



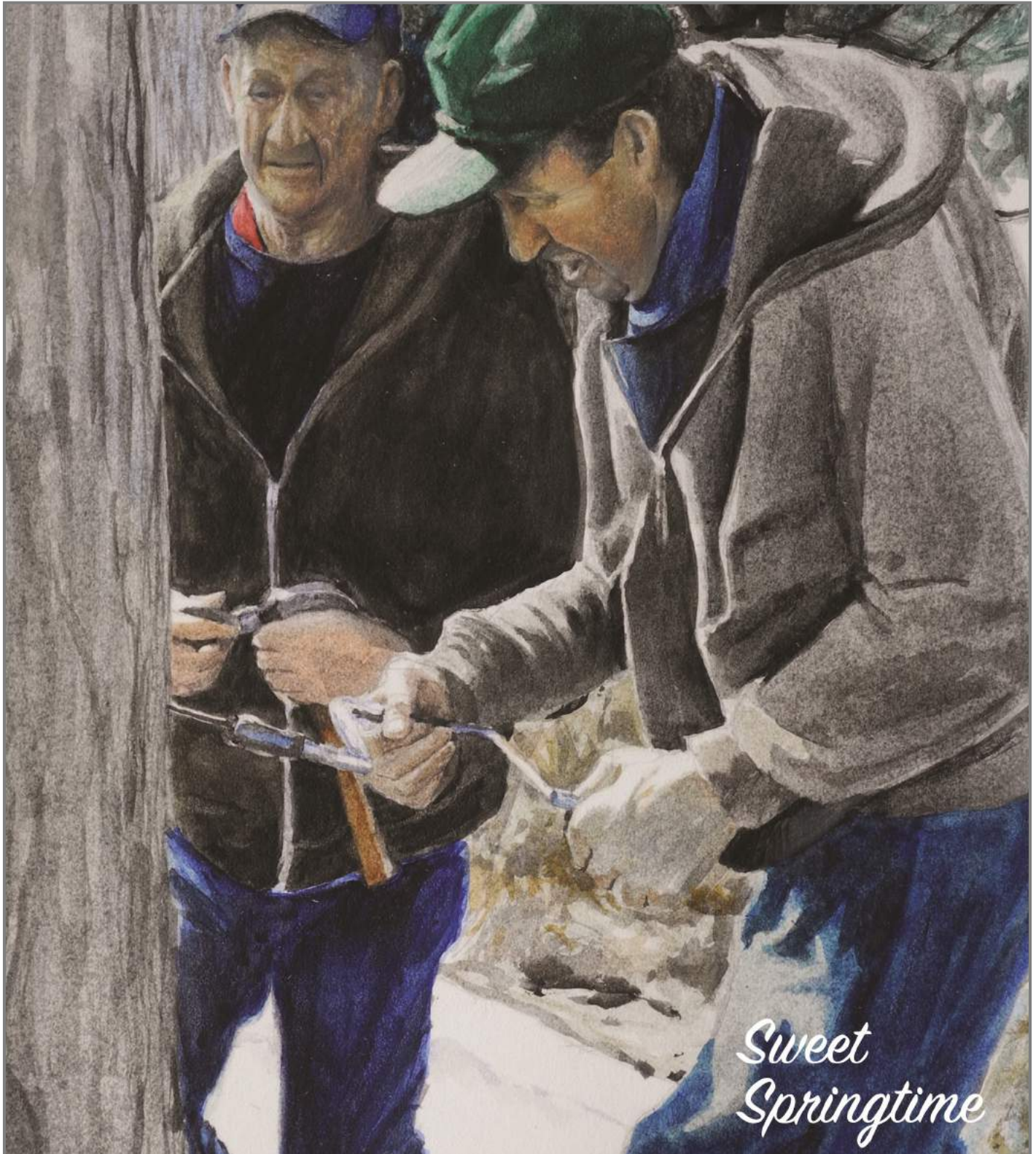
HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

\$2.00

Volume 40, Number 1

April/May 2018



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On the Cover:

Howard and Ralph Dickinson (left to right) tapping a maple tree. Watercolor by Fred Burrington. Collection of Brenda and Bill Stafford.

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

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If you have questions regarding payment, please contact Danette Reynolds, contact information above.

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- Send to our email address:
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- Send to our PO Box:
The *Heath Herald*, PO Box 54, Heath, MA 01346
- Drop off at our Town Hall box:
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January 5 for inclusion in February/March issue
 March 5 for inclusion in April/May issue
 May 5 for inclusion in June/July issue
 July 5 for inclusion in August/September issue
 September 5 for inclusion in October/November issue
 November 5 for inclusion in December/January issue

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Zucchini Drag Races

Report from Salt Spring Island Fall Fair

It's a fair not so different from the Heath Fair. There are no rides. The focus is on family, friends, farming and exhibits, food, and good music. There's an historical society museum at the fairgrounds, a house rather than a barn, moved there from one of the island villages and outfitted with historic photographs, kitchen tools, home furnishings, and the like. There are exhibit halls, antique tractors, and homemade pies. They even have a Conrad on their board. He organizes the brief, but spectacular, "Directors' Chicken Race."

And there are zucchini drag races. It was a YouTube video of the races at Salt Spring Island that inspired the Heath Fair's version this past summer. In September Brian and I traveled across a continent to this small island off the coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, to see them first-hand. Mike and Noella Fraser are two of the geniuses organizing the event, along with Arnie and Julie Hengstler whose teenaged son, Jameson, serves as the finish-line judge. Harry Warner, a Salt Spring celebrity with an Irish brogue, is the announcer.

It was Mike who did the welding for the 30-foot long, three-lane race track that takes advantage of a hill to in-



A 30-foot long, three lane race track takes advantage of a hill to increase racing speed

crease racing velocity. He is an auto mechanic, owner of Mike's Repairs, a garage located just across the road from the fairgrounds entrance. His truck is parked by the pit table which is strewn with tools and parts, both vegetable and mineral. A sign announces 'Mechanic on Duty.' With his welder and power tools he helps last minute racers complete their vehicles. He had just finished cutting an axle when we introduced ourselves.



Modified zucchini racers lined up and ready to "squash" the competition

"There are two classes of drag cars," he tells us, "Stock and Modified." Stock means the axle goes through the zucchini. Modified means the zucchini is mounted on a self-made bed of wheels. Duct tape is not allowed. Each class has three categories: 1 to 3 pounds, 4 to 6 pounds, and 7 and up. By the registration tent at the foot of the racing hill, two long tables are completely full of decorated entries. They are built by people of all ages to premium book specifications that state: "Recommended zucchini length is 12 to 20 inches. The width may not exceed 10 inches. If it doesn't fit on the track it doesn't race."

Mike is quick to tell us he wasn't the founder of the races, but he certainly saw their potential. He was the one who got Noella and their seven children interested in building the cars. He himself built the champion several years running, before they came up with categories and classes to level the playing field. Noella keeps the race running smoothly. She calls out who's coming up next and gets them checked in and ready for Mike to put them on the track. When the crowd needs to be called to order or a teary child shows up searching for her parents, Noella takes the mike. Her voice carries.

(Continued on next page)

Zucchini Drag Races (continued from previous page)

In the half hour between when registration closes and the races begin, boys and girls crouch behind bales at the bottom of the track, biting their lips and assessing their odds. "I want a first," says one boy. "I'm going to get a first. Or a second. Not a third, no way." "I put a piece of a drone on mine," says another. "It has to be set up right. They have to let me [not Mike] set it up right before it goes." One girl, maybe seven, stands up, puts her fists on her hips and squints hard at the track. "The outside lanes tilt out," she announces. "There's a middle track advantage. I wanna run on the middle track."

Tension mounts while Noella carefully sweeps down the track, first one side and then the other. Henry announces the names of the first three racers. Three kids dash forward to verify ownership. Then they run to take their places at the finish line beside Jameson.

