Town News

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

Amy Lapointe, Library Director
14 Main St., Amherst NH
Phone 673-2288 Fax 672-6063
email: library@amherst.lib.nh.us
web http://www.amherst.lib.nh.us
Mon-Thu, 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Fri & Sat, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sun, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Summer Hours June 13-Labor Day
Monday-Thursday 9:30-8:30 p.m.
Friday, 9:30-5:00 p.m.
Saturday, 9:30-12:30 p.m.
Sunday, Closed

2014 Summer Reading Program ...and MORE

Readers of all ages are invited to "Fizz, Boom, READ!" with us this summer at the Amherst Town Library. The 2014 Summer Reading Program will kick off on Monday, June 23 and will provide a variety of outstanding activities and events. The program will run for seven weeks, and will culminate on Thursday, August 7th with an Ice Cream Social at the Congregational Church.

As in the past, our young participants will keep a reading log and will chart the time they spend reading, with stops along the way to earn raffle tickets, free books, and prizes. Our babies will be earning stickers every time they attend the Baby Listeners program. Parents of registered readers will also have a chance to win gift certificates to local restaurants. There will be many interesting programs offered for kids, teens, and adults, too, so make sure to visit the library often, no matter what your age!

SUMMER READING ACTIVITIES for kids and teens

SUMMER STORYTIMES:

Baby Listeners (newborn—age 2) 10:30 AM on Fridays, June 27 to August 8

Family Storytime in the Garden (all ages welcome, with stories geared to kids ages 3 to 8)

10:00 AM on Tuesdays, July 1 to August 5 (held on the side lawn at the library-- indoors if it rains)

3:00 PM on Thursdays, June 26 to July 31 (held on the side lawn at the library-- indoors if it rains)

Storytime at Baboosic Lake with Miss Sue Pack a lunch and head on down to the town beach for some stories by the water. Thursdays at 12 noon. From June 26 to July 31, weather permitting.

SUMMER CRAFTS:

Make-it/Take-it Craft Materials and instructions will be available all summer long. Each week a different craft will be provided--see if you can make them all!

OTHER PROGRAMS:

Fizz, Boom, ...Spanish! Our beloved Senora Rowley, will be here on Monday mornings in July to share her love of all things Spanish with Amherst Children. Class begins at 11:00 am on July 7, 14, 21, and 28. Space is limited, so please go online to register. For kids ages 4 and up.

Mad Scientist Mondays—we'll offer five special science workshops on Monday afternoons at 2pm. Space is limited, so please go online to register. For kids ages 5 and up.

Monday, June 30 "Our Colorful World"---Come explore our color activity stations, and create a bring-home craft.

Monday, July 7 "Sun and Shadows" We'll create with light and glow in the dark!

Monday, July 14 "All About Air" Who knew air could be so much fun? Think bubbles and balloons!

Monday, July 21 "River Life" The folks from Amoskeag Fishways will be visiting, to tell us about our local NH river life, and show us some real live examples!

Monday, July 28 "Keep it Cool" We'll experiment with some great ways to cool off!

Matinee Movies Drop in to watch a movie on our big screen. All movies are rated either G or PG. Tuesdays at 2 PM. From July 1 to August 5.

Whoopie—it's Wednesday! Family event series on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am.

Here's the lineup for this year's special family events:

June 25---Toe Jam Puppet Band (all ages)

July 2---Mad Science workshop (ages 5 and up)

July 9---"Creature Teachers" live animal show (ages 4 and up)

July 16—3rd Annual Amherst Pet Show—(all ages welcome to come and see---sign up in the Children's Room to bring a pet)

July 23—Music with Rob Duquette---(all ages)

July 30—1st Annual Talent Show (all ages welcome to come and cheer---sign up in the Children's Room to perform)

Special Craft Programs:

Summer Flower Fairies-- Thursday, July 17 at 10:00am.

Come and create your own flower fairies and shoebox fairy houses. We'll be using actual fresh flower blossoms to make our "fairies", and natural "found items" to construct and decorate their "houses". Ages 5 and up. Space and supplies are limited, so please register online at www.amherstlibrary.org .

American Girl Doll Program-- Thursday, July 24 at 10:00am

Create a photo album for your American Girl Doll. We'll set up scenes and take the photos here. Then we'll create special photo albums with the materials we supply.

Ages 7 and up. Space is limited—please register online at www.amherstlibrary.org

Ice Cream Social!

On Thursday, August 7th, from 3:30-4:30 pm, there will be a celebratory Ice Cream Social on the Town Green. Rumor has it that in keeping with our "Fizz, Boom, Read" theme, there may be some special things to sprinkle on your ice cream—yum!! There will also be face painting and other activities. Don't miss this final farewell to summer. It will be an afternoon that you won't soon forget!

