



ALEXANDRIA TODAY DECEMBER 2015 EDITION

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



Recycling Committee 12/15



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



The Recycling Team would like to wish you all a holiday season filled with joy and happiness



Did you know from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day household waste increases by more than 25%? Added food waste, shopping bags, packaging, wrapping paper, bows and ribbons all add up to an additional *1 million tons a week* to our landfills. Please sort your trash carefully, and recycle everything you can. Thank You.

A Reminder: because of the color dyes and some of the other materials contained in the product, **Christmas wrapping paper cannot be recycled**; it should be disposed of in your non-recyclable waste. However, it can be saved and reused or used for craft projects during the upcoming year.

Money in our Pockets

The savings for the month of October were have not yet been reported by all of our market vendors, and we are unable to provide an up to date savings. The October savings will be combined with the November data, and the January newsletter article will provide an up-to-date figure through 30 November. There was no revenue reported for aluminum cans or scrap metal in the month of November. As you know, last month we surpassed our adjusted year end savings goal of \$8,000 by \$307, and everything we save in October and for the remainder of the year is an added bonus – who knows, perhaps we'll even meet our original objective of \$15,000. We will continue evaluating alternative options, and make changes as necessary. We are still saving money and protecting the environment with our recycling program. Thank you all for helping us reach our objective and with your continuing support, let's stretch for that \$15,000 mark – together we can do it!

Everyone Does Make a Difference

In 2008, RSA 9-C:1, et seq. established the Statewide Recycling Program which obligates State agencies to reduce waste, recycle, and purchase products containing a high percentage of recycled materials whenever possible as part of their normal operations. The responsibility for administering the program was initially legislated to a committee; however, in 2011 the committee was repealed, and the responsibilities now fall to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). In May 2015 an audit of the program was completed to evaluate compliance and effectiveness – the audit can be viewed at: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/LBA/AuditReports/PerformanceReports/DAS_2015.pdf.

So why am I bring this to your attention? I don't expect that you'll rush out to read the 45 page audit results or the RSA, but I do want to reinforce the fact that New Hampshire, along with most other states and our federal government, takes recycling very seriously and is actively taking steps to encourage it. As 2015 comes to an end, let's reflect on our accomplishments and renew our commitment to the recycling effort for 2016.

Reusing Makes Good During and After the Holidays



Making cork reindeer can be a fun project for you or your older kids, and not only does it make unique place setting décor, it also reuses those old corks. All you need to make these are corks and twigs, although extra decorations (if you already have them) can help enhance and personalize your reindeer. You'll also need clippers to trim the twigs, drill bit(s) or Exacto knife to make the holes into which you'll insert the twigs and a hot glue gun to glue everything securely in place. Have fun.



Some interesting ideas for creating ornaments from burned out light bulbs can be found on the internet; this website is just one of several you may want to check out: <http://craftsbyamanda.com/2009/12/light-bulb-snowman-ornament-craft.html>



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Give your Christmas tree a life after the Holiday

A Christmas tree makes an excellent bird feeder for your backyard. Stick the tree in the snow and 'decorate' it with suet, cranberry and popcorn strings, stale bread, and dried, chopped fruit in mesh bags. You will discover that chickadees, sparrows, cardinals, blue jays, and a host of other birds come for the food and stay for the shelter. If you have a wooded area, your old Christmas tree can be used to start a brush pile to create shelter for wildlife at the wood's edge including: rabbits, chipmunks, fox, sparrows, juncos, thrashers, towhees, cardinals, catbirds, and more. Just leave the tree laying in the snow and let nature do the rest.

A Christmas tree is biodegradable; its branches may be removed, chipped, and used as mulch in the garden. Rent [or borrow] a chipper and create mulch for your garden or flower beds; be sure to apply garden lime on the mulch to counter the acidity.

Many municipalities recycle Christmas tree for a number of projects. More information about local drop-off locations will appear in the January 2016 newsletter:

- Tree Recycling / Mulching programs: some municipalities chip and shred the trees, then use the mulch in local parks and flower beds at public buildings
- Soil erosion barriers: some communities use Christmas trees to make effective sand and soil erosion barriers, especially for lake and river shoreline stabilization and river delta sedimentation management.
- Fish feeders: sunk into private fish ponds trees make excellent refuge, breeding area, and feeding area for fish.
- Paths for Hiking Trails: shredded trees can be used as a free, renewable and natural path material that fits both the environment and the needs of hikers!



Important: Never burn your Christmas tree in a fireplace or wood stove. Pines, firs and other evergreens have a high content of flammable turpentine oils. Burning the tree may contribute to creosote buildup and risk a chimney fire.

Please send any ideas, tips or comments to: steve.whitman@metrocast.net or drop them off at the Municipal Bldg. during normal business hours.

