

Support for Souhegan Community Council

To the editor:

A petition signed by a large number of Amherst citizens will be presented to the Souhegan School Board on February 18, 2010 expressing our support for the Board's recent decision to continue to recognize the important role of Souhegan High School's Community Council in matters of school governance and policy.

We feel that continuing to have the Community Council, comprised of students, faculty/staff and community members, deliberate on important issues and make recommendations to the School Board is essential for the following reasons:

1. **Students are the primary stakeholders.** Having a safe, nurturing environment in which to learn affects them the most.
2. **Just like older adults, teenagers respond positively to being given responsibility and trust.**
3. **People who have a say in governance, as in democratic countries, are more likely to obey rules.**
4. **Students, who have the best understanding of the actual problems at the school, know best what rules should be made and which punishments will be the most effective.**

In the past, the Community Council has shown that it has the courage to make rules that restrict individual freedoms by banning smoking on campus decades be-

fore the state imposed its ban, the judgment to recognize the need for security by voting to hire a on-campus School Resource Officer and the wisdom to give financial support to Students Against Destructive Decisions. We are confident that they will continue to put the preservation of Souhegan's highly effective learning environment above any personal interests.

We support the continuation of Community Council's role because we want to preserve our unique high school, a school with one of the lowest dropout rates in the state and a very high percentage of college attendance, a school where the students feel safe, a school where students get help with a variety of issues from essay writing to behavioral and personal problems. Taking away students' voice in policy matters will fundamentally change the school environment, negatively impacting the student body. Changing Souhegan into just another public high school will eliminate the draw that this excellent school has on prospective home buyers which will negatively impact us all.

We want to thank the School Board for continuing to share our faith in the students of Souhegan High School and the Community Council.

Frankie Straccia
Amherst

Amherst to Vote on Bus in March

To the editor:

Amherst is on a roll! Residents of Amherst gathered at the town's Deliberative Session on Wednesday, February 3rd, to discuss the Warrant Articles they will vote on in mid-March. Among those warrant articles is petition Warrant Article #43, which calls for a motor vehicle registration fee of \$1.50 to support community transportation in the town. Souhegan Valley Rides, the wheelchair accessible non-emergency medical and shopping transportation system currently serving residents of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, and Milford, is counting on the implementation of the motor vehicle registration fee in Amherst to continue offering the service to town residents.

The town of Hollis instituted the Motor Vehicle Registration Fee last year to support Souhegan Valley Rides. A New Hampshire state law (RSA 261:153) allows towns to add up to \$5 to their base vehicle registration fee and use it for transportation projects, including public transit. Some New Hampshire towns have used this RSA to collect vehicle registration fees for transportation funds. Manchester, Exeter, and Hollis, for example, have added fees of \$5, \$2.50, and \$1 respectively and set the money aside to fund community transport-

tation options.

Implementing the registration fee to pay for the service is a sustainable funding model. However, if towns do not support the addition of the fee, they will be forced to vote to support the service each year. The money raised from the motor vehicle registration fee will also help the service obtain more funding.

Souhegan Valley Rides provided 1500 rides in the region since its inception October 2008. Amherst's ridership has increased substantially, up to 22% of the rides given in the last quarter.

If Article #43 does not pass in March, Souhegan Valley Rides will no longer serve Amherst. It is up to those Amherst residents who vote on March 9 to stand up for all the residents of the town. Adding a small motor vehicle registration fee to support community transportation can increase residents' independence, health and mobility, things necessary to "Age in Place." For more information about Souhegan Valley Rides and Article #43, please contact Carolyn Mitchell at 801-3349.

Submitted by Kaley Lentini
Granite State Organizing Project

Recreation Commission Identifies Land To Replace Cemetery Fields

To the editor:

On behalf of the Amherst Recreation Commission, I would like to thank the supporters of Petition Warrant Article #24 who attended the February 3rd Deliberative Session. It is encouraging to know that residents understand the importance of replacing Cemetery Playground and Fields. Preliminary results of the Recreation Master Plan reported that 74% of the 960 survey participants use the playground, fields and the adjacent area.

As outlined at the Deliberative the property known as Cemetery Fields could be reclaimed as early as 2012 to begin infrastructure for Forestview Cemetery. This means that the Town's playground, multi-purpose fields, and a 60' baseball diamond will need a new home. If the Recreation Commission is unable to secure a replacement parcel 1,600 organized sports participants will be displaced, time will be limited or restricted on other available fields and the situation will create a negative impact on other recreation and school fields.

In brief, the Petition Warrant Article #24 requests that the voters raise and appropriate \$625,000 to purchase a land parcel to replace Recreation Cemetery Fields and to authorize said funds to be raised through the issuance of bonds. This request is supported unanimously by the Recreation Commission.

The parcel that has been identified is located on Sterns Road, commonly known as Brewster Fields. This 57.2 parcel with 2,936 of Souhegan River frontage is ideal. It will amply meet the immediately need to accommodate Cemetery's lost fields and playground. Its central location has the potential for expansion for both active and passive recreation. The Commission's preliminary survey results indicated that the highest percentage of surveyors participated in active sports, walking, picnics, gardening, and wildlife viewing. The Stearns Road parcel is perfect for these activities.

