Letters & Opinion

Amherst Beautification Day -Litter Pick Up

To the editor:

On Friday, September 17th and Tuesday the 21st do not be surprised and GO SLOW around town. You will see over 100 Souhegan Students in bright Gold Tee Shirts walking and working on our streets and neighborhoods picking up the litter. These students generally work in many areas, includ-

SHARE and other charitable organizations as part of their service Souhegan High has modified the standard "service days" to include helping the Town of Amherst address the litter problem in concert with our 250th anniversary. There will be approx 12 teams of 10 students each ,crisscrossing various roads throughout Amherst, Mt Vernon and even a bit of Merrimack and Milford where town lines cross. As always, dedicated parents are assisting with transport and teachers will be part of each team. The Amherst DPW has volunteered some assets and your local police department is monitoring traffic and helping keep things safe as well. If the weather intervenes there could be changes to the dates. So thanks to everyone helping make this happen, especially the energetic students.

George Coddington

Donors Make Reading Program a **Success**

To the editor:

The Amherst Town Library would like thank the many donors who helped make the 2010 Summer Reading Program a success. Over the summer, readers won great prizes that were generously supplied by many local

Special thanks to: aurvara Salon, Canobie Lake Park, Cassidy's Grille & Coffee House, Casual Cat Picture Framing, NH Fishercats, Frederick's Pastries, Homestead Grocery and Deli, Jakes Old Fashioned Ice Cream, Jazzercise, just naturals and co., Lisa DeBeradinis (@ Stephen Marx Salon), Longhorn Steakhouse, Lozier Glass Studio, Mile Away Restaurant, MovieScene, Panera, Papa Joe's Humble Kitchen, Ponemah Farms, Rustic Leaf Bistro, Shaws, Snipits, Staples, Stop & Shop, TGI Friday's, The Garden Party, Toadstool Bookshop, Uno Chicago Grill, Valvoline, Wal-Mart Supercenter, and The Wilton Town Hall Theater.

We'd also like to thank Ponemah Farms for allowing us to use their garden carts for our mini-floats in the Fourth of July Parade. We won three blue ribbons! Our appreciation also goes out to the many volunteers from the Friends of the Library who baked fresh breakfast goodies for our Friday morning "Games in the Garden" series, Amherst Yoga and Rodney Woodman Florist for their "Wednesday workshops," and Saturn of Manchester for the use of their grill at our second annual BBQ on the village green.

We appreciate everyone's generosity. Thank you.

The Staff of the Amherst Town Library

Join the Chamber at Business Expo

To the editor:

I am an active member of the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce. I have worked on several of the Chamber's committees that help support local charities and assist local businesses. In my opinion, one of the most respective qualities about the Chamber is how they work so arduously to bring awareness to the local businesses in our community. During these economic times it is important to support our local businesses so they will be around in years to come.

Next month the Chamber is sponsoring The Southern NH Business Expo which will be held at the Hampshire Dome in Milford on Thursday, October 21. Each year the Expo has been more successful than the previous year, they are anticipating over 200 vendor booths and over 3,500 people to attend the Expo. What a great way to celebrate the hard working businesses of our community by coming to this event and visiting your favorite, and new, companies.

If you are a business owner and are interested in the Expo there is still time to reserve your booth for the 2010 Southern NH Business Expo, please call the Chamber at 673-4360 or www.souhegan.net.

I would like to personally thank the Chamber and May Balsama for all the dedicated, selfless work they provide to our community.

> Barbara Allen **Amherst**

Letters To the editor:

serve as a community forum. We welcome your letters, opinions, and commentaries and make every effort to run them in their entirety. We do reserve the right to edit. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the position of the staff of The Amherst Citizen.

The Amherst Citizen is eager to Please direct your letters, views and commentary to the Editor, The Amherst Citizen, P.O. Box 291, Amherst, NH 03031-0291, or e-mail your submission to: news@amherstcitizen.com. We will attempt to run your letter as submitted (space permitting) providing it is signed and phone number is included.

