Letters & Opinion

Alert - Preserve Last Office Space Big Changes Coming for Tree In The Village Center

To the editor:

The Planning Board has postponed action on the Rt.101/Limbo Lane proposed affordable housing project. The developer requested the extension from September 14th. The extension approved by the Board is until October 5th, 2011 at the Town Hall (7:30 pm).

The Citizens for Amherst's Future are asking that the Planning Board maintain their previous finding that it is an unsuitable location for the proposed affordable housing project. This is the last remaining office space within 10 miles of the center of town. There are many other sites in town

that are suitable for affordable housing.

THE MOST UNWISE ECONOMIC DECISION A COMMUNITY CAN
MAKE IS TO GIVE UP ITS LAND ZONED FOR INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL OR OFFICE USE FOR A LOWER ECONOMIC USE (RESI-DENTIAL), AS IS PROPOSED. If you agree with this, please send a note to us at 23 Manchester Rd., Am-

herst; call us at 673-8167; or email us at ccommish@rcn.com and we will send you a copy of the petition.

> Thank you, Carol and Don Holden **Amherst**

Selectmen Weren't Thinking **Clearly About Selection Process**

To the editor:

It has been said that the basic tenet of a healthy democratic government is accountability and transparency.

I am sure that the Amherst Board of Selectmen was just not thinking as clearly as they might have by not creating the most transparent process in choosing the new town administrator.

When they first heard that a sitting Selectman was going to be a candidate for the position, I believe that it was incumbent on them to invest some time in creating panels of citizens and professionals to help them select the best candidate. The panels rather than hiring an outside consultant would not have incurred any costs to the town.

The process of having a panel of professionals and or citizens and department heads to select the best candidate would have gone a long way to creating a sense of confidence in the Board and the process.

The outcome might have been the same but an accountable and transparent process would have assured that we still have a healthy democratic government.

> Sincerely, Marilyn Peterman **Amherst**

Summer Reading Program Success

To the editor:

The Amherst Town Library would like thank the many contributors who helped make the 2011 Summer Reading Program a success. This summer, the hours which Amherst children spent reading earned money from donors to support the work of Heifer Project all over the world. We earned enough to send 5 flocks of chickens, 4 beehives, a sheep, a goat, and an alpaca. Thank you to all of our readers, whose eyes lit up at the thought of sharing the gift of farm animals with strangers on the other side of the world and thank you so much to our generous sponsors: The Amherst Preschool, The Preschool in the Village, Little Einsteins Preschool, Kathy Mc-Intyre, the Cobleigh Family, the Roy Family, Debbie Murphy, Elaine Bennet, Joanie Edgarton, the Castell Family, the Garvey Family, Izzy and Gretta Caulton, and The Friends of the Amherst Town Library (in loving memory of Kathy M. Wilkins Rios).

Summer readers also won great prizes that were generously supplied by many local businesses. Special thanks to: The Toadstool Bookshop, Paula Garvey of Rosie Roses Creations, Homestead Grocery and Deli, Jakes Old Fashioned Ice Cream, Canobie Lake Park and NH Fishercats.

We'd also like to thank the Amherst Lions club for the use of their grill at our 3rd annual BBQ on the village, as well as John Dowd and Diane Bonenfant who volunteered their culinary skills at the BBQ.

> We appreciate everyone's generosity. Staff of the Amherst Town Library

Letters To the editor:

The Amherst Citizen is eager to Please direct your letters, views 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.

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.

Lighting Festival

To the editor:

As the economy changes and 2 working parent families are more and more aware, Sunday night has become a School Night, and a scramble for prep the next school/work day.

Thus the Amherst Tree Lighting Festival needs to shift and change with the times, as per requests made by young parents. The main complaint is that the events run too late, and are all jammed together in to one single day. There were many parents who had kids scattered; either attending or participating in events, because we had some events that were simultaneously scheduled. These parents said they could not be in two places at once, and have asked us to rethink the set up. The times are changing!

Parents have said that in this generation, in which many families have both parents working, Sunday night events like the Tree Lighting Ceremony, Spaghetti Supper and Concert are too late for a school night. So we are trying to move in sync with this generation, and create a schedule people can live with and get excited about.

This year, the Tree Lighting Ceremony will be a Kick-Off Event, rather then a Closing Event...and will be on a "relax" night, rather than the "school night" of Sunday. It will also enable families to not have to choose between one event and another if all particpants CHOOSE to spread their events out from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. No one will be told to move their event...the choice is theirs.

