

Letters & Opinion



Amherst PTA Holiday Story Time...A Fun, Festive Night

To the editor:

On Friday, December 5th the Amherst PTA hosted a Holiday Story time at the Clark School for the community. Children came in their pajamas, enjoyed holiday stories and songs, relaxed and laughed with their friends, and enjoyed milk and cookies. The PTA would like to thank everyone who helped make the story time a success. A special "Thank you" to our enthusiastic guest speakers: Gerry St. Amand (Principal of Clark/Wilkins), Janet Davis (Assistant Principal), Mark Reams (Chief of Police), Diane Desimone (Clark preschool), and to Tina Summers (PIV) who led the sing-a-longs. It was a fun, festive night! Happy Holidays to all!!!

Amherst PTA Board

Falling In Love With Amherst

To the editor:

I read the latest edition of the "Citizen" and it clearly called to mind the touching words of Betty Arnold. It is my hope that Betty's sentiments will live on in Amherst forever.

"Falling in love with Amherst is like a Disease. If you stay here long enough the Town really gets a hold of you and you begin to appreciate the history we share, the unique value of the common, the goodness of the people and the beauty of the land."

— Betty Arnold
Amherst Town Report 2010

Betty Arnold (1912-2005): Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board and Amherst Citizen of the Year.

Carolyn C. Quinn
Amherst

Thank You To Volunteers

To the editor:

This holiday season, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the many people who have volunteered their time and talents to the Amherst PTA. We planned an ambitious fall schedule and could not have accomplished so much without the following people: The PTA board members: Maureen Harms, Amy Littlefield, Lisa Eastland, and Terry Behm; our wonderful soup lunch coordinator Christine Grayson; Reflections committee - Shayne Hardner, chair and members Amy Hull, Noel Berube, Stephanie Wales; teacher Vicki Leknes who is serving as our teacher liaison for AMS; teacher Amy Hanson who was a great resource to us in planning our Holiday Shopping Night; Amy Littlefield and Liz Larson who co-chaired the Holiday Story Time. And, special thanks to the many parent volunteers who have cooked, baked, and provided paper goods for our teacher appreciation lunches. We also thank all who have joined the PTA and participated in our fundraising effort - this financial support is so important. Many thanks to all.

*Wishing you a wonderful holiday season,
Claire Bryson and Shannon Daniel,
co-presidents Amherst PTA*

Letters To the editor:

The Amherst Citizen is eager to 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.

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.

Thank You to Bill Veillette and Carolyn Quinn for Informative Letters

To the editor:

I'm writing to voice my opinion and to thank Bill Veillette and Carolyn Quinn for their well researched and informative letters with regard to AMHERST VILLAGE TOMORROW, a "strategic planning committee" supported by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission and spear headed by Amherst Selectman Mike Akillian.

Amherst village is a neighborhood, if not the largest, certainly the most densely populated, with a unique designation. The entire village appears on the National Register of Historic Places. The surveys "suggestions for improvement" or the direction in which the survey leads you I fear, would jeopardize that standing as well as the unique nature of Amherst Village. Please go on line through the town's website and take the survey. After looking through their pictures and reading their suggestions for improvement, determine for yourself if this approach would enhance your town.

In Bill's letter he succinctly and historically teaches of our 279-year history and just how we arrived here, none of which includes "holistic" or "organic" approaches presented by the central committee. Rather, presently, we're enjoying a unique, beautiful and historic village created by the choices made by individual property owners, or historical custodians over the last three centuries. Little of this was planned, it simply evolved as Bill states. I urge my neighbors to read Bill's letter in the November 25, Amherst Citizen; it's also available on line.

One of the arguments I've heard is that "the village belongs to the whole town, not just the village property owners." To a large degree I accept this premise and further argue that the town as a whole utilizes the village well. Let me identify just a few events where large groups of citizens gather to enjoy this historic setting: Christmas tree lighting, Halloween, Fourth of July, Band concerts on the common, Third grade history week, Veterans Day, Youth soccer, Pop Warner football, The Turkey Trot, Antiques on the Green, Open Houses when select homeowners generously open their antique homes for public view, Easter egg hunt, Memorial Day and the skating rink.

During warmer months the village is full of residents, walking, jogging, riding bikes, picnicking on the common, painting, using their cameras and gathering into groups to talk while enjoying a cup of coffee from Moultons. They didn't choose to enjoy these activities near route 101A where amenities are abundant, but in Amherst village where it's quiet, historical and architecturally interesting. I hope that we never lose that environment.

I'm told that the Selectman have allocated \$15,000 of your money to fund this initiative. Are you aware of that? Is this a wise use of resources? Could that \$15,000 be better spent, or not spent at all? That's your call, but please go on line, take the survey and determine if this is necessary or frivolous.

Thank you,
Rand Peck
Amherst

Concord Legislative Happinings

By Robert H. Rowe

The sixty days or so between the November election and the first of January will be busy for New Hampshire legislative leaders. Not with legislation, but organizing for the 2015 session.

After the election, both Republicans and Democrats hold caucuses to determine their candidate for Speaker of the House. Elected by the Democrats in November was Stephen Shurtleff of Penacook, a retired U. S. marshal and a six term legislator. The Republicans elected William O'Brien of Mont Vernon, a New Hampshire attorney and five term legislator. One of these two legislators will be chosen to be Speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

The first full house meeting will be on December third. This date is set forth in the Constitution as the first Wednesday in December in even numbered years. At this time all House members will be sworn in office. The next item on the agenda will be the selection of Speaker, Secretary of State, House Clerk, Treasurer and Sergeant of Arms. None will be controversial except that of the Speaker. In past terms the Speaker election has been controversial, and required numerous votes and caucuses.

