Letters & Opinion

What's Best for Amherst

To the editor:

I am writing this letter to support Bruce Bowler and Brad Galinson in their run for re election to the Amherst Board of Selectmen. I have served with both of these gentlemen and know how much each has contributed to our town.

Brad served as a full time member for three years choosing to not run for re election due to business reasons. When Selectman O'Mara was made the Town Administrator we advertised for a replacement and Brad stepped up to the plate. His previous experience and business acumen made him the ideal choice. Having an MBA from Harvard and running a large very success business made him an excellent addition, especially during the budget process. His ability to analyze the numbers and make appropriate adjustments, based on needs and not wants helped make the entire budget process a success.

I have had the pleasure of serving with Bruce Bowler for nine years on the Board and in all my years of public service have never seen anyone more committed to a town and it's citizens. The many hours each week he spends in town service is commendable. I have seen him at the recycling center on the Saturday helping the crews or at the fire station and 3 in the morning supporting the fire fighters during a major blaze.His many accomplishments over his nine years would fill a full page of this paper.From helping to form a regional recycling program, saving our Town hundreds of thousands of dollars over time to working to forming our own communication center, providing a 24 hour safe haven for our citizens. His effort and commitment have always been for what is best for the Town. As a life long Amherst resident I only wish his parents could see what a great asset he has been to his town and family.

In closing, I would like to address one comment I have read that bothers me very much, that being the "good old boy network". In my forty years of community service I have not heard this accusation made and am shocked. It is too bad when the spirit of volunteerism is made to look like a bad thing. I feel some people just don't get it. It is always easier to stand on the outside throwing stones with no previous experience or knowledge than to be involved and make a difference. I hope you will let the record stand for what these two gentlemen have done to make Amherst a better Town for us all.

I wish my fellow Board members well and hope you will support them in their run for re election.

George Infanti
Amherst

Brew Supporting Bowler and Galinson

To the editor:

I am pleased that there are a number of Amherst citizens willing to serve our community by running for elected office this year. In the Amherst Selectmen race, there are three candidates running for two board seats. While serving with both Brad Galinson and Bruce Bowler, I have come to appreciate Brad's big picture approach to things and Bruce's detailed knowledge of of town issues. While I would look forward to serving with any of these three fine candidates, I will be voting for Bruce Bowler and Brad Galinson.

Thank you.
Dwight Brew
Amherst

I'm Supporting Bruce Bowler

To the editor:

I am writing in support of Bruce Bowler for the Amherst Board of Selectmen. Bruce has demonstrated commitment and leadership during his nine year tenure on the Board. In addition to his service on the Board of Selectmen, Bruce has given time and effort to the Souhegan Regional Landfill District and the Ways and Means Committee. He represented the BOS on several boards, commissions and departments including the Conservation Commission, Stormwater Committee, Road Commission, Recycling Committee, Fire Dept, EMS Dept, Dispatch Center and DPW. His willingness to take on additional complex and time-consuming projects has benefited us all.

Since our days on the Amherst Town Ways and Means Committee, I have known Bruce to be devoted to the interests and well being of the citizens of Amherst. Please re-elect Bruce Bowler to the Amherst Board Selectmen.

Shannon Chandley
Amherst

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.

Please Support Article 35

To the editor:

We would like to clear up any misconceptions that some might have about the Demolition Review Ordinance being proposed. The Heritage Commission and numerous petitioners have put before the voters in March an initiative that will further enhance the rural character of Amherst. The language used for the demolition review ordinance was carefully and thoughtfully researched. We based our language for the ordinance on those already in place in over 14 towns in New Hampshire, some neighboring; some further away.

The purpose of this ordinance is simple. The Heritage Commission wants to be able to work with a property owner to determine if a structure cited for demolition on their property might be over 50 years of age and has historical value. Our only goal is to have the opportunity to talk with the property owner about all available options. First and foremost, we would like to have the opportunity to document and photograph a potentially historic building before the property owner chooses to move it or demolish it. The commission is also willing to work with the property owner to find resources for restoration/preservation or parties who might be interested in the materials.

The Heritage Commission is not trying to infringe on the rights of the property owner. The Heritage Commission does not want and cannot stop the property owner from doing anything they want with their property, including eventual demolition of the structure. We also are committed to making the process as quick and simple as possible. It should be noted that there are no costs to the property owner associated with this review.

Experience has shown us that in creating a partnership with the property owner, the outcome will be successful for all. We are simply being good stewards of our very rich history by ensuring that pieces of our history are documented at the very least before they are demolished. We believe that there is nothing but good that will come from a policy of this sort. Please vote YES on Article 35.

The Amherst Heritage Commission
Will Ludt, Andy Ouellette, Bill Veillette, Carolyn Quinn, Mary Mahar, Tom Grella (Ex Officio), Nancy Spears, Anne Krantz and Sandy Fraser

Need vs Want - No On Article #22

To the editor:

Once again the citizens of Amherst are being asked to fund the purchase of a parcel of land for the purpose of athletic sports fields. Two years ago a 2/3 majority of the town voted against a similar purchase. Yet once again the minority that wants this has placed a warranty article on the ballot. I have several issues with this purchase which I hope the common sense voters of the town will consider in voting no for this article.

