**COMMUNITY**

**Garden tour raises funds for health center**

Special to the Atlantic News
NEWBURYPORT | Kick- ing off a campaign to raise funds for their Newtown Center expansion, Lamprey Health Care’s first event is a Garden Tour, taking place on Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The tour features 12 local gardens in the Newtown community, a silent auction, and a raffle for prizes donated by area businesses and artists.

Tickets are $15 in advance and can be purchased at Lamprey Health Care, Riverworks and the Newtown Public Library. Tickets can also be purchased the day of the event for $20.

Garden Tour attendees may place bids for each of the silent auction items located at the gardens. Raffle tickets will also be sold at the gardens, one for $1 or six for $5. Winning tickets will be drawn and silent auction participants will have the opportunity to make final bids back at Lamprey Health Care, directly following the Garden Tour at 2:30 p.m.

All proceeds from this event go toward expanding primary care at Lamprey Health Care’s Newtown Center. The expansion will be completed by December 2005, and will provide more patient exam and consultation rooms, provider offices, a community room, kitchen, on-site occupational and physical therapy, and radiology services.

For more information about the Garden Tour, call Lamprey Health Care at (603) 659-1949.

Lamprey Health Care is a nonprofit agency with medical centers in Newmarket, Raymond and Nashua. The agency provides primary care and preventive health services to individuals of all ages and incomes, regardless of their ability to pay.

**Nursery school students pay tribute to troops**

Special to the Atlantic News
NEWBURYPORT | Students from the NH Academy of Performing Arts (NHAPA) recently helped celebrate Armed Forces Day at Mrs. Murray’s Nursery School in Newburyport.

The tribute was held in honor of Newburyport resident Major Mike Lucy, who has been serving in Iraq since October of this year and whose four-year-old daughter, Samantha, attends school at Mrs. Murray’s. The performance featured the children signing songs such as “This Land is Your Land” and “Grand Old Flag.” A patriotic story was read and the students from NHAPA tap-danced to a “Military Melody” for the children and the parents that attended. The performance was videotaped and will be sent to Iraq for the troops to see.

In addition to attendance were Major Mike’s wife, Amy Lucy, and his mother, Dale Batchelder. A flag sent to the school from Iraq was prominently on display.

The students from Mrs. Murray’s Nursery School wore the hand-painted shirts they created, and everyone enjoyed a very patriotic red, white and blue snack. It was, according to teacher Caitheen Gray, “a very heartwarming show.”

**‘Divine Project’ fundraiser supports cancer patient**

Special to the Atlantic News
DURHAM | The University of New Hampshire Department of Dance will host a fundraising benefit performance entitled “The Divine Project,” an event that is being held to raise money for a New Hampshire cancer victim.

“The Divine Project” will be performed on Saturday, June 25 at 7 p.m. in the UNH Johnson Theatre at the Paul Creative Arts Center in Durham. This entertaining and inspiring performance will feature dancers from the finest local New England dance studios, alongside an international cast of professional dancers and choreographers from New York City.

The event is being organized by Erica Miller, professional dancer and UNH Theatre and Dance Alumnus, who was diagnosed with acute leukemia this past winter at the age of 24. “The Divine Project” was created to raise money to help Erica pay for her cancer treatment.

Erica is the eldest of five children and an alumna of the University of New Hampshire. Erica’s dance career began to bloom during her involvement with the University’s Dance Company where she danced for three years while attending UNH. She continued to pursue her career by performing in New York City and last year returned to New Hampshire to continue teaching.

In the last several months, Erica has undergone two rounds of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. Lacking the crucial luxury of health care insurance, the exorbitant fees of her medical care needs have been accumulating. Erica is a kind, generous, loving, and strong individual. She is fighting this illness with courage and has the determination to defeat it.

Erica continues pursu- ing through the joyous and

**LOCAL NOTES**

**Donors needed at blood drive**

NORTH HAMPTON | The American Red Cross will be conducting a blood drive on Tuesday, June 21 at Redhook Brewery in Portsmouth. Participants may donate anytime between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., and may enter for a chance to win a 10’ kayak with a roof mounting kit, donated by Irwin Marine.

Blood donations collected at this and other Red Cross blood drives will be used to treat cancer patients, people with blood disorders, trauma victims and others in need of “the Gift of Life.”

While blood is a lifesaving medicine, the only source is a caring volunteer donor.

A form of positive identification, such as a donor card or valid driver’s license, is now required to give blood. For more information, call the American Red Cross at (800) GIVE-LIFE, or visit www.newenglandblood.org.

**Birthmothers support group**

DOVER | Seacoast area birthmothers who have placed a child up for adoption are invited to attend monthly meetings of the Birthmothers Support Group of New Hampshire.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Bellamy Room at the Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, located on Central Avenue in Dover.

Meetings for 2005 are currently scheduled for July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2 and December 7.

For more information about this group, call Tracy Pond at (603) 740-6439, (603) 312-6232, or (866) 205-9038 (PIN 3189); e-mail birthmothersnh@yahoo.com; or visit www.jamietracy05.tripod.com.

**Red Sox ticket raffle benefits Jimeny Fund**

HAMPTON FALLS | PanMass Challenge participant George Privé has announced that a raffle is currently being held to benefit the Jimeny Fund.

The prize is a pair of tickets to a Red Sox-Yankees game, scheduled for Thursday, July 14 at 7 p.m., with first row loge seats located behind third base.

The winning raffle ticket will be drawn on Friday, July 8. Tickets are three for $10, and are available at the Hampton Falls Village Market, located at 82 Lafayette Road in Hampton Falls.

The Jimmy Fund supports the fight against cancer in children and adults at Boston’s Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, helping to raise the chance of survival for cancer patients around the world. For more information about the raffle or the PanMass Challenge, call George Privé at (603) 926-5840, or visit www.pmc-nh.org.

**Sign up now for girls softball**

EXETER | Exeter Parks and Recreation is currently offering their first softball program, available to girls ages 10-16.

The program will cover, but is not limited to, drills, scrimmages, clinics, and ASA rules and regulations. The objective is to work with girls collectively and individually to build interests, abilities and skills as well as confidence.

The program is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 28 through August 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Gilman Park, located on Bell Avenue off of Court Street.

Participants will need to have their own gloves. Sliding pads are recommended and can be purchased at local sporting goods stores. Bats, helmets and other equipment will be provided.

Cost for the program is $15 per person, for both Exeter residents and non-residents. The deadline to register is Friday, June 24. Registration forms are available at the Recreation office or at www.exeternh.org. For more information, call the rec office at (603) 778-0391 ext. 151.

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