

# Letters & Opinion

## Heartfelt Thanks to Volunteers at Our Elections This Year

**To the editor:**

As we start a new year, we look back to the exemplary examples of small town democracy in action we saw in Amherst in 2012. Every 4 years we have a flood of elections: the Presidential Primary, March Town Election, September State Primary, and November Presidential. We take over the gym and parking lots at Souhegan, and through pure volunteer power provide our fellow citizens with a clean, fair, efficient, and peaceful voting process.

Any election requires scores of volunteers to make it happen – having four in a single year, two with huge turnouts, brings out the best in our volunteer culture. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the citizens who have volunteered at our elections this year, and we wish you the peace and rest that the single-election year of 2013 brings us. As a Ballot Clerk, Deputy Supervisor of the Checklist, or Deputy Moderator, you showed that Amherst is a great place to live, and great place to vote, in 2012. We look forward to seeing you helping again in March at the Town Election.

*With Thanks,  
Nancy Demers, Amherst Town Clerk  
Lavern Fucci, Amherst Deputy Town Clerk  
Steve Coughlan, Amherst Town Moderator*

## Parking Ban – In Effect from November 1 to April 1

**REVISED ORDINANCE**

Pursuant to the provisions of RSA Chapter 41, Section 11 and RSA Chapter 47, Section 17, the following regulation is hereby established for the Town of Amherst.

From November 1st to April 1st of each year, no person shall park any motor vehicle on any public highway at any time in such a manner as to impede snow plowing, snow removal or road surface treatment operations.

Information regarding vehicles found impeding winter operations by the Town of Amherst Department of Public Works or independent contractors engaged by the Director of Public Works will be turned over to the Amherst Police Department for disposition.

Any vehicle parked in violation may be authorized to be towed by the Chief of Police or his designee. Any vehicles towed shall be stored and released to the owner only upon payment of the cost of towing (as established by the towing firm).

Any person violating the parking ban shall be subject to a penalty not to exceed \$50.00 for each offence in addition to any other costs associated with the removal of the vehicle.

**Placing snow upon certain roads and streets Obstructions and Encroachments**

Any person who shall put or place or cause to be put or placed any snow or ice upon the surface of the traveled portion of any Class V or Class IV highway or town-maintained portion of a Class II highway for any purpose, shall be guilty of a violation if a natural person, or guilty of a misdemeanor of any other person except with written Town approval by the Director of Public Works or his designated representative.

Any person violating these by-laws shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding the following: (1) First Offense – Written warning (2) Second Offense - \$50.00 penalty (3) Third Offense - \$100 penalty.

This ordinance shall be effective December 9, 2002

## Join The Discussion, Understand The Decisions and Consequences, and Vote

**To the editor:**

School Boards and Selectmen are moving to finalize the budgets we will present to the voters in January and February, in preparation for voting on the budgets on March 12th. The Souhegan school district budget has been discussed and refined at all board meetings since October, with active participation from the Advisory Finance Committee, as well as comments and suggestions from individual citizens. The process will continue up to Wednesday, January 9th, when the board will present its first formal proposal to the public at a Public Hearing at Souhegan High School. (For the convenience of voters who will attend, the Amherst School District and Souhegan Cooperative School District Public Hearings are held back-to-back on the same night in the high school auditorium.)

After hearing public input on the proposed budget, the board may make modifications to the budget. It is then presented to the voters at the Deliberative Session, on Saturday morning, February 2nd. Again, for the convenience of voters the Souhegan and Amherst School Deliberatives will be held back-to-back in the auditorium. Only the attendees at the Deliberative Session can amend the budget once it is presented by the board prior to the session.

After the Deliberative Session, the budget that the session attendees approved is voted on at Election Day, Tuesday March 12th (polls are open in Amherst 6AM-8PM at Souhegan High School; in Mont Vernon 7AM-7PM at the Village School).

The budget being prepared has two major cost increases, and a significant revenue decrease, that must be accommodated by adjustments to other areas. Once again, the NH State Retirement system, which is the primary retirement program for Souhegan staff, has shifted costs that were previously paid by the state to local districts. Rates for non-professional staff have not changed, but rates for professional staff have again risen, over and above the large amount we were required to absorb in the last budget. At the same time, our healthcare insurance provider has also advised us that costs will increase in the next year by a significant amount. In both cases, costs increases are shared between employees and the district, so the full increase does not fall on the taxpayers, but our share is still a large amount. In total, just those two costs will be increasing by \$404,000, even as we decrease the number of employees we are responsible for covering. In addition, state aid will also decrease next year, by \$74,000 for Amherst and \$161,000 for Mont Vernon.

In summary, the board and administration are almost finished preparing a budget to propose and discuss with the voters of Mont Vernon and Amherst. Externally imposed costs have risen dramatically, and state financial support has decreased. The primary cost control opportunity for the board to use in response is staffing levels, and those are being scrutinized closely. The discussion begins in January, and ends in March with the voters having the final say in the voting booth. Please join the discussion, understand the decisions and consequences, and vote.

*Souhegan Cooperative School Board  
Howard Brown  
Steve Coughlan  
Pim Grondstra  
Fran Harrow  
Chris Janson, Chair  
Peter Maresco  
Mary Lou Mullens*

## Tree Lighting Thank You

**To the editor:**

Thanks to *The Amherst Citizen* for your consistent coverage, publishing every Tree Lighting photo and article we sent in to you...AND giving us your front page headline and photos! What a thrill!

