

Letters & Opinion

Amherst Conservation Commission’s Thank you

To the editor:

The Amherst Conservation Commission would like to thank Steve Desmaris and Dennis Slocomb for assisting in improving the Alice Towne property, located across from the Wilkins School in Amherst.

Steve provided an excavator and an operator that enabled the ACC to raze and remove two deteriorating sheds. He also removed an existing well that was a safety hazard and took out the extensive vegetation, most of which consisted of invasive plant species, that had overgrown one of the building areas.

Dennis donated the transportation removal costs of the two containers of demolition material from the property.

Because of the generous contributions of these two individuals, the Alice Towne property is now safer and much easier to mow and maintain by the ACC for the enjoyment of the Amherst community.

*Sincerely,
The Amherst Conservation Commission*

Outage Lessons and Thanks from The Prisoner on Christian Hill

To the editor:

I learned how to brush my teeth with one ounce of water.
I learned that 95% is not as close as it sounds to 100%.
I learned what my neighbors look like (of course I still don't know their names, but, well...maybe next outage).
I'm thankful for this kickin' physique I acquired splitting, hauling, and heaving wood for eight days. (Of course, no cookies with TV every night helped, because, well....I was asleep by 8pm.)
I'm thankful for the trickle stream on my property that provided water for my daily painstaking chore of filling bottles for the commode.
I'm thankful for my neighbor's gleaming pole lamp, that like Paul Revere's lantern, signaled a sign of life and end to the power outage.
As I was shoveling away outside on that Saturday afternoon, I was thankful for that resounding cry I heard from my neighbor a quarter mile away, "Power! Power! We have power!". It was as if she was saying, "The war. The war is over!" to this prisoner of Christian Hill Rd.
I learned that even though I can be self-reliant, none of us are self-sufficient. We are all in this together. Blessings, for a wonderful holiday.

*Patricia Bodan
Amherst*

Historical Society Grows Membership by 300%

To the editor,

As promised the Historical Society of Amherst would like to report on the year long Robert and Karin Finlay Foundation membership challenge. Thirty-three N.H. historical societies raced to achieve the greatest increase in membership by October 31, 2008. The grand prize was a very generous cash award of \$25,000 donated by the Finlay Foundation. We would like to extend our congratulations to the Lake Winnepesaukee Historical Society who achieved the greatest increase with 699 new members and was declared the winner. Although the Amherst historical society did not take home the grand prize, we are delighted with the response achieved during the twelve month drive. Our membership increased its size by over 300% - 150 members to 457 total members. On behalf of the historical society's board many thanks to all members, new and returning for your dedication to and support of our important mission. Additionally, we truly appreciate Ann and Peter Bergin for their community wide letter and emails of support and the Amherst Citizen for its generous press coverage.

Member contributions are critical to preserving Amherst's rich history and providing the funds for our annual high school scholarship. Our organization's success is due to the generosity of each member and the tremendous community support in Amherst. Please join us at our next meeting on February 9 at 7:30pm in the Congregational Church's Vestry. Amherst resident and state representative Robert Rowe will discuss "What it was like to live in Amherst, NH in 1775." Members and non members are invited to attend.

*Best regards,
Janice McDermott, president
Perrin Enriquez, membership chair*

Letters to The Editor:

The Amherst Citizen is eager to serve as a community forum. We welcome your letters, opinions, and commentaries and make every effort to run them in their entirety. We do reserve the right to edit. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the position of the staff of *The Amherst Citizen*.

Please direct your letters, views and commentary to the Editor, *The Amherst Citizen*, P.O. Box 291, Amherst, NH 03031-0291, or e-mail your submission to: news@amherstcitizen.com. We will attempt to run your letter as submitted (space permitting) providing it is signed and phone number is included.

Happy New Year!

To the editor:

On behalf of all of us here at St. Joseph Community Services, the provider of Meals on Wheels, I'd like to thank our neighbors in Hillsborough County for their overwhelming generosity to our Holiday Gift Tag Program. Our goal for December was to provide a holiday gift for each and every one of our homebound and disabled clients. Through all of our programs we provide services to an average of 1,550 people a day. We knew that this would not be an easy feat, especially in the present economy. We did in fact, with the community's help, reach our goal and exceed it. Each client received a small gift bag filled with much needed and appreciated necessities and goodies. The response to our request in press releases and mailings was remarkable and unprecedented. Our neighbors made it possible for our clients to not only receive their daily weekday meal but also receive a little bit of holiday cheer.

