1,025,099			5,500		4,418	8,049	1,304,333
			584				584
1,025,099			6,084		4,418	8,049	1,304,917
1,025,099			6,084		4,418	8,049	1,304,917
936,407			5,508	5,515	1,579		1,053,949
936,407			5,508	5,515	1,579		1,053,949
936,407			5,508	5,515	1,579		1,053,949
88,692			576	-5,515	2,839	8,049	250,968
-258,096	-9,258	-40	152,505	7,905	32,980	-56,605	113,911
-169,404	-9,258	-40	153,081	2,390	35,819	-48,556	364,879

Schedule A Part 3 - Receipts Reserved for Appropriation (RA01)

Note: No data was recorded for Education, Waterways Improvement, Parking Meters, Ambulance, Ins. Reimb. over \$150,000, Other

Acct. No.	Item Description	Wetlands Protection	Sale of Real Estate	Sale of Cemetery Lots	Total
REVENUES					
4100	Taxes and Excises				
4200	Charges for Services				
4500	Federal Revenue				
4600	State Revenue				
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues		114,550	750	115,300
4820	Earnings on Investments				
	TOTAL REVENUES		114,550	750	115,300
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		114,550	750	115,300
EXPENDITURES					
5100	Salary and Wages				
5700	Expenditures		22,395		22,395
5800A	Construction				
5800B	Capital Outlay				
5900	Debt Service				
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES		22,395		22,395

OTHER FINANCING USES					
5960	Transfers to Other Funds				
5990	Other Financing Uses				
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES					
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES			22,395		22,395
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)			92,155	750	92,905
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year			1,058	10,424
0003	Adjustments				
0004	Fund Balance End of Year		92,155	10,116	103,329

Schedule A Part 3 - Revolving Funds (RF01)

Note: No data was recorded for Education, Athletics

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			58,580	58,580
4820	Earnings on Investments				
TOTAL REVENUES				58,580	58,580

	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				58,580
	EXPENDITURES				
5100	Salary and Wages				
5700	Expenditures			20,899	20,899
5800A	Construction				
5800B	Capital Outlay				
5900	Debt Service				
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				20,899
	OTHER FINANCING USES				
5960	Transfers to Other Funds				
5990	Other Financing Uses				
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES				
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES				20,899
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)				37,681
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year		1,768	36,233	61,832
0003	Adjustments				
0004	Fund Balance End of Year		1,768	36,233	99,513

Schedule A Part 3 - Other Special Revenue (S01)

Note: No data was recorded for Water, Education, School Lunch, Adult Education, Professional Development, Comm. Preserv. Act, MW/PAT

Acct. No.	Item Description	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			23,743	155,046	178,789
4820	Earnings on Investments	29			997	1,026
	TOTAL REVENUES	29		23,743	156,043	179,815
	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	29		23,743	156,043	179,815
	EXPENDITURES					
5100	Salary and Wages					
5700	Expenditures			-3,352	81,860	78,508
5800A	Construction					

5800B	Capital Outlay						
5900	Debt Service						
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES					-3,352	81,860
	OTHER FINANCING USES						
5960	Transfers to Other Funds						
5990	Other Financing Uses						
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES						
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES					-3,352	81,860
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)		29			27,095	74,183
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year				43,786		
0003	Adjustments					25,284	
0004	Fund Balance End of Year		29		43,786	52,379	14,183
							110,377

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	
4600	State Revenue	1,304,333
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	352,669
4820	Earnings on Investments	1,610
	TOTAL REVENUES	1,658,612
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	1,658,612
EXPENDITURES		
5100	Salary and Wages	
5700	Expenditures	1,175,751
5800A	Construction	
5800B	Capital Outlay	
5900	Debt Service	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,175,751
OTHER FINANCING USES		
5960	Transfers to Other Funds	
5990	Other Financing Uses	
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	1,175,751
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)	482,861
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	233,070
0003	Adjustments	
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	715,931

Schedule A Part 4 - Capital Project Funds

Note: No data was recorded for Water, Sewer, Schools, Municipal Buildings, Landfill

Acct. No.	Item Description	Highways (Chapter 90)	Other	Total
REVENUES				
4100	Taxes and Excises			
4200	Charges for Services			
4500	Federal Revenue			
4600	State Revenue			
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues			
4820	Earnings on Investments			
	TOTAL REVENUES			
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
4910	Bond Proceeds			
4970	Transfers From Other Funds			
4990	Other Financing Sources		104,059	104,059
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		104,059	104,059
TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
EXPENDITURES				
5100	Salary and Wages			
5700	Expenditures			
5800A	Construction		45,093	45,093
5800B	Capital Outlay			
5900	Debt Service			

	TOTAL EXPENDITURES		45,093	45,093
	OTHER FINANCING USES			
5960	Transfers to Other Funds			
5990	Other Financing Uses			
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES			
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES		45,093	45,093
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)		58,966	58,966
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year		-39,996	-1,312,277
0003	Adjustments			
0004	Fund Balance End of Year		-1,213,315	-1,253,311

Schedule A Part 6 - Non-Expendable/Expendable Trusts (NE01)

Note: No data was recorded for Non0Expendable, Workers Compensation, Pension Reserve, Hlth Vlam C/T Employee, Conservation, OPEB

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				
4820	Earnings on Investments	972	4,136	454	5,562
	TOTAL REVENUES	972	4,136	454	5,562

	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
4970	Transfers From Other Funds				
4990	Other Financing Sources				
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
	TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	972	4,136	454	5,562
	EXPENDITURES				
5100	Salary and Wages				
5700	Expenditures			50	50
5800A	Construction				
5800B	Capital Outlay				
5900	Debt Service				
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES			50	50
	OTHER FINANCING USES				
5960	Transfers to Other Funds				
5990	Other Financing Uses				
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES				
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES			50	50
	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
		972	4,136	404	5,512
0002	Fund Balance Beginning of Year	80,813	253,420	29,446	363,679
0003	Adjustments				
0004	Fund Balance End of Year	81,785	257,556	29,850	369,191

Schedule A Part 7 - Agency Funds

Acct. No.	Item Description	Balance June 30,2024
ASSETS		
0005	Cash	1,487
0006	Accounts Receivable	
	TOTAL ASSETS	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
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,487

Schedule A Part 8 - Personnel Expenditures

Total Salaries and Wages as of December 31, -1 as Reported on IRS Form W-2	<u>561,561</u>
Total Number of Employees (FTE) for Calendar Year Ending December 31, -1	<u>55</u>

Schedule A Part 9 - Schedule of Cash and Investments

Acct. No.	Item Description	Cash and Investments
FUNDS		
0016	General Fund	367,328
0017	Special Revenue	715,931
0018	Debt Service Fund	
0019	Capital Project Funds	-4,592
0020	Enterprise Funds	
0021	Trust Funds	374,959
0022	Agency Funds	
	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	1,453,626

Schedule A Part 10 - Schedule of Debt Outstanding, Issued and Retired this Fiscal Year

Note: No data was recorded for issued this Fiscal Year, Authorised and Unissued - Inside Debt Limit, Authorised and Unissued - Outside Debt Limit

Acct. No.	Item Description	Outstanding July 1, 2023	Retired this Fiscal Year	Outstanding June 30, 2024	Interest this Fiscal Year
A. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS					
INSIDE DEBT LIMIT					
D001	BUILDINGS				
D002	DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT	43,999	22,000	21,999	1,511
D003	SCHOOL BUILDINGS				
D004	SCHOOL - ALL OTHER				
D005	SEWER				
D006	SOLID WASTE				
D007	OTHER INSIDE LIMIT				
	TOTAL INSIDE DEBT LIMIT	43,999	22,000	21,999	1,511
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		43,999		22,000		21,999	1,511
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		1,352,778		104,059		1,248,719	45,994
	TOTAL SHORT TERM DEBT		1,352,778		104,059		1,248,719	45,994
	D. OTHER INTEREST							
D022	OTHER INTEREST							

Schedule A Part 11 - Reconciliation of Fund Equity (Retained Earnings) for FY End June 30, 2024

Note: No data was recorded for Enterprise

Item	Item Description	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trust	Total
1	Total Revenue	2,596,996	1,658,612		5,562	4,261,170
2	Total Expenditures	2,654,282	1,175,751	45,093	50	3,875,176
3	TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES (LINE 1 - LINE 2)	-57,286	482,861	-45,093	5,512	385,994
4	Transfers From Other Funds					
5	Other Financing Sources	30,000		104,059		134,059
6	Transfers To Other Funds					
7	Other Financing Uses					
8	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) SUM OF LINES 4 AND 5 MINUS LINES 6 AND 7	30,000		104,059		134,059
9	TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) (SUM OF LINES 3 AND 8)	-27,286	482,861	58,966	5,512	520,053
10	Fund Equity (Retained Earnings) Beginning of Year	372,103	233,070	-1,312,277	363,679	-343,425
11	Other Adjustments					
12	TOTAL FUND EQUITY (RETAINED EARNINGS) END OF YEAR (SUM OF LINES 9 THROUGH 11)	344,817	715,931	-1,253,311	369,191	176,628

Schedule A Submission

Signatures

Town Accountant

David Fierro, Accountant , Heath , accountant@townofheath.org 413-337-4934 | 12/28/2024 2:48 PM

Schedule A KAR-1

Cash Balance

Fund	Balance Sheet	Schedule A	Variance
General Fund	367,328	367,328	0
Special Revenue	715,931	715,931	0
Capital Project Funds	-4,592	-4,592	0
Enterprise Funds		0	0
Trust & Agency Funds	374,959	374,959	0
Debt Service Fund		0	0
Total	1,453,626	1,453,626	0

Fund Equity Balance

Fund	Balance Sheet	Schedule A	Variance
General Fund	344,817	344,817	0
Special Revenue	715,931	715,931	0
Capital Project Funds	-1,253,311	-1,253,311	0
Enterprise Funds		0	0
Trust Funds	369,191	369,191	0
Total	176,628	176,628	0

TOWN OF HEATH - TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT BALANCES FOR FY 2024