The cars race in heats of three. They're lined up at the top of the track behind a hinged flap that's held in place with a large door hook. "Ready, set, go!" yells Henry as he unhooks the flap, dropping it flat. The racers take off down the slope. In 3 to 4 seconds it's all over. Sometimes vehicles fall over half way down the track. Others may shoot off the side of the track, but always at least one runs straight and true until it slams into the waiting hay bales. Jameson jumps up, his fists full of ribbons. He calls out the winners and slaps on a blue, a red, and a white. The owners run forward to collect their cars and whatever parts have been dislodged from the impact while three new racers tear up the hill for the next round.

From 1 to 3:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, the racers take their turns, each race punctuated by the roar of the crowd. Winners of each heat have the option of running against other winners. After the last race, a trophy goes to the Champion racer and there's a People's Choice award for the best-looking vehicle. When it's over, Mike packs up his tools. He and Arnie head for the beer tent by the music stage. Noella and Julia promise to join them shortly after the last bit of clean-up. Before they head for home, they'll have a list of improvements for next year's races at Salt Spring Island's 196th Fall Fair.

Does this inspire you to think about our own Heath Fair? Might you consider volunteering your time for our great event, maybe take a zucchini run while you're there? Please see the next article for more information about the Heath Agricultural Society's efforts towards Heath Fair 101.

—Pam Porter

Discover the Magic of the Heath Fair



Justin Lively has said to me time and time again, even after several years serving as President of the Heath Agricultural Society, that he still doesn't fully know how some pieces of the Fair happen. But year after year they do. There is a magic in that. But like many magic tricks, there is a rhyme and reason to it, a methodology of sorts, if you just know where to look. I am still learning the ropes in my new role, and last week I spent a few hours phoning the Superintendents of the Heath Fair to introduce myself and ask them two things: are you willing to commit to helping out again in 2018 and, what support do you need? These folks, the Superintendents, are the magicians.

The Superintendents are in charge of the highlights—the things you and I remember about the Fair. They are the Superintendents of cattle, of rabbits, of sheep, of poultry, and of goats. They are the Superintendents of the exhibit hall, the premium book, the food booth, and parking. Also, the Superintendent of the ox draw, the horse pull, the antique tractors, the truck pull, and the tractor pull. And let's not forget the volunteers who, like



Exhibit Hall Superintendent Robin Jenkins (left) with Ruth Johnson at the 100th Heath Fair

the Wizard of Oz behind his curtain, take care of the money that flows during those three days in August, managing funds that allow us to run the Heath Fair.

The Agricultural Society membership and myriad volunteers are the magic itself, showing up to keep our fair alive and well. These folks keep the traditions going and ensure that the show goes on! So, to all of you (too many to name), we say "Thank YOU!" We couldn't do it without you!

From time to time we lose a member of our Agricultural Society, of our community. Sometimes this is an active member, other times the member was active some time ago, but no matter—their absence is felt. This year we wish to remember Howard Crowningshield and Peggy Root. Both gave of themselves to the Fair, both loved the Fair, and both are dearly missed. We hold their families in our hearts and we look forward to honoring their contributions to the Fair for all the years to come.

Please consider joining the Heath Agricultural Society. Come and discover the magic. We have something for everyone. When you join us, you join your community. Work bees will be starting once the weather warms, so come, roll your sleeves up and pitch in.

Visit our website, www.heathfair.org, for details on upcoming events and like us on Facebook.

We'll see you at the Fair.

—Jessica Van Steensburg



**MAKE THIS
THE YEAR YOU
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THE HEATH FAIR NEEDS YOU.
Now's the time to get involved!

New Positions Open

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Contact Sheila Litchfield, sheila@thedell.us

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Contact John Henry, johndhenry@gmail.com

To volunteer, contact heathagsociety@gmail.com



Save the Date!
THE HEATH FAIR 101
August 17, 18 & 19, 2018

Nature Note: Green Eggs and Ham

Now that I've gotten your attention, this Nature Note doesn't actually have anything to do with Dr. Seuss, but it is about green eggs that can be found in the spring in Heath, and about an interesting discovery that was made fairly recently.



Spotted Salamander

Spotted salamanders are common in our woods, living underground and beneath logs and rocks. On the first warm rainy night in early spring, they migrate to vernal pools and fish-free ponds to mate and lay their eggs. If you examine one of these pools during this time, you will find the resulting masses of gelatinous eggs. You will most likely find other amphibian eggs too, but the spotted salamander eggs can be easily identified as they are usually greenish. This color is the result of a type of algae that associates with the eggs and has the wonderful scientific name of *Oophila* which in Latin means “egg loving.” This is a symbiotic relationship in which each organism benefits—the salamander embryo gets oxygen from the algae and the algae gets nitrogen from the wastes of the embryo. This particular relationship has been known for over 100 years but it was not until seven years ago that it was examined with the use of an electron microscope and a surprising discovery was made. The algae does not just live in the egg surrounding the salamander embryo, but is actually living within the individual cells of the embryo. This is the only known instance of such a symbiosis taking place within the cells of a vertebrate animal—an invasion of the body that would normally be attacked by the vertebrate immune system. Scientists think that the symbiosis begins before the embryo's immune system has a chance to develop. This strange relationship, in which the algae is termed an *intracellular symbiont*, sounds like something out of a Star Trek episode but, come to think of it, could also be featured in a Dr. Seuss story!



—Susan Draxler



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Town Nurse

—Claire Rabbitt, RN

Muscle Health

As we move into spring and engage in more outdoor activities, you may be more motivated to improve your physical health. Here is some information on muscle health from the November Special Report of the Mayo Clinic Health Letter: Muscle tissue gradually decreases with age and inactive people may lose as much as 10% of lean muscle mass each decade, while increasing the percentage of body fat. Exercise and active lifestyle, along with a healthy diet, are beneficial for improving muscle mass and strength. Ideally, a program should include strength training twice a week, endurance activity 30 minutes most days (may be divided into 10-minute increments), and exercises for balance and flexibility.

Benefits of strength training, endurance activity, balance, and flexibility exercises—regardless of your age, size, and shape—include increased bone density, muscle mass, and metabolism. These activities also burn more calories, aid in the prevention of heart disease, obesity, and diabetes, and may reduce arthritis pain. Benefits also include better stability of joints, improved posture, reduced fall risk, improved cognition, improved mood, stress reduction, and enhanced quality of life. If you avoid physical activity because you are afraid of falling, your risk of falling actually increases.

Before beginning exercise programs, talk with your doctor, especially if you have a chronic health condition. Increase slowly, wear proper footwear, warm up, stay hydrated, and use proper form. It's good to have an exercise partner or to join a group to keep you motivated. One resource for ideas is www.MayoClinic.org, search for “weight training exercises” or “strength training videos.” The National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health <https://go4life.nia.nih.gov/exercises/strength> is another excellent resource. Remember the Healthy Bones and Balance class is offered right here in Heath! See calendar on page 21 for details.



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Library Lines

—Donald Purington

Preschool Story Hour is sponsored by the Friends of the Heath Library at 10:30 a.m. at the Heath Library on April 27, May 11 and May 25. On April 13 and May 5, there will be two special Preschool Story Hours featuring musician Julie Stepanek's **Children's Ukulele Program**, made possible by a grant from Mohawk Trail Regional Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program, funded through a grant from the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care.

Everyone is invited to the **Grand Re-opening of the Heath Elementary School Library** on Friday, April 20 from 3 to 5 p.m. (during school vacation week). Sign out books from this beautiful collection and have cupcakes in celebration! The school library will then be open Fridays each week from 3 to 5 p.m. All are welcome! For more information, contact lyrajohnson@yahoo.com

A Few of the New Items at the Library

Use the *New Titles* link on the Library website to see all the new items added to our collection in the previous two weeks.

