

Other Local Events/Information

After School at Alexandria Village School

Join us at the Alexandria Village School for a fun-filled, educational, creative way to spend your time after school.

The program runs weekdays from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm. The program provides homework help, a nutritious snack, and a wide variety of activities, such as art, music, outdoor fun, and local field trips. They provide a safe, caring environment for students of all ages.

They ask for a voluntary donation from each family, consisting of \$5.00 per week or the equivalent in food for snacks.

On September 2, 2014 they will begin their seventh year of the program. Call Sue at 744-8630 to register!

15th Annual A.V.F.D. Pig Roast

August 30, 2014 at 5:00 pm
Alexandria Fire Station
158 Washburn Road, Alexandria
Menu: Roast Pork, Salads, Beverage & Homemade Dessert
Adults: \$12.00
Children under 12 yrs: \$5.00
Tickets available at the door

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>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>Transfer Station Monday: 8 am to 12 pm Wednesday: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Saturday: 8 am to 4 pm</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>Highway Department – 744-6516 Gary Patten, Road Agent</p> <p>Planning Board – 744-8986 <i>Deliberative Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, 6pm during winter months (November thru March)</i> 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>FIRE PERMITS: To obtain a fire permit, seasonal or regular, you may contact Art Barron at 744-5024, Mark Chevalier at 455-1591 or Dave Ogden at 744-9056.</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>
--	---

Administrative Assistant Selectmen's Office

The Selectboard will resume weekly meetings in September. Meetings will be held every Tuesday at 6:00 pm in the conference room at the Municipal Building, 47 Washburn Road, Alexandria. All agenda items for the meeting must be submitted to the Selectmen's office by 4 pm the Thursday prior to the meeting.

The Selectmen are looking for residents interested in serving on the Advisory Budget Committee. The committee meets with the Selectboard and Department Heads in the fall to review the town departments' budget proposals and to advise the Selectmen as they determine the overall Town Budget to present to the voters. If you are interested in serving on the Advisory Budget Committee, please submit a letter of interest to: Alexandria Selectboard, 47 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH 03222.

NOTICE: The State Primary Voting will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Old Town Hall, 45 Washburn Road, Alexandria. *The Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session for the purpose of correcting the voter registration list at the Old Town Hall on Tuesday, September 2, 2014 from 7:00 to 7:30 pm.*



Recycling Committee

As we settle back into our routines after the summer season, let's all recommit ourselves to the recycling effort – place easy to use recycling receptacles throughout the house.

Your Recycling Committee remains on summer vacation. I suspect that we will settle back into a routine next month. There are openings on the committee. We are looking for someone with Facebook experience who has the time to work with us in getting a new Facebook page up and running, as well as, volunteers to serve on the committee full time. If you can help us out, please contact me at: steve.whitman@metrocast.net. Thanks.

Money in our Pockets

Net savings for the month of July 2014 were \$2,038.00; there was no revenue from aluminum cans or scrap metal reported in July. Savings year to date are \$8,536.00. We are 60% of the way through the year and are back on target to meet our \$15,000 objective for savings this year. We are due revenue from scrap metal and aluminum can

redemptions soon which should be fairly sizable. Thank you for your continuing support of our recycling program, which conserves our natural resources, improves the environment and saves us money.

Everyone Does Make a Difference Warning: Recharging Air Conditioners with Wrong Refrigerant Poses Injury and Fire Risks

– The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is cautioning homeowners, manufacturers of propane-based refrigerants, home improvement contractors and air conditioning technicians of the safety hazards related to the use of propane in existing motor vehicle and home air conditioning systems. A number of refrigerants with "22a" or "R-22a" in the name contain highly flammable hydrocarbons, such as propane. These refrigerants are being marketed to consumers seeking to recharge existing home and motor vehicle air conditioning systems that were not designed to use propane or other flammable refrigerants. These refrigerants have never been submitted to EPA for review of their health and environmental impacts and are not approved for use in existing air conditioning systems.

Using propane-based refrigerant in an air conditioner that is not designed for flammable refrigerants poses a threat to homeowners as well as service technicians because systems that are recharged with "22a" refrigerants can catch fire or explode resulting in injury and property damage. EPA is investigating instances where propane-based refrigerants have been marketed and used as a substitutes for HCFC-22 (R-22) and will take enforcement actions where appropriate.








Trash to Treasure – Craft/DIY Ideas

I thought that this month I'd introduce a new segment to the monthly update; if I get positive feedback, this could become a regular part of update – let me know what you think.

The corn husk doll is a Native American toy, a doll made out of the dried leaves or "husk" of a corn cob. Making corn husk dolls was adopted from the Native Americans by early European



settlers in America. Corn husk doll making is now practiced in the United States as a link to Native American culture and the arts and crafts of the settlers.

- Step 1: Start by soaking the husks in water for 10 minutes, and then blot excess water with a paper towel.
- Step 2: Lay 4 or 6 husks (always an even number) in a stack.
- Step 3:  Using thin twine, tie husks together, about 1 inch from top.
- Step 4:  Separate husk into equal portions (2 and 2, or 3 and 3) and fold halves down, covering twine.
- Step 5:  Using thin twine, tie husks about 1 inch down, creating head.
- Step 6:  Roll a single husk and tie at ends to make arms
- Step 7:  Position arms below neck at neck, between equal portions of husks.
- Step 8:  Tie waist. For female doll, trim husks to an even length.
- Step 9:  For a male doll, separate legs into equal portions. Tie at knees and ankles. Trim evenly.

