# Letters & Opinion

## **Urgent Need for Health Kits** for Haiti

#### To the editor:

This is an open invitation to the community and local churches to join together to gather needed supplies to make basic health kits for the Haitian people. Simply drop off any of the supplies listed below in the Haiti Relief drop box, located in the lobby of the Milford United Methodist Church, located at 327 North River Road in Milford. The Lobby will be open to receive collections on Mon 9-2; Tues & Wed. 10:30-5; Thurs 9-3:30 and 7-9 p.m. If you would like to take part in assembling the kits, add your name and contact info to the list posted by the box, and you will be notified of assembly dates. The first scheduled assembly date is February 13 from 2-4 p.m. Please note that all volunteers must be at least high school age and up, as we are required to followed strict guidelines of what can be packaged in each kit. All completed kits will be delivered to an UMCOR relief drop location in Concord, NH in batches for speedy delivery. Donations of money made out to MUMC, with the memo line: Health Kits, are being accepted to pay the \$2/kit processing cost and to buy missing items for the kits.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has an established presence in Haiti and has already rapidly responded to the crisis there. In fact, Rev Sam Dixon, UMCOR's leader, was in Haiti dealing with ongoing relief measures at the time of the earthquake and died there as a result of injuries sustained in the quake. 100% of all your material and financial donations will go directly to help these needy people. The need in Haiti is desperate, and UMCOR has a proven track record of quickly getting needed supplies and support directly to the people. Aid and health kits are currently being delivered.

Items in the health kit must be brand new and are strictly limited to the following items: 1 comb (sturdy, full sized with large teeth), 1 metal nail file or fingernail clippers (no toenail clippers), 1 bath-size bar of soap – at least 3 oz., 1 washcloth, 1 hand towel (15"X25" up to 17"X27"-cannot be kitchen towels), 1 adult sized toothbrush in original wrapper (single brushes only), 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages (suggest 3/4" or 1" width), 1-gallon zip lock plastic bag to hold the above items. Any of these items can be dropped off in bulk and we will separate them out to make up the kits.

If you have questions please contact the church office at 673 -2669 or e-mail Diane Jaquith at djaquith@safe-mail.net or Lisa Payne at Lpayne@ knowledgeworksb2b.com.

> Diane Jaquith **Amherst**

## **Support of Petition Warrant** Article # 24

## To the editor:

Petition Warrant Article # 24 states, there is a need to replace playing fields in heavy use by the Amherst Recreation programs and the many users of our town's parks and facilities. The current fields known as Cemetery Fields are under agreement to be returned to the Cemetery Trustees by legal agreement as soon as is feasible. The Amherst Recreation Department is running out of viable options to replace these heavily used fields. Over time the best and most accessible land is being taken permanently off the market by builders and individuals. Try to think of any other piece of land which, after all costs, is ready for rapid conversion to useful playfields.

Fortunately, an alternative and turn-key user-ready property is available to make possible a smooth transition of the programs and activities from the displaced land. This newly available land off Stearns Road is thus quite unique. Unfortunately, over time, the most accessible and useful properties have been taken off the market by individuals and developers.

The Recreation Committee explained at the Deliberative Session the reasons and logic behind their support of this warrant. However, here are a few reminders to consider:

It would be impossible to move the traffic and programs that currently are utilizing the Cemetery Fields by increased use of other fields in the town. Should this busy property be eliminated without being replaced elsewhere in town, there would be a severe drop in available programs.

This new land will likely become the most popular public park in the system. It is not just a village green or a play field—it can truly become a public park including walking, fishing, playground, athletic fields, gardening, cross country skiing and more.

Lastly, this town requires more and improved recreational facilities for the citizens of all ages. We badly need more opportunities for healthy exercise. Under-exercise is an epidemic in America, the State of NH, and also in Amherst. It is essential that we keep moving, playing, teaming, socializing, pushing each other to do better and make each other healthier. The support of Petition Warrant #24 and will provide Amherst with an essential tool in that commitment.

> Sincerely, Rick Katzenberg 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.

# **Brew Enters Selectmen's Race**

My name is Dwight Brew and I am a candidate for the Amherst Board of Selectmen. I have made Amherst my home for over 25 years where I live with my wife, Carrie, and our children Jackie and Thomas. I decided to run for Selectman, because I believe that I can have a positive impact on our

For the last seven years, I have been a member of the Amherst School Board and for the three years prior to joining the school board I was a member of the Town of Amherst Ways and Means Committee. During this time, I have served as Chairman of the Amherst School Board, Chairman of the SAU 39 Board and Chairman of the Amherst Town Ways and Means Committee. This experience has taught me how to listen to members of our community and to work with other board and committee members to get

I intend to put my business experience along with my school board and Ways and Means committee leadership experience to work, keeping the Board of Selectmen focused on the issues that are most important to Amherst. If elected, I will strive to appoint highly qualified people to our various Town Boards and Commissions.

