

Library

The Amherst Town Library has an extensive list of upcoming programs for children and adults.

Region

Find out what’s going on in and around the area.

Arts

Music, art, theatre and more sets the stage for a wonderful season of entertainment and culture.

Schools

The 2nd Trimester Honor Roll for Amherst Middle School is posted, plus our Students in the News.

SportsFolio

The Souhegan Sabers are now in their winter season of sports and finding the competition strong.

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BRIEFS

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, January 22, 2013, between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. New voter registrations, additions and corrections to the checklist, and party changes may be made at this session. If unsure of your current party affiliation, you may go online to check it at <http://cfs.sos.nh.gov/app/Public/PartyInfo.aspx> or check the paper checklists located at the Town Office or Town Library.

TOWN OF AMHERST
FILING PERIOD FOR TOWN OFFICES
January 23, 2013 – February 1, 2013

- 2 Selectmen for 3 years
- 3 Library Trustees for 3 Years
- 1 Cemetery Trustee for 3 Years
- 1 Zoning Board of Adjustment Member for 3 Years
- 1 Trustee of the Trust Funds for 3 Years
- 1 Trustee of the Trust Funds for 2 Years

Candidates may file at the Town Clerk’s office during regular business hours and up to 5:00PM on February 1, 2013.

NANCY A DEMERS
TOWN CLERK

Public Hearing

In accordance with the requirements of RSA 234:5 the Amherst Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 21, 2013, at 7:00pm in the second floor Barbara Landry Meeting Room, Town Hall. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to present the Engineering studies for the Manchester Road Bridge #134/100 and Horace Greeley Road Bridge #060/158.

Amherst School District

The Amherst School Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at 8:00 p.m. at Souhegan High School to consider the FY14 Amherst School District budget. (Snow Date: January 11, 2013 at 8:00 p.m.)

The Deliberative Session of the Amherst School District will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at Souhegan High School.

Voting for School District Officers and Warrants will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at Souhegan High School from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Mont Vernon School District

The Mont Vernon School Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mont Vernon Village School to consider the FY14 Mont Vernon School District budget. (Snow Date: January 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.)

The Deliberative Session of the Mont Vernon School District will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mont Vernon Village School. Voting for School District Officers and Warrants will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at the Mont Vernon Village School from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Souhegan Coop School District

The Souhegan Cooperative School Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. at Souhegan High School to consider a bond for roof and HVAC replacements in the amount of \$1,950,000.

Immediately following the bond hearing, the Souhegan Cooperative School Board will hold a hearing to consider the FY14 Souhegan Cooperative School District budget. (Snow Date: January 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.)

The Deliberative Session of the Souhegan Cooperative School District will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. at Souhegan High School. Voting for School District Officers and Warrants will be held Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at:

- AMHERST VOTERS-SOUHEGAN HIGH SCHOOL, 6:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
- MONT VERNON VOTERS-MONT VERNON VILLAGE SCHOOL, 7:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M.

Red Listed Bridge Closed by State Order



The bridge at the junction of Mack Hill Road and Manchester will be closed for an indefinite period of time.

AMHERST - Mack Hill Road Bridge is closed. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) Municipal Bridge Aid will not be available until 2018 – 2022. If the town waits until 2018 to repair the bridge, the state will pay 80% of cost and the town will pay 20%.

The bridge is one of three DOT red listed bridges in Amherst.

The three corrugated pipes that comprise the bridge have rusted out from recent flooding.

Shawn James, P.E. of Hoyle, Tanner & Associates said that an engineering study draft has been completed prior to the closure by the state. Mr. James will be making formal recommendations to the Board of Selectmen this month.

The preliminary costs of removing and replacing a single span bridge is \$890,000. Building the bridge and being reimbursed by the

state later, is no longer an option.

Representative Bob Rowe said that a bill could be entered in the legislature asking for state funding to reimburse the town in 2018. Temporary repairs must be made.

“The bond was passed by the voters. We need to be sure the state will reimburse us,” said Bruce Bowler, chairman of the Board of Selectmen. The bridge will remain closed until the repairs are approved by the state.

