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Heath's First Newspaper

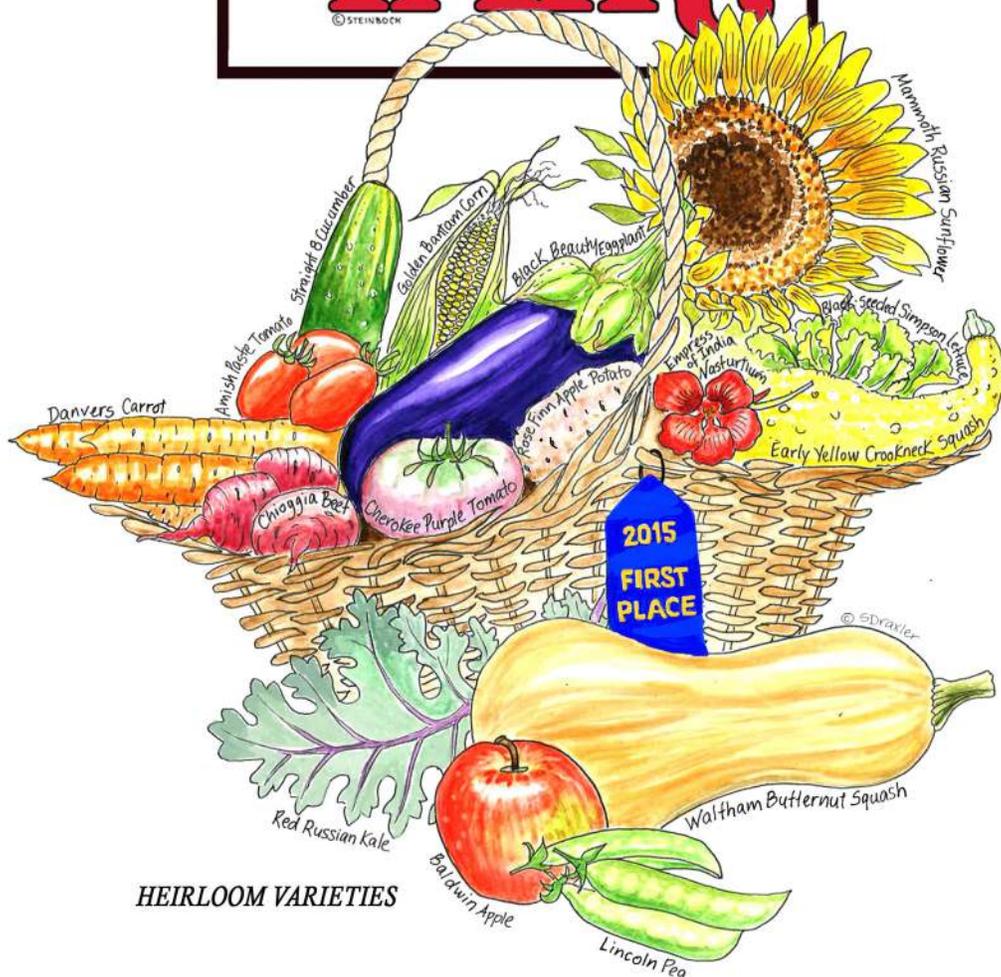
\$2.00

Volume 37, Number 3

August/September 2015

98TH ANNUAL

HEATH FAIR.



HEIRLOOM VARIETIES

Heath Herald

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Courtesy of the Heath Agricultural Society
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The Heath Herald Logo

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

Correspondence

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

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

Submission Deadlines—please note change to the 5th

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

Call for Contributions

The *Heath Herald's* goal is to inform our readership about our community—important and interesting events, experiences, people, places and information. We wish to be as inclusive of the entire Heath community as possible and we welcome your submission of articles, Letters to the Editor, human interest stories, photographs and artwork of local interest. While we cannot promise to publish all articles or artwork, all submissions will be carefully reviewed. In order to include as much variety as possible, submissions may also be edited for length. We always welcome suggestions for topics of interest to our readership.

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If you would like a significant number of extra copies of the current issue, we will facilitate this with the printer. Call Pat McGahan at 413-337-4078 or email *pmcgahan@comcast.net*.

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The subscription rate for six issues annually is \$12.00 at time of renewal. Subscription forms may be found near the *Heath Herald* Direct Sales box on top of the bookshelf in the lower floor hallway of the Town Hall and on the back page of every issue. Mail this form with accompanying payment to our mailing address or leave in the black *Heath Herald* box to the left of the Post Office boxes in the Town Hall vestibule.

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

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The quality printing of the *Heath Herald* is done by Highland Press in Athol, MA.

Memories of



Heath Fair Always Started Before Fair Day

For us, Heath Fair started long before the actual fair day. Getting exhibits ready, brushing the cattle and polishing the brass on the horse harnesses were but a few of the preparations. The festivities really started one day prior to the fair day, cleaning up the fairgrounds (part of the Dickinson's Farm in South Heath) and setting up the two big tents for exhibits. Fair day morning excitement started with bringing vegetables, exhibits and the animals and driving the horses with hay wagon in tow for use as a float in the parade. Cattle and exhibit judging in the morning, band music, long speeches (during which most of the kids found other attractions), field games and the parade were followed by the horse drawing which was the high point in the day for us since Dad used to pull with our team. If they won, it made the day perfect for me. Of course Heath Fair festivities were always punctuated by many trips to the refreshment stand where Edith and Andy Royer served the best hot dogs ever. Then it was home to do the milking and back for the Heath Fair dance or I should say dances since two bands were holding forth—one in the community center and one in the town hall—what excitement!

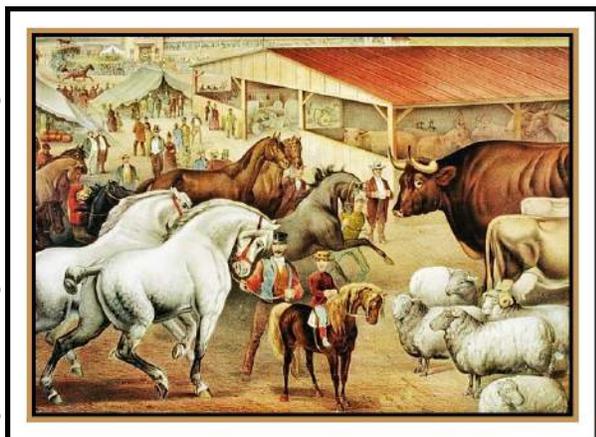
The day after the fair was also fun. Taking down the big tents, closing up the refreshment booth and, best of all, eating the left-over ice cream...yum!!!

—Rollo Kinsman, 1983

Francis Rollo Kinsman (1932–2014), known to all as Rollo, was the sixth generation to reside on the family farm on Colrain Stage Rd. Rollo grew up, lived summers, then fulltime again during retirement on the farm. A professional singer, Rollo performed in, and directed, programs both as a service member then as a civilian for the U.S. Army. He also performed in many venues, including the National Theater, Washington, D.C., where, in honor of his contributions to the performing arts, a seat is dedicated in his name.

For more about Rollo Kinsman, see the December 2014/January 2015 of the *Heath Herald*.

Sights at the Fairground Currier & Ives print



Un-Fair at Heath

Spending the summer months at Great Uncle Merritt's big old colonial-era farm-home in Heath, afforded endless, wonderful opportunities for us five children to explore the whole area, inside all the buildings, and, as far as Mom would allow, to roam freely the surrounding fields and forests.

We had known for a week that we were going to the Heath Fair, so our childish efforts at "taking Heaven by storm," to assure perfect weather, seemed to have paid off. Blue skies, puffy white clouds, and a brisk southwesterly breeze foretold of a perfect day to enjoy all the attractions the fair had to offer.

Our dearly loved neighbor Jennie Duncan would soon appear driving McAdoo hitched to the three-seated buggy that would take us all over the dirt roads to the stone-fenced fairgrounds.

The fair would be a new experience for us five children. Our outings were usually limited to activities we could all do together with the least possible monetary cost.

As we neared the cemetery, soon to take a left to head for town, we could hear other conveyances coming up the hill from the south—all headed for the fair. Jennie snapped the reins, urging McAdoo to a quicker pace, not that we wanted to be first to arrive at the fairgrounds, but so we wouldn't be "eating the dust" of the other travelers. As we progressed, Jennie gave us a thumbnail sketch of fair activities from past years and the news that there was to be a very special parade float, due to the combined efforts of two of the prominent summer families.

My three remaining memories of the rest of the day are of the cows being used to demonstrate the latest in milking machines and the "special" float consisting of a handsomely made young man—completely naked except for a strategically placed grape leaf—totally covered in gold paint. Paint that was toxic that had to be washed away within a fixed time limit in order to avoid suffocation!

My third memory? Right after the "Golden Adonis" left the parade to dive into his patron's swimming pool, my lunch refused to stay down and I spent the rest of the day three-quarters out of it, lying on the back seat of the three-seated buggy!

—Mildred Grant

Mildred Grant summered in Heath with her Great Uncle Merritt Sherman at his house on the now discontinued section of Royer Road, which was built in the 1700's by Lucas White. Mildred now resides in Greenfield where she is very active with the Greenfield Senior Center. This essay was selected from "Tales and Treasures: A Senior Sampler" a collection of writings from the Greenfield Council on Aging Writing Project.

Go to
WWW.HEATHFAIR.ORG

For all the information
you need about the Fair
all in one place!



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Heath Agricultural Society's 98th Annual Heath Fair is but days away, beginning the 21st of August!

This year the Ag has put together a weekend that will include all of the animals, events, and experiences that you have come to love. There will be wagon rides, and you can race to



the fried dough booth to gather treats for your ride (if the fried dough isn't eaten before you get on board). There will be a square dance where you will watch with excitement and carefully navigate the innumerable invitations you will receive to participate in spite of your two left feet (join in—it's always worth it and everyone wants to help you learn). There will be a Speaker's Tent where you can learn about everything from Brewing Beer to Growing Roses to Poultry (listen,

ask lots of questions, learn). There will be animals to become attached to (please do fall in love with them but please also wash your hands as often as possible between visitations...). And there will be **Small Rides, Big Fireworks, Great Music and even a Zip Line...**

The Heath Fair offers a lot of opportunities for fun and family experiences, and is planned and assembled by volunteers. Pat a volunteer on the back for their service and consider volunteering yourself. Work in the Food Booth, at the Gate, or in the Parking Lot. Working a shift of 2-4 hours will get you into the fairgrounds for free on the day of your volunteering. Volunteering is a great way to get to know a terrific community of folks from the area who are veterans of the Heath Fair. And, if you already know these folks, then volunteer anyway! It is, quite simply, a good time!