Fiction Books for Adults: *The Temptation of Forgiveness* by Donna Leon, *Sunburn* by Laura Lippman, *The Punishment She Deserves* by Elizabeth George, *The Great Alone* by Kristan Hannah

Non-fiction Books for Adults: *Composting for a New Generation* by Michelle Balz, *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning: How to Free Yourself and Your Family from a Lifetime of Clutter* by Margareta Magnusson, *Drawdown* by Paul Hawkin, *The Immigrant Cookbook* by Leyla Moushabeck

Audio Books on CD: *The Great Alone* by Kristan Hannah, *The Mitford Murders* by Jessica Fellows, *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

Books for Young/Teen Readers: *The Unicorn Quest* by Kamilla Benko, *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi

Children's Picture Books/Boardbooks: *Goldilocks* by Ruth Sanderson, *A Day with Yayah* by Nicola Campbell

DVDs: *The Shape of Water*, *Coco*, *Lady Bird*, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri*, *Wonder*

Free Children's Ukulele Program Friday, April 13 Saturday, May 5

Musician Julie Stepanek will host a free ukulele program for kids ages 5 and younger at 10:30 a.m. on April 13 in the library and on May 5 in community hall. Following the May 5 program, there will be a family session for all ages at 11:30 a.m.

All are welcome to stay for one or both programs. Come and play!



Call 337-4934, ext. 7 to sign up.

Grand Re-Opening of the Heath Elementary School Library

Friday, April 20, 3 to 5 p.m.

All are welcome!

Celebrate the re-opening of the Heath Elementary School Library on Friday, April 20 (school vacation week). Enjoy a cupcake while you peruse this wonderful collection of books. The school library will be open every Friday from 3 to 5 p.m.

Contact Lyra at lyrajohnson@yahoo.com for more information.



Heath Historical Society presents: Dining with History

**"Welcome to Heath!
We are glad you moved here!"**

Saturday, May 19, 2018

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

at the Community Hall

An introduction to our town through the stories of some of our most distinguished houses and some of their residents. Plus, a great opportunity for those who are new in town to meet those of us who have been around for a while.

Bring a dish to share.

All are invited and entire families are welcome.





Wild Ramblings

—Bill Lattrell

Farewell James Fenimore Cooper

We met at the airport. The soulful eyes, the happy face, and a few buckets of drool. Maureen and I had arrived to pick up our new bloodhound shortly after I had major shoulder surgery. James Fenimore Cooper, as he would be named later that day, was from the beginning a force of nature. Our first contact with him was the long sad howl we could hear at the back of the Shipping Receivables Department at Bradley International Airport.

The staff at the Shipping Department admitted they had taken him out of the crate he was shipped in because he was crying. They entertained him with a couple of tuna sandwiches and a tennis ball. He had just been put back into the crate when we arrived. He was already howling the deep mournful hound dog bawl that only one of these soulful beasts can produce.

Cooper, a nickname that was used from early on, was shy from the beginning. He was a little clumsy in the early days. His gigantic paws looked like snowshoes at the bottom of each leg. He would look at you with his head tilted down, wrinkles and furrows pulled by gravity nearly covering his eyes and upper nose. From the start I knew he would be special. On the hour-and-a-half journey home from the airport, he cuddled in my lap. One of my arms happened to be in a sling on which he propped his head.

On the first night he cried. He missed his Mom and littermates. I gathered him up in a blanket and held him to my face. I cupped my hand over his nose and around my mouth. I breathed directly into his nose. This was to imprint my scent into his memory. He looked at me when I did this and when I pulled him away from my face he was actually smiling. A smile that he would carry with him for the rest of his life. I still remember the sweet smell of his puppy breath.

I had a lot of time off from work at that time because I was recuperating from surgery. We took long walks in the woods. He would stop and smell every single item until he was satisfied he recognized every scent particle on its surface. This would make walks long and lingering events but I wanted him to be comfortable in this

environment. This was a place where he would flourish for much of his life.

We took daily treks. Each time we journeyed into different areas of the forest to the south of our homestead. At the outset when he was still a small puppy, I would be pointing out things to him—scat, tracks, rabbit-chewed bark on a shrub—but within two weeks he would be pointing out things to me; many that could not be seen and only smelled by his amazing scenting ability. I learned to read his abilities, which greatly helped me in my life-long search to know the forest well. He was the perfect partner for this aging ecologist.

Cooper grew fast. He weighed 50 pounds at five months old and 100 pounds at a year. By two-and-a-half years old he was full-grown at 29 inches at the shoulder and 140 pounds. He loved running the woods as we wandered on nearly a daily basis. He could navigate thick brush, roaring streams, and steep ledges. He was immensely powerful. But more than anything he was sensitive and loving. At the end of a morning in the backcountry he would always get into my lap when I sat on our couch. A 140-pound lap dog is more than cozy. He would do this for the remainder of his life.

James Fenimore Cooper had a few odd habits. He would always greet you when you came in the door by first howling for about five minutes and then by grabbing his ball, a shoe, or a sock and prancing around hoping you'd chase him to get it out of his mouth. He also was a prankster and liked to play jokes on his human companions. For instance, he would hide items that he knew I used everyday and then when he figured out that I was about to give up looking he would appear with it in his mouth, often dropping it at my feet. This would always be followed by a bloodhound smile. If you haven't seen a bloodhound smile, you are really missing something. It will make you laugh until you cry.

When Cooper was about a year-and-a-half old we adopted a female bloodhound puppy. He was very glad to have bloodhound company. They were best friends for life. She was his constant companion. He was in charge, but they loved each other deeply. My one regret is that they did not have puppies together.

Cooper came from "man trailing" stock, which emphasized ground scenting. Adia, our new female bloodhound puppy, came from hunting stock and was mainly an air scenter. Together they were the perfect bloodhound scenting pair. They both loved to work the woods.

Cooper could work off-leash, his ground scenting keeping him close. Adia, on the other hand, could pick

up a scent miles away and would often take off to parts unknown. That one bad habit resulted in her working the woods on a leash attached to me.

Somewhere along the line, James Fenimore Cooper took up looking for lost dogs. I think it began with a singular request, but our willingness to do this was somehow communicated well beyond our community. Looking for a lost dog is not like looking for a lost person. Lost people typically can be found within five miles of their starting point. Lost dogs can travel scores of miles. We both learned the art of tracking dogs. Reading tracks for gait and speed would tell us a lot. Pacing ourselves would keep us on the trail for hours. Our constant company with each other would always keep us going.

We were not always successful. We found more dogs that had perished than were alive. But even then, the humans who were pals with these dogs were grateful to know what happened to them. Once we trailed a dog for hours and many miles only to find it a quarter-mile from its house. After running full circle its leash had caught on a tree stump. The good news is that the dog was alive and very happy to see us. The bad news is that as soon as I untangled the leash it ran off again. We thought it might head straight home, and that's where we found it. Cooper was always happy to do his job. He was a dog with a mission.

James Fenimore Cooper loved my wife as much as he loved me. He would always greet her with a huge sloppy kiss; you know, the kind that spreads slimy drool over your entire hand or face. I'm convinced he thought Maureen was his Mom and I was his Dad. I spent hours doing one-way conversations, with me explaining to him why we did not have long floppy ears, a black bulbous nose, and sad eyes. I don't think he ever quite understood.

Without a doubt he was incredibly gentle and I used to joke that if someone ever broke into our house when no humans were home, the greatest danger the felon would face was getting licked to death. I was wrong about that. One day while walking both dogs, a much larger golden retriever appeared out of nowhere, literally jumping out of the bushes, and grabbed Adia by the back of the neck. She froze but Cooper surprisingly sprang into action knocking the golden retriever down on the ground and immediately grabbing it by the throat with his huge canine teeth. I had to pry his teeth out of the retriever's fur, and as soon as I did the dog ran off. Cooper took everything in stride, first smelling Adia's

wounds and then licking my hand as if to say he had our backs. From that day on, I knew that this gentle soul was a capable defender.

