

Town News

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

Amy Lapointe, Library Director
14 Main St., Amherst NH
Phone 673-2288 Fax 672-6063
email: library@amherst.lib.nh.us
web http://www.amherst.lib.nh.us
Mon-Thu, 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Fri & Sat, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sun, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

November Programming in the Children's Room

Traditional Storytimes

Our traditional storytimes start on Tuesday, October 14th and run for six weeks. Babies-2s meet on Tuesdays at 10am. 2s meet on Tuesdays at 11:15am. 3s meet on Wednesdays at 11:00am and kids 4 and up meet on Wednesdays at 3:30pm. Drop in as your schedule permits, no registration is required. We would love to see you!

These programs are filled with songs, finger plays, stories and fun!

Bonding With Books:

Monday, November 17th at 10:30. It's never too early to introduce books to your child. Preschoolers, toddlers and even infants learn important skills when they are encouraged to explore language and books. Join us and learn new tips and ideas on how to introduce books and sounds to your young child. Discover how to: Help your child develop an interest in books. Choose books that match your child's development. Build your child's vocabulary. Prepare your child to learn to read. This program is brought to us by the NH State Parent Information and Resource Center.

Finger-Knitting

Join us for a fun session of finger-knitting on Wednesday, November 19th at 4pm. Learn from the beginning or continue with what you already know! Sign up is required, and participants must be at least 7 years old. Class led by 5th graders Abby Schulte and Alison Bowman. Sign up online, in the children's room or by calling 673-2288.

All Day Craft

Gobble, gobble! On Wednesday, November 26th come make and take home a Thanksgiving-themed craft. All ages welcome, no registration is required! Just drop in



anytime to the Children's Room from 10-5.

Craft Storytime Sessions

Join us for a three-week craft storytime session! These sessions start with a short storytime and end with an age-appropriate craft. Children 2 and 3 will meet at 10:30 on Wednesdays; December 3, 10 and 17. Kids 4 and up will meet at 3:30 on Wednesdays; December 3, 10 and 17. Registration is required, as space is limited. You may sign up starting November 18 online, or in the Children's Room.

Amy Conley: Mommy and Me Music Time

Monday, December 1 at 11:00 am. Join us in this fun musical program geared at children birth-4. Amy Conley opened Music Together of Milford (NH's first Music Together center) in 1997 and has been a preschool music specialist since 1984. She plays guitar, keyboard, accordion and banjo in class and can often be found performing family music all around NH and MA at schools, concerts and parties. For Amy's schedule of performances, her recordings for children and other classes she teaches, visit AmyConley.com. Registration is required for this class, as space is limited. Please call 673-2288 or register online!

Open Play Time

Everyone is welcome to join us in Open Play Time on Tuesdays, December 2, 16, 30. You can drop in anytime from 10-12 to the Johnson Room. We will have lots of toys out. This is a great way to socialize and meet some other families in town!

Saturday Stars: A Talent Show

Play the piano? Dance? Sing? Perform Magic? Can you stand on your head? Perform a skit? Share your talent with Amherst! On Saturday, December 6th at 10:30 will be our third annual talent show. Please keep acts under 6 minutes. You can sign up in the Children's Room, or e-mail Miss Jackie at jbigier@amherst.lib.nh.us.

It's About Conservation

A Real Natural Space

By BRUCE B. BECKLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Opportunity Postponed = Opportunity Lost

Good news and no bad news. In 2004 Warrant Article 2 was passed authorizing the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to borrow up to \$5.5-million for the purchase of open space for conservation and recreation. An Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) was named to identify qualifying land and negotiate with willing sellers. Many parcels have been investigated and owners talked with. The Amherst Land Trust (ALT) and Conservation Commission have assisted by funding appraisals, engineering, and legal steps. To-date, only one transaction, a bargain sale, has been consummated.

Now, as the 5-year window of opportunity is closing on the bond authorization, a very special property has become available. Two public hearings will be held by the BOS to gather comments on the proposed purchase before the Board acts. A unanimous vote of recommendation has been given by the ACC.

Here's the deal. The property consisting of 104 acres (of which 37 acres lie in Bedford) and a residence is on one of the higher locations in Amherst. Well-maintained fields and wood lots show the present owner's long-term care and love of the property. When it became necessary for the owner to sell the property, a strong desire by the family to preserve its natural qualities prompted them to give the Town the first opportunity to purchase the property in its entirety.

OSAC brought other organizations into the discussions: the ACC for opinions on the natural values of the land, the Bedford Conservation Commission (BCC) and the Bedford Land Trust on the purchase of the Bedford portion, and the ALT as a backup should Bedford not be able to participate in the purchase. This is one opportunity all those involved in concurred should not be lost.