These last few years the Heath Fair weekend has been blessed with beautiful weather. While we will hope for such great weather every year, there will come a time when cats and dogs fall from the sky. I'd like to make it abundantly clear that the Heath Fair is fun, rain or shine. Don't forego the experience of the Heath Fair due to rain! Embrace it! Let your kids run and muck about the fairgrounds in true kid fashion! Become a member of the group of fairgoers who proudly endure random weather patterns, such as that proud group who remember the year it snowed during the Heath Fair! Become one of our story tellers and give yourself a story to tell!

For more information regarding the fair schedule, entering items in the Exhibit Hall or entering animals in the animal barns, or for questions regarding volunteering, please visit our website at www.heathfair.org. At this address you will also find an email address for questions, and please don't hesitate to ask: info@heathfair.org.

Thank you,
Justin Lively
President, Heath Agricultural Society

Fair Fare

Locally produced and affordable food has always been on the menu at both the Upper and Lower Food Booths at the Heath Fair. I have talked with several long-time fair goers who get a dreamy-eyed look as they describe eating homemade apple pie topped with Snow's ice cream, to name just one of the treats. Though the menu has changed somewhat, being local and affordable continues to be the tradition of the food booth. The hamburgers are made of grass-fed beef from Adams Farm in Orange, valley vegetables fill the veggie wraps, the pies are made with local fruit, and of course the blueberries and syrup in the pancake breakfast come directly from Heath. We also serve locally roasted and fair-trade coffee, Snow's ice cream and Heath eggs.

All proceeds from the booth directly benefit the Fair so every time you buy food there, you contribute to the Fair itself. On Saturday morning, egg sandwiches are available and blueberry pancakes on Sunday. Throughout the weekend, hamburgers and hotdogs, veggie wraps, grilled cheese, and of course pie and ice cream are on the menu. Come support the Fair and get some good food to boot! Better yet, come volunteer a couple of hours in the booth and get free admission for a great day at the Fair. If you are interested call me (Deb Porter) at 337-4715.

On a final note: ***This year will be Mary Sumner's and my last year running the Food Booth and we are looking for someone to carry on the tradition. Any takers?***

—Deb Porter



Photo by Art Schwenger

Heath's Farmers Market

A Success for Local Growers and Local Folk!

On a drizzly and raw Saturday morning, I headed out to set up Heath's Farmers Market on the Common near the flagpole. It was Independence Day. I couldn't help but think that this little market could offer all of Heath's residence a little bit of independence from the mighty grocery store and in so doing, lead us further on the path to resilience. One step at a time, I thought to myself as I began to set up the tables and tent with my partner, Jeff. Soon the farmers market began to take shape. The table was heavy with fresh veggies displayed in baskets and flower arrangements dotted the scene, too.

An antique scale hung ready to weigh produce and the chalk boards revealed what was available and what was soon to come. Shortly, other Heath farmers showed up with their harvest. Sheila Litchfield with dried and fresh herbs, spinach and potted perennials; Nina Marshall with eggs and mushrooms; Bob Randall with garlic scapes; and Art Schwenger with peas. It was 9 a.m. and we were open for business and I was once again appreciative to live here and to be a part of this special community on top of the hill.

In planning the market we maintained a focus on what would work for our fellow Heathans. We thought about what doesn't work in other markets. What could work in our small town for growers, big and little? At our small but productive steering committee meeting (Thank You, Nina) we came away with a cooperative model with room to grow.



THE 4-H GOAT CLUB
invites kids in grade 3 and older
to join. Call Budge and Sheila
Litchfield for details: 337-4957.

How does the Heath Farmers Market work?

We operate a cooperative table and if you are a Heath resident, you can sell your farm-fresh items through the cooperative table and keep the proceeds. You don't pay the market with your money; you pay with your time. We rotate volunteers to staff the market and the volunteers are the growers themselves. If you would rather bring your own table, that works too. For just \$5.00 a week you can set up and sell; the more the merrier. We also offer a donation table for those who do not wish to sell through the market but do wish to support it with extra summer squash and zucchini, tomatoes and more. All proceeds from the donation table go to support the farmers market. Thank you, Just Roots and the Greenfield Community Farm for the initial donations.



We will hold the Farmers Market from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays through the middle of October. If you live or have ever lived in Heath, even if you have only visited on the weekend, you know that the Saturday routine involves the Town Hall, the post office, the library and the transfer station. The energy on Saturday mornings is contagious and, because of that, the Town Common is the perfect location to maximize exposure for the market. Look for us under the tent (Thank you, Eileen Lively).

We envision the market to be a place where kids can come and play, neighbors can visit and growers can earn a little extra income while customers go home with bunches of local, fresh healthy vegetables herbs and fruits. The first market was a grand success and despite the weather and our late realization that it was in fact a holiday and we would be missing out on the usual traffic in town, people still came; locals and visitors alike. We sold over 60 individual items including bunched and potted herbs, huge heads of lettuce, kale and farm fresh eggs, flower arrangements, garlic scapes, peas, spinach, dried mushrooms and herbs as well as potted perennials, beets and radishes. Watermelon was being sold to benefit a *good cause* (to be determined monthly by consensus of the children involved!) in Heath (Thank you, Sandy Gilbert). Five Heath farms brought produce and we sold nearly everything we had.



Thank you to all who came out and supported the first day of the Heath Farmers Market. We hope to see you again on Saturdays between 9 and 11 a.m. Bring your own bags to carry home your bounty. We are looking for opportunities to donate perishables that are left over. If you know of someone in need, please be in touch with us. If you want more information, stop by or call Jessica Van Steensburg at 413-339-4904 or email wecanfarminheath@gmail.com.

Photos courtesy of Jan Carr

—Jessica Van Steensburg
Organizer

The Way We Love to Eat

Recipes using local foods by local folks

Squash Casserole

One of my favorite summer dishes is squash casserole. It is pretty simple and a lot of the ingredients are in our garden. Every year my Dad and I make it for my birthday party and it always gets eaten.

Summer Squash Casserole

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 10 medium summer squash, sliced ¼-inch thick
- 2 onions thinly sliced
- 3 cloves garlic finely minced
- 10 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, sliced ¼-inch thick
- 8 ounces Swiss cheese, sliced ¼-inch thick
- ½ cup (or more to taste) chopped herbs (we use basil and dill, but you can use your favorite herbs)
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.
2. Brush a 10-inch round casserole or soufflé dish with the olive oil. Arrange a layer of summer squash slices evenly in the bottom. Top with a layer of onion slices and sprinkle with salt, pepper, garlic and herbs. Dot with slices of cheddar cheese. Repeat the layers, alternating with Swiss and cheddar cheese layers. Finish with a layer of cheese. Cover the casserole with aluminum foil.
3. Bake for 35 minutes. Remove foil and continue to bake until the squash is tender and the cheese is bubbly and lightly browned, about 15-20 minutes.
4. Remove from oven and let stand 5 minutes before serving. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

I hope you enjoy!

—Austin Sumner
Grade 7

Best Tag Sale in West County

Come to what is now known as the "Best Tag Sale in West County" on Saturday, August 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 34 Monroe Avenue in Shelburne Falls—Rain or Shine! This 11th annual parish fund-raising event features the tag sale, a bake sale, multi-raffles, teacup auction and food concession, all of which will take place at the Church. Contact Nancy at 625-8148 if you have items you'd like to donate, or may need help transporting. There is plenty of free parking. Remaining items will be offered at an even further reduced rate on Sunday, August 30 from 9 a.m. to noon.



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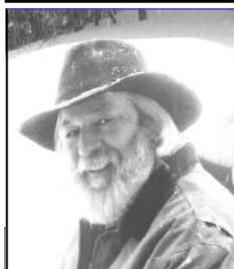
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Wild Ramblings

—Bill Lattrell

On Hounds, Rain, and Climate

Walking the hounds in the woods on a rainy summer day can be an interesting and challenging experience. James Fenimore Cooper, our 140-pound male bloodhound, is off his leash because he can be trusted to stay close by. If he does get distracted and starts off on a trail, there's a very good chance he'll halt in his tracks at the sound of my command. Cooper is from "man-trailing" stock and this long line of human tracking hounds are ready and willing to engage with human interaction. Adia, our female bloodhound, is from a long line of mountain lion hunting stock. At the first scent she'd be off on a trail baying up a storm in hopes of treeing her prey. Therefore, her 130-pound body, comprised primarily of solid muscle, is attached to me on a lead. Her nose is always to the ground. That's not a problem until we come upon a fresh track where she might jerk the lead erratically in hopes of following a hot trail. This is more likely on wet days when scents are enhanced and the molecules that carry them stay close to the ground. Moreover, on wet, slippery trails, this can present balance and traction problems. Her enormous strength can pull my feet right out from under me, resulting in an unpremeditated crash to the forest floor. Adia once yanked the leash so hard that my wife, with the leash wrapped around her wrist, did a complete flip in the air before landing on her back on a frozen road. I'm not as young as I used to be and sudden falls are just a little bit harder to take. With this in mind, I try to keep Adia focused on me rather than the scents on the ground, which is a nearly impossible task. Inevitably Adia lurches on a fresh bobcat track whose prints can be clearly seen in the mud. My feet slip sideways immediately upon her quick tug and I am somehow able to find new and stable footing just before I slip to the ground.

At times I swear out loud at the rain, blaming it for a near accident. As I stand there adjusting the leash and calming down my irreverent hound, it crosses my mind that the rain really can't be blamed for anything. The responsibility lies with my decision to take a walk with the hounds on a rainy day despite the intrepid weather and sloppy conditions. The decision was mine and mine alone. This experience gets me to thinking. The fact is that we are lucky that it is raining. In these times of climate change, there are places nearly completely deplete of precipitation, a grave set of circumstances for ecosystems and humans alike.

