

# Letters & Opinion

## Thanks to the Girl Scouts

To the editor:

Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 22433 for dropping off candy to our home for Halloween. We are known as the “Ghost Pop” house and we make 700 to 800 each year to welcome the trick or treaters. We always appreciate the donation from the scouts. It lets us keep our lights on a little longer. Many thanks.

Brenda and Clement Lamarre  
Amherst

## A Thank You to Those Who Helped On Lamson Farm Day

To the editor:

This year, on the last Saturday of September as always, the Town of Mont Vernon celebrated the 30th annual Lamson Farm Day with near perfect weather. Like any outdoor event, the weather is always a major consideration in the outcome of the day. Even more significant than the sometimes unpredictable weather, is the very reliable and predictable support of all those people that contribute to the success of the day each and every year. Although there are too many names to mention individually, the Lamson Farm Commission is very grateful to all those that help us make the day possible, due to their contribution of time, effort and expense. As we all begin what’s certain to be a long recovery from a recent tragedy which has shaken the very foundation of our community, it’s important to reflect on all the happiness and smiles enjoyed on Lamson Farm Day this year and to remember that events like this celebration are some of what really defines us as a community.

On behalf of the Lamson Farm Commission,

Elliot Lyon, Chairman  
Mont Vernon

## Halloween Chili Booth a Huge Fundraising Success

To the editor:

Amherst Boy Scout Troop#613 would like to thank the Amherst Community once again for making our annual Halloween Night Hotdog and Chili Booth a great success! Despite the rainy weather, the trick-or-treating crowd in the Village was a truly great one. We would also like to thank the following groups and businesses for making our fundraiser such a successful one. Walmart, Amherst Junior Women’s Club, Congregational Church of Amherst, Benevolent Lodge #7, F & AM, Amherst Lion’s Club, Town Of Amherst, Shaw’s at Lorden Plaza, Currier Orchards, Coca-Cola of Manchester, Pepsi Bottling Group, Clark/Wilkins Schools and Amherst Middle School.

On behalf of BSA Troop 613,  
Wendy Hunt  
Fundraising Chairman

## Death Penalty Problems

To the editor:

Recently I read that a local legislator proposed expanding the NH death penalty to include crimes such as the Cates murder in Mont Vernon. With-in hours of reading that, I heard of a current US Supreme Court case involving two men who were wrongly jailed for 25 years of life sentences for a murder they did not commit. The justice system is not perfect. For high-profile crimes it may be especially imperfect because of the intense public pressure on prosecutors and police to get convictions. Prosecutors, police, judges and juries are human and, like the rest of us, are endowed with their share of weaknesses and imperfections. At least with a sentence of life in prison there is a chance that wrong convictions can be remedied. One argument offered in favor of the death penalty is the deterrence factor. However, I have seen no evidence that the alleged perpetrators of the Mont Vernon breakin and killing were thinking much, if at all, about consequences.

Peter de Bruyn Kops  
Amherst

## 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.

## Insider/Outsider View of Souhegan

To the editor:

The recent Mont Vernon tragedy has given me cause to reflect on the community of educators at Souhegan High School in Amherst, where I am a part-time photography teacher. As a relative newcomer to the school, I have the perspective of viewing Souhegan as both an insider and an outsider. From day one, I was moved by the unity of the staff; a staff united in its goal to educate all students in a complex modern world and a staff united in its support for one another. Here is what I witnessed upon news of the tragedy ... The administration and the entire faculty immediately focused on the emotional well being of the students through the daily Advisory meetings, classroom discussions and counseling services. Teachers consoled the students. As a staff, we met often to check in on the well being of the students and to check in on each other. We grieved together. We shared ideas to reach out to the Cates family through student projects and activities. We shared ideas for moving forward in our new reality. As a widow and single parent whose husband died from the senseless actions of others, my heart goes out to David and Jaimie Cates, their family, their friends and their Mont Vernon community. Through my lens at Souhegan High School, I see a school community united in their healing. I see a passionate staff united in hope for the future of our students. I am proud to have joined this special group of educators.

Kathy MacKay  
Teacher/Souhegan High School

## Thanks to Local Businesses

To the editor:

On Sunday, October 18th, I participated in the statewide American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. I want to thank the local businesses and institution for allowing me to place coin cans, for donations, on their counters. Because of their kindness and the generosity of the public that donated, I exceeded my personal goal of \$1,000. With out your help this would not have been possible. A big thanks to : Dove-tail Dental, Cassidy’s Grille & Coffee House, Moulton’s Market, Souhegan High School and The Orthopedic Center of Amherst; The Toadstool book store and Stop & Shop of Milford and The Orthopedic Center of Nashua. A cure for breast cancer cannot come soon enough, but I am hoping we walked one-step closer. Thank you again to my community. It makes me proud to live here!

