The Amherst Tree Lighting Festival December 6-7-8, 2013

Friday, December 6 Kickoff ~ "Tree Light-Up Night!"

6:15 "WW I Common": Across From Moulton's: Pre-Gathering. Refreshments Baptist Church and Boy Scouts

6:30 "WW I Common": Tree Lighting Ceremony!

7:00 - 8:30 Congregational Church: Lions' Club Spaghetti Supper! Donations Accepted! No Reservations Needed! Holiday Music by the new "Amherst Christmas Brass Quintet"

Saturday, December 7 ~ "Santa Saturday!"

9:00 - 11:00 Congregational Church Breakfast with Santa, Tickets: Jessica Steele, NHNewcomers@gmail.com

9:00 - 3:00 Amherst Middle School: Lions Club Craft Fair

2:00 - 5:00 Fire Station: Girl Scouts Craft Fair AND Holiday Cookie Swap! Historical Society Booth and Gifts!

3:00 - 5:00 Fire Station: Santa Arrives By Fire Truck, Free Pics with Santa when you Bring Your Own Camera!

2:00 - 4:00 Fire Station: Team Earley's Cocoa and Cookies!

3:00 - 5:00 Police Station: Open House, Meet your APD officers! Free Child-Protective IDs and Fingerprinting!

Sunday, December 8 ~ "Concerts Sunday!"

8:00 - 11:00 Fire Station: Breakfast with Mrs. Claus; Donations accepted! No reservations needed!

11:00 - 4:00 LaBelle Winery, Rte 101: Holiday Bazaar! Stroll The Colonial Village Of Amherst To See Our Charmingly Decorated Homes And Buildings!

1:00 - 2:00 Congregational Church: Free Holiday Concert, Town Band and SHS Acappella Singers!

3:00 - 4:30 Congregational Church: Free Holiday Concert, By Congregational Church Choirs!

6:00 - High School: Souhegan Valley Chorus Concert Tickets at Door - Adults $15; Srs/Students $10; Under 12 Free!

All Weekend ~ Project Warmth! Amherst Library: Lions Club Collection of New Hats, Mittens, Scarves, Socks, Coats, Snow Pants, Blankets for needy...

~All Events Are Free, Or Accept Donations, Unless Cost Is Stated Otherwise~
~ Celebrating Any And All December/Winter Holidays That Are Enjoyed By Amherst, NH Residents! ~ Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, La Posada, The Winter Solstice, The First Snow, Epiphany And More!

~ All Events in Amherst; Many in Village Area~

Tree Lighting Festival

A Country Christmas

Those yearning for an old fashioned Christmas, need look no further than Amherst. The village and its surrounding neighborhoods set a scene which glows with magic. There's nothing like Amherst at Christmastime. Every year, under the capable supervision of Ann Bergin, Amherst celebrates the season with a community tree lighting festival complete with cookies, choirs, concerts and Santa. Claus.

The festival is a three day event starting on Friday, December 6 with the tree lighting followed by the Lions Club Spaghetti Supper and holiday music by Amherst Christmas Brass Quintet.

The weekend continues with "Santa Saturday" and events at the Fire Station, Police Station and the Lions Club Fair at the Amherst Middle School.

What would a celebration be without music! Sunday has now been labeled, "Concerts Sunday." There are concerts by the Town Band and the SHS Acapella Singers at the Congregational Church and Congregational Church Choirs. In the evening, the Souhegan Valley Chorus will hold their concert at the Souhegan High School.

Throughout the weekend the Lions Club will be collecting new hats, mittens, scarves socks, coats, snow pants and blankets.

These are only a few of the highlights. A full schedule of events appears nearby.

Each year the most enduring problem is the weather. I've seen years warm enough to have an Easter egg hunt on the common and other years when the temperature was in single digits with a howling wind that left the choir of brownies gasping frigid air and trying to sing Jingle Bells. That year was so cold the valves froze on the middle school band trumpets as they played carols on the reviewing stand. In this case you jump to plan B, quickly light the tree with out the usual fanfare.

The picture is complete with decorated pine wreaths, frosty air, warm greetings from friends and usually enough snow for Rudolph to get Santa's sleigh up to every rooftop. If you venture into the village, there is a holiday mood as home owners put the last touches on their door decorations and test strings of tangled white lights that will light up their homes as evening descends. Amherst is all wrapped up in holiday style!

