



# ALEXANDRIA TODAY NOVEMBER 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 11/15**



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



*The Recycling Team would like to wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving*



America Recycles Day, November 15, is a nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. Please join us in celebrating the fact that our nation has seen fit to recognize the importance of recycling with the designation of this special day of recognition.

### **Money in our Pockets**

The savings for the month of September was \$1,025. Including; revenue \$225.75 reported from scrap metal in September, \$165.61 miscellaneous metal and \$245.00 revenue from aluminum cans in October. Savings year to date through September 2015 are \$8,307. We should be at about 75% of our objective through September; however, thanks to your efforts, we surpassed our objective of \$8,000 for the year this month. We will continue evaluating alternative options. We are still saving money and protecting the environment with our recycling program - thank you all helping us reach our objective and for your continuing support.

### **Everyone Does Make a Difference**

In the October 9th issue of the NRRA newsletter, *Full of Scrap*, there was an interesting article reviewing comments made in a recent *New York Times* article by John Tierney pertaining to the value of recycling, and rebuttals voiced by recycling proponents. The complete newsletter can be accessed at <http://www.nrta.net/news/newsfull-of-scrap/october-9-2015-full-of-scrap/>.

For the past year, I've continually referred to the shrinking markets for material that can be recycled. There are a number of reasons for this which I won't get into; however, the softening market combined with an increase in processing costs does beg the question: "when is it no longer profitable to recycle?" Fortunately, Alexandria is still able to save money by recycling and our program does not overly burden our residents with meticulous sorting requirements. Granted, we don't save as much money recycling plastic as we do with paper or scrap metal, but the dollars saved is not the sole reason for recycling. Whenever we are able to reuse something or recycle the materials used to create a product, we save valuable resources in the form of new raw material not used, as well as the energy needed to harvest these raw materials. In some cases, the energy source relied upon to mine or manufacture new products depends on non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels. Likewise, the raw material itself is often a non-renewable resource. Does recycling have a positive impact on reducing emissions that are thought to contribute to global warming? Recycling; probably not as there are still processing activities involved in recycling [including transportation of the material], all of which contribute in varying degrees to hazardous emissions. Repurposing or reusing; definitely has a positive impact, as the material is not altered nor is anything new is created. Hazardous emissions can only be reduced through improved technology and a reduction in activities that generate these emissions.

A growing concern, especially in non-rural areas, is the availability of space to dispose of non-recycled materials. Suitable landfills are filling up fast forcing cities and towns to truck their waste greater distances; in some instances, to out-of-state facilities. Recycling does divert waste away from landfills and therefore extend their usable life expectancy. Some will argue that improved landfill management techniques and new technology is already doing this, and they are correct; however, it only stands to reason that if the amount of material going into a landfill is reduced, that landfill can stay in operation even longer.

Is recycling the 'silver bullet' that will solve all our country's [our planet's] environmental issues? Probably not, but it does have a major impact and is the responsible thing for consumers and manufacturers to do. Consumers should reduce what they purchase where possible and reuse items multiple times whenever possible; look for items that use recycled material in their manufacturing process and are packaged in an environmentally friendly and responsible way. Manufacturers need to produce products that can be recycled and use recycled materials in the manufacturing process whenever possible. They need to upgrade manufacturing techniques to incorporate up-to-date technology that is efficient and environmentally friendly. Everybody does make a difference and together we can have a positive impact by adhering to the three "R"s; **Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle.**



### **Reusing Makes Good**

Your Jack-o-lantern can live on after Halloween. Before throwing your Halloween pumpkin into the compost pile, consider giving the birds a special treat by turning it into a bird feeder. Cut off the top 1/3 of the pumpkin and throw it in the compost pile. Push some sticks cross wise through the pumpkin and attach string or cord to hang from a tree branch. Fill it with a variety of birdseed, peanuts, mealworms and fruit depending on which birds you want to feed. This simple bird feeder can be used anywhere you would normally use tray or platform feeders.



Squirrels also like pumpkin!



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If you are planning on replacing your windows or storm windows this year, here are a couple of ideas for re-using the old windows: covers for cold frames for your spring seedlings; windows can be converted into wall hanging for displaying pictures.

How about turning that old snow shovel into a winter decoration for your doorway or mud room; a little paint and some creative imagination is all you need.



There are hundreds of items that can be created from old clay flower pots – great rainy day projects with the kids or some relaxing creative time by yourself.



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"*



*We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving*

### ACC Notebook



Conservation is a mindset, an attitude, a way of life, developed over time based on our daily habits that govern and direct our lives. Old habits are sometimes hard to change, but as circumstances change throughout our lives, new pressures are brought to bear on the "status quo" requiring us to reexamine our life style, and make changes which will allow us to continue moving forward. From a conservation prospective, this means that as greater demands are put on our natural resources [many of which are non-renewable] we must find ways of using them more efficiently and reduce the amount we use. As an example; let's take the case of our diminishing water supply: many of us are in the habit of allowing the water to run while brushing our teeth. This may not seem like a big deal, but when you consider that by not letting the water run continuously, we use 3 to 5 gallons less water each time we brush - that's several thousand gallons of water per year not wasted, and that is a big deal. As water continues to increase in demand, choices need to be made as to how we will manage our water usage. Short of stopping brushing our teeth, there are many things we, as individuals, can do ranging from one time fixes of leaky faucets and upgrading our faucets and shower heads to modern reduce flow fixtures, to changing our habits by reducing our shower time or simply not allowing the water to run while brushing our teeth – I'm sure you can think of many others.

