

Town News

Bulletin Board

Nashaway Chapter of the NH Audubon Society

Upcoming Events

Adventures in Birding around Salem, NH

On Wednesday, March 18 at 7pm, the Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon welcomes avid birders Kyle Wilmarth and Amanda Altena. They will identify birding hot spots around Salem, NH, including locations ideal for spring migration. This is a chance to learn about natural areas outside of the Nashua-Hollis area. Kyle is a frequent contributor to NHBirds, an important resource for monitoring sightings of species across the state. This program takes place in the downstairs theater room of the Nashua Public Library and is free. Registration is not necessary. For more information, contact Richard Maloon 424-5621 or richard.maloon@att.net.

New Hampshire Seacoast, Rye to Hampton

On Saturday March 21 from 7am to 3:30pm, the Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon will have a field trip to the NH seacoast, traveling from Odiome Point to Hampton Beach State Park. We will be scanning the ocean for wintering seabirds (loons, grebes, seaducks, alcids, and gannets). These birds feed and roost here over the winter, but in early spring they begin growing breeding plumage and displaying courtship behavior in preparation for their return to their summer breeding homes. Bring your scope if you have one and pack a lunch. Dress WARMLY. Meet us in Nashua at the Exit 7 Park & Ride, on the hill behind the Fireside Inn and Suites, or contact Richard Bielawski at 429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com to arrange to meet nearer the coast.

“HOPE FOR GUS”

Fundraiser at The River Card Room, 185 Elm St., Milford, NH 03055, Sat. March 21st, 6:30 pm.

Amherst Area Newcomers Club Monthly Meetings

Amherst Area Newcomers Club holds monthly social meetings both informative and entertaining. We have many interest groups that also meet weekly or monthly including book group, knitting, bunco, crafts, golf (is still meeting), out to lunch, movie night, poker and more.

For more information on our activities visit our website at www.nhnewcomers.com. We would love to meet you!

DISCUSSION GROUP at TOADSTOOL BOOKSHOP

On the first Thursday of each month, the discussion group meets from 7PM to 8:30PM. We share ideas on philosophy, current affairs and familiar truths. For more information contact: Norah at 673 – 6948.

Open to All Southern New Hampshire Women

The Amherst Area Newcomers Club has been an active social organization in the area for 45 years.

The club is open to all women in the Souhegan Valley, regardless of how long she has lived in the area. We hold monthly general events on a wide variety of topics along with smaller special interest groups which cater to socializing with others of similar interests. The club is a great way to meet new people, get to know the area if you're new, or cultivate a new passion. We currently host interest groups for crafts, knitting, bunco, walking, charity, lunch, poker, healthy eating and golf.

For information and a calendar of events visit: NHNewcomers.com

Amherst Junior Women's Club Announces 2015 Call for Volunteers

The Amherst Junior Women's Club is an organization of energized, dedicated Amherst-area women who volunteer their time, energy and talent to the community. Our mission is focusing our efforts on civic needs, educational advancement and those less fortunate. Our goals are achieved with the assistance and generosity of businesses, organizations and individuals and fundraisers.

We are in need of women with motivation and dedication to join us in growing our mission even further within our surrounding communities. If you have that energy and would like to “burn it off”, we would love to have you join us to accomplish these goals. The advantage is the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends at the same time. This is a great opportunity especially for, but not limited to, those with children in the school system. The AJWC sponsors several of the elementary and middle school events.

If you are interested in joining or just learning more about Amherst Junior Women's Club, visit: www.ajwcnh.org or look for our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AmherstJuniors. Also, please feel free to contact the membership chair Susanne Lynch at ajwcmembership@gmail.com. Thank you!

Next Issue: March 24 • Deadline: March 18

AJWC Funds Available for Area Non-Profits

AMHERST – The Amherst Junior Women's Club invites non-profit organizations in need of charitable contributions to apply for a donation. Throughout the year, the AJWC raises money and then disburses those funds within the community.

Request must follow these guidelines:

Requesting organization must be affiliated with a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

- Organization does not need to have an Amherst address but must service the local community.
- Request must be submitted by March 31, 2015, in writing or by e-mail.

Request must contain the following information:

Name of organization, mailing address, e-mail address, website (if available), telephone number, contact name.

- Dollar amount requested.
- How would donated funds be used?
- How does requesting organization currently benefit Amherst and greater community?
- How does organization's objective correspond to the mission of the AJWC? AJWC mission is explained below.
- When was organization established? Provide short history of organization.
- How does organization fund itself, ie. federal/state/local grants?
- What is organization's annual budget? Include any expected shortfalls.

