

Letters & Opinion

Debts of Gratitude

To the editor:

To my wife, Crystal, for putting up with me when I was deep in thought and helped with my campaign in every way possible working behind the scenes. Thank you.

To those concerned about my candidacy and took the time to call or email me, offered their advice, counsel, best wishes, wrote letters of support, and made calls to their friends and neighbors;

- You honored me with your personal well wishes and support,
- You provided help in so many ways,
- Thank you.

To those strangers, who cared enough about our town and schools to ask challenging questions at the polls and to whom I answered as honestly as possible. Thank you.

To friends, who sincerely told me they weren't going to vote for me, and to whom I said that their friendship meant more to me than their vote. Thank you.

To my close supporters whose sage advice and critique was deeply appreciated. Thank you.

To my wingmen who always had my back. Thank you.

And, to my worthy opponent and his supporters for challenging me to constantly up my game and do my best. Thank you.

My Commitment

As I take office, I will make these commitments to all stakeholders and constituents. That is, to listen and learn from the cadre of administrators and school board members; and, to learn from the students and faculty what affects them. I will work to understand, offer suggestions, and ideas to improve the practices, efficiencies, and educational processes. Finally, I will represent and serve all stakeholders as equitably as possible and be clear on my reasoning for decisions especially for the voters/taxpayers who elected me to serve.

Sincerely,
David Chen
Amherst

Thank You For Your Support

To the editor:

A big thank you to those who supported my candidacy for Cemetery Trustee! Also, thank you to all Amherst citizens who came to vote on Tuesday! It was a gorgeous day and a beautiful thing to watch democracy in action!

I appreciate everyone's vote of confidence in my ability to be an active and viable member of the Cemetery Trustees. I know Peter Bergin and Marie Grella are ready to answer my many questions and I'm pretty confident they're going to be comparing me to a puppy—lots of energy, tail wagging, and going in all directions! Hopefully, that will be short lived as I work hard to learn the job and begin working for Amherst! Thank you once again to everyone who supported Amherst and me by coming to vote on the 10th!

Lisa Eastland
Amherst

“We Were Sent A Message From The Voting Booth.”

To the editor:

The school budget vote on March 10th shed a light on the unfinished business we face. As board members and I received the news that our staff agreements passed in all of our districts, we also heard that all of our budgets went to default. Deep down, everyone knows we were sent a message from the voting booth.

To the two communities I call my part-time home, I want to send two messages of my own.

First, Board members, staff and I very much appreciate and want to thank you for the continued support of teachers and support personnel in our three districts. I, personally, have not worked with a better group.

Second, at a recent school district deliberative session, I shared that two of the most important parts of my job are providing a quality education for the children of Mont Vernon and Amherst along with paying close attention to the tax bill you receive in your mailbox.

On the education side, we have many success stories to share in our three districts. However, I understand there are concerns that have been raised about our test scores. On the money side, the concern is our cost per pupil. No doubt, it is too high. I want you to know that in the coming months we will communicate the findings of our standardized testing dilemma and the cost cutting strategies we will employ.

Lastly, the 'voting booth' asked for our help. I want the voting booth to know we will respond.

I thank you.

Sincerely,
Peter Warburton
Superintendent of Schools

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.

CROP Walk Committee Welcomes New Members

To the editor:

On September 12, 2014, Amherst lost a true community leader. John G. David, who died at age 72, was the founder and driving force behind the annual Souhegan Valley CROP Walk Against Hunger, part of a coordinated set of similar walks in communities around the world. The Souhegan Valley walk has grown over the 25 years of its existence, and now raises tens of thousands of dollars each year to help end hunger locally and abroad. The Souhegan Valley CROP Walk Committee will continue this community event this year on Sunday, May 3, in the spirit of John David's commitment to the fight against world and local hunger.

A planning meeting for this year's walk will take place on Thursday, April 9, at 7:00pm, at the Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC, on the village green. Those who have participated in the past and anyone wanting to join the planning group this year are asked to attend the meeting or to register their interest with committee member Gene Heighton (cptgene@comcast.net) or with the church office at 673-3231.

With the help of local organizers and participants, the Souhegan Valley CROP Walk can continue to grow as an important community event. Please join us.

