

More Letters

Prepare Now For Amherst Tree Lighting

To the editor:

Two months from today's issue will be the date of the annual Amherst Tree Lighting Festival, Sunday December 14! So, before October begins to shake its leafy head, I want to invite all town groups to join in, by hosting, or participating in an event! As all know, the ATLF is always held on the Second Sunday in December. This year, it falls late...on Sun Dec. 14 the latest date on which it can fall, and what with the economy, we may have more attendance this year and less "competition" from the stores on Rte 101-A. (Over the years the steady influx of 101-A Box Stores has meant smaller crowds at the Festival.)

This year people may be dearly looking for what the Festival can provide....a fun, low cost - to free, day for all ages that encompasses the spirit of the holiday season that runs from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day.

Info:

1. Clubs are invited to do what they have done before...or create something new! As you may know, Town and School organizations as well as Residents are invited to create a seasonal event that ties in to Christmas, Channukah, Kwanzaa, La Posada, Snow, and / or the Winter Solstice etc. The events can range from religious events at houses of worship such as nativities and dredl making, to ethnic events such as Kwanzaa Crafts and Pinatas, to winter wonderland games. There can be something for everyone to celebrate!
2. Over the years the Festival has offered: AFD Pancake breakfasts, AFD Visits with Santa, Village Hayrides, the Warm-ups with Cocoa and Cookies, the Holiday Marketplaces in the Town Hall, Town Band and Congregational Church Choirs' Concerts, Nativities, The Enchanted Parsonage, St. Luke's Organ Concerts, Cub Scout New Hat and Mitten Collections, Library's Holiday Stories from Around the World, Cider with the School Board, Chestnut Roastings, Open Houses at Village Churches, and Buildings, Games, Crafts, Spaghetti Suppers, Caroling, The Tree Lighting ceremony itself, and more. We have many groups already signed up... Come join us!
3. For this year, we need a new group to sponsor "The Warmup...Cocoa and Cookies at the Congregational Church Community Room". It had been done by the Newcomers for years, and then when they could no longer do it, the SV Quilters' Guild stepped up in 2007...and now it needs a new host... a group interested in baking (or buying!) LOTS of cookies and a few volunteers to actually run the event, which has always been free.
4. New ideas...Might your organization sponsor a Village Door decorating contest? Gingerbread House Exhibit? Decorate Your Own Gingerbread Boy/Girl Craft Event? Open Houses at Village Commercial locales? Events at Village Homes? Childrens' Short Movies? Your ideas???
5. FYI: Each group is autonomous, chooses and names their own events, makes its own decisions, has control over its own event and provides its OWN:

Funding	Publicity	Insurance if needed
Location	Parking	Personnel
Decorations	Signs	Supplies
Snacks	Music	Cleanup

Each event is funded and run independently by each group. There is no town appointed committee, no town budget, no town funds. Rather, this is a case of groups banding together to create a day for the town.
6. If your group plans to participate: please RSVP by e-mail to me at ACBergin@aol.com to have your event placed on the "Schedule of Events" posters. My job as co-ordinator is to organize and produce the Tree Lighting Ceremony, set the day's schedule, publicize the event in local papers and school handouts, (Groups are encouraged to also publicize your own event individually).

Thanks!

Ann Bergin
Amherst

Teacher Resigns Abruptly at Amherst Middle School

To the editor:

For the past 17 years, I have been a Health and Life Skills teacher at the Amherst Middle School. My resignation from SAU #39 was accepted as of October 3, 2008.

I know my departure was sudden for the current students and their parents. I am confident that the administration will find a replacement teacher and that the Life Skills program will continue. Thanks to the generous grants from the Amherst PTA over the past three years, I have left the foods room with high quality new equipment in all four kitchen units. I hope you will all have success in the program.

To the teaching and support staff of the Middle School, the difficult beginning to this school year should not negate the successes of the past 17 years and the previous two years in 1978-1980. It was a privilege to work with such an outstanding group of educators. I thank those of you who had a role in guiding the education of my three children - Kate Whitegiver Peters, Andy Whitegiver and Jen Whitegiver. A special thanks to my colleagues in Integrated Arts for your friendship and support.