Teen Summer Reading---"Spark a Reaction!"

Teens are invited to join the summer reading fun. We'll offer "book bucks" for every book read and program attended, which may be redeemed for books-to-own or entered into weekly raffles. A variety of programs will be offered throughout the summer for our "crafty" teens---make sure to sign up!

Wednesday Afternoon Craft Programs 1:00 pm Space is limited, so please register online.

Wednesday, July 2---Tie Dye Reaction!! Bring a white t-shirt, and we'll supply everything else you need to make your own tie-dye creation! (ages 10 and up)

Wednesday, July 23---"Wrap it Up!" Jewelry Workshop Miss Julie will return to teach us how to create beautiful jewelry out of simple stones using this wire-wrapping technique. (Ages 12 and up)

Wednesday, July 30--- "Sneaky Art" Workshop Join Miss Sarah for a "sneaky art" craft session---the art we create is meant to be shared with others by "hiding" it in plain sight. We'll use some of our creations to "decorate" here at the library, and there will be plenty to take out into the community to share…

TEEN MOVIES---Summer in Dystopia… (For kids ages 12 and up—space is limited, and we need a headcount for pizza, so please register online.) All movies are rated PG-13. For movie titles please visit or call the library. (673-2288)

Midsummer Movie Marathon! Thursday, July 17 We're going to be watching the films that are based on the first two books of the popular trilogy by Suzanne Collins. We'll start at 1:30 with the first movie, take a break for pizza and a few "seventh-inning-stretch" activities, and then we'll finish up with the second film. Don't miss it!! A free ticket to the Merrimack Cinemagic will be raffled off to those in attendance.

Wednesday, August 13, at 5pm – We'll be gathering to watch the first of the films based on Virginia Roth's dystopic series. We start the movie at 5pm, take a break at 6:30 for some pizza, and finish up before the library closes. Don't miss it! A free ticket to the Merrimack Cinemagic will be raffled off to those in attendance.

Summer can be a busy time with vacation and activities but reading can be a great addition to the schedule. Get started on the road to fun by visiting the Amherst Town Library and joining the library-wide Summer Reading Program!

Visit our website www.amherstlibrary.org or call the library (673-2288) to sign up for programs or for more information.

It's About Conservation

Amherst, A Walking Community

By Bruce B. Beckley
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The trail system maintained by the Amherst Conservation Commission has provided popular spaces for more and more users each year – resident and visitors. In response, the commission has undertaken a review of its trails to make the system serve even a broader community of passive recreationists and educators. Residents and visitors alike will benefit from a coordinated system of trails for non-intrusive enjoyment. A draft survey proposal has been written to focus the trails review and further the goals outlined by the Amherst Master Plan to encourage a walking community.

This proposal does not address the crying need for safe lanes along selected town roads to accommodate pedestrian and biking recreationists. The trails discussed here lie off-highway, behind the roadside trailheads, and are those that would be under ACC management. The following is excerpted from the draft document to encourage your input to the review.

Users Planned For:

The individuals and families choosing in-town trails for passive recreation have varied physical abilities and interests ranging from leisurely walking and restful re-creation to hiking, skiing, snowshoeing and natural history study. The ACC should attempt to make it possible for each individual to find a satisfying outdoor experience within the town.

This is not to say that all trails need to or will satisfy every user. Degrees of challenge; including length, gradient, and surface, need to be incorporated in the overall system. Cultural and natural features along a trail should be incorporated and made evident for the interested user

The Trail System Common Factors

None of the ACC existing trails or any proposed ones is long or challenging in comparison with trails a few hours away in the White Mountain National Forest or along the Monadnock – Cardigan Greenway. Trails in Amherst do not need to compete with them. Serious recreationists know the difference and what to expect. The ACC trails have the advantage that travel time to ACC trails may be a quarter of an hour from any home versus two hours or more to reach longer, steeper, and more remote trails.

Important questions to ask in considering new trails or major changes to existing trails are:

- **Does the proposed trail make sense?**
- **Will it be used?**
- **Will it be fun for anyone beside the trail-builder?**

Three trail configurations are factored into this proposal:

1) **Longer routes between two trailheads. The Pulpit Brook Trail is an example.**
2) **Loops as found in Pond Parish Town Forest and Joe English Reservation.**
3) **Single terminus trails such as the B&M and Grater Woods Trails as presently restricted. Attempts are made to avoid this configuration.**

One trail routing does not exclude another. Sections of loops may be interconnected to create extended walks. As an example, connecting Pond Parish Town Forest with the Greater Woods trails of the Merrimack CC.

