

don't have to love them, but we should all learn to accept and live with them.
 Source:
<http://www.defenders.org/bats/bats>

Legends & Folklore – Fact or Fable

Groundhog Day: The celebration began as a Pennsylvania German custom in southeastern and central Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries to carry on the tradition of Candlemas Day. According to legend, on the 2nd day of February the groundhog peeps out of its winter quarters and if it sees its shadow pops back in for another six weeks nap; but if the day is cloudy it remains out, as the weather is supposed to be moderate. The legend has its origins in ancient European weather lore, wherein a badger or sacred bear is the prognosticator as opposed to a groundhog. The first documented American reference to Groundhog Day can be found in a diary entry of Morgantown, PA, storekeeper James Morris, dated February 4, 1841. The largest Groundhog Day celebration is held in Punxsutawney, PA, where crowds have been gathering to celebrate the holiday since at least 1886.

Upcoming Area Events

➤ Our February meeting will be on 26 February 2014.

Other Department Information

REMINDER: The transfer station stickers for 2014 are available at the transfer station/no one will be allowed to use the transfer station without their new sticker.

Policy Regarding Availability of Sand: With the winter weather in full swing, I thought it would be beneficial to remind residents of the availability of sand from the highway department. Sand piles are located at the transfer station at 29 Smith River 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 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

Other Important Information

**23rd Annual Fishing Derby
 Newfound Lake in New Hampshire.**

The Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department is hosting this event on February 22 and 23, 2014. If there are any questions, please contact Mark Chevalier, Chief at 603-455-1591.

Office Hours

<p>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</p>	<p>Transfer Station Monday: 8 am to 12 pm Wednesday: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Saturday: 8 am to 4 pm</p>	<p>Highway Department – 744-6516 Gary Patten, Road Agent</p>
<p>Town Clerk/ Tax Collector – 744-3288 Monday: 9 am to 4 pm Tuesday: 9 am to 4 pm Wednesday: 9 am to 4 pm Thursday: 9 am to 7 pm Friday: CLOSED</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Planning Board – 744-8986 <i>Deliberative Meetings:</i> 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, 6pm during winter months (November thru March) Open 1 hour prior to meeting . Chair, Maggie LaBerge <i>Items to be included on the agenda must be received 21 days prior to the meeting.</i></p>

Town Committees/Commissions

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
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**Administrative Assistant
 Selectmen's Office**

Town Offices will be closed on:
 Mon., Feb 21st for Presidents' Day

ABATEMENTS REMINDER:

If you wish to file an application for abatement, you may obtain the form from the selectmen's office during regular hours. Applications are due by March 1, 2014. Additional information regarding abatements as well as the abatement application can be found online at www.alexandrianh.com on the Selectboard's page.

SELECTBOARD MEETINGS: Selectboard meetings are held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday evenings in the Conference Room at the Municipal Building. Work sessions are held as needed at 5:00 pm prior to the meeting.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

As required by RSA 466:1, all dogs must be licensed each year by April 30th. To prevent the initiation of a late penalty of \$1.00 per month, please renew your dog license by April 30th.



**All Dog Licenses expire on
 April 30, 2014.**

2014 Dog Licenses are NOW AVAILABLE.

Dog Fees are as follows:

Puppy (Up to Seven Months)	\$6.50
Spayed or Neutered	\$6.50
Unaltered Male/Female	\$9.00
Senior (Dog owned by Senior Citizen, 1 st dog only)	\$2.00
Group (5 dog minimum)	\$20.00
Mail-In Fee (Per Dog)	\$1.00

Proof of Current Rabies vaccination is required.

If you wish to license your dog by mail, please send a check payable to TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA.

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Voting Day:

Held at Town Hall
 Tuesday, March 11, 2014
 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT:

**Selectmen
 (3 year term-2017)**

Michael Broome
 Lucy Ford

**Town Treasurer
 (1 year term-2015)**

Melanie Marzola

**Trustee of Trust Funds
 (3 yr term-2017)**

Douglas Benton

**Cemetery Trustee
 (3 year term-2017)**

Douglas Benton

**Planning Board
 (3 year term-2017)**

ChetCaron
 Douglas Benton

**Moderator
 (2 year term-2016)**

Dennis Ford

**Supervisor of the Checklist
 (6yr term-2020)**

Suzanne Cheney



Recycling Committee

Most of the holiday decorations are put away, the furniture is back in its normal spot and life is pretty much back to a regular routine. I'm putting together the yearend report for inclusion in the town's annual report where I'll recap the recycling program activities for 2013 and share our plans and objectives for 2014. The Recycling program enjoyed a very successful year in 2013 both in terms of community support and financially; we exceed our savings objective by about \$3,000.

Money in our Pockets

Net savings for the month of December 2013 were \$626; there was no revenue from aluminum cans or scrap metal reported for December. Savings year to date are \$14,365. Thank you for your continuing support of our recycling program – you are having a positive impact and saving money.