REAL ESTATE	BALANCE 07/01/23	COMMITTED	COLLECTED	ABATED	EXEMPTED	REFUNDED	TAX TAKINGS	BALANCE 6/30/2024
FY 2024	\$1,047,570.33	\$1,086,921.87	\$2,012,624.56	\$2,788.74	\$4,900.00	\$11,795.68	\$24,514.50	\$101,460.08
FY 2023	\$52,215.04	\$584.25	\$42,703.82	\$1,608.46	\$0.00	\$1,608.46	\$10,095.47	\$0.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY								
FY 2024	\$118,152.06	\$106,682.90	\$224,354.56	\$0.00		\$9.58		\$489.98
FY 2023	\$89.42	\$0.00	\$89.42	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE								
FY 2024	\$0.00	\$86,560.45	\$77,952.88	\$2,365.82		\$2,552.66		\$8,794.41
FY 2023	\$7,755.56	\$9,375.32	\$15,056.74	\$847.86		\$791.37		\$2,017.65
FY 2022	\$3,393.82	\$0.00	\$2,287.48	\$9.25		\$74.00		\$1,171.09
FY 2021	\$572.71	\$0.00	\$54.97	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$517.74
FY 2020	\$226.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$226.52
FY 2019	\$355.10	\$0.00	\$82.98	\$0.00		\$77.98		\$350.10
FY 2018	\$305.00	\$0.00	\$61.25	\$243.75		\$0.00		\$0.00
FY 2017	\$250.41	\$250.41	\$250.41	\$250.41		\$0.00		\$0.00

TOWN OF HEATH FY 2024 — TREASURER'S REPORT

TRUSTS & OTHER FUNDS

JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

		Cemetery Trust	
Sarah H. Symonds	50.00	The Whipples	250.00
Ellen N. Fiske	50.00	Elson 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
Clifford 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	<u>4,615.89</u>		
Balance 12/31/2023	<u>10,981.84</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 Memorial	50.00		
	Total Library Bequests		3,056.73
Money Market Account	8,559.36		
	<u>8,559.36</u>		
Other Funds			
Cultural Council (Arts Lottery)	8,405.19		
Hands Across Heath	7,996.80		
Heath General Funds	720,444.42		
Park & Recreation Department	1,620.69		
Read Carpenter Scholarship	2,481.48		
Septic Fund	43,893.14		
Stabilization Funds	358,049.00		
Last Mile Broadband	148.73		
Broadband	110,964.41		
Total Other Funds	<u>1,254,003.86</u>		
Total of All Funds	1,273,545.06		
		Tax Title Accounts	
		Account Balance 1/1/2024	45,250.46
		Taxes Added	41,031.07
		Payments Received	23,423.86
		Town Acquired Property	0.00
		Remove Tax title error	0.00
		Account Balance 12/31/2023	<u>62,857.67</u>

TOWN REPORTS



SELECT BOARD

2024 has been a productive year with capital improvement projects, and vibrant community events and gatherings. Below please find some highlights and continue to read additional committee reports for further details.

Municipal Buildings

Throughout the year, the town's municipal buildings continue to serve the community well. Community Hall was reopened in the Spring after flood renovations and hosted the 8th Annual Heath Arts Exhibition, a benefit concert for the Heath Historical Society, and Don Decker's 90th birthday party which were all enjoyed by many. Great appreciation goes out to the Franklin County Sheriff's Correctional Department for the wonderful painting job of Community Hall. The Community Hall Window Fundraising Committee was incredibly successful in reaching their goal of raising the matching funds required for the window restoration project which will be completed in the Spring of 2025. The Select Board offers their sincere thanks for all their efforts and wish to extend a special thank you to all those who donated towards this very special project. Sawyer Hall also underwent some renovations for mold and now is home to the Heath Historical Society and serves as a temporary office for C.D. Davenport Construction. Jacobs Road Municipal Center has been full of activity in 2024 from Senior Lunches, Library activities, Council on Aging sponsored lunches and workshops, theater production by Hilltown Youth Performing Arts, Fire Association fundraising events, exercise classes, Holiday Craft Fair, municipal meetings and so much more!

Salt Shed Replacement Project

Continued progress has been made regarding the best replacement plan for the salt shed. Many hours have been spent gathering anticipated expenses and reviewing designs. The focus of the Board's discussion has been on what is the best solution for the immediate need balanced by the best investment for future needs and growth of the town. Walter Cudnohufsky Associates was hired for the site design plans to replace the current salt shed with a new hoop house structure at the same location.

Municipal Personnel Policy, and Job Description Updates

Throughout the course of the year, the Board reviewed and updated the personnel policy, Town Nurse job description with the guidance of the Board of Health, as well as the Town Coordinator, Office Assistant and the Boards Clerk job descriptions. It is a continuous annual process to review municipal job descriptions and policies to ensure they are up to date with the ever-changing needs of the town.

Annual Town Meeting 2024

Heath's Annual Town Meeting was held on May 11, 2024, and was well attended. All Articles were approved except for Article 24 which was withdrawn and Articles 29, 30 and 31 which were scheduled to be voted at a date certain because there was no longer a quorum present to conduct town business. The continuation of ATM was held on June 17, 2024, and was also well attended. Articles 29, 30 and 31, the MTRSD Amendments, were voted down. Please visit Heath's Town Clerk's web page found at www.townofheath.org for the full warrant and meeting minutes.

Farewells and Welcomes

This past year, the Town offered their gratitude to the hard-working folks that moved on from held positions. In May, Sue Lively completed her 3-year term on the Select Board. Sue's presence and voice brought thoughtfulness, caring, clarity, dedication and progress to every Select Board meeting. The Board extends their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Sue for her years of service to the town of Heath. And with that goodbye came a big welcome to Will Emmet! Will made a seamless transition to the Board, hit the ground running with his working knowledge of the Highway department where it was very much needed as the Board bid Highway Superintendent Jeff Johnson farewell as he moved on to a position in Shelburne Falls. Tyson Howard of Colrain was hired in November to serve as the new superintendent and has been a valuable addition to the Highway department.

Appreciation

The Select Board would like to offer their heartfelt appreciation for the many residents who give their time by serving on town committees. Heath is only as strong as its volunteers! If you are looking for a way to participate, visit the town website, townofheath.org, to learn about current needs, or contact the Town Coordinator.

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn Provost-Carlson, Chair
Elissa Viarengo
Will Emmet

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The New Year started out with processing abatements for Fiscal Year 2024.

In May, Robyn Provost-Carlson was re-elected to the Board for a 3-year term. 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 2024, the office granted 3 abatements totaling \$136,500 in value which translated into \$2,788.69 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 2025 was \$18.81/per \$1,000.00 of valuation. This is an overall reduction of \$1.62 per thousand represented by increased valuations. Heath's parcel count, total assessed values for each major class of properties and their percentage of the Levy Limit is as follows:

Classification	Valuation	% of Value
• Residential	\$112,900,700	89.0980
• Commercial	\$ 1,405,573	1.1092
• Industrial	\$ 112,600	0.0889
• Personal Property	\$ 12,296,320	9.7039
Total amount of 2025		
Property Tax Valuation	\$126,715,193	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,
Robyn Provost-Carlson, Chair
Anne Emmet
Alice Wozniak, MAA-Assessor & Director of Assessing

BOARD OF HEALTH

2024 Board of Health (BOH) Members:

Gene Garland (Chair), Sheila Litchfield, Susan Gruen, Tucker Jenkins,
and Elissa Viarengo (Select Board Representative).

Boards Clerk: Cindie Garland

Regional Health Director: Randy Crochier, Cooperative Public Health Service
(CPHS)/Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG),

Town Nurse: Claire Rabbitt, RN

The Board of Health members attend local, regional, and MA Department of Public Health (DPH) meetings related to health business. Members also represent Town of Heath at Emergency Management Team meetings, the CPHS Oversight Board, the Opioid Task Force, the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD), and Hawlemont Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) drills.

The BOH with cooperation of the Emergency Management Team (EMT) organized a COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinic at Mohawk Trail Regional School. The clinic served 99 individuals with 156 doses of vaccine. Additionally, Claire Rabbitt, RN provided 24 vaccines to Heath residents during drop-in nursing hours and home visits throughout the season. She also provided services to 65 different people in 122 separate contacts. Services included blood pressure, other health screenings, assistance addressing health concerns, and where appropriate, home visits. Claire offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. 69 boxes were exchanged in Heath.

BOH members participated in a state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for reportable disease cases, checking state infectious disease reporting system daily and following up as required. Of 11 communicable diseases reported in Heath in 2024, 18% were tickborne, and 73% respiratory (flu and COVID-19).

The Town's 2013 Septic regulations were updated this year. In May, the BOH conducted a public hearing. Updates included:

- * Health Agents do not collect payments during inspections.
- * A Department of Environmental Protection-approved effluent filter must be installed on all new or upgraded septic tanks. If an existing tank is reused in a repaired system, an effluent filter must be installed or retrofitted. If installation is not feasible due to tank access or construction, a separate effluent filter chamber must be used.

In 2024, the BOH worked with Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) to suppress both nuisance and disease-carrying mosquito populations. In June, board members offered a permethrin shoe-spraying event and provided educational materials on tick-borne diseases. In partnership with CPHS and MA DPH subsidy, Heath residents sought 17 low-cost tick tests, saving a value of \$510. Of the tested ticks, 48% were positive for the Lyme disease pathogen and 12% were positive for each of the anaplasmosis and babesiosis pathogens.

In June, our board members participated in a 15-town Mosquito Disease Tabletop exercise. The all-day event prepared towns for possible mosquito borne disease outbreaks and collectively drafted a CPHS regional emergency communications plan.

BOH members participated in an opioid listening session to hear and learn how residents are impacted by the opioid crises and recommendations in spending settlement funds. In October Heath received 2 naloxone cabinets that were installed at Sawyer Hall and Jacobs Road Municipal Building including 120 doses of naloxone (Narcan).

During 2024, the Town of Heath partnered with the Franklin County/North Quabbin Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to set a goal for increasing local public health's access to data on air quality. The data from the sensors helps people stay safer by limiting outdoor time when airborne particulate matter and fine particle pollution levels are high in their community. In December a Purple Air sensor was installed at Jacobs Road Municipal Center. Air quality data is accessible through purpleair.com.

We continued our usual work of responding to public health-related concerns and complaints, reviewing, and issuing temporary occupancy permits for campers and temporary dwellings, and overseeing the issuance of septic and public-health-related permits with the support of FRCOG. Between January 1 and December 31, 2024, FRCOG and Heath BOH received and reviewed the following applications:

- Witnessed 5 soil evaluations (perc tests) for septic systems.
- Reviewed 4 septic system plans and 2 local upgrade approvals.
- Witnessed 17 Title-5 inspections prior to property transfer.
- Permitted 2 new wells and determined compliance with water supply standards.
- Permitted and inspected 3 food establishments and 11 temporary food vendors (plus 8 for regional food trucks) and conducted 18 inspections.
- Issued 60 Temporary Occupancy Permits.

