



Our Neighbors' Table sponsors 'Suitcases for Kids'

Amesbury Notebook

Lynne Hendricks

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Children in foster care are known to carry their worldly possessions in a black garbage bag as they move from home to home, and considering what most have been through, Rosemary Werner wants to help provide them the dignity of their own suitcase. Werner is pitching in to help collect new or gently used suitcases on the children's behalf, and will be collecting them at Our Neighbors' Table through June 12.

Duffel bags, large backpacks or suitcases are welcome and appreciated, said Werner. Additional drop-off locations include Stone Ridge Properties, all branches of the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank and the Amesbury Senior Center.

For more information on the project, go to www.suitcases4kids.org.

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This summer Amesbury teens participating in the Public Library's summer reading program will be reading for the Amesbury Public Library Relay for Life team "Best Friends." The summer reading program officially begins June 24 but participants have been invited to sign up online since June 1. Every teen that signs up for the reading program and continues to read throughout the program will be entered to win a Nintendo DS, and raffle prizes that include gift cards for iTunes, Cinemagic, Sal's Pizza, Best Buy, Toy Soldier, Subway, Wal-Mart and Game Stop.

Teens are also invited to attend the following Wednesday night programs throughout the summer. A Manga Read-A-Thon will be held July 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a pizza lunch provided to entrants. On Wednesday, July 15 from 2:30-4:30 teens are invited to a Teen Luau, and on July 22 from 2-3 p.m. teens are invited to sign up to "Make a Pet Rock" at the library.

A Guitar Hero party will take place on Aug. 5 from 2-4 p.m., and on Aug. 12 a prize ceremony will take place at 2 p.m.

The Teen Summer Reading Program is open to teens in the seventh-12th grade. For more information contact Margie Walker at 978-388-8148 or e-mail mwalker@mvlc.org.

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Bruce Vogel of iContact will be offering free marketing advice to local businesses this month, focusing on the question facing business owners today, "Is e-mail marketing right for you?" Vogel plans to offer four free seminars this month, each one 90 minutes in length. Individual consultations will be offered for those seeking extra advice on how to move their businesses forward. For more information contact Vogel at 978-462-5463.

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Amesbury's Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a summertime amphitheater performance by a well-known Big Band ensemble from Iceland. The Reykjanes Music School Jazz Band will perform Aug. 6 from 6-8 p.m., bringing their unique 15-person jazz sound to the residents of Amesbury.

The Jazz Band is comprised of the most advanced students in the Reykjanesbaer Music School, ranging in ages from 17 to 22. It is a 15-person jazz band, with the standard big band instrumentation: four saxophones, four trumpets, three trombones and a three-person rhythm section: electric guitar, electric bass and drum set. Their repertoire ranges from many of the old "swing" standards, such as popular Glenn Miller Band favorites "Tuxedo Junction" and "In the Mood" to more modern pieces of rock and jazz. A trained singer performs such numbers as "Stormy Weather," "Fever" and "Orange Colored Sky."

The group has traveled extensively for performances in the United States, Bermuda, Spain, Gibraltar and Bulgaria.

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Lynne Hendricks covers Amesbury for The Daily News. She can be reached at lhendricks@newburyportnews.com, or call 978-462-6666, ext. 3254.

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