
 Holliston Historical Society
NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018



A drawing of the cranberry plant showing the berries on the left and the blossoms that gave this plant its name on the right. The Pilgrims called the fruit “cranberry” because they thought the blossoms resembled a bird, the crane. There will be a program on cranberry growing in Sherborn and Holliston on October 14. See page 5 for more information.

Dates to Remember.....

September 21— Pie Night

September 23—38th Annual Harvest Fair

October 14—History of Cranberries Program

October 19—Oktoberfest Music and Dinner

November 4—Town Forest Walk with Joanne Hulbert

Officers

President	OPEN
Immediate Past President	Judy Grosjean
External Vice President	Beate Hait
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Treasurer	Don Bates

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Pam Kyrka, Nancy Lamb,
Patricia Pereira, Carol Kosicki

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Finance	Frank Melle
Nominations	Judy Grosjean
Education & Programs	Joanne Hulbert
Collections	Nancy Lamb & Carol Kosicki
Property Management	Paul Saulnier
Library & Archives	Joanne Hulbert
Membership	Patricia Pereira
Publicity and Publications	Pam Kyrka

Endowment Fund Chairman

Arlene Abbott

Web Services Chairman

Mary Curran

Annual Committee Chairs

Decorations	Joanna Hilliard
Harvest Fair	Beate Hait
Oktoberfest	Beate Hait



UPCOMING EVENTS

38th Annual Harvest Fair

**Sunday, September 23, 2018 (rain date: September 30)
10am-4pm**

It may still feel like summer, but the children have gone back to school and the apples are ripening on the trees, signaling that fall is approaching and the 38th Annual Harvest Fair will soon be here too! Chairperson Beate Hait and her committee have been busy all summer recruiting and registering vendors, and planning and organizing events and activities. The Harvest Fair is the Society's biggest fundraiser and has become an annual fall favorite in the area.

This year our volunteer coordinator, Bill Hatch, and members of the Harvest Fair committee will be calling members to ask them to volunteer for a time slot on Sunday, to bake for our bake table, and/or to make apple pies on Friday night. Please volunteer in any way you can. It takes many hands to help this event run smoothly.

This year's vendor list is unique, with many returning favorites and some interesting new ones: origami, fudge, cutting boards, handmade wooden toys, jewelry, maple syrup, greeting cards, photographers, baby items, collectables, wreaths, lawn art from recycled articles, honey and bee products, bath and body products, banks, candles, unique clothing and vintage and antique itemsand much more.

Lunch of chili, hotdogs, and a special vegetarian option made by Bill Hodge will be served in the barn. Buy a slice of pie or a serving of apple crisp to eat right then or visit the bake table to take home a treat. Our famous Historical Society apple pies will be for sale also. Children may romp in the Bouncy House, visit the animals and tractor, and/or have their faces painted.

The Asa Whiting House will be open from 11:30am and 2:30pm.

Members of the Collections Committee have been working on new displays and they will be there in costume to show guests the house. In addition, Holliston Historian Joanne Hulbert will be in the library to answer any questions.

Local merchants have donated items for our silent auction table. We will also have flower arrangements by Joanna Hilliard up for bid. If you have a skill or item to donate, please let us know.

See you at the Fair!

—*Pam Kyrka and Pat Pereira*



Pie Night

Friday, September 21, 4pm-???

In order to sell pies at the Fair, we need to make the pies! Once again, Joanna Hilliard is hard at work asking orchards to donate apples. Ten bushels of them will need to be washed, peeled, sliced, and arranged into the pie shells. There are jobs for experienced bakers and novices alike. There are even jobs for non-bakers such as assembling the pie boxes and ferrying pies from one station to another. It is a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. We socialize as we go and end the evening with a pizza party to celebrate. At 4 pm, I would love some help with set-up and preparations the peeling should be in full swing by 6 pm or so. Thank you to all of you who show up each year! I would love to welcome anyone new too!

