

TRANSFER STATION

2008 has seen a lot of changes at the Transfer Station. Bill has retired and Kevin has been hired as his replacement. New parking lines have been painted with the hope that residents will use them to avoid congestion problems. This is the first year in a long time that the Transfer Station has been open on Sundays. This has proven to be very popular with the residents and is set to continue in 2009. The "Fee Free" weekend was a huge success with 1,800 tires, 263 Freon units, 34 appliances, 126 pieces of furniture, etc., being collected and removed from residents back yards and properties; thus making the town look a lot nicer and also removing areas that were breeding grounds for mosquitoes which could carry West Nile Virus and/or EEE. There is a warrant article this year to have another "Fee Free" Day/Weekend. The warrant article will NOT increase your taxes since the money would be coming out of the Special Transfer Station Fee Account. If the warrant article does not pass, there will be no Fee Free Day/Weekend as the money needed for this was not include in the Transfer Station 2009 budget. So please vote "yes" on this warrant article so that the clean up can continue.

There is also a second warrant article proposed to repair and add new fencing along Dugway Road. This warrant article would NOT increase your taxes as the money would again be coming from the Special Transfer Station Fee Account. Some residents have been requesting that this be done and now is your chance to voice your opinion. It would certainly improve the appearance of the Transfer Station.

Recycling has continued to improve at the Transfer Station. Glass, Plastic and Tin/Aluminum cans have seen a great improvement. The recycling of packing peanuts and household batteries of all types has also increased. In 2007 the town's recycling rate (as reported by the state) was 17.7%, in 2008 the town's recycling rate was 18.97%. It is still a long way away from the 40% rate that the state wants.

I have had discussions with many residents who are curious as to whether recycling is worth it. Some feel that recycling does not help the environment. Others find it's just too time consuming to participate. To all, I would like to point out that recycling is very much worth it. There is a \$50 a ton difference in the cost of recycling the glass, plastic and tin/aluminum cans. This means that for every ton that is recycled, you the tax payer get a break since I don't have to budget as much. For wood, there is a \$30 a ton difference between recycling and just throwing it into the hopper. Again this makes it less expensive to run the Transfer Station thus keeping the budget down. Cardboard and newspaper are even a better bargain. The recycler pays the town for the recycle materials with an average of \$40 a ton. This is a whopping savings of approximately \$120 a ton. The average homeowner's trash has 60% of recyclable paper in it which would equate to a huge savings if more residents would recycle. To make recycling easier, the Transfer Station requests that newspaper type materials be either tied up or placed in paper bags. If you need bags just ask at the recycle area and we will gladly supply you with some.

Recycling rates:

Paper - 59.74 tons recycled the town received \$1,577.19 for it.

Cardboard - 60.39 tons recycled the town received \$2,595.10 for it.

(The paper & cardboard that was recycled resulted in 1,937 being saved.)

Wood - 503.19 tons recycled, the town paid \$12,495.51 to dispose of it instead of \$44,456.84.

Scrap Metal - 147 tons recycled, the town received \$20,354.59 for it.

Plastic/glass/tin/aluminum cans - 16.81 tons recycled, the town paid \$504.30 to dispose of it instead of \$1,451.00.

In 2009 more changes are planned at the Transfer Station. The entrance and exit to the Transfer Station will be changed in the hope of creating better traffic flow. Another plastic, glass, tin/aluminum can container will be coming in and a few new buildings will be arriving to replace some of the existing structures that are starting to show their age.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrew P. Morse
Facilities Manager