



ALEXANDRIA TODAY FEBRUARY 2016 EDITION

47 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH 03222 www.alexandrianh.com alexandrianh@metrocast.net 603-744-3220



Recycling Committee 01/16



Recycling is contagious; You set the example, and others will follow

This year as last, I'm looking for suggestions and any comments you have as to what you'd like to see in this monthly article. Our attempt is to provide you with information that is interesting, informative and helpful. Please send any ideas, tips or comments to: steve.whitman@metrocast.net or drop them off at the Municipal Bldg. during normal business hours. Thank you.

Money in our Pockets

The savings for the month of December were \$535; this includes \$212 for aluminum cans, there was no revenue reported scrap metal in the month of December. The total yearly savings through 31 December 2015 are \$10,121. This is well below our original objective of \$15,000, but above our adjusted objective by over \$2,000. December was a slower than expected month, as there was no added revenues from glass or scrap metal. On a positive note, the processing fee for paper dropped by \$14.00 a ton the last week in December; however, there is no indication that this lower price will continue. The market demand for materials that can be recycled continues to slip downward and while new uses for recycled materials are continuously being developed, the processing required to convert recyclables back into raw materials to satisfy the requirements of these new products is becoming more costly. This creates a situation where the price paid for recyclables goes down or the price of the goods produced goes up; so far the price paid for recyclables and demand for them has gone down.

We will continue to follow our recycling program in 2016. The savings generated by the program will not be as great as in past years; however, we will still be saving money and helping to protect our resources and the environment. We are continuing to look at various options available to us to obtain the best possible contractual agreements. As always, we thank you all for your continuing support in 2016 and, with you help, look forward to another successful year.

Everyone Does Make a Difference

There are some items we process at the transfer station that require residents pay a disposal fee. These fees apply to items, such as televisions and computers, to help off-set the cost the town incurs because of the special handling required due to hazardous components contained in the items or simply because the nature of the material, such as demo debris and tires, requires unique processing. The fee schedule is reviewed periodically and adjusted accordingly. For example, when we changed hauling contractors for our appliances several years ago, they did not charge us a disposal fee, so in turn the fee to our residents was discontinued. We are constantly exploring various options available to us to provide the most economical and efficient methods for handling our recyclable materials, and will continue to do so.

With that said, we want to encourage you to use the recycling facilities at the transfer station to properly dispose of your unwanted items. Recently there has been an increase in the number of items being discarded in our woods and along the sides of our roads. These items include tires, electronics, and appliances. Not only is this unsightly, but as these items rot away, hazardous chemicals contained within them leach into the ground contaminating the soil and eventually reach our water supply – you wouldn't throw your old TV into your well to dispose of it, or plant your garden in soil contaminated with mercury. Please remember that improper disposal of trash [littering] is illegal, and can lead to fines of up to \$250; use the transfer station where your unwanted items will be disposed of properly and safely. Thank you for your help.

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Reusing Makes Good

Here are a few ideas on how to reuse some of the items you may have just hanging around your house. Any ideas you'd like to share are most welcome.



Broken terra cotta pots as plant markers in your garden



Kitchen graters made into rustic light fixtures



Cracked terra cotta pots and an old serving platter make a colorful backyard birdbath



Old wooden ladder makes for a unique bookshelf



Interesting wine glass holder from a broken rake



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Alexandria Conservation Commission

"Stewards of our Planet"

The Conservation Commission would like to thank all of the people that participated in the recent calendar photo contest. We had a great response, and some fantastic pictures. As promised, selected pictures will be used in a calendar which should be ready for distribution at the deliberative session this month.



ACC Notebook

How safe is your well water? This is a subject that we have spoken about before; however, it is one which deserves our attention, and reminders never hurt. In New Hampshire, the DES recommends that private wells be tested every 3 to 5 yrs. using the "Standard Analysis". This test is for: water hardness, fluoride, arsenic, bacteria, chloride, copper, lead, manganese, nitrate/nitrite, pH, sodium, uranium, and iron. Many of these elements occur naturally in our water and are harmless unless they exceed the recommended levels; in which case, they need to be dealt with.

How do wells get contaminated? Well water comes from rain and snow that soaks into the ground. As water seeps through the soil and rock, it can pick up pollutants and other materials that are present on or in the ground. The most common in New Hampshire are bacteria, radon, arsenic, manganese, uranium and radium. A U.S. Geological Survey estimates that one in five private wells in New Hampshire has more arsenic than is allowed in public water systems.