If you would like to help us make a difference in an elder's life please donate online at www.mealsonwheelsnh.org or mail a check to us at St. Joseph Community Services, PO Box 910, Merrimack, NH, 03054.

*Gratefully,
Paula J. Telage
Special Events Coordinator*

Community Makes Christmas House Tour a Success

To the editor:

The Congregational Church of Amherst's Christmas in Amherst Village V tour was again a sensational success thanks to six generous homeowners who shared their fascinating historic homes with the community. Over 700 church and community members supported the event and visited these unique village dwellings.

The committee extends praise and thanks to the following florists who helped homeowners decorate their homes in a way that enhanced the owner's personal style: Amherst Garden Center, The Garden Party, PJ's Flowers & Antiques, Ponemah Farms and Rodney Woodman Florist. Their talent and time at this busy time of year added special touches to each home.

The Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club transported ticket holders between homes and the church. Moulton's Market delivered delicious lunches to the Community Room at the church. Amherst artist and church member Peter Batchelder drew the beautiful house illustrations that accompany each house write-up in the souvenir booklet. The detailed house descriptions also include a fascinating house history.

This tour would not be possible without the gracious participation of the homeowners and the support of the entire community. The Congregational Church of Amherst is most grateful to all who were part of this Christmas tradition. The proceeds of the tour directly support the renovation of the historic meetinghouse on the green.

*Don Smallwood and Anne Krantz, co chairs
Christmas in Amherst Village Committee*

The Rest of The Story

To the editor:

When I wrote my annual Amherst Tree Lighting Festival Thank You Letter, it was the night before the great ice Storm of 2008. Luckily I had emailed it off early, as we'd been warned to expect power outages.

Once we lost power I wanted to head to MA; my Mom had power! But I knew that by Sunday, the power would probably be back on in Amherst Village, because it seems to be Public Service Policy, to restore power to the centers of towns which house police, fire and rescue facilities as well as hospitals. If I canceled the Tree Lighting Ceremony, perhaps all those who had rehearsed for weeks and months, might feel they had to cancel their events.....so we forged ahead, calling Channel 9 and asking them to put our decision on their website.

Some had to cancel....The First Baptist Church was all set to move ahead with their plans, but a downed wire was deemed to be unsafe, and so they did the right thing and canceled. Some, like the AFD, APD and EMS were unable to have their events as they were busy rescuing and serving people.

One of the villagers called me and said they'd doubted we could have the Tree Lighting Ceremony because the WW I common on which the Crock-er tree stands, was littered with large, sharp and dangerous branches. Suddenly as if by magic, Perry Day and his DPW crew of 10 appeared and made light work, clearing up the limbs in short order.

Visits with Santa and the Peabody Mill Crafts were moved from the AFD to the Congregational Church of Amherst Community Room; the CCA came to the rescue and hosted Saint Nick and crafty fun for all those who could get out of their driveways. Everyone loved having Santa back in the village! Folks exiting the first concert at the Congregational Church were treated to the flashing lights and sirens as Santa arrived in a big Fire Truck, amid a big crowd on the church steps, near the village green!

So, while some events had to cancel, many townsfolk had a lovely respite from the bleakness, when they attended the indoor events...the fabulous concerts at the Congregational Church of Amherst-UCC, the holiday stories and delicious cookies at the Library, warm hearty cider with the School Board at the Brick School, and the new Town Hall Storytelling Event, with Rich Hart, and Sandy LaFleur, which was magical with its costumed characters and glow of tiny white lights.....and just before the ceremony, Boy Scout Troop 122 roasted chestnuts, and sold cocoa for all. The spaghetti supper fed hundreds who were able to get out of their driveways, and were later entertained by the SVC Concert.

Thanks to all! We are Amherst NH! We survived and prospered despite great odds....and we learned some fresh new ideas for next year!

