

More Letters

Tree Lighting is an Enduring Community Effort

To the editor:

Season's Greetings, and thanks to *The Amherst Citizen* for your consistent coverage, publishing so many of our Tree Lighting Festival photos and articles, and covering our events!

This year, we continued hosting the Crocker Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday Evening; Peter Bergin emceed his 39th Tree Lighting Ceremony and later said he continues to be astounded at how big the turnout has become since switching the ceremony to a Friday night in 2011.

All gathered for the Tree Lighting Ceremony on the stage 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.

Friday Night Kickoff: Thanks to the Amherst Fire Dept (AFD) Chief Matt Conley, his firefighters Lt. Erik Swenson and Mark LaFlamme, for decorating the trees! Deep appreciation to our DPW: Bruce Berry, Perry Day and their crews for setting up the stage and roping. Huge thanks to Robert Daniel of Glass and Gear Photographic & Entertainment Equipment Rentals for setting up, and running our PA system! He was at the WWI Common, in the cold for many hours! Many thanks to his wife Dorothea and daughters Alison and Morgan Daniel for learning an excerpt of the Amherst is My Home Song, and thanks to Peter Bergin, for serving as the Tree Lighting Festival MC...yet again! More thanks to speakers Susan Spiess, Marilyn Peterman, and singers Pat McMullen, the SHS ACapella Choir, Irene Raissis Alton, and her troops, and Pack 613.... for the girl and cub scout singers, Thanks to Police Chief Mark Reams of APD and Officer Joseph Cerra....Lauren Tiso and her elves, and to Santa himself!

Still more thanks...yet again to AFD Officers Matt Conley and Erik Swenson and to our refreshment folks, Lloyd Curtis and the Amherst 1st Baptist Church for popcorn and cookies and to Roy DeGrandpre and Boy Scout troop 22 for roasted chestnuts and cocoa. Thanks to Town Manager Jim O'Mara and Torrey Demanche for assistance. Thanks to all those who provided the Supper: The Amherst Lions Club, and John Swanson who, with the Congregational Church's Youth Group led by Rev. Maureen Prescott, hosted a Village Community Spaghetti Supper at the church. They served 200+ people and had a line of happy diners patiently waiting...no charge; donations only...how generous!

Santa Saturday: Thanks go to Patti Kenyon, and the Amherst Newcomers Club for their sold-out as usual Breakfast with Santa, Susan Barnara Thornton and her Committee for the annual Congregational Church House Tour, Santa's pals AFD Chief Matt Conley, Bob Petrella, and The AFD, Irene Alton and Girl Scout Troops for hosting the GS Craft Fair, cookie swap, and elves, and to Vouli Dance for their Sold Out Nutcracker Ballet performance.

Pancakes and Concerts Sunday: Thanks go to the AFD's Erik Swenson for the Pancake Breakfast with Mrs. Claus; to Patrick Matthews and The Amherst Town Band, and the Souhegan H.S. ACapella Choir, for their

concert, to LaBelle Winery for their Holiday Wine Tasting, and to Sara Phelps, Michael Havay and the Congregational Church-UCC Choirs for their 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;

Daily Thanks: Our own town has many who stand in harm's way for us and we hope for safety for them all. Annually we read the names of those family members of Amherst residents, who serve at home and abroad, to protect us, and cannot be with their families on the holidays that they choose to celebrate. They serve in the Military, in the Foreign Service, and in the Police, Fire and EMS Departments of Amherst....always on duty! This year, known to us are:

Airman First Class, Nicholas Hanlon, US Air Force, son of the Ed Hanlon Family.

Captain Trysten Coffey U.S. Marines and Firefighter Joey Coffee, both Loved ones of Merrie Kincaid

May they all be safe as we say thanks for their service.

In the past we have cited Jarrod Brouillette, Scott Fedas, Michael Cuddy, Joanna Bridge, Amy and David McIntosh, Kyle B. McCarthy, Doug Belvin, Dustin Jones, Ryan Philbrick, David Tiedemann, David Cutler, Matt Crowley, and Francis Cuddy III. We hope they are all home this year, to enjoy the holidays with their loved ones!

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 11, 2015! (...because Dec. 13 will be the second Sunday in 2015...) So save DECEMBER 11-12-13, 2015!

Amherst residents who have a song/poem for a December holiday they celebrate, can talk with the new 2015 ATLF chairs Dorothea Daniel and Michelle Arbogast about possibly performing at the 2015 Tree Lighting Ceremony! It has been a pleasure for both Peter and me... to have been involved with the Tree Lighting since 1976; Dorothea and Michelle will be wonderful new leaders for the ATLF!

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! The ATLF Celebrates any and all December/Winter holidays that are observed by Amherst, NH Residents: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, La Posada, The Winter Solstice, The First Snow, Epiphany and more!

*Merry Holidays to all,
Ann C. Bergin, ATLF Chair ~ Retired!*

"There's a Reason Massachusetts Rejected This Pipeline Be Built in Their State."

To the editor:

I would like to make people aware of the reality of this pipeline that is proposed to come through Amherst. A lot of people are not informed of the facts, and up until a few weeks ago that included myself. I would like to share my findings with all the good people of Amherst.

In full disclosure, I am an affected land owner here in town. After doing immense amounts of research, I wouldn't want this pipeline coming through Amherst even if it wasn't going through my property. Here's why.

This project is not about serving the Natural Gas needs of New Hampshire residents. This pipeline project is 100% about a company called Kinder Morgan and their gas & oil distributor cronies who wants to profit from sending "Fracked Gas" from the Marcellus Shale mine in Pennsylvania & New York to a distribution site in Dracut, MA. The gas will then be piped down to ports in Boston and Canada for export to Europe & India where they are highly reliant on natural gas. Those countries have been buying their gas from Russia at overinflated prices since they have a monopoly on supplying Natural Gas in those countries.

