

THE AMHERST CITIZEN



VOLUME 23 - NUMBER 20

JUNE 23 - JULY 28, 2015

AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

RIGHT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
POST OFFICE NO.
AMHERST, NH
EBCWSS

Postal Customer

Beautiful Rugs Great Prices

CONTEMPORARY • TRADITIONAL • TRIBAL

280 Route 101, Bedford, NH • 472-8200 • www.mirsultanrugs.com

Est. 1975

Scraps in Natural Dyes

Amherst's Fourth of July Celebration

The Amherst Fourth of July celebration will begin with fireworks the evening of Friday, July 3rd with the parade and village green events on Saturday, July 4th. The theme for the parade this year is "New Hampshire Firsts." New Hampshire was the first colony of the original thirteen to declare independence from England, the first state to plant a white potato, the first to have a citizen travel in space, the first to have a free public library, and the first to have delegates vote for the Declaration of Independence!

At Souhegan High School on the evening of July 3 there will be fireworks sponsored by the Granite State Credit Union, hot air balloon rides for \$7.00, free face painting by Krickley the Clown, \$1.00 rides on the Roaming Railroad thanks to the sponsorship of Norman Wrenn of Bot-L-Gas, taiko drumming by ShinDaiko, a band concert by the Amherst Town Band and food. The rain date for the fireworks is Saturday, July 4th; any cancellations will be posted on WMUR.com.

In the village on July 4 there will be a parade with bands, floats, antique cars, baton twirlers, N.H. Revolutionary and Civil War Regiments, marchers, clowns and more. The children's bicycle parade will leave Knight's Field on Main Street at 9:30 this year and precede the town parade. Judging of the bicycle parade participants will be at 9:15 a.m. Events on the common will include an Art Show, craft demonstrations, children's games, animals, booths of local organizations, food, a reviewing stand ceremony, clowns, pocket ladies, an Irish dance demonstration, robotics and more! It will be a great time for all!

Because of the construction on Foundry Street, the parade route will be different this year. It will start at Wilkins School at 10:00 a.m. as usual, proceed up Boston Post Road to Main Street, turn right on Main Street, left on Knight Street, left on Amherst Street, left on Middle Street, and right on Main Street to pass in front of the reviewing stand. There will be a parade rain or shine unless there is thunder and lightning. There is no rain date.

For those interested in having a float, entering an antique car, renting artist space, joining the children's bicycle parade, or having space (non-profit organizations or politicians) on the common, there is further information on the town web site.

Complete schedule of events July 3-4 starts on page 9.

Important Reminder:

Police Enforce Hands Free Law on July 1st

AMHERST - Be forewarned. New Hampshire's new hands free electronic device law will be in effect July 1st, 2015.

No use of hand held electronic devices capable of providing voice or data communication (cell phones, GPS, tablets, iPods, iPads, other devices that require data entry) while driving or temporarily halted in traffic for a stop sign or traffic signal or other momentary delays.

Bluetooth or other hands-free electronic devices will be allowed.

Teen drivers under the age of 18 will not be allowed to use any electronic devices (hand held or not) except to report an emergency. Anyone violating this will be subject to penalties and license suspension or revocation.

Amherst Police Chief Mark Ream says, "The Amherst Police Department has dedicated resources to target offenders and strictly enforce this new law beginning on day one."

He further noted "This hits close to home in our town with the tragic death of former Amherst Fire Department Chief John Bachman in December of 2013 and the death of Katie Hamilton in Brookline that same week."

In the past four years in NH, 116 fatal crashes were caused by distracted drivers. Using electronic devices is a major source of distraction. A poster is included with more information and the schedule of fines is included below.

2015 Suncatcher Depicts Amherst Library

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

AMHERST - The 2015 suncatcher, 27th in the Historic Amherst series made by a N.H. craftsman, will be available on the Fourth of July. Made of glass in a pretty shade of pale blue, it depicts the Amherst Town Library, as it looked after its enlargement and renovation in 1911. Proceeds from suncatcher sales go to the preservation or restoration of historic artifacts and buildings. The new suncatcher, commissioned by Nipmugs, a local chapter of Questers, costs \$10. In addition, a limited selection of older suncatchers are available for \$15 or \$20 each, first come first served. Find the Nipmugs table on the Village Common after the parade or call Anne Krantz at 673-9684.

History of Amherst's Public Library

Although Amherst's first collective library, run by gentlemen proprietors, was active 1797 to 1832, the town's present public library traces its roots back directly to the Amherst Library Association formed in 1859. At first its books were kept in a store in Amherst Village and loaned to the public for an annual fee of 50 cents. Then from 1871 to 1892, the volumes were housed in Town Hall. In the midst of that period, the Town voted to accept that book collection and the Amherst Town Library was officially formed in 1879. The reading collection needed a new home, so in 1892 a Craftsman-style stone building was erected. The enlargement of 1910-'11 included a substantial make-over, inside and out. On the exterior, the walls were raised, the roof was changed from tin to tile, and the lovely stained-glass and copper marquee canopy placed over the entrance. On the interior, the enlarged "stacks room" was furnished with paneled wainscoting to the height of the window sills, a mezzanine in "clear Mexican mahogany finished dark," and "Alps green" marble 'baseboards' supplied by the Vermont Marble Company. These historic architectural and decorative features still exist! The room with the mahogany balcony is now the library's northwest corner room but has been hidden from the public for decades, used for private staff work. You can enjoy the other old room, with natural light from the original windows, in the sitting area for perusing newspapers and magazines.

Enlarged photos of the Town Library as it looked originally can be viewed in the library's small meeting room on the main floor.

2015 Amherst Suncatcher Depicts Amherst Town Library As It Looked in 1911

NH's New Hands Free Electronic Device Law

will be in effect July 1, 2015.

What does this mean?

- No use of **hand held electronic** devices capable of providing voice or data communication while driving or temporarily halted in traffic for a stop sign or traffic signal or other momentary delays
- This includes cell phones, GPS, tablets, iPods, iPads or other devices that require data entry
- Emergency calls to 911 or other public safety agencies will be allowed
- Bluetooth or other **hands-free** electronic devices will be allowed
- **One hand** non-cellular 2-way radio use will be allowed
- Teen drivers under the age of 18 will not be allowed to use **any** electronic devices (hand held or not) except to report an emergency. Anyone violating this will be subject to penalties and license suspension or revocation.

Penalties for Violations

1st Offense	\$100 fine
2nd Offense	\$250 fine
3rd Offense within 2 years	\$500 fine

Penalty assessments will be added to the fines

Why is the NH Law Important?

- During the past 4 years, 116 fatal crashes in New Hampshire were caused by distraction
- The increasing use of electronic devices is fast becoming the primary distraction
- While texting, a driver is 23 times more likely to crash
- Sending or receiving a text distracts the driver for almost 5 seconds
- At 50 miles per hour, we travel longer than the length of a football field during that 5 seconds
- Even dialing a phone number increases the risk of crashing by 3 times.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letters	2, 3
Town News	4
Library	5
Schools	11
SportsFolio	13
Arts & Entertainment	14
In The Region	15
Mont Vernon	15, 16

Next Issue: July 28, 2015

At Granite State Cabinetry, The Kitchen is Our Family Room.

Omega Cabinetry

GRANITE STATE

Cabinetry

YOUR KITCHEN HEADQUARTERS

Dynasty
by Omega

384 Rte. 101, Bedford, NH • (603) 472-4080 • www.gscabinetry.com