

THE AMHERST CITIZEN

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AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Schools

Another snow storm... another day off from school. Nor'easter blankets Amherst.



Photos page 10

Elections!

Results of the March 10th elections will be posted on www.amherstcitizen.com as soon as they become available.

Ballots pages 7, 8 and 9



Daylight Savings Time

Begins at 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March. Turn clocks ahead one hour, March 8th.

BRIEFS

Election Day - March 10

Voting for Town and School District Officers and Warrants will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the following locations:

Amherst voters - Souhegan High School 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Mont Vernon voters - Mont Vernon Village School - 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Absentee Ballots

The Amherst Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, March 10th

Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's Office. NH law requires that you vote in person at the polling place...

NH law allows voter registration on election day. Voter registration is accepted during regular business hours at the town clerk's office.

Save the Date for the "Chair-i-Table Art Auction"

This year local charities are in need of help more than ever.

On Friday, April 3rd, The Amherst Junior Women's Club will be hosting their big spring fundraiser, the "Chair-i-Table Art Auction" at Hampshire Hills.

Talented artists from around the area have graciously offered their time to hand paint beautiful Adirondack chairs and tables to be auctioned at the "Chair-i-Table Art Auction."

This fundraiser kicks off at 6:30 and includes: a preview, live auction, hors'd'oeuvres, cash bar, and raffle prizes.

Expect the chairs and tables to have many interesting themes. They will range from Monet likenesses to a celebration of the Celtics and the Fourth of July.

To view pictures of last year's artful chairs visit: www.amherstjuniors.org.

The tickets at \$30.00 each. To reserve your seat for a night of fun and charity, please send a check to: AJWC Chair-i-Table Art Auction, PO Box 513, Amherst, NH 03031. Seating is limited.

AMHERST REPUBLICANS

Monthly Meeting

Saturday, March 7, 8:00 AM Joey's Diner, Route 101A, Amherst

This meeting will feature a discussion of both social and financial issues now pending in Concord.

Members of the House of Representatives will lead the discussion. Please join us for what promises to be a very informative session.

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Voters to Decide For or Against Open Space

BY CLIFF ANN WALES

AMHERST - The fate of the Martin land is now in the hands of the voters.

In 2005 the voters supported article #2 on the warrant set up an Open Space Land Bond of \$5,500,000 for the purchase of open space land. Furthermore, the funds were to be "expended to meet conservation and passive recreation needs, except that an amount no greater than 15 percent (or \$825,000) of said \$5,500,000 may be expended to acquire open space lands to meet active recreation needs, if suitable parcels become available."

It wasn't as easy to pass as it may sound. Those of us who have been around for a time remember how hard the battle was.

The late Betty Arnold comes to mind. Betty spent most of her adult life dedicated to land acquisition for conservation. She was a leading force in crafting the master plan with the stated purpose of preserving the rural character in town and protecting open spaces from development.

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Budgets, Bonds and Land ...

BY CLIFF ANN WALES

AMHERST - The voters going to the polls on March 10th will decide from an array of issues what is important to them in this recessionary economy.

Souhegan Cooperative School District

The Souhegan Cooperative School Board has prepared a FY 2010 operating budget of \$17,730,722, which represents an increase in spending of 2.09% and a reduction of 8.4 staff members.

Article 3 raises and appropriates \$40,000 from the year-end surplus to be added to the School Maintenance Fund. For Amherst the tax impact is \$0.02. For Mont Vernon the tax impact is \$0.03.

Amherst will see an increase of \$0.01 and Mont Vernon \$0.36 if budget and article #3 pass.

SHS tax for Amherst \$6.33
SHS tax for Mont Vernon \$7.47

Amherst School District

The Amherst School District School Board has prepared a FY 2010 operating budget of \$23,163,153, which represents an increase over last year of 1.99% in spending (\$452,473) and a reduction of 9.9 teaching and staff mem-

bers. The default budget if the proposed budget fails is \$22,963,809, a difference of \$199,344. The tax impact for the budget is an increase of \$0.20.

Article 13 is a vote to approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement with the Amherst Support Staff Association (ASSA). The estimated increase for the first year will be \$51,849, \$0.03 on the tax rate.

If the operating budget and the ASSA collective bargaining agreement pass the tax rate will increase by \$0.23 to \$9.89.

Town of Amherst

The town operating budget which was revised at the deliberative meeting to include an additional \$40,000

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Candidates Forum in Amherst



Candidates running for two seats on the Amherst Board of Selectmen: Jim O'Mara, Joe Esposito, and Linda Siwik at the Amherst Citizen's Association (ACA) Candidates Forum. Selectman Bruce Bowler, a candidate for re-election, was unable to attend.

Amherst Town Library

Susan B. Anthony - The Invincible!

AMHERST - On Tuesday, March 31, at 7PM, "Susan B. Anthony—the Invincible" will come to life circulating petitions, getting arrested, and challenging legislators when she appears at the Amherst Town Library.



Sally Matson portrays Susan B. Anthony

willing to be caricatured, criticized, even threatened because she believed in equal rights for all, and she was willing to devote her life to that cause.

The performer, actor/educator Sally Matson, is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Communication and she studied writing at the University of Virginia and Manhattanville College.

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Matt And Shannon Heaton in Concert

AMHERST - Please come join us on Sunday, March 22, at the Amherst Town Library for the third concert of our very popular Sundays at 4 Music Series featuring "Matt and Shannon Heaton in Concert."

This year our Sundays at 4 Music Series is going around the world in music. With their feet firmly planted in Irish traditional music, Boston-based and Chicago-born husband and wife duo Matt and Shannon Heaton play traditional and original Irish music.

Shannon bring "a savvy modernity and American rootsiness to the Auld Sod's music, without losing any of its folksy Irish essence...their playing is masterful and inventive, their arrangements city-smart and spacious."

Matt and Shannon settled in Boston, Massachusetts in 2001. Before that, they honed their Irish music chops in Chicago with the support of mentors John Williams, Liz Carroll and Jimmy Keane.



Matt and Shannon Heaton play March 22, at the library.

neighbor in Nsukka, Nigeria when she was eight; listened to songs around the campfires at Navajo reservations as a ten year old while traveling with her ethno-journalist parents; exchanged songs and tunes with friends in Suphanburi, Thailand when she was sixteen; and met countless musicians and folklorists through her

folks, both generous hosts to traveling scholars and artists. When she settled in Chicago for college, she became involved in the Irish music scene on the north side of the city, going to pub sessions and Comhaltas events with a variety of seasoned players.

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Amherst Author Reads at Milford and Exeter Bookstores

AMHERST - Local author Maryann Cocca-Leffler's new children's book MY DANCE RECITAL just hit shelves and two promotional events are going on in the area.

Maryann Cocca-Leffler was inspired to write MY DANCE RECITAL by her own daughter's dance experiences at Kathy Blake Dance Studio in Amherst. She will

be at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford on Saturday, March 14 and then at Water Street Bookstore, Exeter on Saturday, March 21. Both of these events will be book readings and signings where children from local dance schools will be encouraged to come in dance costumes.