I look forward to addressing the important issues facing Amherst and I welcome the opportunity to hear your thoughts on how we can make Amherst better.

> Thank you, Dwight Brew Amherst

## Thanks for Memorable Day of Celebration

#### To the editor:

I am writing today to thank all who helped insure that Amherst's 250th Commemorative Ceremony would be exactly what we had hoped for – a memorable day of celebration.

Our plans for the Ceremony began quite simply. We knew we wanted to focus on Amherst's history and we also knew that in planning to tell our story, we had only to look to members of our own community to find the dedicated historians we needed

That group consisted of Robert Rowe who spoke of "Life in Amherst before 1760" – William Veillette whose talk was entitled "Amherst's Top Ten Citizens" and Jackie Marshall whose presentation focused on "The Olde Burial Ground – A Walk into the Past". Last but certainly not least William Rotch, long-time editor of the Milford Cabinet and honored speaker at the Town's Celebration in 1960 – fifty years ago - joined son Peter Rotch whose talk was entitled "Thoughts on Reaching 250 Years". And, to our surprise, in Peter's presentation we also learned that his grandfather had been a featured speaker at an Amherst celebration one hundred years ago!

As a group, our speakers were well organized, interesting and energetic and, without question, they fulfilled our hopes as they guided us along a well-tread path of 250 years of Amherst's history

In addition to our speakers, our plan was also designed to include as many Amherst residents as possible and in that capacity Reverend Richard Leavitt, Pastor of the Congregational Church, offered a beautiful and timely "Prayer of Invocation", Charles Duval led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, Tom Grella read the Governor's Proclamation, William Ludt spoke of the work of the Heritage Commission and Board of Selectmen Chairman, George Infanti, provided comments that were thoughtful, witty and joyful. We also had the distinct pleasure of enjoying beautiful music provided by pianist Kim Vars Whitehead, and Jim Emmond's Amherst Village Singers brought us such a touching rendition of "This Land is Your Land" that they actually brought the entire crowd to their feet.

A special role had also been planned for the Town's children which was accomplished through the efforts of two of our school principals. Gerry St. Amand, who with the help of Wilkins School Art Teacher Mary Prescott, organized an "Art Contest" designed for Wilkins School students while Principal Porter Dodge gathered a wonderful group of Middle School Students who happily donned the garb of earlier days and welcomed our guests to the Church while passing out programs and guiding people to

While much of our focus clearly was on Amherst's history, somewhat earlier in the day we enjoyed the unique pleasure of being in the company of many of our school children – all participants in the Art Contest - as they gathered on the Village Green to participate in a plan that relied on their youthful exuberance.

We asked that they "blow" on our Commemorative Tree - just as if it were a birthday cake - and told them that by doing so, they would not only light the Commemorative Tree they would essentially light the 250th Celebration as well. There was no hesitation – almost immediately - as if by magic - the lights on the tree came on and our long-planned Celebration was officially underway.

And then, our long-awaited Commemorative Ceremony was over but, thankfully, we had time to linger since a wonderful group of 250th Celebration Committee members and friends had prepared a lovely reception in the Community Room of the Congregational Church. The desserts were all spectacular and we owe an enormous dept of thanks to so many women who provided them for us. Their contribution clearly contributed to the success of the day as did Jim Emmonds who was with us again, this time, providing the sweet sounds of his guitar as he teamed up with Claudia Lemaire who played the flute so beautifully.

In retrospect, I know we enjoyed a very special day but, I believe we can never underestimate the significance of holding our Commemorative Ceremony in the Sanctuary of the Congregational Church where, amazingly, Amherst's earliest residents had once gathered. It was, without doubt, an honor to be there and I am quite sure our Ceremony had far more meaning because we were there.

Many, thanks to the Reverends Richard Leavitt and Catriona Grant as well as the members of the Congregational Church not only for their generosity but for the warmth of their welcome as well.

> Carolyn Quinn Co-chair, 250th Celebration Committee

# **Peterman Wants Your Help**

#### To the editor:

This morning I signed up to run for a term on the Board of Selectman. Yes, I did retire after 5 terms and yes some might think that I am "crazy" for wanting to do this again. But the truth is, there are things that I see that I would like discussed and I would like to lend my expertise and leadership in these areas

I believe that it does take courage to lead. I know that these are very difficult economic times and most folk's major concern is their tax bills. But, I also believe that there is a difference between "wasteful spending and investments for a more sustainable future."

