

July 3rd Independence Day Activities Fireworks!

The July 4, 2012 Independence Day festivities will start off with a bang on Tuesday, July 3, at the Souhegan High School! One of the first events of the evening, at 6:00 on the Bean baseball field, will be a softball game, Amherst Fire and EMS versus Milford Fire and EMS with ball park fare—hot dogs, peanuts, and drinks—available to eat and drink while watching the game.

For those people who like a little adventure, REMAX will be providing tethered hot air balloon rides on the front lawn of the high school. Proceeds will be used to help local charities and the Fourth of July activities. Set up of the balloon will be from 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. --a fun process to watch.

Amherst Patch will be sponsoring face painting by Krickey the Clown inside the stadium fence from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Amy Conley and her Calico Toad Band, sponsored by Norman Wrenn, BOT-L-GAS, will be entertaining the young at heart with delightful and creative music from 7:00 to 7:45 pm, also in the stadium. New this year will be the Roaming Railroad which will give young and old a chance to ride in a trackless railroad while waiting for the fireworks to begin.

Food will include pizza, hamburgers, hot dogs, slush, ice cream, baked goods, and drinks, available near the concession stand. July 3 will also be a chance to buy a Fourth of

July pin designed by 6th grader Sean Corrigan.

At 8:00 p.m., in the stadium, the Town Band Concert, a favorite annual event, will begin under the direction of Pat McMullen. When dusk arrives, the giant "G" for Granite State Credit Union, major sponsor of the Fourth of July fireworks, will begin the display put on by Jack Reed and his volunteers. A great fireworks show is expected!

4th of July Puppy Parade

Please join us at Spalding Field (the corner of Foundry Street and Davis Lane) on Wednesday, July 4th at 9:50 a.m. with your patriotic pooches. A prize for best dressed dog will be awarded. We will join in the parade and march on to the reviewing stand at the Common.

If you would like to march with us, please contact Mary Beyers by email at pmselby@comcast.net or by telephone at 672-7835.

Join the Children's Bicycle Parade!

It's time to decorate the bicycles and prepare to join the Fourth of July Children's Bicycle Parade, run by Ann Hoag of the Amherst Lions Club! The bicycle parade will be on Wednesday, July 4, and will precede the regular parade. It will form on Knight's Field, the triangle of grass at the entrance to town, and proceed down Main Street, past the library, to the Town Hall where parents, if they have not walked with the parade, may meet their child and still have time to watch the rest of the events.

The bicycle parade will start at 10:00 am, the same time that the regular parade is stepping off from Wilkins School. Judging will take place at 9:45. Bicycle decorations will be judged for originality, creativity, and effort on the part of the child. There are five categories, four of which are based on age and each of which has a first, second, and third place prize of \$5.00, \$3.00, and \$2.00 respectively. There is one general category of "carriages" and four categories of bicycles: 0-6 years old, 7 and 8 years old, 9 and 10 years old, and 11 and 12 years old. Each child who enters the contest gets a participation ribbon.

Due to state law, all children riding bikes must be wearing a helmet. Decorating the helmet is not only permissible, but encouraged!

July 4th Parade of Floats

According to a survey taken a few years ago, what do people like most in a parade? Bands and floats! Floats can be elaborate, built on a flatbed, or they can be simple, a decorated wheelbarrow or wagon. Organizations, individuals, families, and businesses are encouraged to enter a float in the parade. The theme for the floats in this year's Amherst parade is "Summer Fun."

Applications for having a float in the parade are available by emailing njhead@myfairpoint.net. All floats should be at Wilkins School and in the spot assigned to them by 9:15 in order to be ready for judging at 9:30 to 9:45. Recognition is given



Fireworks, at dusk, July 3rd at Souhegan Stadium

for "Best Overall," "Best in Theme," "Most Original," and "Most Colorful." There is also a "Chairman's Choice" that is given out at the discretion of the float chair, Jim Janson. For more information contact Jim Janson, 673-9302 or jjanson@gmail.com.

Amherst Antique Auto Parade on the 4th of July

The town of Amherst invites owners of Antique, Classic, and Special Interest vehicles 25 years and older to participate in this year's 4th of

July parade. This year we will be honoring the memory of Sherman Wolf, a long time participant who passed away earlier this year. (Think Packards!) The parade steps off at 10am on July 4th. Car owners are asked to begin lining up on New Boston Road across from Wilkins School beginning at 8:30 am and not later than 9:30 am. Proof of insurance is requested and noted for town liability reasons. To address overheating issues- we will ask all the older pre-war cars to line up first and be right behind the fire trucks going first. Cars will receive a high visibility orange windshield letter so your name and car can be announced properly as you drive by the reviewing stand. Parking for all the Antique cars is provided around the Amherst green after the parade and we encourage owners to park and stay for pictures, show off their vehicles, and accept their prizes.