—*Mary Curran*

Upcoming Program

The History of the Cranberry Industry in Sherborn and Holliston

October 14, 2018, 3:00 pm

At the Sherborn Old Town Hall

The Holliston Historical Society will hold a joint meeting with the Sherborn Historical Society for a presentation about the history of the cranberry industry in the towns of Holliston and Sherborn. The meeting will be held at the Sherborn “old town hall” —the big brown building between the Sherborn Library and the First Parish Church. The meeting will begin at 3 PM and will include a tour of the Sherborn Historical Society’s archives room. The presentation will be given by George Fiske, Betsy Johnson, and Joanne Hulbert.

UPCOMING EVENT

21st Annual Oktoberfest

Celebrate Oktoberfest on Friday, October 19 at 7pm with fellow Historical Society members as well as your neighbors and friends. Our 1815 barn is the perfect venue for this festive occasion.

Back by popular demand is the featured entertainment: the Double Eagle Oktoberfest Band, which has performed all over the East Coast and Canada and will get you laughing, singing and dancing a polka before the evening is done. You could also be given an opportunity to play the Stumpf Fiddle!

In addition to large, soft pretzels and your choice of beverage (wine, craft beers, soda or water) we serve a meal of premium

knockwurst, rye bread, German potato salad and red cabbage. After the meal enjoy coffee, tea and homemade apple crisp with whipped cream for dessert. Vegetarians can request Käsespätzle in place of the knockwurst by notifying Bea Hait at 508-429-3564 or beateh1@aol.com no later than October 12. Members of the Society volunteer with the setup, cooking, serving, decorations and clean up. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Bill Hatch at bhatch17@gmail.com or 508-429-5362.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased through PayPal at hollistonhistoricalsociety.org and at select merchants in town. Space is limited so purchase your tickets early to ensure your spot at a table for this delectable German meal, lively musical entertainment and Gemütlichkeit. Prosit!

—Beate Hait



A reveler participates in the Stumpf Fiddle competition at Oktoberfest.

Upcoming Program



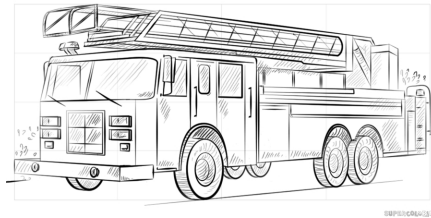
Walk in the Town Forest with Joanne Hulbert

**Sunday, November 4, 2018
2 pm**

On Sunday, November 4 at 2 pm, the Historical Society will conduct a forest hike to locations in the Town Forest and/or Fairbanks Conservation Land. The walk will feature landmarks and locations of some very interesting and curious sites. The walk will truly be very interesting to those who have not taken advantage of one of Holliston's greatest natural assets. Just wear sturdy shoes, a walking stick if you are so inclined, and the walk will not be as strenuous as you may imagine! Meet at the Asa Whiting House and we will let you know where to go from there.

2-2 Four rounds at 6:30 and 7:00

If you grew up in Holliston and lived near the center of town or the Dairy you should know what 2-2 at 6:30 and 7:00 am in the winter meant. NO SCHOOL!! Anyone else who has been in town at noon has heard the fire whistle at the Central Fire Station on Central Street that blows every day at that time. The fire whistle at the East Holliston station (Gates Station by Dunkin Donuts) also blows at noon. Why do we have a fire whistle? Before there were scanners and cell phones, the volunteer firemen (and everyone else in town) could tell where the fire was by the whistle. Every section of town had its own signal.