*Ann Bergin
Amherst*

PTA Appreciates Support for Holiday Storytime

To the editor:

We, along with the Amherst PTA, would like to thank everyone who supported the 2008 Holiday Storytime. We would like to thank Susan Blair, assistant principal of Clark School and the engaging readers: Amanda Eaton, Rhonda Dubois, Jen Eccleston, Mary Ireland, Alice Paquette, Jackie Biger, Irene Raisis Alton, Janet Scagnelli, and Meg Trainor who generously donated their time and made the evening fun for the children.

We would also like to thank Sports Authority, The Toadstool Book Store, Moulton's Market, My Kidz Kutz, Kringles Toy Store, Amy Littlefield, Amber Swenson, Giselle North, and Irene Raisis Alton for their generous raffle donations. We are fortunate to live in a community that values and supports our children.

*Lisa Mazur and Cathy Leighton
PTA Co-chairs for the 2008 Holiday Storytime*

Thank You to Volunteers

To the editor:

Thank you to the volunteers that helped with the wreath project on Thanksgiving weekend. My family, neighbors, friends and strangers including several veterans assisted in this endeavor. A wreath with a red velvet bow was placed on each of the graves of identified veterans in each of the six Amherst cemeteries.

Last year, after an article depicting the wreaths on the graves at Arlington National Cemetery, I set a goal to honor Amherst Veterans in a similar way. Amherst Wal-Mart donated the wreaths; Grenon Trading Company of Bedford donated the ribbon for the bows that I made. Wreaths were placed on the graves of 360 veterans. It is a beautiful and fitting tribute.

A class of students from Souhegan High School, under Maggie Paul's direction, compiled a permanent list of all veterans in each of the cemeteries. These sites should have a veteran marker and now a wreath.

In this season of giving and remembrance, my thoughts were to honor our local heroes in their final resting spot. It is my hope and intention to make this an annual event.

With thanks to everyone that helped.

*Marie Grella
Amherst*

Fox Brook Farm Is A Beautiful Inn

To the editor:

Recently, my aging mother came to visit my family from her home in California during the holidays. We wanted a comfortable, home-like experience for her to sleep at while she spent her days with us. We came across the Fox Brook Farm Bed & Breakfast in Amherst and were overjoyed with our experience. The innkeepers, Gretchen and Rick Schverdtfeger run a wonderful inn where guests feel like friends. From the first time we spoke on the phone to Gretchen before the visit, every interaction we had was based on meeting my mother's needs and making her feel at home. Clearly, Gretchen has a caring instinct for making other people comfortable and the Fox Brook Farm B&B is a beautiful inn. With country yet modern charm inside and beautiful farm pastures outside, Fox Brook Farm will become a mainstay for out-of-town visitors and even Amherst citizens looking for a home-nearby-away-from-home. We would definitely make it our first choice.

*Sincerely,
Henry Schade
Amherst*

1,008 New Bills in Legislature

To the editor:

Christmas is the season for gift giving, and your legislature in Concord will be offering you gifts of 1,008 new bills.

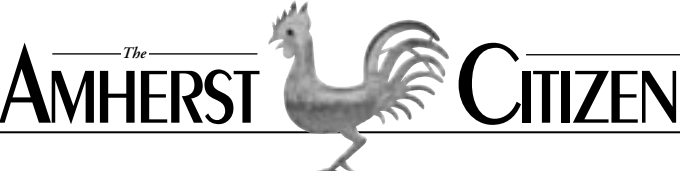
Yes, there are this many new bills being introduced in January. Some of you may consider the bills as gifts of diamonds, others, as lumps of coal. You decide.

The following are a sample of the bills with the identifying bill number. All 1,008 bills can be reviewed on the state web site for 2009 bills:

- Income Tax, three bills, (22, 23, 404)
- Same Sex Marriage, (8)
- Surcharge on Court Fees, (28)
- Gasoline Tax Increase, (94, 537)
- Medical Marijuana, 43
- Increased Road Tolls, (407)
- Inventory and Use Tax, (486)
- Estate Tax, (487)
- Physician Assisted Suicide, (408)

The approximate cost to process each bill through the legislature is \$3,000; a whopping \$3,024,000 for the 1,008 bills.

*Robert H. Rowe, Representative from
Amherst and Milford*




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*Dates are subject to change.
Watch future issues for schedule updates.

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