

# Letters & Opinion

## 2012 Mont Vernon 5 K and Fun Run Thanks!

**To the editor:**

We would like to thank everyone who made this year's Mont Vernon 5K and Fun Run, which was held on May 19th, a success! We had a fantastic day and many enthusiastic runners and walkers came out to run in memory of McKayla and raise funds for Neighbor 2 Neighbor and McKayla's Project. Neighbor 2 Neighbor gives those in Mont Vernon a sign of hope and support during troubled times, and McKayla's Project, which has been established in memory of McKayla Geisinger, helps to fund larger community-wide projects.

This year we had 108 participating in the 5K and more than 40 in the Fun Run. This turnout allowed us to raise \$2500, bringing our six year total of giving back to the community to over \$13,500.

The Mont Vernon 5K and Fun Run take's many people to be a success. We would like to thank, Police Chief Kyle Aspinwall and the Mont Vernon Police Department, the Mont Vernon Fire Department, Mont Vernon DPW and Selectmen's office. Many thanks go to our crew of race course "officials", Rich Masters, Leo, Amy, Tess and Emma White, Pattie MacDonald, Dawn Peret, Andy Dobbs, Greg and Maureen Geisinger, Alice Philbrick, Leslie Ashcraft, Lori Meader, Jim and Colleen Bird, Tammy Robertson, Eileen Demers, Matt Titus, Kim Roberge, Sam Titus, Austin Gendron, and Mel Jones.

We would also like to thank our sponsors, Ken Jones Ski Mart and Snowboard Jones of Manchester, Custom Electric and Communications, David G.Sturm, Aegis Container, Red Hen Homes, LLC, New Boston Dental, Roberge Construction, Allstate, Alene Candles, and the Good Loaf.

Results from the race can be found at [www.coolrunning.com](http://www.coolrunning.com)

We look forward to seeing you all at next year's Mont Vernon 5K and Fun Run on May 18, 2013!

*Lisa Ballard and Carla Titus  
Mont Vernon*

## How Sad!

**To the editor:**

I found Rep. Rowe's comments concerning redistricting very interesting. One might wonder if the redistricting team started with partisan voting histories rather than the information that the Constitutional Amendment requires and that the citizens of this state approved. Moreover, Rep. Rowe spends much time blaming federal law for this sorry plan. He fails to mention that the Committee had lots of time to meet, discuss, and consider various plans [and waited until the last minute] and did not ask for any extra federal consideration, especially in light of the Constitutional Amendment [waivers were not requested.]

I voted for this amendment because I truly believed that my constituents from New Boston and Wilton, whom I represented at the time, deserved their own representative. The House passed plan denies a sole ,dedicated representative to 62 communities [375,284 residents] that the Constitutional Amendment addressed. How sad. The current leadership can cut millions from education, healthcare, and social services; but cannot seem to "do the numbers" regarding how we are represented in The General Court.

*Yours truly,  
Linda T Foster  
Mont Vernon*

Former Representative, Hillsborough District 4 and former Deputy Speaker

## Romney's Hypocrisy

**To the editor:**

In his commencement address at the evangelical Liberty University three weeks ago, Mitt Romney extolled "compassion for the needy and the sick" as one of the Christian values in the greatest "force for good" in our nation, a "Christian conscience in action." This lofty rhetoric is called into question by Romney's actual political program. This is the same man who only a few weeks earlier had embraced as "an excellent piece of work" the Paul Ryan budget that would radically reduce aid to "the needy and sick." It would cut \$3.3 trillion from low income programs over a decade, mostly from Medicaid and the food stamps program. Is this the "Christian conscience in action?"

*Jens Rieckmann  
Amherst,*

## Redistricting: Blatant Examples of Gerrymandering

**To the editor:**

This is in response to Rep. Robert Rowe's letter regarding redistricting. While constraints imposed by federal law do make the process difficult, there is no excuse for some of the more blatant examples of gerrymandering.

For example here in Hillsborough County although both Hudson and Pelham are large enough to merit dedicated representatives they have been put into a district with eleven representatives at large from both towns. The 2010 census figures would call for allocating seven to Hudson and four to Pelham. This would violate federal guidelines by 1% in the case of Hudson, but there is no excuse for not giving Hudson six, Pelham three and creating a floterial for both towns.

Could it be the fact that nine of the representatives from the current district 27 are Republicans who live in Hudson, while only one lives in Pelham, was a factor in drawing this district? Adopting either the 7/4 or 6/4 and a floterial scheme would probably result in a Republican primary in Hudson and two open seats in Pelham.

Elbridge Gerry would be proud!

*Graham V. Smith  
Amherst*

## ACA Represents Small Group of Residents

**To the editor:**

Given what I've read about the role of the Amherst Citizens Association in determining what the town default budget should look like, I now think it's time to pull back the curtain and reveal the truth about the ACA. It's been a mystery to me how a tiny group of disgruntled former town ways and means members have been elevated to a status equal to a department head or an elected or appointed town official.