Alexandria Conservation Commission

"Stewards of our Planet"



Wishing a Safe and Joyous Holiday Season to All



ACC Notebook

This month's animal of the month is the white-tailed deer and is also the subject of the ACC Notebook. Wildlife is just that; wild, and nature has provided each species with a means of survival during the colder months of the year. These range anywhere from migration to winter ranges, to hibernating, or to modification of activities to conserve energy. As a general rule, most animals are less active during the winter months as food is scarce. Some will not survive, but that is nature's way of controlling the specie population and ensuring that only the strongest survive and breed. Many people enjoy feeding and interacting with wildlife during the winter months; however, when food is readily provided, this introduces an unnatural occurrence in the normal life activities and can have adverse consequences. Want to help the deer survive the winter? Don't feed them. Many people think that they are helping the deer by feeding them; the truth is that feeding them can do more harm than good. The white-tailed deer is a ruminant, which means it has a four-chambered stomach. Each chamber has a different and specific function that allows the deer to eat a variety of different food, digesting it at a later time in a safe area of cover. The stomach hosts a complex set of microbes that change as the deer's diet changes through the seasons. If the microbes necessary for digestion of a particular food (e.g., hay) are absent, hay eaten will not be digested. The process of converting these microbes giving them the ability to digest new foods takes about two weeks, during which time the deer get no benefits from the new food they are eating and may starve to death. Other consequences of feeding deer during the winter are that the size of the herd increases to an unhealthy density which attracts natural predators, increases the chance of spreading disease, and invites hostility and aggression within the herd that expends energy and could result in injury. Additionally, competition for food at feed sites often denies food to the younger deer as the older deer tend to dominate, and increases damage to nearby vegetation and ornamental plants due to over-browsing.

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Deer naturally congregate in protected areas called “deer yards” during the winter months. This important winter habitat provides several benefits, such as dense softwood canopies that intercept more snow, providing reduced snow depths. Congregating in these areas also allow many deer to share the energy cost of maintaining a trail network to access cover and food, and to escape predators. Deer living in New Hampshire will require this protective shelter area for 20-60 days depending on the length and harshness of the winter. Their natural winter diet is lower in protein and less digestible than the summer diet, requiring more energy to digest. Unless your home is near a deer yard, deer frequenting your feeding station may expend considerably more energy traveling to and from it than the food will provide.

Our recommendation is **not** to feed the deer, but rather hike out into the woods and locate an active deer yard. Find a spot where you can observe the area, ready your camera, and wait for the deer.

Source: https://www1.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/pdfs/deer_yards.pdf

F&W01014.P65: *More Harm Than Good*, published by the University of New Hampshire, Cooperative Extension, Forestry and Wildlife Program

As the Wind Blows



Our message this month is simply a “Thank You” to all of the residents of Alexandria for the support they have given the Conservation Commission over the past year. You can be proud of everything you’ve helped the Commission accomplish this past year. Our pledge to you for the coming year is to continue to earn your trust by protecting our natural resources and making Alexandria a town you can be proud to be a part of. We look forward to continuing to serve you and our community throughout the coming year.

Animal of the Month



The white-tailed deer is New Hampshire’s state animal. They are native to both Canada and the United States and occupy a wide range east of the Rocky Mountains. The largest deer are found in the temperate regions of Canada and United States. The white-tailed deer sheds its winter coat in the spring and has a new reddish-brown color in the spring and summer. In the fall, it again sheds its fur and grows a **gray-brown winter coat that has hollow hair shafts and a dense, wool-like under fur, providing effective insulation. Deer have special muscles that can adjust the angle of their hair shafts to obtain maximum insulation.** The white-tailed’s most distinguishing characteristic is the white underside of its tail which it raises when it senses danger as a warning to other deer. North American male deer (buck) usually weigh around 125 - 150 lbs. by the rutting season, but in rare cases, bucks exceed 200 lbs.; the female (doe) usually weighs slightly less. Males re-grow their antlers every year. Antlers begin to grow in late spring and are covered with a highly vascularised tissue known as velvet. The number of points, the length, and thickness of the antlers is a general indication of age; however, a better indication of age is the length of the snout and the color of the coat, with older deer tending to have longer snouts and grayer coats.

White-tailed deer are generalists and can adapt to a wide variety of habitats. Almost entirely herbivorous, white-tailed deer eat a large variety of foods; small plants of almost any variety, grass, and foliage from small trees and shrubs. They also eat acorns, fruit, corn, and other foods they can find in a farm yard. Their special stomachs allow them to eat some things humans cannot, such as poisonous mushrooms and poison ivy. Their diets vary by season according to availability of food sources. The white-tailed deer has several natural predators including: wolves, cougars, bobcats, Canada lynx, bears, wolverines, packs of coyotes, and humans. Many primary natural predators of white-tailed deer in eastern North America are no longer present in many areas and only sparsely populated in others. Coyotes and black bears are often the only major non-human predator species left, which has contributed to the overpopulation of deer in some areas. Conservation practices have proved so successful, in parts of their range that the white-tailed deer populations currently far exceed their natural range’s carrying capacity and the animal may be considered a nuisance.