Perhaps the most intriguing thing about rain is that we really don't pay attention unless there is too little or too much. Rain is generally taken for granted. In fact, it is often cast in a negative light when it interferes with human plans. The truth is that rain is as much of a blessing as is the sun. It is a critical vector to our plant communities, our well-water supply, our food supply, and to the overall health of our ecological world. Rain is, without a doubt, nothing more and nothing less than beautiful.

What, you say? Rain beautiful? Consider this. Rain is the mechanism by which our planet distributes water. And while we've likely all studied the earth's hydrologic cycles during our early grammar school education days, relatively few of us

take the time to appreciate this bounty. It is the ocean's gift to land. Water evaporated off the great oceans by the Earth's personal star returns to land in a pure, non-salty, form. And if you don't believe in the sanctity of rain, just go visit California where whole lakes are drying up, aquifers have perished, and rivers, once flowing mightily, have been reduced to mere trickles. The Golden State is in the midst of a three-year drought. The state that produces the most fruit and vegetables is quickly becoming a complete and utter desert with no relief in sight. Major cities like San Francisco are at the edge of their own survival. Exceedingly low water supplies will eventually equal exceedingly low populations unless something is done. And other than a complete reversal of climate patterns or the incredibly expensive option of mega-huge desalinization plants, it's hard to imagine a way out of this tragedy.

So it is easy to see why we are unbelievably lucky to live within a water-rich environment. And even though we experienced a drought this spring, we are recovering quickly! As of the date of this writing, Mother Nature brought our area well over nine-and-a-half inches of rain during the month of June with several days left to go. Rain is beautiful, unless, of course, it isn't!

Only a few short years ago, our region experienced one of the most significant rainfalls in recorded history. In late summer of 2011, Tropical Storm Irene dumped somewhere in the neighborhood of 10 inches of rain over our region in a short period of time. The result was disastrous. Whole towns were inundated by flood waters, devastating homes, businesses, and habitat. Wilmington, Vermont, was one of the most-impacted towns in the area. Here, several rivers converge and during this storm, the swollen streams flooded out much of the downtown area of this popular tourist community. Here in Heath we had major and significant loss of town roads along with significant personal property loss. Getting in or out of town was pretty difficult for a while. And although the myriad small streams that bisect our hilly landscape in dozens of locations went well beyond bank-full conditions, we did not experience the widespread flooding that was common within the major valleys that surround us. In my estimation, this is nature's way of saying that there really can be too much of a good thing.

And although a changing climate seems to be inevitable, many climate change models locate our region in the Northeast United States and Eastern Canada in an area that will be less prone to drought. This is good news if temperatures continue to rise. We will be better equipped, at least in the short term, to adapt to changing environments. This is not the perfect scenario, but certainly a more cheery situation than will be experienced elsewhere, particularly in the western part of North America.

A pulse of torrential rain pushes my thoughts back to the here and now. Adia is sitting by my side obediently with the rain running off of her furrowed jowls. She is staring directly at my eyes, likely wondering where the heck my mind has been. Cooper is sitting under a hemlock tree patiently waiting for me to continue. I can take a hint, so we continue on through the woods despite the rain. After all, rain is a mere inconvenience that we should all learn to love and appreciate, is it not?

—Bill Lattrell



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Green Thoughts

—Pat Leuchtman

Native Alternatives

Consider this: “Invasive species have the potential to completely alter habitats, disrupt natural cycles of disturbance and succession, and most importantly, greatly decrease overall biodiversity, pushing rare species to the brink of extinction. Many ecologists now feel that invasive species represent the greatest current and future threat to native plant and animal species worldwide, greater even than human population growth, land development and pollution.” William Cullina, Executive Director of the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden

We do not have to travel far to see the power of invasive plants. Look at local wetlands filled with the plummy spikes of purple loosestrife. Drive along I-91 coming into Greenfield from the south in the fall and see all the Oriental bittersweet climbing trees along the highway. See the acres of Japanese knotweed blooming in the fall along the roadsides.

Where and how did these exotic invasives get their start? This simple question has a multifaceted answer.

Over the past 300 years, non-native plants have found their way to North America in a variety of ways. Some have come accidentally. Agricultural weeds have come in grain shipments, or in the ballast of early ships. Others have been introduced by horticulturists, and even the government.

As recently as 25 years ago, I ordered several Autumn Olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*) shrubs from the Conservation district. They grew well for several years, but eventually died, probably because of the competition by the wild grape vines I am always fighting. They died, but it took me a while to notice that they had seeded all over the sloping field to the east of the planting. I assume this is one of those un-intended consequences that befall all of us from time to time – but it is making a lot of work for us now.

Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) is a shrub that can still be found at nurseries even though it is on the invasive list of plants in Massachusetts. The brilliant red fall foliage and its dependability are the reasons for its popularity, in spite of its invasive nature.

So what can gardeners do? We can avoid plants like burning bush and purple loosestrife and find alternatives that are equally beautiful, and equally suited to our site.

First, gardeners have to educate themselves about which plants must be avoided. They can check the website for the Invasive Plant Atlas for New England, http://www.eddmaps.org/ipane/ipanespecies/species_list.htm, or the list on the New England Wildflower Society website, www.newfs.org. The NEWFS site will not only list invasive plants, it will suggest native plants that provide many of the same attributes. For myself, I have never really liked burning bush, and my high-bush blueberries give the same red fall foliage – and blueberries.

Other alternatives to burning bush include the American smoketree (*Cotinus obovatus*). Many people plant this large shrub because they like the plummy ‘smokes’ in the fall. The deep red color is there all season long. Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*) is a smaller shrub if you have less space, and summer-

sweet, (*Clethra alnifolia*) gives you wonderfully fragrant flowers in summer as well as autumnal color.

Lythrum salicaria and *L. virgatum* include Gayfeather, *Liatris pynostachya* and *Filipendula rubra* (otherwise known as Queen of the Prairie) are good strong growers but not invasive. If you have a wet site, swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata* with its clusters of pale to deep rose on tall stems might be an answer.

There has been controversy about the Norway maples that are being removed in Greenfield. Unfortunately, Norway maples are invasive and they should be removed, but replaced with native trees that will not only provide beauty and shade, but will support the birds, butterflies and moths of our region.

One beautiful native tree that is not commonly seen is the Yellowwood (*Cladastris kentukea*), which has fragrant pendulous flowers in spring and has golden fall color. I saw a yellowwood in bloom this spring in one of the Franklin Land Trust garden tour sites. It is a specimen tree that grows slowly and has a graceful vase shape. More common trees that are useful and beautiful are crabapples and mountain ash, which feed the birds, while river birches are happy in difficult wet sites.



In his excellent book, *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens*, Douglas W. Tallamy makes the point that even suburban gardeners play an important part in providing food and shelter for the wildlife that we welcome into our gardens, and maintaining a healthy balanced ecosystem. That sounds reasonable—and easy, but we have to provide food that native wildlife find edible. We also need to pay attention to feeding all stages of these creatures’ lives. Butterfly larvae need to eat, too.

Using native plants does not limit us to a few uninteresting varieties, but we will need to be aware of their importance, and then educate ourselves. There are many resources on the Internet and at your library and bookstore. In addition to writing *Bringing Nature Home*, Tallamy collaborated with Rick Darke on a new book, *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*. This book is illustrated with Darke’s beautiful photography and gives detailed information about the many native plants that can be used in our domestic landscapes to provide beauty and support for all the creatures that thrive in our region.



Walking the Blueberry Trail at The Benson Place

182 Flagg Hill Road, Heath, MA
Saturday, Aug 8, 1 pm
(Rain date, Sunday August 9)

Ted Watt and Dave Gott will lead a rescheduled exploration of the recently completed public access trail at The Benson Place. For more info visit www.franklinlandtrust.org. Registration requested, not required. To register, contact Linda Alvord at lalvord@franklinlandtrust.org or 413-625-9152 ext. 108. To pick or buy blueberries on the day of the trail walk, inquire at www.bensonplace.org or 413-337-5340.

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Town Nurse

—*Claire Rabbitt*

Prevention of Mosquito Borne Illness

Although there are others, the two most common illnesses transmitted by mosquitoes in our area are Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV). Our state department of public health monitors the percentage of mosquitoes carrying these diseases from the time mosquitoes appear in the spring through the first hard frost in the fall, ending the mosquito season and the risk of these diseases to the public.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis is a very serious disease causing fever, stiff neck, headache, and lethargy that is fatal in 30-50% of cases and causes lifelong neurological disability in many survivors. Symptoms may occur in 3 to 10 days after a bite from an infected mosquito, causing inflammation and swelling of the brain.



West Nile Virus may cause a variety of symptoms that may include severe illness with high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. Less than 1% of people develop such severe symptoms and approximately 80% will have no symptoms. Persons older than 50 have a higher risk of severe illness. There were 6 fatal cases of WNV in Massachusetts between 2002 and 2014 and all but one were in persons 80 years old or older.

Although there are some areas of the state that are determined to have greater risk for these diseases determined by the number of infected mosquitoes tested, the best course of action is to use precaution wherever you are. These include avoiding outdoor activity during the time of day when mosquitoes are most active, using mosquito repellent with an EPA-active ingredient and wearing protective clothing to reduce mosquito access to skin. The need for these protective measures is not reduced by mosquito control through aerial spraying.

There may be less mosquito activity mid-summer through the first killing frost, but the virus carried by the mosquito is more potent and more likely to cause illness at that time. Prevention measures should be maintained until “a hard, or killing frost,” defined meteorologically as two consecutive hours of temperatures below 28 degrees Fahrenheit or three hours below 32 degrees. This may happen in Heath before other areas, but it’s best to continue precautions until there has been a public service announcement. Stay vigilant and bite free.

For Your Health!

