

Town News

Events Calendar

Amherst Farmers' Market Open

Join us on the village common from 2:30-6:30 every Thursday until October. We're back for our 5th season with all of your favorite vendors and some exciting new additions. The Amherst Farmers' Market offers you the best in local agricultural producers & artisan crafters. This season buy local and support local agriculture!

Saturday Night Comedy Club

Great Comedy on Saturday Nights at the Club Comedy at Amherst from the co-founder of the Comedy Connection. Doors open at 7p.m. and show starts at 8 p.m. Amherst Country Club, 72 Ponemah Rd, Amherst. For more information call 673-9908 or got to www.amherstcountryclub.com.

MOMS Club of Milford / Mont Vernon

The MOMS Club of Milford / Mont Vernon meets every second Friday of each month at the Mont Vernon Congregational Church in Mont Vernon at 9:30am. This is a non-profit organization that supports at-home moms and their children that reside in the towns of Milford, Mont Vernon and Wilton. We will be planning get togethers, playgroups, special activities and service and community projects. All activities are during the daytime except for a monthly mom's night out. Please contact Michelle Paquette, president @

Medical Ride Service in Souhegan Valley

Rides to medical appointments will be available to people living in the Souhegan Valley towns of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis and Milford. The door-to-door service will be provided by the Nashua Transit System and will be offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. For information call 880-0100.

Aug 5th SOCRATES CAFE

Join us as we bring philosophy to the every day individual through a gathering for those who like to talk about issues, ethics and ideas. We get together and discuss what is on our minds, from something on the news that day to the age old questions of "What is ...? Do you like to have a good, safe discussion without fear of being attacked for having an opinion that is different? Share in learning how to think, not what to think. We meet the first Wednesday of every month at the Toadstool Bookstore in Milford at 7 p.m.

Amherst Town Band Summer 2009 Performances

Tuesday, August 18 7 PM Concert on the Amherst Town Green, sponsored by the Amherst Lions Club
Wednesday, August 26 7 PM Concert, Wilton
Saturday, August 29 10 AM Wilton Old Home Days parade
For more information, see www.amhersttownband.org.

Congregational Church Meetinghouse Restoration: Can You Help?



Mary Ellen Hettinger and her husband solicit donations for restoration.

AMHERST – The Congregational Church Meetinghouse is the most famous architectural landmark of Amherst with its 105-foot steeple soaring above the village. It's thought to be the tallest and oldest in New Hampshire and is the motif on the Amherst town seal. The classic New England church is one of the most photographed buildings in New Hampshire and the subject of countless watercolors and oil paintings. The huge meetinghouse was designed to provide space for both town meetings and church services. It was used for town meetings until the 1830's. Today it remains an active congregation in the United Church of Christ and a community resource and gathering place for numerous town groups, activities and a preschool. Like any historic building, the meetinghouse requires continu-

al maintenance and restoration. In 2000, the congregation undertook a large project to restore both the meetinghouse and the rear additions and to upgrade it for 21st century use. Now the meetinghouse is in need of a professional exterior refurbishment. As Amherst prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary next year, town and civic groups are busy planning for a big celebration. The meetinghouse will be a central backdrop for all village activities. To restore, paint and preserve the exterior, the church is asking the community for donations to help defray the \$30,000 cost of the project. We will be coordinating this project with the Town, which has budgeted funds to do maintenance and painting of the Town-owned clock tower and steeple.

► Baboosic Laker continued from page 1

a nice, clean pool. Lakers are consistently whooped by those other teams at swim meets, but they didn't have to say anything else. I understood. They are Lakers. Lakers swim early in the morning, when the mist is hanging low over the water, and the tall pine trees along the shore are silhouetted in fog. As the sun rises and the mist burns away, the team practice ends, but the kids don't leave. These kids are more than the 'life-long swimmers' I was promised the first time I signed them up for lessons. They are amphibians. Other kids from town join them during the day. They sit in circles, shoulder deep in water, and argue about the most poisonous water snakes in New England. They lie on the docks,

absolutely still and quiet, holding nets baited with popcorn or hot dog buns and catch fish. They assume that everyone knows better than to grab a sun perch over the dorsal fin because, duh, it will shred your skin like razor blades. The raft was important to them as a rite-of-passage. They had to be 16 years old to swim out to it, and it was a popular place for teens to hang out with their friends, well within view but with privacy and status. Adults rested on it between swimming laps. Instructors used it as a reward for the little kids as they mastered new strokes. There is a hole in the water without that raft. I have lived in New Hampshire long enough to know that one person can make a difference, and be-

ing a Laker now meant becoming politically active. Parents and kids together sat through Amherst Recreation Commission and selectmen meetings until the Lakers won permission to open the concession stand and to use the profits to buy a new raft. We expect the raft to cost at least \$1500, probably more. That's a lot of hot dogs. That's also a lot of time spent selling food, and I do it because I have my own passion at the lake: Dorito the Crow. For at least three years, Dorito has swooped down from the twin pines, circled low over the sunbathers, and then stealthily snagged entire bags of chips from visitors who didn't hide their food. During the ice storm last winter, I wondered how ol' Dorito was doing. As

I watched the crow being chased by a line of kids as it flew a bag of muf-fins back to its nest, I was delighted to see that not only had he survived, he was strong enough to pull that off with style, grace, and I'm sure a cocky little bird laugh. Yeah, I was rooting for him. If you'd like to help us buy a raft, then please come buy a hot dog (and hide it from the crow). Better yet, write a check to the Amherst Recreation Commission, Baboosic Lake Raft Fund and either give it to us at the concession stand or mail it to 4 Cross Road, Amherst 03031. Most of all, come enjoy your charming neighborhood beach! Alyson Miller Mont Vernon

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