

Independence Day Celebration, Saturday, July 4th Starts at 9:00 a.m.

New Hampshire Firsts

New Parade Route! Earlier Start for Children's Bicycle Parade! New Location for Puppy Parade!

Parade Route: July Fourth will be different this year! Due to the construction on Foundry Street, the parade route will change. Starting at Wilkins School, the parade will go up Boston Post Road to Moulton's corner, turn right on Main Street, go past the library, turn left on Knight Street, left on Amherst Street, go through the traffic lights, turn left on Middle Street, and then turn right on Main Street to go by the reviewing stand.

Handicap Parking: Rolf Biggers has once again offered the BMA Architectural Group parking lot at 12 Middle Street for handicap parking. There is handicap seating on the adjacent lawn facing the reviewing stand on Main Street.

Bathrooms: Bathroom facilities are available in the Congregational Church on the village green and in the Town Hall.

Lions Club Children's Bicycle Parade: Because the main parade, led by a police car and the fire department honor guard, will be going up Main Street toward Knight's Field, and the bicycle parade will be going down Main Street from Knight's Field, the bicycle parade will be stepping off earlier than usual to avoid a problem. The judging will take place at 9:15 am and the parade will begin between 9:30 and 9:45. Bicycle decorations will be judged for originality, creativity, and effort on the part of the child. There is a first (\$5,000), second (\$3,000), and third (\$2,000) prize given in each of four categories: 0-6 years; 7 and 8 years; 9 and 10 years; 11 and 12 years; and "carriages". Every child gets a participation ribbon. All children on bicycles must wear helmets.

Fire Engines: The Amherst Fire Department Color Guard will lead the parade immediately behind the

Amherst Police Department car. The Lawrence Hand Tub, built around 1853, will be pulled by the volunteer call members of the department. It came to Amherst from Worcester in the late 1800's and became part of the Lawrence Engine Company #3. The Lawrence Engine Company ended in the 1950's when the official Amherst Fire Department was formed. The Yankee Hand Tub, original to Amherst back in 1808, will be on a trailer in the parade as always.

Dignitaries: Each year our state leaders are invited to march as New Hampshire Dignitaries. This year we are honored to have Governor Maggie Hassan leading a distinguished group of dignitaries who work hard to make our town, state, and country a better place for all of us.

Bands: There will be six bands in this year's parade. Two of the crowd's favorite pipe and drum bands, the New Hampshire Police Association Pipes and Drums and the Campbell Highlanders Pipes and Drums, will be returning. Also returning will be the American Legion Band out of the Hudson Post #48 which has been entertaining Amherst parade goers since 1976 when the first parade was held. Always enjoyable, the Amherst Town Band is well-known and respected by Amherst residents who often enjoy their concerts on the town common. New this year are two less traditional bands, the Bazoooka Blanks, who wear wacky costumes and encourage crowd participation and the Fountain Square Ramblers Dixieland Jazz Band.

Parade Events: Returning for another year are the Bektash Shriners Mini-Kar Patrol; the Fifth New Hampshire Volunteers, a Civil War Regiment; the First New Hampshire Regiment, a Revolutionary War Regiment; the Civil War Sons of the Auxiliary; and the Sea Cadets. The Wheelmen will be at a national meet in Maryland before going to the Washington, DC July 4th parade but will be back in Amherst in 2016. New this year are the Rhythmic Revolutions Baton Twirlers under the direction of Jen McCormack. Coming with the Governor is the Governor's Horse Guard.

Floats and Marchers: The floats and marchers are what give the parade the true Amherst stamp. Many thanks are due those who put the work and time into floats to entertain the spectators. Also walking in the parade will be Uncle Sam and the Granite State Clowns.

Puppy Parade: Attention dog owners! Due to the change in parade route, the puppy parade will join the regular parade



from Knight's Field. Knight's Field is at the end of Main Street. Because the children's bicycle parade will also be starting from the same area, it is suggested that the puppies gather at the far end where Amherst and Main Street connect at 9:55 am. A prize will be awarded to the best dressed patriotic dog. Call 770-9875 to preregister.

Antique Car Parade: The antique cars line up on New Boston Road on the morning of the Fourth; pre-registration is encouraged—call George Coddington at 801-4389 or Noel Ward at 566-0948. Winners in the award categories will receive a ribbon—Best Overall, Best Pre-WWII Car, Best Pre-1968 Car, Best Convertible, Best Performance Car, and Most Unusual, Exotic, or Interesting. At the end of the parade the antique cars may drive around the village green and park on the church side of the common for an Antique Auto Show.

Town Common Information: There will be lots of activity on the town common beginning an hour or more before the parade. The July Fourth Committee has an Information Tent on the main walkway near the middle of the common. Emergency medical help will be available from EMS personnel stationed on the green; contact can be made through the volunteers at the Information Booth.

Vintage Pins and AMH Stickers: Vintage pins and AMH stickers will be available at the Information Tent.

Art Show: The Art Show is a treasured part of the activities on the village common. The show will run from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and features artists who work in oil, acrylic, watercolor, and mixed media as well as several fine art photographers. Styles range from abstract work to traditional scenes of New England and other places. Anyone wishing to display their art should call 673-6448. Spectators are urged to visit Artist Alley and see the amazing work done by these talented people.