In the last third of his life Cooper met our son's new basset hound, Ignatius Reilly. Cooper taught Iggy all things hound. Showing Ignatius Reilly the ropes was one of his greatest joys. Now Iggy helps to take care of our aging female bloodhound, Adia. Cooper's efforts reaped great rewards.

The years passed and we had hundreds of adventures. At age 11 he finally started to slow down. He liked lying around and getting patted on the belly. He was enjoying life but I sensed he was in pain. A series of veterinarian visits made him temporarily more comfortable. Within six months he could no longer stand up and we knew it was time. I may have waited a little too long in my efforts to extend his life. In the end he looked at me and told me it was okay.

He passed a few days after my 66th birthday, almost like he had hung on just to give me one last birthday that we could share. He died with the dignity that was always part of his character and now his soul runs through the trees in the forest to the south of our homestead.

Cooper will always be remembered for who he was—a loyal partner, a prankster who made us laugh, a mentor in the wilds, and the best true-blue friend that we could ever have.

And so I say this: Farewell my dear James Fenimore Cooper. You will always remain in my heart. A best friend and constant companion, you made me immensely happy. I will long miss you sitting with me on the couch. I will long miss your sloppy kisses. I will miss our woodland adventures. I will remember you for the rest of my days with great affection and utmost respect. You left with a piece of my heart. I hope you hold it close to your own. We sometimes think we can hear you baying in the distance on the forested hill to the south of our homestead. Happy hounding! We will meet again!






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Dell Dead End

Save our Bridge!

Residents of the Dell, and others along the Route 8A corridor of Heath were outraged to hear of the state's decision not to repair the bridge across Mill Brook in the Dell, but to instead close it, permanently. The bridge, which was reduced to one lane in 2013, was slated for repair this coming summer. It has been under renewed scrutiny this past fall and winter due to reported significant further erosion of the laid stone embankments. Officials cite drastically increased costs for tear down and reconstruction as the mitigating factor in this decision to in effect create a dead end at the bridge where 8A intersects with Dell Road to the south and Judd Road to the north. Traffic will be diverted through the center of town as a result. Selectman Sheila Litchfield, who lives in the Dell, says, "The increased truck and car traffic through the center of town resulting from this move will have significant effects on road conditions, including the cost of upgrades and an increased rate of repair to Dell Road, all roads in the town center, Long Hill Road (which will likely need to be widened and paved), Branch Hill Road, Bray Road, South Road, Burrington Hill, and Avery Brook Road.



The bridge over Mill Brook in the Dell is scheduled for permanent closure by the Massachusetts DOT this fall. Traffic will be re-routed through Heath town center. Photo by Bruce Phillips

Nancy and Steve Thane, Dell residents closest to the bridge, expressed deep concern about the feasibility for fire trucks to access the fire hydrant on the Dell Road side of their pond while simultaneously fighting a fire across Mill Brook in the Dell proper or on Judd Road.

Tucker and Summer Litchfield expressed grave

concerns regarding the addition of a full half hour to the school bus ride from their home in the Dell to Hawlemont School for their daughter Maeven, who will be a preschooler in the fall. How the bus will turn around safely at the dead end has yet to be determined.

Residents of Judd Road are also angry and frustrated and have begun a petition drive to our state legislators and Governor Charlie Baker, insisting on further review and action. Town Clerk Hilma Sumner states that the signatures of one quarter of Heath residents over the age of 17 are needed in order to force a formal state government response.

See page 20 for how you can join the fight to keep the traffic flowing from the Vermont line through to Charlemont on Route 8A.

—Nancy Thane

REDUCTION
RECYCLING
COMPOSTING
DISPOSAL

**Franklin County
Solid Waste Management District**

Spring "Clean Sweep"

Bulky Waste Recycling Day

Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m. to noon

Buckland Recreation Facility, 66 Ashfield Road
Northfield Highway Garage, 49 Caldwell Road
Whately Transfer Station, 73 Christian Lane

Tires • Appliances • Scrap Metal • Furniture
Construction Debris • Computers • TVs
Propane Gas Tanks • other large items

Residents from any district town can bring bulky items to any of the above locations. Disposal fees apply for most items. Materials will be recycled when possible. Clean and dry (bagged) textiles and books accepted free for reuse or recycling.

Residents and businesses do not need to pre-register. Disposal fees, *cash only*, will be collected on-site. Prices for common items are online at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html and will be made available to town halls and transfer stations in mid-April.

For more information, call 413-772-2438, email info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, or visit www.franklincountywastedistrict.org

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Weaving at Hawlemont Elementary School

What goes into the making of the cloth we use every day? That is just what Hawlemont's fourth, fifth, and sixth graders are finding out this winter/spring. It is a logical outgrowth of the raising and shearing of sheep, part of practical learning that goes hand in hand



Susan Gruen works with sixth graders demonstrating how to measure the reeds.

with the Hawlemont Agriculture and You (HAY) program. Susan Gruen, master weaver from Heath, has teamed up with Jeanne Bruffee, director of the HAY program, to offer the children first-hand experience in the art of weaving. Thanks to Susan, the classroom has been outfitted with several kinds of looms,

from the small potholder variety to large floor models. Under Susan's tutelage, students will be introduced to all aspects of the weaving process from choosing the fiber, to spinning the thread, setting up the warp, and finally, weaving the cloth.

On the morning I visited, Susan had brought in beautiful examples of articles that she had woven so that the students could see a variety of different fibers. They were all given sample threads of each type to compare and keep as references as they began their own weaving. With excitement, students studied the designs, colors, and feel of each example.

Later on, the children were busy at work practicing weaving on the large floor looms, setting up the warp thread on a warping board, and measuring reeds for the dressing of the looms.

While all this was going on, there was master weaving of another sort happening. The curriculum that Susan and Jeanne have designed weaves together many other aspects of school learning. Through the spinning of thread and weaving of fabric, the children are learning and using new vocabulary words, considering the economic effects of weather on the price of fiber, exploring patterns through design, finding out where in the world things come from, not to mention counting, measuring, and working with percentages and fractions. In the weeks ahead they will be traveling to the

Shelburne Historical Society and the Lowell Textile Museum to learn about the history of textiles and how it relates to our own New England story. They will also be reading an account of a girl who worked in the mills of Lowell and what her life was like.



Kaylin Sumner weaving at the floor loom

On a more individual level, students are learning about the perseverance it takes to produce the cloth we use everyday. They also have to plan and work together in ways that require cooperation, listening, sharing, responsibility, and mutual respect. To think, all of this from the simple weaving of cloth.



(L to R) Christian Eastman, Rosco Palmer, and Jacob Martin working the table loom

The sixth graders plan to help support the program by weaving and selling dishtowels. You can help too, by buying the towels, or donating materials/funds, to the Hawlemont Fiber Arts program c/o Jean Bruffee at the Hawlemont School, or call Sue Gruen directly at 337-4235 to make arrangements for a Heath drop-off.

—Deb Porter

Bee-cology Project App

Heath is a bumblebee diversity hot spot, a focal point because of the presence of rare species. Bumblebees and other bee pollinators native to New England are declining at an unprecedented rate. In Massachusetts, half of our native bumblebee species have become rare over the past decade. We presently lack ecological data on native bees which is needed to develop highly effective conservation and restoration strategies for threatened species. The data is also needed to assess the impact of reductions in native bee diversity on ecosystem health. The Bee-cology Project aims to rapidly fill this critical knowledge gap by training citizen ‘bee-cologists’ to collect information on the habits of native bees during key life-cycle stages. The first phase of the project is focused on bumblebee species native to Massachusetts, with subsequent phases expanding the project to other New England states and native bee groups. This vital data collection is done using a simple app developed specifically for this project.



The Bee-cology app
Both bee and flower are identified and data is uploaded.

The Bee-cology app can either be run as a web application on the project website, <http://beecology.wpi.edu>, or downloaded from the site onto a smartphone. The app facilitates the rapid collection of bumblebee data in mixed floral environments and is designed to automatically transfer data to a central database at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where it will be stored with data from other ‘bee-cologists.’