The AJWC is an organization of women who volunteer their time, energy and talent to enhance the community. The club's mission is to focus efforts on civic needs, educational advancement and the less fortunate.

All requesting organizations will be notified when applications are received. Once approved, funds will be distributed no later than June 15, 2015. Only chosen recipients will be notified of disbursements.

Questions may be e-mailed to Christina Zlotnick at cip.ajwc@gmail.com. Please reference “CIP Request” in subject line. For more information, please visit our website at: ajwcnh.org. Our mailing address is: AJWC, CIP Request, P.O. Box 513, Amherst, NH 03031.

Amherst Ways and Means Positions on FY 2016 Warrant Articles

AMHERST – This article defines the Amherst W&M' Committee position on the Town warrant articles. Because we are a “Ways and Means” Committee, we have only commented on the Warrants that are part of the budget process and that have financial concerns.

Vote counts are listed in the following sequence: For - Opposed - Abstained

ARTICLE 22: Bridge Replacement Bond 7-0-0

In order for the Town to qualify for 80% reimbursement under the State Bridge Aid program, Amherst must first establish a source of funding for the reconstruction or replacement of the bridges involved. The current State schedule for such reimbursement is filled through 2024. By passing this bond now, we are identifying three bridges that are anticipated to need replacing or repairing so that they qualify for entry onto the State list. (Tax impact \$0.00 (zero cents) per thousand).

ARTICLE 23: Operating Budget 7-0-0

The FY 2016 budget process was transparent and highly collaborative. W&M was involved in every aspect of the process and the BoS incorporated a large percentage of our suggestions. The Board has established a strategic approach to identify Town objectives and has gone to considerable length to plan and prioritize methods to achieve them.

The Committee believes that this operating budget is in the best interest of the Town because it reflects a balance between:

- Providing essential services,
- Correcting past deferment of infrastructure and capital investment
- Minimizing tax increases. (Tax impact: \$5.32 per thousand).

ARTICLE 24: Contingency Fund 7-0-0

According to recent New Hampshire law, a town budget cannot contain a line-item for contingencies. This Warrant Article creates a legal method, if needed, to provide limited funding to address unanticipated or urgent issues. Any money going into the Contingency Fund will be drawn from the Undesignated Fund Balance (Essentially the Town's State mandated savings account). (Tax impact \$0.00 (zero cents) per thousand).

ARTICLE 25: Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund 7-0-0

W&M fully endorses the idea of using capital reserve funds to save incrementally for anticipated future expenses. By law, property assessing must be accomplished on a regular basis to ensure fair taxation among the citizens. Amherst is on a four year cycle and this warrant is the annual contribution to the account that pays for that program. (Tax impact \$0.02 (two cents) per

thousand)

ARTICLE 26: Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund 7-0-0

In addition to accomplishing the desirable budgetary goal of leveling taxes, this fund also qualifies the town for matching grants for State and Federal Communication projects. These projects are designed to enhance the coordination between Amherst's and neighboring towns' public safety assets in their response to emergencies. (Tax impact \$0.01 (one cent) per thousand)

ARTICLE 27: Fire Station Renovation Capital Reserve Fund 7-0-0

When returning to the station after battling a fire, there is no place in the building for firefighters to shower or remove chemicals, smoke residue, and other particulates acquired during the call. They end up contaminating their own homes upon their return. During a state of emergency, our on-call firefighters are sometimes required to wait for extended period of times before they are dispatched but there is no place for them to rest in the meantime. We are the only town in our area that does not provide these types of facilities. Creating this fund is the first step in addressing the inadequacies. Funding for this phase of the renovation will come from the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) fund. (Tax impact \$0.00 (zero cents) per thousand).

ARTICLE 28: Fire Truck Refurbish Capital Reserve Fund 7-0-0

W&M fully endorses the idea of using capital reserve funds to save incrementally for anticipated future expenses. Fire Engines are very expensive and it simply makes financial sense to save for the next one, or for refurbishing one that we already own, before we actually have to repair or replace it. (Tax impact \$0.10 (ten cents) per thousand).

ARTICLE 29: Sidewalk Construction Project 0-7-0

This article had an interesting journey to the ballot this year. It was originally proposed in conjunction with, and depended on obtaining, a federal grant under the Safe Route to School program that would have refunded 80% of the expense back to the town. Subsequently, Amherst did not win the grant. The BoS, with W&M concurrence, decided to amend the amount of the warrant to \$1, effectively removing it from the picture.

