



TOWN OFFICES ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC EFFECTIVE MARCH 23, 2020.

As you are aware, Governor Sununu issued a state of emergency for the State of New Hampshire on March 13, 2020 due to COVID-19. In order to limit potential exposure to our residents and town staff, the Selectmen have closed town offices to the public effective March 23, 2020. This decision will be evaluated on a weekly basis in order to keep staff and residents safe. Office staff will be available to answer questions over the phone and via email Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm. Appointments may be made as staff deems necessary.

The following items can all be done online at alexandrianh.com, through the mail and/or over the phone:

Property Tax Payments

Vehicle registration renewals*For new registrations, the Governor has authorized the DMV to extend all temporary plates issued after 2/26 until 4/30/2020.

Dog licensing

Requests for copies of birth certificates, marriage licenses, and death certificates

Property assessment information and tax maps

Property tax exemption and credit forms

Burn Permits

If you are having problems locating information on our website, we can assist you over the phone. The Town Clerk can be reached at 603-744-3288 or alexctxcoll@metrocast.net and the Selectmen's Office at 603-744-3220 or alexandrianh@metrocast.net. Welfare assistance will be done on an appointment only basis through the Selectmen's Office. Please be patient as we work to return calls and emails as quickly as possible.

We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause, but we are doing the best we can to provide service to you in a safe manner.

The Transfer Station will be open normal business hours during this time.



Alexandria Waste Management Committee 04/20



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

Trivia Quiz Question for the Month: Which industry has been recycling for over 150 years?
(see bottom of newsletter article for correct answer).

Money in our Pockets

Savings for the month of January were \$552. We had \$232 worth of aluminum cans and \$320 in tin and light metals. January is generally a slow month, so I'd consider this a good start to 2020. Activity in February was very sluggish and as a result there was no revenue derived from recycled materials reported. We did, however, recycle other non-revenue generating item such as tires and electronics which helps the environment in a big way. As you know, there is a disposal fee for these items which covers our cost to dispose of them and does not result in any net revenue. There was activity early in March that will be reflected in next month's update.

What's New at the Transfer Station

Thank You. By passing warrant article 11, you have taken the first step in making it possible to expand the transfer station facilities to allow Alexandria to maximize our recycling efforts. As we've said in the past, this will not be an overnight transition, but rather will require careful, long-rang planning on many fronts. The Waste Management Committee will be working closely with town department heads and the Board of Selectmen as we move forward with the planning and implementation process. We will be looking for your input as well, as our primary objective is to meet the needs of our residents.

Again, **Thank You** for your foresight and your willingness to support the town by investing in our future. COVID-19 has pretty much put things on hold as we all try to cope with the unknown. The transfer station is keeping to its normal schedule while observing the safety protocol recommended. Please limit in personal contact with the staff, and if you do need to speak with someone, try not to go into the office, but speak outside and please **observe the 6-foot personal space zone** (now is the time to be 'stand-offish'). If you have questions, please consult the town website for the latest updates or call before making a personal visit (transfer station; 744-6810, selectmen's office 744-3220).



Every Individual Can Contribute

Many stores have temporarily restricted the use of reusable shopping bags to limit non sanitized, reusable bags from transmitting the coronavirus. Instead, stores have reverted to paper or single use plastic bags. Obviously, this will result in more plastic bags being put into circulation, and again creating the dilemma of how to dispose of them. Many stores have recycling programs for plastic bags and these facilities should be taken advantage of whenever possible. If you are unable to find ways to reuse these bags, collect them in a central location (keeping them in a central location will provide a fixed storage place much like a recycling container) until you can get to a recycling facility. There are many ways to reuse plastic shopping bags. For some ideas on reusing plastic bags you may not have thought of, **click here**.

LEGO Group

The LEGO Group is a Danish toy production company founded in 1932 and based in Billund. Five years ago, LEGO made a commitment to invest \$150 million over the next 15 years as part of a broad effort to make its iconic plastic building blocks better for the environment. The company makes over 60 billion Lego pieces each year, so a little bit of change goes a long way to significantly reduce their negative impact on the planet.

LEGO has already done things to reduce its carbon footprint like cutting the size of packages and investing in wind power. In 2013, the company started a partnership with the World Wildlife Federation (WWF), the environmental group, to help develop a plan for making its materials more sustainable to extend their usable life. Now it is working to develop materials that are more environmentally friendly. The LEGO Group started a pilot program in the United States in October 2019 to recycle previously used bricks and donating them to nonprofits nationwide. Each brick donated back to them gets sorted, inspected by hand, and cleaned prior to being given to various children's nonprofits. The LEGO Group says that most of the bricks will go to Teach for America, which will provide them to thousands of American classrooms. Bricks will also go to Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston for after-school programs. Tim Brooks, vice president, responsible for environmental concerns at the LEGO Group, said that his team has spent the past three years working on the project to ensure the process met the highest quality and safety standards and adhered to US regulations. When the pilot ends in spring 2020, the LEGO Group says the company plans to consider expanding the program. LEGO has teamed up with Give Back Box, an organization which finds new homes for 11 million tons of unused clothing, footwear, and other textiles that would otherwise go into landfills annually, to coordinate donation and distribution efforts.