There will be 6 prize categories with blue ribbons and your pictures in the next month's edition of the AMHERST CITIZEN. Period outfits, banners and kids are encouraged! Pre-register if possible by sending email to coddington@jae.com or calling 801-4389. If you cannot pre-register we will get your information when you arrive. For questions please contact either George Coddington at 801-4389 or Noel Ward at 566-0948. We look forward to good weather and a great turnout as always!

Art on the Common at Amherst's 4th of July

AMHERST – Painters and photographers from around Southern New Hampshire will show and sell their work in Amherst during the annual 4th of July celebration on the Amherst Town Common on Wednesday, July 4. The show will run from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and will feature artists who work in oil, acrylic, watercolor, and mixed media as well as several fine art photographers. Styles range from abstract work to traditional scenes of New England and other places around the world.

Amherst's 4th of July draws thousands of visitors, who come to watch the parade, meet friends and family, wander among the community booths, have a bite to eat and stroll through Artist Alley to view and purchase art directly from the artist. This year marks the 17th annual Amherst Art Show and is a much anticipated part of the 4th of July celebration in Amherst.

Last minute space is still available for a limited number of artists, and the participation fee is a modest \$25. Area artists are invited to register and share their talent with others, and the public is encouraged to attend the festivities and make the art show part of a day of celebration. To find out more about the Art Show or to register, please contact Liz Morgan at 673-6448.

Old-Fashioned Crafts at the 4th of July Celebration

On Wednesday, the Fourth of July, stop by the Common to watch how crafts were created in the past and are currently being kept alive by dedicated craftspeople today! Local craftspeople have volunteered to demonstrate their craft for spectators on the Town Common on July 4th. They will be located at the Town Hall end of the Common.

Elizabeth Skipper and Cathy Joly will be spinning wool. Cathy said that she has sheep, alpacas, and angora bunnies and loves to spin and knit in her free time. The animals are primarily manure producers for the organic farm she is starting and their fiber is a wonderful bonus!

Vinnie and Sal Anfuso are blacksmiths who create handcrafted reproduction and restoration hardware of all sorts at their business, Greenfield Forge and Blacksmithing. Their blacksmithing demonstration at Amherst's July 4th celebration is a perennial favorite.

Peter de Bruyn Kops got started in beekeeping at the end of 6th grade and resumed this activity when he moved to Amherst 20 years ago. His hobby quickly expanded from honey production to providing essential pollination services to apple orchards making it nearly a full-time occupation. He is a member of the New Hampshire Beekeeping Association, the Massachusetts Beekeeping Association and the American Beekeeping Federation.

Bill Belvin started "backyard sugaring" in the early 1980s and has enjoyed the annual February-March New Hampshire tradition nearly every year since. His maple syrup making activity remains strictly a hobby, and now that older son Daniel lives in Rhode Island, he returns with his family on winter weekends to help continue the tradition.

Keith Griffins' interest in Shaker box-making began when he and his son, Willis, were given a father-son class at Canterbury Shaker Village one year for Christmas. Keith had always had a passion and aptitude for woodworking and ultimately left a highly successful corporate career to pursue this specialized field of woodworking full time. His business, All Things Shaker, specializes in beautiful and highly prized Shaker boxes, trays and carriers handmade using Early American craftsmanship. Sumner Bennett is a more recent enthusiast who has taken up woodworking since his retirement to Amherst a few years ago.

The committee is indebted to these craftspeople for giving their time for the demonstrations.

Volunteers Needed for 4th of July Book Sale

The Friends of the Library are looking for additional volunteers for our Summer Book Sale held 9am – 1pm on Wednesday, July 4th on the Town Common. We need help with cashiering and with set up at 7am and take down at 1pm. Even if you can only spare an hour, we could really use your assistance.

This is one of three annual book sale events and an important fund raiser for the Friends of the Library. Aside for minimal operating expenses, all money raised by the Friends is given to the library for "extras" that the town budget doesn't accommodate. We also sponsor popular annual and ongoing events like the Student Art Show, Display Case, Professional Art Exhibit, Holiday Decorating and the Sunday Afternoon Music Series. The Friends also help fund the Summer Reading Program and many popular Museum Passes such as the Museum of Science, the SEE Science Museum and Squam Lakes Natural Science Center. Funds are raised via membership dues and book sales. If you enjoy the library offerings and the activities sponsored by the Friends, please consider joining the group. Membership forms can be found at the library entrance.

The 4th of July book sale features paperback fiction and children's books. This is a great opportunity to stock up on some summer reading materials for the whole family. Adult books range from \$0.50 to \$1.00, and children's books are all \$0.50.

To learn more about the volunteer opportunities or membership, please feel free to contact Kim Ayers, Chair, at 249-9108 or email at kimberlyayers@comcast.net.