However, it was decided by the vote of the citizens at the Deliberative Session to instead remove the reference to the federal grant and to increase the amount requested to the entire cost of the project. Their justification is that the project will enhance safety, encourage walking and exercise, and that the voters should decide at the polls.

As a Ways and Means Committee, we feel that this money would have been much better spent on some of the many projects that the town needs but could not afford this year. (For example, about \$150K for the proposed FD wages adjustment and the DPW road repair budgets were deferred).

That being said, and even though from a W&M standpoint we are unanimously opposed to it, some of our members are personally in favor of this project and may vote for it. (Tax impact \$0.21 (twenty one cents) per thousand).

Article 30: Public Health Mosquito Surveillance and Control Program 0-7-0

This program was established by the State in 2006. To encourage participation, participating towns were reimbursed for their expense in collecting the bugs and transporting them to Concord where the State does the testing. However, in 2010, the NH legislature defunded the reimbursement portion of the project and left it to towns to decide. That funding has not yet been restored. Since then, every one of our immediate neighboring towns has discontinued the practice. From a fiscal perspective, we feel that the decision to continue with this program should be revisited to determine whether or not it is a good use of taxpayer dollars. (Tax impact \$0.02 (two cents) per thousand).

ARTICLE 31: Authorize Process Contained in RSA 289:2-a (cemetery lot sales process to town general fund) 7-0-0

A recent change in NH law now makes it necessary to obtain voter approval to deposit the funds from cemetery lot sales into the Town's general fund. Such deposits have been the common practice for years and both the Cemetery Trustees and the BoS agree that they want it to continue. (Tax impact \$0.00 (zero cents) per thousand).

Conclusion

We noted in past years that the town of Amherst had been unevenly funding some areas in certain departments. This has been thoughtfully addressed by the BoS during this, and last year's budget process and we hope it continues in the future. W&M has endeavored to assist the Board by making suggestions regarding the overall budget to ensure provision of essential services and to address long term issues in order of priority.

The Amherst Ways & Means Committee
 Jay Dinkle
 Nate Jensen
 Colleen Lynch
 Andy Ouellette
 John Post
 Russ Thomas
 Paula Troie

AMHERST RECREATION DEPARTMENT

4 Cross Rd, Amherst, NH 03031
 603 673-6248
 Peabody Mill Environmental Center
 66 Brook Road
 603 673-1141
www.amherstrec.org
 Like us on Facebook
 Follow us on Instagram @amherstrec

NEW Programming

NEW Summer Camps

Start thinking summertime in Amherst! This year we will be offering two full day summer camps. Each week at camp will be centered around a theme. Both camps will take part in weekly field trips, all on Wednesdays

2015 Field Trips include: Canobie Lake Park, Roll On America, Sky Zone, Circus Smirkus, Seacoast Science Center, Hampton Beach SP, and Water Country!

Baboosic Lake Summer Camp

Who: Entering grade 1-7
 Where: Baboosic Lake
 When: 6/22-8/14
 Early Bird Fee: \$115R;
 \$155NR per week
 \$870R; \$1190NR Full Summer Rate

Outdoor Discovery Summer Camp

Who: Entering 1-5
 Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)
 When: 6/22- 8/7
 Early Bird Fee: \$125R; \$165NR
 \$825R; \$1105NR Full Summer Rate

Outdoor Discovery Summer Camp

(grades 6-8) Includes all field trips!
 Who: Entering 6-8
 Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)
 When: 6/22- 8/7
 Early Bird Fee: \$159R; \$199NR
 \$1063R; \$1343NR Full Summer Rate

Outdoor Discovery Mini Camp

Who: Ages 4&5
 Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)
 When: 6/22-7/31
 Early Bird Fee: \$85R; \$100NR
 \$460R; \$550NR

Cheer Camp

Who: Grades 1-8

Amherst Recreation Programs and Events

Where: Bean Fields
 When: 6/22-6/25
 Fee: \$100R; \$120NR
 All Prices Increase by 20\$ after May 15, 2015

NEW Karate with Mr. Peacock and the Amherst Karate Studio Crew!

Who: Ages 4 and up (adult too!)
 What: Beg./int. Karate lessons
 Where: Amherst Karate Studio
 Fee: \$59 Please visit www.amherstrec.org for Schedule Options

NEW Archery

The program will teach the basic fundamentals of shooting target archery focusing on safety and proper shooting form.