This year, we continued hosting the Tree Lighting on Friday Evening, despite the rain, MC Peter reported to me that it was still a bigger crowd that any Sunday TL! All gathered for the Tree Lighting Ceremony on the NEW Reviewing Stand with the PA system donated by the Lions, Rotary, Bean Foundation, Quinn and Veillette families in an effort led by Charlie Vars. We are very grateful to use this staging again. Thanks to The Garden Club and AFD for decorating village sites and the Memory Tree.

Friday Kickoff Thanks to the Amherst Fire Dept (AFD) Chief Mark Boynton, his firefighters, and Gate City Tree for decorating the tree! Deep appreciation to our DPW: Bruce Berry, Marge Drobot, and Perry Day and their crews for setting up the Reviewing Stand. Huge thanks to Robert Daniel of Glass and Gear Photographic & Entertainment Equipment Rentals for setting up, running, getting and returning our PA system! He was at the green, in the cold rain for many hours! Many thanks to his wife Dorothea and daughters Alison and Morgan Daniel for learning and memorizing The Amherst is My Home Song, and thanks to Peter Bergin, for serving his 37th year as the Tree Lighting Festival MC. More thanks to Trese Gilligan, Marilyn Peterman, Pat McMullen, the S. H.S. ACapella Choir and Santa, Mary Eileen Indelicato, and Karen Werner. Thanks to new Police Chief Mark Reams of APD and his family Dawn, Jack and Benjamin, and Officer Derek Mahoney. More thanks to Irene Raissis Alton, and her troops, and Paul Levesque his Pack 613 for the girl and cub scout singers.

Still more thanks to Mark LaFlamme, and to our refreshment folks, the Amherst First Baptist Church for popcorn and Roy DeGrandpre and Boy Scout troop 22 for roasted chestnuts...and deep appreciation for Bob Petrella! Thanks to Town Manager Jim O'Mara and Torrey Demanche for assistance. Thanks to all those who provided the Friday Supper: The Amherst Lions Club, and John Swanson who with the Congregational Church's Youth Group led by Rev. Maureen Frescott hosted a Village Community Supper at the church. They served 200+ people and had a line of happy diners patiently awaiting Bruce Ribolini's home-made sauce! Thanks to Emmy McGuy and her student Arianna Gaudette for entertaining them with live piano music!

Santa Saturday Thanks go to Doffie Farrar, Gail Beers, Jess Steele and the Amherst Newcomers Club, Chief Mark Boynton and The AFD, Bob Petrella, Mary Eileen Indelicato, and GS Troops 22515, 20910, 22667, and 22793 for hosting the GS Craft fair and cookie swap, and Jenn Whitney's elves from TROOP 22977: Ashley Barham, Angelina Boynton, Julia Pinkham, Emma Sette, Jenna Speer, Ryleigh Tobin, Camy Whitney and from Troop 20356, Halley Barham. More thanks to Tracy Veillette and the Amherst Historical Society, to Team Earley for Refreshments, and to Chief Mark Reams and the Amherst Police Dept for their Open House and Kids ID program.

Pancake and Concerts Sunday Thanks go to the AFD, Patrick Matthews and The Amherst Town Band, and the Souhegan H.S. ACapella Choir, Sara Phelps and the Congregational Church-UCC Choirs, Christy Belvin and Jenn Erdody, Director, of Souhegan Valley Chorus for their Sunday evening Concert.

All-weekend Long Thanks to Linda Ribolini, of the Lions, for Collecting New and homemade kids' hats, mittens, scarves, socks, coats, snow/ski pants and blankets for the needy; Bins were placed at the AFD, Cong'l Church, and Library.

Daily Thanks to all family members of Amherst residents who serve in harm's way at home and abroad, and cannot be with their families on the holiday that they celebrate. They serve in the Military, in the Foreign Service, and in the Police, Fire and EMS Departments everywhere. Cited this year were Sgt. Francis J. Cuddy III with the US Marine Corps, Michael F. Cuddy who is with the State Dept. and Matthew Crowley, who deployed to Afghanistan this past week.

Peace on Earth to Women and Men of Goodwill! May all have a wonderful season of holidays...in December, there seems to be at least one holiday for anyone who wishes to celebrate a holiday!

*Ann C. Bergin ATLF Chair*

PS! Always looking ahead! Next year, the Amherst, NH Village Tree Lighting Festival will kick off on the Friday before the Second Sunday of December.....FRIDAY December 6, 2013! (Dec. 8 will be the second Sunday in 2013.) Amherst residents who have a song/poem for a December holiday they celebrate, can talk about possibly performing at the 2013 Tree Lighting Ceremony!

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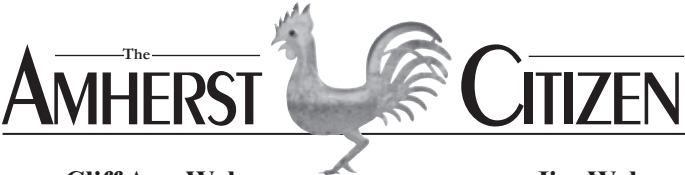
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### Department of Public Works

#### Amherst Transfer Station Hours

**Tuesdays:** 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
**Thursdays:** 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
**Friday:** 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
**Saturdays:** 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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— 2013 —

January 8	May 14
January 22	May 28
February 12	June 11*
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March 7*	July 30*
March 26	August 27*
April 9	September 10
April 23	September 24

\*Issue dates may be subject to change.  
Watch future issues for schedule updates.  
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- ☐ Merrill's Convenience, Milford
- ☐ Shaw's Market, Milford
- ☐ Stop & Shop, Milford
- ☐ Harvest Market, Hollis
- ☐ Harvest Market, Bedford
- ☐ Hannaford SuperMarket, Bedford

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