BOH members provided articles to the Heath Herald with updates to pertinent public health topics, CPHS services, events, trainings, local data, and relevant epidemiological analysis.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer please email us at boh@townofheath.org.

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 both municipal events like Select Board meetings, community events like Library workshops and Senior Meals, and private rentals. It can be viewed at 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.

In 2024 we finalized updates to the rental fee schedules for the two buildings we help manage. We also streamlined online documents for potential renters looking for information online. After a big effort to remediate mold issues at the Community Hall, the building was finally reopened in the fall of 2024. And the kitchens at both Jacobs Road and Community Hall were reinspected for health certificates in January 2025 in anticipation of continued commercial use.

For the past year and a half, 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; musical events and speakers; as well as the Firefighters' annual fundraiser. Since reopening the Community Hall, there have been a handful of lovely events there as well: an art exhibit, a birthday celebration, a concert/fundraiser, and the Heath Historical Society's Dining with History.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Dorr Sampson, Chair

CEMETERY COMMISSION

A new trust fund was set up, for Town Cemetery purposes only, called the Viarengo Family Donation account and is managed by Ken Gilbert. This past summer, 20 plus stones in Center Cemetery were straightened or repaired by a contractor hired through this account. Plans are to have the contractor back this year to do more work in Center Cemetery. Plans are for the contractor to also work in North Cemetery through a donation by Claire Rabbitt.

There were also two \$100.00 donations to the Cemetery Commission. Special thanks to Edwin Wolf for the many years of donating to the Cemetery Commission. Also thanks to all who donate to help maintain the Town Cemeteries.

Four lots were sold in 2024, all in Center Cemetery.

A lot of time and work is required in cutting or cutting back bushes, shrubs, saplings and even trees from the cemeteries. Often they immediately start growing again and spreading onto other lots. We discourage planting anything that has to be maintained in the future. Lot owners, please be mindful of this if planting on your lot.

Respectfully Submitted
Cemetery Commission

COMMUNITY HALL WINDOW RESTORATION FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

At the very start of this year, a wonderful opportunity presented itself to those who cherish the historic nature of our town's public buildings. Heath was awarded a matching grant to renovate the windows of our Community Hall. If our Town could raise \$17,000, the State would match it for a total of \$34,000. Our committee was tasked with trying to make it happen and we got to work expecting a long haul. What we failed to realize, and shame on us, was that love for our little town is wide and deep. Only six months after we started, our goal was not only achieved, but surpassed! The latest figure we have been given is \$22,529.15! At present the State is certifying our figures and then delivering their share of the grant. Bids will then go out and hopefully, the work will begin as soon as possible. So much for the reporting part!

Now, for the deeply felt Thank You! This could not have happened without over 125 people who sent in donations. The size of the donations may have varied, but not the hearts behind them. We heard from townspeople past and present. We heard from part time residents. And perhaps most amazing of all, we heard from lots of folks who have never lived in Heath, but carry in their hearts a love for this hilltown! We also have to thank lots of people who donated time and talent to this cause. World class musicians at the stunning benefit concert, people who parked cars and made snacks for that concert were a big part of the effort. Hundreds of dollars were donated to cover mailings. Beautiful signs and banners were created and paid for by window lovers who joined our cause. Hours of time and efforts untold made this happen. Hearts were wide and deep and that touched all our hearts. Thank you can only scratch this surface. In closing, our committee wants to let you all know what an honor it has been to watch this unfold. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Sincerely,
Bob Gruen, Chairperson

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission has been meeting on an as-needed basis over the past year. In 2024 the ConCom reviewed three Requests for Determination (RFD). One of them was for removing stumps in a wetland buffer zone and two were for new home construction. The commission issued one certificate of compliance for an Order of Conditions on a property that was pending sale and issued an extension of an Order of Conditions for a nuisance aquatic vegetation treatment program for Papoose Lake. The commission approved an amendment to the AT&T O.O.C. proposing to reduce the visual impact of the access drive to the cell tower site. 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.

Kerry McNay resigned from the commission this year. The commission is grateful for her participation. The Selectboard appointed Susan Draxler to fill one of the vacant positions. The commission is seeking one more member to fill out the five-member board.

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, and Brian De Vriese, Chair

Respectfully submitted,
Brian De Vriese

COUNCIL ON AGING

In May of 2024, the Council on Aging lost a vital member with the death of Victoria Burrington. Her leadership was key to revitalizing the COA. Our report and the successes it represents are dedicated to her.

Age and Dementia Friendly Community

The Council assisted the Select Board in its successful application for Heath to join the AARP Age and Dementia Friendly Community by forming an Action Plan team of volunteers. We express our sincere gratitude to Dena Briggs, Gale Hubley, and Cynthia Johnson for their exemplary work in preparing the initial application letter, for adapting the AARP town survey to be more suited to Heath as a rural town in Western Massachusetts, and for collating and analyzing the results. The Council

distributed the town survey to voters on Election Day, November 5, and received 213 responses from residents with an age range from 18 to 90 years of age. We thank all who filled out the survey for us, and will be using the results to determine what procedures we can adopt to become a more age and dementia friendly community.

Finances

Council chairs and Senior Program Coordinator (SPC) worked with the town coordinator to review and amend Council accounts. The Council depends largely upon donations and grants to support its activities. Lyra successfully applied for grants to support the foot clinic (Fred Wells Foundation), senior meal and foot clinic (LifePath), needle-felting and future art classes (Heath Cultural Council). She also signed Heath up for Shelburne Falls Fire Chief John Taylor's application for a fire safety grant for area rural seniors that would make Heath eligible for free smoke alarm installation/checks and other services.

Activities

The Council especially commends SPC Lyra for her work in advertising COA events in the Heath Herald and through monthly flyers, distributed both online and in print, and for developing and organizing all our events and activities, some in collaboration with the Heath Public Library. Regular activities include the monthly foot clinic, senior meal, brownbag lunch, Saturday morning open hours for all ages (now renamed Social Café), regular entries, and the weekly art program. In addition, the year saw six craft workshops led by local artists and the annual winter solstice celebration. Lyra arranged for Meg Ryan (FrCog) to bring LifePath workshops to Heath: Diabetes and Hypertension March 29, Dementia July 26; and Anita Wilson (Western MA Attorney General's office) Consumer Fraud Prevention November 15. The Council provided refreshments for both vendors and customers at the Heath Holiday Craft Fair on December 7.

The Council also reviewed and recommended amendments to the Select Board on the Senior Program Coordinator description to more adequately reflect Lyra's work and responsibilities.

Sue Lively, chair
Margaret Freeman, secretary
Anne Emmet, Donna Hyytinen, Cathy Tallen
Lyra Johnson-Fuller, Senior Program Coordinator

CULTURAL COUNCIL

In 2024, the Heath Cultural Council welcomed four new members: Doug Wilkins, Sarah Coe, Heather Wynne and Cindy Davidson. Each of them bring great energy, insights and specialized skills to our Council. Barbara Gordon and Heather Row continue to serve, bringing continuity to our operations.

In the 2023-'24 grant cycle, we had approved 17 projects for local grants totaling \$7,280. Of those, 16 were successfully completed. Unclaimed reimbursements totaling \$525 were retained for future granting in the FY2025-26 cycle.

Notable successful projects executed in 2024 supported by our funding included: a MTRSD field trip to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, The Hilltown Draw Around held by the The Art Garden in Shelburne Falls, a multigenerational Dance and Choreography workshop series held by Piti Theatre Company, The Charlemont Forum Speaker Series, Mohawk Trail Concert Series, Heath Fair Music live programming, two Nature Explorer Walks in Heath organized by the Franklin Land Trust, Arts and Crafts Workshops hosted by the Heath Council on Aging, support for the Heath Herald, support for the Weaving program at Hawlemont Elementary School, a Young at Heart Chorus performance for the Heath Free Public Library, and a Colrain Center School field trip to the Wilder Homestead to augment their Colonial Period curriculum. We also supported the rebirth of Pothole Pictures at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls as well as the annual Heath Artists' Exhibition. Our previously funded "Evening Sky Tours" stargazing program from 2023 that had been repeatedly rained out, finally had a successful launch last summer thanks to better weather.

Last November, our newly reorganized council reviewed 24 grant applications requesting a total of \$13,927 for the 2024-25 grant cycle. With a budget of \$6,700 we were able to approve support for 13 diverse projects that we deemed relevant to our local community. These included a musical program for the Heath Free Public Library, craft workshop series for our Senior Center and live music programming for the Heath Fair. We elected to renew support for The Charlemont Forum speaker series, Mohawk Trail Concerts, Pothole Pictures, The Heath Artists' Exhibition, Evening Sky Tours, and The Heath Herald. Funding was also directed to the revived Winter HooPla celebration hosted by the Art Garden. Student education-related funding this year will help to support a special "Museum on Main Street" traveling exhibition program by the Smithsonian Institution at MHTRS. A new project, "Films in the Barn" sponsored by the Franklin Land Trust is planned for a location in North Heath this summer.

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, Chair

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In 2024 I attended a few virtual Regional EMD and REPC meetings. The yearly EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) of \$2,500.00 was applied for and received. This time around a defibrillator was bought to upgrade a current older one and supplies (Vests, Binders, etc.) to more efficiently run a shelter were purchased.

One weather related emergency that occurred was an extended heat wave in the third week in June. Due to this event, a cooling center was opened for a time over a couple of days at the municipal building at Jacobs Road.

A combined flu and covid vaccine clinic was held in October, with the EDS team assisting in setting up and taking down.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Lively
Emergency Management Director

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Heath Energy Advisory Committee has been meeting as needed to discuss progress on the Green Communities Grant work and to plan for upcoming projects. As of this date, all of the planned work for all of the Town buildings has been completed. Over the past year the last of the lighting replacement work, both interior and exterior was finished. The Franklin County Technical School electrical program students performed most of the work of replacing lighting fixtures with energy efficient LED fixtures. Some of the fixtures that were mounted too high above the floor to be accessed by the students were replaced by Palmieri Electric, a local contractor who is certified by the state to do Green Communities projects as an expeditor.

There is a small balance left of the original \$129,000 grant. The EAC has obtained a quote from an HVAC expeditor to install a mini-split heat pump system in the administration offices at the Jacobs Road Municipal Center. The upcoming Green Communities Grant accounting and review will determine if the heat pump project is feasible.