I would like to have an comprehensive review of the Department of Public Works. We ask a lot of this department but we need to know if the services they provide are done efficiently and cost effectively and how to make it better. The citizens need to know the extent of the services this department provides.

I would like to revisit "pay as you throw" or "bag and tag" Many towns that use this system to reduce trash and save money while increasing recycling.

I would like to see the Board of Selectmen take a pro-active role in promoting energy efficiency. This is another area that is ripe for savings.

I will need your help in this endeavor and I am asking for your support and your vote in March. I hope that you pass this e-mail on to friends and neighbors, organize a coffee if possible or put a sign on your property etc.

I have a web site: (no www) MarilynPeterman.mysitene.com

My e-mail address is mpeterman 42@hotmail.com

Thank you and hope to speak to you soon.

Sincerely, Marilyn Peterman Amherst

# Thank You Amherst for Supporting **Family Math Night**

#### To the editor:

Wow, what a night!! Who would have thought that so many Amherst families would turn out on a cold and dark Monday night to play games and activities celebrating how much fun math can be? We were astonished, blown away and thrilled all at the same time. There are so many people to thank for their support in helping to make the PTA Family Math Night a success. To the teachers and school administrators - it was clear you talked it up, you were our best front line promoters. To the parents who volunteered to man activity stations – we couldn't have done it without you. To the middle and high school students who ran games and helped at activities - there were endless compliments on how responsible and mature you all were, great role models for all the youngsters! But most of all - thank you to the many parents who brought their kids to see what Math Night is all

> Sincerely, Beth Hall Karen Oates

PTA Family Math Night Coordinators

## Honoring All Who Serve

about. We hope to see you all again next year!!

## To the editor:

That is the tag line for a very worthy program. The Veteran's Count Auction is the creation of the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce, in Partnership with Easter Seals of New Hampshire. This year marks the third annual fundraising event and it will take place at Cirtronics Corporation, on April 17th. On that night folks will gather. A fine dinner provided by Elisha's Restaurant will be served. Prizes will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Nice stuff; fabulous stuff; unique experiences will be up for bid. People you know will join together for something bigger than themselves. By the way, Cirtronics has donated the venue. In fact, virtually every item will have been donated by a local business or professional. An "ask" was made and someone stepped up. We help one another. And so it goes.

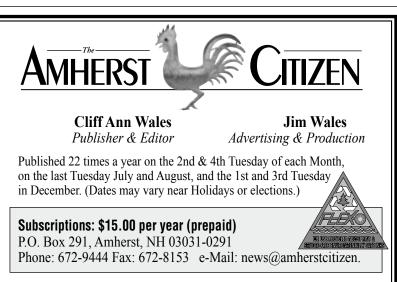
I am proud to say that I support this auction. As an American it makes me feel good. It makes me feel connected to my community. Work like this adds meaning and purpose to our lives. Even in these difficult times, we truly all have so much to be thankful for here in our beautiful corner of New Hampshire. It is important to be reminded from time to time that there are people putting themselves in harm's way to protect us. We need to acknowledge that and honor it.

We don't see the men and women who have stepped up to serve our country to fight distant wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, We grow numb to the countless news stories. We have been a nation at war for seven years. But soldiers and their families endure the sacrifice, every day. It's important not to lose sight of the sacrifice others have made and continue to make. This is my small way to say thank you.

I heard yesterday that there are now more than 10,000 Americans deployed to help in the recovery from the tragedy in Haiti. Many of them also wear the uniform and have left families behind to cope while they help strangers. Let us not forget to help those that help too.

Please consider donating an item, a sponsorship, or buying a ticket to support this year's Veterans Count Auction to pay honor to all who serve. Please contact the Chamber's Executive Director, May Balsama at http:// souhegan.net to find out how you can get involved and step up.

> Len Gerzon **Amherst**



#### THE AMHERST CITIZEN **Schedule of Issues**

**— 2010 —** February 9 June 8 June 22 February 23 March 4 (chg.) July 27 March 23 August 31 April 13 September 14

April 27 September 28 May 11 October 12 May 25 October 26 Issue dates are subject to change.

Watch future issues for schedule updates Phone: 672-9444 Fax: 672-8153 -Mail: news@amherstcitizen.com

## **NEXT ISSUE: Tues., February 23, 2010**

Deadline: 5 p.m. Wednesday, February 17

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- ☐ Sun Mart, Milford ☐ Stop & Shop, Milford
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