How the App Works

Most bumblebee encounters last less than 20 seconds, making it difficult to visually identify the species in such a short time. The Bee-cology app enables users to digitally photograph a bee on a flower and then helps to

quickly identify both bee and flower to the species level through a series of simple yes/no questions. The app then uploads the information to a central database where it, along with species information gathered by other bee-cologists, can be viewed using a variety of visualization tools.

Another useful aspect of the app is its ‘Bee-dex’ function. It provides basic information about each species of bumblebee, including a visual description of the bee, the months in which the bee is typically seen, and if applicable, a list of similar looking species. Armed with this crowdsourced information provided by citizens at the sites, including Heath, scientists will be better positioned to protect our native bee diversity and keep our natural ecosystems humming for years to come.

As the app becomes fully developed, we hope more local folks will become interested and able to use it. We plan restoration pollinator plantings this spring on the former Crowningshield land, now under the Franklin Land Trust management. We also are planning a walk-through of the area and a workshop on bumblebees for local residents. As dates, times, and locations are determined, we will share that with you.

—Dr. Robert J. Gegear

Department of Biology and Biotechnology
Director of the New England Bee-cology Project
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Email: regegear@wpi.edu
Phone 508-831-5472

Edible Wild Plant Walk



Naturalist John Root

Save the Date!

Saturday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m.
The Benson Place,
182 Flagg Hill Road, Heath

John Root will lead an edible wild plant walk on June 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Benson Place in Heath. The program is free, and adults and children of all ages are welcome. Perennials for edible landscaping and for attracting birds, butterflies, and other beneficials will be offered for sale.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Heath Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.





Green Thoughts

—Pat Leuchtman

The Need for More Pollinators

Most of us know that pollinators are important. Without pollinators many of the ordinary foods we eat would not be available. We hear about Colony Collapse Disorder which affects honey bees, but there are thousands of other types of bees and many other insect and animal pollinators including bats. These pollinators are also dying. What to do?

Pollinators are a particular and important set of the insects that make up our food web and we can support them by planting a garden that will supply them with nectar, pollen, water, and shelter. The garden can be of any size from a window box to a field. We can support pollinators by not using herbicides and pesticides that will make them sick and die.

The first thing to think of when planting a pollinator garden is choosing plants that will supply a generous helping of nectar and pollen. In addition, pollinators need pollen and nectar in every season. We should never curse our dandelions. They are one of the earliest good sources of pollen in the spring. Other familiar spring blooming plants supplying nectar and pollen include red maples, shadbush (*amelanchier*), willows, apple, plum and cherry trees, pieris, viburnums, blueberry bushes, Johnny jump-ups, tiarella, red columbine, crocus, and daffodils.

As the season progresses, bee balm, chives, purple coneflower, thyme, rhododendron, swamp milkweed, *Penstemon hirsutus*, black-eyed Susans, and winterberry are in bloom. Some annuals like old-fashioned zinnias and cosmos are useful. There are many more pollinator plants that are attractive and suitable for the home garden and lists are easily found on the internet.

It is best to choose a variety of pollinator plants that will bloom over the full season, providing food from spring through fall. Also, they should be planted in large clumps so that the pollinators will find them easily.

It is important to remember that many of the hybrid plants that have been improved to have bigger, more double or complex flowers may not have as much pollen or nectar. For instance, there are many bright and some-

times humorous cultivars of Echinacea, but pollinators need the basic coneflower *Echinacea purpurea*. These have the simple petals providing a landing strip and a big center cone filled with pollen and nectar.

Some of the principles followed by bird lovers will serve pollinator lovers as well. Insects need protection, so use different layers in your garden by including trees and shrubs as well as perennials of different heights. Even leaf litter will offer them protection. A bit of bare ground is important because some insects nest in underground tunnels.

Many of us are already leery of using herbicides and pesticides in our gardens because we are concerned about harming other living things in addition to the particular pest or problem that is bothering us. Avoiding these poisons is sometimes harder than we

“We should never curse our dandelions. They are one of the earliest good sources of pollen in spring.”



think because they are added to lawn fertilizers. Neonicotinoids, or neonics, are a new class of pesticides that are systemic. They are watered into the soil where they are then taken up into all parts of the plant. The plant looks good, but any insect that goes for pollen or nectar or a bite of a leaf will be poisoned. Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, Nitenpyram, Thiacloprid, and Thiamethoxam are all neonics. Read the ingredients labels carefully when you buy pesticides or fertilizers, and always use them carefully, if you must use them at all.

Insects, like birds, need water. It is a good idea to provide a shallow container of water with an island of stones so they can sip easily. Make sure to provide a constant supply of this clean water in a sheltered spot.

Editor's Note: Pat Leuchtman, our Green Thoughts author for many years, now lives and gardens in Greenfield. We have enjoyed her tales of gardening in a large town since she and husband, Henry, moved there a couple of years ago. Pat, while no longer writing articles exclusively for the Heath Herald, has given permission for us to use some of her Between the Rows articles. This is an abridged version of one first published in the Greenfield Recorder on Sept. 12, 2015. Be sure to check out Pat's Blog: www.commonweeder.com

Heath Elementary Education Update

Last May our town made the painful but necessary decision to close the Heath Elementary School. This school year is a time of great change. As we pass the mid-point of the school year, the report on this change seems quite positive. Most of Heath's elementary school children are attending the Hawlemont Regional School where they have been warmly welcomed and are participating in high-quality educational opportunities provided by a significantly expanded staff. As has been the case over the past few years, some Heath families have decided to send their children to other schools via "school choice." Most of these children are enrolled at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School (BSE) with some also enrolled at the Rowe Elementary School, both of which also provide high-quality educational opportunities.

The Tuition Agreement with Hawlemont is temporary. It was designed to allow a "testing of the waters" and, if then desired, the time to formally explore joining the Hawlemont Regional School District (HRSD) or revert to our students being placed in a Mohawk school, most likely BSE. At the request of our school committee representatives, the Selectboard has decided to explore joining the HRSD. We will follow a process, beginning with a feasibility study conducted by senior administrative staff from the Mohawk/Hawlemont Regional School Districts. This study will address the following topics: Education/Enrollment, Finances, Facility, and Specific Community Interests. The findings of this study should be available to voters at our Town Meetings.

If the findings of the feasibility study are positive, the Town of Heath and the Hawlemont towns could enter into negotiations to amend the Hawlemont Regional Agreement to include the Town of Heath as a full member of this kindergarten-to-sixth grade district. If we were to join Hawlemont, we would also have to develop a plan to withdraw as pre-kindergarten-to-sixth-grade members from the Mohawk District. Heath's participation in this exploration and negotiation phase is under the control of the Selectboard, but any final decisions regarding regional agreements are subject to Town Meeting votes. This is a complex and multi-layered process. We will do our best to keep the citizens of Heath informed along the way. Please email me via the Selectboard at bos@townofheath.org with questions or suggestions.

—Budge Litchfield

Heath Representative/Mohawk Trail School

Selectboard Report

Meeting Schedule

The Board meets every other Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in the Sawyer Hall unless posted otherwise.

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting (STM) has been posted for 7 p.m. on March 27 at the Heath Community Hall. Among the items to be considered are account transfers for the 2018 Fiscal Year. The Planning Board has a proposed zoning by-law amendment on the warrant known as the "Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishments." This would give the town time to develop its own regulations with consideration to guidance that is expected soon from the state Cannabis Control Commission. A temporary moratorium on use of land and structures for retail sale of recreational marijuana will give us time to assess the potential impact on licensing, sales, taxing, and public safety, and to develop local bylaws if deemed warranted.

An informational meeting on the Green Communities Act will follow the STM. Heath has achieved many of the requirements for Green Community status and will be considering adopting the Stretch Building Code at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

Town Elections

The Annual Town Elections will take place on Friday, May 11 from noon to 7 p.m. at the Senior Center in the Heath Community Hall.