I have many remembrances of my former students and their families. In many cases I taught the entire family! Some of the highlights are the Home Alone and Time Capsule units of 5th grade, the Friendship unit of 60' grade, 7th grade Project Safeguard and the 8th grade HIV/AIDS unit and Quilt project. I am so grateful to Elden Neilsen, Chris Brunelle and Larry Ballard for our collaboration on seven musical productions: Oklahoma, Disney in Song, An Evening with Andrew Lloyd Webber, The Golden Canteen, Cabaret, Jukebox Saturday Night, Fiddler On The Roof and The Silver Anniversary. What fun (and hard work) we had together with so many talented students.

My passion has always been to deliver knowledge and skills to help the youths of Amherst and Mont Vernon live successfully in the future. With my work on the Wellness Committee and in my classroom, my hope is that I accomplished that goal. My wish for all of you is to have great success in your careers/education and much health and happiness in your personal lives. To quote a line from a song used in The Golden Canteen, "Thanks for the Memories!"

Sincerely,
Licia Whitegiver Hazzard
Nashua

Our Best Hope Of Having a Future

To the editor:

There are so many issues in the news that demand our attention: economic meltdown, corporate greed, environment degradation, climate change, health care - the list goes on.

I believe that Barack Obama and Joe Biden are the best qualified team to take us into a brighter future.

Please join me in voting the Obama/Biden ticket into office!

Sincerely,
Barbara Smith
Amherst

People in the News

Norman Katz Named Toastmaster of The Year



Norm Katz, left, receives Toastmaster of The Year Award.

NASHUA – Norman Katz was named Toastmaster of the Year by the Nashua-Hudson Toastmasters Club at their annual fall dinner. Mr. Katz is a resident of Amherst and the club's current treasurer. He was chosen Toastmaster of the Year in recognition of his long-term contributions to the club, which he has served faithfully as an officer, mentor, and leader.

The same evening, the club installed its officers and Allison Aneser officially began her second term as president. Mrs. Aneser, a resident of Hollis, is a Holistic Health Counselor at The Wellness Center at Family Chiropractic of Merrimack. She is also the author of the health/nutrition book *"Refined*

to Real Food".

Other officers include: Bill Choquette, vice president education; Mike Truesdell, vice president membership; Oliver McMahon, secretary; and Dawn Richards, sergeant at arms.

Toastmasters International is a world-wide non-profit organization focused on the development of communication and leadership skills in a supportive and positive learning environment. The Nashua-Hudson Toastmasters club meets evenings, the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, at the Nashua Public Library. For more information about the club call Mike at 889-8152, or visit www.n-htm.org.

Amherst Author Writes New Book To Help Teachers Weather Wall Street Crises

AMHERST -- Amherst resident and author Dr. Kathie Nunley has just release a new book showing America's teachers how to secure their troubled retirements. Teachers both locally and across the nation are seeing their retirement plans in jeopardy as pension funds, often invested in troubled Wall Street institutions, are disappearing.

"Our teachers dedicate their lives to performing our community's most important work. Now they are wondering if they will have to teach until they're 80," Nunley said.

Nunley's new book, co-authored with Amherst business expert Kevin McCormick, is titled *"The Successful Educator's Guide To Earning Extra Income: How to use your talents, skills, and intelligence to make*

money in the time outside of your school day."

The book details how teachers can take inventory of their skills, education, talents, and loves to create an in-demand product or service line. Then teachers use inexpensive operation and promotion methods to expand their business and their profits.

"Starting your own business, then intelligently growing it, is the time-tested American way to grow your income and provide for a reliable retirement. Once your business is up and running, you are the boss and you can't be fired or downsized," McCormick said. Order the book and get more no-cost tips for teachers at Brains.org/teacherincome

Fashion and Go Red for Women!

