

Events Calendar

JOIN THE FUN..... BE A GIRL SCOUT in Amherst/ Mont Vernon

More than 300 girls in Amherst/Mont Vernon are realizing they can make the world a better place while sharing unique experiences and opportunities, making lifelong friends and learning invaluable leadership skills.If your daughter is in grades K-12 and not currently in a troop but interested in joining Girl Scouts, please contact Karen Werner, local co-ordinator, at kswerner.nh@gmail.com.

FREE SELF-DEFENSE PROGRAM FOR WOMEN of ALL AGES

Have you ever been in a situation where you wish you knew how to defend yourself? Do you worry about your daughter being able to protect herself against unwanted advances? Come join the senior instructors at ATA Martial Arts of Bedford for a free open-house and seminar on self-defense for women. The seminar will take place on Friday June 8 and Friday June 22 at 7:00 PM. Bring your daughter, bring a friend, bring your mom! All women ages 8 and up are welcome The seminar is free, but we would appreciate it if you would call the studio at 472-4022 and let us know which date you would like to attend. Wear comfortable, loose clothing and a smile! There will be food, beverages and goody bags for all attending. So, come join us and learn how to defend yourself!

MASH Class of 1987

25th reunion
Boys and Girls Club Milford, NH
Saturday August 25th, 2012
Time: 6 - 9pm (Main meal served 7-8)
Cost \$35 prepaid / \$45 at the door
BBQ style buffet and mingling
Children welcome \$15
Order your tickets:
Tina Raczek
18 Bartemus Trail
Nashua, NH 03063
E-mail: MASHclassof1987@gmail.com

MASH Class of 1982

The MASH (Milford AREA Senior High) class of 1982 will hold its 30th class reunion on Sat. July 28th at the Bramber Valley Golf Course in Greenland.

The reunion committee is looking for missing classmates. Classmate information can be emailed to MASHclass82@gmail.com. Information regarding the class reunion can be found on Facebook @ MASH82.

The price per person for the reunion is \$35.00 and is due by July 14th. Checks can be made out to Jay Jacobs and mailed to P.O. Box 6064, Amherst, NH 03031. To pay by credit card, Call the Bramber Valley Golf Course at 603-436-4288 and mention that you are from the MASH class of '82.

Amherst Town Band Summer 2012 Performance Calendar

June 14, 7 PM	Greeley Park, Nashua
June 19, 7 PM	Amherst Town Green
July 3, 8 PM	Concert with fireworks Souhegan High School
July 4, 10 AM	Independence Day Parade, Amherst village
July 14, 7 PM	Concert on the bandstand York Beach, Maine
July 17, 7 PM	Amherst Town Green
July 26, 7 PM	Greeley Park, Nashua
August 22, 7 PM	Concert at Emerson Park, Milford

See www.amhersttownband.org

Nashaway Chapter of the New Hampshire Audubon Society

On Wednesday, June 20 at 7pm, the group will host Master Decorative Artist, author, gardener, photographer and Nashaway member, Deanne Fortnam. Deanne will present her striking photographs of birds, all taken in her hometown of Nashua, many right in her own backyard. You will be surprised at the number and variety of species that Deanne has photographed locally. To preview some of Deanne's photographs, visit <http://deanneart.com/> and select footer link Deanne's Other Hobbies. This free program is open to the public and takes place in the downstairs theater room of the Nashua Public library. No registration is necessary but if you would like more information, contact Richard Maloon 424-5621 or richard.maloon@att.net

The group will also host a series of Saturday morning walks at Ponemah Bog throughout the summer. Ponemah Bog, located in Amherst, is home to a variety of distinctive plants, birds and dragonflies. Leaders will identify special adaptations of the flora and fauna and the natural history that distinguishes the bog from other wetlands. Walks will take place on the following dates:

June 30, 8am	Jack Gleason (Plants & Adaptations)
July 21, 10am	Pam Hunt, NH Audubon Senior Biologist
Aug 4, 10am	Tom Young (Birds & Dragonflies)

All walks will meet at the Bog. For more information, contact Jack Gleason at 603-673-3177. To learn more about the bog and/or for directions, download the brochure <http://www.nhstateparks.org/uploads/pdf/Quest-PonemahBogMap.pdf>

Dementia Support Group

Summerhill holds a monthly Dementia Support Group meeting:
Open to Families, Caregivers or anyone wishing to learn more about dementia.
Held the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7 pm in the Monadnock Room at Summerhill Assisted Living, 183 Old Dublin Rd., Peterborough. Please RSVP to Perry at 924-6239 or info@summerhillal.com

Amherst MOMS Club

The Amherst MOMS Club holds a monthly business meeting open to residents every third Tuesday at The First Baptist Church, 25 1/2 Middle Street in the Town of Amherst. The International MOMS Club is a non-profit organization supporting moms who are home with their children. Members can be stay-at-home, work-at-home, or work part-time outside the home, but most activities take place during the weekday to support these moms without taking away from family time in the evenings and weekends. The exception to this rule is MOMS Night Out, a once-a-month chance for moms to get out and have some me-time with friends. Other activities include play dates, outings, get-togethers, and community service projects. For more information please e mail amherstmomsclubnh@gmail.com

Birth Announcement

Eric and Sarah Leonardi of Greenfield announce the arrival of their daughter, Madeline Marie Leonardi, born May 9, 2012 at 12:33 PM at Monadnock Community Hospital in Peterborough. She weighed 6lbs. 4.5 oz. and was 17.25 in. long at birth. She joins brother, Karl Magnus (age 5) and sister, Elise Katherine (age 3). Maternal grandparents are William and Ursula Loscocco of Amherst. Paternal grandparents are the late Michael and Diana Leonardi formerly of Wilton.