Gene Heighton
Souhegan Valley CROP Walk
Against Hunger



Fulfilling My Promise

To the editor:

In 2011 my daughter Kelli Wholey (formerly Kelli Dionne, Souhegan High School graduate) decided to run the Boston Marathon and applied to be on the Boston Children's Hospital's team. She was accepted and she also was teamed up with a patient partner from Boston Children's Hospital. On the day of the Marathon I waited to see her run by in Newton at the half way mark and also at the finish line in Boston. I observed a lot of people running the marathon that didn't necessarily appear as runners or athletes and thought, hey, if they can do this perhaps I can do. I was 58 years at the time and put it on my "bucket list" to do when I turned 60. Well, 60 came around and I also applied to be on the Boston Children's Hospital Team for the 2013 Boston Marathon. The application process requires that you write an essay expressing why you should be chosen and also requires a fundraising commitment of a minimum of \$5,000. I was accepted and I also requested a patient partner. Timmy has been my patient partner for all three marathons. Timmy has been running his own life marathon having gone through numerous surgical procedures at Boston Children's Hospital. That same year I was also chosen to be on Tedy Bruschi's team for the American Stroke Foundation but decided to follow (literally) in my daughter's running path. I trained with the Boston Children's Hospital team for six months, starting with the first long Saturday run of five miles and working up to 21 miles three weeks before the Marathon. April 15, 2013 started out with an early morning drive to Boston and then the bus ride to Hopkinton. It was a great day and it was exciting. My initial goal was to complete the marathon in under six hours as six hours was the supposed cut off time for getting a medal.

Anyway, my training must definitely was paying off because I was easily going to finish well under five hours and then everything stopped. I was half a mile from the finish line just about to turn the corner onto Hereford St right before Boylston Street when I hit a mass of stopped and confused runners. Word soon came through about the bombings. Almost all of my family was on Boylston Street, "somewhere" that day waiting to cheer me on. I didn't have a phone and phones weren't working anyway. My son-in-law had been tracking me online and knew the general area of where I was. I was both relieved and concerned when I saw two of my son-in-laws after about 30 minutes of waiting and not knowing. They assured me that my family was fine but that there had been injuries and possible deaths. Well, that was 2013.

The Boston Athletic Association in 2014 offered numbers to all those runners who didn't finish in 2013. Normally getting one of the numbers requires that you have a qualifying finish time from a previous marathon. I accepted the number but still chose to run to raise funds for Boston Children's Hospital. Five months into the training I tore, stretched or sprained a tendon which obviously effected my ability to run, however, after having put five months into it I decided to run anyway. I was able to complete the 2014 Marathon but it was stop and go every six miles and my finish time was 5 hours and 32 minutes. Still under six hours, street lights not on yet I got my medal. I also did receive a medal in 2013 however being short half a mile didn't make it seem complete.

So, here we are in 2015 with about a month to go. No real objective this year other than to hopefully finish injury free and with a better time than last year. My patient partner Timmy will be at a viewing area half way through the Marathon in Wellesley. Seeing Timmy and his family wave me on is what will fuel me for the next 13 miles to the finish line. And then that's the end of my marathon days. A promise to myself.

Please take the next step in donating by e-mailing me at garydionne@hotmail.com

Gary Dionne
Amherst

Pipeline is A Disaster for NH Communities in its Path

To the editor:

The Kinder Morgan NED pipeline is a bad and a stupid deal for New Hampshire and a disaster for all the communities in its path.

It's bad because there will be 822 NH families who will have to give up right of way across their properties in the current plan. If they refuse, their land may be taken by eminent domain. These families will see noisy, heavy equipment clear-cutting and digging up a 150 foot wide construction corridor through their property. They will not only see a substantial drop in their property values, but will not be able to sell their homes if they want to move to a safer place.

The scars left can not be replanted because a 50 foot wide path must be kept open with the aid of pesticides. Property values within the incineration zone will also be negatively affected. Many roads will be closed while the construction is underway. And the communities impacted will have to deal forever with the safety risks of explosions and forest fires and a substantial increase in their budgets for emergency services as the pipeline ages.

If you don't believe it's unsafe to have a 36" pipe carrying 2.2 billion cu. ft. of natural gas per day at a huge pressure of 1460 psi through your community, look at Wikipedia's List of Pipeline Accidents and click on the United States button. Then look at the many videos of pipeline and compressor station explosions and other problems on YouTube.