Who: grades 5-8
 Where: Outfield of Bean Field
 When: 5/8-5/29 from 2:30-3:30
 Fee: \$71R; \$81NR

Who: grades 1-4
 Where: Outfield of Bean Field
 When: 5/8-5/29 from 3:45-4:45
 Fee: \$71R; \$81NR

NEW Knitting for Adults

Project: Inspira Cowl
 This project will span 6 weeks and include conversations about color dominance, while we learn corrugated knitting and stranding techniques.

-Class runs 6 weeks from 3/18-4/22 from 4:30-6pm on Wed.

NEW Cooking With Paula Garvey

Simple Home Baking Class- Deserts from Scratch

Who: Ages 18-108
 Where: Amherst Middle School Life Skills Room
 When: 3/26 from 7-8:30pm
 Fee: \$20R; \$25NR

NEW Rugby 7's for Adults

Rugby 7's is a quick, fun and easy to learn sport.

Who: Adults 18+
 Where: Lower Wilkins
 When: Wednesday Nights starting June 24th
 Fee: \$20R; \$25NR

NEW True Potential: Fitness for Women

March-June session (10 weeks)
 Try True Potential for free!

If you are hooked and sign up for the March- June 10 week session, the True Potential regular and the friend will receive one free class!

Trial classes for Mornings at PMEC are Monday 3/16 and Wednesday 3/18 from 9-10.

Trial classes for Evenings at SHS are Tuesday 3/17 and Thursday 3/19 from 7-8.

NEW Couch to 5K- A Walk to Run program

Are you looking for some support and community while reaching your fitness goals? Join us for a 12 week Couch to 5K program, led by coach Amy Hull.

Starting in March (please visit website for full scheduling options)
 Fee: \$75R; \$85NR

Youth Programming

Baseball Clinic at AMS

Join coaches, players from SHS, and former Major league pitcher John Roper for 4 sessions in March.

Who: boys ages 7-12

Where: AMS gym
 When: March 17, 19, 24, and 26 from 6:30-8pm
 Fee: \$25R; \$30NR

Baseball for Youth

Batter up! Baseball is open for kids 5-15 years old. Practices will be held Monday-Friday between 5:30 and 7:30pm. Games will be held on Saturdays between 8am and 8pm. Baseball age is based on participant's age on April 30, 2015

NOTE: We are hoping to start baseball practices the week of April 12th, depending on weather and field conditions.
 *** Register by Monday March 2 to avoid a \$25 late fee. Teams will be formed and uniforms will be ordered Friday March 20***

5&6 year olds: T-Ball

Introduces the player to organized baseball

Who: 5&6 year old boys
 What: T-ball
 Where: The back of Wilkins Elementary School
 When: 5/2015-6/13/2015

7, 8, & 9 year olds: Instructional and Rookie

All 7 and 8 yr olds will participate in skills screening. Numbers will dictate if we will be able to separate into two levels

The instructional level will be coach pitched

The rookie level will begin to develop player pitching

Who: 7, 8 and 9 yr old boys
 What: Instructional baseball
 When: Tentative start date of 4/2015

9-12 year olds: Minor/Major League

Players will play regulation Cal Ripken baseball
 Team placement will be based on the screening

Minors play on a 60' diamond, Majors play on 70' diamond

Who: 9-12 yr old boys
 What: Minors/Majors
 When: Tentative start date of 4/2015

13-15 year olds: Babe Ruth

Games and practices will take place on a 90 foot diamond with home games at Souhegan High School

Babe Ruth games generally play on Wednesdays and Saturdays, not to conflict with the Middle School Schedule

Who: 13-15 yr old boys
 What: Babe Ruth
 When: Tentative start date of 4/2015

Softball Clinic at AMS

Come get a jump on the Softball Season with a 4 week skills, drills and activities program geared to develop your softball abilities. This program runs Mondays through March at the Amherst Middle School. Be prepared each week to participate for an hour and a half of softball.

Who: 5th-8th grade
 Where: Amherst Middle School Gym
 When: Mondays March 9th -30th from 6-7:30pm (see website for more details)
 Fee: \$25R; \$35NR

Softball for Youth

Come join girls ages 5-16 on the softball diamond. Whether you want the experience of an instructional league or are ready for some fun and competition there is a spot for you on one of our many teams.