

Town News

Bulletin Board

Holiday Blood Drive at SHS on Friday, July 3

Celebrate Independence Day a bit early by giving the gift of life and donate your blood at the American Red Cross Blood Drive at Souhegan High School on Friday, July 3, 8am-3pm. Tim Kearney, SHS Class of 2014, is organizing the drive for early summer because the need is always great during the vacation season due to accidents and injuries while people are at play. "July 3rd will be a day off from work for many," said Kearney, "so we hope they will take some time early in their holiday weekend to give blood." The American Red Cross notes the following facts:

- Although 38% of the US population is eligible to donate, less than 10% actually do each year.
- Blood cannot be manufactured – it can only come from generous donors.
- Every two seconds someone in the US needs blood.
- More than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day.
- A total of 30 million blood components are transfused each year in the US.

Donors at Souhegan on July 3rd will receive free tickets to a Manchester Fisher Cat baseball game and a free Red Cross cap!

Lions Citizen of the Year Nominations

Nominations for the 41st Annual Amherst "Citizen of the Year" are still open and now being accepted by the Amherst Lions Club. Selection of the "Citizen of the Year" is based on the nominee's contributions to the People and Town of Amherst which make Amherst a better place to live. The Nomination form can be found below on this page and should be mailed to: The Amherst Lions Club, P.O. Box 1105, Amherst, NH 03031. The 2015 "Citizen of the Year" will be announced at the Fourth of July ceremony held on the Common.

The Bookside Café Now Open At The Toadstool Bookshop In Milford

The Bookside Café at the Toadstool Bookshop in the Lorden Plaza Milford is now open. An intimate part of the bookstore, the café welcomes book browsers as well as those just looking for a quick cup of coffee, tea, or pastries or a more substantial breakfast or lunch. Breakfast is available Monday through Friday beginning at 8 am and Saturday at 9 am. The café closes at 4 pm.

Nashaway Chapter of the NH Audubon Society

Ponemah Bog Nature Walks

June 27, 10am Tom Young, Dragonfly Enthusiast

Representatives of the Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon will host a series of free short walks on the trails and boardwalks of Ponemah Bog, in Amherst, off of Rhodora Drive, on the specified dates. Each walk will showcase unique plant and animal features of bogs, specific to the season and conditions of the bog. Children are welcome. Grass Pink Orchids should be in bloom at this time. For more information, contact Bog Steward Jack Gleason @ 673-3177 or westonpond10@gmail.com.

Amherst Area Newcomers Club Monthly Meetings

Amherst Area Newcomers Club holds monthly social meetings both informative and entertaining. We have many interest groups that also meet weekly or monthly including book group, knitting, bunco, crafts, golf (is still meeting), out to lunch, movie night, poker and more.

For more information on our activities visit our website at www.nhnewcomers.com. We would love to meet you!

DISCUSSION GROUP at TOADSTOOL BOOKSHOP

On the first Thursday of each month, the discussion group meets from 7PM to 8:30PM. We share ideas on philosophy, current affairs and familiar truths. For more information contact: Norah at 673-6948.

Open to All Southern New Hampshire Women

The Amherst Area Newcomers Club has been an active social organization in the area for 45 years.

The club is open to all women in the Souhegan Valley, regardless of how long she has lived in the area. We hold monthly general events on a wide variety of topics along with smaller special interest groups which cater to socializing with others of similar interests. The club is a great way to meet new people, get to know the area if you're new, or cultivate a new passion. We currently host interest groups for crafts, knitting, bunco, walking, charity, lunch, poker, healthy eating and golf.

For information and a calendar of events visit: NHNewcomers.com

Still Accepting Nominations!

Amherst Lions Club 2015 Amherst Citizen of the Year Nomination Form

The Amherst Lions Club invites nominations for the 40th *Amherst Citizen of the Year*. The award will be presented at the Fourth of July celebration on the Common following the parade. All citizens of Amherst are invited to submit nominations for the individual(s) who best manifest good citizenship through volunteerism, participation, concern, and actions to help make Amherst the great community that it is today.