The white-tailed deer is not considered endangered in New Hampshire and may be hunted in season. There are 3 fall hunting seasons for deer in New Hampshire: Archery, Muzzleloader, and Firearms; the dates for each type overlap, but there are specific dates applicable for each.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White-tailed_deer, <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/hunting/deer.html>



Upcoming Area Events

- Our November meeting will be on December 2nd at 6:30pm; our December 23rd meeting has been cancelled.

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Selectmen's Office

It's that time of year again! Tax bills have been mailed. The tax rate for 2015 is \$21.00. Breakdown of the rate compared to past years is as follows:

	2015	2014	2015	2012	2011
Town	\$5.09	\$4.83	\$.423	\$ 4.28	\$ 5.57
County	\$1.47	\$1.53	\$1.56	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.50
School	\$12.12	\$12.17	\$13.01	\$11.60	\$12.70
State Education	\$2.32	\$2.47	\$2.45	\$ 2.52	\$ 2.60
Total	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.26	\$19.96	\$22.37

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. More information about abatements can be found on our website at www.alexandrianh.com/page65.php.

REMINDER: Tuesday, January 12, 2015 is the last day for voters to petition selectmen to include an article in the town meeting warrant, provided that if a petitioned article proposed a bond governed by RSA 33:8-a, the deadline is the preceding Friday, January 9, 2015. [RSA 39:3; 40:13, II-a(b)]. The petition must have a minimum of 25 signatures from registered voters.

New Transfer Station stickers are available for 2016.

Stickers are available at the transfer station, please be sure to stop and request one the next time you are there.

Public Hearing on the 2016 Annual Budget

Tuesday, January 12th at 6:30 pm

Snow date: Tuesday, January 19th at 6:30 pm

Highway Department

Jeff Cantara, Road Agent

Hello everyone. Just as a friendly reminder, I wanted to pass along the following info.

Plowing across Town Roads is against State law. It also becomes a safety issue if a deficiency is left in the traveled way. As well it is a financial burden to us all if the Highway Department has to return after clean up to clean up again and re-treat the road

Parking in or along Town roads during snow removal creates a hazard and hinders proper snow removal. We have no alternative other than to remove the hazard either through owner contact and removal if possible or towing.

Please be sure to check the condition of your mailbox and its supportive structure prior to snow plowing. Many people assume it's our direct contact that causes damages. This is generally not the case. As we plow, approximately two hundred plus pounds of snow is coming off the plow and wing as we travel at an average of twenty five miles per hour. If your mailbox post is ten years old and subject to constant weather, its condition may not be stable enough to handle that load. Wet heavy snow will increase this load tremendously. Also we travel most times in dark conditions while it is snowing and do our best to stay where we need to be. We do our best to avoid such issues, but I'm not going to say it will not happen. Please remember we are only human and just out there trying to do our jobs.

With all this being said, I hope you all have a safe winter season. We will be out there doing our best to keep the roads safe while working within our means. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or refer to the Towns plow policy. We appreciate your cooperation on the roads.

Policy Regarding Availability of Sand:

Sand is available for use by residents of the town. Sand piles are located at the Transfer Station (29 Smith River Road) and behind the old Highway Garage (143 Washburn Road).

- Residents of the Town of Alexandria are allowed to fill up five 5-gallon buckets with sand for use on their own property
- Sand available at the Transfer Station will be available only during regular business hours of the transfer station
- The filling of pick-ups or other trucks and use by contractors is prohibited.

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Alexandria Village School Community Center

The Alexandria Recreational Advisory Council is currently in its 8th year of using the Alexandria Village School. We are incredibly grateful to the Town of Alexandria for providing us with the opportunity to use the Alexandria Village School to provide care and educational opportunities for the children and families of Alexandria. We are excited to be announcing an expansion of our program that will include both day and evening offerings of programs and events that will further meet the needs of area families. We plan to have weekly evening programs featuring local individuals who are offering their skills and expertise free of charge.

Thursday, December 3rd @ 6:30 pm: Homemade Christmas Gifts

Spend an evening of conversation and crafts! Learn to create a variety of interesting and beautiful items to give to loved ones for the holidays

Friday, December 11th @ 6:00pm: Christmas Caroling in the Village

Join us at the Town Hall for an exciting holiday tradition. We'll meet at 6 to practice and then carol in the village. Afterwards, we will come back to the town hall for refreshments, conversation and a reading of The Night Before Christmas.

Thursday, December 17th from 9:30 am to 11:00 am – Morning Playtime

Need to get out? Come and enjoy a weekly playtime program for both parents and children. We meet at AVS on Thursday mornings from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. Enjoy conversation and snacks while your little ones play. Snacks provided!

****All programs are free and all materials are provided****

Call 603-254-6301 or 603-744-8630 for more information.

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

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