Source: <https://www.environmentalleader.com/2019/10/lego-group-recycling-program/>



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.

Ans. to trivia quiz: The steel industry. Each day Americans use about 100 million steel cans. To put that in prospective, by recycling 18 million of those cans (that's less than 20%) it saves 75% of the energy needed to power 18 million homes. Each year North America recycles more steel than aluminum, glass, paper, and plastics combined. Do your part; recycle your tin cans if you can't reuse them.

Alexandria Conservation Commission



Alexandria Conservation Commission

April is a busy and special month here in New Hampshire; the days are longer and warmer; the animals are emerging from their dens; shrubbery and flower beds are being cleaned up after the long winter; gardens are being readied; and lawns raked, and fertilized in preparation for the warmer weather. Each of these events impacts our environment in its own unique way, and each is deserving of individual attention and discussion. However, I'm going to highlight only some of the consequences each presents.

Animals are emerging from hibernation, although there are many species that are less active during the winter months, the bear is the only animal in our area that hibernates. As the weather warms, they emerge from their dens and begin searching for food. Food is still relatively scarce this time of the year, and bears are attracted to bird feeders and unsecured garbage cans. Avoid damage to your property by taking in your bird feeders and be sure that your garbage



cans are covered and ideally inside a secure area. Do not intentionally feed the bears, as this impedes their ability to forage for themselves, makes them dependent on humans, and is dangerous. If you come upon a bear cub, assume that its mother is near and will protect her cub at all costs.

Cleaning up your flower beds, the beds around your house and turning over the vegetable garden is a traditional rite of spring here in New Hampshire. The material cleaned from your beds can be added to your compost pile. If you don't have a compost pile, now is a good time to start one. Once your beds have been cleaned, adding mulch will help control weeds, help prevent erosion, and enhance the soil. Mulches you may wish to consider are: **Small Stone** – stones absorb more heat than organic materials, do not retain moisture and do nothing to enrich the soil. This option should be reserved for cool-climate flower gardens as reflective heat can spell disaster for some plants. **Cocoa Hulls** – these shells are full of nutrients that help build up your soil. Cocoa hulls have a pleasant brown hue that darkens over time. They help retain moisture but do tend to grow a harmless mold in humid areas. **CAUTION**; The cocoa hulls [like chocolate] are toxic to dogs if ingested. **Shredded Bark** – this material comes in a variety of colors and has a coarse, stringy texture that helps it from washing off steeper banks and breaking down too quickly. Generally, this type of mulch is preferred for use around shrubs and trees rather than in perennial flower or vegetable gardens. **Compost** – this is not as effective in preventing weeds as other mulches; however, it is an excellent way to build up nutrients in your soil. Compost is a good choice for flower beds and vegetables gardens. **Wood Chips** – as with the shredded bark, they are most effective around trees and shrubs and not in flower beds or vegetable gardens. They tend to turn gray with time. Preparing your lawn for the season – Generally this will involve raking and fertilizing, and in some cases thatching and top dressing. There is one other thing that you should consider doing; having your soil tested by a local, independent lab at least every four years. Local laboratories are usually familiar with the area soils and can recommend fertilization that has proven reliable. The correct fertilizer in the correct amount will ensure the best results. Remember that fertilizer works its way into the soil where chemicals are released; a small amount may be washed away by storm water before it can be absorbed. Over fertilization not only increases the cost but results in more chemicals than necessary and can hurt your plants. The chemicals caught up in run-off storm water can find their way into lakes and streams causing pollution.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has a voluntary program [SOAK] that helps property owners reduce storm water run-off. SOAK is managed by the NHDES Watershed Assistance Section. For more information, including a video on constructing a 'water garden' to contain the storm water, go to soaknh.org or [facebook.com/SoakNH](https://www.facebook.com/SoakNH).

As a final note about April, two special days occur promoting awareness of conservation issues: Arbor Day and Earth Day. Arbor Day was created by J. Sterling Morton, a Nebraskan who served as our 3rd Secretary of Agriculture under Grover Cleveland. He wanted to encourage people to plant trees in recognition of the importance trees play in our lives. For example: a single tree can absorb as much as 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year and provide a day's supply of oxygen for up to four people. The first Arbor Day was held April 10th, 1872; and is now recognized nationally and celebrated on the last Friday in April.

