

Events Calendar

Hillsborough County Towns Democratic Caucus and Summit

On Saturday October 1 the Democrats of Hillsborough County Towns will hold a caucus in the Milford town hall starting at 9:30. All registered Democrats are invited to attend. The purpose of the caucus is to elect a county chair.

Immediately following the caucus will be a summit meeting conducted by the New Hampshire Democratic Party.

The summit will begin with an update on the NH House of Representatives and Senate, and an overview of the current political outlook from NH House and Senate Democratic leaders.

Breakout sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to share experiences and learn techniques for fund raising, party building and other perennial topics. The summit is scheduled to end by noon.

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

Amherst Junior Women's Club Seeks New Members

The Amherst Junior Women's Club is actively seeking new members. Any woman over the age of 21 who is a resident of the Amherst area is eligible to join. Members of the AJWC volunteer their time, energy and talent to enhance the community. The club's mission is to focus efforts on civic needs, educational advancement and the less fortunate. For more information, please contact membership chairwoman Kathy Wason at membership@amherstjuniors.org.

Oct. 5th SOCRATES CAFE

Join us as we bring philosophy to the everyday individual through a gathering for those who like to talk about issues, ethics and ideas. We get together and discuss what is on our minds, from something on the news that day to the age old questions of "What is ...? Do you like to have a good, safe discussion without fear of being attacked for having an opinion that is different? Share in learning how to think, not what to think. We meet the first Wednesday of every month at the Toadstool Bookstore in Milford at 7 p.m.

Photographers Forum Meeting

Photographers Forum camera club's next meeting is Monday, Oct 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua. Martin Fox will discuss the invention and first few years of photography. We are an informal club offering educational programs for all ability levels and the opportunity to meet people with similar interests. We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month. Be our guest for your first meeting. Dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$50 for dual families and \$15 for full-time students thereafter. For information or to leave a message go to www.photographersforum.org.

Rebecca Rule Documentary

House Historical Society in Berlin and Gerry Savard's berlinnh web site. Mill demolition photos, aerials, landscapes were provided by photographer Eric Kaminsky.

Please join us on October 3rd at the Congregational Church in Amherst. Refreshments will be served at 7:00pm and the program will begin promptly at 7:30pm. Admission is free and open to the public.

Dine With The Daughters

Monday, October 3rd, the Captain Josiah Crosby Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution is proud to celebrate the 116th Anniversary of the founding of the chapter. The members will meet at noon for a luncheon at Longhorn Steakhouse on Route 101-A in Amherst. This is also a daylong event to raise funds for the Chapter's DAR Good Citizen Award Program provided to Souhegan, Milford, High Mowing, and Wilton-Lyndeborough Co-operative High Schools. When mem-

bers, families, or guests dine in or take out between 11 am and 9 pm on October 3rd, Longhorn Steakhouse will donate ten percent of the bill to the Captain Josiah Crosby Chapter for area high school DAR Good Citizen winners. No reservations are needed and walk-ins are welcome. For questions, e-mail Sandi at SandiDeC@msn.com. Please help support the local schools by Dining With the Daughters at Longhorn Steakhouse. See you there!

Amherst Garden Club October Meeting

Professional Designer To Speak at Meeting

AMHERST - Bill Graham, one of New England's leading floral design professionals, will be speaking on "The Colors of the Seasons" at the Amherst Garden Club's October 6 meeting at the Amherst Congregational Church. Covered in the talk will be the color and design trends for the 2011 fall and winter seasons and will include trends of fashion as well as floral design. Members and guests are encouraged to wear vintage clothing--apron, gloves, or hat--that might have been appropriate for an earlier time. The floral ar-

rangements made during the presentation will be offered for raffle. Bill Graham is the owner of Beautiful Things Flowers and Gifts, Ltd in Salem, Massachusetts. He is recognized in the floral world as a professional designer, commentator, educator, lecturer and motivator. He is a member of several horticultural groups. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a social time followed by a business meeting at 9:30 a.m. The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. Guests are welcome.



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Town News



What to do? This grouping of road signs seen over the summer, seems to send mixed signals. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY STEVE MORGAN

Early Taverns in Amherst

cense starting in 1795 for his house at 344 Boston Post Road on the corner of Cricket Corner Road. David Danforth (1752-1827), who "about 1795 erected the buildings near the [later] railway station which were occupied as a tavern-stand several years" (Secomb), obtained a tavern license in Oct. 1793.

