

THE AMHERST CITIZEN



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SHS students are L-R: Ana Kruger, Andrew Piper, Jacob Verrall, Ellie Noble.

Celebrate The Holidays With The SHS Chamber Music Ensembles

AMHERST - The Amherst Town Library is proud to present, in this Holiday Season, the "Souhegan High School Chamber Music Ensembles in Concert" on Sunday, December 7th from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Main Reading Room of the Library. The concert will feature various small ensembles playing traditional holiday and classical music selections. Students from the SHS Concert Band are placed in small ensembles that are 100 percent student-led. Carl Benevides, SHS Band Director, oversees rehearsals and coaches the ensembles to provide feedback on their progress. This concert is a wonderful opportunity to hear

and support our local high school's excellent ensembles while celebrating the holiday in a fine and festive way. Several of these chamber music ensembles will be featured at the SHS Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. at Souhegan High School. This Library program for adults is free and open to the public. However, registration is REQUIRED due to space limitations. You can register for this event by calling 673-2288, emailing library@amherstlibrary.org, or by visiting our website at www.amherstlibrary.org and selecting the "Community Services" tab, then click on drop down "Sign-Up for Programs."

Amherst Patriots Continue A Winning Tradition

The Amherst Patriots Are About More Than Football



BY JIM MANNING

AMHERST - Winning football championships is becoming a tradition in Amherst. No, I'm not talking about the historically successful Sabers program at Souhegan High School. Over the last half decade, the Amherst Pa-

triotics Pee Wee football team has been perennial champions in New Hampshire Pop Warner football. This month, they won another title in beating their archrival, the Bedford Junior Bulldogs in a tight contest, 19-18. It marks the fourth state Pee Wee title in the past five years.

Equally impressive, the Patriots continued their winning tradition this past weekend in defeating the Rhode Island-Southern Mass Champion, the Dighton-Rehoboth Falcons, 35-8 in the Pop Warner Regional Quarterfinal. Now, the Patriots play next Saturday, November 22nd at Bedford High

School in the New England Region Semifinal against the Central Massachusetts champion. Kick-off is at 2pm. With a victory on Saturday, the Patriots will be one step closer to a trip to Florida to play in the Pop Warner Su-

Continued on page 13

SHS Jazz Night #1, December 5, 7:00 p.m.

BC bOp!, The Instrumental and Vocal Jazz Ensemble of Boston College



Created in 1987, BC bOp! uniquely combines a big band with a vocal section. The varied repertoire, made possible by the combined instrumental and vocal resources, provides audiences with an exciting variety of sounds seldom found among today's big bands.

Having built a solid reputation for excellence, BC bOp! has performed before audiences at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, three Club Med resorts, the Jamaica Grande

resort in Jamaica and Carnegie Hall. Performances at national jazz festivals such as the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival and the Reno Jazz Festival have garnered the ensemble numerous awards and accolades including first place finishes and "Best Solo Jazz Piano" and "Best Solo Vocal."

BC bOp! has performed with Boston area jazz greats Mike Monaghan, Herb Pomeroy, Tiger Okoshi and Rick Peckham.

Holiday Toy Store Announces Dates

MILFORD - The Holiday Toy Store Board of Directors has announced the dates for the 2014 season. This year, the event will be held on December 8th and 9th at the Veterans' of Foreign Wars Hall - Harley Sanford Post, 14 Perkins Street in Milford. Times have changed this year; The Holiday Toy Store will be open on December 8th from 2:00PM - 7:00PM and on December 9th from 8:00AM - 2:00PM.

The Holiday Toy Store has been committed to assisting local families in need by providing their children, aged newborn through 15, with holiday gifts, free of charge since 1987. Over the years, the Holiday Toy Store has evolved into an incredible community effort involving various individuals, businesses, and civic organizations.

While the holiday season should be a joyous time for all, for some of our neighbors the holidays can be a time filled with sadness

and anxiety. Imagine being a parent of a young child and having to decide between paying your monthly bills or buying a present for your child. Unfortunately, this is the reality for some members of our community. These are the families that count on us to make their holiday season brighter. This year, the Holiday Toy Store will provide gifts for over 500 children of the Souhegan Valley.

The Holiday Toy Store is financially supported through the generous donations of businesses and from members of our community. We would appreciate your help through a monetary donation or donation of gift cards that we could use to purchase gifts for the children we serve. Your tax-deductible donation can be mailed to: The Holiday Toy Store, P.O. Box 6, Amherst, NH 03031.

For questions on donations, contact Lisa Emerson at 930-3565.

Different Visions for Amherst Village

Leave It Alone

BY WILLIAM VEILLETTE

AMHERST - This summer, a couple of our fellow citizens gave their friends a tour of "the beautiful colonial village of Amherst, in order to show them our historic town." To prepare, they went to the library and checked out walking tour books by Bob Rowe and the historical society. They were fascinated by what they learned and the whole experience left them with such enthusiasm that they took the time to write a letter

to the editor (7/29/14) to express their thanks "that the village has been so well preserved."

Their letter was heartening to read. This couple has lived in town (outside of the village) for 30 years and "never took the time to do a walking tour before." It's understandable that it can take a while to explore one's own backyard. And, it's gratifying to hear longstanding and new residents recognize

Continued on page 5

Envision the Future of the Village

Citizen Forum on December 2nd A Part of Amherst Strategic Planning Process

AMHERST - On October 8th, as part of an ongoing initiative to proactively plan for the future of Amherst, the Village Strategic Planning Committee, launched by the Board of Selectmen, met to kick-off an eight-month process of engaging citizens in thinking about the future of the Am-

herst Village - a unique and highly distinctive resource for all Amherst citizens. This committee comprises 24 citizens from across Amherst as well as business owners and town department, board, and commission members.

It has two goals:

1. To create a process for envisioning the future of the village in a holistic fashion rather than dealing with separate topics in isolation, and

Continued on page 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letters 2

People in the News 3

Town News 4

Library 5

Holiday Fairs & Events 9

Arts & Entertainment 12

Schools 14

Mont Vernon 15, 16

Next Issue: December 2, 2014



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