Other contaminants get into well water from human activities. Gasoline storage and spills, industrial/commercial activities, improper waste disposal and road salting can introduce toxic substances to the ground. Even typical residential activities, such as using fertilizers or pesticides too close to a well or in excessive amounts, and improper disposing of household chemicals can contaminate well water.

You can purchase do-it-yourself testing kits; however, professional laboratories will provide a complete report and in many cases recommended remedial action. Contact an accredited laboratory for availability and pricing.

Source: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/well_testing/documents/well_testing.pdf



As the Wind Blows

Winter is an excellent time to get outdoors and learn the art of tracking wildlife. Tracking animals is an ancient art and essential wilderness survival skill. By honing the ability to track, the nature lover can view animal activity and habitats rarely seen by the average hiker. A beginner will find tracking in the snow a helpful place to start because tracks will be easily visible.

In preparation for your hike, prepare a list of the animals that inhabit the area you plan to visit. If you'd like, you can go on-line and print pictures of tracks you are likely to come across or you can purchase a nature book which contains various pictures of animal track and may provide tips on where to look to find them in the wild. Being able to readily recognize tracks will allow you to follow a particular animal should you find multiple tracks. It is also important to identify the tracks before tracking the animal because you need to be aware if you are tracking a potentially dangerous animal (e.g., tracking a bobcat in lieu of a house cat). It is also helpful to have some idea where to look for tracks. In winter, food runs scarce in snow-covered landscapes. Look for areas that contain food sources for herbivores [animal that feed primarily on grass and other plants].

Once you've located and identify the tracks, the tracking beings. To determine which direction the animal is traveling, examine the track and locate the front of the foot, hoof, paw or claw. Animals such as opossums and bears make tracks with four to five finger- or toe-like prints similar to a human footprint, whereas animals such as deer and moose have a more teardrop-shaped track with the narrow point indicating the front. If the animal has been browsing in an area, movement may be random, and you will need to locate where the tracks exit the area if you want to follow the animal. Be careful not to disturb the tracks as they can lead you back should you become disorientated and lose your way in the process ["back tracking"]. Do not get too close to animals in their natural habitat. This can cause them to become frighten and attack you or abandon their young leaving them vulnerable to predators. Enjoy the outdoors and the challenges and rewards afforded by learning tracking skills, but be respectful of the wildlife that make it their home.

Tip: whenever hiking in the woods, especially in areas with which you are not familiar, **always** bring survival gear with you, such as a compass, flashlight, matches, pocketknife and map.

Source: <http://traveltips.usatoday.com/track-animals-snow-20001.html>



Our Feathered Friends

Last month I talked about a fairly large group of birds; raptors. This month, I'd like to talk specifically about the Peregrine falcon. Peregrine falcons, commonly referred to as the duck hawk, are among the world's most common birds of prey. They can be found on all continents except Antarctica. Adults have blue-gray wings, dark brown

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backs, a buff colored underside with brown spots, and white faces with a black tear stripe on their cheeks. They have a hooked beaks and strong talons. Adults are approximately the size of a large crow with a wing span of about 3 ½ ft. and weigh between 2 – 3 lbs. – females, as is the case with most raptor species, are slightly larger than the male.

Peregrine falcons mate for life and breed in the same territory each year [some nesting sites have reportedly been used for over 100 years by succeeding generations]. They make their nests on ledges and in small caves located high on a cliff. The mating season is March through May. Peregrine falcons are very territorial during breeding season and will vigorously defend their nests. Both the male and female incubate the eggs for about one month. The chicks start to fly in about 42 days, but are still dependent on their parents to learn how to hunt. Peregrines falcons are formidable hunters that prey on other birds (and bats) in mid-flight. They hunt from above and, after sighting their prey, drop into a steep, swift dive that can top 200 mph, and literally snatch their prey out of mid-air. They are the fastest flying bird know on earth with diving speeds of over 240 mph recorded.

