

THE  
AMHERST CITIZEN

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AMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 13 – 26, 2009

Ice Storm '08

Homeowners and cleanup crews are still busy at work fixing the damage caused by December 11's ice storm.

Mont Vernon page 16

Honor Roll

Souhegan High School's First Trimester 2008 Honor Roll is included in this issue.

Schools page 7

SportsFolio

Souhegan High School's winter sports teams are in the hunt for more championship banners. Follow the action in *The Citizen*.

SportsFolio page 12

BRIEFS

Town of Amherst Public Hearing

The Town's Public Hearing on the Budget and Bonds is on Monday, January 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall and the Deliberative Session is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. at SHS.

Souhegan Cooperative School District Public Notice

**Public Hearing For School District Budget**  
The Souhegan Cooperative School District will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at Souhegan High School to consider the 2009-10 Souhegan Cooperative School District budget. (Snow Date: January 16, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.)

Amherst School District Public Notice

**Public Hearing For School District Budget**  
The Amherst School District will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Souhegan High School to consider the 2009-10 Amherst School District budget. (Snow Date: January 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.)

Blood Drive at Messiah Lutheran Church

January is a time of new beginnings. To help celebrate National Volunteer Blood Donor Month, the American Red Cross Blood Services is partnering with Dunkin' Donuts. As a thank you each presenting donor will receive a coupon for a free pound of coffee during the month of January. The coupons are redeemable at all participating Dunkin' Donuts Restaurants. The American Red Cross will be at Messiah Lutheran Church located at 303 Route 101 in Amherst on Saturday, January 17th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. For more information, call the Red Cross Blood center at 1-800-262-2660 or your local Red Cross Chapter.

Amherst Democrats Potluck Supper

The Amherst Democrats are pleased to announce their first potluck supper of 2009 at the Amherst Country Club on Thursday, January 22. Kevin Landrigan has been The Telegraph's political reporter covering the Statehouse in Concord since January 1988. He's covered every presidential primary in New Hampshire for a daily newspaper since 1980. Kevin has also appeared on numerous TV & radio shows in New Hampshire as an expert political panelist. Kevin will speak from his background on politics in this very political year. All area progressives are invited to attend. Please bring a salad, main course, or dessert. The schedule for the evening is:

- Social time; 6:00 - 6:30pm
- Supper; 6:30 - 7:30pm
- Guest speaker; 7:30 - 8:30pm

Amherst Baseball Club General Meeting

Please join us Thursday, January 15 at 7:00pm in the Amherst Middle School cafeteria for the Club's annual meeting and information about the 2009 spring season.

We have reached an agreement with the Recreation Commission that allows us to move forward with the privatization of baseball for the youth of Amherst and Mont Vernon ages 10 – 15. Highlights of the upcoming season include:

- Lower registration fees
- Identical fees for both Amherst and Mont Vernon residents
- Increased coaching resources and player development

Join us to hear more about the upcoming season and opportunities for involvement.  
[www.amherstbaseballclub.org](http://www.amherstbaseballclub.org)

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Next Issue: January 27, 2009

Winter Robins Return to Amherst



MARTI WARREN PHOTO

This Winter Robin enjoys red crabapples in Amherst Village.

By MARTI WARREN

AMHERST – It is that time of year when the Robins return, no it isn't spring!! This time of year they are commonly referred to as winter robins. They arrive in large flocks with as many as 200 to feast on the beautiful red crab apples that are so prevalent in Amherst village. Several years back when I first noticed their arrival I worried they would not survive our harsh New England weather, but they do survive the blinding blizzards, nor' easters, ice storms and nights as cold as 30 below zero. Researchers say regardless of the temperatures

outside, the robins body temperature under the feathers is about 104 degrees. Their thick down feathers hold the heat in. Their bodies produce heat by shivering, and they get that energy to shiver from food. No worms available this time of year, so their diet consists of fruit. Interesting enough the fruit is the sweetest tasting after it has frozen and thawed a few times. From year to year they seem to time their arrival just when the berries are the sweetest. It only takes a few weeks to eat the majority of the crab apples on the strip across from the town library and then they are off to another location.