Town News

Historic Amherst

Fire of 1892 – The End of Amherst’s Alms House

Paupers in Amherst – Part Four

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

“\$6,000 Fire. Amherst Poor Farm Buildings Destroyed. Valuable stock, tools and machinery burned.” So screamed the front-page headline of *The Farmers’ Cabinet* of 18 August 1892.

“At 2:45 p.m. Tuesday a farmer on the road from Amherst Station to the village discovered flames issuing from the barn at the Poor Farm. He gave the alarm in the neighborhood as quickly as possible, but the buildings burned so rapidly that little could be saved. Mr. W. L. Cross, the superintendent, and his wife had driven to Milford half an hour previous, leaving a blind man, named Cram, and Fred Hill, a boy of 9 years. Shortly after their departure, the Hill boy is said to have gone to the barn and while playing with matches set the barn afire. The boy asked Cram, as soon as Mr. Cross was out of sight, if he might go to the barn for a few minutes. He was told he could if he would return soon. Taking an armful of hay in the stall adjoining the horses, he deliberately set it afire and ran away. He gives no reason for his crazy action. It can only be accounted for as the same impulse that prompts fire bugs to their lawlessness. The boy thought everything of the Crosses, and there was nothing revengeful in his action.

“Thirty tons of English hay and about the same amount of meadow hay was consumed together with all the farm tools and machinery, a fine pair of horses [“one of the finest in the county, valued at \$450”] and a bull, part Holstein. From the barn the flames swept across the road to the house, a hundred feet distant, and it was soon enveloped in flame. The heat was so intense that little furniture could be removed, and in a short time only the stone wall around the part formerly occupied by prisoners [never was a jail, so for the insane? or intractable?] in the institution, and the chimney, were left standing. The

corn barn and a windmill which set a little to the north of the other buildings, were saved, the barn in a damaged condition. ... The [town’s] loss will amount to fully \$6000. The property is insured for \$3000, \$1000 on the house and ell; \$1000 on the [big] barn; \$500 on the hay and grain, and \$100 on the corn barn... Mr. Cross and family were kindly cared for by residents in the vicinity of Amherst Station [near present intersection of railroad tracks, Rt. 101A and Rt. 122] last night.”

Superintendent Cross

The week after the fire, a follow-up article reported: “Mr. Cross and family have commenced housekeeping in the corn barn. His personal loss by this fire will exceed \$500.” His personal property was uninsured. As a 20-year old weaver of Nashua (so probably a textile mill worker) in 1872, William L. Cross (1852-1919) had married 27-year-old Bettie Wade. In Jan. 1877, he paid \$2500 for a 63-acre farm in Amherst on the south bank of Souhegan River. Mr. & Mrs. Cross – the wife’s labor was part of the deal – had first taken the job of town farm superintendent in March 1887, for which they were paid \$400 a year, staying for two years, when there were only 3 paupers living there but about 45 tramps a year were fed and temporarily lodged. They once again took over management of the poor farm and alms house for the two years 1891 to 1893, at a salary of \$450. They must have been involved in the post-fire clean-up and preparation for the 29 Sep. 1892 auction of the 35 cows, 30 hens, other livestock, crops and equipment. Later, W. L. Cross would serve six years as selectman, 1898-1901 and 1912-’13.



Eber Lawrence-George W. Fletcher House (c. 1770) at 377 Boston Post Road. After the Amherst alms house burned down in 1892, this became the final home of a blind man named Cram (d. 1904), who was cared for here as a boarding pauper by Thomas & Vienna Merrow. Farmer Merrow bought this farm on Souhegan River in May 1890, during the couple’s second and final year as superintendent of the town poor farm, and afterward they occupied (and owned) 377 until 1910.

Who was firebug boy Fred Hill?

During the first year that Mr. & Mrs. Cross managed the town farm, there is an expense entry (in annual report) of a doctor’s visit for “Hill child.” The following year, there is an expense item of “clothes for Fred.” These, and similar expenses “for Fred” in following years, suggest that this child was a pauper inmate of the alms house. Not until the report of 1892/3 is he fully named as “Fred Hill” among the town’s expenses for the poor.

So who was Fred Hill of the Amherst poor farm? Frederick A. Hill (b. 22 May 1885 in Amherst, N.H.) was the 3rd child of Ellen/ Nellie E. Danforth born while she was married to Arthur H. Hill (b. Dec. 1859 in Nashua), they having married in 1879 in Amherst when the groom was 19 and bride 21. The newlyweds and first-born, a son, in 1880 lived with her parents, Sarah (d. 1882 aged 72) & Capt. George Danforth (d. 1893 aged 86), a farmer in Amherst near Danforth’s Corner (Ponemah Station) in south part of town. Arthur, a cooper, was the son of Samuel Harris Hill (1822-1877), an iron founder who died in Amherst, and his wife Julia Ann Cram (1823-1914), who lived at 226 Boston Post Road, in the old Ephraim French tavern which S. H. Hill bought in 1868. Arthur filed for divorce 24 April 1886, which was granted in Sep.

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