Current members of the Committee are:
Bill Lattrell, Hilma Sumner, Brian De Vriese

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee continues to work with the Select Board to monitor the Town's Finances with the goal of having tax dollars used as wisely as possible. In February Tom Lively told us he would not be seeking another term on the committee. We thanked him for his service as Chair. In May we welcomed Dena Briggs who was elected to a three year term to fill the vacancy due to Tom's departure. We congratulated FinCom member Will Emmet for his election to the Select Board. Since the Heath bylaws say that a person cannot serve at the same time on both the Select Board and the FinCom, Will had to resign from the FinCom. We welcomed Wendy Whalen at our June meeting as our newest member having been appointed by the Select Board to serve the remainder of Will Emmet's term. At our June meeting we elected Dena Briggs to serve as Chair and Ned Wolf to serve as Secretary.

In January we began work on the FY 25 budget. We voted to reduce the amount in the Reserve Fund from \$4,000. to \$3,500. based on the requests from departments for the use of these funds and the need to reduce the total to be raised through taxes.

We recommended in February a COLA of 3.2% for town employees. We supported a request from Rowe to join Rowe and Charlemont in providing one third, or \$6,667, of the \$20,000 needed to fund the late bus. We wanted to enable Heath students to participate in worthwhile after school activities.

We recommended the purchase of new accounting software by VADAR. The new software replaces software for which it became increasingly difficult to get support because so few towns were using it. We recommended taking \$13,000 from the Accountant Software Stabilization Fund with \$10,451 from Free Cash to cover half the cost of the software.

The FinCom recommended transferring the sum of \$100,000 from the Equipment/Vehicle Stabilization Fund for the purchase and equipping of a highway cab and chassis including any incidental costs. This truck is to replace truck #1. We recommended using \$7,350 from Free Cash for a new leaf blower and \$5,000 from Free Cash for a storage container.

We recommended wage increases for the three members of the Highway Department as well as for the Town Clerk.

On April 2nd the Finance Committee joined the Select Board in welcoming Representative Natalie Blais to Heath. In the discussion a FinCom member spoke of Heath's need for both a salt shed and a new fire house. Another member spoke of how difficult budgeting is when approximately half of the money raised through taxes goes to the schools.

FinCom members took part in Ken Roche's tutorials on the proposed amendment to the Mohawk Trail Regional School District's Regional Agreement. The amendment

concerned the way in which a given town’s students are counted to determine that town’s assessment. The FinCom recommended that Heath voters not approve the amendment.

On June 17th the Treasurer received the Heath’s first CAF II distribution. This \$169,257.76 from the federal government had to be used for broadband purposes which could include paying off the debt. Heath can expect four more CAF II distributions, of about \$58,000 in the years 2025-2028. On July 30 the FinCom voted to recommend that the \$169,257.76 received in CAF II funds on June 17th, 2024 be used to prepay more of the principal of the broadband loan and that the note principal of \$104,059 and the corresponding interest of \$59,109 due in mid-September 2024 be paid for with funds appropriated at the May 11, 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

The FY 25 tax rate was certified in December at \$18.81 per thousand , a decrease of \$1.62, or 7.9%, from the \$20.43 per thousand rate of FY 24. The total assessed valuation (TAV) for FY 25 was certified at \$126,715,193, an increase of \$11,113,017, or 9.7%, from the TAV for FY 24.

Dena Briggs, Chair
Ned Wolf, Secretary
Members: Alice Wozniak, Bob McGahan, Wendy Whalen

FIRE DEPARTMENT

<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>	<u>Percent</u>
114- Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue.	2	2.86%
131- Passenger vehicle fire	1	1.43%
138- Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	1	1.43%
300- Rescue, EMS incident, other	1	1.43%
311- Medical assist, assist EMS crew	37	52.86%
321- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	2	2.86%
324- Motor vehicle accident with no injuries	4	5.71%
444- Power line down	5	7.14%
463 -Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1	1.43%
561- Unauthorized burning	1	1.43%
571- Cover assignment, standby, move up	3	4.29%
611- Dispatched and canceled enroute	1	1.43%
735- Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	2	2.86%
736- CO detector activation due to malfunction	1	1.43%
740- Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	3	4.29%
745- Alarm system activation, no fire- unintentional	1	1.43%
746- Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1	1.43%
Total Number of Incidents:	70	100.00%
Total Number of Incident Types:	18	

The fire department had a busy year, with a total of 70 calls. You may notice the different format for the incident reporting and it has been changed to follow the State reporting codes. These 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. 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 and provided resources for the Franklin County Wildfire Crew during the busy fall fire season.

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. 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, trimming and burning blueberries. 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 at 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. We especially invite the youth of Heath to join the department, and encourage people to become a member of the Firefighters Association. The first Thursday of the month at 6:30 P.M. is the Fire Association meeting and every Tuesday of the month at 6:30 P.M. for fire department training unless otherwise noted. The fire department continues to house the administrative, 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 in helping to keep the Fire Department functioning and ready to respond to help those in need.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicholas Anzuoni, Fire Chief

HEATH BROADBAND (MLP)

2024 saw Heath MLP in full operations mode with minor fluctuations in customer numbers as a result of new customers and seasonal disconnects. Heath MLP has over 350 subscribers enjoying highspeed fiberoptic broadband service. The MLP has been making the necessary payments to maintain the municipal network and will continue to do so. The Heath broadband network experienced no downtime in 2024, other than brief planned outages for system upgrades.

Heath MLP is operated by the MLP Manager and an elected 5-member Municipal Light Board (MLB). Decisions are made consistent with prudent industry practice to provide reliable and affordable Internet & phone 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 that exceeds operating expenses is directed according to the following priorities:

1. To pay for critical network needs such as maintenance, expansion, and repair. An operating reserve to meet these needs, as well as other objectives identified by the MLB, will be established by the MLB from revenues.
2. To fund a Depreciation Reserve. The Depreciation Reserve will be sufficient to replace the Town-owned assets related to the MLP at their expected end-of-life. These assets include the electronics necessary to operate the Broadband network, the fiber distribution network, and the MLP central hut.
3. To pay the salary of the MLP Manager.

Funds in excess of what are needed to meet the priorities are transferred to the town upon approval by the MLP. For FY 2024, Heath Broadband received \$99,412.24 in revenue distribution from Wired West. \$35,743 was added to the Depreciation Reserve account. In 2024, the MLB transferred \$100,000 from MLP accounts to the town, and transferred \$10,950 to the town to cover the MLP Managers salary expense. These funds included unused MLP construction funds.

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

- Review of and processing of payments to the internet and phone service provider including customer and technical support services
- Staff to resolve maintenance & other technical issues in a swift, timely manner.
- Bookkeeping and processing of invoices for hub electricity, service visits, maintenance and repairs, pole licensing, pole bonds, insurance, audits, preventive maintenance contracts, etc.
- Management of subcontractors including contract negotiations
- Opportunities for bulk pricing, such as price breaks on preventive maintenance agreements and on the security and monitoring systems for the hub
- A reserve fund for unanticipated operating expenses such as repairs, pole transfers, and tree work.

In addition, participating as a member of the WiredWest cooperative enables the rapid mobilization of funds and sharing the costs across several towns in the event of widespread damage to the fiber network.

Heath MLP continues to monitor network capacity and performance. If your internet connection does not meet your expectations, please do not hesitate to contact the customer support at 833-991-9378. This number is also listed on the MLP web page on the Town of Heath website.

Sincerely,
Bailey Cole, Heath MLB Manager,
Heath Representative on the WiredWest Board of Directors
Art Schwenger, MLB, chair
David Gordon, MLB member,
Heath's alternate representative on the WiredWest Board
Ned Wolf, MLB member
Anne Emmet, MLB member
Bill Fontes, MLB member

HEATH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Engagement

Heath Free Public Library celebrated the second anniversary of its move to Jacobs Road in September 2024. In this new location, there has been a large increase in use of the library by children. Having more room for children's book displays, activities, and play areas has attracted families from Heath and surrounding towns to use the facility and enjoy programs offered. Kids play in the gym, ride bikes, and visit the Senior Center for treats. The library is still looking for the number of visitors to reach levels recorded prior to the pandemic shutdown in 2020, but overall circulation has recovered and is trending upward. Checkouts of children's materials were 86% higher in the last year than they were in 2019. There is also a notable increase in the use of electronic materials by library patrons of all ages, which follows the introduction of high-speed internet throughout town. Fewer people are coming to the library to borrow books and DVDs because they are streaming from or otherwise using their personal devices at home. Library visitors are coming more to attend programs and gatherings. They appreciate browsing the collection and enjoy that there is more room for book displays. Parking and walking into the building on level ground is also easier. Although it feels a bit different than the library did at Sawyer Hall, the new space at Jacobs Road Municipal Center allows Heath Free Public Library to continue to serve as a welcoming hub for building community connections and has enabled the library to grow its services and programs.

Heath Free Public Library Statistics

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Library Visitors	1,824	2,336	2,860
Material Circulation	11,539	10,798	12,840
Loans received from other libraries	1,492	1,278	1,636
Loans provided to other libraries	1,883	1,663	2,082
Audio/Video circulation	2,447	1,636	1,999
Ebook/E-audio circulation	2,920	3,380	3,641

Services & Spaces

Heath Free Public Library aims to offer an irresistible collection of books, DVDs, CD audiobooks, magazines, local history materials, museum passes, and a library of things. The CWMARS network also provides a bounty of digital materials and items to borrow. Your public library is free to use and is accessible to members of the community in a multitude of ways! Open hours are Mondays 2 to 7 p.m., Wednesdays noon to 7 p.m., and Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The former library at Sawyer Hall is not currently occupied, but Office Hours are still held there in the building on Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. If you do not already have a library account, we would love to welcome you! Come visit the library or find us online at www.heathlibrary.org.

The library space at the Jacobs Road Municipal Center has a range of comfortable seating areas and spaces for community members to gather. There are plenty of shelves full of books and displays to browse! The children's area is a nice place to either sit on the benches and look out the windows, or flop on the floor and read books or play with toys. The library also has two smaller adjoining rooms that are available as study or meeting spaces. The Heath Room features local history and books by local authors, and the second conference room has a large table for meetings or spreading an array of items if you are working on a project. Outdoors, there are picnic tables, a playground, and a nature trail to enjoy in the North Woods.