First, it has been reported elsewhere that the purchase of the land is only the first step, an additional 600 to 800 thousand dollars will be required to actually convert the property to playing fields. The ARC would have us believe that the funding will come from grants, donations and other means. In this economy? Guess what will be on the ballot next year.

Second, addressing need, we are told every time this issue comes up that there is a critical need yet we are never given concrete facts to support this need. This is a want by a minority that will benefit from its passing. Just simple observation does not support laying out a considerable amount of money for this purchase and subsequent upgrade of the property. Have you ever noticed as you are driving around on a weekend or even many week nights that the fields are empty? Where is the need?. In the same ballot this year we have the opportunity to fund the lease/purchase of a new fire engine for approximately the same amount of money. This is a need. Are you comfortable relying on an old piece of equipment with the extensive corrosion as evidenced by pictures presented in the deliberative session to protect your home? I'm not. We can't afford everything that's placed on the warrant articles every year. Do we need another empty playing field, or reliable protection for our families? Please, use common sense and vote no on this article.

Paul Martin
Amherst

My Apology

To the editor:

I am writing to offer my apology to a number of town employees who might have taken offense to certain comments that I made during the recent ACA Candidates Forum.

In answering some of the questions that were posed by the Moderator of the Forum my passion turned to anger and I said some things that I would like to apologize for.

First and foremost, I would like to apologize to Town Clerk Nancy Demers who has been nothing but kind and helpful every time I have done business with her. She is a credit to the Town of Amherst and we are fortunate to have her.

I would also like to apologize to the hard working men and women who work tirelessly on behalf of the taxpayers. My intent was not to criticize them but rather those who manage their Departments.

My issues are with Department Heads who year after year look to the taxpayers for additional funds rather than looking for ways to save money by tightening their belts.

One would think that after 14 years in the television business I would know not to let my emotions get the better of me.

Again, to those who I offended, I am truly sorry.

Charlie Sherman
Amherst

Amy Facey Seeks Election to Amherst School Board

To the editor:

My name is Amy Facey and I am running for the Amherst School Board. My husband, Eric, and I have lived in Amherst for the past 19 years, and we have three children, Jack, (grade 10) at Souhegan High School, Rachael (grade 8) and Seth (grade 5) both at the Amherst Middle School. While staying home to raise our children, I have been an active volunteer in the schools, community, and various sports organizations for many years in a variety of capacities. Most recently I have served on the Math Program Review Committee, charged with the study, development, implementation and evaluation of the mathematics program for students K-12 in SAU#39. The work of this committee is critical for the continued growth and success of our schools, and I have had the pleasure of working with many of our hard working teachers and administrators toward this common goal.

My professional career was focused in the area of housing finance, policy and investment. As a project manager and the NH state housing tax credit administrator, my work concentrated on budget and financial analysis. The challenge was always to maximize the effective utilization of funds within the constraints of limited resources and government regulations and mandates.

This experience translates well to the development and analysis tasks involved in the school budgetary process, a primary responsibility of the Amherst School Board. I will use my experience to balance the needs of our school community with the wallets of our taxpayers. My educational background includes a B.A. in English from UNH and a Master of Public Administration from Northeastern University.

Over the past few months I have attended school board meetings, deliberative sessions, and met with school board and administrative officials, and have been struck by a renewed energy focused on improving our schools. It is important that we continue to develop and strive to meet specific and collective goals for our school community, and I will work very hard to that end.

Thank you,
Amy Facey
Amherst

Silently Paying More Every Year

To the editor:

I completely agree with the point made by Dr. Kathie Nunley in her letter you published in the latest issue. The numbers she mentioned in her letter are shocking.

I'm afraid that by silently paying more and more every year we encourage poor management. Why do you need to be more efficient and try to find a way to better manage finances if you can simply ask and the get more money?

Amherst tax payers really need to look closer at the budgets of our schools. I completely agree with Dr. Kathie Nunley that there are many ways to maintain a top-notch quality education without spending more and more. If our school officials do not know how to do that or do not want to, we should think of replacing them.

With regards,
Dmitri Routski
Amherst

Support for Peterman

To the editor:

I am writing in support of Marilyn Peterman's candidacy for Souhegan School Board. Having recently served with Marilyn on the Souhegan High School Finance Committee, I can attest to her commitment to both Souhegan High School and the taxpayers of Amherst.

Marilyn brought to the Finance Committee the same energy, intelligence and reason that she has so often given to the town. Her extensive service to Amherst is remarkable. Her allegiance to our community is unwavering.

Please join me on supporting Marilyn Peterman for Souhegan School Board.

Tom Silvia
Amherst

Please Vote for Bruce Bowler

To the editor:

Bruce Bowler has proven himself as a dedicated town leader during his years of service to our community. An Amherst native, he has been involved in many difficult and complex challenges, and has helped successfully solve them. He has chaired the Board in a fair, even-handed manner. This experience will be valuable for dealing with our future town issues.

It was a pleasure to work with him as Selectman, knowing that he would always study the issues, listen to citizens' input and weigh the consequences of his actions. As a result, we may not have always shared opinions, but always respected each other's point of view. Please vote for Bruce Bowler.

Sincerely,
Jay Dinkel
Amherst

More Letters to the Editor on pages 7 and 16!

The Amherst Citizen

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Jim Wales
Advertising & Production

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