



## Selectmen's Office

**NOTICE:** As part of the cable franchise amendment negotiations between the Town of Alexandria, NH and Metrocast, pursuant to NH RSA 53-C: 3-a, the Town will be holding a public hearing on the proposal to amend the cable television franchise agreement on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building, 47 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH. The proposed cable television franchise renewal agreement is available for review online and in the Selectmen's Office. The proposed cable television franchise renewable agreement is available on the Town's website at [www.alexandrianh.com/page32.php](http://www.alexandrianh.com/page32.php).

### Low & Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief Program:

**Applications for the Low & Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief Form (DP-8) will be available on May 1, 2015.** The Low & Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief program was designed to lessen the economic burden of the State Education Property Tax on certain at-risk taxpayers.

An eligible applicant for the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief is a person who is:

- Single with adjusted gross income equal to or less than \$20,000; or
- Married or head of NH household with adjusted gross income less than or equal to \$40,000; and
- Owns a homestead subject to the State Education Property Tax; and
- Has resided in that homestead on April 1 of the year for which the claim is made.

**Applications for the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief are accepted only during the statutory filing period - after May 1, but no later than June 30.** The law allows 120 days for processing from the date of receipt of your completed application. For more information, visit <http://www.revenue.nh.gov/assistance/low-moderate.htm>.

## Town Clerk/Tax Collector

### DOG LICENSES



**All Dog Licenses expire on April 30, 2015**  
2015 Dog Licenses are NOW AVAILABLE.

#### All Dog Licenses expire on April 30, 2015

Every owner or keeper of a dog 4 months old or older shall register the dog annually with the town clerk. At the time of registration the owner will receive a metal tag with the following information - name of the town, year of the issue of the license and its registered number. This tag is to be affixed to the dog's collar. Regardless of when the license is obtained, it shall be effective from May 1 of each year to April 30 of the subsequent year. To prevent the initiation of a late penalty of \$1.00 per month, please renew your dog license by April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to license your dog by mail, please send a check payable to: TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA.

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 <sup>st</sup> dog only)	\$2.00
Group (5 dog minimum)	\$20.00
Mail-In Fee (Per Dog)	\$1.00

**Vaccination Required** - Before a license is issued the owner or keeper of the dog, must furnish verification that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies. If a valid rabies certificate is on file with the clerk, the owner shall not be required to produce such verification at the time of license.

### 2015 Wellington State Park Beach Passes

Passes are now available in the Town Clerk's office.

- Adults ages 12+: \$5.00
- Children ages 6 to 11: Passes are required for each child but at no charge
- Children ages 0 to 5: Free, no passes needed
- NH Residents over 65: Free with a NH driver's license

To purchase by mail, please send a **self-addressed, stamped envelope with a list of names and ages with a check for the correct amount made payable to Town of Alexandria.**





# ALEXANDRIA TODAY MAY 2015 EDITION

47 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH 03222 [www.alexandrianh.com](http://www.alexandrianh.com) [alexandrianh@metrocast.net](mailto:alexandrianh@metrocast.net) 603-744-3220



## Recycling Committee 5/15



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

Spring is finally here, and it's time for the Recycling Committee to set some goals for the coming year. Unfortunately, that's easy this year; they are the same as for last year; update and make our Facebook page effective, and get our user survey completed at the transfer station. For the past year, we've been looking for volunteers to help us with these two projects – to date, no takers. Perhaps we need to "advertise". The following will appear in the next several newsletter articles in an attempt to generate more interest in serving on the committee or volunteering to support a specific committee project:



### HELP US CONTINUE TO IMPROVE YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM

We are looking for a couple of individuals who care about the environment and want to get involved with our community. Our committee is responsible for supporting the Board of Selectmen and the Supervisor of the Transfer Station in the administration of our community's recycling program. We are an informal group who meet on an "as needed" basis. Projects are assigned to individuals who will be responsible for completing the project with the help of others on the committee. Individuals should have a minimum

of 1 hour a week available to devote to committee work, have access to a computer and be internet literate; basic management and planning skills are a plus. Anyone interested in joining our committee either on a full time basis or to work on a specific project should contact Steve Whitman at [steve.whitman@metrocast.net](mailto:steve.whitman@metrocast.net) or (603) 744-3596.