Past Citizen of the Year honorees are: 1975 Roy E. Maston; 1976 Elizabeth Arnold; 1977 Barbara H. Landry; 1978 Robert Crouter; 1979 Dorothy Davis; 1980 Richard Crocker; 1981 Ann and Peter Bergin; 1982 Louise Ainsworth Marley; 1983 Marshall D. Strickland; 1984 Marion and Harding Sortevik; 1985 F. Tenney Clough; 1986 Louis Heaton; 1987 Elliot and Jean Lyon; 1988 Arnie Wight; 1989 Thomas Grella; 1990 Jean Pituck; 1991 Peg Jones; 1992 Jean Butler; 1993 Ann C. Bergin; 1994 Elizabeth (Pixie) Lown; 1995 Buck Buchanan; 1996 Dave Hanlon; 1997 Doug Kirkwood; 1998 Janet Woodbury; 1999 Bonnie and Harold Struss; 2000 Bob Schaumann; 2001 Helen Burns; 2002 Donald Young; 2003 Marie Grella; 2004 Charlie Duval; 2005 Bruce Beckley; 2006 Lee Slocum; 2007 Bill Wichman; 2008 Nancy Johnson Head; 2009 Vern and Christina Trudo; 2010 Carolyn Quinn; 2011 Charlie Vars; 2012 May Balsama; 2013 Tom Partridge; and 2014 Marti Warren.

Nomination for Amherst Citizen of the Year – 2015

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Qualifications: (Attachments encouraged) _____

Signature/address of nominator: _____

Please mail this form NLT June 23 to: Amherst Lions Club, PO Box 1105, Amherst, NH 03031

Historic Amherst

Earliest Stage Coach Lines The Feud between Stage Driver and Tavern Owner

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

The first scheduled stage coach to and from Amherst began in 1792. To give you an idea of how late this was, service between Portsmouth and Boston had commenced in 1761 "for the encouragement of trade" with "a large stage chair with two good horses" that could carry four passengers, owned by a family member of the Portsmouth inn/tavern-keeper where it stopped; by the spring of 1763, the "Portsmouth Flying Stage Coach" carried six persons inside and ran with four or six horses. So Amherst, despite being the site of the Hillsborough County court sessions since 1771, was still hinterland for two decades. It was the new tavernkeeper in the Village who remedied the situation.

"[A] Stage has commenced running from the Town of Amherst in New Hampshire to Boston. [It] will set off from Dr. Curtis' in Amherst, on Tuesday morning, and arrive at Boston on Tuesday evening; and will set off from Boston, on the return on Friday morning, from the House of Mr. Nathan Peabody, and arrive at Amherst on Friday evening, running once a week. The rate of passengers from Amherst to Boston, for the first Quarter, will be seven shillings and six pence only; two pence per mile will be the rate for any intermediate distance. Amherst, August 24, 1792." (*Independent Chronicle*, Boston, Mass., 6 Sep. 1792.)

This stage line was intended as public transportation for passengers and their baggage, and for newspaper distribution. A contract to carry mail would be obtained few years later. Here's what the one-day journey of about 15 hours over 52 miles was like for passengers: Leave Amherst at 4 a.m., breakfast in Dunstable, dine [mid-day] in Billerica, and arrive in Boston by sunset. In the other direction, leave Boston at 4 a.m., breakfast in



Woburn, dine in Tyngsborough and change horses, and arrive in Amherst the same evening (*Columbian Centinel*, Boston, July 1794). In the winter, the trip required an overnight stay; the stage would arrive around noon the following day. Passengers were expected to pay half of the fare in advance, when they reserved their seats. They were allowed 14 lbs. of baggage each gratis.

A lengthy notice in Boston newspapers (*Federal Orrery* and *Columbian Centinel*, Dec. 1794) gave details of the "Amherst Stage, N.H.", but not exactly in a customer-friendly way. Although the fare had nearly doubled in two years: "It is presumed, no rational person will object to the small rise in the fare, considering the present advanced prices upon the necessities, for the support of the driver and his horses." Subscribers to Boston newspapers, who obtained them from this stage at towns en route, were warned: "Every delinquent, who does not pay up by the 10th of January, will be sued, without further notice." Although unsigned, Samuel Curtis was the likely author. In an advert of Sep. 1797 Curtis said: "It has become absolutely necessary, that all persons who are indebted for Newspapers, delivered by the stage, should (of their

own free will and accord, without any further evasion, equivocation, or mental reservation whatever) made a full and complete settlement for the same, least they be called before some gentleman of the green bag; for the press cannot go long without oiling, and at that day, there is none to be borrowed." He sure had a way with words, didn't he? Direct to the point of being surly.