Programs

One of Heath Library's Strategic Planning Goals is to provide more workshops and programs for our community. This year, in addition to children's programming, offerings for adults were expanded. The library would like to thank the Friends of the Library and the Heath Cultural Council for helping fund many of this year's activities. Additional funding was sourced through a Cultural Sector Recovery Grant.

Programs held this year were as follows:

- Children's Story Hour & Playtime sessions every other week Sept-May
- Aerial silks lesson with Hilltown Youth Theater
- Poetry & Music Nights
- Valentine Maker Space
- Kimchi Workshop
- Egg Hunt
- Solar Eclipse Viewing Party
- Local Author Talk – Agatha O read from Northern Byways and Other Essays from The Road

- June Ice Cream Party
- Summer Reading Program
- Seed Bomb making
- Hawley Bog Walk led by Susan Draxler
- Mushroom Walk guided by Paul Lagreze
- Young@Heart Musical performance supported in part by a grant from the Heath Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council
- Needle Felting Group
- Children's Birds of a Feather Bike Decorating Party for Heath Fair Parade
- Trunk-or-Treat Halloween Party
- Winter Solstice Party
- Carol Purington Poetry Collective, held in conjunction with the Griswold Memorial Library
- Know Your Rights Talk with Q & A at Griswold Memorial Library

Recognitions

- The Friends of the Library kindly contributed to funding and providing refreshments at many of the programs held by the library this year. They also financed requests for new library materials and technology equipment purchased in 2024. The library appreciates the Friends for their generosity, and for all their efforts to keep the Heath Fair Book Sale tradition vibrant!
- The Friends of Heath School Library generously donated \$2000 from their accounts that had not been spent at Heath Elementary School. This funding will be used to support children's programming.
- Heath Free Public Library received \$4400 in State Aid funding and an additional \$300 from an early childhood education grant program in fiscal year 2024.
- Congratulations to Margaret Freeman for winning Literary Encyclopedia's 2024 prize, Literatures originally written in English, for her book, *Emily Dickinson's Poetic Art: A Cognitive Reading* (Bloomsbury, 2023). Come to the library to check it out!
- Donald Freeman served on the Library Board of Trustees from 2022 until fall 2024. The library staff appreciates his unwavering support of Heath Free Public Library and the Oxford comma.

Board of Library Trustees

Chair: Emily Cross (term expires May 2026)

Secretary: Becky Johnston (term expires May 2027)

Donald Freeman resigned as of October 2024

Gale Hubley appointed January 2025

HEATH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

During the 2024-2025 year, there were several changes to the membership of the HHC. With regret and many thanks, the HHC accepted the resignation of Jayne Dane, noting that her hard work and dedication would be missed. Fortunately, two new members, David Davidson and Kathy Stosz, joined the HHC in June 2024.

Early in the year the HHC focused on the Community Hall, raising awareness about the plight of the building and its needed repairs. We are proud to have been the first to raise \$180.00 for the repair of the Community Hall's windows. We are thrilled that the contract was awarded to D Hayward Restoration. At the time of this writing five windows have been removed and are in the process of being restored.

The committee is now looking at National Grid's proposal to change the lighting and poles in Heath Center, and the status of Sawyer Hall. Sawyer Hall is owned by the town, and needs a range of repairs, for which funds have been set aside in recent years specifically to repair the handicapped access and porch and improve the pavement to the ramp. The HHC is willing to assist in any way to supplement town efforts to repair this important building located in the heart of the Heath Historic District.

**To download
THE TOWN OF HEATH ANNUAL REPORT 2024
visit our website at www.townofheath.org**

HEATH VETERAN'S MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Our final major goal was to fix the Memorial walkway to be more wheelchair accessible and more grass and weed resistant. In September 2024, Matt's Trucking excavated the walkway 4' wide by 55' long by 6" deep. Geotextile fabric was installed and 6" of compacted stone dust was added for a cost of \$2,025.00.

\$294.39 is left in the Donation account. Public donations fully funded this whole Memorial project.

The members still on the Committee, Peter Smith, Hormidas Lively and Jerry Gilbert, feel we have accomplished the Committee's original mission. Building a monument that symbolizes the Town of Heath honors all Veterans enlisted from Heath and is as maintenance free as possible.

As Veterans ourselves, all members, past and present, are honored to be part of this endeavor.

Respectfully submitted
Heath Veteran's Memorial Committee

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The first half of the year Jeff Johnston served as the Highway Superintendent and coordinated the seasonal work. First there was the snow removal, providing safe roads for school buses, commuters, and other travelers. That naturally led to trying to keep mud at a passable condition while the snow melted, and the dirt roads dried out. Grading of the unfinished roads, roadside mowing and routine maintenance of the vehicles and equipment were completed with his crew of Jason Lively and Kyle Jarvis.

Jeff resigned in mid-July and Steve Thane came in as a temporary part-time supervisor. He continued with summer maintenance plans for both roads and equipment while also managing the office duties of the position. Fortunately, Steve had an experienced crew who were knowledgeable and trained to handle the necessary work. He remained until the new superintendent was hired and began work in mid-October.

Fiscal Year 2025 has been a busy one for the Highway Department. Many roads in town have had ditching done preventing washouts. Culverts have been repaired/replaced/and flushed. This winter certainly has been an adventure with storms on every holiday from Thanksgiving on and most weekends in between. The small, what we call “nuisance,” storms tend to take as many hours and product to clean up as the major storms. As we get over winter, and spring appears, it will once again bring ditching, brush cutting, culvert management, and road grading in multiple locations.

The Highway department asks that you be mindful when traveling our roads as we will be out working. Paving will also get completed in a few spots this coming year. The replacement of the salt shed and demo of the old EOC building will be starting soon. As always, we continue to try and replace aged equipment while maintaining what we currently have. We are in the process of trying to replace the 2016 dodge 5500 currently as its dependable service life has far ended. The new fiscal year is also seeing the retirement of Kyle Jarvis our Highway Foreman/Mechanic. I would like to wish him well in his retirement and will welcome somebody new to our department.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tyson Howard, Highway Superintendent



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

Michael Cucchiara, Chair, Shahid Jalil, Jenna Day, Bob Dane, Don Lebreax, Chelsea Jordan-Merkley, Ex-Officio Members: Patricia McGain, Lyra Johnson.

The Parks and Recreation (P&R) Committee had a productive 2024 with many program initiatives bearing fruit. 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 \$225,000 in funding for outdoor recreation projects geared toward promoting public access and improving recreational infrastructure. These 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 related recreational infrastructure at various locations around Town.

Since 2023, the P&R has partnered with the Rowe Parks Commission on a multi-year initiative known as the Deerfield Highlands Trail Project. This project is geared toward creating a regional hiking trail through Heath and Rowe from the Catamount State Forest in the East to the Mohawk State Forest in the West. The hope is that the Deerfield Highlands Trail Project will eventually be integrated with existing public trails and result in a public trail corridor from the Deerfield River to the Taconic Range in Berkshire County.

In 2024 Heath and Rowe were awarded another grant to allow for the acquisition of new trail easements and licenses in support of the Highlands Trail Project. During fiscal year 2024 the P&R were able to acquire one permanent trail easement and one trail license in support of trail access. This past year the P&R has continued to work with the Franklin Land Trust (FLT) to undertake outreach to prospective partner landowners in an effort to secure more public access for the hiking trail either through easements or licenses.

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 2025 and look forward to seeing you out on the trails!

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Cucchiara, Committee Chair

PLANNING BOARD

Planning Board Members:

Doug Mason (Chair), Peter Charow, Steve Thane, Will Emmet, Bill Fontes;
Boards Clerk: Cindie Garland

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

The Heath Planning Board is dedicated to guiding the town's development in the best interests of its residents. Our focus includes land use planning, zoning, and project reviews to promote orderly growth and a well-designed community.

In 2024, the Board:

- Reviewed and endorsed three Approval Not Required (ANR) plans, which allow land division meeting specific criteria. (Locations: Flagg Hill Road and Avery Brook Road.)
- Reviewed and approved site plans for three solar array installations. (Locations: Ingraham Drive, Burrington Road, and Avery Brook Road.)
- Played a key role in discussions regarding National Grid pole replacements.

Looking to 2025, the Board will be reviewing Heath's Zoning Bylaws related to:

- 5G Wireless infrastructure
- Solar energy systems
- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

These efforts aim to ensure local regulations align with Massachusetts state law while supporting the town's needs.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

In 2024 we provided residents with office hours every week. Residents can renew firearms licenses, express concerns about activities in town, or just say hello. The officers provided police coverage at the annual fair, as well as a presence at the Halloween trunk or treat.

Below are a list of calls for service, some are handled by the state police. Office hours remain Tuesday eve 6:00pm-8:00pm. If you need an officer immediately, please call the dispatch 413-625-8200.

209A service	3	General info	4
209A violation	1	Harassment	3
911 call	5	Illegal burn	1
911 hang up	4	Illegal dumping	1
911 mis dial	4	Investigation	1
Administrative	2	Larceny	1
Alarm Burglar Hold up	9	Line down	6
EMS alarm	10	Medical emerg.	43
Fire alarm	10	Mental health followup	1
Alarm radio	1	Missing person	1
Animal complaint	17	Miscellaneous	1
Assist citizen	4	MV accident no inj	7
Assist other agency	3	MV accident w inj	3
Assault	1	MV complaint	1
Articles recovered	1	Noise complaint	1
Break and Enter past	4	Officer wanted	7
Burn/ag permit	3	Paperwork service	2
Chimney fire	2	Safety hazard	6
Check welfare	9	Section 12	1
Carbon monoxide hazard	1	Shots fired	1
Community policing	1	Smoke investigation	1
Complaint	1	Solicitation	8
Custody issue	1	Suspicious activity	6
Disturbance	3	Threat	2
Disabled mv	3	Traffic hazard	2
Detail request	3	Trespass	2
Brush fire	1	Unwanted person	2
Fire , other	1	Vandalism	1
Vehicle fire	2	Notification	6
		TOTAL	237

Respectfully Submitted
John McDonough
Chief of Police

TOWN NURSE

The Town Nurse Office continues to be located at 18 Jacobs Rd. with office hours on Tuesday 9:15-9:45 a.m. and noon-1:30 p.m., and Thursday 9:15-10:45 a.m. and noon-1:30 p.m. On occasion I may get called out for a home visit during those times. Phone 337-4934 extension 9 and e-mail, is nurse@townofheath.org. You may also call me at home at 337-8309.