Updates from the Heath Board of Health

Tick testing: Have you noticed there are a lot of ticks in Heath this year? It’s best to wear protective clothing, tuck your pants into your socks, and most of all, check for ticks on your body and your pets. BUT if a tick has attached to you or another person, be sure to have it tested. Tests are showing about one-third of the ticks are infected with Lyme disease. Heath is fortunate to be a part of the Heath District that provides free tick testing, through the summer. Should the funds run out, the Heath Board of Health will subsidize half the cost

of a \$20 test for Heath residents. There is a new site online to help you understand how and when to submit a tick for testing: <http://tickencounter.org/tickspotters>. For mailing directions, check <https://www.tickreport.com/order> or call 413-337-4934, ext. 8.

Clean Sweep and Swap Day: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., August 8. Open to all Heath property owners. No dump sticker required. Bring your no-longer-needed tires, appliances, electronics, demo debris and more—most items can be disposed of free or for a small fee. See flyers at the Town Hall or Transfer Station for more information.

New recommended adult vaccination—TDAP: When you get vaccinated for Tetanus, you should now be vaccinated for Diphtheria and Pertussis at the same time. This is to lower the transmission of whooping cough to grandchildren by their grandparents. Talk to your health care provider for details.

Bat policy to prevent rabies: When a bat is found in a house in which someone is sleeping, the following is recommended: Catch the bat and have it sent intact to a lab for rabies testing. Bat bites are so small they often cannot be observed, and sleeping people may not be aware they have been bitten.

For further information, questions, suggestions, please contact Karen Brooks, Chairman, Heath Board of Health, boh@townofheath.org or 413-337-4934, ext. 8 or any Board of Health member.

—*Karen Brooks*

An Uninvited Visitor

Sitting on her bed, two kittens on the pillow, Alli Thane prepared to retire for the evening with a good book in hand. Alli was disturbed by padding-paws walking by the bed, prompting a recount of cats. Seeing the familiar two, she looked more carefully, only to see a raccoon strolling nonchalantly by her bed on its way to the basement door. This raccoon proceeded to go through the cat door, presumably headed for a well-travelled exit to the out-of-doors. In telling the tale the next day, Alli remarked, “I thought the cats were eating an awful lot of food, recently.”

—*Nancy Thane*

The Carpenter Prize

The Carpenter Prize is given “to a student living in the Town of Heath who graduates from the sixth grade of the public elementary school serving the Town of Heath, who, in the judgment of the sixth grade teacher and the principal of the elementary school, shall have attained, through perseverance, academic and social success.” Congratulations to this year’s winner, Miss Sienna Boyle.

The Carpenter Prize was started by Frank Carpenter many years ago and was continued in his memory by his daughter Harriet Read. The prize winner receives a check for \$50 and her name is added to a plaque that is installed at the Heath Elementary School listing names of the awardees.

The Select Board is seeking donations to ensure the continuation of this award. Unfortunately, the interest earned on the original invested amount is not enough to keep the award going without private donations. If you would like to contribute, please send your donation to “Town of Heath” with “Carpenter Prize Fund” in the memo line; mail to Town Coordinator, 1 East Main St., Heath, MA 01346.



**98TH ANNUAL
HEATH FAIR
SCHEDULE
AUGUST 21, 22, 23, 2015**

Friday August 21

*Fairgrounds open from 5 to 11 p.m.
Concessions, Rides, Petting Zoo, Crafts, Exhibits
until closing*

- Exhibit Hall..... 5 to 8 p.m.
- Upper Food Booth..... 5 to 10 p.m.
- Lower Food Booth 5 to Closing
- Church Ladies Ham & Bean Supper..... 5:30 p.m.
- Antique Tractor Parade 5:30 p.m.
- Antique Tractor Pull 6 p.m.
- Bingo..... 7 p.m.
- Speakers: Charlie Olchowski and Bob Delisle
- Brewing Beer* 7 p.m.
- Music:**
- Kalliope Jones**..... 7 p.m.
- Bright Lines** 7:30 p.m.
- Square Dance: Fall Town String Band
with Doug Wilkins, caller** 7:30-11 p.m.
- Drawing for Bicycle..... 8:15 p.m.
- Fireworks At Dark



Photo by Art Schwenger



Photo by C. Luis-Schultz

Saturday, August 22

*Fair grounds open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Concessions, Rides, Petting Zoo, Crafts, Exhibits
until closing*

- Exhibit Hall..... 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Lower Food Booth 7 a.m. to Closing
- Upper Food Booth 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Rabbit Show..... 9 a.m.
- ADGA Sanctioned Goat Show 10 a.m.
- Winterberry Farm: Herd Dog Demo..... 10 a.m.
- Kids Garden Tractor Pull..... 10 a.m.
- Speaker: Haynes Turkle, Katywill Farm
- Smoking Meats* 11 a.m.
- Adult Sheep Show 11 a.m.
(all sheep in place by 10AM)
- Adult Cattle Show..... 11 a.m.
- Horse Draw 11 a.m.
- Music:**
- Pat and Tex LaMountain** 11 a.m.
- Chicken Barbecue Noon
- Wagon Rides..... Noon to 4 p.m.
- Demonstration: Kevin Ford**
- Sheep Shearing* Noon
- Music:**
- Girl Howdy** 1 p.m.
- Speaker: Pat Leuchtman
- Roses Without Chemicals*..... 1 p.m.

Kids Games 1 to 3 p.m.
 Winterberry Farm:
 Herd Dog Demo 2 p.m.
 Speaker: Matt Wolkenbreit,
 Community911 Training, Inc.
*Hands on CPR and Other Ways to Help
 in a Medical Emergency* 3 p.m.
Music:
Sweet Little Bloodhound 4 p.m.
Demonstration: K-9 Skills
 Lt. S. Waldron and A. Brougha 4:30 p.m.
 Speaker: TBA 5 p.m.
 Truck Pull 5 to 10 p.m.
Music:
Trailer Park 7 p.m.



Photo by Doug Mason

Sunday, August 23

Fairgrounds open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Concessions, Rides, Petting Zoo, Crafts, Exhibits
 until closing*

Lower Food Booth..... 7 a.m. to Closing
 Upper Food Booth 9 a.m. to Closing
 Church Service 9 a.m.
 Blueberry Pancake Breakfast 9 to 10:30 a.m.
 Ox Draw 9 a.m.
 Gymkhana Registration (*tentative**)..... 9 a.m.
 Exhibit Hall 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Classic Car Cruise Registration..... 10:30 a.m.
 Gymkhana..... 10 a.m.
 Youth Sheep Show 10 a.m.
 Poultry Judging..... 10 a.m.
 Youth Cattle Show 11 a.m.

Speaker: Jeanne Bruffee and friends
*Charlemont School's
 Agricultural Initiative* 11 a.m.
Music:
Shelburne Falls Military Band 11:30 a.m.
 Chicken Barbecue..... Noon
 Speaker: Poultry Know-How Swap;
 An Agri-conversation
Jessica Van Steensburg, Facilitator Noon
 Line up for the Parade Noon
 Parade 1 p.m.
 Parade Theme: Farm and Forest Then and Now
 (*Prizes for best floats, best kid-decorated bicycle*)
 Wagon Rides 2 p.m. to closing
Music:
The Gaslight Tinkers 1:30 p.m.
 Kids Games 2 to 3 p.m.
 Speaker in the Music Tent
 Jack Golden—*Seriously Funny Man:*
 Water, Water Everywhere 3:30 p.m.
 Closing 5 p.m.

*Exhibits may be picked up
 from the Exhibit Hall from 4 to 5 p.m.*

***Schedule is subject to change
 All Musical Performances and Speakers
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***Regular \$8 ~ Seniors \$6
 Children nine and under, free
 Parking \$1***

***PLEASE, NO PETS
 ON GROUNDS OR IN CARS***

*(*See www.HeathFair.org)*



The School Community

From the Principal

The Heath School continues to be a place where I love to work! We have a terrific staff, the best students, and amazing families! Some of our staff will be leaving us this year and I'd like to acknowledge them before sharing some of our end-of-school-year traditions. Mrs. Marilyn O'Brien retires this year after a long and wonderful career serving the Mohawk School Community. Marilyn worked at both Buckland/Shelburne Elementary and Heath School, but retires as our Title I teacher. Marilyn is looking forward to travelling and spending time with her family in retirement. We are sad to see her go, but we are excited for her as she begins this new chapter in her life. Ms. Sue Guy-Greene has worked as our school's reading interventionist for the past two years. She just finished a long-term substitute position covering a maternity leave. Lillian Whitsett will be returning to this reading position in the fall. Ms. Guy-Greene has been a terrific reading teacher the past two years and we wish her continued success. Ms. Judy Thrasher came to Heath School in September to cover another maternity leave. Ms. Thrasher did a wonderful job teaching our 5th and 6th grade class and we were fortunate to have her in our building. Mrs. Ryan Eastman was hired in the fall as a preschool paraprofessional. Due to circumstances beyond my control, we no longer have a spot for Ryan here in Heath, but I'm thrilled to say that she will be continuing her employment in the district! She did a great job in our preschool and any classroom will be lucky to have her!

One of the many things I love about the Heath School is our long-storied traditions. I asked the classroom teachers to write about some of those traditions.

—Eric Glazier, Principal

Uppers Hike

When the final few days of the school year are on the horizon, the Uppers students look forward to graduation and other end-of-year traditions. One of these is the hike from the school to Pelham Lake for "Rowe Pond Day." While the rest of the school community carpools to the lake after an early lunch, the Uppers and adult hikers set off in the morning to enjoy the beauty and peace of this area as they hike the trails through the woods and fields. One year recently the hike took an unconventional route when the leader lost the trail, but the hikers reached their destination and enjoyed the unexpected adventure.

—Marilyn O'Brien

Heath School Graduation

Graduation at Heath Elementary has been said to be like no other. The celebration is held in the evening before the last day of school. Staff bring in flowers to decorate, Tim Lively arranges the chairs, the band and 6th graders rehearse, and staff busily prepare for their graduation presentation. During the ceremony itself the Principal and classroom teacher speak, students are giving the opportunity to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, present the class banner (which will hang for all to see along the open space wall), present the class gift, invite folks

to the reception following the ceremony, or provide reflections about their years at Heath School. In attendance is a town Selectboard member, this year Sheila Litchfield, Chair, to present The Carpenter Prize. This year's Carpenter Prize recipient was Sienna Boyle.