Protect Your Family and Property

A friend of mine recently sent me an email warning about proper disposal of 9-volt batteries. The most common form 9-volt battery is commonly called the transistor battery and is used in radios, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, as well as many other devices. I haven't had an opportunity to authenticate the information, but it sounds feasible and is confirmed by Wikipedia on the internet – if I'm off base on this one and someone can refute this, please let me know and I'll write a correction in next month's newsletter.

As we all know batteries should not be thrown away in the trash; they should be taken to an approved facility for recycling. Generally people wait until they have a number of old batteries before they take them to be recycled; that means they must be stored and that's where the problem can occur. The location of the terminals on a 9-volt battery [on the top in close proximity to each other] can easily, inadvertently get crossed causing a short circuit. Should this happen, the battery begins to discharge

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rapidly, which generates heat that can reach temperatures hot enough to ignite combustible material the battery may be touching; the result, a fire that could burn down your house. A simple solution to prevent the possibility of a short circuit occurring is to simply wrap electrical tape over the battery terminals and store them in a container away from combustible materials - a very simple protective measure that could prevent a serious fire. Please continue to recycle your used batteries and take proper steps to protect your family and property.

Think Spring



Happy Groundhog Day

Everyone is anxiously waiting for the groundhog to make his grand appearance in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania 2 February to predict to arrival of spring [his track record is only a little better than 50% when it comes to predicting accurately], and there's still plenty of snow on the ground around here; however, it's not too early to begin planning your garden and getting those seedlings started.

Empty paper egg cartons make excellent starter pots and can be placed directly into the ground when the time is right.

Old windows make excellent cold frame covers that both generate heat during the day and protect the young plants at night.

Is this the year to begin composting? starting with the leaves raked out of your flower beds and debris and dead thatch from your lawn – all good stuff for the compost pile?

We still have a couple of months to enjoy the winter here in New Hampshire, so let's do just that; take advantage of the many outdoor activities and recreational opportunities our town, and the surrounding area, has to offer. Send your suggestions, tips, and comments to: steve.whitman@metrocast.net

A Reminder: anyone wishing to receive electronic copies of committee business conducted electronically or meeting minutes can do so by providing me with an email address.

NOTICE

The alexrecycling@metrocast.net email account has been closed for security reasons and is no longer accessible. The account was contaminated with a relay virus being used to send large volumes of spam email. The information from the account is available upon request.

Alexandria Conservation Commission

"Stewards of our Planet"



ACC Notebook

Last month I talked a little about the importance of the Alexandria Bog and the important role it plays in providing safe drinking water to both Alexandria and Bristol residents. This month, I'd like to discuss the importance of wetlands in general.

A wetland is a land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, such that it takes on the characteristics of a distinct ecosystem. Primarily, the factor that distinguishes wetlands from other land forms or water bodies is the characteristic vegetation that is adapted to its unique soil conditions: Wetlands consist primarily of hydric soil, which supports plants that like to get their feet wet.

The water found in wetlands can be saltwater, freshwater, or brackish. Types of wetland include swamps, marshes, bogs, fens and even forested areas. Wetlands play a number of very important roles in the environment, principally, water purification, flood control, and shoreline stability; they also provide a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities. Wetlands are considered the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems, serving as home to a wide range of plant and animal life.

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Wetlands occur naturally on every continent except Antarctica http://www.ask.com/wiki/Wetland?o=2801&qsrc=999-cite_note-water-7 They can be constructed artificially as a water management tool, which may play a role in the developing field of water-sensitive urban design.

We are fortunate in Alexandria to have the bog, as well as several other wetland areas. Please respect and protect them as they are a valuable and vital town resource.

Source:

<http://www.ask.com/wiki/Wetland?o=2801&qsrc=999#Soil>



As the Wind Blows

Bats Don't Deserve A Bad Rap
Most people know very little about bats and generally characterize all bats with characteristics associated with the blood-sucking vampire bats of South America. Actually 70% of bat species feed on insects making them one of nature's most effective pest control resources. A bat consumes one-third of its body weight in insects each night. Just over 20% of the bat species feed on fruits; less than 10% feed on fish, birds and rodents. Another interesting fact about bats is that with their extremely elongated 'fingers' and a wing membrane stretched between them, they are the only mammals capable of true flight. Of the almost 1,000 bat species found worldwide, 12 species of bat are listed as endangered, and 1 as threatened. The greatest threat to bats is people. Habitat destruction and people's fear are a lethal combination for bats. In some areas, people set fires in the caves, killing thousands of roosting bats. Bats are also killed by harmful development projects such as wind turbines that are placed along migratory routes. In addition, an emerging disease called white nose syndrome is killing large numbers of hibernating bats in North America. As with all of nature's creatures, bats are beneficial and have a positive impact on our lives and the environment. Alexandria is fortunate in that it is home to several species of bats; we