2nd Annual Run for Emma

To the editor:

In November of 2006, our daughter Emma was diagnosed with Nephrotic Syndrome, a rare kidney disease for which there is no known cause or cure. While she has done well over the years, it is a daily struggle to keep her in remission and during the last couple of years, she has been experiencing frequent relapses, increased amounts of medication, and more frustration on our part. We just wish we knew what was going to happen next.

On October 17th I will be running the Baystate Marathon to raise money for the NephCure Foundation. Our hope is that someday soon they will find a cause and a cure to help Emma and lots of other children who are battling this disease.

Donations can be made by going to www.firstgiving.com/ericarichards. Donating through this website is simple, fast and totally secure. It is also the most efficient way to support my fundraising efforts. If you'd prefer, you can mail a check payable to The NephCure Foundation, to 15 Waterloo Avenue, Berwyn, PA 19312. Write "Run for Emma" in the memo line of

> Many thanks for your support, Erica, Mark, Ethan, and Emma Richards

Nike Reuse A Shoe

To the editor:

Fall has come quickly this year and we are once again holding our Nike Reuse A Shoe Drive! This program was developed to take your old rubber soled athletic shoes and recycle them into playing fields and sport surfaces for underprivileged communities. Our last collection, in fall of 2008, netted 400 pairs of shoes! There are currently collected bins at the Amherst Middle School and Souhegan High school. We would like to thank College Bound Movers once again for their continued support of this worthy cause and their donation of the boxes we need to ship the shoes to the recycling center. Thank you also to Souhegan High School and Amherst Middle School for allowing us to collect the shoes in the schools. No metal cleats please! The drive has started and will end on October 1st. If you cannot get to one of the collection sites, please email us. For any other questions more information, please email jmdrn@comcast.net.

Please take this wonderful opportunity to clean out those closets of all your unwanted rubber soled shoes!

> Kevin D'Auteuil, Ryan D'Auteuil, Drew D'Auteuil, Amherst

SHS Robotics Team Mentor Says Thank You

To the editor:

For the past twelve years it has been my privilege to be the Program Director for the Souhegan High School F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Team. This First Robotics Competition combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 25 students or more are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It's as close to "realworld engineering" as a student can get. During that time we have been able to offer this unique program to over 300 students who are interested in engineering as well as animation and web design. Many of these students are now engineers helping to design software, medical instruments, and work in the aero space industry.

I will be leaving the team soon and would like to thank the following people and companies for their years of support that have made this such a success.

Of course none of this would be possible without the dedication of the fine engineers who donate hundreds of hours each year to pass down their knowledge to the next generation. I would like to especially thank Brian Walters, Tom Hoose, Tom Lewis, Mike Mahar, and Mac Winsor for their

The corporate community had been a very important part of the team's success over the years. No company has had more of an impact than Monarch Instruments of Amherst. Both Ken and Glenn Grabeau have opened their doors and their hearts to over 40 teenagers for the last 10 years to give the team a home. Jim Infanti of County Stores has been there for the team since its inception, offering parts and advice to the team. Other local firms that have made a major impact are B&B Mold Company of Milford, ControlAir of Amherst, John Albert's Welding of Amherst, Milford Rotary and of course BAE Systems of Nashua. Without the support of these companies the team would not exist.

This program will provide us with the engineers, scientist, mechanics, and programmers that will improve our lives in the future. This program should not just survive, but should thrive. If you are a mechanical or electrical engineer that would like to really make a difference through mentoring some of the brightest students or you are a company that would like to donate to make sure this program continues please contact me at billp@ yankeepub.com.

Thank you one and all, it has been a great ride.

Mont Vernon

Commentary

Happy Birthday Amherst
Happy Birthday, Amherst. Is it the town's 248th 260th, or 272nd anniversary? Possibly one or another; you decide.