Photo Courtesy of L. Lonsky

The most unique tradition during the graduation celebration is the speeches. Every graduating 6th-grader has a staff member introduce them to their family and friends in attendance. This speech provides a snapshot of the young person the student has become during their time at the school. There may be fun, light-hearted moments, more serious comments, but always well wishes to the graduate. At the conclusion of the speech, the staff member presents the student's diploma, always with a handshake and typically a hug. At some point during the celebration is the singing of "Care and Joy" by the staff, our gift to the graduates. At the closing, staff line the ramp for one last, "Congratulations"! Then all enjoy light refreshments provided by the 5th-grade families. At the end of the evening at least one comment is made by someone about what a wonderful one-of-a-kind graduation it was!

—Mrs. Lively

Memorial Day Presentation

The Heath Elementary school Middles (3rd/4th grade class) led the Memorial Day ceremony at the cemetery in Heath. They carefully chose poems and songs that were appropriate for the ceremony and got to work on rehearsing. All of the students were present at the ceremony on the Friday preceding Memorial Day and each student had many opportunities to recite their parts. After the ceremony, students respectfully replaced the flags on each of the veterans' graves and thanked the local veterans who attended the ceremony.



Photo by John Henry



Photo by John Henry

—Mr. Sarich



Rusty Old Key

There was a tree and on that tree there was a rusty old key,
 and a little old man sat next to that key drinking his tea
 until he sneezed ker chew!
 The tea went flying and it landed on the key,
 Then the key had a great sneeze and the little old man
 caught that tea,
 and then he danced with you and me with his cup of tea.

—Raia LeBreaux, Grade 3, Prime Red

JOURNEY

My journey has started,
 things have changed.
 Going through each classroom,
 it was like years flying by.
 Meeting friends.....Leaving friends.....

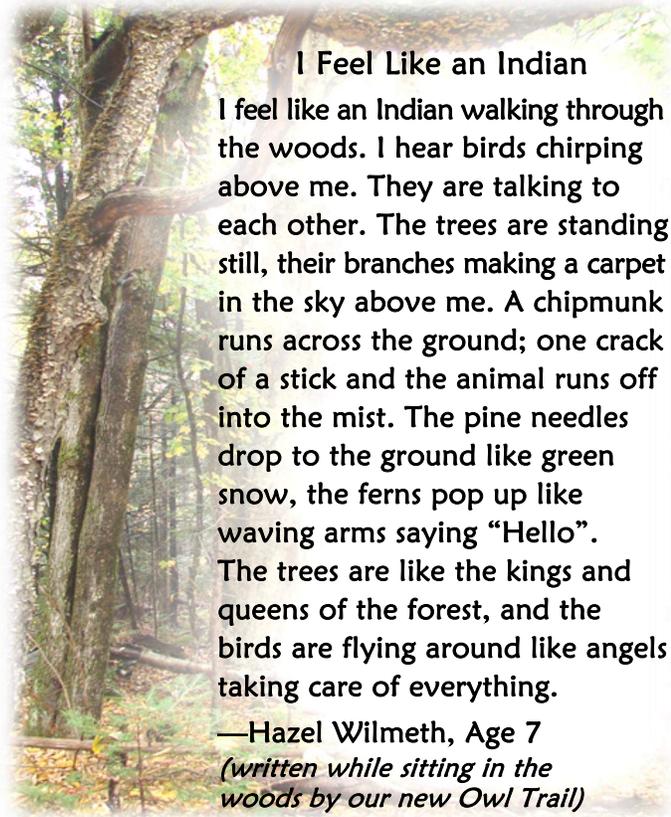
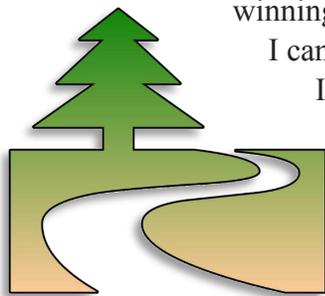
I remember in 2012,
 winning the Little League Championship,
 I can't believe it's been three years.

It's been a journey,
 but I know it's not over.

But no matter what,
 I will never forget the memories
 that I have had at

Heath Elementary.

—Magrady Crossman, Grade 6



I Feel Like an Indian

I feel like an Indian walking through the woods. I hear birds chirping above me. They are talking to each other. The trees are standing still, their branches making a carpet in the sky above me. A chipmunk runs across the ground; one crack of a stick and the animal runs off into the mist. The pine needles drop to the ground like green snow, the ferns pop up like waving arms saying "Hello". The trees are like the kings and queens of the forest, and the birds are flying around like angels taking care of everything.

—Hazel Wilmeth, Age 7
 (written while sitting in the woods by our new Owl Trail)

Student Council News

The 2014-2015 Student Council of Heath Elementary School has been a huge success. The co-presidents Will Draxler and Austin Sumner have really taken the Council's ideas into action by organizing many after school activities. Movie Nights, Cookie Swap, campout and even a Heath Elementary school Hawaiian dance are just a few of the after school activities we accomplished through-out the school year.

Most Fridays the Heath Elementary Student Council organized spirit days through out the school year. Spirit days were fun and it was a great way to show our school spirit! Some fun spirit days were hat day, different shoes day and crazy clothes day. Every other Friday we have the school wear green and white to represent our school colors.

The Student Council's most memorable event was Neighbors Helping Neighbors! This event was a way of thanking our community. On a Sunday, students, staff and other volunteers went to elders' homes in Heath to rake, trim and clean up their yards. It was better than our Council had ever imagined. Neighbors Helping Neighbors was such a great success that next year's Council is planning to have this wonderful event again. The Council is hoping to have more of the community join in the Neighbors Helping Neighbors next year. It was a great honor to join lots of these events and to be a part of the Student Council this school year.

Sienna Boyle
 Graduating Sixth Grader



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**LIBRARY
 LINES**

—Donald Purington

The library hosted two guest speakers at the Community Hall earlier this summer. Peg Lorenz spoke on June 18 about home funerals: "Caring for Our Own After Death." Two weeks later on July 2 Dr. Carol Coan presented "An Introduction to Green Burials." Both enlightening evenings were sponsored by the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library.

The Friends will hold their annual book sale at the Heath Fair. Be sure to stop by and browse their collection of used books, audio books and DVDs. The prices are a bargain and it's a great place to meet your friends and neighbors to swap stories while picking through the treasures.

A Few of the New Items at the Library:

See all the new items added to our collection in the previous two weeks by using the New Titles link on the Library website.

Fiction Books for Adults: *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee, *In the Dark Places* by Peter Robinson, *The Patriarch: A Bruno, Chief of Police Novel* by Martin Walker, *Enchanted August* by Brenda Bowen

Non-fiction Books for Adults: *The Complete Watercolorist's Essential Notebook* by Gordon MacKenzie, *Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution* by Joseph Ellis, *The Third Plate: Field Notes on the Future of Food* by Dan Barber

Books for Young/Teen Readers: *The Forget-Me-Not Summer* by Leila Howland, *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer* by Kelly Jones, *The History of Money: From Bartering to Banking* by Martin Jenkins

Children's Picture Books/Boardbooks: *Water is Water: a Book About the Water Cycle* by Miranda Paul, *The Honey Makers* by Gail Gibbons, *Float* by Daniel Miyares

Audio Books on CD: *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee, *Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution* by Joseph Ellis, *The Long Way Home* by Louise Penny

DVDs: *American Sniper*, *Boyhood*, *Fortitude*, *Orange is the New Black Season 2*, *The Hobbit: the Battle of the Five Armies*, *Paddington*, *Curious George*

Music CDs: *Morning Phase* by Beck, *In the Lonely Hour* by Sam Smith, *Beggars Banquet* by the Rolling Stones

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People in the News

Heath Author, John Tierney

Another Heath author hits the bookstores! It was great to read about John Tierney's new book, *The Book*, in *The Recorder*. The reviewer, Tinky Weisblat, describes John's novel as "a charming yet earnest story... that takes many unexpected but delightful twists and turns. John knows how to construct a fun story. His tale has humor, heart, and wonderful descriptions of food and music" (*The Recorder*; May 29, 2015). Peter, a new minister in a small church in southern Vermont, looks forward to steering his new congregation into the "proper" interpretation of the Bible, which he regards as the literal word of God. As *The Book* progresses, Peter shuttles back and forth between two realities. In both, he begins to doubt his certainty about religious matters. This is the story of Peter's journey toward enlightenment and peace.



John, a Heathan for more than fifteen years, is currently Director of *The Peaceful Educator Foundation*, a 501c3 educational non-profit whose mission is "to nurture a peaceful, just, sustainable future for humanity's children." In pursuit of that goal, John will present a world premiere of *Peacemaker: The Dream of Humanity's Child*, a new inter-tribal "opera" (in the tradition of *Superstar* and *Tommy*) with a cast of sixteen professional singers as well as local talent on October 9, 10, & 11 in the Opera House at Shelburne Falls.

John is offering his book for free with the request that, if you enjoy *The Book*, you consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Peaceful Educator Foundation in support of the production of *Peacemaker*. Read more about John's show at thepeacefuleducator.com.

John is placing several copies of his book in the Sawyer Hall lobby...go in and take one! John is also available for Book Clubs and speaking engagements. Email him at drjohntierney@gmail.com.



Congratulations Joseph and Maryanne

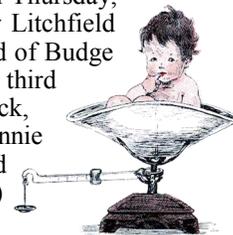
Joseph Almeida of Heath and Maryanne Foster of Colrain were married at Blessed Sacrament Church in Greenfield on June 13, 2015. After the ceremony they joyfully celebrated with family and friends at the Heath Fairgrounds. The couple will reside in Heath.

Congratulations Skip and Marian

John "Skip" Churchill of Heath and Marian Abayabay, of Ubay Bohol, the Philippines, were married on February 6, 2014. Skip's bride traveled to join him in Heath from the Philippines, this May. They plan to have a local wedding ceremony next year on February 6. Welcome to Heath, Marian!