Dr. Samuel Curtis (1748-1822), who had arrived in Amherst with his family in May 1789, purchased the house lot next to Robert Means on the south side of the Common in March 1790 and opened his home as a tavern and apothecary. By Jan. 1795, he had erected a new building on the same lot (now empty green space) as his tavern-inn – next to the Means store. Curtis was appointed postmaster in 1797, likely because his stage line had obtained the government contract to carry the mail – and a tavern made a convenient post office. Initially the Amherst stage carried mail once a week to Boston, and to post offices along the way in Chelmsford, Billerica, and Medford, Massachusetts.

The earliest known stage driver was Joseph Wheat, a native of Hollis. In July 1799, Wheat announced that the "Amherst and Billerica Stage" to Boston would leave from "Mr. J. Watson's in Amherst." John Watson was a direct competitor of Curtis, having opened his tavern-inn at 1 Carriage Road. It turns out that stage driver Wheat and innholder Curtis had formerly been partners and were now competitors. Because they took to the newspapers for a war of words, we learn the early history of Amherst's stage line.

Proprietor's Side of Feud

Samuel Curtis wrote: "One WHEAT complains bitterly of late, in the Public Papers,

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AMHERST RECREATION DEPARTMENT

4 Cross Rd, Amherst, NH 03031
603 673-6248
Peabody Mill Environmental Center
66 Brook Road
603 673-1141

www.amherstrec.org
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Important Update: The Davis Lane Tennis Courts will be closing on June 15th for reconstruction. This process should take roughly six weeks to complete. Please use the courts located at the Amherst Middle School during this time.

Baboosic Lake 2015

Baboosic Lake Town Beach will be guarded daily 9am-7pm Monday-Friday and 10am-7pm weekends June 11-August 28th

We will also be renting Stand up Paddle Boards and Kayaks this year! For more information please visit www.amherstrec.org

NEW Programming

NEW Youth Pick-up Flag Football

Amherst Recreation Programs and Events

The goal of our Youth Flag Football program is to provide an opportunity for kids who may or may not play football to learn about the game, work together as a team and have some fun playing outside with other kids! We are in need of parent volunteers to help with this program.

When: Tuesdays July 7- Aug 4; 6-7:30pm

Where: Lower Wilkins Field

NEW Intro to Stand Up Paddle Boards

Join us on Tuesdays or Thursdays in July to learn the ways of the lake. Our Recreation Director will be there to teach boaters the proper mechanics of using the SUP's (stand up paddle boards). Participants will learn the proper stroke methods to help guide them all over Baboosic Lake.

This will be a 1 hour class that includes instruction, a life jacket, and a SUP rental. Please choose the class below that best fits your schedule. Classes are limited to 6 participants.

Tuesday classes (10am)
7, 14, 21, 28

Thursday classes (1pm)
9, 16, 23, 30

NEW Saber Hoops Basketball Camp

The major goal of the camp is to help kids develop a passion for the great game of basketball and help them increase their skills. We will create a positive environment with the proper balance of instruction, competition, and fun.

Who: boys in rising 6th-8th

Where: SHS

When: June 29-July 3. Mon-Thur 9:00am-2:00pm; Fri 9:00-12:00.

Fee: \$190R; \$200NR

NEW Summer Shape Up

Get stronger and fitter with an early morning Tabata workout and keep those calories burning all day long!

Who: Adults 18 and up (please call the office for questions about teens participating)

Where: Souhegan HS Fitness Center

When: 6-7am, Tuesdays and Thursdays

June 23- August 13

Fee: \$112.00 R, \$122.00 NR

NEW Story times at Baboosic Lake

Miss Sue from the Amherst Town Library will be returning again this summer to read some AMAZING books on Thursdays at 12noon (weather permitting). Fun for all ages!

Dates: June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and Aug 6

NEW High School Summer Soccer

Boys entering 9th grade through graduating 12th graders are invited to join this summer soccer league and play 10 season games with teams from both NH and Vermont. Summer Fee: \$68

NEW Summer Concert Series

Grab your family and head on down to the village green for some family fun this summer! Our FREE summer concert series will be taking place on Tuesdays evenings.

7/7 6:30-8:00pm Studio 2: A Beatles Tribute Band
7/14 6:30-8:00pm Robert Allwarden and Friends

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