

Letters & Opinion

Cost of a Flu Shot

To the editor:

The primary season is upon us. Health care cost is an issue. I don't have the answer. But I have discovered that our doctors in area bill back to the insurance companies up to three times more than what drug stores charge for a flu shot. Message: don't go to your doctor for these kinds of treatment.

Also, medical practitioners should disclose their fees for services. I asked at the check-in desk what my doctor actually charges for a routine office visit (my co-pay is \$25). Answer: "We don't know. We don't bill from here." So I spent some time and effort to find out. The answer: \$120. Just for the appointment. Any and all treatment is over and above that.

William D'Alessandro
Amherst

Screening of Gasland

To the editor:

The Second Sunday Series, The Reel Story, continues on December 11th, at 4:30 in the afternoon, at the Wilton Town Hall Theater.

From CELDF, the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, comes Gail Darrell who lives in Barnstead. Gail was one of three presenters who brought Democracy School to Amherst in the spring. She has recent experience with this timely issue and will facilitate the discussion following the screening of GASLAND.

The following is from the jacket of the DVD, GASLAND: "In 2009, filmmaker Josh Fox learned his home in the Delaware River Basin was on top of the Marcellus Shale, a rock formation containing natural gas that stretches across New York, Pennsylvania and huge stretches of the Northeast. He was offered \$100,000 to lease his land for a new method of drilling developed by Haliburton and soon discovered this was only a part of a 34-state drilling campaign. It was the largest domestic natural gas drilling boom in history.

Part mystery, part travelogue and part banjo showdown, GASLAND documents Josh's cross-country odyssey to find out if the controversial process of hydraulic fracturing - or fracking - is actually safe. Traveling across 24 states to interview families, EPA whistleblowers, congressmen and scientists in vast drilling areas, Josh learns of things gone horribly wrong from illness, to hair loss, to flammable water. His inquiries lead him ever deeper into a web of secrets, lies, conspiracy and contamination - a web that potentially stretches to threaten the New York Watershed. Unearthing a shocking story about a practice that is understudied and inadequately regulated, GASLAND races to find answers about fracking before it's far too late."

Please join us on the 11th. Come prepared to be blown away.

Nan Stearns
Amherst

Souhegan High School Security

To the editor:

I would like to thank all of you for getting those very supportive emails out yesterday.

The security proposal was brought forth before the school board over two years ago. What we ended up with is 3 cameras, 4 lights and 30 locks. Cameras and lights are to be installed immediately. It's a start, although one of the most critical and vulnerable, Simeon Wilson, is not in this mix. I believe that you will agree that this area is the most "popular" outlet for the students leaving campus and getting into trouble. The cameras/lighting in the upper parking lots will most certainly push incidents to this area and other areas that are not addressed. On the up side, when this does happen, these areas will be revisited and hopefully, receive the green light to add cameras/lighting as needed.

The locking system, as I understand it, will take 8-10 weeks and has to be done while the building is unoccupied. That was the information that was given to the school board last night.

With every experience there is a lesson. I feel that it is important for us to support our children and our community. If there is something before the board that affects our children/schools, we are obligated as parents and tax payers to show up. The school board is a group of elected individuals we elect for these positions. It became apparent to me, through this endeavor, that we as parents and community need a change.

Again, thank you all for your support and commitment.

Sincerely,
Karen Tuthill
Amherst Parent

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.

Education is Worth Much More Than Money

To the editor:

Now as I am beginning my final year here in Amherst, I have reflected back on everything this school system has had to offer. Although I have been offered endless opportunities of which I am forever grateful, I cannot say the same for my younger sister, for her peers and for all other grades below me. Since I will be going off to college I want to know that I have pushed for every single thing I once feared to announce. I have had meetings with guidance counselors and deans about curriculum changes which I hope will end successfully, and I hope the same for my one largest desire.