I am available for home visits if needed and have a few people I see weekly in their home, particularly if other visiting nurse services aren't available after discharge from hospital or nursing home. I have a sharps box collection container and sharps boxes available for people who need them. There are also a couple of wheelchairs and walkers people may borrow. If you have a question regarding a medical issue, feel free to call, email or come to the office.

I plan to have flu vaccine for next season and hold a clinic in the fall. I know people have many options for vaccine these days.

I lead a Healthy Bones and Balance exercise class having received training through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden counties on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m.-noon that is free for Seniors.

Respectfully Submitted,
Claire Rabbitt, RN

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Zoning met for the first time in five years. The Board oversaw one hearing which was an appeal for a building permit on Vincent Rd. issued by James Hawkins, Building Commissioner. Following multiple meetings and research, the Appeal was denied by the board. This resulted in a legal suit filed against the ZBA by the abutting landowner who filed the initial appeal application.

Also 2024 brought a new member to Zoning, creating a full board. We are happy to welcome Kenneth Gilbert and while he hasn't officially met as a board member, he has been appointed by the Select Board.



Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Wozniak, Chair
Alanson Nichols
Dena Briggs, Clerk
Steven Thane



SCHOOL REPORTS

COLRAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

During the 2024-2025 school year, we had 97 students in grades PK-6 enrolled at Colrain Central School. We have one classroom per grade, along a network of professional and support staff to meet students' educational needs. We service students who live in Colrain and Heath, as well as having several students from surrounding towns through School Choice.

This year is our third year of implementation of our new English Language Arts curriculum titled "Expeditionary Learning" or EL for short. We are finding the program to inspire classroom conversations and academic discourse has deepened. We continue to challenge students to cite evidence from the text to support their learning, understand complex perspectives, and make inferences about all aspects of literature.

We are in our fifth year of implementation of "Bridges" which is our math curriculum. Students have become very comfortable with the language of mathematics and how to deconstruct and reconstruct numbers. They are understanding how numbers work and how to utilize a variety of strategies to problem-solve. They are also able to use what they know to approach novel tasks and make meaningful connections.

While we still greatly value Service Learning, we have been struggling a bit with how to devote the time and attention to it, given all the other aspects of what we must cover. If Service Learning is an unfamiliar term to you, it is the idea that content information is taught through a hands-on, service-focused delivery model. Think of it as project-based learning with an emphasis on community service. We work with community partners to help students solve real world problems connected to the academic content areas and "learn by serving". We continue to look for ways to expand our connections with our community and welcome you to bring "problems" that students can study, learn about, and see what may be feasible by way of solutions.

We have worked hard this year to strengthen the climate and culture of our school community. We have incorporated several activities across the school to help students connect with their peers and staff members. We have implemented an approach to discipline known as “Collaborative and Proactive Solutions” which helps give students a voice and allows them to be a part of the problem solving process when conflicts arise. As a result, students are beginning to take some ownership of both their learning as well as the culture and climate of the community.

Some of the facility maintenance and improvement projects that happened in 2024 included:

- Scheduling the repointing of the damaged brick
- Monthly water testing
- Pumped the sewer
- Re-urathaned the gym floor
- Upgraded the phones to meet the 911 compliance
- Regular inspections and cleaning of the fire panel, fire extinguishers, kitchen hood, boilers, propane pressure test, and grease trap
- Updated pest management plan
- Miscellaneous daily operation repairs and clearing (unit vent filters, sinks, lighting, roof top vents, etc.)

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 children as principal.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy K. Looman

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This is a summarization of the full report which may be found in its entirety on the Town's website.

MTRS is proud to have three slogans greet guests on arrival to the lobby:

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

Barr funding and Innovation

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

As well as the addition of Climate Resilience to the Middle school exploratory electives, this year we realized the building of two outdoor classrooms on campus. These were the result of a Deerfield River grant and allow all staff the opportunity to take advantage of our unique rural setting.

Finally, a collaboration between MTRS and the Shelburne Falls Police Department has enabled us to partner with Fire, Police and EMT services in providing students with a Forensic Science elective.

College and Career supports

MTRS continues to focus on supporting students in taking their learning beyond the classrooms. In addition to providing opportunities for students to participate in Dual Enrollment classes at GCC, the guidance team has focused on providing grade 12 students with the opportunity, as part of their schedule, to extend their Capstone projects into work-based learning and internship opportunities with businesses and organizations in the community.

College preparedness and student retention

The guidance team held a second annual alumni college conversation with students in December. This is a great opportunity for returning students to talk to current MTRS students about life and college experience beyond Mohawk Trail. In addition to the alumni event, 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.

Field Trips

We continue to innovate in providing students with learning experience 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 linked to classroom activities.

Community Involvement

We are thankful to parents and care providers for their active involvement in MTRS life through the Local Education Committee (LEC)

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 2024 and we are planning for this to be the venue for graduation for the Class of '25 on Friday, May 30, 2025.

Music and Theatre

We are pleased with the continued resurgence of music and drama at MTRS in the past year. As well as 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 19th and our Spring school concert and district concerts are scheduled for later this year.

Athletics

2024 was an incredible year to be associated with Mohawk Trail athletics! While offering programming for grades K-12, our athletic department benefited from record breaking participation numbers while experiencing great success on both the field and court. Whether it was our ski team's bid for a third consecutive state title, or our volleyball team winning their first Western Mass Championship in school history, all our athletes continue to work incredibly hard to achieve their goals and make our community proud!

Cooperative Programs...The future of athletics in Franklin County

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 to field teams that they would not be able to field on their own. Currently, the Mohawk Trail Regional School District is involved in six separate cooperative programs.

Our district has developed great working relationships with both the Greenfield Public School System, as well as Hampshire Regional. We will be looking to team with GHS for both ice hockey and boys' tennis, two sports that are beginning to spark interest among Mohawk Trail students. By the start of FY26, Mohawk Trail should be able to offer as many athletic opportunities to its students as a much larger school that is six or seven times our size. With enrollment essentially stagnant and budgets becoming tighter, we in the Mohawk Trail Athletic Department will continue to prioritize giving our students every opportunity to compete in the sport of their choice, at the absolute highest level. Go Warriors!

Student numbers

At the mid-point of the 2024-2025 school year, total student enrollment in grades 7-12 was 320, as follows: 78 students in seventh grade, 88 students in eighth grade, 41 in ninth grade, 47 in 10th grade, 31 Juniors and 34 seniors. One student is enrolled in our post-graduate program.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Buckland, MTRHS Principal

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

This a summarization of the full report which may be found in its entirety on the Town's website.

Central Office News

Long-time Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Karen Totman, retired on December 31, 2024. Shana Garcia started on November 1, 2024, and after training with Karen, took over the role as of January 1, 2025.

Focus on Literacy

We've reimagined structured elementary literacy, which includes three components that come together for better overall readers and writers.

The components include:

- 1.) EL Education for knowledge building and comprehension
- 2.) Framing Your Thoughts/Sentence Structure for syntax and writing expression
- 3.) UFLI for foundational reading. In the 2024-2025 school year, district teachers received training and were prepared to roll out the method

Making Calculated Moves in Mathematics

For the last 6 years or so, the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts have been moving teachers toward inquiry-based teaching and learning. This approach includes shifting teachers into the role of facilitator, elevating student voices, and integrating more physical activity. Successful trials of this work have woven their way through classrooms across the district (4th grade, 6th grade, and middle school, so far), and we see the work as promising for the future of not only mathematics but also general problem-solving and the cultivation of collaborators.

Student-Led Conferences

Student-Led Conferences (SLCs) are a version of a parent-teacher conference in which students take a leadership role. This change to the way student updates is communicated encourages each student to accept personal responsibility for their academic performance, improves students' skills in reflection and self-evaluation, facilitates the development of a student's organizational and oral communication skills, increases their self-confidence, and develops student-advisor-parent learning partnerships.

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 but directly affect our communities, creating financial concerns for our school districts, our member towns, and their taxpayers. As a result, the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts have embarked upon a Sustainability Study designed to help us create a path forward that maintains or enhances high-quality education for all our students and is affordable for our towns. The districts retained an experienced consultant, Berkshire Educational Resources K12(BERK12), to assist with the project.

During 2024, updates, resources, and reports have been created by the BERK12 team, all of which may be accessed at 2Districts8Towns. From these materials, five models are being explored:

- No Change
- Merge the two Districts
- Move 6th Grade to MTRS
- Move 6th grade (and possibly 5th) to MTRS and close one to three elementary schools
- Single Campus

Over the past several months, the project's consulting team, BERK12, has completed an in-depth financial and educational analysis of the five options selected as "necessary" or "most promising" by the Sustainability Project Steering Committee.

Rural Advocacy

It is exciting to hear from Senator Comerford that the State Senate is committed to examining the state funding formula and its inequitable funding of small and rural districts in the wake of the Student Opportunity Act. We continue to work with Representative Blais and Senators Comerford and Mark to pursue legislative solutions to issues our rural education communities have been facing for decades.

Green Initiatives

In 2023, Mohawk Trail Regional School had 781 solar panels installed on its roofs, which became operational in early 2024. Since harnessing the power of the sun, the school has generated 359.87 MWh of energy and saved 555,688 lbs. in CO2 emissions, which is the equivalent of planting 4,199 trees. We remain steadfast in our commitment to green energy consumption and cost savings for the districts as we advance toward a cleaner economy.

Volleyball Brings Home a New Title

The varsity volleyball players enjoyed a strong season that earned the players their first Western Massachusetts Volleyball Championship title in Mohawk Trail Regional history. Congratulations to Coach Lannon and her players on bringing home this title.

Wrapping Up

It is a pleasure and an honor to continue serving as your Superintendent of Schools. It has been a year with much to celebrate. It's exciting to see the enthusiasm for our learning community. Our students are amazing athletes, musicians, artists, leaders, and friends; they demonstrate what it means to be a Trailblazer: we are unique, and our educational paths are filled with exploration, curiosity, individualized learning, community involvement, and deep connections. I continue to be incredibly proud of our students, families, staff, and community as we have worked together to celebrate our learning community and look to the future to address our rural community's unique challenges. I look forward to continuing this collaboration in the years to come.