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Holiday Art
Phil Bean Art Exhibit
Thru December 7!
Originals & Prints by over 35 local artists plus we have sports, family, nature, and general themed art, as well as many unique gifts.
View our online gallery at www.artown.com.
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T-W-F 9-5, Thurs. 9-6, Sat. 9-4
Holiday Vacation:
We will be closing 12pm Christmas Eve and reopen, Thursday, January 2nd

Christmas In Amherst Village House Tour

AMHERST CITIZEN FILE PHOTOS

The Congregational Church of Amherst is sponsoring Christmas in Amherst Village House Tour 2013: A Tour of Six Village Homes will be held Saturday, December 14 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds support the preservation of the historic meetinghouse on the town common. Homes are decorated by the homeowners and professional florists to highlight the owners' style and taste. Florists include the Amherst Garden Center & Flower Shop, Inc., The Garden Party (Milford), PJ's Flowers and Antiques (Bedford), and Rodney C. Woodman Florist Inc. (Milford). Sponsors for the tour include: Accurate Title, Boyd & Boufford Insurance, Coldwell Banker, Dovetail Dental, My Feathered Nest, TD Bank

A delicious lunch prepared by Moulton's Market and served in the Community Room of the Congregational Church includes harvest soup, ½ sandwich, chips, homemade cookies and beverage.

Free parking is available at Clark and Wilkins Schools. Courtesy vans will be available between schools, homes, and church for those who prefer not to walk.

The raffle will include a gift certificate for a total kitchen design by Barbara Coulter of Hollis, CKD, valued at $1500 and numerous gift cards of various values at well known stores and restaurants. Raffle tickets will be available during the tour at the Congregational Church.

Tour tickets $30 in advance; $40 day of tour

Luncheon tickets $10 and must be purchased by December 7.

Tickets are available in Amherst at the church office or by phone (673-3231), at the Woman's Association Holiday Fair at the church on Nov. 23, at the Black Forest Café, Moulton's Market, Amherst Garden Center & Flower Shop, My Feathered Nest, in Milford at the Toadstool Bookshop, and online at www.ccamherst.org/cav

2013 Calendar of Holiday Events

December 6

SNHU Choir and Orchestra to Present Winter Performance at St. Joseph's Cathedral

MANCHESTER – The Southern New Hampshire University Choir and Orchestra will present a Winter Concert on Friday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Joseph Cathedral at 145 Lowell Street in Manchester.

December 7

26th Annual Messiah Sing!

MONT VERNON – For 26 years, a chorus of about 100 from more than a dozen communities has sung selections from G.F. Handel's sacred and inspiring oratorio, "Messiah," in December. Performance at the Mont Vernon Congregational Church at 4 South Main Street (at the top of Route 13) is Saturday, December 7 at 7 p.m.

Amherst Lions Club Will Host Thirty-Third Annual Craft Fair On Saturday, December 7

AMHERST – Over 100 New England crafters will gather in Amherst for the Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Amherst Middle School on Cross Road. This craft fair has earned a well-deserved reputation for the quality and variety of the hand-made items offered. In addition to the crafters the fair features a snack bar with Dick Ball's "famous" chili, hot dogs, sandwiches and soft drinks. For further Craft Fair information contact Lion Joan Ferguson at jferg47410@aol.com.

20th Annual Share Christmas Fair

MILFORD - SHARE's 20th Annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. will feature elegant handmade crafts, Christmas decorations, jewelry, and many other unique items made by professional craftspeople.The SHARE Center is well located at 1 Columbus Ave. in Milford. Information: SHARE at 673-9898.

Church of Our Saviour Christmas Fair

MILFORD - The Church of Our Saviour in Milford will ring in the holiday season at its Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 7, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The annual event will feature homemade treats, gifts, decorations, activities for children, holiday displays, a luncheon and a visit from St. Nicholas himself. Located at 10 Amherst St. just outside of the Milford Oval. Information: 673-3309, email: office@coosmilford.org

December 10-11

The Holiday Toy Store

The Holiday Toy Store is in its 26th year of serving families with financial need from Brookline, Mont Vernon, Milford, and Amherst. This special event will be held on December 10th and 11th at the Veterans' of Foreign Wars Hall – Harley Sanford Post, 14 Perkins Street in Milford. At the Holiday Toy Store, families in need will have the opportunity to choose holiday gifts, free of charge, for their children ages newborn through fifteen years old. We appreciate your tax-deductible monetary donation be made by December 6rd. Checks should be made out to "Holiday Toy Store" and can be mailed to P. O. Box 6, Amherst, NH 03031. New toy donations are collected at the community locations listed below. For further questions contact Lisa Emerson at 930-3565.

December 13-14

Celebrate the Holiday Season with The Majestic's G. I. Holiday Jukebox!

MANCHESTER – The Majestic Theatre proudly announces their second dinner theatre presentation of the 2013-14 season. G.I. Holiday Jukebox will be presented on December 13 and 14 at 7:00pm and on December 15 at 1:30pm at the Chateau Event Center, Manchester. Order your tickets: box office 669-7469 or www.majestictheatre.net to purchase online.

December 14

Boston Pops Holiday Concert in Manchester

MANCHESTER – Celebrate the holidays with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra as they return to Manchester for a special Holiday Concert on Saturday, December 14th at 7:30pm. Affectionately known as "America's Orchestra," the Boston Pops is the most recorded and arguably the most beloved orchestra in the country.