A power point presentation and frequently asked questions regarding Petition Warrant Article # 24 are available on our web site amherstrec.ogr and Amherst Recreation Facebook Fan Page. Be sure to refer to either location or contact the Department or Recreation Commission members to help answer your questions or concerns. More information regarding phasing out use of Cemetery fields and playground will be provided to the public over the next few weeks.

Once more, thank you for your interest. Remember to vote at the March 9, 2010 ballot.

Sincerely,
Dana Redmond
Amherst Recreation Commission Member

Stop The Madness Before We All Go Broke

To the editor:

It seems to me that many of our town leaders just don't get it. We have an economy in serious trouble coupled with high unemployment. Those are undisputed facts. Our State government is also in serious trouble, since our legislature went on a spending spree and our governor doesn't know how to say "No" to frivolous spending. A recent State Supreme Court decision rightly blocked the State from stealing money it has already spent. Now the State of N.H. will start the next fiscal year nearly one billion dollars in the hole and with a depleted "rainy day fund". That means that the State will have to cut services, staff, and/or find a way to take a lot more of your money.

So now is the perfect time for Amherst to spend taxpayer money on more land for recreation, right? WRONG! It is time that our leaders started thinking and looking at what we already have that can be used

for recreation. We just recently added the Bean Fields, didn't we? Plus there are numerous other fields around town that we already pay to maintain. Why not develop planning skills and start making better use of available facilities?

Actually, if the town votes to fund another land grab, it will only be the beginning. The next petition will be to build a giant recreation center on the land. Then we equip it with every toy available and, oh yes, staff. This is the same irresponsible, arrogant behavior that is exhibited by the federal government! It is an attack on your freedom and it is time to stop the madness, before we all go broke.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Geis
Amherst

www.amhersteitizen.com

Brown Eyed Girl Creations

Making Your Home a Beautiful Reflection of You!


- Drapes
- Board Work
- Valances
- Shades
- Bedding
- Blinds
- Installation
- Fully Insured

Contact Michele: 603-566-3864
sewbrowneyedgirl@comcast.net
www.sewbrowneyedgirl.com


See our work on display in the Carpet Creations Showroom at 121 Lowell Road, Hudson, NH

For a healthy and natural life:

EVENTS: Feb. 12th 6:30pm Movie screening: 'Fresh'
Feb. 16th 6:30pm (class) Sugar Shock - learn toxic effect of sugar on the body. Reduce cravings
Feb. 18th 6:30pm (class) GMO Foods. What are they? Learn the risks of consuming.




Find the food and lifestyle choices that best support you!



Susan K. Baker
Certified Holistic Health Counselor, AADP

New Year • New Location • New Classes
10 Northern Blvd / Suite 15 • Amherst, NH
603.396.8480 / www.nutressante.com

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Extended Service Hours

We at Toyota of Nashua value our customer's safety at all costs. In light of recent customer safety concerns, our Service Department will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to address any safety concerns you may have.

For further information, call us at
(603) 888-3555 or (800) 300 3555.

Toyota of Nashua

Automotive Village
Nashua, NH 03060
toyotaofnashua.com

NOW OPEN!



DEVINE FLOORING
438
Residential • Commercial
CARPET • AREA RUGS
HARDWOOD • TILE
TUES-FRI 10-6
SAT 10-4
CLOSED SUN & MON
GIVE US A CALL
AT 654 5400


Come see our new store... you'll be floored!

In the former Bursey's Market location
438 Gibbons Highway
Route 101W • 654-5400
Wilton, NH 03086

DEVINE FLOORING

www.devineflooring.com

STORE HOURS:
Tuesday-Friday: 10AM-6PM
Saturday: 10AM-4PM
CLOSED: Sundays & Mondays



Natural, beautiful, durable and healthy.

BAMBOO

Bamboo flooring combines elegance, versatility, form and function, making this natural product an ideal flooring solution for you.

The demand for Bamboo has been increasing for many years because of its unique beauty and elegance. Bamboo is now one of the preferred materials for interior designers. Trend-setting and aesthetically pleasing, Bamboo combines hard wearing capabilities and ecological considerations. Bamboo presents an unmistakably high quality surface appearance giving any space a great, fresh look!

Bamboo is environmentally sound. Renewable, recyclable and biodegradable.

CORK

Cork flooring is a healthy choice and good investment that will last for generations. Comprised of a renewable natural material, cork is environmentally friendly, as much as it promotes improved health and comfort. Cork floors create a warm, comfortable, resilient surface that is gentle underfoot, is anti-microbial, fire-resistant, and is inherently resistant to molds, mildews, and common pests such as termites.

Well maintained, your cork floor will last for decades.



cardoza flooring
INSTALLATION & SALES

HARDWOOD • LAMINATES • VINYL • CARPET • TILE

www.cardozaflooring.com
673-2201 • 227 Union Sq., "The Oval", Milford
Mon. 12-5, Tues., Wed., Fri. 9 - 5; Thurs. 9 - 7; Sat. 9 - 2



Valentine's SALE
Feb. 11, 12, 13
Treat someone special today!
Best Coffee & Whole-leaf Tea in NH

15% Off
Clip our Coupon on Page 6

AMHERST Carriage Depot
135 Rt 101A
603-578-3338