Sheryl L. Stanton, Superintendent

Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School Districts

Where Learning & Growth is our Focus & Community & Courage is our Path



FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

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 2024-25 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, 2024 enrollment count, the State's annual "official" count. As of October 2024 the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) has an enrollment of 590 students with member town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	25	Erving	31	Montague	73	Sunderland	9
Buckland	24	Gill	16	New Salem	12	Warwick	5
Colrain	29	Greenfield	135	Northfield	50	Wendell	6
Conway	8	Heath	13	Orange	87	Whatley	14
Deerfield	32	Leyden	10	Shelburne	11		

The Franklin County Technical School awarded 143 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2024. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS to receive a high school diploma, and once again, our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. 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 the Department of Education set 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.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2023, FCTS had approximately 38% of our seniors involved in paid co-op jobs related to their vocational field of study. 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 increased enrollment and 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. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years, bringing the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 15.

Unlike other school districts, which may offer a 45-minute course in a specific trade area, 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.

FCTS has received an occupancy permit and is completed with a new 4,800 square-foot Veterinary Science Learning Center and Clinic. The building is located on the FCTS campus. This facility will be used to provide students with real world experiences in the veterinary field.

The new Aviation program has started for the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials in Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT). 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. The FCTS hangar will be located on the adjacent Turners Falls Municipal Airport grounds. The AMT program will include a twin-engine airplane, two single-engine airplanes, one glider, and one helicopter, as well as machines, equipment, engine simulators, and tools required by the FAA for an AMT certification program. FCTS will become one of the few high schools in the country to offer a credentialed FAA program. Graduating students of the AMT program will have the opportunity to obtain 1200 hours of FAA training, allowing them to sit for an FAA license exam. Upon leaving high school, an FAA certification will send our students on their way to a career in aviation.

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 over the last several years. To resolve this, FCTS has been approved for a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded project for either a renovation or 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 are currently in the design phase of the project to determine what is feasible for FCTS and its member towns to renovate, build new, or seek other alternatives. The design phase will take a couple of years for completion prior to seeking town approval.

Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.2 million dollars in State grants over the last 7 years. 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.

In addition, FCTS applied for and received a total of 1.8 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, and Carpentry through the CTI grant. FCTS continues to explore more programs for evening courses in 2024. 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.

The following lists our many projects conducted in the past few years:

- Home building project on Petty Plain Road in Greenfield. Funded by a non-profit foundation.
- Storage shed for the Charlemont Federated Church
- Pavilion for Shelburne Falls pocket park
- Town of Heath parking lot and office lights retrofitting
- Landscaping design for Shelburne Falls pocket park
- Landscaping at the Shelburne Hills Cemetery
- Landscaping at Veteran's Memorial Park in Pelham
- Landscaping at Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls
- Tree planting for South Deerfield and Turners Falls
- Wreaths made and hung at the Conway Covered Bridge
- Technology support to the Montague Senior Center
- Website development for the UCC Church in Conway
- Audio and video help for online church services at the First Congregational Church of Ashfield
- New construction assistance on the new FCTS Hangar and Veterinary buildings
- Culinary presentation to the Northfield Senior Center
- Luncheons for the Montague Housing Authority and the Erving Red Hat Society
- Breakfast Catering for the Chamber of Commerce, School Resource Officer's and Light Up the Fairgrounds
- Repairs to the Highland Cemetery Gate in Millers Falls
- Fabrication of an air conditioner cover for the Town of Warwick
- Installed a bench at the French King Bridge in Erving
- Installed brackets for the Franklin County Land Trust for signage
- Repairs to recycling carts for the Franklin County Fair
- Time capsule design and construction for the towns of Deerfield and Northfield
- Blood pressure clinic and nail clinic for the Erving Senior Center.
- Volunteer work at the Arbors Assisted Living and Regal Care facilities in Greenfield

- Holiday meals served at the Stone Soup Cafe in Greenfield
- Cosmetology services for Poet Seat Nursing Home, Linda Manor Assisted Living, Quabbin Valley Nursing Home, and the Bernardston Senior Center
- Volunteer work at the Dakin Humane Society

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.

Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those which allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

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

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.

In addition to specialized academic instruction, special education provides related services in other areas that are critical to learning. The table below includes related services that are provided by school based employees, or for which we contract with outside providers.

Related Service	Licensed Professional
Speech and/or language (S/L)	Licensed Speech/Language Pathologist (CCC-SLP)
Reading	DESE Reading Specialist Licensure

Related Service

Occupational Therapy (OT)
Physical Therapy (PT)

Counseling

Behavior Support

Vision

Hearing

Orientation & Mobility (O&M)

Licensed Professional

Licensed Occupational Therapist (MS,OTR/L)

Physical Therapist (PT)

or Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Adjustment Counselor (MSW, LMHC)

or School Psychologist (NCSP)

Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI)

Audiologist (CCC-A)

Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist (COMS)

The two districts currently employ five speech and language pathologists across our five buildings. Both districts share one PT, one OT, and one BCBA. We have two school psychologists. We contract for an additional day of OT services at Buckland-Shelburne in order to meet the needs of our largest elementary population. 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.

Buckland-Shelburne is our largest elementary school campus. On site, we provide a substantially separate setting for students with cognitive and behavioral challenges that prevent them from being fully included in grade-level classrooms. This program 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. The Mohawk Trail Supported Classroom (MTSC) provides a full-time clinician and special education teacher for students with social-emotional challenges which prevent them from accessing grade-level instruction independently. Additionally, 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 with us until they are 22.

The tables below include data reflecting special populations within our schools. These data were provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Massachusetts (DESE) from the 2023-2024 school year.

Mohawk Trail Regional School District

Selected Populations: 2023-2024	% of the District	% of the State
First Language Not English	1.2%	26%
English Language Learner	0.5%	13.1%
Low-income	46.3%	42.2%
Students with Disabilities	24.8%	20.2%
High Needs	58%	55.8%

Hawlemont Regional School District

Selected Populations: 2023-2024	% of the School/District	% of the State
First Language Not English	1.8%	26%
English Language Learner	0.0%	13.1%
Low-income	53.6%	42.2%
Students with Disabilities	41.4%	20.2%
High Needs	67.2%	55.8%

Compared to the previous school year (2022-2023), trends in special education populations in both districts have largely mirrored trends at the state level. Both the Mohawk Trail Regional Schools and schools across the state saw a small increase in the number of students who qualified for special education services. Hawlemont Regional School saw a relatively larger increase in their population of students with disabilities. However, given the small size of the overall student body in Hawlemont, this increased percentage reflects a relatively small number of students. Both districts saw a decrease in their population of English Language Learners, while the state itself registered an increase of these same students overall. Finally, both Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional Schools serve a larger percentage of students from low-income households compared to the state average.

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

MARY LYON FOUNDATION, INC.

Four years ago we imagined a future for the Mary Lyon Foundation in which we would expand our programming and grow our operating and program endowments to meet the extraordinary challenges of the families in the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont School Districts in perpetuity. Because of the commitment of community members like yourself, we have almost met our **Comprehensive Campaign Goal of \$5,000,000. With \$435,042.52 left to raise by September 30, 2025**, we are confident that, with your continued commitment, we will reach our goal.

Our endowments are invested accounts. Over the past four years, we have created an endowment for all our programs. The Foundation only uses a small percentage of the growth of the accounts to ensure the principal grows and the fund is available in perpetuity. The creation and development of our endowments have stabilized our operational capacity and ensured the continuation of our programming.

The Mary Lyon Foundation's impact in Western Franklin County is substantial. Our commitment to providing families with basic needs to ensure that children come to school fed, warm, and ready to learn is at the forefront of our mission. Ensuring that children have books to read in the classroom and at home, eyeglasses so they can see, adequate school supplies, and scholarships for college and postsecondary programs is evidence that the Mary Lyon Foundation has realized its vision. The families in Western Franklin County are being provided with a lifeline like never before.

The Mary Lyon Foundation's impact in West County can be much more. As part of our strategic plan, we've begun helping other local families in Franklin County. The needs in our region are extraordinary, and we believe we can and should support all of Franklin County. Over the past four years, we've helped a young mom acquire tires for her car so she could start her new job as a phlebotomist, helped young families with re-homing costs, gave gas cards to travel to doctor's visits, helped pay utility bills and much more. We visualized a community in Franklin County where families have the essential resources to make ends meet and children are revered and nurtured. Imagine the educational outcomes for children when families can provide for them!

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We will continue our good work and expand our services to help more people in Franklin County. Through the generosity of a new donor, we are endowing a new fund named the Union 38(FRS) and Mohawk Trail (MTRS) Family Fund. This new fund meets the goals of our strategic plan and will support the essential needs of students and families in both districts. We will continue to work to expand our programming and, over the next few years, will roll out a plan to provide comprehensive wrap-around services for everyone living in Western Franklin County.

We are grateful to those who have supported us over the past years. With an eye toward the future, we will continue our good work and hope you will continue supporting our mission. For those who still want to assist us, please join our campaign today.

Kristen Tillona Baker
Executive Director

CARL H. NILMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Fund was established under the provisions of the Will of Carl H. Nilman for the purpose of providing scholarships.

Recipients shall reside in the nine Town School District and be graduates of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School who desire and are deemed worthy of post high school education or training and who are in need of financial assistance.

Each one of the nine Towns has a representative on the Committee:

Ashfield	Jennifer Pease
Buckland	Marion Scott
Charlemont	Marge Porrovecchio
Colrain	Michelle Hillman
Hawley	Lisa Johnson
Heath	Robert Gruen
Plainfield	Vacant*
Rowe	Carol Lively
Shelburne	Sherry Taylor

**We were saddened by the passing of our Plainfield representative Allen Irvine. His seat will be filled by an appointment made by the Plainfield Select Board.*

Additional members:

Chairperson of the School Committee:	Martha Thurber
Past School Committee Member:	Robin Hartnett
Members at Large:	Pamela Guyette
	Donald Purington
	Angel Bragdon

Elections of Officers were held at our meeting on September 10, 2024.

Marge Porrovecchio and Robin Hartnett remain as Co-chairs.

Pamela Guyette is Secretary, and Bing Waldsmith is Treasurer.

In 2024 the Awards Committee read twenty-four applications. Fourteen applications were from Seniors and ten applicants were from students continuing their higher education. The total funds awarded was \$41,000. Seniors received \$12,300 and \$28,700 was awarded to continuing ed 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.

Mr. Nilman will long be remembered by his generosity and foresight in supporting higher education for the students of Mohawk Trail Regional High School. Our committee members are honored to bring the wishes of Mr. Nilman’s Will to fruition.

Students of any age who are graduates of Mohawk (and living in the nine-town area at the time of graduation) are encouraged to apply for scholarships to help meet their continuing education needs.

**Applications are available at the guidance office at
Mohawk Trail Regional High School.**



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 join 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 (15) towns in Franklin County, with the Towns of Leverett, Wendell and Whately joining in 2024.

