



ALEXANDRIA TODAY DECEMBER 2016 EDITION

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

It's that time of year again! Tax bills have been mailed and are due December 8, 2016. The tax rate for 2016 is \$21.00. Breakdown of the rate compared to past years is as follows:

	2016	2015	2014	2015	2012	2011
Town	\$5.45	\$5.09	\$4.83	\$4.23	\$ 4.28	\$ 5.57
County	\$1.66	\$1.47	\$1.53	\$1.56	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.50
School	\$11.71	\$12.12	\$12.17	\$13.01	\$11.60	\$12.70
State Education	\$2.18	\$2.32	\$2.47	\$2.45	\$ 2.52	\$ 2.60
Total	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.26	\$19.96	\$22.37

Abatements: An abatement is a request to refund some of the taxes paid on a property. Abatement requests generally fall into two broad categories: physical description errors and valuation opinion differences. To receive a copy of your assessment record card that shows what is listed for the physical description of the property and property value, please contact the Selectmen's Office at alexandrianh@metrocast.net or 603-744-3220.

Annually, after receiving the final tax bill of the year, property owners may file a formal request to review their property's assessment. The request must be made in writing and must be filed by March 1, 2017. 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, 2017. More information about abatements can be found on our website at www.alexandrianh.com/page65.php.

REMINDER: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 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 6, 2017. [RSA 39:3; 40:13, II-a(b)]. The petition must have a minimum of 25 signatures from voters registered in Alexandria.

New Transfer Station stickers are available for 2017.

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

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.



Recycling Committee 12/16



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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU

Money in our Pockets

September savings were (\$247); no money was received from the redemption of scrap metal, aluminum cans or any adjustment for glass during the month. This puts our total year to date savings at \$840. Our outlook for the remainder of 2017 continues unchanged. I hate to keep repeating myself; however, it's easy to lose faith in the system in difficult times, and until the market works its way through the current cycle, we need to keep mindful of the important role each of us plays in protecting our environment and preserving our precious non-renewable resources. Your continued enthusiasm and support of your recycling program is greatly appreciated – recycling does have a positive impact and benefits all of us.



Everyone Does Make a Difference

Each year, Americans use more than 100 billion plastic bags, most of which are thrown away and end up in landfills, hung up in a tree, or on the side of the road. As a result, local, state, and national governments are working to reduce plastic bag waste [or perhaps “pollution” would be a more accurate description], with various approaches ranging from supporting recycling efforts and using compostable bags to levying taxes or outright banning the use of plastic bags. New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station researcher John Halstead, professor of environmental and resource economics, and Megan McLaughlin, assistant town planner in Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and a UNH graduate of the resource administration and management program, researched the problem and evaluated three basic alternative solutions; imposing a tax on plastic bags with the resulting revenues going toward further research to reduce the negative impact plastic bags pose to the environment, secondly the impact of imposing an outright ban on the use of plastic bags, and finally one establishing some type of “take back” program. Halstead and McLaughlin conducted the studies in U.S. communities that have taken some type of action to control plastic bags. They examined motivating factors, whether it was a local or a state effort, and if there was a vote involved. Additionally, communal patterns between communities were factored into the study. In September 2016, they present their findings.

Each policy evaluated has advantages and disadvantages. If the goal is to reduce the use, a fee or tax on bags works best provided the fee is set high enough that consumers will change their behavior. If the goal is to get rid of plastic bags completely, obviously, a ban works the best. A take-back/recycling program produced varying degrees of success depending on the effectiveness of the accompanying education program(s) to engage consumers, and win the support of local and national retail, grocery, and pharmaceutical chains. Looking deeper into the results and drawing comparisons between communities, bans on plastic bags have the potential to work; however, many programs currently in effect offer loopholes that harm the environment and render them somewhat ineffective. For instance, in Austin and Honolulu, the ban on plastic bags exempts bags of a certain thicknesses resulting in higher usage of heavier plastic bags [‘contractor bags’], which find their way into the waste stream. A key component to the success of any of these programs is outreach; a concentrated effort to get competing retail, grocery, and pharmaceutical chains on board will help increase recycling habits of the consumer as these businesses are major distributors of plastic bags. Many companies are already actively participating in programs designed to curb the use of plastic bags or funding research as to how to reduce the impact they pose to the environment. As consumers, we should seek out these companies and support their efforts.