NASHUA – On September 20 Macy's stores nationwide hosted the "Shop For A Cause" charity event. Donations benefited Go Red For Women and other local nonprofit organizations. Customers who made a \$5 donation received an all-day savings pass for select merchandise in-store and on macy.com.

Irene Raissis Alton, Mrs. New Hampshire ~ International 2008 and a resident of Amherst, had the great pleasure of partnering with the staff of Macy's at the Pheasant Lane Mall in Nashua to support the Shop For A Cause charity event. She and her daughter Sophia, participated in Macy's Fashion Show and also signed autographs while the Shop For A Cause event was taking place throughout the store. Irene Raissis Alton stated, "Shop For A Cause was an incredible charity event that helped support many local nonprofit organizations and Go Red For Women which is the No. 1 killer of women – heart disease. It is so important to know how our bodies work and how we can help ourselves to a healthier lifestyle by understanding and taking charge of our health regardless of age or background – love your heart."

The more you know about your heart health the easier it is to protect your heart. That's where the Go Red For Women Check-Up can help. It's here to help women of all ages and backgrounds get the facts they need to partner with their doctors and make smart decisions about their



PHOTO BY ROBERT DANIEL/A&M DANIEL LLC

Irene Raissis Alton, Mrs. New Hampshire ~ International with her daughter Sophia, showing that age does not matter when it comes to your heart health!

health. Support Go Red For Women and the critical fight to wipe out the No. 1 killer of women — heart disease. For more information and to join the crusade to fight this disease, go to www.goredforwomen.org.

Norwood Completes Photography for a Feature Film

Amherst native Todd Norwood recently completed principal photography on the feature film, "Tricks of a Woman" for Mutressa Movies. The movie is a romantic comedy that was shot in and around Boston.

Starring in the film are Natasha Lyonne ("American Pie"), Vincent Pastore ("Big Pussy" from "The Sopranos"), Scott Elrod ("Men in Trees") and

Carlos Leon ("Oz")

Shot with the new Red One camera, this Pygmalion-like story is about a high fashion model photographer who makes a bet that he can transform a waitress working in a fish market, into a fashion model.

Todd has also completed over thirty episodes of an Internet sitcom, which will be available online in November.

PEABODY MILL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Fall Programs through October/November 2008 (Partial List)

PO Box 1045
Amherst, NH 03031

603-673-1141
www.pmec.org

Please visit our website at www.pmec.org for more information. Register online at www.amherstrec.org. Registrations for PMEC programs will no longer be accepted at the Library or the Town Hall. All programs require pre-registration.

Leave No Child Inside – School Vacation Day Programs

Are you wondering what your children will do on their school vacation days? Send them to the PMEC where they'll spend the day learning about and enjoying nature! Content topics vary from day to day depending on weather. Enjoy indoor & outdoor activities such as Hiking, Fishing, Animal Tracking, Nature Crafts, Songs, Stories, and Games! Bring snack, drink(s), and lunch (if staying all day). Dress your child in appropriate clothing including layers for outdoor activities. Please pack an extra set of clothing, shoes, and socks.

When: Tuesday 11/11 (Veteran's Day), Wednesday 11/26 & Friday 11/28
Where: PMEC
Time: Half Day 9:00AM-Noon or 1:00-4:00PM
Full Day 7:30AM-5:30PM
Fee: \$20 Half Day Amherst Resident, \$30 Half Day Nonresident, \$40 Full Day Amherst Resident, \$50 Full Day Nonresident, \$175 Full Week Amherst Resident, \$185 Full Week Nonresident

Under the Moon Hikes

Join us for stories and a walk in the woods along easy paths that accommodate people of all ages. Let PMEC help you find your way around the night sky. Bring a flashlight to help you navigate uneven terrain.