The intent here is not to get you to conserve water [although we should all strive to do that], but rather to get you thinking about your daily routine and looking for things you can change that will help protect and conserve our natural resources. We want to heighten awareness that everything we, as individuals, do does have an impact on our surroundings; the impact can be positive or negative, the choice up to each of us.

*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>**



## As the Wind Blows



At our September meeting, members again discussed presenting more informational get-togethers sponsored by the Conservation Commission. The idea is to sponsor public events throughout the year which focus on issues related to conservation that are of interest to you. Information may include; recognition of animal tracks in the snow, in what types of habitats you might expect to find things [birds, animals and flora], or maybe just some helpful information such as if you remove a turtle from the road to keep it from getting run over, place it on the side to which it was headed, otherwise it will only try to cross the road again. Other events may address issues that threaten our resources and environment such as invasive species; plant, animal, insect, or aquatic life, and are within means to correct. Conservation is everyone's business and we all stand to benefit. Your Conservation Commission is responsible for keeping residents apprised of conservation issues, and this is one way in which we feel we can do that, as well as to enhance your enjoyment of our surrounding here in Alexandria.

On October 14th, the first of these informational events took place at the Old Town Hall; hopefully some of you were able to attend. Two representatives from the Extension Service were guest speakers and discussed the expanding presents of the Emerald Ash Borer; the impact it is having on our New Hampshire forests and what you can do to help arrest its continued spread. Future events will be announced in the newsletter, on our Facebook page [<https://www.facebook.com/alexandrianhcc>], and in local newspapers. We look forward to seeing you at these events and welcome suggestion as to topics of interest to you.



## Animal of the Month

The North American porcupine, also known as the Canadian porcupine or common porcupine, inhabits a range in the east from Canada and the northeast United States into northern Virginia, and in the west from Alaska into northern Mexico. They are commonly found in coniferous and mixed forested areas, but have adapted to harsh environments such as scrublands, tundra, and deserts. The North American porcupine is a herbivore; it eats leaves, herbs, twigs, and green plants such as clover. In the winter, it may eat bark. It often climbs trees to find food. They make their dens in hollow trees or in rocky areas. Porcupines are rodents and usually dark brown or black in color, with white highlights. The average lifespan in the wild is 5 to 7 years. Adult's weight can range anywhere from 8 to 35 lbs., with the average being about 20 lbs. The beaver is the only larger rodent in North America. A unique characteristic of the porcupine is that they are the only native North American mammal with antibiotics in its skin. Those antibiotics prevent infection when a porcupine falls out of a tree and is stuck with its own quills.

The most distinguishing feature of the porcupine is its coat of quills. An adult porcupine has about 30,000 quills that cover all of its body except its underbelly, face, and feet. Quills are modified hairs formed into sharp, barbed, hollow spines. They are used primarily for defense, but also serve to insulate their bodies during winter. Porcupines do not throw their quills [a common misconception], but when threatened, they contract the muscles near the skin which causes the quills to stand up and out from their bodies. When the quills are in this position, they become easier to detach from the body, especially when the porcupines swing their tails towards attackers. Porcupines are nearsighted and slow-moving, and are mainly active at night. They live a solitary life; consequently the porcupine has an extraordinary ability to learn complex mazes and to remember them for up to a hundred days.

Natural predators of the North American porcupines include fishers, wolverines, coyotes, wolves, bears, and cougars. The only known avian predators of this species are golden eagles and great horned owls. They move slowly (having few threats in its natural environment which would give it the need to flee quickly) and are often hit by vehicles while crossing roads. The North American porcupine is listed as a species of least concern and is common throughout its range except in some U.S. states in the southeast part of its range.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porcupine>

[http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Erethizon\\_dorsatum/](http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Erethizon_dorsatum/)



## Upcoming Area Events

- Our November meeting will be on December 2nd at 6:30pm; this will allow ample travel time for those celebrating the holiday out of the area - town residents and guests are most welcome.
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## Alexandria Planning Board

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** The Alexandria Planning Board currently has an opening for a Board member as well as an opening for an alternate position on the board. If you are interested in either of these positions, please submit a letter of interest to: Alexandria Planning Board, 47 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH 03222. If you have any questions, feel free to call the Planning Board office at 744-8986.



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## Selectmen's Office

### Alexandria Board of Selectmen - Meeting Schedule

**November 3, 2015** **Budget work session:** Supervisors of the Checklist, Trustees of Trust Funds, Cemeteries, Health Officer, Emergency Management & Conservation Commission

**November 10, 2015** **Selectmen's Meeting**

**November 17, 2015** **Budget work session:** Executive Budget & Other budget

**November 24, 2015** **Selectmen's Meeting**

All meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Municipal Building (47 Washburn Road) unless otherwise noted. All appointments and agenda items for Selectmen's Meetings but be submitted by 4:00 p.m. the Thursday before the meeting. The Selectmen hold work sessions as needed at 5:00 p.m. prior to the meetings.

The Selectmen's Office will be closed on Thursday, November 5, 2015 while staff attends a workshop. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be open normal business hours that day (9:00 am to 4:00 pm).

**Wednesday, November 11th Veterans Day – Town Offices Closed**



**Thursday, November 26th Thanksgiving Day – Town Offices Closed**

### 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

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 Oden 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

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>