

AMHERST

State faults school district for electioneering violations

■ Attorney General’s Office says SAU 39 violated the law, but the matter is now closed.

By Gabriel Perry
Union Leader Staff

The New Hampshire Department of Justice ordered the Amherst School District to stop electioneering. The letter, signed by Associate Attorney General

Matthew Broadhead, says the district violated state law with respect to electioneering when a video was filmed and flyers were distributed at the Clark-Wilkins Elementary School. Mailers were also distributed that didn’t properly

include disclosure information, officials said last week. The letter from the AG’s Office also informed district leaders that, as they made corrective changes in good faith, the matter is closed. The crux of the matter lies with Article 12 on the 2025 Amherst School District warrant, which proposed an appropriation to finance a renovation and addition project at the elementary school. That article received 56% voter support, failing to reach the 60% supermajority needed to pass. School Administrative Unit 39 Superintendent Michael Berry said Friday he was made aware of community concerns in February or early March. The AG’s Office reached out to him

and school principals in the spring of 2025. Four to six weeks ago, Berry learned the case was being closed, he said. The six-minute video in question was funded by the district’s Parent-Teacher Association and a private individual. The informational video was about the proposed addition and renovation project for the elementary school. Ultimately, School Board members decided not to release the video, but it was shared on social media by citizens who obtained it through a Right-to-Know request. The flyers were apparently printed by employees of SAU 39 and distributed

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From right to left: Gate City Voices founder Michele Roussel Buckley of Nashua, Ward 8 state Rep. Will Darby of Nashua, Colleen O’Brien of Nashua, and Jane Constant of Milford participate in the Unite & Rise: Voting Rights Day of Action on Saturday in downtown Nashua.

Nashua rally promotes voting rights, civic engagement

By Allegra Boverman
Union Leader Staff

Several dozen people gathered Saturday in downtown Nashua to hold signs and speak with people about the importance of voting and civic engagement as part of the Gate City Voices’ Unite & Rise: Voting Rights Day of Action. Cars honked their horns as they drove past, and music energized the participants. Liz Tentarelli, president of the League of Women Voters New Hampshire, spoke during the event. Tentarelli has been a longtime advocate for voter education, civic participation and protecting the fundamental right to vote. Organizers said the event was designed to bring neighbors together in a welcoming environment to learn

more about the importance of civic engagement, voter participation and ensuring every eligible voter has the information they need to make their voice heard. “At Gate City Voices, we believe democracy is strongest when people are informed, engaged and empowered to participate,” said Michele Roussel Buckley, a Nashua resident and founder of Gate City Voices. “Unite & Rise is an opportunity for our community to come together peacefully, connect with one another, and celebrate the importance of exercising our civic rights. “It’s about awareness,” she added, referring to those who came to participate, especially on an unusually hot day. “These people are passionate about democracy. They wouldn’t be here if they weren’t.”



Liz Tentarelli, president of the League of Women Voters New Hampshire, speaks Saturday in downtown Nashua during the Unite & Rise: Voting Rights Day of Action.

LONDONDERRY

Woodmont Commons gets more time for road work

■ Planning Board extends deadline for upgrades as developer adds more than 300 units.

By Zachary Marano
Union Leader Staff

A Londonderry developer is getting more time to finish road improvements as part of its agreement with the town to improve the corridor before adding more than 300 more units to the Woodmont Commons project. The improvements will make way for hundreds of single-family condominiums, dwellings and rentals, replacing about 120 acres of formerly family-owned orchards and forests near Exit 4 of Interstate 93. The developer needs to split the bill for some road improvements with the town, due to the expected increase in traffic from occupants of the homes and rental units. This will cost \$475,000, according to town documents. On Wednesday, the Londonderry Planning Board granted the developers — Pillsbury Realty and Procopio Companies — an extension until Dec. 4 to make the required road improvements. Their original deadline was Thursday. Laura Gandia, the attorney representing the developer, said they needed more time to get permits and easements, and to resolve other outstanding issues in a letter to Planning Board members. Gandia also cited the off-site improvement agreement with the town as a cause for the extension. The Town Council was scheduled to approve this agreement at its July 20 meeting, but delayed action at the request of the developers. Town Manager Shaun Mulholland said the delay was because developers want to turn half of the 312 units planned across two parcels on Pillsbury Road into rentals, requiring lot-line adjustments. Mulholland said the developers are

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LAKES REGION

Motorcycle Week leader critical after Ohio crash

■ Charlie St. Clair, Belknap County state representative, in intensive care in Cleveland.

By John Koziol
Union Leader Correspondent

Charlie St. Clair, a state representative from Belknap County and the executive director of Laconia Motorcycle Week, remains hospitalized with serious injuries following a crash last Tuesday on his way to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota. As of Sunday, St. Clair was in critical condition in the intensive care unit at the MetroHealth Medical Center Main Campus in Cleveland, hospital officials said. The Avon (Ohio) Police Department was notified of a crash on Interstate 90 at 7 p.m. Tuesday. An accident reconstruction specialist with the department said St. Clair, who has headed the

Laconia Motorcycle Week Association since 1991, was riding west on I-90 just outside of Cleveland with a companion on a separate motorcycle. The crash was caused by a blowout of St. Clair’s rear tire, police said. “It was just a freak accident with an equipment issue,” police said, noting that travel conditions and traffic did not appear to be factors in the crash. The person riding with St. Clair confirmed what

had happened and that the crash was also recorded by the Ohio Department of Transportation, which operates closed-circuit cameras in the area, police said. Jennifer Anderson, who has been the deputy director of the Laconia Motorcycle Week Association since 1998, is with St. Clair and has his power of attorney, officials said. In addition to being the lone Democrat from Laconia

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Charlie St. Clair, executive director of Laconia Motorcycle Week, was seriously injured in a crash last week while on his way to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota. St. Clair is pictured here in 2023 in the Weirs.