

## TRANSFER STATION

Hello Town of Newton NH

2011 has been an interesting year for all of us at the Transfer Station. Please know the staff at the Transfer Station is there to help you. Any person needing help with anything can receive it, all you have to do is ask an Attendant and sign the Transfer Station Waiver, then we can help you get something in or out of your vehicle. Without signing the waiver an Attendant will be unable to assist you. This year many great things have happened and I would like to take this time to share some of them with you.

Over the past few years many residents were unsure of how to dispose of hazardous waste and would ask us to come up with a solution to this ongoing problem. On September 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 The Town of Newton held its first "Hazardous Waste Day" for Newton Residents only. Clean Harbors Environmental Services was on hand to take Newton's Hazardous Waste; this event's total cost was \$22,000.00. The event went very smooth with the Transfer Station Attendants aiding in traffic control. The "Hazardous Waste Day" was very successful in keeping hazardous waste out of our regular trash and our environment; illegal dumping of hazardous waste can cost the town up to **\$30,000.00 in fines each offense**. After the event took place, we had many people ask when the event was going to take place. I will make every effort next time to mail reminders to each household, put it on the Town Website, the Town Cable Channel, and send out an email blast with date and time of the event. My plan is to hold a "Hazardous Waste Day" every other year if the money is available, so please keep an eye on the warrant articles for this event and vote "yes".

Many residents asked about "Fee Free Weekend" this year and wanted to know when we would hold that event again. Unfortunately because the event was abused in 2010, we had to take a look at a different process as we still wanted to give the residents a way to dispose of their things for free. In 2012 we will be introducing a "Voucher System" to the Residents of Newton who own and reside on their property. Please keep your eye on your mail as you will be mailed a "Voucher" to be used in place of "Fee Free Weekend". Each Voucher entitles you to two (2) 6 or 8 foot bed loads of "Acceptable Items" off the "Transfer Station Fees List" for free. Please see an attendant when redeeming your Voucher. If you do not own a truck please see the Supervisor or the Manager at the Transfer Station and we will work with you so you can dispose of your unwanted items. You can use the Voucher at any point throughout the year in 2012, which will be helpful to the residents so you can dispose of your unwanted items at your leisure. By running this event this way it will save the town money in many different areas. We will not have to overstaff the Transfer Station for a weekend and have a three week clean up involving the staff at the Transfer Station and the Highway Department. We at the Transfer Station are looking forward to offering a way for residents to dispose of their items for free, while watching out for the town's budget.

Recycling is the best way you can help lower your taxes; did you know that we receive money for most of our recycling? To dispose of household trash it costs the Town \$91 a ton, plus a \$120.00 Hauling Fee for each container they empty. 80% of what people throw away is actually recyclable, but yet that 80% fills the landfills more and more each day. Each of the Compactor

Containers can hold up to 21 Tons of waste; it is a vicious cycle that makes no sense. Why would you want to pay to throw something away when you could get paid for it? If you could take a few extra steps a day to save \$50 a month would you? That is all recycling is, if we all worked together all recycling would result in a profit for the Town of Newton. Disposal costs would go down and the money we would receive from recycling these items would offset the budget and all the savings would go back to the town at the end of the year to help lower your tax rate. We all can make a big difference; we just have to take a couple of extra steps. Like my mother always told me “the right thing is the hardest thing to do because it takes effort”. I would like to thank all of you who have put in the effort, who took the extra steps. Between your efforts and those of the Transfer Station Staff we have dramatically changed the recycling rate in such a short time. Even though our numbers are great there is always room for improvement. The State set a goal for each town to try and reach 40 % for a recycling rate; if we all pitched in I know we could far surpass that number. In the year 2011 we added a packer to our Recycling Area which dramatically increases our revenue for our paper and cardboard, we no longer have a cost to recycle these products. Our Vendor for the Commingled Containers also dropped the fee for the tonnage that comes out of our commingled containers. With these two changes to our Recycling Area, the Town should be able to save tremendous amounts of money with our disposal costs if more people would recycle. We have a “Benefits to Recycling Board” at the Transfer Station; this board will show you how much household trash and recycling the town disposed of the previous month and the costs and revenue that the Town had produced. I really want you to be honest and ask yourself this question, why would I pay for something when I could get it for free or make money from it? We could really have a huge effect on how your tax money is spent and even lower your taxes if we all work together with one goal. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!

There are many services that the Transfer Station offers; I have been told not many people know about them. We compost all the yard waste that we take in, and then offer the finished product to Newton Residents “free of charge”. We work very hard to provide this to you; all that we ask is that you make sure your yard waste is free of trash and other debris. This process takes a lot of time, effort, and money; please work with us so we can provide you with the best compost possible. There is no limit to what you can take and if you sign the Transfer Station Waiver we would be happy to load it into your vehicle with our tractor. We offer each resident a 5 to 10 gallon bucket of free sand a day during the winter months. We ask that if you take a kitty litter bucket full, that you continue to recycle and reuse the same bucket. If you have empty kitty litter buckets please give them to an attendant so we can recycle them. All wood in the clean wood pile and the brush pile is free for the Newton residents to take as much as you like, but because of insurance reasons you cannot use a chain saw on site. We have started a “Senior Discount Program” at the Transfer Station for residents who are 65 years of age and older. On the first Tuesday of every month is when seniors can participate in the program; all you need is a valid ID and you will receive half off your total charge. We have an “Ask the Attendant Program”, when the swap pile is open is when we operate that program. Just inform the Attendant of what you need and give the Attendant your contact information. If and when we see that item come into the Transfer Station we will put it aside for you and give you a call. This helps out in many ways; it is a form of recycling. If someone would have to pay to get rid of the item they now don’t have to pay for it. It also stops the Resident in need from spending money on that item.

All Attendants at the Transfer Station must follow the Policies, Transfer Station's Fee List, and rules given to them by the State, Federal Government, and the Board of Selectmen. Once a year each attendant goes to the Department of Environmental Services for training and to further their knowledge in all aspects of this field. **Please do not ask the Attendants to break the rules.**

These rules are there for a reason, they are to protect our town, residents, and attendants. If you have any problems with the rules please don't yell or be rude to the attendants, address your concerns with the Board of Selectmen with a written letter. The problem will be looked at by the Board of Selectmen and the Transfer Station Manager, and the issue will be worked through as soon as possible. There are also policies and guidelines for the residents to follow when entering and using the Transfer Station; these policies can be found at the Town Hall.

I would like to thank the Staff at the Transfer Station, without their hard work and dedication the facility wouldn't be what it is today. We all appreciate the help we received from volunteers and residents to make the year 2011 a success. Thank you very much; we couldn't have done it without you. We as a crew look forward to improving and growing as a community, to make the Transfer Station a safe, happy, productive, and functional place for all Residents in the year 2012. Thank you again and let's all pitch in to save the environment and taxpayers money.

Respectfully Submitted  
Kevin Jolicoeur  
Facilities Manager