Cari Lane

Dog Tales

This year on the Fourth of July, we will be having a slightly different type of dog show than the usual kind. Because your dog is very special, you are going to have a chance to tell the town all about him. We want to know all about your dog, age, breed, how you picked a name, and any tricks that you have taught your dog. We want to hear about a story, event or behavior that your dog has that makes him such a loved member of your family. The "show" will take place at the Reviewing Stand following the reviewing ceremony.

Photos:
The July 3rd fireworks, will go off at dusk, July 3rd at Souhegan High School Stadium. Sponsored by Granite State Credit Union. Fire and Drum Corps., NH Police Academy. Peter de Bruyn Kops beekeeper with daughter Alisa on the Common. Rick Crocker's vintage fire truck

Amherst Suncatcher

continued from page 1



Uncle Sam and Auntie America check out Amherst suncatchers offered by Nipmugs Questers at last year's 4th of July.

first meeting house of Amherst, on Mack Hill in the area called "Upper Flanders," surely was the ideal location for a tavern. The meeting house was both town hall and church. At the third annual town meeting, i.e. in 1762, a vote passed "to prohibit persons that have licensed houses from selling spirituous liquors on the Lord's day to the Inhabitants of this town, or to any persons that constantly attend the public worship of God in this town," the "penalty" for doing so being "eighteen shillings, new tenor, for every half gill [of liquor] sold, and the same for every pint of cider." Naturally one might want to warm up after the service during the cold months, but perhaps the temptation was just too great to spend much of the day of rest in a public house. During town meetings, however, the town fathers were only too happy to have a tavern next door. In March 1763, the selectmen adjourned public meeting in the unheated meetinghouse "for one half hour to the house of Mr. Ephraim Hildreth, innholder." A few months later a new process for warning town meetings was implemented: notices were posted at Hildreth's.

In an era when there were no local newspapers – and few newspa-

pers from anywhere, the ones utilized by early Amherst inhabitants being published in Portsmouth and Boston – taverns were the primary source for news. After 1771 when Hillsborough County court sessions were held in Amherst Village, Hildreth's tavern/inn – like its competitor Smith's on Church Street – was a hospitality center for judges, lawyers, and business travelers. Although a new meetinghouse was opened in 1774 down on the Plain (militia training field and Common), the old meetinghouse still served as courthouse until about 1788, when it too moved down to the Plain, right next to Smith's. In Oct 1789, Hildreth sold his place to his son-in-law Phineas Jones (1758-1799), a husbandman and shoemaker of Lyndeboro. Jones continued to run the house as a tavern, 1795-6 being the last year he obtained a tavern license.

During Hildreth's tenure, the inn was filled with his children, most of them girls. When his wife Elizabeth nee Ellenwood died in 1784 at age 44, the youngest of her ten children was just 16 months old. Capt. Hildreth moved with his second wife & kids, first to Lyndeboro, then to Vermont.

Amherst 4th Of July Pin Design Contest



With the 4th of July right around the corner, the Amherst 4th of July Committee has announced this year's winner of the 4th of July Pin Design Contest, AMS 6th grader, Sean Corrigan. The Pins will be on-sale on July 3rd at the high school and July 4th on the Common. The price is \$3.00 and 2 for \$5.00. Watch for Sean riding in the parade.

Fourth of July

Directions for Parade Participants

Parade participants should gather at Wilkins School by 9:15 to 9:30 am. The parade will start at 10:00 a.m.; Boston Post Road is closed at that time. Parking is behind the school only. Bathrooms are available in the school. If it is hot, it is recommended that participants bring water.

Dignitaries gather at the front corner of the entrance driveway near the school sign.

Floats and mini entries are assigned spots in the parking lot between the grassy areas.

Marching groups also have assigned spots which they can find with the help of the volunteers wearing orange vests or committee badges. Judging of floats and mini entries will be at 9:30 a.m.

Fire engines will line up opposite Wilkins School on Boston Post Road. Antique cars will line up along New Boston Road.

Dogs planning to be part of the Puppies on Parade will meet at Spalding Field which is at the corner where Davis Lane, Foundry Street, and Christian Hill meet (just past Clark School).

Political campaigners gather on Jones Road where they will line up in assigned spots.

There is a stairway leading from the Wilkins School parking lot to the Jones Road area. All campaign floats should go directly to Jones Road.

The Children's Bicycle Parade forms on Knight's Field which is the triangular lawn

at the entrance of town when coming from Milford. Judging will be at 9:45 am and the parade will start at 10:00 am. Children riding bicycles must be wearing helmets.

Insurance rules prohibit the throwing of anything, including candy, during the parade.

Thank you for helping make this a safe, happy, and entertaining parade! Have a great day!