



# ALEXANDRIA TODAY DECEMBER 2017 EDITION

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



Alexandria Waste Management Committee 12/17

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



*The Waste Management Committee would like to wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season*



## Money in our Pockets

In October, our recycling program again showed a savings. For the month, we showed a net savings of \$168. This savings includes a quarterly adjustment of \$522 in glass revenue. However, there was no revenue received for scrap metals for the month, but we have received \$352 for scrap metal received in early November, which will be reflected in the January report. With the October revenue, our savings through the first 10 months of the year is just over \$3200 – it keeps moving in the right direction albeit at a slow rate. The impact of the tightening China markets continues to influence the price of recyclable materials worldwide and keep prices unstable. Additionally, the demand for a more refined breakdown of mixes of a higher quality [less contaminates in the mix] results in more labor intensive sorting, and has forced the processing fees to increase significantly. As I remind you every month, we continuously monitor prices being paid for recycled materials, and we will continue to do so and work with our vendors to obtain the most favorable arrangements. We are actively looking at ways in which we can modify our transfer station facilities to accommodate additional items, improve the efficiency in handling, and increase the profitability realized when we sell them.

The Waste Management Committee meeting that we had hope to have before the end of the year will not happen until after the first of the year. The recent renewal of the 3-year lease for the site where the transfer station is located has given rise to new opportunities we need to consider moving forward over the next 3 years. As I said last month, although we are somewhat limited by space constraints and limitations on structural additions on the property, there are still improvements that can be made which will allow us to expand our recycling efforts and enhance our revenue generating capabilities. We will keep you advised of our plans in future newsletters. Look for a notice of an upcoming Waste Management Committee planning session to be held sometime after the first of the year.

## What's New at the Transfer Station?



Tony and the crew continue preparing for the winter season. We have noticed that there has been a significant **DECREASE** in the number of plastic bags being thrown in the co-mingled bin [plastic and tin]. Thank you all for your cooperation, you have no idea what a big help this is not only in the time it saves the transfer station staff by not having to retrieve them, but also helping to maintain the “quality” of the co-mingled recyclable material, which has a direct bearing on its market price. Plastic bags are not recyclable at the transfer station; however, they can be recycled at many grocery and department store which are setup specifically to handle these bags, as they do require special processing and cannot be mixed in with other plastics. We encourage you to take you plastic bags to one of the participating stores in our area.

Sand is available at the transfer station during normal transfer station hours. This sand is for the use of residents of Alexandria for their private use; contractors and commercial interests are excluded except for use at their business location or private residents. Residents may take five 5-gallon buckets per visit, and their transfer station sticker should be clearly visible. If you don't have a current sticker, please get one from the transfer station office – there is no fee for the sticker.

## Everyone Does Make a Difference



A reminder; the internet is full of sites where you can obtain information on recycling holiday items ranging from old Christmas lights and decorations to Christmas cards and wrapping paper. Please take the time to access some of these sites and repurpose or reuse items you no longer need. As for the Christmas tree itself, it is 100% biodegradable and has many beneficial uses. Many towns and organizations grind up the trees and use the

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chips for mulch or as bedding for trails in public areas – check the local newspapers for local areas accepting trees for recycling. If you’ve got a chipper [or want to rent one, maybe with a group of neighbors] you can make your own mulch for use in your garden or flower beds. Added to a brush pile at the edge of a field, the discarded Christmas tree can provide excellent protection and habitat for wildlife; or simply stick it in a snow bank with some suet or fruit hanging from the branches and enjoy the birds as they feed.



A word of caution: dry Christmas trees are extremely flammable. **Do Not** burn in a wood stove or fire place as they can cause a chimney fire or, at the very least, will create significant creosote buildup. When ignited, they tend to ‘flare-up’ quickly, and can burn unsuspecting individuals standing too close.



As always, creative ideas for recycling or reusing items and interesting articles or websites offering recycling ideas are always welcome, as are comments and suggestions about the newsletter articles. Please submitted your comments via email to: [steve.whitman@hotmail.com](mailto:steve.whitman@hotmail.com); be sure to state “recycling material” in the subject. In some cases, with the author’s permission, comments may be printed in subsequent issues. Thank you all for your continued support; thanks to you our program is working.

## Selectmen’s Office

We realize there has been a significant increase in the property tax rate for 2017. The largest increases are the school portion of the tax rate which increased by \$2.32 and the Town portion which increased by \$1.71. We thought it might be helpful to address concerns regarding the increase in the tax rate.

- The budget and warrant articles voted on for 2017 totaled \$1,961,348; this is an increase of \$177,858 over 2016.
- As a result of the town-wide revaluation of property values done in 2016 and the decreased value of the power plant as a result of it closing, the overall valuation of the town decreased by \$2,837,647. This would increase the tax rate even if the budget had remained the same.
- In prior years, we have utilized funds from the unassigned fund balance to help off-set the tax rate. As a result of the heavy storm damage in October, we had to request emergency use of \$256,035 from the unassigned fund balance. This did not leave us with enough funds available in the unassigned fund balance to off-set the tax rate for 2017.
- The total amount the school district needed to raise by taxes increased by \$1,916,847; Alexandria’s portion increased by \$423,098.
- The State Education Tax and County Tax increased slightly.