Sandi DeCicco  
Amherst

## Make a Donation That Will Make a Difference

To the editor:

This year marks the 33rd anniversary of the Amherst Junior Women’s Club Holiday Home-Life Project. Because of the generosity of our community, we have delivered holiday food baskets to over 1,000 families in Amherst in the past 33 years. What a wonderful demonstration of caring for our neighbors in need. This community project will take place at the Amherst Fire Station on Saturday, December 19th. On this day volunteers from the AJWC and the Lions Club will coordinate and deliver many baskets of food and household essentials to the Amherst families in need. In the baskets we will place baked goods made by our local Girl Scouts, cheerful placemats made by our elementary students at Clark and Wilkins Schools, and fresh bread donated by Panera. Last year we delivered to over 40 families. With the ever-changing economy, we suspect that more families will be in need this year. Without the generous help of individuals, area businesses and organizations, this project would not be possible. We ask that the citizens of Amherst consider making a monetary donation to this project. Any amount you give will make a difference in your neighbors’ hearts and homes this holiday season. Your tax deductible contribution may be sent to:

Amherst Junior Women’s Club  
Home-Life Project  
P.O. Box 513  
Amherst, NH 03031

Thank you and happy holidays to you and your family.

Missy Van Lokeren and Rene Warren  
Home-Life Chairpersons  
Amherst Junior Women’s Club

### \*\*SCHEDULED MONTHLY MEETINGS\*\*

Conservation Com.	2nd Sunday	7:00 p.m.
Cemetery Trustees		
Fire Department	1st Monday	7:00 p.m.
Historic District Comm.	3rd Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Library Trustees	3rd Monday	7:30 p.m.
Planning Board	1st & 3rd Wed.	7:30 p.m.
Recreation Commission	2nd Tuesday of Mo.	7:00 p.m.
Rescue Squad	1st & 3rd Wed.	7:30 p.m.
Selectmen	Mondays	7:00 p.m.
Zoning Bd. of Adjustment	3rd Tuesday	7:30 p.m.
Heritage Commission	2nd Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Souhegan Reg. Landfill	1st Thursday	7:30 p.m.

Visit the town website for details: <http://www.amherstnh.gov/>

## Community Thanked for First Fall Festival Success at PMEC



COURTESY PHOTO

Making scarecrows and enjoying lollipops at PMEC

To the editor:

The Amherst Recreation Department would like to thank everyone who attended our first Fall Harvest Festival on October 23rd and 24th at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center. We hope that everyone enjoyed the events as much as we did! On Friday evening, we made crafts, did face painting, went on a haunted hike, and roasted marshmallows by the fire. On Saturday, guests visited misunderstood creatures; contra danced; did spooktacular science experiments; and enjoyed a meal prepared over the fire. We had a great time and we’re already looking forward to next year. Thanks again for making our first Fall Harvest Festival a success!

Sincerely,  
Amherst Recreation Department Staff

## AMHERST CITIZEN

### Helpful Amherst Telephone Numbers

#### Amherst Emergency Numbers

Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) – 911

#### Non- Emergency

Police Department – Chief Peter Lyon	673-4900
Animal Control Officer	
Fire Department - Chief Rick Todd	673-1545
Rescue Squad - Director Brian Gleason	673-7030
NH State Police	1-800-525-5555
Town Hall	673-6041
Town Administrator	ext. 210
Tax Collector	ext. 201
Assessor	ext. 202
Town Clerk	ext. 203
Planning Board	ext. 206
Building Inspector	ext. 206
Board of Health	ext. 206
Selectmen	ext. 210
Recreation - Director Nancy MacMillan	673-6248
Library	673-2288
Department of Public Works	673-2317
Director Bruce Berry	
Souhegan Regional Landfill	673-5469

#### Schools

Amherst Middle School	673-8944
Principal, Porter Dodge –	ext. 7102
Assistant Principal, Deborah Martel	
Wilkins School	673-4411
Principal, Gerry St. Amand –	ext. 202
Clark School	673-2343
Assistant Principal, Janet Davis –	ext. 108
Souhegan High School	673-9940
Principal, Jim Bosman –	ext. 304

#### SAU #39

Superintendent Mary Athey Jennings, Ph.D.	
Mary Ann -	x101
Betty Shankel -	x103

#### Hospitals

Southern NH Medical Center	577-2000
St. Josephs Hospital	882-3000
Catholic Medical Center	668-3545
Elliot Hospital	669-5300
NH Poison Control Center	1-800-562-8236

### NEXT ISSUE:

Tues., November 24, 2009  
Deadline: 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, November 18

### How to contact us:

Phone: 672-9444  
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eMail: news@amherstcitizen.com  
Ads: ads@amherstcitizen.com  
on the World Wide Web:  
www.amherstcitizen.com

### THE AMHERST CITIZEN Newsstand Copies

Available at one of these locations:

- Moulton’s Market, Amherst
- Amherst Town Library
- The Cider Mill, Amherst
- Homestead Grocery, Amherst
- Merrill’s Convenience, Milford
- Shaw’s Market, Milford
- Sun Mart, Milford
- Stop & Shop, Milford
- Harvest Market, Hollis
- Harvest Market, Bedford
- Hannaford SuperMarket, Bedford

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