Christmas In Amherst Village House Tour 2013:

A Tour of Six Village Homes, Saturday, December 14 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Amherst Village Green, 11 Church Street, and surrounding area

Thru December 22

Holiday Craft Shop Open Now Through December 22

BEDFORD – The Craftworkers' Guild announces its Holiday Craft Shop, which takes place from Friday, November 29 through Sunday, December 22, 2013 at the historic Kendall House, Bedford. This winter's seasonal shop will be open daily from 10am to 4pm, brimming with a festive holiday look and shopping to please.

Thru January 2014

Vintage Santa's North Pole Mailroom Display at New Hampshire Antique Co-Op

MILFORD - Designed to delight both children and adults alike, a charming vignette featuring Santa's North Pole Mailroom will be on display at New Hampshire Antique Co-op this holiday season. Conceived and created especially for New Hampshire Antique Co-op by Christmas memorabilia authority and antique dealer Beverly Weir-Longacre, the display features her own rare and exceptional collection of vintage ornaments, toys and decorations. This fun-filled holiday display is on view through early January 2014 in the Focus Gallery at New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm Street/Rte. 101A, Milford. Information: 673-8499 or www.nhantiquecoop.com

Annual Holiday Open House

Ponemah Farms, 42 Route 101A, Amherst

Sunday, December 8th 9am-6pm

- *Meet Santa and have your picture taken with him from 12:00pm to 2:00pm.*
- *Choose from beautiful pre-made wreaths, decorated by our staff, or place your own custom order.*
- *Browse our selection of gorgeous poinsettias, Christmas cactus, amaryllis, and paper whites.*
- *Find the perfect Fraser or Balsam tree to decorate with our wonderful selection of ornaments and decorations.*

Join Us For Family Fun!

Hot Cocoa, Cookies, Raffles

SHARE the Holidays

MILFORD – The demand for SHARE services continues to increase. Since January of this year, SHARE has assisted over 550 families (1500 individuals) with food and other basic necessities. During the holidays, we look to our generous community to make the lives of those less fortunate a little brighter.

SHARE's Holiday Program is a decades-old tradition in the Souhegan Valley. There are many ways one can participate and celebrate the holidays by helping a family in need, including collecting food at your business, holiday party, or family gathering; donating gift cards which are used for the older clients; donating money to help defray the cost of the food baskets; or adopting a family.

SHARE's adoption program has been very successful in the past and we hope to increase participation this year. Many local families choose to adopt a family in need. Book groups, churches, businesses, and simply groups of friends often pool their resources and adopt. It is a satisfying way to share your own fortune with those who have little.

For more information on SHARE's Holiday Program, contact holiday@sharenh.org, call 673-9898, or check out the website at www.sharenh.org.

Annual Holiday Open House At New Hampshire Antique Co-Op

December 7 & 8, 2013 (Saturday & Sunday) 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
All are welcome to this Free family-friendly event

MILFORD – New Hampshire Antique Co-op invites all to the annual Holiday Open House, December 7 and 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The shop is festively decorated for the holiday season, including an old-fashioned Santa's mailroom display.

Enjoy NHAC's secret-recipe punch and an array of fabulous cookies while children write their letters to Santa and post them in an old-fashioned North Pole mailbox. Stroll the charming Main Street merchants and visit the Discovery Barn and upstairs Loft for unique items sure to please the antique enthusiast on your gift list with special sales storewide. All are welcome to this family-friendly event!

The magical vintage Santa's mailroom vignette, on view through January 6, 2014, was designed by Christmas antique dealer and expert Beverly Weir-Longacre.

New Hampshire Antique Co-op is a family business where three generations are often present. A destination shop for fine art, period furniture, porcelain, silver, collectibles and jewelry, it is one of the largest group antique shops in the state. Established in 1983, the shop features more than 200 dealers. New Hampshire Antique Co-op is located 1.5 miles west of the Milford Oval at 323 Elm Street/Rte. 101A, Milford. Phone: 673-8499, website: www.nhantiquecoop.com Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Newcomers' Breakfast With Santa

AMHERST – Every Year Amherst Area Newcomers Club invites Santa to come have Breakfast with area children and their families. The Newcomers invite all children who believe in the magic of Christmas from toddlers on up to join them. The event has been ongoing for more than 30 years. It is a way for the Amherst Area Newcomers to give back to the community.

This year it will be held on Saturday, December 7th. Time is from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., at the Amherst Congregational Church, 11 Church Street in Amherst. The ticket price of $7 for anyone over one year old includes continental breakfast with various choices to please everyone (including delicious A & E coffee), music, games, holiday crafts, a photo with Santa, and a gift from the man himself! Tickets must be purchased in advance. To reserve your seats contact Jessica at NHNewcomers@gmail.com. They sell out fast and no tickets will be sold at the door. Check the website for availability of tickets www.nhnewcomers.com