Welcome Maeven Jeanne

Maeven Jeanne Litchfield was born Thursday, June 25, 2015, to Summer and Tucker Litchfield of Heath. Maeven is the first grandchild of Budge and Sheila Litchfield of Heath, the third grandchild of Sara Small of Hardwick, MA, the 19th great-grandchild of Connie Small also of New Braintree, MA, and the first niece of Katelyn (Litchfield) Coterwas of Buckland, MA.



Combat Action Ribbon Citation Keith Sherman

"Early in the morning of June 27th 2010 while deployed to Joint Task Force-South Baghdad Iraq, an AH-64 Apache helicopter attached to the strike force was disabled and was forced to land on the outskirts of Sadr city. Upon being notified by the JOC, Chief Sherman swiftly assembled a rescue team to recover the downed AH-64 and its crew. Upon arriving, he secured the landing site and rendered aide to the crew.

"Chief Sherman's team immediately started receiving effective enemy small arms fire and enemy mortar fire due to his team's exposed position. Without hesitation, Chief Sherman deftly maneuvered the crew, helicopter and his team to a position of cover. Once in a position of cover, Chief Sherman's team was able to direct a maneuver element to destroy the enemy team. Upon conclusion of the operation, Chief Sherman's team was able to recover the AH-64 back to FOB Fernandez and complete his mission. Due to satisfactorily performing under enemy fire while actively participating in ground combat operations, Chief Sherman is authorized to wear the Combat Action Ribbon."

Keith Sherman, son of Lee and CC Sherman, has been in the navy since graduating from Mohawk High School in 1992.

Crowningshield Variations



Photo by Ari Schwenger

John Clark of North Heath and New York City performed at the Mohawk Trail Concerts on the fourth of July. He played a jazz rendition of the "Trout" quintet by Schubert. John arranged this piece in celebration of the preservation of the North Heath Crowningshield Farm through the Franklin Land Trust, in partnership with Trout Unlimited.

New Sign for Fort Shirley

On the afternoon of June 19, Heath Historical Society members, Dave Howland and Ned Wolf installed a new sign on Hosmer Road at the entrance to the site of Fort Shirley, historic French and Indian War site.



Photo by Ned Wolf

Selectboard Report

Summer Meeting Schedule

The Board will meet every other Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in Sawyer Hall as posted.

Special Town Meeting (STM)

A Special Town Meeting was held on June 30 at the Heath Elementary School. The meeting was necessary to approve the State mandated language to allow members of the Board of Assessors and Board of Health to serve as clerks to their respective boards, and to transfer funds for the salaries of those positions. Also on the warrant and perhaps of greatest interest to the voters at the STM was an article to authorize borrowing for the construction of a fiber-optic broadband network. This article required a 2/3 (67%) majority vote of those present to pass. A ballot vote was requested. The measure passed 105 to 17, an 86% approval rate. All the other articles passed unanimously.

Public Safety Building Project

The Town has contracted with The Franklin Council of Governments (FRCOG) to advertise the position of Owners Project Manager (OPM) for the purpose of interviewing and hiring a firm or individual that would assist the Town in managing the design and construction process of the newly approved Public Safety Building. The OPM is required for all public construction projects estimated to cost over \$1.5 million dollars. A briefing session for interested candidates was scheduled for July 7 in Sawyer Hall. The due date for proposals was July 16. The Building Committee was to meet to evaluate the proposals and choose finalists for interviews.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for acquiring property for the new facility will be issued soon after the hiring of the OPM followed by an RFP for a designer to produce the final design drawings and specifications for the bidding and construction phases of the project.

Farewell to Mike Smith and Tom Flynn

Mike Smith left the Highway Department to take a new position providing instruction to highway superintendents and other highway personnel throughout the state. This is a great opportunity for him and we wish him well. He will be sorely missed having served in the position for 19 years with dedication and skill. Fortunately he will continue to live in town and remain as Fire Chief. Our sincerest thanks to him for all he has done for the town over the years.

Tom Flynn has stepped down as Transfer Station operator. Saturday mornings won't be the same for many of us. We thank him for his many years of service and will miss him.

Fiscal Year 2016 Appointments

The Selectboard had openings for these positions some of which may be filled by the printing of this paper:

- Animal Inspector
- Assistant Animal Control Officer
- Emergency Management Director Alternate
- FRCOG Regional Dog Kennel Representative
- Two positions on Zoning Board of Appeals
- One Assessor for a one-year position

Anyone willing to serve in any of these positions should contact Kara, Town Coordinator, at the Town offices: 337-4934 or online bos@townofheath.org

The position of Transfer Station Attendant was posted and has been filled by Ken Erho. The position of Highway Superintendent was posted and interviews were taking place at the writing of this article. It is anticipated that this position will be filled before this issue of the *Herald* reaches your mailboxes.

Heath Online

Take some time to visit www.townofheath.org, the Town's website. You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. You may contact the Board at BOS@townofheath.org. Send messages to any board or individual via the e-mail address, or visit the Heath website. The new web page is up and running. Please have a look and let us know what you think.

—Heath Selectboard

Finance Committee Report

The Heath Finance Committee worked with the Selectboard during the spring to develop the Town budget for the 2016 fiscal year. Our budget proposal, calling for a tax levy of \$1,858,248.50 and an estimated FY 2016 tax rate of \$20.92, was adopted by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting in May. Voters also approved a borrowing of up to \$4 million (the actual amount to be borrowed will be about \$1.8 million) for a new public safety building that will house the police, fire, and highway departments, as well as the emergency operations center. This project was greatly aided by a matching grant of up to \$2 million from the Commonwealth.

Under the terms of the grant, the state will match Heath's expenditures on the public safety building project up to \$2 million. The estimated cost of the building, including contingencies, is \$3.6 million, so the state's actual contribution, if the project comes in on budget, will be \$1.8 million.

The terms of the borrowing for this project are still in the process of being worked out. The most likely scenario calls for the Town to borrow \$1.8 million from the U. S. Department of Agriculture at 3.75% for 30 years. These terms could mean an annual payment from the town of \$104,094, with an increase in the tax rate of \$1.17. The Town is still negotiating the purchase of a parcel of land across from the fairgrounds on which the public safety building would be constructed.

A second large project, the Town's membership in, and contribution to, the WiredWest multi-town high-speed broadband consortium, has occupied the Finance Committee since the Annual Town Meeting. The WiredWest cooperative has been formed to bring fiber-optic broadband for "the last mile" into homes and business premises in 32 Western Massachusetts towns under a grant from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, which has already constructed the "middle mile" of trunk fiber-optic lines into town halls, schools, and public safety departments.

Heath's share of the WiredWest project is \$1.45 million, and at a Special Town Meeting on June 30, voters authorized the Selectboard to proceed with a borrowing for this project. How this borrowing will affect the tax rate is a complicated question.

While the Town will have to obligate itself for the entire \$1.45 million constituting its contribution to the WiredWest project, the actual borrowing will occur only in increments necessary for the building of specific aspects of the project in Heath. This commitment to WiredWest is necessary for the cooperative to go forward with purchase and construction of the infrastructure – fiber-optic cable, new poles where needed, electronic equipment, etc. – as the project gets under way.

WiredWest will use a state grant of \$40 million (made to the project as a whole) to help fund the "last mile" phase of the project. In the first two years (beginning in FY 2017), the Town will borrow money using bond anticipation notes – state funds bearing an interest rate of 0.55%. Our annual payments in Years One and Two, assuming a maximum borrowing of \$1.45 million, will be about \$7,975, or about nine cents on the tax rate.

During Years Three, Four, and Five of the project, WiredWest’s business plan calls for annual payment from member towns of 4% of their obligation and continuing interest on the bond anticipation notes. Heath’s total payment in each of these years will be about \$65,975, or 74¢ on the tax rate. After that, the Town will borrow for the balance remaining on the project. The likely maximum effect on the tax rate for a 20-year, 4% borrowing of \$1.276 million (the amount remaining after three years of paying down the original \$1.45 million balance by 4% per year) will be \$1.05, reflecting an annual loan payment of \$93,890.

However, if eight more Heathans send in their registration forms and a check for \$49 (see the WiredWest website, wiredwest.net, for details), we will be at the 40% enrollment level necessary for the project to begin. If 12 more of us (for a total of 20) send in our registrations and checks, Heath’s enrollment will be at the level where, according to WiredWest’s business plan, the income from subscribers’ monthly payments for WiredWest’s internet, television, and telephone services will cover our borrowing costs, and the net effect on the tax rate after Years One and Two will be minimal to zero.

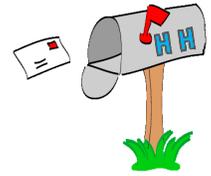
Nevertheless, we do have to obligate ourselves at this time for the entire \$1.45 million amount of our share. There are other risks: repair and maintenance costs may be more than is estimated; revenues may not reach WiredWest’s projections because people drop the service after it is in place. But the Finance Committee believes that these operational risks have been adequately accounted for, and that this undertaking is a sound – indeed, an essential – investment of Town resources.

—Don Freeman

Letters, We Get Letters

Thank You, Mike

I was working nights at Franklin Medical Center when there was a huge snowstorm, "Wow, had to work that night, would I be able to get in or did I have to call to say I couldn't make it?" I called Mike Smith to say I had to work, and soon he had the plow come to open my road. Thank you, Mike, for that occasion and many more. I remember how it was years before Mike, when I was coming home in the morning, up 8A, and as soon as I passed Charlemont's old dump, it was as if Charlemont had stopped plowing there, and the snow progressively became deeper and deeper. By the time I came to the S-turn by Al Canali's I could barely make that corner. At times I had to back down and try a couple of times more, just barely making it after a few quick prayers.



Many years back most people stayed home when the snowstorms arrived. Times changed and, eventually, most people worked out of town, making it necessary to open the roads. Mike and the crew always worked their hardest to open them. Our road washed out many times after torrential rains soon to be fixed by the reliable road crew. I remember my father-in-law opening up our road with his bulldozer after the snow storms ended. I remember the severe storm when Mike couldn't even make it over his bridge as it was washed out!! We've had some major conditions (snow, wind, ice, rain, flooding,) all taken care of by Mike and his crew.

