

# Talkin' Trash in the Spring of 2009

A Community Newsletter from The Waste Disposal Commission

Happy Spring Francestown! What a long winter we have endured. It's nice to hear the birds chirping, see the flowers blooming and people smiling, like Cheshire cats, as the temperatures get warmer and the sun gets stronger. Enjoy Spring!

We are entering our third year of activity on the Waste Disposal Commission. With that we had changes in terms. Paul Ellis has signed on for a 1 year term and Sara Cox has signed on for a 3 year term. Cathy Gombas starting her second year of a 3 year term and Scott Carbee and Becky Moul are starting their third year of a 3 year term. At the WDC's April meeting Becky Moul was unanimously voted in as Chairman and the Commission accepted Johanna Moul's offer to continue to be the Volunteer Minutes Taker for the next year. The WDC's goal is to save the taxpayer dollars while recycling everything we possibly can as efficiently as we can. Feel free to contact anyone of the Commission members for any questions you may have or comments you would like to make. View the latest and past Meeting Minutes and Talkin' Trash Newsletters on the town web site by going to [www.francestown.nh.gov](http://www.francestown.nh.gov), click on Boards and Committees, Waste Disposal Commission, and finally your interested link.

I would like to take this opportunity, as Chairman of the WDC, to Thank all of the members of the commission, past and present, for their continuing efforts to make the Transfer Station a more efficient, safe and cost effective facility.....Becky ☺

Spring also brings us many yards and roadways filled with broken trees, tree limbs, brush and debris now showing after the snow melt. As we clean up this debris and load it for the Transfer Station burn pile Please remember the Transfer Station can only burn when the conditions are acceptable and can obtain a permit to burn. Consider calling (547-8855) before going to inquire the status of the burn pile. The Attendants are doing their best to keep the pile open, but Mother Nature does take control. No rain, no burn. See the Education is Key article for burning regulations.

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**Recycling Makes Good Money Sense!** With the down turn of the economy we have gone from being paid for some of our recyclables to paying for some of them. You ask "Why bother recycling?" There are a lot of good reasons to recycle but I only want to talk about the money reason. It costs less to recycle is the answer. We pay \$93.00 per ton of MSW, or compactor waste and CD waste. We pay \$50 per ton of co-mingled materials (food containers, plastic bottles, tin and aluminum cans). We pay \$20 per ton for glass. We are now being paid for paper again, \$10 per ton. This is an improvement over last fall's cost of \$30 per ton we paid to have hauled away. These costs are much lower than the \$93 a ton charged for MSW and CD waste. For the months of January & February 09 we have saved a total of \$1886 in Paper costs, \$656 in Glass costs and \$325 in Co-mingled costs for a total of \$2867 in savings. **Recycling Makes Good Money Sense!** ☺  
**Keep Up The Great Work Francestown!!!!**

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## EDUCATION is KEY for a Successful Recycling Program

**Burning:** This Winter has brought us an over abundance of tree limbs and brush debris due to the infamous Ice Storm of 2008. We want to get rid of it all. You have two choices. You can hire a contractor to clean it up for you or you can do it yourself. If you choose to clean up yourself you have three choices. You can chip it and use it as mulch, burn it at home or bring it to the Transfer Station and put it in the burn pile. If you choose one of the burning choices there are some very important rules to follow. These rules are governed by the State of NH, RES 5601.04(b) for category I, II and III fires and RES 5601.05(B) for category IV fires. Due to the amount of information in the brochure: Dept of Resources & Economic Development, Forests and Lands this article will only touch on the rules. Please go to the town web site at [www.francestown-nh.gov](http://www.francestown-nh.gov), click on Departments, Fire, and the Burning Information links for the complete brochure or see any of our Volunteer Fireman and they will be happy to help you.

### Where the Francestown Transfer Station Rates:

Our Transfer Station performs category III fires. **Please remember we are unable to accept tree limbs over 5" in diameter.**

Please burn responsibly and remember the Transfer Station is subject to the same rules and regulations that we, as residents, are subject to when burning at home.

### Basic Definitions:

- **"Open Burning"** means the burning of any material wherein the products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed container. The use of portable fireplaces is considered open burning.
- **"Completely Extinguished"** means to extinguish so that it emits no smoke, heat or flames. The term does not include a buried fire.
- **"Raining"** means sustained precipitation that is actively occurring of sufficient intensity and duration so as to prevent the fire from spreading in woodland fuels.
- **"Ground Covered With Snow"** means the area within a 100' radius from the fire edge is covered with snow or other frozen precipitation sufficient to prevent the combustion of woodland fuels until the fire is completely extinguished.
- **"Kindle"** means from the point of ignition to the time of complete extinguishment.
- **"Permittee"** means a landowner or a person having permission from the landowner.
- **"Attended"** means that an individual responsible for the fire and capable of extinguishing the fire is on the same property as the fire, is able to immediately extinguish the fire, and has the fire in plain view.
- **"Seasonal Permit"** means a permit issued on an annual basis for a category I, II and IV fire.
- **"Category I Fire"** means a small controlled fire, such as a camp or cooking fire, no greater than 2' in diameter contained within a ring of fire resistive material or in a portable fireplace. A category I fire, conditions permitting, may be kindled with a permit at any time of day whether raining or not.
- **"Category II Fire"** means a controlled fire, such as a camp or cooking fire, no greater than 4' in diameter contained within a ring of fire resistive material or in a portable fireplace. A category II fire, conditions permitting, may only be kindled with a permit between the hours of 5:00 pm and 9:00 am unless it is actually raining.
- **"Category III Fire"** means any other fire, not a category I or category II fire or a fire greater than 4' in diameter or a fire not contained within a ring of resistive material. A category III fire, conditions permitting, may only be kindled with a permit between the hours of 5:00 pm and 9:00 am unless it is actually raining.