This is also a stupid idea because NH has the smallest need for additional natural gas capacity of any State in New England but would have to adopt the largest pipeline. We would get only a small percentage of the gas traveling through our State. And there are alternative sources available to satisfy our modest needs which would cause much less disruption within our borders.

Once it gets to Dracut, MA, much of the natural gas will be pumped to Canadian LNG export terminals to be shipped to Europe where it can be sold at higher prices. See this internet link for a discussion of the importance of this gas to the Canadian economy. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/04/us-canada-Ing-exports-analysis-idUSKBN0L80DG20150204>.

What are the alternatives to the Kinder Morgan pipeline? NH House Majority Leader, Jack Flanagan, who represents two towns on the proposed pipeline's route, wrote to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to oppose the Kinder Morgan pipeline. He urged FERC to approve instead a proposal by Eversource, National Grid and Spectra Energy to expand capacity on existing Spectra pipelines. That makes use of existing pipelines with smaller lateral delivery pipes. Another alternative was discussed in a presentation to the Merrimack Town Council. It concluded that NH's winter shortfall in gas could be satisfied by 3 LNG tanker trucks from Boston harbor serving a natural gas storage facility in NH once a year. Yet another possibility is the Joint Open Season Consortium announced this January that will provide new natural gas supplies to New England and Atlantic Canada. This consortium will connect the existing pipeline systems of three companies.

The Kinder Morgan pipeline and its associated compressor stations have to be built from scratch. The most optimistic projections for this monumental project predict first operation in 2018. Using and upgrading existing pipelines and their established rights of way seems much more sensible.

In Amherst, the pipeline will be devastating. It comes through a Milford community across the border which it spits in half, goes under Ponemah Hill Rd., Route 122, a Christian Church parking lot on Patricia Lane, Hertzka Dr., Old Nashua Rd. and Route 101-A, then heads north through the Ponemah Bog. Routes 122 and 101-A provide primary access to work for many people in Amherst and northwest of here.

Along this stretch, the pipeline runs through the recharge area for the town aquifer in the Bon Terrain Industrial Park where the gas will be metered. There is a warrant article before the town to extend Bon Terrain's boundary by 15 acres into the adjacent rural/residential zone and canvassing has been conducted in this area to gain support from residents for construction of a natural gas-powered electric generation plant in Bon Terrain. It should be noted that small electric generation plants powered by natural gas are sometimes used to run compressor stations on large gas pipelines. This may account for the persistent rumors around the area that Kinder Morgan intends to later install a compressor plant in Bon Terrain. Pipeline companies have been known to start operations with minimum compressor capacity in their project designs and add more turbines and/or compressor stations after the plans have been approved.

After Ponemah Bog, the pipeline crosses Stearns Rd. near the firehouse. It goes under the Souhegan River 4 times, crosses the Simeon Wilson Extension, and Seaverns Bridge Rd. before crossing the town border into Merrimack.

If the Kinder Morgan pipeline is implemented in New Hampshire, our State government should come up with a new State Motto. "Live Free or Die" will no longer be appropriate for a State that allows public and private property to be taken by eminent domain for the benefit of private corporations and foreign buyers.

Best regards,
Jack Conway
Amherst

Patio Furniture

Beautiful, comfortable styles, major brands, long warranties.

www.SeasonalStores.com

Open all year. Click on **Sales/Specials** for weekly specials, or **Hours** for this month's store hours. *Swimming Pools, Patio Furniture, Hot Tubs, Pool Tables, Bars & Stools, Grills, Awnings*



120 Route 101A
Amherst, NH
(603) 880-8471



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: \$17.50 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

— 2015 —

January 13	April 28
January 27	May 12
February 10	May 26
February 24	June 9
March 5	June 23
March 24	July 28
April 14	August 25

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

NEXT ISSUE:

Tues., April 14, 2015
Deadline: 5 p.m.
Wednesday, April 8

How to contact us:

Phone: 603-672-9444
Fax: 603-672-8153
Mail: PO Box 291
Amherst, NH 03031
eMail:
News: news@amherstcitizen.com
Ads: ads@amherstcitizen.com
on the World Wide Web:
www.amherstcitizen.com



© 2015 The Amherst Citizen. All rights reserved.

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.