Source: This material is based upon work supported by the NH Agricultural Experiment Station, through joint funding of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 233237, and the state of New Hampshire.

Reusing Makes Good ¢

Christmas wrapping paper **cannot** be recycled because of the chemicals and dyes used in its manufacturing process. However, it can be reused for a number of things; here are just a few ideas:



Brighten up old canisters



Use as backing for shadow box shelves, drawer liners or back for cabinets



Shred and use as packing



Fold to create Origami figures and shapes or create festive bows.



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Tip of the Month

Too Much Salt Isn't Good for our Bodies or the Environment

As winter approaches, cities and towns across New England are bracing for the onslaught of ice and snow. Controlling ice and snow build up in driveways and walkways is a problem we all face in the winter. Obviously the most ergonomically friendly method of control is by removing the snow and ice by either shoveling or plowing; get out there and shovel/plow early and often. Clear away as much snow and ice as possible during and immediately after the storm and the need for any additional treatment will diminish. In many cases a little sand on the surface after clearing the bulk of the snow will be sufficient to provide all the traction necessary [I have found that recycling sawdust from my shop also provides good traction and does not harm floors if tracked inside]. However, if you need to get down to bare ground, you may need to use a chemical treatment. For many years, the most common ice remover has been rock salt. The indirect collateral damage and environmental concerns were overlooked because of its cost-effectiveness. Salt can leach heavy metals into the ground damaging the roots of grass, plants, trees and shrubs; and contaminate surface and underground water resources. Surface water run-off carrying harmful salt by-products can flow into nearby rivers and streams. Salt can hurt our pets if it gets lodged in their paws. Today, more environmentally friendly and considerably more effective chemicals are available. Use an eco-friendly ice melt product when needed; follow the manufacturer's directions and use sparingly. When choosing an environmentally friendly ice melt, take the time to read the ingredient list. Make sure all the ingredients are safe for you, your children, your pets and the environment. Use a product containing magnesium chloride which is salt, but a safer and less corrosive salt than the more common sodium chloride salt.

We can be more efficient with our salt application. Private residents and business owners can reduce salt use on their properties by understanding how to be efficient and effective with application. For snow removal professionals, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension offers a Green Snow Pro certification. This program is designed to provide both municipal and private operators with skills and understanding necessary to reduce the quantity of salt added to roadways and parking lots, while maintaining the highest level of safety.

Comments and suggestions are welcome, and can be submitted via email to: steve.whitman@hotmail.com; with the author's permission, comments may be printed in subsequent issues.

Community Events



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



Alexandria Historical Society

Open House: The Tucker House will be open on the 2nd Monday of every month between May and December from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

The next Alexandria Historical Society meeting is December 6th at 7:00 pm
As always, the meetings are open to the public and refreshments will be served.

December 10th from 9 am to 3 pm – Christmas in the Village – The Tucker House will be open for sales of Christmas items and goods.

TTCC 62nd Annual Santa's Village & Craft Fair

Friday 12/9 6 pm to 8 pm
Saturday 12/10 2 pm to 5 pm
Sunday 12/11 2 pm to 5 pm

Visit Santa's elves as they work on toys & wrap presents, enjoy one of Mrs. Claus' famous cookies, check out the awesome North Pole train station and spend time with Santa!

Admission is FREE!

However, canned good items are collected for the Bristol Community Services Food Pantry.



Meeting minutes, newsletters, alerts and other helpful information is updated on the Town's website on a regular basis.

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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 .
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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**Meetings are held in the Conference Room at the Municipal Building unless otherwise noted.*

Tuesday, December 6, 2016: Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm
Thursday, December 15, 2016: Highway Advisory Committee Meeting at 4:30 pm
Tuesday, December 20, 2016: Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm
Wednesday, December 21, 2016: Planning Board Meeting at 6:00 pm
Wednesday, December 28, 2016: Conservation Commission Meeting at 6:30 pm

Meeting minutes, newsletters, alerts and other helpful information is updated on the Town's website on a regular basis.

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