An unusual event occurred in 1794, a real boon to taverners. The June session of the N. H. Legislature with about ninety members of the House of Representatives was held in Amherst, electing Governor John T. Gilman who then took his oath of office here. "A procession was soon after formed, consisting of the three branches of the Legislature, the reverend gentlemen of the Clergy, the gentlemen of the town, and several strangers of distinction - who proceeded to the meeting house, where an ingenious, elegant, and liberal discourse was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Wood, of Wear. After the exercises were finished, the procession proceeded to Mr. Luther Dana's Hall, and partook of an elegant entertainment provided for the occasion." (*The Mirror*, Concord, N.H., 16 June 1794.) What a pity the article did not say who provided the "entertainment" = meal. (I suspect that the hall was a chamber over a store rather than an inn.)

I suspect that traffic relating to Boston markets picked up in these years, even before the turnpike from Amherst to Claremont was opened in 1802, but the turnpike probably was the impetus for the construction of Capt. Eli Brown's stately brick mansion directly on the turnpike (now 40 BPR), for which Calvin How obtained a license in May 1803; and of Timothy Kendall's spacious tavern on the post road (382 BPR), south of Lt. Eaton's, for which he obtained his first license in Jan. 1802. Drivers needed taverns with pastures to accommodate their livestock, and teamsters needed taverns with barns that could house their teams of oxen and horses.

Third - from 1810/15 to 1865, encompassing the end of the turnpike era (the toll gate on the Mont Vernon-Lyndeboro border closed in 1837) and the temperance era. The two taverns in the Village were Curtis' successors on the south side of Common, including Eber Lawrence and Elbridge Hardy, and Watson's successors, especially Ray father & son, then Nutt, on the west side at 101 Boston Post Road, until both old hotels burned down. (Some attendees of court would board in private houses, such as Capt. Gardner's in Capt. Daniel Prior House at 11 Courthouse Road, advertised in

1827 and 1833, a practice continued by his son-in-law Isaac McKean in Jan. 1841.)

Fourth - the 1870s when urbanites 'rusticated' at the big elegant hotel (burned 1876) on the Common and when various houses in town took in "city boarders" for the summer, including the Horace Phelps & P. W. Dodge House on Foundry Street in the Village and neighboring farmhouses in the southeastern part of town north of Souhegan River of the Coggins (Mr. & Mrs. Luther Coggin Sr. and their son John H. Coggin & his wife) in the former Fletcher tavern at 382 Boston Post Road, Mr. & Mrs. Joel H. Fisher in the Eber Lawrence-G. W. Fletcher House at 377 BPR, and Mrs. Elizabeth Weston on Weston Road (now called Thornton Ferry Road 2); as well as "Came & Boutells" at the Station, J. A. Ober's and the Springs' House" in the south part of Amherst. (Farmers' Cabinet, 9 Aug. 1871, 8 Sep. 1875, and 21 Aug. 1877.) Not what one would call taverns. In 1877, Lt. J. Byron Fay (1829-1886), a twice-wounded Civil War vet and tin ware manufacturer, turned the old replacement house at 101 BPR into a hotel, but continued with his other trade and also kept a kitchen showroom store there.

Roads Scholars

continued from page 1

improvement and personal development. As a benefit to our town, these Roads Scholars "can more effectively build, maintain, and repair roads, highways, sidewalks, bridges, and other vital infrastructure because of their added knowledge, skills, and capabilities."

The continued professional development and achievements of these employees will insure that the highway department will be using the best methods and tools to maintain our roads and infrastructure for the health and safety of our residents.

Roads Scholar I - John Trowbridge, Roads Scholar II - Anthony Yakovakis. Senior Roads Scholar - Scott Brown, Ray Long and Ken Salisbury. Master Roads Scholar - Bruce Berry, Matt Costa, Perry Day and David Herlihy.

UNH T2 Center serves primarily the Public Works Directors, Road Agents, and municipal officials concerned with local roads and is funded by New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Tavern to Tour

If you would like to see the well-preserved interior of a New Hampshire tavern of the same vintage as Ephraim Hildreth's and Jonathan Smith's of Amherst, I recommend the Wyman Tavern museum-house on Main Street in Keene, which is believed to have been built and opened as a tavern in 1762 by Isaac Wyman (1724-1792). It is famous for being the site of the first meeting, in 1770, of the trustees of the newly-chartered Dartmouth College. Innholder Wyman of Keene inserted a rather unusual notice in the newspaper in December 1788: "The subscriber ... shall not in future vend any Liquors - but would be glad to serve Travellers with Boarding and Lodging, and the best of Horse-Keeping."

Credits: Thanks to Bill Wichman for transcription with photos of Howard Locke's house notes which suggest two houses as Hezekiah Lovejoy's (not verified). Transcription of "Diary of Matthew Patten of Bedford, N. H., 1754-1788" (published 1903) online archive.org. Old articles were found online via America's Historical Newspapers database by NewsBank offered by Amherst Town Library.

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