### Money in our Pockets

Net savings for the month of March 2015 were \$2267; there was no revenue reported from scrap metal; however, glass netted us \$300 and aluminum cans were redeemed for \$700. The markets for recycled materials remain in flux; however, NRRRA [our major recycling outlet] remains competitive and appear to aggressively seek out the most favorable prices. Savings year to date are \$4,032.00. Based on the numbers to date, we've set our 2015 yearly savings objective at \$17,000. We will evaluate our objective again in July, based on market conditions, but we are comfortable that with your continued support, we can reach this objective. As always, we thank you all for your continuing support of your recycling program, which conserves our natural resources, improves the environment and saves us money.

### Everyone Does Make a Difference

Statistics are interesting to review, and reflect the overall impact that recycling has on the environment; but sometimes the impact of what you do as an individual gets lost in the numbers and it can be difficult to get a real prospective on your individual contribution. An interesting [and impressive] trivia fact is that Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles **every hour**; but a number easier for us to relate to is that it only takes five recycled plastic bottles to produce enough fiber to fill an average size ski jacket. On average, each of us empties at least one 16 oz. plastic bottle a day, which if recycled, equates to enough fiber to fill one ski jackets every five days. If every adult in town recycled just one plastic bottle a day that could produce enough fiber for over 5,000 ski jackets a month - that's a significant contribution to both the economy and the environment. Here's another one: it takes 95% less water and energy to recycle one aluminum can into a new can that it does to create a new one from raw material; and the energy saved is enough to power your television set for about 3 hours. So does that mean that if you recycle a couple of aluminum cans while watching a ball game or an evening of viewing, you watch TV for free; no, but it does mean that the energy needed to produce the electricity to power your TV can now be used for something else. In the long run, this affects the overall demand for power and may favorably affect the rate you pay – not to mention the positive impact on preserving the quality of our air.

There're many other examples, but the point is that although you may feel what you can do is insignificant, it really isn't. The old saying that the longest journey is made one step at a time is true for the recycling effort as well, and each of us represents one step in doing our part to complete the journey and helps protect our environment and managing our planet's resources.

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

### Alexandria Conservation Commission

*"Stewards of our Planet"*



The Alexandria Conservation Commission would like to remind everyone that 25 May 2015 is Memorial Day; a day set aside for all Americans to remember and honor those members of our armed forces who gave their lives so that we may enjoy the freedom and opportunities we have today. Please take a moment at some point during Memorial Day to stop, recognize and appreciate their sacrifices, and give

thanks for their service to our country.

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

**Visit us at [www.alexandrianh.com](http://www.alexandrianh.com) or find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/alexandrianh>**



## Animal of the Month

In North America, Native Americans deemed the weasel to be a bad sign; crossing its path meant a "speedy death". New Hampshire has six species of weasels in abundance throughout the state. Two species, the short-tailed and long-tailed weasel, 'vanish' nearly completely in winter by turning white as snow.

Throughout the weasel family, males are considerably larger than females. Weasels are most active after dark or just prior to dawn, and are rarely seen, although their presence is clearly evident by scat, tracks, and other markings in the woods and along river banks.

The short-tailed weasel is the smallest species, generally 7 to 8 inches in total length. The long-tailed Weasel is slightly larger at about 11 or 12 inches. Similarities include a diet of mostly small mammals and a home range of just a few acres, making these weasels very similar. These two are the species most people think of when you mention weasels; however, the Pine Marten, the Mink, the Fisher [Fishercat], and the River Otter are also members of the weasel family, each native to New Hampshire, and having distinct characteristics and behavior patterns.

New Hampshire's weasel population, with the exception of the Pine Marten, which is on the state's threatened species list, is thriving; in fact Fishers, Otters, and even 225 Pine Martens have been live-trapped and relocated to other states to help reestablish depleted populations. Weasels may be hunted or trapped in accordance with NH state regulations. However; to maintain our wonderful diversity and abundance of these sleek predators, we must protect and preserve more of the large wooded habitat blocks in New Hampshire, especially those along our rivers and streams. Recent studies show that protecting a greenway of only 300 feet wide along our rivers and streams could maintain nearly 80 percent of the states' diversity of species - including many of our wily weasels.

Source: <http://www.nhfishandwildlife.com/weasels.php>



## ACC Notebook

Water quality is a topic that is getting more and more attention these days, not only in New Hampshire, but throughout the country. Water quality is determined by the characteristics of the watershed from which it comes, and how effectively those characteristics are able to capture water, filter and purify it; the better the filtering process, the higher the water quality.

So, what makes a 'good watershed'? The simple answer is "good land management practices within the watershed." Some people incorrectly equate land management with restricting the use of their land. In actuality, good land management equates to using our land wisely; allowing it to function as nature intended.