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. on May 12 at the former Heath Elementary School.

The Heath School Building Transition Team

The Heath School Building Transition Team (SBTT) has held several meetings to explore ideas for the repurposing of the building. The committee typically meets at the school one Wednesday evening per month and is open to all. The committee has met with realtors Phil Pless and Mark Abramson to discuss real estate market conditions in the area, and with Greenfield developer Mark Zaccheo to discuss the property development process. Solar energy development and energy conservation is also under investigation by a SBTT sub-committee. The April meeting will feature Mike McCusker to discuss his experience with commercial office rentals. Questions or concerns may be sent to bos@townofheath.org

Broadband Update

Heath has submitted aerial license applications to National Grid and Verizon and has been meeting regularly with Westfield Gas & Electric (WG&E), which is functioning as project manager and overseeing the design, engineering, make-ready, and construction phases of the broadband buildout in Heath. We are currently reviewing the details of the pole survey completed by WG&E in preparation for submittal of pole applications. A newly created “Broadband Construction Liaison” position will be funded through the state grant to Heath. This Liaison will function as “Clerk of the Works” through the design and construction phases of the project. A hub location has been selected and the town plans to do the civil work to prepare the site this spring.

Transfer Station Pay as You Throw Update

323 permits have been sold at \$15 each and 10,978 bag stickers at \$1.50 each for total revenue to date of \$21,312. Original projections were for \$19,000 for the full year and we still have four months to go. Hauling expenses are down due to a reduction of 37 tons of trash, or 39% as of the end of December 2017.

Electrical Aggregation—Verde/Colonial Power

National Grid customers should check their bills to make sure that Verde is listed as the electrical power supplier at a rate of \$0.10736/kWh. If you previously signed up for a competitive supplier and wish to switch to Verde, see “opt-in” instructions below. Residents who wish to “opt-out” can do so by contacting Colonial Power at the number below.

Opt-In Instructions:

The customer needs to have their National Grid bill handy for their account number when opting-in.

- Visit www.colonialpowergroup.com/heath/ and click the opt-in button, then fill out and submit the Opt-In form; OR

- Call Colonial Power Group at 866-485-5858, ext. 1 and ask to opt-in to Heath’s Program; OR

- Call Verde at 800-241-0295 and ask to opt-in to Heath’s Program.

Enrollment may take a full cycle before completed. You should see messaging on your bill that says you have been switched.

For further questions contact Denise Allard, Colonial Power Group, Inc., 277 Main Street, Marlborough, MA 01752, 508-485-5858, ext. 2.

—Heath Selectboard

Finance Committee Report

Heath’s tax rate was certified by the Department of Revenue (DOR) in October 2017 at \$21.81, which was \$0.19 or 0.88% higher than the Finance Committee’s estimate at the May 6, 2017, Annual Town Meeting. To explain how this happened, let me remind you first of two numbers used in computing how much a town raises in taxes. One is the tax rate, and the other, which also is certified by the DOR, is the total assessed valuation (TAV). By multiplying these two numbers and dividing by 1,000 one gets how much is raised. If for any reason the TAV decreases, the only way the amount raised by

Calculation for Amount of Taxes Raised

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Tax Rate x} \\ \text{Tax Assessed Valuation (TAV)} \\ \div 1,000 = \text{Taxes Raised} \end{array}$$

taxes will remain the same is for the tax rate to increase.

Last year Heath’s TAV dropped from \$90,784,450 to \$90,084,099 or about \$700,000. About \$625,000 of that drop was due to a drop in the assessed value of the power line towers, lines, and equipment. The electric companies assess their properties themselves (except if the property is a generating plant). The primary electric company in Heath is National Grid. The situation is different for the poles, wires, and equipment of the telephone company, Verizon. In that case it is the DOR that assesses the properties. The \$625,000 drop in the assessed value of National Grid’s properties seems to have resulted from a combination of depreciation and the company’s putting several hundred thousand dollars into a reserve fund for maintenance. Those two factors are all that we have so far determined to relate to the large drop. We will be looking closely at the new assessed values.

Important matters for the coming months will include working with the Selectboard on the FY2019 budget, following the progress of the Broadband project, and keeping informed of the work of the committee on possible new uses of the school.

—Ned Wolf, Chair
Heath Finance Committee

Obituaries

Henry Dandeneau



Henry "Hal" Dandeneau, 43, of Greenfield, died Sunday February 4, 2018, at home.

He was born September 10, 1974, in Montague, the son of Henry and Evelyn (Howes) Dandeneau, of Rowe. He grew up in Rowe, and was a graduate of Mohawk Trail Regional High School Class of 1993.

Hal is survived by his wife, Gillian Robinson, and their two sons, Trenton and Garrett, his parents Henry J. and Evelyn Dandeneau of Rowe, and his sister Ellen Bealer (Dandeneau) and her husband Robert Bealer, his nephew Connor, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Russell E. "Bud" Johnson, Jr.



A kind and gentle soul has departed this earth. Russell E. Johnson, Jr., (known as Bud) of Heath, and former longtime resident of Shelburne Falls, passed away on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at the age of 73 following a lengthy battle with

Alzheimer's Disease.

He was born on Oct. 11, 1944, in Gardner, MA to Marian (Pierce) and Russell E. Johnson, Sr. Bud grew up in Westminster, MA. He was a graduate of Mount Greylock High School and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Education from North Adams State.

Bud was a devoted husband to his wife, Bette (MacLeod), and outstanding father to his two children, and was fondly known as Buddy to his four grandchildren.

Bud was a social studies teacher in the Mohawk School District for 40 years, as well as a coach in varsity baseball and junior high football. One of his proudest accomplishments was coaching his varsity baseball team to a Western Mass. Championship in 1977. He led his junior high football team to many undefeated seasons. He touched the lives of countless students and athletes during his tenure. It was one of his great joys to bump into his former students and players and hear about their lives and relive the good ole days.

Bud will be missed by his wife of 51 years, Bette; son Matthew Johnson and his wife, Jennifer (Brown) and

their children Colton and Tess; daughter Jennifer Heilman and her husband, Jason Heilman and their children Areia and Owen; step-mother, Ruth Johnson; sister Kathy Sprague and her husband Kevin Sprague; sister-in-law Priscilla Dalamangas and her husband Leo Dalamangas; as well as his nephew and nieces.

To honor Bud, please consider making donations in Bud's name to the Alzheimer's Association at www.brightfocus.org/donate

Peggy Root



Peggy Root, 74, of Heath passed away on February 9, 2018, with her partner Henry Josephson by her side. She was born on June 30, 1943, in Cooperstown, NY. Survivors besides her partner Henry, include her sister Connie Root

Nuss of Wasilla, AK, and hundreds of loving friends. Peggy was an artist, exhibited her own work and also owned and operated art galleries in Lenox and Stockbridge, MA. Peggy was a championship level competitor in horse shows and traveled to several east coast states for competitions.

Peggy lived a full life. She was Assistant to the Director of the Arts Council of Franklin County in 1975-76. In 1980 Peggy became horse barn manager at Stoneleigh-Burnham School, later becoming a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor and Licensed Mental Health Counselor. Peggy also worked at the Brattleboro Retreat for over a decade.

Peggy and Henry retired to Heath with their Fox Terrier "Squirt." Due to her experience with horse shows, Peggy volunteered to assist with the nationally sanctioned goat show at Heath Fair, where she functioned as Ring Steward.

A Memorial Service is planned for April 7, 2018, at 2 p.m. at the Heath Union Church. A reception will follow in the social room at the church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the International Campaign for Tibet, 1825 Jefferson Place NW, Washington, DC, 20036.

Roger J. Purington, Sr.

Roger J. Purington, Sr., of 52 Avery Brook Rd., Heath, died Friday, March 9, at home. He was born in Unity, N.H., September 9, 1938, the son of Arthur and Geneva (Call) Purington.