Following the December meeting, the Speaker will be busy determining committee assignments, and seating and parking locations for the 400 House members. Then 1,000 or so bills must be reviewed and assigned to the appropriate 19 or more committees.

Further the Constitutional mandates a second meeting. On the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in each year, the full legislature shall assemble. While this House assembly will conduct little or no business the date presents an opportunity for committees to meet and organize.

There is one other article in the Constitution. Part Two, Article 3 states that the Senate and House shall dissolve on the first Wednesday of December in even numbered years at 12.01 AM. This means that New Hampshire is without a Legislative Branch until the newly elected legislators are sworn into office later in the morning. So our state is without a legislative branch for ten or so hours. Don't you feel safer during those ten or so hours?

Representative Robert H. Rowe,
Amherst

Department of Public Works

Amherst Transfer Station Hours

Closed Christmas Thursday/Friday, December 25 & 26*
Closed New Year's Thursday/Friday, January 1 & 2*

HOURS: Tuesdays and 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.

* PLEASE CHECK TOWN WEBSITE FOR LAST MINUTES UPDATES OR CHANGES

Support Our Police Officers

To the editor:

The national media and political left wing undermining of police is damaging to our national well-being and lacks factual basis. The disparaging remarks about police reinforce a rebellion against authority that is latent in many adolescents. This is akin to throwing a match onto smoldering embers. What law abiding adult (no less the President and Attorney General) would encourage kids to go out into a mob environment and break the law protesting that a police officer shot a criminal in Ferguson in self-defense? Not a good idea unless your politics is to cause trouble and undermine the authority that holds our people together. I guess we're seeing the "change" that Obama had in store for us.

Even more outrageous is the fact that police are killed and assaulted while protecting the very communities that mock them. The FBI Criminal Justice statistics details the 27 police officers killed by criminals and almost 50,000 assaulted in the line of duty in 2013. The harsh, unpleasant reality is that black America is a more dangerous place for police, innocent residents and criminals.

Let's remember that the police are the good guys and criminals are the bad guys. Next time you see a policeman, thank him/her for what they do.

Chris Ager
Amherst

Snow Plows - "Did You Know..?"

Another in a series of articles about Amherst by the Ways and Means Committee

The Town of Amherst has 17 snow plow routes but the DPW only operates 11 trucks that can function as snow plows in the winter?

That is because the DPW has enough tasking to keep 11 trucks busy outside of snow season and it is not cost effective to buy and operate additional trucks for use only as winter time snow plows.

One of our towns trucks is attached to the Recreation department in the summer (when they have a need for it) and is turned over to DPW during the winter to become our 12th plow / sander.

Four routes, (13 through 16) are serviced by contracts with local businesses (because it is cost effective to do so).

The last route has been, in the past, plowed by a town tractor. However, because this particular piece of equipment is well past it's planned useful life, it has been unreliable. Until it is replaced, the town has been using several of its pick up trucks and sometimes additional outside contractors to fill in for it.

One of the greatest fears that our drivers have is kids playing in the snow near the roads that they are plowing. Driver's do not have great visibility in any of the plows, especially the large ones, so they are always on the lookout for pedestrians.

Plowing after an early storm is not always done all the way to the edge of the pavement because it would wear up the shoulders of the road (the ground underneath will still be unfrozen and soft). This is of particular concern on roads whose surfaces have already started to deteriorate.

The mixture of sand and salt in the trucks is adjusted to the route that is plowed. Some areas in town have environmental concerns that limits the amount of salt or other treatments that can be applied.

When a big storm is heading toward us, the trucks sometimes will treat (sand and salt) before the precipitation actually begins. This makes the roads usable for longer into the storm because snow doesn't readily stick to a treated road.

The sanders on the town trucks automatically adjust the amount of treatment mixture that is being released as the speed of the vehicle changes. This prevents a too heavy application when a loaded truck is climbing a hill and can't maintain its speed and results in an more even application of the treatment material along the route.

By maintaining a sizable stockpile of sand and salt, the town is able to minimize the cost that we pay for them. The store of salt and sand is frequently replenished in order to take advantage of favorable pricing. Sometimes we buy a lot and sometimes we just wait until the price gets better.

www.amherstcitizen.com

Serious Games

Arcade quality foosball, air hockey, table tennis, darts and more!

www.SeasonalStores.com

Click on Sales/Specials for weekly specials, or Hours for this month's store hours. Swimming Pools, Patio Furniture, Hot Tubs, Pool Tables, Bars & Stools, Grills & Smokers.



120 Route 101A
Amherst, NH
(603) 880-8471



Cliff Ann Wales
Publisher & Editor

Jim Wales
Advertising & Production

Published 22 times a year on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each Month, on the last Tuesday July and August, and the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in December. (Dates may vary near Holidays or elections.)

Subscriptions: \$17.50 per year (prepaid)
P.O. Box 291, Amherst, NH 03031-0291
Phone: 672-9444 Fax: 672-8153 e-Mail: news@amherstcitizen.com



THE AMHERST CITIZEN Schedule of Issues

— 2015 —

January 13	April 28
January 27	May 12
February 10	May 26
February 24	June 9
March 5	June 23
March 24	July 28
April 14	August 25

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

NEXT ISSUE:

Tues., January 13, 2015
Deadline: 5 p.m.
Wednesday, January 7

How to contact us:

Phone: 603-672-9444

Fax: 603-672-8153

Mail: PO Box 291
Amherst, NH 03031

eMail: news@amherstcitizen.com

Ads: ads@amherstcitizen.com

on the World Wide Web:
www.amherstcitizen.com



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.