



ALEXANDRIA TODAY OCTOBER 2019 EDITION

47 Washburn Road, Alexandria, NH 03222 www.alexandrianh.com alexandrianh@metrocast.net 603-744-3220



Alexandria Waste Management Committee 10/19



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

Trivia Fact for the Month: One metric ton [approximately 2205 lbs.] of electronic scrap from PCs contains more gold than that is recovered, on average, from 17 tons of gold ore.

Money in our Pockets

Net savings through August 2019 are \$6,385. There was no revenue reported for copper in August; however, scrap metal and iron netted us \$561, aluminum cans \$150 and our quarterly adjusted saving for glass was \$354. With luck and your continued support, savings for the year will exceed \$10,000. We continue to maximize our savings given our current facilities at the present location and we are handling the disposal of non-recyclable materials as efficiently as possible, given the current worldwide market conditions.

What's New at the Transfer Station

The new Planet Aid container seems to be working out well. A reminder; only shoes and clothing IN GOOD CONDITION should be placed in the container. All items placed in the container should be undamaged, clean, and bagged [receipts for donated items are NOT provided]. We encourage you to donate other usable items, for which you no longer have a use, to charitable organizations or take them to a consignment shop.

Sand will no longer be available at the transfer station. In order to provide better service to our residents, sand will be available only in the bin located behind the municipal building, and at the **old** town garage. By relocating the sand for public use to these 2 locations, sand will be accessible 24/7. The same restrictions regarding amounts and use will still apply, and we are hopeful that people availing themselves of the sand will adhere to these restrictions without the need for additional security and monitoring. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Every Individual Can Contribute

In July, the Governor's office announced the formation of a State Recycling Committee to study the impacts the changing markets are having on waste management programs of towns throughout New Hampshire. Michael Nork, an Environmental Analyst at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, is quoted as saying that one of the main goals of the committee is to better understand how a changing market can influence local recycling plans. He further went on to point out that towns are facing rising recycling costs and, in some cases, have decided that it's not worth paying for single stream recycling.

In light of all the adverse aura surrounding recycling programs lately, this month I thought I'd again discuss the importance of recycling and try to project the consequences of not doing so, even if it means increasing the cost of managing our trash. Recycling does three major things: it saves natural resources [especially important when we're talking about non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels]; secondly, it extends the life of our landfills which are reaching capacity at an alarming rate; and lastly, it reduces pollution of our lands and waterways. Most of you are aware of these things; however, to better understand the magnitude of the problem, I'd like to share the following information with you.

First off, let's talk about the biodegradability of an item. This is kind of like asking "how long is a rubber band"; it depends on many factors. In the case of biodegradability, environmental conditions make the biggest difference. Probably the best example can be found in your compost pile. If you attend your compost pile by keeping it moist and turn it periodically to aerate it, like materials will decompose faster than if you just let it sit unattended. The same applies to trash. Therefore, charts you see expressing how long it takes something to break down are only accurate relevant to the conditions under which the test was conducted. However, when you're talking about items like plastics, glass, and Styrofoam that take over 100 years to disintegrate, even under the best of conditions, it doesn't really matter; they are a huge problem if they end up in a landfill because they shorten the life expectancy of the landfill significantly.

Let's talk about landfills. Landfills require space. The land we inhabit is not an inexhaustible commodity. Humans need space in which to live, support the necessities of life, and space to support our everyday living requirement; including the disposal of our waste. As our population increases, more space is required to support these requirements and rural areas become suburbs, and suburbs become cities. Look what's happened up and down the east and west coasts of the United States over the past 20 years. New Hampshire has three public landfills: Mount Carberry Landfill, Berlin; North Country Environmental Services, Bethlehem; and Rochester. Each of these landfills are expected to reach

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capacity in less than 3 years. That means that either these landfills must be expanded, new landfills established, or trash be trucked further away to landfills in other states – all of which require more money [the costs will no doubt be passed on to the public], and mean less land for other uses.

Some New Hampshire towns have their own landfills, but many, such as Alexandria and Bristol, operate using transfer station facilities. Transfer stations are exactly what the name implies; they hold trash locally awaiting transfer to either a landfill or recycling processing center. Obviously, the more we send to a recycling processor, the more we keep out of New Hampshire landfills. However, with the market for recyclable material shrinking, it can be more expensive to recycle for reasons I've discussed in previous articles. Alexandria has chosen to modify our recycling program vs. abandoning it altogether, and have eliminated some items as recyclable materials, such as paper and cardboard [I should point out that both decompose relatively quickly in landfills]. Our current program is still saving us money, as well as keeping us "responsible citizens" by doing what's right. As technology advances, we are confident that the market for recyclable materials will rebound and we can begin to expand our program. Until then, do your part by; Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling as much as possible. We are grateful for your understanding and continued support.



Creative ideas for recycling, 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 to: steve.whitman@hotmail.com; be sure to state "recycling comments" in the subject. In some cases, with the author's permission, comments may be printed in subsequent issues. You can visit the transfer station webpage on the town website [<http://alexandrianh.com/departments/transfer-station/>] for more information about the transfer station as well as links to recycling information sites. Thank you all for your continued support; thanks to you our program is working.

Office Hours		
Selectmen's Office – 744-3220 Monday: 8 am to 4 pm Tuesday: 8 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 4 pm Wednesday: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Saturday: 8 am to 4 pm <i>*Must arrive 15 minutes prior to posted closing time*</i> 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 <i>Deliberative Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm</i> Open 1 hour prior to meeting. <i>Items to be included on the agenda must be received 21 days prior to the meeting.</i> Conservation Commission To contact the Conservation Commission: e-mail: alexandrianh@metrocast.net Phone: 603-744-3220 Mail: 47 Washburn Road Alexandria, NH 03222

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Please check website for up-to-date meeting schedule

- Tuesday, October 1, 2019: Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 8, 2019: Budget Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 15, 2019: Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 16, 2019: Planning Board Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 22, 2019: Budget Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 29, 2019: Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 30, 2019: Conservation Commission Meeting at 6:00 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.

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