The program has also expanded its staff to include (2) part-time Animal Control Officers, with Heather Sonn and Jessecah Gower joining the program in June of 2024. During 2024, Franklin County Regional Animal Control logged 1202 total events for service between January 1st and December 31st 2024.

Calls for service

- 20 – Animal Bite Reports.
- 199 – Animal Complaints or Concerns.
- 19 – Investigations.
- 67 – Found or Lost animals.
- 21 – Inspections.
- 18– Sick or Injured animals.
- 43 – Assistance to other agencies.
- 30 – Hearings, Meetings or Trainings.

**Note: The above does not represent all the calls that were received.*

Breakdown of calls by Town:

- Bernardston: 43
- Buckland: 43
- Charlemont: 48
- Colrain: 42
- Conway: 40
- Gill: 67
- Heath: 31
- Leyden: 17
- Leverett: 8
- Monroe: 5
- New Salem: 36
- Northfield: 51
- Shelburne: 58
- Wendell: 4
- Whately: 25
- Other*: 180

In the spring of 2024 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 animalcontrol@fcso-ma.us or by phone at 413-774-7340. 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
Jessecah Gower, Part-Time Regional Animal Control Officer
Heather Sonn, Part-Time Regional Animal Control Officer

REGIONAL DOG SHELTER

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office Regional Dog Shelter has been in operation since 2012. The shelter was started by Sheriff Christopher Donelan who saw the need in the community for a dog sheltering facility and is currently the only brick and mortar dog shelter in Franklin County.

As of this date, the dog shelter provides services to 23 of the 26 Franklin County towns. During the course of 2024, the Regional Dog Shelter logged 198 canine intakes, (166 were brought in as strays, and 32 were Surrendered, Transferred or Returned to our facility)

97 were returned to their owners;

74 were adopted into new fur-ever homes; and

7 were transferred to another facility to better meet their specific needs.

While we are primarily a dog facility with the addition of the Sheriff's Office Regional Animal Control Position the shelter assisted in the holding and transfer of 42 felines. At this time, the shelter does not have the capability to process cat adoptions, therefore all felines are transferred to an appropriate agency.

Working with the Community:

Food Pantries: If you are struggling to feed your pet, or know of a food pantry that could use dog/cat food please let us know!

Rabies Clinics: In 2024, the shelter partnered with (2) local veterinarians to sponsor rabies clinics in Greenfield and Heath.

Volunteers: Volunteers are essential to the smooth operation of the shelter, without them, we would not have the success that we have today. Donating over 7075 hours in 2024, volunteers helped with Daily Kennel Chores, Foster Homes, Event Staffing and providing Enrichment specific to each dog's needs. We are always in need of new volunteers, if you are interested in joining our volunteer team; please check out the volunteer application on our website.

Did you know? The overall average length of stay for a dog at our kennel is 30 days? During this time, all their costs and care are covered by the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter.

COOP PUBLIC HEALTH

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 2024, 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>

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, professional consultation, trainings, and educational outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2024 shows that it was almost identical to 2023 recycling tonnage. District residents recycled just under 2,500 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 2024. Events were held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Erving Senior Center and Highway Garage, and Whately transfer station. Combined, the events served 578 households and collected over 58 tons of bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, propane tanks, tires, and other items.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2024 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 390 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 \$98,600 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management infrastructure.

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.

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, Cooperative Building, Plumbing, and Electrical Inspection, and Town Accounting – 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 assists with local planning and larger regional projects; and the Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Programs prepare and train first responders and local officials.

The following pages list services specific to Heath.

Climate Resilience, Land Use and Housing

- Prepared a memo to towns summarizing the latest guidance from the state regarding the new Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) zoning changes to assist towns as they prepare their own bylaws.
- Held a second community roundtable for communities involved in the Regional Pollinator Plan for Franklin County, including Heath, to share stories and lessons learned about expanding, enhancing, and protecting pollinator habitat.
- Completed the Unpaved Roads Stormwater Management Toolkit under a MA Department of Environmental Protection Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant and distributed a copy to Heath. Conducted outreach to highway staff and Conservation Commission members.
- 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 95 Mohawk students, representing 65% 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 2024 survey includes the US Department of Education's School Climate Survey.
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the evidence-based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program in the school district.

- Provided technical assistance in grant writing to procure public school opioid settlement funds earmarked for mental health, social/emotional health, special education, restorative practices and school climate, and culture.
- Provided regional networking opportunities with other school districts, youth-serving organizations, community mental and physical health organizations, and community resource centers.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.
- Provided mentoring support and professional development training opportunities to public health inspection staff via three webinars and monthly email updates.
- Provided funding and facilitation support to the Mary Lyon Foundation for the creation of the West County People Supporting People Network, which hosted a resource fair to bring the region's healthcare and human service agencies to West County.
- Provided data and information about youth health to the Board of Health in support of their tobacco regulations.

Shared Municipal Services

- Heath contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment; heating and vehicle fuel; fire alarm services; elevator maintenance; fire extinguisher services; and dog tags and licenses.
- The Franklin County Cooperative Inspections program issued 64 building permits, 36 electrical permits, 14 plumbing/gas permits and 1 certificate of inspection for Heath in 2024.
- FRCOG staff organized and facilitated educational meetings for members of town energy committees, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication.
- Compiled, published, and distributed the results of the Franklin County Municipal Wage and Salary Survey, providing detailed municipal compensation and benefits packages data for local officials. Staff expanded the project in 2024, gathering information from 12 towns outside of the county for a regional compilation, along with relative MA Division of Local Services municipal statistical data to further assist all surveyed towns and cities with budget building and hiring comparisons.
- Used grant funding to organize, facilitate, and present at local official capacity-building workshops throughout the year.
- Heath is a member of the CPHS, a regional health district based at the FRCOG, which accomplishes all of the town's public health work. CPHS staff:
 - o Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors and local schools and senior centers.
 - o Assisted Heath businesses, organizations, and individuals with the CPHS on-line public health permitting system; evaluated and made determinations on a total of 68 permit applications (16 regional), including 19 for food establishments and 29 for septic system work.

- o Hosted drop-in nursing hours at the Charlemont Federated Church site and made home visits serving 65 different people in 122 separate contacts, including 21 home visits.
- o Gave 286 Flu and 344 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours and home visits. Heath residents received 24 vaccines.
- o Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, checking state infectious disease system daily and following up as required, including for 11 Heath cases.
- o Hosted county-wide opioid listening session, with the aim for local board of health members and health department staff to hear from community members impacted by the opioid crisis on how to spend opioid abatement funds. This listening session was attended by 35 county individuals, representing many in recovery and local recovery organizations.
- o Gathered available data on opioids use — EMS incidents, deaths, and treatment— and created fact sheets.
- o Provided 660 doses of naloxone (Narcan) at local trainings and at 11 community naloxone cabinets installed throughout CPHS towns
- o Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at all drop-in nursing hours: 75 boxes exchanged.
- o Conducted 52 on-site health inspections, including septic, camps, food and housing.
- o Responded to health- and safety-related housing complaints.
- o Maintained certification as Medicare insurance “SHINE” counselor and assisted 34 CPHS town residents in 40 visits, including one Heath resident.
- o Provided guidance to the Board of Health and regularly attended board meetings.

Training and Education

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables, and training sessions that Heath public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Community Health

Aging Listening Session - 2	Air Quality Monitoring - 2
CHIP Progress Review - 1	CPR/First Aid - 1
Food Safety - 1	Food Safety/Reduced Oxygen Packaging - 1
NARCAN Trainer Certification - 2	Tick Prevention Education - 28
Mass in Motion Community Engagement - 6	

Transportation

- Created a conceptual trail to connect Catamount State Forest in Colrain to Mohawk State Forest in Charlemont via Heath and Rowe. Worked with town committees to move the project to an implementation phase.
- Conducted two traffic counts by town request on Number Nine Road.

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 dramatically increased the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to increased VA Presumptive diseases for numerous eras of service:

- District now brings in \$2,060,625.34 in federal money per month from the VA in Disability Compensation, Veteran Pension, DIC Compensation and Death Pension. This is an increase of VA Benefits from CY24 of \$54,703.81 a month.
- District has three qualified National Veteran Service Officers.
- District added three more outreach satellite office hours to be more assessable to the veterans who live in the out skirts of our district.
- 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 25 budget while continuing to expand services in 2026.
- The Office has produced 270 claims and 80 appeals with the VA for Veterans and their dependents this year, a 150 net increase from last FY. Mostly due to the PACT

Christopher Demers, Director
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP OF NORTHWEST MA

To learn more visit [woodlandspartnership.org/implementa on-grants](http://woodlandspartnership.org/implementa-on-grants)

The Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts (established as the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership in 2018 state law) is a public body with its board comprised of representatives from the 21- town region (Franklin County: Asheld, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Florida, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe, Rowe, Shelburne; Berkshire County: Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, New Ashford, North Adams, Peru, Savoy*, Williamstown, Windsor) as well as from Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Deerfield River Watershed Association, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Franklin County Community Development Corporation, Franklin Land Trust, Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Hoosic River Watershed Association, Lever, Inc., Massachusetts Society of American Foresters, Massachusetts Forest Alliance, Ohketeau Cultural Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and the U.S. Forest Service. New England Forestry Foundation serves as Administrative Agent for the Partnership.

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 2024/2025 were \$359,114.57 (inclusive of unused scholarship money from previous years that was reallocated to be granted this year).

EDUCATION

The Trustees received 190 applications and approved 189 of those received. Trustees awarded a total of \$295,487.00. 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 \$53,867.00

Bernardston Senior Center	\$ 1,500.00
Charlemont Council on Aging	\$ 2,000.00
Conway Council on Aging	\$ 1,500.00
Greenfield Council on Aging	\$10,000.00
Heath Council on Aging	\$ 1,000.00
Leyden Council on Aging	\$ 1,000.00
Life Path, Inc.	\$20,000.00
Northfield Senior Center	\$ 1,500.00
The Care Collaborative	\$10,867.00
The Senior Center – West County Consortium	\$ 4,500.00

AGRICULTURE

Three applicants were provided grants totaling \$17,955.00

Franklin County Agricultural Society	\$ 7,620.00
Heath Agricultural Society	\$ 7,860.00
Shelburne Grange Fair	\$ 2,475.00

Respectfully Submitted,
Dianne Grinnell



**MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATORS
REPRESENTING HEATH**

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