In most cases, new rights of way will be required for new trails. It can be expected that new fee ownerships, easements and trail agreements will cost money. Trail improvements will easily cost in the tens of thousands of dollars if bridging or trailhead parking is required. Again, ask is it worth it?

Realistically, the only sources for funds in these amounts appears to be from grants and gifts. The tax-payers have shown that conservation, idealistically, is great – but unfortunately neither NIMBY nor out of my wallet. A deliberate and schooled effort of grant applications needs to be initiated by a grant-writing specialist if any major trail system changes are to be undertaken.

ACC Chairman John Harvey states, "The Amherst Conservation Commission already has an excellent network of trails and a strong cadre of trail stewards. It is now time to extend the good works and organization to more areas of Amherst. The thought is to facilitate recreational trail use throughout town to provide a means of safely appreciating Amherst's beauty without having to compete with vehicles during one's walk. And also provide safer means of transit for all who rely on walking and biking as well as some ADA compliant trails."

The ACC meets the second Sunday of each month in the Town Hall. Please bring us your thoughts.

Talents of SAU-39 Student Art Show!!!

Congratulations to all the young exhibiting artists from Amherst and Mont Vernon schools whose artwork adorn the Amherst Town Library's walls, halls, display cases and bookcases during the 2014 Annual Student Art Show hosted by the Friends of the Amherst Town Library through the month of May.

The Student Art Show has showcased and shared the talents of our youth with the community year after year. It has become a long-standing tradition enjoyed by all with over 900 visitors on Mother's Day again this year. In addition to the participation award ribbons, local artists juried artworks and awards sponsored by local businesses were given again this year.

The Friends of the Amherst Town Library would like to CONGRATULATE the following recipients that received one of the fifteen juried art awards this year:

Best of Show: Alex Airey, Camile Dos Santos, Katie Hollister, Allison Jordan, Willliam Lawrence.

Outstanding Works: Gabrielle Bryram, Ryan Fillion, Abigale Giannetti, Alyssa Gibson, Alison Haigh.

Honorable Mention: Elysee Bell, Siena Blastos, Lily Batchelder, Suzie Richardson, Nicholas Vaccaro.

A BIG THANK YOU to the following businesses for sponsoring the awards:

Amherst Orthodontics, Black Forest Café, Boyd & Boufford Insurance, Casual Cat, Davis & Towle Walnut Hill Insurance Group, Eco Stoneworks, First Colebrook Bank, Nashua Chamber Orchestra President Jacqueline Shima O'Dowd, Koehler Landscape, Lake Sunapee Bank, Maine Cernota & Rardin Law Firm, Stephanie Wales Creative Imagery, Friend of the Amherst Town Library Anonymous Donor.

Special thanks go out to the artist that juried the art show:

Martha Bosco, Sherie Dowsett, Janet Hymowitz, Jan Miller, Bev Miller, Roxanne O'Brien.

Last but not least THANK YOU to The Copy Shop for sponsoring a portion of the print cost of the art show invitations, Hannaford, Market Basket, and Shaws for their generous donations of supplies and refreshments for the artist reception and all the Friends of the Amherst Town Library Volunteers that donated their time to make the Student Art Show such a success. And thank you to Crystal Miller for photographing artwork and Bailey Farris for photographing the art show.

If you would like to become a volunteer for Student Art Show next year become a member of the Friends of the Amherst Town Library! Visit: www.amherstlibrary.org/about/friends-library

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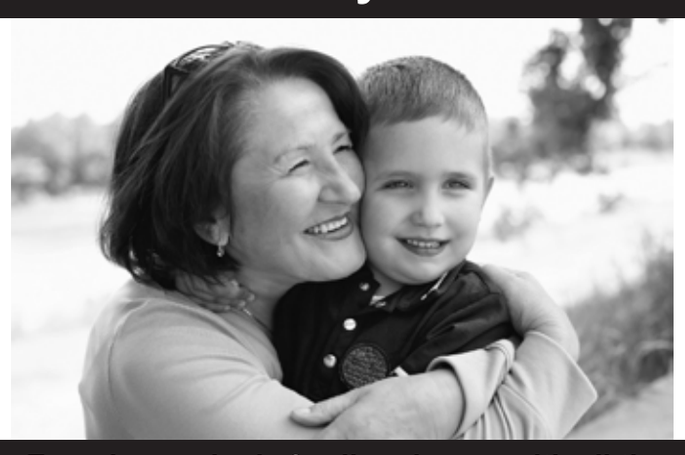
More Time For The Things That Truly Matter

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