Amherst DPW, PSNH and Homeowners Clean Up After Late October Snow Storm

STORM PHOTOS BY RAND PECK

Damage to property on Church Street.

Home on Foundry Street had downed branches heavy with leaves.

Patrons enjoyed the warmth and power at library.

Historic home with branches piled high.

Fall or winter ..hard to tell

Floor space near an outlet was at a premium.

Halloween spiders share space with snow.

Herb Bates saws wood at Davis Lane and Foundry corner

Split tree on Pierce Lane

It will take some time before all the brush is picked up.

► Governor Lynch Presents "Commendations"

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Vern was a founding, charter member of the Amherst Lions Club and the clubs second President. As a Lion for over 30 years, he has led and participated in over one hundred LIONS humanitarian and community service projects.

He raised over $50,000 during the past 20 years for global disaster relief and self-help development, in the U. S. and around the world, through his participation in the Souhegan Valley CROP Hunger Walk (10 km. annual walk).

For over 16 years, he picked up day-old bakery goods and other food stuffs from local grocery stores to donate to local food pantries and collection points where folks needed extra food. They called him "Saint Vern".

He drove for FISH and Meals on Wheels (meals for elderly and shut-ins) for several years.

Vern is a dedicated blood donor- starting in the 1950's. He is an O neg.-universal donor- and gave regularly and was on call at local hospitals when blood was needed in an emergency. Since adulthood, he has given a total of more than 30 gallons of his blood.

He was active in the formation years of The Souhegan Valley Interfaith Council, finding speakers and recruiting local faith communities to join leadership of the organization.

Vern served three terms on the Board of The Souhegan Nursing Association, and for several years served on the Board of SHARE Outreach, one of the largest food and emergency assistance charities in the Southern NH region. Over the past 25 years, SHARE has grown from a small free pantry in the basement of St. Patrick Church Parish House to an independent organization with its own building in Milford.

He is proud of the role he played in getting The Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network (Anne Marie House in Hudson, NH) started.

As an active Member of the Congregational Church of Amherst (UCC) since moving to the area in 1969, Vern has played many roles, but is proudest of being the one who established the church's World Service Committee. CWS is one of the largest U. S. based humanitarian aid organizations, providing emergency food aid, disaster relief and self-help development in over 80 countries. Vern's joy in life is to do something for others.

Don has lived in NH since 1975. In WWII he served as a Hospital Corpsmen with the 22nd Marines, including service in 1943-45 in the Central Pacific making amphibious assault landings for which he earned the Purple Heart Medal and Presidential Unit Commendation.

Much of Don's business career was as a manufacturer representative. He is a resident of Amherst and has been a member of the Amherst Lions Club since 1975 and has been the club's President, Treasure and Board member for many years. As a Lion for over 30 years, he has led and participated in over one hundred LIONS humanitarian and community service projects. He served as the state wide coordinator of the Lions Sight First II Program from 2005-2010, raising over $300,000 from 2005-2010 to helped prevent and eradicate blindness for thousands around the world. He has served as a member and as Chairmen of the New Hampshire Sight and Hearing Foundation helping thousands of New Hampshire residents find assistance and relief for their eye and ear problems. He has led the local effort for eye screening of young children in the Amherst and Mont Vernon elementary schools.

He has served a Director of the New Hampshire Association of the Blind in 2007-2009. Don personally convinced the management of the three Walmart super stores in Northern NH to provided eye glasses to needy residents at no charge serving approximately 19 towns.

Don served as Lions District Governor for New Hampshire (District 44N) for 2009-2010 leading this state wide group in a wide variety of community service projects.

He has been an active member of the Congregational Church of Amherst for over thirty years, serving as a Deacon for almost 10 years.

► Compaq Big Band

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Compaq Big Band began as the DECbigband, formed in March 1975 as one of many employee clubs at Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) of Maynard, Massachusetts. The only requirements were a love of big band music, dedication to work hard each week at practices, and a willingness to perform without compensation. Throughout the mid-1970s and 1980s the group performed at a number of Digital corporate functions each year, then branching out into community outdoor concerts and benefit dance events in the Greater Boston area. Over the years, the band expanded its performance schedule to include public functions and venues in the Greater Worcester and Southern New Hampshire areas. The band also took the opportunity to incorporate more, and more challenging, charts into its growing music library. Several current band members are DEC, Compaq, or HP alumni who maintain a connection to the company tradition and culture. The remainder of the band is made up of various area jazz musicians who embrace the band's nonprofit operating philosophy.

The CBB will be joined by jazz ensembles from Souhegan HS, Milford HS, Hollis-Brookline HS and the Manchester Community Music School. General Admission at the door is $10.00 for adults and $8.00 for students. Doors will open at 6:30pm. For more information about The Compaq Big Band, go to www.compaqbigband.com . For event information, please contact Carl Benevides at cbenevides@sprise.com.

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