Important places in town had their own direct alarm, just like today. When I moved into my “new to me” house, thumb-tacked to the back of the cellar door was the Holliston Fire Alarm card printed by Jensen Sheehan Insurance Agency (continuous service since 1926). That is exactly where the Fire Alarm card was found in the house I grew up in, but that card was probably printed by Olmstead Insurance. As kids you were taught how to count the whistles and knew the signal for your house. Have you read the story that Bobby Blair wrote for hollistonreporter.com several years ago about the bonfire that was built on the cliff overlooking Goodwill Park to be set on July 3rd? It is titled: “The Bonfire That Almost Wasn’t”. His uncle had told him it was for his birthday. About noon time on July 3, 1962 the fire whistle blew 8 - - 2 - 4 (many times). There was a forest fire off Prospect Street. The bonfire was engulfed.

Some of the entries from my copy of the Holliston Fire Alarms:

Holliston Fire Alarms	
Signal	Location
24	Carlton Dr, Marked Tree Rd, Pearl St, Persis Pl, Pine St, Prospect St, Quincy Pl, Robin Hill Rd, Smithhurst Rd,
25	Square, Green St, Smith Rowe
45	Washington St from Church Pl to Baker St; Curve St..... (signal for Col. Asa Whiting house)
Direct Alarm	
21	Williams Shoe
224	Interstate Photo (who remembers this?)
414	Andrews School
3235	High School, Hollis Street
Signal	
4	Out of Town
8	Forest Fire
12	Boy Scouts
22	4 Rounds No School (BEST SIGNAL OF ALL)
111	Town Meeting (need a quorum for TM)
My District Number is _____	
Fire Chief	John M. Feehely
Assistant Chief	Donald E. Rawson

--Carol Kosicki

Annual Meeting Report

The Historical Society's Annual Meeting was held on May 20, 2018 following a potluck dinner and a presentation by Richard Kattman. Rick is a landscape architect and the Garden Committee has been using the plan he designed last year to inform their purchases and plantings. Financially, the Society is doing well. External VP Bea Hait said that there had been three fundraising events which added a collective \$12,700 to our coffers. Frank Melle, chairman of the Finance Committee, reported on this year's capital improvement projects and the grants we had received. The Society paid \$17,500 for \$63,000 worth of work on the porches, the electrical system, and the basement storage room. David Grosjean let us know that the Endowment Fund balance had reached \$125,856 that week. Treasurer Don Bates continued the good news. Even with all the work done on the property this year, our bank balance of \$55,000 is about the same as last May. Bill Hodge and Stewart Wohlrab, our property managers, have continued to work hard to attract renters; rentals account for most of our income.

Judy Grosjean read the slate of candidates for election to the board of directors. David Grosjean moved to officially place the slate on the ballot. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was voted in. Please see the list of board members on page two of this newsletter.

Finally, award winners were announced. The Member of the Year award went to Beate Hait for stepping up to take on leadership of the Harvest Fair. Outgoing President Paul Saulnier recognized the years of service Dan Mades has given the Historical Society. In addition to serving as president for three years, Dan revived the dormant Finance Committee and established our budget system, creating, it appeared, "money out of thin air!" Our budget has now grown to over \$100,000/year. Paul awarded Dan the President's Award for his efforts.

—*mec*

Committee Updates

The climate-controlled basement storage room is essentially completed. The Collections Committee is working on a floor covering, shelving, and paint colors. They look forward to moving sensitive pieces of the collection into this safer storage spot.

The Kitchen Committee is working on plans to renovate the house kitchen and hopes to have the work completed after the rental season.

The gardens have a new drip-irrigation system and some new plantings thanks to the Garden Committee and a few generous donors. The two new trees by the street are called yellowwoods; they were recommended and donated by Rick and Barbara Kattman.

Paul Saulnier and Bill Hodge once again spear-headed a fun and successful Car Show and Pancake Breakfast on Father's Day. There were at least 100 cars on display, trophies were awarded by our generous sponsors, and many breakfasts were served, raising more than \$2,000 for the Society.

—mec



Have an idea for a fundraiser?

Two of our popular fundraisers—the February Train Show and A Taste of Holliston in April—have run their course, leaving at least one opening for a late winter/early spring fundraiser to take their place. If you have an idea for a fun event, please let us know.

**Holliston Historical Society
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