When: Full Moon Hikes Friday, 11/14 at 7:00PM
New Moon Hikes Saturday, 10/25 at 7:00PM
Friday, 11/28 at 7:00PM
Where: Various Locations (see PMEC website)
Fee: \$6 Amherst Resident, \$8 Nonresident, \$15 Amherst Resident family (3+ people), \$20 Nonresident family (3+ people)

Leave No Child Inside – An Evening in the Woods

Send your child to the PMEC to reconnect with nature! The Joe English reservation is an enchanting place at night. Your child will love outdoor activities such as star gazing, night

hikes, and observing animal habitats. Once inside, children will enjoy snacks, games and crafts. Each child will come home with a nature themed craft. Children must be school aged. Please dress your child in appropriate outdoor clothing. Children grades K-8.

When: 11/14, & 12/12
Where: PMEC
Time: 6:00-9:00PM
Fee: \$20 Amherst Resident/night, \$30 Nonresident/night

Grapevine Wreath Making

Come take a little walk with us and gather nature's bounty for a beautiful wreath for your front door. Please bring hand clippers if you have them.

When: Saturday, 10/18
Where: PMEC
Time: 1:00-3:00PM
Fee: \$10 Amherst Resident, \$20 Nonresident

6th Annual Nature Spooktacular

Crawl on in for an afternoon of fun for all ages! Costumes encouraged. Enjoy educational booths, crafts, and a concession stand. Visit misunderstood creatures such as spiders, snakes, and bugs. Youngsters can crawl through our soil tunnel and discover what lives underground. Join us for an exciting afternoon presentation with Wildlife Encounters of NH where you'll meet spectacular wild animal critters such as snakes, skunks, frogs, and wild cats.

When: Sunday, 10/26
Where: Souhegan High School
Time: 1:00-4:00PM
Fee: \$5 Amherst Resident, \$6 Nonresident

How to Survive in the Wilderness Hike

Are you a casual hiker who wants to know more about hiker safety and survival? Join Mountain Man, Chas Terry, for a stroll through the Joe English woods while learning about hiker safety and survival. Chas will discuss hiking safety, hiking during hunting season, and survival skills. This is a great way to familiarize yourself with the trails adjacent to PMEC. Please wear appropriate footwear and bring water to drink.

When: Saturdays, 10/25 & 11/15
Where: PMEC
Time: 1:00-3:00PM
Fee: \$6 Amherst Resident, \$8 Nonresident, \$15 Amherst Resident family, \$20 Nonresident family

HeartPounders - Scary Stories for the Strong at Heart

Looking for a bit of spine tingling this Halloween? Join us on Halloween night for an evening of dark and spooky stories with renowned storyteller Odds Bodkins. Odds Bodkins' character-voice and music-filled storytelling style has been mesmerizing listeners, young and old, for twenty-four years. This program of is suitable for adults and older children.

When: Friday, 10/31
Time: 8:30PM
Where: Souhegan High School
Fee: \$8 Amherst resident, \$10 Nonresident

Amherst Tree Lighting Ceremony

Please join us before the tree lighting ceremony at the Fire Station to create a nature craft and visit with PMEC staff and volunteers!

When: Sunday, 12/14
Time: 2:00-4:00PM
Where: Amherst Fire Station
Fee: Free

Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO) Wilderness First Aid

Become certified in SOLO Wilderness First Aid (WFA). SOLO courses are designed for trip leaders, park rangers, outdoor educators, mountain and river guides, and outdoor enthusiasts who want to know how to prevent accidents as well as how to cope when the unexpected occurs. SOLO's "hands-on" approach trains you to act competently in the kind of emergencies you are most likely to encounter. More info on SOLO can be found at: <http://soloschools.com>. Box lunch will be provided. Please wear comfortable clothing, including walking/hiking shoes.

When: Saturday & Sunday, 11/22 & 11/23
Where: PMEC
Time: 9:00AM-5:00PM
Fee: \$175 Amherst Resident, \$185 Nonresident

Fall Strollers

Join us for our weekly easy trail walks exploring the diversity of our conservation lands at various locations. Be sure to register for these strolls the Wednesday before. Check the PMEC website for the location and meeting place for each stroll. Instructor: Barbara Wilkins.

Who: Adults & Seniors
Where: Conservation Land
When: Fridays, 9/5-10/17, 10/31-11/21
Time: 10:30AM -12:00PM
Fee: Free