The life span for a Peregrine falcon in the wild is anywhere from 7 to 15 yrs. Peregrine falcons are fast, aggressive, and fearless predators located at the top of their food-chain; they rarely suffer from predation by other animals. Great-horned owls and golden eagles are known to occasionally kill fledgling Peregrines, and less often, adults; Peregrine eggs sometimes fall victim to raccoons and red-tailed hawks. In the 1920's the pesticide DDT threatened the Peregrine population [and other raptors] by weakening the shell of the eggs produced by birds that had ingested the chemical. Shells became fragile to the point that the eggs would break during incubation. Since the banning of the use of DDT in the 70's, populations have rebounded to the point where the conservation status of the Peregrine falcon today is "Least Concerned". However, the Peregrine falcon is still protected in the state of New Hampshire, and should be left alone.

Source: <http://www.defenders.org/peregrine-falcon/basic-facts>



Upcoming Area Events

- Our January meeting will be on February 24th at 6:30pm; at the town municipal building 47 Washburn Rd. Guests are always welcome. Don't forget to visit us on Facebook <https://facebook.com/alexandrianhcc>
- **Notice of Interest:** The Audubon Society's Great Backyard Bird Count takes place Feb. 12th – Feb. 15th. To learn more and how you can participate, visit: https://www.audubon.org/content/about-great-backyard-bird-count?utm_source=engagement&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2016-01-21_email_newsletter

Selectmen's Office

Abatements: If you wish to file an application for abatement, you may obtain the form from the selectmen's office during regular hours. Abatement forms are also available online at www.alexandrianh.com. Applications are due by March 1, 2016.

First Deliberative Session

Saturday, February 6th at 10:00 am

Town Voting Day

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Copies of the 2016 Town Warrant & Budget are available online at www.alexandrianh.com and at the Municipal Building. Copies of the 2015 Annual Report will be available by March 1, 2016.

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Town Offices will be closed on Monday, February 15th in observance of Presidents Day.



Alexandria Village School Community Center

Alexandria Village School Community Center Free Programs

Thursday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.-Valentine's Day craft.
Thursday, February 25, 6:30 p.m.-Stretch Bracelets, North Star Gems.
All Thursday night programs are for all ages and are free.
Every Thursday morning- 9:30 to 11:00-Morning playtime-For caregivers and children.
First and third Wednesday-6:00 to 7:30 p.m.-4-H meetings.

Other Local Events/Organizations



HAYNES LIBRARY

Open on Mondays from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
33 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH 03222 (603) 744-6529

Office Hours

Selectmen's Office – 744-3220

Monday: 8 am to 4 pm
Tuesday: 11 am to 6 pm
Wednesday: 8 am to 4 pm
Thursday: 8 am to 4 pm
Friday: CLOSED

Town Clerk/ Tax Collector – 744-3288

Monday: 9 am to 4 pm
Tuesday: 9 am to 7 pm
Wednesday: 9 am to 4 pm
Thursday: 9 am to 4 pm
Friday: CLOSED

Transfer Station

Monday: 8 am to 12 pm
Wednesday: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday: 8 am to 4 pm

Police Department 744-6650

Chief Donald Sullivan
When dispatcher picks up, give dispatcher your message. They will page an officer on the radio. Cell phones are not reliable locally.

Highway Department – 744-6516

Jeff Cantara, Road Agent

Planning Board – 744-8986

Deliberative Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, 6pm during winter months (November thru March)
Open 1 hour prior to meeting.
Chair, Maggie LaBerge
Items to be included on the agenda must be received 21 days prior to the meeting.

Town Committees/Commissions

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission meets the 4th Wednesday of the month in the conference room at the municipal building.
To contact the Conservation Commission:
e-mail: alexandrianh@metrocast.net
Phone: 603-744-3220
Mail: 47 Washburn Road
Alexandria, NH 03222

Recycling Committee

Please send your suggestions, tips, and comments to: steve.whitman@metrocast.net or call 744-3596. Thank you for recycling.
A Reminder: Anyone wishing to receive electronic copies of committee business conducting electronically or meeting minutes can do so by providing me with an email address. Sent to: alexandrianh@metrocast.net

FIRE PERMITS

Category I & II fire permits can be obtained in the Selectmen's Office (603-744-3220), but you will need to provide a copy of the previous year's permit in order to get a permit for the current year.

All other burn permits are available from the following:

Fire Warden:
Mark Chevalier 603-455-1591
Deputy Fire Wardens:
Dave Ogden 603-744-9056
Jeff Cantara 603-744-6516
Tom Moore 603-744-6516

Or contact: Robert Duquette, George Clayman, Fran Butler, Ken Patten, Fred Platts