Amherst Museums: The Historical Society will keep the Amherst Museums on Middle Street open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. For directions, stop at the Information Table on the main walkway on the town common.

Food and Drink: The July Fourth Committee, which finances half of the cost of the celebration, sells hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks as fundraisers. Badly needed this year are volunteers willing to give an hour or two to help with the grilling of the hamburgers. Able volunteers should call Tammy Rafferty, 305-3838. The PTSA is selling pizza, the Messiah Lutheran Church is selling cotton candy, the Destination Imagination group is selling lemonade, the Amherst Democrats are selling root beer, and the Amherst Juniors are giving away watermelon. St. Luke's Anglican Church is giving away Kooshie cups and the Amherst Newcomers are giving away water in promotional cups. The Amherst Land Trust will be giving away candy and the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative will be giving away mints.

Old Time Craft Demonstrations: Vinnie the Blacksmith will be in his usual spot near the Town Hall. Other old time craft demonstrators will be situated in the middle of the green as they were last year. Stop to watch the spinning, weaving, and chair caning and talk with the beekeeper and maple sugarer. Some of the demonstrators will be selling their wares.

Animals: Get ready to meet and greet some wonderful animals at the end of the green nearest Moulton's and the Brick School! There will be lambs, sheep, hens, a bunny, miniature goats, sheep-dogs, and possibly some unusual small animals that will delight the children. People are asked to please keep their dogs and pets away from the participating animals and to wash up with hand sanitizer located on the display tables following contact with the animals.

Additional Activities: Clowns will be making balloon animals and pocket ladies will be giving out small free gifts to the children. Organizations such as the American Friends Service

Committee, the Amherst Conservation Commission, Amherst Newcomers, Donate Life, Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity, the NH Sierra Club, No Labels, the Souhegan Valley Chorus, St. Luke's Anglican Church, the Souhegan Cooperative School District, Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative, Amherst Land Trust, and the Baboosic Lake Rowing Club will be giving out information about their organization or cause. The First Baptist Church will have their popular pitching game and do face painting as well as give away children's trinkets, St. Luke's Anglican Church will feature a fishing pond, and the Captain Josiah Crosby Chapter of the DAR will be selling a variety of patriotic and organizational items. The Friends of the Library will be selling book baskets as well as demonstrating the library's new 3D printers. The Newcomers' Club will be doing a children's activity. The Historical Society will be selling clothing and books, the NH Sierra Club will be selling water bottles and hats, and the Nipmugs will be selling suncatchers. The Villagers and the Souhegan Valley Quilters Guild will be selling raffle tickets for quilts. The Baboosic Lake Rowing Club will have boats to examine and the Souhegan High School Robotics Club will be demonstrating their robot on Middle Street.

Middle Street Demonstrations: The McGonagle School of Irish Dancing will do a demonstration of Irish dancing on Middle Street following the reviewing stand ceremony and the Souhegan High School Robotics Club will be demonstrating their robot.

Reviewing Stand Activities Before the Parade: At 9:15 am Uncle Sam will read the Declaration of Independence, a new tradition, and a nice one, to remind us of the importance of the day.

Reviewing Stand Ceremony: Reed Panasiti will lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance and Doug Kirkwood will play taps. Dignitaries will be introduced and the governor will be asked to say a few words of greeting. The Souhegan Chorus will sing patriotic songs, float awards will be announced, and the Lions Club president will announce the Citizen of the Year.

Support: Thanks go to the town and school departments who go all out to support the celebration, to the Congregational Church for parking and bathroom facilities, to the many volunteers who work to make this a fun day for everyone, to the committee members who begin working in February (or sooner) to make it all happen, to Rolf Biggers for the use of his lawn and parking lot, to Jim and Cliff Ann Wales for their publicity, and to our friends in the community who provide financial support. Special thanks to a generous financial supporter, the Granite State Credit Union, for many years of financial help with the fireworks and to RE/MAX for providing the hot air balloon rides for the past several years. Thanks also to Norm Wrenn's Bot-L-Gas, Moulton's Market, Shaw's, Jake's Ice Cream, and Sal's Pizza.

The celebration is a great Amherst tradition made possible by a lot of wonderful people who either live or work here!



Looking good!

www.amherstcitizen.com

Amherst Town Band Summer Performances

Friday, July 3, 8 PM
Concert with fireworks, Souhegan High School, Amherst

Saturday, July 18, 7 PM
Concert York Beach, Maine

Saturday, July 4, 10 AM
Independence Day parade, Amherst

Saturday, July 18, 7 PM
Concert York Beach, Maine

Tuesday, July 21, 6:30 PM
Concert on the Green, Amherst

Tuesday, August 18, 6:30 PM
Concert on the Green, Amherst

Tuesday, August 25, 6:30 PM
Greeley Park, Nashua

For additional information, visit the band's web site, www.amherst-townband.org.

SLIDESHOW:

Portions of The Declaration of Independence as read by an Amherst Middle School student can be viewed on the Amherst Citizen's YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/x2iZ1Yax74>

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