The town organizations and churches who host all the concerts, and other events now have the whole weekend from which to choose to schedule their event!so events do not have to be all jammed into one day! ...and groups could even have a fundraising opportunity!

The Tree Lighting Festival remains scheduled for the 2nd weekend, as usual....December 9-10-11, and will feature the Lighting of the Tree as the kickoff event on the new staging, initiated by Charlie Vars and donated by the Lions Club.

The Amherst Tree Lighting Festival is also open to having a group create a new event, such as hosting as a supper, or "reception" ala punch and cookies, immediately after the Tree Lighting Ceremony...that folks could attend and socialize a bit after the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Please email me at ACBergin@aol.com if your group would ;like to participate. Each group runs their own event, and is listed under the ATLF "Umbrella Schedule of Events"

> Ann C. Bergin ATLF Coordinator

Nike ReUse A Shoe

To the editor:

It's that time of year again! In order for a charitable collection drive to be successful, it is required that the community gives overwhelming support and encouragement to the cause. Luckily, our Nike Re-Use a Shoe drive has received just that over the last five years it has taken place! Nike Re-Use a Shoe is a collection drive that benefits less fortunate communities, by creating playing surfaces out of recycled rubber soles of used athletic shoes. Of course, we cannot do this without your help. Collection boxes are located in both the Amherst Middle School and Souhegan High School. Thank you to the Amherst schools for supporting our cause! We ask that you refrain from donating metal cleats and non-rubber soled shoes. Our thanks go out to the community, especially College Bound Movers for their continued sponsorship. Look for our Facebook page soon!

Kevin, Ryan and Drew D'Auteuil

Senior Projects Enrich The **Community**

To the editor:

As an Amherst resident, I used to wonder whether all that property tax money was being properly utilized by our schools. This was dispelled when my wife, Paula volunteered to be a community member participant in the Souhegan High School senior projects. I became involved serendipitously when Paula got snowed in in Vermont and asked me to pinch hit for her at

For those of you who are not familiar with this program, each senior student must choose a project and prepare a detailed plan which includes the goals of the project, how the student will implement it and what resources will be applied. This includes a budget as well as what expertise in the field will be applied. Throughout the latter part of the school year, the student must provide written progress reports to a panel comprised of teacher/mentors and members of the Amherst community (the latter was added this year by Maggie Paul).

Five SHS students were assigned to our panel and their project subjects included how to get a book published, pop art, renovation of the middle school's teacher's lounge, how to conduct an art show and how to build a tube guitar amplifier. We were impressed with the variety of subjects as well as the students' willingness to venture outside their comfort zones. We were also impressed by the teacher/mentors' commitment and their willingness to go the extra mile in support of their students. The finale of this program is for each student to conduct a presentation of their project to fellow students, teachers and family.

Paula and I were enriched by this experience and we encourage other members of our community to participate in this program. More information will follow.

> David M. Schmida **Amherst**

MORE LETTERS ON PAGES 14 & 15

All Politics Is Local – Except When It's Not

To the editor:

All politics is local – except when it's not! The voter ID bill introduced by Senate Republicans (SB129) and approved by the Republican House in Concord was vetoed by Governor Lynch, but an attempt at a veto override

It is no coincidence that 31 states have introduced or passed such legislation despite the overwhelming evidence that voter fraud is an imaginary problem, ginned up by conservatives. The Americal Legislative Exchange Council, a right wing corporate funded think tank has promoted voter ID bills and has written "model legislation" for the consideration of state lawmakers throughout the land. Some Republicans legislators in other states have introduced bills that are word for word identical with the "model".

Why is this a problem? It is because such laws discriminate heavily against the very young and the very old, demographics that are more likely to vote Democratic.

And where is the problem that voter ID laws purportedly try to address? There is no significant problem. The entire initiative is intended at voter suppression, which is a real problem and which is an increasingly common tactic employed by right wing Republican operatives.

Each year the NH Secretary of State investigates a few allegations of election irregularities. Most of the time no problem is found to have occurred. No case has ever been found in New Hampshire where someone not qualified to vote has done so. Severe criminal and monetary penalties await anyone who gets caught in such an attempt.

Republican Speaker of the House, William O'Brien, is on record as stat-

ing that young voters are foolish and vote liberal, because they lack life experience. Of course that would not apply to the O'Brien family, since his college age son seems to have voted in both Maine and New Hampshire in the last election cycle. And to cap it all off, Mrs. O'Brien is one of the Supervisors of the Checklist in Mont Vernon, and almost certainly knew that her son was on the primary ballot in Maine as a candidate for the Maine state legislature in 2010.