*A more elaborate design using the corn cob portion as well can be found at:
<http://www.motherearthnews.com/diy/corn-cob-doll-zmaz76soztak.aspx#ixzz39iBNX7GJ>
Source: <http://www.Marthastewart.com/968909/harvest-time-corn-husk-dolls>

A Point of Interest: Traditional corn husk dolls do not have faces. There are a number of traditional explanations for this. One legend is that the Spirit of Corn, one of the Three Sisters*, made a doll out of her husks to entertain children. The doll had a beautiful face, and began to spend less time with children and more time contemplating her own loveliness. As a result of her vanity, the doll's face was taken away.

* The **Three Sisters** represent the three main agricultural crops of various Native American groups in North America: squash, maize (corn), and climbing beans (typically tepary beans or common beans).

Send your suggestions, tips, and comments to: steve.whitman@metrocast.net

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.

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 or find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/alexandrianh>

Alexandria Conservation Commission
"Stewards of our Planet"

September Flower of the Month

The Morning Glory



Most morning glory flowers unravel into full bloom in the early morning. The flowers usually start to fade a few hours before the "petals" start showing visible curling. They prefer

full sun throughout the day, and soil that has a well-balanced supply of moisture [mesic soil]. Some morning glories, ironically, are night-blooming flowers.

ACC Notebook

In a recent news release, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said that USDA's new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP), which brings together businesses, tribes, communities and other non-government partners to invest in conservation efforts, received nearly 600 pre-proposals from over 5000 partner organizations. The new Regional Conservation Partnership Program combines the authorities of four former conservation programs to coordinate interaction between the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. The NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements. The new Conservation Partnership Program provides a way for private companies, tribes, local communities and non-government groups to collaborate and invest in cleaner water and air, healthier soil and enhanced wildlife habitat. It will allow USDA to partner with third parties or work directly with producers in watersheds and other critical conservation areas to leverage and use resources more effectively and use private sector funding to maximize conservation investments.

"This program is an entirely new approach to conservation," Secretary Vilsack said. "By establishing new public-private partnerships, we can have an impact that's well beyond what the Federal government could accomplish on its own. And we put our partners in the driver's seat, allowing them to find creative solutions to the conservation issues in their local areas. The overwhelming response to this new effort illustrates an eagerness across country to partner and invest in innovative conservation projects."

To learn about technical and financial assistance available through conservation

programs, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or local USDA service center.

Source:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/all/programs/farmbill/rcpp/>
<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAOOC/buletins/c8145b>



As the Wind Blows
Raptors

Birds of prey, also known as raptors, hunt and feed on other animals. The term "raptor" is derived from the Latin word 'rapere' (meaning to seize or take by force). These birds are characterized by keen vision that allows them to detect prey during flight and powerful talons and beaks. New Hampshire is home to several species of raptors including the Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk and Broad Wing Hawk; and many other species pass through our state as they migrate between their winter and summer habitats. During the fall migration season, NH Audubon welcomes visitors to raptor observatories at Carter Hill Orchard in Concord and Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory at Miller State Park in Peterborough. As thousands of raptors pass overhead, NH Audubon staff tally birds as part of an international effort to monitor raptor population trends in the Americas. Thousands of visitors, including hundreds of students from across the region, come to the observatories to learn about raptor identification, and to experience the spectacle of raptor migration. The Carter Hill Raptor Observatory, founded in 2008, is located at the Carter Hill Orchard in Concord, NH (www.carterhillapples.com). It is staffed with NH Audubon naturalists or volunteers from September 1 through October 31, weather dependent. The Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, founded in 2005, is located near the summit of Pack Monadnock in Miller State Park in Peterborough, New Hampshire (<http://hawkcount.org/siteinfo.php?rsite=320>). It also is staffed with NH Audubon naturalists or volunteers from September 1 through October 31 from 9am to 5pm, weather dependent. Over 10,000 raptors have been counted in a single season at this site.

For more detailed information, read the 2012 annual reports from these two observatories at:

<http://www.nhaidubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Carter-Hill-Final-Report-2012.pdf>
<http://www.nhaidubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Pack-Final-Report-2012.pdf>

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 or find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/alexandrianh>

Also the Squam Lake Natural Science Center in Holderness, NH has an extensive raptor exhibit and offers several other interesting events during the month of September; *The Festival of Flight*, and *The Hawk Watch*. For more information about the Science Center in Holderness and the events, visit: http://www.nhnature.org/visit/animal_info_sheets/index.php

Source: <http://www.nhaidubon.org/locations/raptor-observatories>

Legends & Folklore – Fact or Fable

The common plantain, also known as greater plantain, snakeweed, Englishman's foot, and a host of other names, is said to have special healing powers. Here's a story about the plantain from the 1798 edition of *The Farmer's Almanack*:

"A toad was seen fighting with a spider in Rhode-Island; and when the toad was bit, it hopped to a plantain leaf, bit off a piece, and then engaged with the spider again. After this had been repeated several times, a spectator pulled up the plantain, and put it out of the way. The toad, on being bit again, jumped to where the plantain had stood; and as it was not to be found, she hopped round several times, turned over on her back, swelled up, and died immediately."

Is this an evident demonstration that the juice of the plantain is an antidote against the bites of those venomous insects; or perhaps this is a very old folk story that made its way from Europe to New England? No matter, its inclusion in *The Farmer's Almanack* indicates the high regard English settlers had for common plantain.

In addition to spider bites, legend has it that over the centuries plantain has been used to treat dysentery, earaches, kidney disorders, and open wounds; there are also stories that say that the plant's ability to cure rattlesnake bites was first discovered by a South Carolina Native American Indian. I don't profess to know anything about the dangers or benefits of using plantain to treat illnesses or injuries; I'm merely passing on the legend that has survived and been passed on for more than 500 years – fact or fable, you be the judge.

Source: <http://newenglandfolklore.blogspot.com/>

Upcoming Area Events

- Our September meeting will be on September 24th.