William D’Alessandro, a resident on Mack Hill Road pointed out to the BOS that the state built that bridge in 1980 and it failed after 35 years. “And now the state won’t reimburse us.” He continued, “Close the bridge until 2018 and let the state rebuild it. The state is changing the rules. The bridge was expected to last 50 years.”

Horace Greeley Road Bridge is also on the bridge Red List.

Chili Chowder Cook-Off Will Heat-Up January

AMHERST – The Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce and Opportunity Networks invite you to participate in our Second Annual Chili & Chowder Cook Off which will be held Sunday, January 27th from noon to 4 p.m. at the Amherst Business Center Located at 105 Route 101A!

Think Your Chili, Chowder or Hearty Bean Soup Recipe Is Terrific? Prove It! Whether you are a professional chef in one of our local restaurants or an individual with a knack for cooking, get a chance to showcase your specialty! Judges from the food industry will select a winner in each category in both the Professional and the Amateur Categories for the Best Chili and Best Chowder. The general public will also vote for the “People’s Choice” award! Professional Participants should be prepared to provide 2 oz.



Rocky Morelli, Executive Director of Opportunity Networks (far left) and Amy Wheeler of First Colebrook Bank and Past President of the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce, present the Best Chowder Award to Spiros Gereigos, owner of Chrysanthi’s Restaurant in Brookline.

samples for approximately 350 and Amateurs should bring a large Crockpot of their entry. Bring your entry hot and ready to serve. All paper products will be pro-

vided. Entry fee is \$50 for commercial chefs or restaurants, \$20 for amateurs.

Don’t want to cook, but like to eat? Then this event is right up your alley! The Chili

Chowder Cook Off was enjoyed by a large crowd last year, is sure to be Winter’s Culinary Highlight once

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Amherst Town Library Programs:

Harpsichord Recital With Paul Cienniwa



Concert Harpsichordist Paul Cienniwa

AMHERST - The Amherst Town Library begins the 8th year of its very popular Sundays at 4 Music Series on Sunday, January 20th with a “Harpsichord Recital with Concert Harpsichordist Paul Cienniwa”

from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Main Reading Room of the Library. His program for this concert is entitled, “1685AD: Bach, Handel, Scarlatti.” The Amherst

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Ruler of The Inverted Year: Mythological Tales of Winter and Dormancy

AMHERST - The Amherst Town Library is offering a two part series for adults entitled, “Ruler of the Inverted Year: Mythological Tales of Winter and Dormancy,” on Monday, January 14 and 28, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the Johnson

Meeting Room. Presenter Nancy Baker, returning from rave reviews in her past series offerings, will explore winter tales from myth, folklore and fairytale, looking at how both the an-

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A Roof, a Storm, and One Man’s Quest for a Dry Floor

Souhegan’s Chief of Building Services works through the night during Hurricane Sandy

By JEANNE STURGES

AMHERST – It was a dark and stormy night... when Hurricane Sandy hit in early November. One dedicated man, Bruce Wasson, Souhegan High School’s Chief of Building Services, held vigil over the gym floor. Or, we should say, under the leaky roof. Either way, Wasson spent the night at Souhegan – without power in the building – monitoring the school’s leaking roof, catching every drop of rain in the barrels and tarps he had strategically placed around the gym. Wasson’s diligence kept the \$100,000 hard wood gymnasium floor protected from serious damage that night, and many others.

While the events of Hurricane Sandy may have faded for some, Wasson is still plagued by the constant drip, drip, drip of a very large and very old leaking roof. Though the troubles didn’t begin with Hurricane Sandy, it certainly sheds light on the challenges Was-

son faces with every passing storm.

Before Sandy even hit in early November, Wasson knew that the 20 year old roof would pose significant risks to Souhegan’s infrastructure, particularly the gym floor. “There are leaks throughout the building that we are always attending to. It’s an uphill battle,” Wasson says.

After the district invited two companies in to assess the state of the school’s roof, it became evident that it had outlived its lifespan. “Every year, new leaks pop up. Last year we had new leaks in the mini-gym. Now there are leaks in the library where we just replaced the 19 year-old carpet.”

The internal impact is quite evident, but the external causes are known to only a few. Wasson explains that the rocks placed on the roof to hold the membrane in place are crumbling and compressing down on

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