In 1738 the families of the community gathered together and established

They voted to construct a meetinghouse including a pulpit and hire a minister for the town. Prior to our 1st amendment to the Constitution, the Congregational Church was the official church and a function of town government. Your tax dollars paid the minister's salary and if you had a complaint about the church or minister you addressed it to town government. The date of May 16, 1738 was selected for the raising of the frame for the Meetinghouse. It was built at Upper Flanders, now the corner of Mack Hill religious services. We were a formal community calling ourselves, Soughegan West.

At that time the area was a frontier. Here is how one of the settlers described the town: "A howling wilderness it was, where no man dwelt. The hideous yells of wolves, the shrieks of owls, the gobbling of turkeys, and the barking of foxes, was the music we heard. All a dreary waste and exposed to a thousand difficulties.

None the less the town prospered and in 1753 the citizens voted to take the last step in becoming a formal municipality: incorporating. A petition was sent to the King through the royal governor requesting authorization to incorporate the town in the name of Soughegan West or Narraganset

The town waited for authorization from the King. None came. The town continued to wait.

Then in 1760, after seven years had passed, the King replied approving the request to incorporate. A charter was granted, but not in the name of Soughegan West or Narraganset No. 3. The king authorized the name of Amherst even though the town didn't request the name of Amherst. Lord Jeffrey Amherst was a favorite of the King. The King chose the name and approved a two year charter, expiring on January 1, 1762. On December 15, 1761 the selectmen requested that the charter be lengthened. This request was granted by Governor Wentworth on January 7, 1762.

Now the lawyer in me wants to say that if the first charter ended on the first of January and renewed on the seventh, was Amherst unincorporated for one week?

> Robert H. Rowe **Amherst**

Souhegan High School F.I.R.S.T. **Robotics Team**

To the editor:

The Souhegan High School F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Team is in need of engineering volunteers to mentor students for the 2010/2011 competition season. The only requirements are a desire to share your knowledge and problem solving skills with the next generation of engineers, and a burning desire to enrich the student's experience by helping bring their ideas to life by designing, building, and competing in an exciting robotics competition. If the United States is to remain a world leader in science & technology, we need to encourage more students to consider the exciting and rewarding experience a career in engineering or science has to offer. This is creates a first hand business simulation for students well in the advance of making a career choice and has had a profound impact in the lives of our students. For more information regarding the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition, please visit usfirst.org. We are looking for two software engineers (C or C+), a mechanical engineer (AutoDesk or SolidWorks), an electrical engineer, and an individual with animation and web design experience (3D Studio Max). If you would like more details, please contact Bill Price at billp@yankeepub.com.

Bill Price *Amherst*

Support the Amherst Patriots!

To the editor:

Four to five times a year your local Amherst Patriots Pop Warner program takes the field at Wilkins school. At least once a day during these games we get complaints about the music that is played or the announcing that is being done during the games because the sound carries away from the field. We make every effort to keep the sound down, but we also want to make sure that the players and cheerleaders get the full experience of playing in or cheering for a football game and that includes music and an-

Rather than complaining we would like to invite all of you to come check us out. We put a very good brand of football on the field, and 250 kids are not roaming around with nothing to do because they are on our fields learning sportsmanship, how to work hard and more importantly teamwork. I'll bet if you come take a look at the smiling faces...and the pageantry of our home games you will understand what's going on at Wilkins, and when you hear the sound carry on a Sunday morning, rather than calling a Selectman to complain you will smile and recognize that is the sound of a small town football team doing well against its opponent!

We have three more home dates, September 26th and October 10th with games from 8am - 4pm, and October 17th with games from 9am -2:30pm. The complete schedule is posted on www.amherstpatriots.com. Please come check us out and see what you are missing!

> Drew Zell Vice President Amherst Patriots

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Phone: 672-9444 Fax: 672-8153 e-Mail: news@amherstcitizen.

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How to contact us:

Phone: 603-672-9444 Fax: 603-672-8153

Mail: PO Box 291 Amherst, NH 03031

eMail: News: news@amherstcitizen.com Ads: ads@amherstcitizen.com on the World Wide Web: www.amherstcitizen.com

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