I was fortunate enough to have been in the fourth grade in 2004, the last year that foreign languages were offered in the elementary school. I remember how Señora Rowley would come in and teach us Spanish phrases and the whole class would have a great time, laughing and playing as we absorbed the language like a sponge for only fifteen minutes a day. I want to thank Señora Rowley; if it had not been for her, I would not be able to speak Spanish nearly as well as I do today. I am half Mexican and when I was in elementary school I never noticed how fortunate I was to grow up in a household where we spoke two different languages. I did not appreciate what this had to offer, and I never would have, had it not been for Señora Rowley. Señora Rowley encouraged me to speak Spanish and made it fun. She sparked my love for languages. Sadly, I cannot say the same for my sister. My sister wasn't given the same opportunity I was and I see how she struggles holding a constant conversation.

Each day I wish the residents of Amherst had voted to keep foreign languages in elementary school. This is the time when children absorb the language and are most able to retain it and speak the language as if with a native tongue. Fifteen minutes a day makes a very large difference in a child's life. Studies show that learning new languages expands your brainwaves and helps you in various other topics. Speaking two different languages has helped me immensely in other subjects. Math I find fascinatingly simple and AP Calculus topics are a breeze for me. You see this among other Souhegan High School students as well; more than half of the students in my AP Calculus BC class (the highest math class they offer in Souhegan for two year advanced math students) are in AP Spanish and several others are taking Latin or AP French proving that there is a very large similarity between learning languages and mathematical topics.

Personally, I believe languages are the most important classes a child can take since languages are what separate us and unite us from the rest of the world. Today as we are approaching record high unemployment rates and high standards for job applications, speaking multiple languages is vital. I would like you all to think about this, and think of the futures you want to set forth for your children. If you don't have children, think of your own future. These generations are the ones that will create the world we will live in 25 years from now. In an economic crisis I realize the last thing people want to do is raise taxes, but providing a quality education should be more important than keeping taxes low. Education is worth much more than money. Education will form our futures and will construct the years to come. The last thing we want to do is lower a child's chances of a good education and a successful life. Ask yourselves, "Do I want to help the children in our town receive a good education and be successful in the years to come? Do I want to allow them to speak another foreign language fluently which will lead them to successful lives which will promise us a safe and prosperous future?" Please ask yourselves this, rather than just thinking of the money in your pocket.

Thank you,
Angela Blume
Amherst

Oil and Water

To the editor:

The expression oil and water seems to be appropriate to today's politics, no matter how you try to mix them they always separate into two discrete substances. That appears to be the issue with our current party system and why they can no longer have meaningful compromise. Our past history has been a process of give and take to move forward but that relied on the basic principle that in spite of our differing perspectives we still believed and followed the Constitutional republics framework that built the greatest country in the world. In other words, the over riding principle at the end of the day was a need to come together as Americans for the betterment of our country and the independence of our states. Even obvious mistakes that were not publicly supported were reversed such as prohibition showing the dynamic of change capable through the mechanisms outlined in our founding document.

In 1913 that all began to change slowly in an effort to change the basic ideology of the country from freedom, liberty and States rights as outlined in the Constitution to a vision which gives up sovereignty of our country and the free independent spirit which has always characterized our great land. These beginnings can be found in the passage of the 17th amendment, the creation of the Federal Reserve by foreign bankers and the rise of a group called "progressives" which is the political outgrowth of the Fabian Socialists, but do to the negative connotation of the term "socialists", progressive is more appealing. Please read "Creature from Jekyll Island" which provides the detail to these assertions and a picture of the secretive nature of this movement.

As this alternative philosophy spread under the guise of "good intentions", it is easy to see why people gravitated to it. It will provide all our needs as well as protect us from ourselves and the evils of freemen. All this is provided by taking what you have and allowing the government to distribute it as they see fit. This brings to mind a quote from Frederic Bastiat, "When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men living together in society, they create for themselves in the course of time a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that justifies it." We have reached that point in our political system where we either continue to change our moral and Constitutional code or we move to recapture the greatness that was once the United States.