> Graham V. Smith Chair, Amherst Democrats

6th Annual Charity Wiffle Ball **Tournament A Huge Success**

To the editor:

This year, we succeeded our goal by raising \$816.00.

The winning team members for the third time were Landon Kowalczyk, Tim Reichheld and Steve Reichheld. And congratulations to the runner ups, Greg Sopper, Chris Seeley, John and Peter Thompson.

The Homerun Derby winner was John Thompson. A sincere thank you to everyone who made contributions for the event.

Bare Bonez Ciaos Pizza **Homestead Store** Sals Pizza **Golden Palace Chinese** Longhorn Steakhouse Uno's Pizzeria

Boston Red Sox Cherry Blossom Milanos Pizza 98 Chinese Haywards Ice Cream Texas Roadhouse Yankee Chef

Cassidy's Donut Express **New England Pies Manchester Fishercats** Joeys Diner Toadstool Bookshops

A special thank you to; Morin's Landscaping for maintenance of our field. Thanks to David Wieczerzak for spending hours getting all the great donations with me.

"Charlie" from Currier Lumber for donating and hand delivering lumber for the new scoreboard.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my dad for giving up his vacation to build the scoreboard and help setup for the event.

Garret Kowalczyk 8th Grader, Amherst Middle School

11th Annual Auction Fundraiser **Needs Community Participation**

To the editor:

The community's participation is needed to make the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley's Annual Auction Fundraiser a success!

On Saturday, November 19th the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley will hold their 11th Annual Auction Fundraiser at the Club at 56 Mont Vernon Street in Milford. Proceeds from the event support programs to help hundreds of kids in our community be great today and develop into productive, caring, responsible citizens tomorrow. You can help by sponsoring the event, donating an auction item or service, advertising in our program, and/or attending the event.

Your advertisement or sponsorship will reach over 150 influential members of our community. Your donated item or service will be attractively displayed and given appropriate acknowledgement during the evening. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent provided by law. It's a fine way to publicize your business, be a part of the Souhegan Valley community and have an impact of the lives of our youth. Your support is needed more than ever. The need for our services continues to grow as support from the federal government and state has all but disappeared.

We sincerely appreciate your support of our organization's work to make our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. More information is available on our website at WWW.SVBGC.ORG or by emailing Denise King at dking@svbgc.org.

> Helen Leach, Board Member and Auction Chair

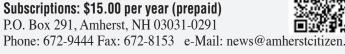
Jim Wales **Cliff Ann Wales**

Publisher & Editor Published 22 times a year on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each Month,

Advertising & Production

on the last Tuesday July and August, and the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in December. (Dates may vary near Holidays or elections.)

P.O. Box 291, Amherst, NH 03031-0291



THE AMHERST CITIZEN **Schedule of Issues**

-2011 -

September 13 November 8 September 27 November 22 October 11 December 6 October 25 December 20*

— 2012 — February 14 January 10 January 24 February 28

Issue dates are subject to change. Watch future issues for schedule updates. Phone: 672-9444 Fax: 672-8153 -Mail: news@amherstcitizen.com

NEXT ISSUE: Tues., September 27, 2011

Deadline: 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 21

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

THE AMHERST CITIZEN **Newsstand Copies** Available at one of these locations:

☐ Moulton's Market, Amherst

- ☐ Amherst Town Library
- ☐ The Cider Mill, Amherst ☐ Homestead Grocery, Amherst
- ☐ Merrill's Convenience, Milford
- ☐ Shaw's Market, Milford
- ☐ Sun Mart, Milford
- ☐ Stop & Shop, Milford ☐ Harvest Market, Hollis
- ☐ Harvest Market, Bedford ☐ Hannaford SuperMarket, Bedford

© 2011 The Amherst Citizen. All rights reserved.

The Amherst Citizen assumes no financial responsibility for errors in advertisements except as produced by the newspaper and provided it is notified within 48 hours of publication, then which the newspaper will reprint that portion of the ad where the error occurs in the next issue. Photographs or artwork submitted become our property and will not be returned unless requested in advance. The Amherst Citizen reserves the right to reject and not to print any advertisement or article it believes to be offensive, defamatory or in otherwise bad taste, and not in keeping with the focus of this newspaper. Articles, ads, photographs, artwork, and

any other material herein, may not be reproduced by any means without the written permission of the publisher.