The BCC recently voted unanimously to recommend to the Bedford Town Coun-

cil that funds from the BCC Land Account be used to purchase the Bedford portion. These funds derived from land use change tax fees will not cause any tax rate increase.

Back in Amherst, the 1770 home and barn with 15 acres will be listed for sale to a private party. A perpetual natural space agreement will be attached to the house parcel thereby avoiding any more building on it in the future.

The result of these many hours of discussion (and documents) will be the addition of nearly 100 acres to the now-protected inventory of woods, fields and waterways in the Pulpit Brook watershed that stretches from Joppa Hill farm to Pulpit Rock Reservation. It is a deal! But not a done deal until the BOS says, "Yes". The Board needs to know of your support. Plan to attend the Selectmen's hearings on November 17 and December 1, probably at 6 PM. Please see the official hearing notice for details.

Does it save?

How many remember backing up to the edge of the dump on Dodge Road, sometimes slipping in the mud and smoke? We've come a long way as have other towns. No more watching the bears feed at dusk or shooting rats. So, where are we? The state recently dumped a mess of numbers on municipal waste. Below are a few totals for residential waste in tons per year for 2007. You may draw your own conclusions.

Town	Population	Residential T/Y	Recycle Rate %	Per Capita Cost \$
Amherst	11,910	3,138	25.13	64.55
Bedford	21,464	8,725	13.72	103.57
Durham	13,682	1,690	46.96	156.68
Exeter	15,044	2,865	40.74	44.94
Milford	15,160	3,014	33.24	46.52
New Market	9,098	925	48.12	46.16
Plymouth	6,534	725	74.87	64.45
State NH	1,347,756	472,053	23.29	86.22

Writing Support for High School Students at Amherst Town Library

The Amherst Town Library is providing an opportunity for area high school students to receive writing support. Nancy Baker, a recently retired Souhegan High School teacher, is offering one-on-one writing conferences at the Amherst Town Library by appointment. The conferences are opportunities for students to get help with classroom writing assignments, college essays, Junior Research paper, Senior Project, or perhaps that dream of a novel.

Writing is something that improves with practice and with coaching. Even the best students can use constructive feedback and encouragement with the analytical writing process. Teachers never have enough time to work with each student as much as he or she would like, and Nancy would like to lend a helping hand. Her services are being offered as a community service

and are free and open to all area high school students. This service is offered in coordination with the Amherst Town Library Reference Department and Reference Librarians Ruslyn Vear and Sarah Leonardi are happy to provide cooperative research assistance for all the students Nancy is working with.

Nancy Baker worked for many years at Souhegan High School teaching Latin, philosophy, and the history of ideas. She retired this past June, but still enjoys helping kids think critically and write with clarity and with attention to solid language mechanics.

Students who would like to get some help with writing can contact Nancy at nbaker@sprise.com to set up an appointment. The time (30-45 minutes) may be used to brainstorm and create an outline or get feedback on a work in progress. An

initial conference is very important for any students that Nancy has not worked with previously as she needs to build a working relationship. After that point, electronic communication is also an option to answer questions, for example, in the evening while a student is writing. For some students, conferencing in person will always be the best option. Nancy requires that her role in the writing process be transparent to all involved including teachers and parents. For convenience, Nancy is also offering to meet with students by appointment at Souhegan High School in addition to the Amherst Town Library. For more information, contact the Amherst Town Library Reference Librarians at 673-2288 or library@amherst.lib.nh.us; or email Nancy directly at nbaker@sprise.com

Short Story Writing Workshop November 12

The Amherst Town Library invites you on Wednesday, November 12th to "Story-Doors," the first of three "Wordplay" writing workshops that are being offered as part of the yearlong program Lit at the Edges: Sojourns with Stories, Poems, Essays. This writing workshop welcomes anyone who would like to discover doorways to the art of writing the short story. If you have attended any of the Stories from the Borderlands discussion series this

fall, or are simply interested in the craft of short story writing, please join us for hands-on exercises, word-play, and new ideas for generating writing. Bring pen and paper, and join us at 1-2:30 p.m. or 7-8:30 p.m. in the Johnson Meeting Room. Please register by calling 673-2288, emailing library@amherst.lib.nh.us or by visiting our website at www.amherst.lib.nh.us and click on the calendar icon labeled "Calendar of Events" on the homepage.

Facilitator Emily Archer has designed this series in consultation with Ruslyn Vear, Head of Reference. Emily holds a doctorate in American literature, is a published writer, and has led humanities discussions and writing groups for over fifteen years for numerous New Hampshire libraries, schools, churches, and medical communities. She lives in Mont Vernon with her family.

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What are you doing the night before Thanksgiving? Come give thanks to the Lord with us!

Pie Social
Following the Service
7 PM • Wednesday
November 26, 2008

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