Thank you, Mike, for all your work!!
Sincerely,
CC Sherman

Have Fun, Tom

A smile, a helping hand, a conversation, a twinkle in his eyes. These phrases describe Tom Flynn who retired recently from the Heath Transfer Station. He made it a "pleasure" to dispose of our voluminous amounts of trash and to direct us to the proper disposal site, but his wish to go back to caring for and riding horses was stronger than sitting in our trash. GO FIGURE!!!!!! He will be missed.



Have fun, Tom!!!
Dr. Martha McDonough

We'll Miss You, Tom

From the first time I saw Tom at the Transfer Station, I noticed his wonderful smile and twinkling eyes and his attention to detail—the cleanliness of the area, the handrails going up the stairs, and his noticing anyone in need of help. He allowed space for items that other people might want, and at the end of the day, these items were always gone. We could always count on him, week after week, year after year. This town’s assets are not in the vista view, but are in people like Tom. Enjoy your retirement, Tom.

We'll miss you,
Lee and CC Sherman

Nature Note: Red Efts

Late summer is the time to look for a colorful and common amphibian. Look in any of our local ponds and you will find an abundance of red-spotted newts—olive green with red spots. This is the adult stage of a very interesting life cycle. In spring, small greenish larvae (tadpoles) hatch from eggs laid in a pond. Like frog tadpoles, they gradually transform into a terrestrial stage, losing their gills and developing lungs. But the newts also change color to bright orange with red spots and become known as red eft. By late summer, these juveniles have left the pond and disperse through the woods in search of a new pond. They mostly travel at night but can often be seen moving during the day, especially in wet weather. On one short hike through the woods in early August, we spotted over 50 efts. They sometimes require a sharp eye to spot as they are only 2-3 inches long and may blend in with those first few colorful maple leaves laying on the forest floor. This juvenile stage may last several years. Eventually they settle in a pond and turn into the aquatic adult stage, changing color again to green and developing a rudder-shaped tail for swimming.



—Susan Draxler

Missing the Kaempfers A Heath Family

Tragically, the Town of Heath lost three of the Kaempfer family within the span of just eight weeks, all under different circumstances. The Kaempfers were an integral part of the fabric of this community; we will feel the effects of this loss for a long time to come.

“Bud” Kaempfer

Charles “Bud” G. Kaempfer, 88, of 1 Deer Run Path, Heath, died Monday, May 11, 2015, at Buckley Healthcare Facility in Greenfield. Bud was born in Bridgeport, Conn., Sept. 18, 1926, the son of William and Rose (Reichert) Kaempfer. He was a WWII veteran, serving in the US Navy. Prior to moving to Heath in 1988 he was employed in the highway department in Monroe, Conn., a position from which he retired.



After settling in Heath, Bud worked at the town transfer station until his retirement in 2011. Bud enjoyed hunting and fishing. Survivors include three sons—Carl, of Frederick, Md.; Mark, of Russell, Mass.; Fred, of Monroe, Conn.; one daughter, Faye Sirois, of Sherbrooke, Quebec; two brothers—John, of Plymouth, Conn. and Robert, of Tamworth, N.H.; twelve grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter. Bud was predeceased by his son James in 1978. His son Frank died three days later, on May 14. His wife, the former Valerie Davis, passed away just eight weeks later, on July 3. Bud was also predeceased by his sister, Arlene Warbel, and his brother William.

A Family Man

Most of Heath's residents knew Bud as the sometimes cranky guy who worked for many years at the transfer station.

However, Bud was a great story teller, an avid reader, and a wonderful friend. He loved hunting and fishing, baking loaves of bread, playing cards, but most of all, spending precious time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. Margo and I were fortunate to be part of his extended family. We will miss that twinkle in his eyes that was usually followed by a wink.

—Eileen Tougas and Margo Newton



Frank Kaempfer

Frank W. Kaempfer, 56, of 1 Deer Run Path, Heath, died Thursday, May 14, 2015, at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield. Frank was born in Danbury, Conn., September 23, 1958, the son of Charles “Bud” and Valerie (Davis) Kaempfer. Before his disability, Frank was employed by a carpenter's union in Connecticut. He was predeceased by his wife, the former Lydia Rose.

Survivors include his son, Maxwell, of Seymour, Conn.; his brothers—Carl Kaempfer, of Frederick, Md.; Mark Kaempfer, of Russell, Mass.; Fred Kaempfer, of Monroe, Conn.; and his sister Faye Sirois, of Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Frank's father, Charles, predeceased him on May 11, 2015. His mother, Valerie Kaempfer passed away on July 3, 2015. Frank was also predeceased by his brother, Jim Kaempfer.

A Lover of Animals

Frank moved to Heath to live with his parents, Bud and Val, a little over four years ago. The timing of Frank's arrival could not have been better due to his father's and mother's failing health. Frank quickly adjusted to his new surroundings and was a tremendous help and support to his parents.

A lover of animals, Frank would marvel at seeing a deer in the field, a bear crossing the road, or a bald eagle soaring over the river. He was a gentle, kind, soul, who easily made friends out of strangers. His smile and his laughter would light up the room.

Frank loved and was so proud of his son, Maxwell, and was looking forward to attending Max's high school graduation, but sadly, he was taken too soon.

Frank won our hearts, and our love. He will be forever missed.

—Eileen Tougas and Margo Newton



Val Kaempfer

Valerie (Davis) Kaempfer, 86, of 1 Deer Run Path, Heath, died Friday, July 3, at home. She was born in Monroe, Conn., December 13, 1929, the daughter of Frank and Elizabeth (Gilbert) Davis.

She and her husband Charles moved to Heath in 1988. Val was very active in the Heath community, especially the Senior Center as well as a member of the Council of Aging and the Mohawk Estates. She also was a former assessor

for the Town of Heath. In her free time she enjoyed knitting.

Val is survived by her daughter, Faye Sirois, of Sherbrooke, Quebec; sons Carl Kaempfer, of Frederick, Md.; Mark Kaempfer, of Russell, Mass.; Fred Kaempfer, of Monroe, Conn.; one brother, Vernon Davis, of N.Y.; twelve grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

A celebration of life service was scheduled for Val, Charles and Frank on Sunday, July 26, at the Heath Union Church followed by a potluck luncheon at the Community Hall.

Feeling the Loss of Val

I'm already feeling the loss of my dear friend, Val. We worked together for a lot of years as Election Registrars and as members of the Community Hall Committee and the Council On Aging Committee. We planned many dinners, attended some wonderful luncheons and enjoyed a long lasting companionship. God Bless You, Val.

—Alli Thane

I Relied on Val

Val was one of the first "new" residents I met when I moved back to Heath in 1992. Since then, interactions with her were many and for varied purposes. For a brand-new, "green" clerk trying to navigate the election world, I relied on Val as a pro with her many years of experience. With her tutelage I learned the most organized poll set-up, the inner workings of the ballot box, menu coordination and many other essential aspects of running an election particular to our town.

Val was as dedicated and faithful a worker as anyone could ask for. She took on tasks that others avoided so that her town could keep running smoothly and all its residents benefit. After looking across the polling room for fifteen years and watching her operate the crank to ring the ballots in one-by-one, I will deeply miss her.

—Hilma Sumner

She Will Truly Be Missed

Having been friends since both our families moved to Heath, I can hardly imagine a future without Val in it. We became friends from the first time we met and that friendship just kept growing as the years progressed.

Val had one of the sharpest minds of anyone I know, and a memory right down to the slightest detail. If she was confronted with a problem prior to going to bed at night, you could put money on the fact that she would have come up with a solution by morning. She could unravel complex situations and translate them into simple explanations.

Besides her years of dedicated service to the Town of Heath, Val was also deeply involved in Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association, and served many terms as an active and valuable member of the Board of Directors.

Thanks to Val's leadership, the Senior Center has flourished and grown. Her dedication was remarkable and her enthusiasm contagious.

Life will not be the same without my courageous and good friend Val, but because of her love and friendship, her legacy will live on forever in my heart.

She will truly be missed.

—Eileen Tougas

She Served the Town in Many Capacities

VALIANT VAL, with true executive ability, headed the Council on Aging and provided us, the Heath Seniors, with a working Senior Center that served meals and gave us a meeting place! Throughout the years, as a concerned and responsible citizen, she served the Town in many capacities, speaking out when we did not get it right.

She met the vicissitudes of her life with great courage supported by loving family and friends, teaching us all how to face ours with grace.

—Jane deLeeuw

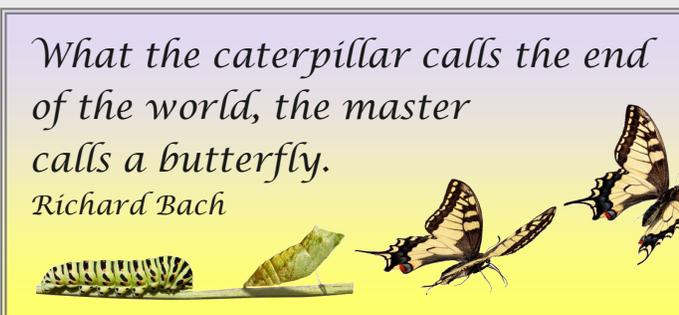
She Was Fair and Honest

I first met Val when I was placed on the Board of Assessors by the Selectmen to fill a vacancy. I very quickly learned that she was a dedicated, hardworking Chairman. She and Henry Leuchtman taught me that there was no substitute for fairness, attention to detail, and honesty in all relations with the property owner.

Val never let anything come in the way of working closely with anyone who didn't understand the assessing process, and when we were in error she moved quickly to amend it.

She was fair, honest and sometimes quite out-spoken. Val was a delight to work with, and I'm afraid we won't see the likes of Val again real soon.

—Richard Gallup
Recently Retired Assessor



Gertrude M. Voytko

Gertrude M. Voytko of Heath passed away on June 24, 2015.

A funeral liturgy was scheduled for Saturday, July 25, at 1 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church in Shelburne Falls, MA, to be followed by a luncheon at the Heath Community Center.



Heath Union Evangelical Church

Reverend James Koyama
808-292-6711



Sunday morning worship is at 9 a.m. until September 6, when we will return to our usual hour of 10 a.m.

