

Belmont's GMI Asphalt opens its doors to Chamber members

BY JEFF FERLAND
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BELMONT — GMI Asphalt owners opened their doors to the community Thursday, March 22, hosting their first Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours reception to celebrate the opening of their new centralized facility and the start of the 2012 paving season.

Warren Colby, general manager and co-owner, along with Marc Bourgeois, invited friends and fellow business owners from the sur-

rounding community to tour GMI's new office and garage on Route 106 in Belmont as the company prepares for what it hopes will be a busy summer season.

Colby explained that he and Bourgeois were excited about their new facility because previously, they operated from three separate sites. Now, he explained, the business operates out of one location. He said they began moving into their new facility about a year ago, and they were finally settled in and ready to get to work.

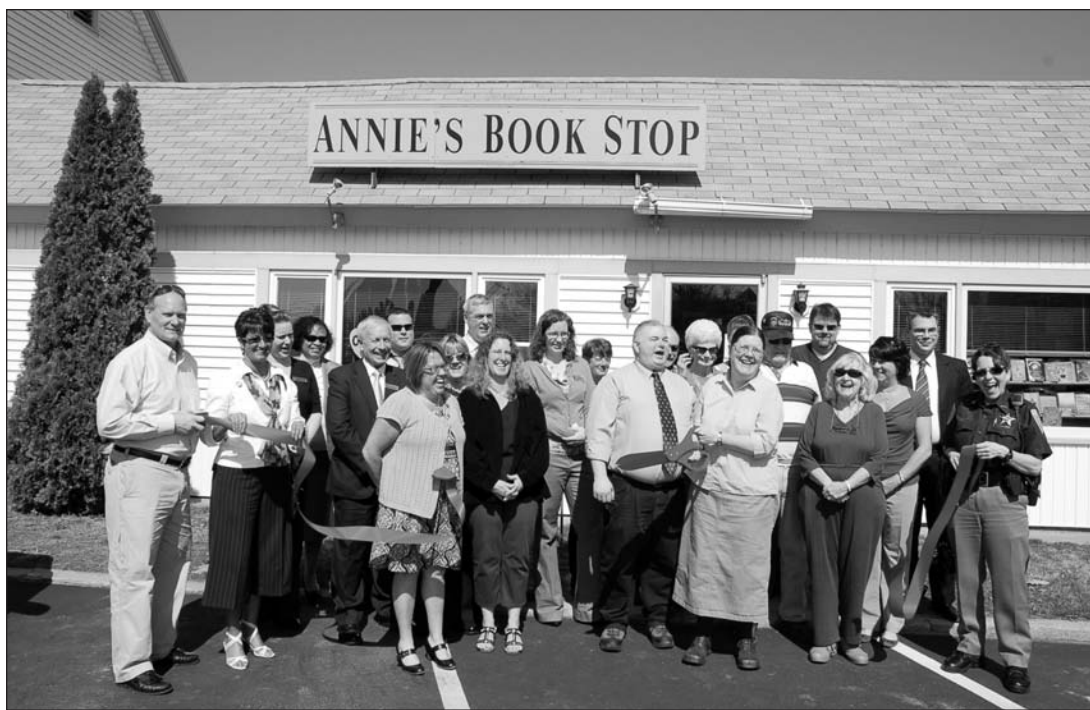
According to Colby, GMI employs about 60 workers for the season, and runs several crews. Working out of one location, he said, will help them coordinate and run more efficiently.

Colby said they have some large commercial projects, but the small residential jobs are what drive the company's business.

"This is a great area, with great people," said Colby, reflecting on the company's years of service to the Lakes Region.



GMI Co-owners Warren Colby (left) and Marc Bourgeois (right), with Neil Arruda (front), fleet maintenance manager, inspect their new highway-class paver outside their new garage at their facility on Route 106 in Belmont during last week's Business After Hours event, hosted in conjunction with the Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce.



JEFF FERLAND

Gathered to celebrate the ribbon cutting at Annie's Book Stop are Denise Schepis, LRGHealthcare; Jeannette Putorek, TD Bank; John Martin, Laconia Savings Bank; Joel Arsenault, Edward Jones; Joan Lerous, Laconia Savings Bank; Paul Hatch, NH Works; Caroline Rolfe, Franklin Savings Bank; Susan & Mark Edelstein; Elaine Blinn, Belknap Point Motel; Lindsay Cota-Robles, Laconia Savings Bank; Travis Cole, Re/Max Bayside; Deb Bolduc, BizBuzz Marketing Partners; Kyril Mitchell, Laconia Savings Bank; Dale Squires, Belknap Landscaping; Brenda Polidoro, Laconia Historical & Museum; Karmen Gifford, Executive Director of LR Chamber; Joyce, Annie's staff; Keith & Simone Henderson, new owners of Annie's Book Stop; Lawrence Dupont & Betty Seavey, family members; Judy Estes, Simone's sister and Belknap County Deputy.

New owners take the helm at Annie's Book Stop

BY JEFF FERLAND
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LACONIA — The new owners of Annie's Book Stop hosted a ribbon cutting Tuesday, March 20 to announce the opening of the bookstore under new ownership.

Though it has been open since 1983, Annie's Book Stop ushered in 2012 with new owners Simone and Keith Henderson at the helm.

Simone said she grew up in the Lakes Region and moved to Maine for about 20 years, where she met her husband Keith, who ran his own cleaning business. The couple moved back to the Lakes Region in 2007, and visited the bookshop frequently. She said her husband once mentioned to former owner Judy Normandin that they were interested in purchasing the shop if she ever decided to sell.

In 2011, Henderson said, Normandin was ready to put the shop up for sale, and the couple jumped at the opportunity. They reopened the

store on Jan. 1, and got to work.

Henderson said she has been around books all her life, and has been in library services for about 14 years, working in the New Hampshire State Library in Concord. Along with that experience, she has an Associate's degree in small business management and a BFA in writing.

Even as a child, Henderson said she would rather be reading a good book than playing outside with her siblings, and now, once again, Henderson finds herself surrounded by shelves of books.

According to Henderson, they offer new books for about 20 percent off the sticker price and about half-off used books, depending on condition. She said they also take trades for store credit towards used books. She said she is trying to include more puzzles, games and children's activities to the inventory.

If one cannot find the right book, Henderson said she is

always happy to put in a special order, as they get weekly deliveries.

Henderson said she is also working with local authors to promote their work and organize book-signing events. They hosted author Jeff Mudgett Wednesday, March 28, signing his book "Bloodstains." Mudgett is great grandson of Herman Webster Mudgett, born in Gilmanton, made infamous as the murderer H.H. Holmes in "The Devil and the White City."

Henderson said they are also hosting a poetry night open mic on Thursday, April 5 from 6 p.m. on with poet and fiddler Dudley Laufman.



COURTESY

Saluting New Hampshire's heroes

During opening ceremonies for Operation Appreciation, the Manchester Monarchs hockey team's annual salute to First Responders and military personnel, the Tilton Police Department was given the honor of bearing the national flag onto the ice. Twenty members of the TPD made the trip to Manchester to unfurl the massive flag before the game got underway last Saturday evening. Police, fire, emergency medical crews and military men and women received tickets at discounted prices and were paid special tribute by the Monarchs for their service to both the nation and their local communities. This year's special honorees were police officer Dan Doherty, who was shot multiple times in a recent incident in Manchester, and 13-year-old Jaimie Cates, who was injured during a 2009 home invasion in Mont Vernon when her mother Kimberly was killed.



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