That is why no compromise is really possible just capitulation by one side or the other. Just as the U.S could never agree with the U.S.S.R. or China during the cold war, so is our Congress paralyzed and unable to compromise do to the very real existence of two separate and diametrically opposed ideologies. How can it be bad if we give everything to the needy, the helpless or hopeless? I think the father of our Constitution, James Madison said it best, "I cannot undertake to lay my finger on that article of the Constitution which granted a right to Congress of expending, on objects of benevolence, the money of their constituents."

Don Bessler
Amherst

What Taxes Would You Raise?

To the editor,

After hearing about former Senator Maggie Hassan's rant against House Speaker Bill O'Brien's efforts to bring responsible, affordable government to New Hampshire, it makes me wonder how she can possibly oppose a sales or income tax. It's 100% obvious that she plans to spend huge amounts of money that the taxpayers already don't have, and her approach of nickel and dime tax hikes and borrowing money just can't last.

So, the question to Ms. Hassan is this - if you didn't like the Speaker's work to get state spending under control, what taxes would you have raised to pay for all the big government programs that you want? Without a sales or income tax, which you say you won't create, where would you find the funds?

Would Hassan add to the business taxes, which are already the highest in the nation, and crush employers with an additional weight? Would she bring back the \$30 car registration surcharge that she supported in the last budget? Perhaps she would borrow more money from our children and destroy our credit rating.

Either way, there is one unequivocal reality. Maggie Hassan means higher taxes, Bill O'Brien means more money in our pockets.

Peter Hansen, Amherst
NH State Representative
Amherst and Milford

Department of Public Works
Amherst Transfer Station Hours

Tuesdays:	12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
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.

Dovetail Dental Associates has one of the most experienced hygiene teams in the region.

Camilla Paras Patricia Ekins Lauren Sullivan Claudia Huffman

Dovetail

DENTAL ASSOCIATES

Request your appointment online at Dovetaildental.com
Joseph Cariello, DDS | Neighbors of Salzburg Square in Amherst | 603 673.6526

PARKHURST PLACE

11 Veterans Road, Amherst, NH 03031

Features:

- Beautiful Country setting
- Non-profit independent living community for Seniors
- Large function and activity rooms
- Library with fireplace
- Community garden
- Scenic walking trails
- Screened gazebo
- Carports with storage

Services:

- Regular health screenings and clinics
- Planned social activities and functions
- Wellness and exercise programs

Come Visit Us!
From Wal-Mart in Amherst, head west on 101A (Amherst St) 1 mile. Take right on Veterans Rd. 1/4 mile on right.

One bedroom apartments are now available, with heat and hot water included.

For more information and current special incentives, contact Vera at Stewart Property Management, P.O. Box 10540, Bedford, NH 03110 (603) 641-2163
TDD Access

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: \$15.00 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

— 2011 —

November 8	December 6
November 22	December 20

— 2012 —

January 10	March 13
January 24	March 27
February 14	April 10
February 28	April 24

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

NEXT ISSUE:
Tues., December 20, 2011
Deadline: 5 p.m.
Wednesday, December 14

How to contact us:
Phone: 603-672-9444
Fax: 603-672-8153
Mail: PO Box 291
Amherst, NH 03031
eMail: news@amherstcitizen.com
News: news@amherstcitizen.com
Ads: ads@amherstcitizen.com
www.amherstcitizen.com

THE AMHERST CITIZEN
Newsstand Copies
Available at one of these locations:

- Moulton's Market, Amherst
- Amherst Town Library
- The Cider Mill, Amherst
- Homestead Grocery, Amherst
- Merrill's Convenience, Milford
- Shaw's Market, Milford
- Stop & Shop, Milford
- Harvest Market, Hollis
- Harvest Market, Bedford
- Hannaford SuperMarket, Bedford

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.