A US Army veteran, he was employed for 33 years as a driver for A.R. Sandri Inc. in Greenfield. He enjoyed being outside in the woods and woodcarving as a hobby.

Survivors include his wife, Roberta (Herzig); sons Roger Jr. (Nancy) Purington of Buckland, Kevin Purington Sr. of Charlemont; daughters Darlene (Joseph) Corbeil of Shelburne Falls, Connie (Dohn) Sherman of Rowe, Barbara (David) Dyer of Buckland; one brother, Sammy Purington of Buckland; two sisters, Virginia Fellows of Warwick, Doris Johnson of Buckland; 13 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. A son, John, predeceased him on May 30, 2009. He was also predeceased by his sister, Agnes Steele.

Donations may be made to the John Purington Scholarship Fund, c/o Franklin County Technical School, Industrial Blvd., Turners Falls, MA 01376, or to Hospice of Franklin County 329 Conway St., Greenfield, MA 01301.

Howard E. Dickinson



Howard E. Dickinson, 94, of 48 South Road, Heath, died Thursday, March 8, at home. He was born in Heath, December 10, 1923, the son of Horatio F. and Belle (Gleason) Dickinson.

Howard was a graduate of Arms Academy in Shelburne Falls. A life-long resident of Heath, he was born and raised on the family dairy farm. He continued working the farm along with his brother, Ralph, for many years after the death of their parents.

He was an amateur photographer who at one time set up his own darkroom and developed his own film.

Survivors include cousins Ruth Johnson of Heath, Pearl Churchill of Shelburne, Earl Gleason of Heath, Walter Gleason also of Heath, Nancy Peck of Shelburne and Bill Stafford of Shelburne. He was predeceased by his brother, Ralph, and his sister, Esther.

A graveside service in South Cemetery, Heath, will be held at the convenience of the family at a later date.

The family wishes to thank the friends in the Heath community who cared for Howard, allowing him to stay at home.

It is suggested donations be made to Hospice of Franklin County, 329 Conway St., Greenfield, MA 01301.

A full tribute to Howard, a true Heath icon, has been produced and is included separately with this issue of the *Heath Herald*.



Heath Union Evangelical Church

The Rev. James Koyama, Minister
Dennis Ainsworth, Organist
Sunday morning worship 10 a.m.

All are welcome!

Please join us for Bible Study every Thursday at 6 p.m., held at the home of Dennis Ainsworth, 215 Ed Clark Road, Colrain. Anyone interested in carpooling should meet at the church at 5:30 p.m.

Rev. Koyama is in town on Thursdays, with office hours at the church in the afternoon. You can also contact him on his cell phone anytime: 808-282-6711.

For information call Rev. Koyama
or a member of the Board of Deacons:

Hilma Sumner, Chair ...337-4845

Ruth Johnson337-4367

Walter Gleason337-4479

Dana Blackburn.... 413-221-0961

Church phone: 337-4019 to leave a message.
Find us on Facebook: Heath Union Evangelical Church
Church building facilities are available for private events. Call Victoria Burrington for details: 337-4425.

Church News

Spring is upon our community, with it the hope of restoration and refreshment. We extend a warm invitation to everyone to join us as we celebrate this time of the year through our weekly Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. Thursday Bible studies have resumed and are held at 5:30 p.m. at 215 Ed Clark Rd. in Colrain.

On March 29 at 7 p.m. the Maundy Thursday service will be held in the church's lower level. This is a time of quiet reflection on sacrifice, both large and small. Easter Sunday, April 1, the church will hold its Sunrise service at the crest of Schoolhouse Road. The gathering will begin at 6:15 a.m. and will be followed by a breakfast at the church. At 10 a.m. our Easter worship service will be filled with music and celebration as congregants rejoice in commemorating Christ's resurrection. Join us in these special times of renewal.

Summer music concerts will resume soon. Watch for notices announcing performance dates and programs.

—Hilma Sumner



Community Café Update

Thank you all for coming out to support our first four cafés. It was a welcome chance to connect with new neighbors and old friends, stave off the cabin fever, and enjoy some great music. A hearty round of applause for Dennis Avery, John Clark, David Morano, Sonny Crawford, Jason Graves, and James & Parker Augusta Smith, who generously donated their time and got our toes tapping and voices singing. Thank you to the Selectboard for sponsoring the cafés.

With so much positive energy and the many ideas you shared for future cafés, we are excited to move forward. I've included a list highlighting some of your ideas after this note. If you didn't have a chance to share your thoughts and inspirations, please do!

Next steps:

We will put together a calendar with some potential café dates with a view toward hosting music once or twice monthly, as well as a weekly or twice-monthly evening weeknight café (on a night when the library is not open), to support your internet access needs.

Ways you can help:

Your help as a community will keep this endeavor on its feet. If you can sign up to volunteer for 30 minutes to an hour at the beginning or end of a café, it will help us offer more cafés. We will put a sign-up sheet in the library, or you can let us know in person or online if you are available for one or more of the dates.

Another way to help is to bring a baked good or snack for the refreshment table.

We are also looking for musicians who are interested in playing.

The four cafés were a delight and we look forward to hosting more soon. Our next Heath Rural Connections meeting will center around integrating your ideas and developing a schedule that is both sustainable and innovative. We'd love your input at that meeting, via email, or any time you see one of us out and about.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon for some good strong coffee and some more time to connect with neighbors and friends.

Some of your café ideas:

Community Nights: An open mic. night, chess club, game/puzzle night, brown bag skits, "Kid's Café."

Movies: Thanks to Margo, who renewed the hall license to show films.

Meeting Space (private or town committee):

Could utilize upstairs space for this while coffee/tea available downstairs. Some cross-committee meetings could take place in casual setting for sharing ideas and partnering on things like grant writing, open space, or sustainability planning.

Wi-Fi Space:

Weeknight Wi-Fi open house, Verizon Rescue pop-up cafés when Verizon is down for a day or more.

Educational & Entertainment Cafés:

Full-moon hike, spring salamander crossing, snowshoe hike with a café or potluck to follow, pollinator presentation, workshops on rural skills, fix-it café.

Partnerships with Town Committees:

A "Meet Your Farmer Café & Potluck" in the spring or fall with the Heath Agricultural Commission.

A Garden Party Café to coincide with the Parks & Rec Committee's spring clean-up, planting, and seed/plant swap.

A Heath Arts & Cultural "Salon" or forum to vision for Heath in partnership with the Heath Cultural Council.

An all-boards café for schmoozing, visioning, and grant-writing.

—Lorena Loubsky

lloubskylonergan@netzero.com

Cell: 413-768-7714

Heath Rural Connections

Dell Dead End (continued from page 11)



(L to R) Auriel, Sheila Litchfield, Steve Thane, and Nancy Thane doth protest "April Fool's!"
Photo by Bruce Phillips

School Building Transition Team

The School Building Transition Team continues to meet at the former Heath Elementary School on a monthly basis, usually on the last Wednesday evening of the month. Team members are divided into sub-groups researching four different areas of possible future use for the building and grounds: solar, municipal/commercial, the arts, and housing. We continue to host professionals from related fields to gather information pertaining to these areas.

The solar sub-team has met separately with installation companies and with an official from the Green Communities Program. It is estimated that a 75-100 kilowatt installation will cover all of the electric use at the school building and much of the electric use of other town buildings. This would easily fit on a hillside north of the playing fields and not interfere with future use of these areas by Heath children. With the approval of the Board of Selectmen, the committee will apply for a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grant that would fund a complete solar study of the site and set the stage for funding for a significant part of the construction.

At our February 28 meeting the decision was made to remove the option of selling the property from the brainstorming list. Discussion at this, and previous meetings has centered on the importance of the property to the community. Recognition of the fact that population demographics change from time to time, we also do not want to eliminate the possible future need for a school.

Our meetings are open to all, with agendas posted at the Town Hall. Suggestions and questions are welcome.