I certainly respect their right to form a group and to voice their opinions, but the reality is that there are only 4 regular members (maybe 5 on a good day) who we've been lead to believe are both town budget experts and represent a large constituency. Like many, you probably figured that since they're called the Amherst Citizens Association they must be speaking from a position of authority, but from all reports they were a no show at Selectmen's meetings throughout the last budget season.

I will give them some credit --- they do meet as a group to discuss town issues, but in my book that doesn't make them experts worthy of special recognition. They really are just a handful of people with opinions. My book group, which is very politically savvy and often discusses town issues, has similar qualities, but I doubt that you would listen to my book group if we told you how to vote or where to cut the budget.

So, if you took the ACA's flyer to the March town election and voted in lockstep with their recommendations without listening to the experts/officials on the frontlines of town management, then you really voted without the whole picture and now we're faced with a town in need of maintenance and a default budget that does not cover our needs. (less than 35% of Amherst registered voters voted in the March election.)

The reality is that the ACA is like the wizard in the Wizard of Oz who was believed to be all-powerful until the curtain was pulled back to reveal one guy with smoke and mirrors. It's time we pull back the curtain on the Amherst Citizens Association and reveal that it's only a tiny group of people with opinions and nothing more. In order to solve problems, we need to work together and not be swayed by a minority that represents only a small segment of our residents.

*Jeanne Ludit  
Amherst*

TOWN OF AMHERST

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, June 5, 2012, between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. This will be the last day for voters already registered to change or declare a party affiliation before the September 11, 2012 State Primary Election. New voter registrations and additions and corrections to the checklist may be made on June 5 as well. New voters who register subsequent to this date may declare a party when they register. If you're unsure of your current party affiliation, you may go online to check it at:  
<http://cfs.sos.nh.gov/app/Public/PartyInfo.aspx>

Department of Public Works

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Tuesdays:	12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thursdays:	12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
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Saturdays:	7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

[www.amherstcitizen.com](http://www.amherstcitizen.com)

## Family Game Night to Benefit Peabody Mill

**To the editor:**

Anyone who has ever been to Peabody Mill Environmental Center for their Hartshorn programs has seen or used the amphitheater and knows it is in disrepair.

My name is Zack Ladd and for my eagle project I will be bringing it up to the glory it should have. On June 15th from 6pm to 8pm I will be holding a fundraiser to benefit this project. The fundraiser will be a family game night at Peabody Mill Environmental Center. The event will consist of many board games and other table top games. There will be boy scouts available to help families or individuals play the games. The cost to get in will be \$5 per person. Drinks will be provided and a bake sale were each item is \$1 will be available.

Feel free to contact [zlzackladd@gmail.com](mailto:zlzackladd@gmail.com) with questions.

*Zack Ladd  
Amherst*

## Help Save the Eastern Small-Footed Bat

**To the editor:**

There are many environmental concerns these days. With all the hype over global warming, people tend to overlook other issues with the mindset that they aren't important. But they are. One such issue is one of New Hampshire's endangered species. The Eastern Small-Footed Bat, one of the rarest bats in North America. This mammal is approximately three inches long, weighs less than five grams, and has feet that are only ¼ of an inch long, hence their name. They have golden-brown fur with a black face, ears, and wings.

This bat is very rare; they have only been spotted in 5 places in New Hampshire during the summer. They also have very specific habitat needs, preferring to only roost in rock crevices during the summer and caves during the winter. This makes them extremely susceptible to habitat changes. They are also affected by pesticides, making survival even more difficult for them. Wind turbines also pose a giant threat to this bat and other species. In fact, bat fatalities due to wind turbines outnumber those of birds 10:1. Lastly, white-nose syndrome is marching across the Northeast, leaving a path of utter destruction in its wake. Symptoms include an accumulation of a white, powdery fungus on their face and wings. This disease has already killed about 6 million bats and scientists are far from understanding it. Bucknell University professor, Dr. DeeAnn Reeder compared white-nose syndrome to smallpox. Scientists don't know how it spreads, what causes it, or how to stop it.

The only bright light at the end of the bat cave is that there are things that you can do to help. Make sure to stay out of caves during hibernation season (October-March) whether they're marked or not. Do not touch bats, as that spreads disease. Report unusual behavior to conservation groups. You can volunteer or donate for conservation groups such as Bat Conservation International. Educate others on the issue and we may have a chance to save them. For more information, visit the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's website at <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us>.

*Sincerely,  
Jonathan Robinson  
Amherst*

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The AMHERST CITIZEN

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THE AMHERST CITIZEN

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\*Issue dates may be subject to change. Watch future issues for schedule updates.

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THE AMHERST CITIZEN

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