As an example, let's look at land whose slope is greater than 20%. All slopes, especially steep slopes, need vegetation to hold the soil in place in order to control run-off and allow the water to filter naturally into the ground to replenish aquifers and maintain water tables. If slopes are disturbed and developed without regard for potential consequences, the soil can erode putting the integrity of the entire watershed is at risk.

In addition to ground cover, we also need to be cognizant of development density. Land development equates to the reduction of porous land areas where the water can permeate into the ground. The lack of porous areas because of buildings and paved areas results in the water flowing freely over the impregnable surfaces - carrying with it contaminants picked up along the way - until it finds a storm drain or porous areas in which to settle. When the water reaches porous surfaces, it begins to percolate into the ground. Because the water has not had an opportunity to permeate into the ground before reaching this point, it contains more sediment and contaminants. The remaining porous areas in developed areas are now asked to handle a significantly greater amount of water containing higher amounts of sediments and impurities to filter. In some cases filtration and total purification cannot be completed before the water reaches a stream, lake, or the underground water table.

Land management best practices are designed to take advantage of the land's natural potential and use it in a way that perpetuates its sustainability. Certain areas, such as wetlands, streams, rivers and lakes are already protected by federal, state and local legislation. Farmers have used a form of land management for years: strip cropping, terracing farming, crop rotation, contour plowing and cultivating, designated pasture land and wood lots, and cover crops during the winter and early spring to enhance and hold the soil. Putting it another way, good land management practices are simply common sense approaches to take advantage of the land without destroying it. There are many good sources of information about "Best Land Management Practices"; one very good source is *Sustainable Land Management Sourcebook* [do a Google search]. Please remember - land management practices aren't trying to dictate what you can or can't do with your land; only the best way to preserve it for your continued use and enjoyment, while maintaining a positive impact on the watershed of which it is an integral part.

Here's an example of how simple approaches can benefit both you and the environment. Let's say your yard backs up to a hillside and you want to build a patio. Good land management practices outline the options to help keep the soil on the banking and off your new patio. Here are some options: construct a retaining wall to hold back the soil. While in theory this is a good approach, unless something is done to ensure that the soil on the banking remains stable, eventually, either the wall will fail and need to be repaired or the soil will top the wall and spill onto your patio (ugh!). An alternative approach that is in



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concert with nature is to plant the hillside with grass and vegetation with varying root systems to hold the soil in place. Not only will this stabilize the hillside, but you can select plantings to attract specific types of wildlife to the area.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Conservation Commission; and thank you for your concern.



### As the Wind Blows

Because of the length of the discussion on Land Management Best Practices, we've elected to omit this section this month. It will resume next month.



### Upcoming Area Events

- Our May meeting will be on May 27th; town residents are most welcome to attend.

### Other Local Happenings



### GO GRAY IN MAY 5K

*"This race is in honor of those in the greater Newfound area who have recently been diagnosed with a brain tumor. May is Brain Tumor Awareness Month and we are raising money to be donated to the National Brain Tumor Society."*

**Saturday, May 2, 2015**

**8:00 am Registration      9:00 am start time**

**Location: Kelly Park in Bristol**

Go Gray in May 5K will be held in Kelley Park, Bristol, NH. Registration begins at 8:00 am and race start time will be 9:00 am. Prizes will be award to fastest overall male and female. This is a 3.1 mile course that will be timed through Granite State Race Services. Participants can choose to run or walk the event. Participants with dogs and strollers will be asked to start at the back of the runners, and dogs will need to be leashed and in control throughout the event. Register online at [www.lightboxreg.com/go-gray-in-may-5k](http://www.lightboxreg.com/go-gray-in-may-5k). Go Gray in May 5K questions? Contact Race Directors: Karen Schaffner at [karen@mrsnh.com](mailto:karen@mrsnh.com) or Paul Fitzgerald at [paul@mrsnh.com](mailto:paul@mrsnh.com)

### 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month in the conference room at the municipal building.  
To contact the Conservation Commission:  
e-mail: [alexandrianh@metrocast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:alexandrianh@metrocast.net)

**FIRE PERMITS:** To obtain a fire permit, seasonal or regular, you may contact Art Barron at 744-5024, Mark Chevalier at 744-6904 or Dave Ogden at 744-9056.

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

Visit us at [www.alexandrianh.com](http://www.alexandrianh.com) or find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/alexandrianh>