Kinder Morgan is flat out lying about the purpose of their pipeline. None of this gas will serve us in New Hampshire. Yet, you will be paying for it. That's right- this will be partially funded through a surcharge on your electric bill.

As proposed, the 36" pipe will carry 2.2 billion cubic feet per day pressurized at 1400 PSI (can you say dangerous?). This is more natural gas than both Massachusetts and New Hampshire have ever used by a wide margin. Not coincidentally, there is a port in Boston, MA that has natural gas pipeline coming in from Dracut ready for use. And, the owners of the Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, which has been bringing fuel to Dracut from Canada, have asked permission to reverse its flow to take fuel from Massachusetts to the port of St. John in Brunswick, Canada. It seems abundantly clear to me where this gas is really going- overseas.

In essence, KM is proposing to profit from government authority by taking private property under the guise of public gain. This is flat out wrong, folks! While the map shows this going through my land today, it WILL change, and the next map could have it going right through you and your neighbor's property.

I know it will change since I live less than 1000 feet from our High School and the other side of the pipeline is less than 1000 feet from our Middle School. I also live on the Souhegan River which this pipeline crosses in my backyard and then another 3 times and before it runs through Ponemah Bog. See a problem with the current route?

Now let's discuss the safety and environmental aspects of this. KM is stating as one of the benefits- "Future expansion of natural gas distribution in New Hampshire." I would prefer our State leaders find an alternative to fossil fuels, and specifically, fracked gas. You can Google Kinder Morgan safety and environmental violations. It is almost as pathetic as their ethics and integrity. Did I mention Mr Kinder & Mr Morgan are former Enron Executives that bought up the gas pipelines in the US when Enron disbanded? Yeah, real good guys to get into business dealings with Maggie Hassan....

There's a reason Massachusetts rejected this pipeline be built in their state. Let's not be the dummies that take this crappy deal. I invite you to further educate yourselves at nhpipelineawareness.org and our Facebook site, Amherst Citizens Natural Gas Pipeline Awareness. There is a lot of great information out there and you will be as astonished as I am at what you find.

*Matt Rafuse
Amherst*

Rivier Institute for Senior Education (RISE) Appreciates Your Generous Donations

To the editor:

The Rivier Institute for Senior Education (RISE) would like to publicly thank all the sponsors of the Silent Auction held during our annual Holiday Gala on December 9. We appreciate their generous donations.

The following businesses donated goods and services:

Symphony NH; Nashua Senior Activity Center; YMCA of Greater Nashua; Curves of Nashua; Myoptic Eye Care; Absolute Nail Care at Shining Image; Creative Cutters at Shining Image; Fantastic Sams; Cartridge World; DesignWares; Beckonings; Lucky Dog Thrift Shop; Jaja Belles: The Turquoise Shop; Linda Demaine Massage; Results Chiropractic; and Subway.

The following individuals donated goods and gift baskets: Helen Jackman; Pat Hurd; Irene Holland; Delores Davis; Lillian Richards; Helen Harper; Diane Statkum; Jeanette Willkie; Linda Twombly; John Ogrodowczyk; Evelyn Lohmann; and Jane Washburn.

All proceeds from the auction went towards the RISE Memorial Scholarship fund which was established by participants in the RISE program. A scholarship is awarded annually, based on financial need, to a full or part-time student attending Rivier with a preference given to a student who has earned more than 30 credits at Rivier and is currently enrolled in at least two courses per semester. Visit online at www.rivier.edu/rise or www.facebook.com/RISE1997.

*Sincerely Yours,
RISE Executive Committee:
Louise O'Connell, President
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Cheryl Cumming, Vice President
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Delores Davis, Past President
Diane Winter, RISE Director
Lillian Richards, Chairperson*

Parkhurst Place

11 Veterans Rd.
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parkhurst-place@comcast.net

Programs for Seniors at Parkhurst Place

Strength Training Classes (on-going)

(Join class at any time: fee will be pro-rated)

Two classes per week:
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Tuesdays & Fridays, 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

Instructors: Joanne Leedy, Trilog Fitness - Amherst

Sue Greaney, Hampshire Hills - Milford

Cost: \$30 for 6 weeks (for 2 classes per week)

Please call Lorraine at 249-1600 to sign-up (please leave a message).

Gentle Yoga Classes (on-going)

(Join class at any time, fee will be pro-rated)

Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Instructor: Laurie Daley, Certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher,

Cost: \$ 30 for 6-week session

Call Lorraine to register: 249-1600 (please leave a message)

Tai Chi Easy Classes (on-going)

Wednesdays (Class time to change - call 249-1600 for more information)

9:00 – 10:00 am

Instructor: Susan Flanagan Bean Community Room

Cost: \$5 per class or \$30 for 6-week session (Join any time)

"Fall Prevention & Home Safety"

Monday, January 19th, 2015

10:30 am

James Sullivan, The Elms and Crestwood Health & Rehabilitation Centers, Milford

Blood Pressure Clinic

Wednesday, November 28th, 2015

10:30 - 11:30 am

Provided by Silvertouch Home Healthcare of Merrimack.

Parkhurst Place offers classes, workshops, and health screenings for residents of the Souhegan Valley who are 55 years or older. For information call Parkhurst Place (249-1600). If no one is in the office, kindly leave your name and number on the answering machine for a call back.

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TDD Access



*Jon Michael Vore
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