- **“Category IV Commercial Fire”** means a fire, other than a category I fire, that can be kindled with a permit between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm whether raining or not. A permit for this fire would be issued jointly between the Forest Ranger and the Forest Fire Warden or the Warden's authorized agent. The permittee must comply with additional special provisions to qualify for a category IV fire permit.

**Commonly Asked Questions:**

- **What materials can be burned with a fire permit?** Brush and wood cannot exceed 5 inches in diameter. No combustible domestic waste, treated wood or composite materials may be burned. RSA-125N defines “combustible domestic waste” as, but not limited to, household trash, packaging materials, plastics, coated or laminated papers, rubber, painted or treated wood, coated or treated cardboard, oily rags, and animal, vegetable, and kitchen waste.”
- **How close to a structure can I kindle my fire?** A category I fire must be at least 25' from structures and category II or greater fire must be at least 50' from structures.
- **When can I kindle my fire?** A category I fire may be kindled with a permit at any time whether raining or not. A category II and category III fire may only be kindled with a permit between the hours of 5:00 pm and 9:00 am unless it is actually raining.
- **If I started my category II or III fire while it was raining and it stops raining do I have to extinguish the fire?** Yes! The fire must be extinguished and you will need to wait until after 5:00 pm to kindle it again.
- **Do you own the land where you plan to burn?** If not, you must have written landowner approval in order to receive a fire permit or furnish proof that you are a legal agent for the landowner.
- **Can I burn material from the demolition of buildings?** The NH Department of Environmental Services has regulations that must be followed regarding the testing and abatement of asbestos prior to demolition. Only clean, untreated and non-contaminated wood may be burned. Contact NH DES-Air Resources Division at 1-800-498-6868 for additional information.
- **Do you have adequate resources to control and completely extinguish your fire?** The permittee shall have sufficient water, tools and personnel necessary to control and completely extinguish the fire. A buried fire is not an extinguished fire.
- **Can I use tires or tubes to start my fire?** No! This would be a serious violation of NH DES Air Resources Division rules and regulations.
- **How old do I have to be in order to obtain a fire permit?** You must be at least 18 years old to obtain a fire permit.

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Spring Cleaning is Here! Good weather is here and that means spring cleaning. It also means a heavier flow of traffic at the Transfer Station. **For the safety of all**.....residents, their children and the attendants please use caution when going to the station. The flow of the waste is to stop at the compactor and rid your vehicle of your MSW waste into the compactor. Move forward to discard your recyclables, allowing the next person in line to approach the compactor. Proceed to the paper area. If you choose to go into the Swap room please park in the area left of the paper container. If you have something for the burn or metal pile please stop and see the attendant to be sure your waste goes in the correct area. This will allow the flow of traffic to continue in an orderly fashion with no hold ups. By following this flow the chances of a child or adult pedestrian getting hit are minimized greatly. Please do your part in keeping our Transfer Station safe for all.

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Speaking of Spring...Roadside Clean up is Sunday, May 3rd! Embark on the annual roadside cleanup, which will begin around 2:45 PM at the Town Hall. Roadside clean-up is sponsored by Francestown Land Trust and Conservation Commission.

Beginning at 1pm there will be a discussion, sponsored by Joan Hanchett Nature Series a cooperative of Francestown Land Trust, Conservation Commission, Bixby Library and underwritten by Francestown News on Organic Gardening. The speaker is Dave Trumble, farmer for 29 years and certified organic for 23 years returns to Francestown, where he has claimed ties for over twenty years. Dave will share his knowledge and expertise on many aspects of organic gardening followed by Q & A.

Dave began as a farmer's helper and then farmed at Francestown's own Sibby Kunhardt's farm on Old County Road South from 1987-1997. In 1997, he and his wife Linda moved to Weare and purchased a hay field here. It is there that they built a passive solar house, a barn, and 4 greenhouses and have a 3 acre field in vegetables and fruits. Today they sell seedlings in the spring to over 100 gardeners and approximately 10 farmers. Their vegetables are sold primarily through the Local Harvest CSA in Concord. That is a multi-farm CSA with 8 farms that supplies produce to 270 families. Their produce is also intermittently found at Roy's Market in Peterborough and the Concord Cooperative Market.

Following the discussion volunteers will embark on the roadside cleanup. They will be given an area to clean and bags to place the trash in. Once the cleanup is done the bags are collected by an assigned volunteer. They will get transported to the transfer station where they will be counted and weighed. Last year we collected almost 600 pounds of roadside trash! **Volunteers Welcome.** For information call 547-3719.

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Talkin' Trash Spring 2009  
Waste Disposal Commission  
Francestown, NH 03043

U.S. Postage  
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Francestown, NH 03043  
**PERMIT #1**

Francestown Resident