We are most pleased to announce that Rev. James Koyama will be continuing as our interim minister for July, August and September. We welcome everyone to our Sunday morning worship and also to the Bible Study led by Rev. Koyama at 6 p.m. Thursdays on the lower level of the Church. We are concentrating on the Book of Romans.

We were excited that the Organ Historical Society graced our Church with a recital for their members on July 2. Please read details in Pam Porter's article in this issue. Plans are being made for concerts for the public in the future.

The members of the Church keep busy with many projects. Plan to dine on Ham and Baked Beans on Friday August 21 at the Heath Fair, cooked by our church ladies. The Church will also hold its worship service at the Heath Fair again this year. The service begins at 9 a.m., all are welcome.

The first weekend in August we make pies for the Beemers who camp at the Fair grounds. We sell out fast!

All are reminded that the kitchen and dining room of the church can be reserved by calling Esther Gallup 337-5367. The Sanctuary is also available for special events. Everyone is welcome.

For information, contact a member of the Board of Deacons:

- Ruth Johnson 337-4367
- Walter Gleason 337-4479
- Janice Barton 648-5243
- Hilma Sumner 337-4845

Find us on Facebook
@ Heath Union Evangelical Church

Organ Concert

Early on the second day of July, nearly 200 historical organ enthusiasts made the climb up Avery Brook Road for an opportunity to hear the sweet, mellow voice of recently restored Johnson Organ at the Heath Union Evangelical Church. They were attendees and organizers of the Organ Historical Society's 2015 Convention, that met in Springfield and visited historic organs in churches throughout Massachusetts. They came in four buses to hear a demonstration concert performed by Frances Conover Fitch, founding member of Concerto Castello, Music Director of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn in Swampscott, and teacher of organ at Tufts University and the New England Conservatory. Scott Huntington, who did the restoration work on the organ, introduced the concert with a description of the organ's historical significance and his work on the project. Ms. Fitch then performed works by John Stanley (1712-1786), John Zundel (1815-1882) and Samuel Westley (1810-1876). Two hymns were also performed with the congregation participating in the singing in stirring four-part harmony.

The visitors were welcomed by members of the Heath church congregation, including Ruth Johnson, who chaired the restoration committee and championed the project through the decade and more of fundraising required. The organ was built in 1851, Opus 16 of the self-taught organ builder, William Johnson (no relation to Ruth). It has been in continuous use as a church organ ever since. It started out life in Hydeville, spent some years in the Whateley Congregational Church and in 1914 was bought for the Heath church for \$100 by Anna Burrington, brought up the hill by horse and wagon!

Many of the visitors from the Organ Historical Society expressed appreciation for the beauty of the instrument, its gentle and unique voice and the care the committee, the church and Scott Huntington took to ensure an authentic restoration. At this time, some decorative scroll-work is required to complete the project and many of those attending contributed toward this effort. Plans are in the works for a series of recitals next summer to help fund the completion of the project and finance the maintenance of this historic and musical jewel. The organ can still be heard every week at Sunday morning services.

—Pam Porter



To my surprise, four Peter Pan buses full of organ enthusiasts rolled into town on July 2, and I just happened to have my iPad in my car and captured a couple of photos.

—Sandy Gilbert

Heath's Monthly Precipitation

As observed by Heath School staff and students

In this reporting period:	Rain
From May10 to May 31	¼"
June	10 ½"
July 1 to July10	2¾"

The month of May provided very little rain which resulted in a very high brush fire season for the county and state and made for a smaller crop of first cutting hay. June and the first part of July made up for this loss, although the bulk of the rain came in the form of storms which dump various amounts in different parts of town.

—Tim Lively

Community Calendar

AUGUST 2015

- 8 **NATURE WALK**
Saturday 1 p.m. at The Benson Place, 182 Flag Hill Rd (end of the road) Heath
- 8 **HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE**
10 a.m. to noon, Center School House and Old Town House in Heath Center.
- 21-23 **HEATH FAIR**
Friday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the fairgrounds
- 29 **BEST TAG SALE IN WEST COUNTY**
Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 34 Monroe Avenue in Shelburne Falls

ONGOING

CELEBRATE YOU!

Monday mornings, 10 a.m. upstairs in the Community Hall. Join a gentle exercise class done with DVD instruction. All ages and all ability levels welcome. Contact Eileen McVay-Lively at 337-4742 for further information.

FARMERS MARKET

Saturday mornings, 9 to 11 a.m. on the Heath Common

FOOT CLINIC FOR SENIORS with Kip Moeller

Third Tuesday of each month in the Senior Center.

Contact Eileen McVay-Lively at 337-4742 to set up an appointment and/or arrange transportation.

HATHA YOGA

Monday 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Community Hall.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY HOUR

Twice monthly, stop at the library for dates and times.

OPEN STUDIO

Open Art and Open Sew resume in the fall.

Check notices in the town hall for days and times.

SENIOR BROWN BAG LUNCH

First Thursday of each month, dessert & games.

11:45 a.m. in the Senior Center.

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS

Tuesday, 11 a.m. to noon and Thursday, 10 to 11 a.m.

Senior Center. Helps prevent falls & osteoporosis. 55 and over.

SENIOR LUNCHEON*

Third Thursday of each month at 11:45 a.m., Senior Center.

*RSVP at 337-8558 between 9 and 11 a.m. the Monday before the scheduled meal.



WHAT: Exhibition of wildlife photographs by Henry Godek featuring **The Bears of Burnt Hill**

WHEN: Opening Reception
4 to 6 p.m.
September 13, 2015
Light refreshments will be served.

WHERE: Community Hall, Heath

Douglas Mason will offer a beginner to intermediate class in "LightRoom Workflow" in September.

The cost is \$100 for four two-hour sessions (each a week apart.) Downloading, organizing, editing, manipulating, printing, publishing to the web and backing up images will be covered. Students to supply their own computer with LightRoom installed (a free one month trial version is available.) Mason taught similar classes at Lehigh University for 20 years before moving to Heath. Call or email to find out more: 339-4756 or doug@douglasmason.com.

Town Boards and Committees**Town Boards****Board of Assessors**

Robyn Provost-Carlson
Alice Wozniak, Administrative Assistant
Two Vacancies

Board of Health

Karen Brooks, Chair, 337-6614
John Doherty, 337-4776
Charlie Cornish, 339-8309
Betsy Kovacs, 337-5346
Mike Freeman, 339-4239
Gloria Fisher, Clerk, 337-6626

Finance Committee

Don Freeman, Chair, 337-4854
Ned Wolf, Secretary, 337-4476
Jeff Simmons, 337-4994
Gloria Fisher, 337-6626
Jan Carr, 337-5747

Planning Board

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

Selectboard

Sheila Litchfield, 337-4957
Brian DeVriese, 337-5525
Bill Lattrell, 337-5792

Town Commissions**Agricultural Commission**

Dave Freeman, 337-4766
John Clark, 337-6683
Jeff Aho, 339-4904
Doug Mason, 339-4756

Cemetery Commission

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

Conservation Commission

Brian DeVriese, Chair, 337-5525
Dennis Peters, 337-4014
Ellen Jenkins, 337-5353
Bernard "Buck" den Ouden, 337-4002
Jessica Van Steensburg, 339-4904

Historical Commission

Margaret Freeman, Chair, 337-4854
Kara Leistyna, 339-4015

Town Contacts and Hours

www.townofheath.org

Heath Town Offices

1 East Main St Heath, MA 01346
Phone: 413-337-4934 / Fax: 413-337-8542

Town Coordinator

Kara Leistyna, bos@townofheath.org
Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with
exceptions posted in Sawyer Hall

Town Clerk

Hilma Sumner, townclerk@townofheath.org
Monday 1 to 4 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. to noon
or call for appointment 413-337-4845

Selectboard

Sheila Litchfield, Chair, bos@townofheath.org,
Tuesday 7 p.m., Phone: 413-337-4957

Accountant

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

Assessors

Mondays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tax Collector

taxcollector@townofheath.org
Monday 4 to 6 p.m.
or call for appointment 413-337-6665
Phone: 413-337-4934 / Fax: 413-337-8542

Treasurer

Monday 2 to 4 p.m. (varies) or
email to knartowicz@gmail.com

Heath Elementary School

Phone: 413-337-5307

Heath Public Library

Don Purington, Library Director
Lyra Johnson-Fuller, Library Assistant
www.heathlibrary.org, heath.library@gmail.com
Monday 3 to 7 p.m., Wednesday noon to 7 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Phone: 413-337-4934, ext. 7

Highway Department

Phone: 413-337-4462
(Vacancy) Highway Superintendent

Volunteer Fire Department

Phone: 413-337-4461
Mike Smith, Fire Chief

Police Department

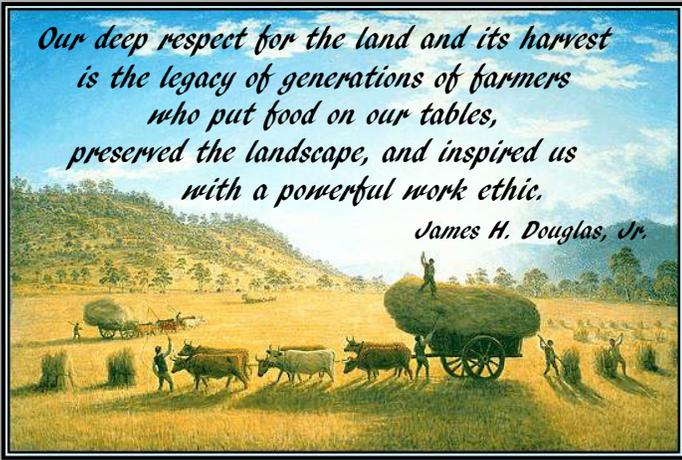
Margo Newton, Chief
Office Hours: Tuesday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Phone: 413-337-4934, ext. 108

Town Nurse

Claire Rabbit, RN
Office Hours at the Senior Center/Community Hall
Tuesday noon to 1:15 p.m., Thursday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Phone during office hours: 413-337-4847
Voice mailbox: 417-337-4934, ext. 109
Home phone: 413-337-8309

Transfer Station

Ken Erho, Attendant
Winter: Wednesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Summer: Monday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday 1 to 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone: 413-337-6640



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James H. Douglas, Jr.

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