Earth Day, celebrated on April 22nd, was conceived by Senator Gaylord Nelson after witnessing the devastation caused by the massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, CA in 1969. With the help of Congressman Peter McCloskey, he convinced Denis Hayes, an environmental activist, to act as national coordinator to promote the conservation effort. The idea was announced to the national media, and Earth Day became a reality. Hayes created the "Earth Day Network" through which he promoted this grassroots conservation effort. As a result, the first Earth Day, 22nd of April 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets in massive coast-to-coast rallies to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment, which led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. The idea has spread to over 184 nations who actively participate to protect and conserve our planet's natural resources.

To learn more about Earth Day visit: *Earth Day Network*



Other Local Events/Organizations

NHDES Launches #OneThing4Earth Video Challenge to Recognize 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2020

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) today launched the #OneThing4Earth Video Challenge to help recognize the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, which will be April 22, 2020. The purpose of the challenge is for people to record a short video or take photos of themselves doing one thing that is good for the earth, then in the video, challenge their family, friends and others to do their own video. People who accept the challenge should post the videos on any or all of their social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter) and use the hashtag #OneThing4Earth and tag NHDES.

NHDES Commissioner Bob Scott started the challenge by posting his video of his home compost pile and challenging his entire staff to post their videos. “In honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, I am starting the #OneThing4Earth video challenge by sharing with you something that I do that is good for the environment,” said Bob Scott, NHDES Commissioner. “Although the world is rightfully focused the coronavirus pandemic, I think it is important that we recognize Earth Day, and by participating in the #OneThing4Earth video challenge, we can share with each other all of the important little things that we all do every day to help our environment.”

The worldwide response to the coronavirus pandemic is and should be all of our priorities. NHDES hopes that a social media-based video challenge, like the #OneThing4Earth, will provide people practicing social distancing with a way to recognize the importance of Earth Day. You do not have to be challenged to participate, but remember in your video to challenge your friends, family, coworkers and others to join in. For more information on the #OneThing4Earth video challenge, contact Jim Martin, NHDES Public Information Officer, at james.martin@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3710.

NHDES has the following social media handles:

Instagram: @nhenvironmentalservices

Facebook: @NHEnvironmentalServices

Twitter: @NHDES

2020 Census Information

The 2020 Census is easy. The questions are simple. The Census asks questions that provide a snapshot of the nation. Census results affect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.

When you fill out the census you help:

- Determine how many seats your state gets in Congress
- Guide how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year
- Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals

DAY AWAY PROGRAM

Social Program for Adults with Alzheimer’s Disease or related Dementias

Now in existence for five years, the Day Away program is a social program for adults with early stages of Alzheimer’s and related dementias. This program provides their caregivers a much-needed respite and relief from constant care and responsibility. Day Away provides a safe and comfortable atmosphere. We encourage socialization and help participants to maintain their independence, be mentally stimulated and remain active. Trained volunteers and a Registered Nurse, who is the Director of Program, provide one on one supervision for every participant.

Day Away is a non-profit program held on Thursdays from 9:00am to 3:00pm in Simard Hall at Our Lady of Grace Chapel in Bristol. Day Away is nondenominational and open to all families and caregivers in surrounding towns. As each participant advances in their journey, and he or she is no longer eligible for this program, we know through conversations with their caregivers, we have made a positive difference in each of their lives and in the lives of their caregivers.

If you know of any person/family who can benefit from our program or if you would like to volunteer, please contact: Sandra Coleman RN, BSN, Director of the Day Away Program
Email – sjrhatt@roadrunner.com or



ALEXANDRIA TODAY APRIL 2020 EDITION

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Telephone – 603-536-6304



Stand Up Newfound

Are you impacted by the struggles facing our community with substance misuse? Stand Up Newfound is a small group of individuals trying to bring light onto a difficult subject, encourage prevention and education, and support those impacted by this difficult disease. Please join us the first Tuesday of each month, Minot Sleeper Library, 6:30 p.m.

Please contact us with any questions and check out our website for links to specific help sites:

www.standupnewfound.org
www.facebook.com/standupnewfound
standupnewfound@gmail.com

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
Must arrive 15 minutes prior to posted closing time

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: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm
Open 1 hour prior to meeting.
Items to be included on the agenda must be received 21 days prior to the meeting.

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 – These meeting dates and time may change due to the ongoing concerns with COVID-19. Meetings will always be available to the public and we will be making efforts to have the meetings live streamed. Please also email alexandrianh@metrocast.net with any questions or concerns you would like included in the public meeting.

Tuesday, April 7, 2020: Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm
Wednesday, April 15, 2020: Planning Board Meeting at 6:00 pm
Tuesday, April 21, 2020: Selectmen's Meeting at 6:00 pm
Wednesday, April 29, 2020: 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.

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>