If you have any questions, please contact the Selectmen’s Office at 603-744-3220 or email [alexandrianh@metrocast.net](mailto:alexandrianh@metrocast.net).

*Below is a breakdown of the tax rate for 2017 as compared to previous years.*

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
<b>Town</b>	\$7.16	\$5.45	\$5.09	\$4.83	\$4.23	\$ 4.28	\$ 5.57
<b>County</b>	\$1.76	\$1.66	\$1.47	\$1.53	\$1.56	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.50
<b>School</b>	\$14.03	\$11.71	\$12.12	\$12.17	\$13.01	\$11.60	\$12.70
<b>State Education</b>	\$2.22	\$2.18	\$2.32	\$2.47	\$2.45	\$ 2.52	\$ 2.60
<b>Total</b>	\$25.17	\$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](mailto:alexandrianh@metrocast.net) or 603-744-3220.



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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, 2018. 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](http://www.alexandrianh.com). More information about abatements can be found on our website at [www.alexandrianh.com/page65.php](http://www.alexandrianh.com/page65.php).

**REMINDER: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 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 5, 2018. [RSA 39:3; 40:13, II-a(b)]. The petition must have a minimum of 25 signatures from residents that are registered voters in Alexandria.

### Police Department

For the month of October The Alexandria Police Department made 5 arrests, handled 46 miscellaneous calls for service and stopped 46 vehicles. Arrests were made for Protective custody, Operating after Suspension and Bench Warrants. A significant amount of time was spent investigating two separate. Domestic Violence cases that involved 31 Restraining order Violations, Witness Tampering and Falsifying Physical Evidence in one of the cases and the other involving Witness Tampering, Stalking and hundreds of cases of Contempt of Court.

Now that we are in the Holiday Season please be extra vigilant in watching for Scams. Monitor your credit cards for unauthorized charges and all of your accounts for suspicious activity. Scammers are coming up with new ways to try to steal your money every day. Remember, the IRS will never call you to tell you that you owe money and they do not accept payment via I-tunes or Green dot cards. Banks will never call you and ask you for your account number, they already know it. Never give out any personal information to someone who calls you on the phone, If you think its your bank or credit card number, find their phone number and call them back to make sure you are speaking to the correct people.

We are also in the time when several people leave for the winter or go on Holiday Vacations. Please consider letting us know if you will be away from your house for any extended period of time. We do our best to watch the property. You can either call us at 744-6651 or contact us through a private message on this page. The information we would be looking for is the address, dates you will be gone, a contact number to reach you or a trusted local person in case of a problem and any details regarding vehicles that may be left on site or authorized visitors.

Happy Holidays, Please stay safe.

Alexandria Police Department

### Highway Department

#### Policy Regarding Availability of Sand:

Sand is available for use by the citizens of Alexandria for Alexandria properties. Sand piles are located at the Transfer Station (29 Smith River Road) and behind the Municipal Building (47 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.

Sand will no longer be available behind the old highway garage on Washburn Road.

The removal of sand from the Alexandria Highway Garage on Mundy Road is prohibited. Access to this facility is for employees only.



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## Other Local Events/Organizations



### 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



### TTCC 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Santa's Village & Craft Fair

Friday 12/8 6 pm to 8 pm  
Saturday 12/9 2 pm to 5 pm  
Sunday 12/10 2 pm to 5 pm  
Free admission – one canned good item suggested for Bristol Community Services Food Pantry.  
*Join us for this magical annual event! 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! Visit the TTCC's biggest craft fair while you wait.*

### A Country Christmas Craft Fair

Sponsored by the Alexandria Volunteer Firefighters' Association

Where: Alexandria Old Town Hall, 45 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH

When: Saturday, December 9, 2017 from 9 am to 2 pm

Craft tables by local vendors. Face painting. Free hot chocolate, cider & refreshments.

Hay rides with a donation of non-perishable can goods to AVFD Emergency Pantry.

Santa Clause will be there with gifts from 11 am to 1 pm.

\*Join us, catch the



holiday spirit\*

### 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 6pm  
Open 1 hour prior to meeting.  
Chair, Merry Ruggirello  
*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 at 6:30 pm in the conference room at the municipal building.

#### 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.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

*\*Please check website for up-to-date meeting schedule\**

Tuesday, December 5, 2017: Selectmen's meeting at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 19, 2017: Selectmen's meeting at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 20, 2017: Planning Board meeting at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 27, 2017: Conservation Commission meeting at 6:30 pm

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

*Planning Board: Items to be included on the agenda must be received 21 days prior to the meeting.*

**Town Offices Closed on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Thanksgiving and Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of New Year's Day.**

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

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