—Hilma Sumner, Chairperson

Heath Fire Department Notice

Approved street number signs can be ordered by signing up at the Heath Post Office. The cost is \$10. You will be notified when the sign comes in. Be aware that, due to 911 requirements, some addresses in town are changing.



911

ONGOING CALENDAR

CRAFTY LADIES

Second and fourth Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Senior Center, downstairs in the Community Hall. Come join fellow sewers, knitters, and crafters and work on your favorite projects while enjoying each other's company. A \$2 donation is encouraged to defray the cost of using the building. For more information and schedule updates, please contact Susan Gruen at 337-4235 or gruenfam@verizon.net

FOOT CLINIC FOR SENIORS

Third Tuesday of each month in the Senior Center, downstairs in the Community Hall. Contact Eileen McVay-Lively at 337-4742 to set up an appointment and/or arrange transportation.

HEALTHY BONES AND BALANCE

Tuesday, 11 a.m. to noon, and Thursday, 10 to 11 a.m. in the Senior Center, downstairs in the Community Hall. Helps prevent falls and osteoporosis. For ages 55 and over.

SENIOR BROWN BAG LUNCH

First Thursday of each month, dessert & games. 11:45 a.m. in the Senior Center, downstairs in the Community Hall.

SENIOR LUNCHEON

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

SENIOR OPEN ART

First and third Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Senior Center, downstairs in the Community Hall. Open to all. You don't have to be an artist to join! Contact Eileen McVay-Lively at 337-4742 with questions.

TAI CHI


Monday, 10 to 11 a.m. upstairs in the Community Hall.

YOGA

Wednesday, 6 to 7 p.m. upstairs in the Community Hall, led by Kate Peppard.

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Apr 6	THE PEANUT CHRONICLES Hilltown Drama Club Performance Morning (TBD) and 6:30 p.m. at the former Heath Elementary School building	May 3	HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MEMBERS MEETING 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Community Hall Public is welcome!
Apr 7	THE PEANUT CHRONICLES Hilltown Drama Club Performance 6:30 p.m. at the former Heath Elementary School building	May 5	SPRING "CLEAN SWEEP" 9 a.m. to noon. See notice on page 11
Apr 8	FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREMENT CELEBRATION Thank you Ken Gilbert and Steve Bigelow! 2 to 4 p.m. at the Community Hall Potluck—appetizers and desserts	May 5	SPECIAL UKULELE STORY TIME WITH JULIE STEPANEK 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for ages 5 and under 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. family program for all ages. Both at the Community Hall. See Library Lines page 7 for more information
Apr 13	SPECIAL UKULELE STORY TIME WITH JULIE STEPANEK 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Heath Library. See Library Lines on page 7 for more information	May 11	PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Heath Library
Apr 20	GRAND RE-OPENING HEATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY 3 to 5 p.m. at the former Heath Elementary School building	May 11	HEATH ANNUAL TOWN ELECTIONS Noon to 7 p.m. at the Senior Center/ Community Hall
Apr 26	 HAPPY BIRTHDAY PEGGY STOWE! And a special Happy Birthday from all the kids who rode your school bus all those years!	May 12	HEATH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 9 a.m. at the former Heath Elementary School building
Apr 27	PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Heath Library	May 19	HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY DINING WITH HISTORY 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Community Hall. See notice on page 7
Apr 28	HEATH FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION PANCAKE BREAKFAST 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center/ Community Hall	May 25	PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Heath Library
May 2	HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY WORK BEE 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Fairgrounds All are welcome. Come to have fun and help.	May 26	FRIENDS OF THE HEATH LIBRARY BAKE SALE 10 a.m. to noon at Sawyer Hall front porch
		May 26	PARKS AND RECREATION ICE CREAM SOCIAL Time to be announced; on the Town Common

If you would like an event included on the Community Calendar, please drop a note in the black box located in the Town Hall vestibule, or send an email to theheathherald@gmail.com. Please include the title of the event, date, time, location, and contact person.



HEATH TOWN OFFICES

1 East Main St, Heath MA 01346
Phone: 413-337-4934 Fax: 413-337-8542
www.townofheath.org

Town Coordinator, Kara Leistyna

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

Selectboard, bos@townofheath.org

Tuesday 7 p.m., Sawyer Hall
Sheila Litchfield, Chair, 413-337-4957
Brian DeVriese, 413-337-5525
Robyn Provost-Carlson, 413-337-5316

Town Clerk, Hilma Sumner

townclerk@townofheath.org
Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 to 11 a.m.
Monday 3:30 to 5 p.m. or call for appointment
413-337-4845

Accountant, Tracey Baronas

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

Tax Collector, Elizabeth Nichols

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

Treasurer, Kristi Nartowicz

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

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Board of Assessors

Wednesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Alice Wozniak, Assistant Assessor
Robyn Provost-Carlson, 413-337-5316
Heather Hathwell, 413-339-4359

Board of Health, 413-337-4934

Betsy Kovacs, Chair, 413-337-5346
Mary Sumner, Clerk
Armand Clavette, 413-337-4065
Henry Godek
Susan Gruen
Tucker Jenkins

Finance Committee,

Ned Wolf, Secretary, 413-337-4476
Jeff Simmons, 413-337-4994
Gloria Fisher, 413-337-6626
Jan Carr
Kathy Inman

Library Board of Trustees

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

Planning Board

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

Agricultural Commission

Jessica Van Steensburg, 413-339-4820
Doug Mason, 413-339-4756
Nina Marshall, 413-339-4756
Sean Neill, 413-339-4820
Haynes Turkle

Cemetery Commission

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

Conservation Commission

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

Historical Commission, Heather Hathwell

COMMUNITY

Public Library, Don Purington, 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.
413-337-4934, ext. 7

Post Office Manager, Charlene Reynolds

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

School

MTRSD School Committee Representative

Budge Litchfield, 413-337-4957

Franklin County Technical School Representative

Art Schwenger, 413-625-2526

Hawlemont Elementary School

Samantha Rutz, Principal, 413-339-8316

Town Nurse, Claire Rabbitt, RN

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

Senior Center/Community Hall, 413-337-4847

Eileen Lively, Senior Coordinator, 413-337-4742

PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY

Animal Control Officer, Melinda Herzig

413-337-4934, x 108, or Shelburne Control at 413-625-8200 to have paged. All emergencies, dial 911.

Highway Department, Mike Shattuck, Highway

Superintendent, 413-337-4462; cell, 413-406-4516

Police Department, Melinda Herzig, Chief

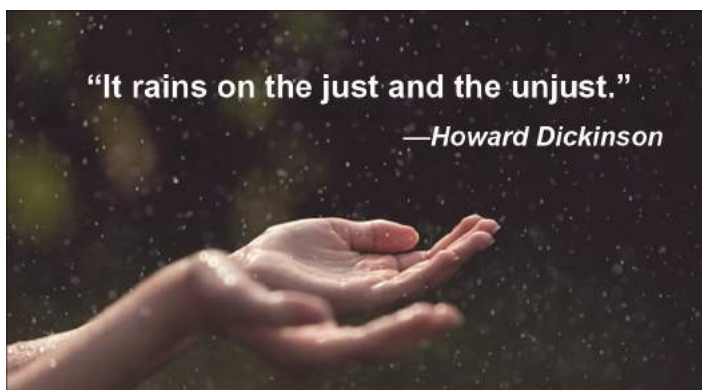
Office hours: Tuesday 6 to 8 p.m. 413-337-4934,
ext. 108, or call Shelburne Control at 413-625-8200
to have paged. All emergencies, dial 911

Transfer Station, Ken Erho, Attendant

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

Volunteer Fire Department

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



Heath Online

Stay connected with what's happening in Heath.
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Town Directory • Meeting Minutes • Community News
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To contact the Selectboard, email bos@townofheath.org

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



911
Emergency Call — calling...

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hold

contacts

Reminder from Heath Chief of Police, Melinda Herzig.

In case of emergency, contact Dispatch at 911. For non-emergencies, please call the business number: 413-625-8200.

Thank you.



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