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Master Planning Notes

Assessing Our Vision and Goals

RICHARD HART, PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

AMHERST – With the new year we will continue our review of the draft Amherst Master Plan. Goals for each of the 8 Master Plan elements have been developed, along with actions needed to reach them. The plan and goals are now under review to assure they are correct, consistent, and what Amherst needs. In December our hopes of reviewing all the goals in one meeting were dashed. Goals for only the first element, Land Use, were debated. As most of the Land Use goals depend on goals and decisions made in other elements, such as Housing, Economic Development, and Natural Resources, the discussions were lengthy and decisions were often dif-

ficult to make. Some of the Land Use goals were modified, but other changes were delayed until further, more detailed discussions could be completed when other elements are addressed. On January 21st the next 3 elements will be discussed. We will review the goals for the Historic and Cultural Resources, Natural Resources, and Housing elements at this meeting. The documents under consideration are the "Amherst Master Plan Vision and Goals" and the "Draft Master Plan". Both are available at <http://www.amherstnh.gov/MP/index.html>. With continued community participation, and a bit of luck, we now expect to complete the review of all the elements in 2 or 3 more

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Selectmen's Budget and Bond Articles Take Shape

By CLIFF ANN WALES

AMHERST – After the January 5th selectmen's meeting, the majority of the board is supporting a \$15,000,000, twenty-year bond to repair and rebuild 22 miles of road in Amherst. Other options were presented for five bonds carried over 15 years and three bonds carried over 15 years (two years apart). Making the presentation for the Road Funding Analysis Committee was chairman Jay Dinkel, and Liz and Bill Overholt. Selectman Brad Galinson argued that a \$15 million bond might have a small chance of passing but a \$3 million bond may be the way to go. Mr. Grella spoke about the slide that showed the bottom line on what an average homeowner was going to pay in both principal and interest with the range

from \$5197 down to \$4800 total. He spoke of his views on the matter and did not want to see maintenance costs increase. He thought the ideal situation would be a single bond, but would lean towards three bonds. Mr. Infanti agreed with Galinson in that \$15,000,000 would be "a tough sell." Selectman Infanti said that since he has been on the board the biggest complaint he has heard is on the condition of the roads. After further debate on bond options and how they thought the taxpayer would vote, Mr. Bowler announced that he would support a single bond for \$15 million and let the voter decide. Mr. Grella agreed expressing concern that maintenance will eventually catch up with them.

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Amherst Town Library

Inside Russia Today

AMHERST – The Amherst Town Library invites you to join us for another offering in our January series of adult evening programs entitled, "Around the World at Your Library." Scholar Marina Forbes presents, Inside Russia Today, on Tuesday, January 27 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Johnson Meeting Room. The fall of Soviet Communism in the early 1990s catapulted Russia into a new social order. Marina Forbes establishes a link between Russia's rich cultural heritage and the lives of Russians today. The lecture includes a blend of numerous anecdotes from Marina's personal experience growing up in Soviet Russia with a careful synthesis of the available scholarship on Russian character and an analysis of everyday life, culture and values in the New Russia. The "new rich,"



Marina Forbes

the evolving role of women, the revival of the Orthodox Church, humor, family life, entertainment, and the emphasis on consumerism and tourism are all grist for the mill as she brings personal experience and research to

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4th Annual Oxfam Banquet Addresses Global Hunger



AMHERST CITIZEN PHOTO

Jillian Bamforth eats a bowl of rice at Hunger Banquet.

By CLIFF ANN WALES

AMHERST – Two hundred and seventy-five 7th grade students attended the Oxfam Hunger Banquet at the Amherst Middle School on January 9th. After finishing lunch, there were some hungry students and also some very hungry students. The class was divided into three categories representing the world population living in hunger: low

income (165 students who were seated on the floor), middle income (70 students seated in chairs) and high income (41 students seated at tables with place settings). The lunch served to the high income was a nutritious and luscious lasagna with a tossed salad and rolls. The middle-income students balanced a paper plate with beans and rice and low-income students

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SHS FIRST Robotics

Comedy Night: Saturday, January 17

AMHERST - The FIRST Robotics Team will be sponsoring three Boston based comedians to join us once again for the Annual Family Oriented Comedy Night at SHS's Theater on Saturday, January 17 at 7 PM. Tickets are \$15-\$20. We'd appreciate YOUR SUPPORT of these dynamic kids as they raise money to help build a competitive robot. Follow

the team as they compete in Manchester and Atlanta, Georgia. Meet some of the student in their own Robotics skit. Headlining this year's Comedy Night is Paul Nardizzi, winner of the 2001 Boston Comedy Festival and author of "602 Reasons to be TICKED OFF". Check

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Public Notice

The Amherst Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Town Clerk's Office at the Amherst Town Hall on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 between 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The session will be for correction of the checklist. Change in party registration will be accepted.

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