

News from the Desk of the Town Administrator

By Stephen Halleran

Clean Up Day: The Solid Waste Committee's 4th annual clean up day was held on June 20th and processed some 76 vehicles through in the six hours the event was open. While actual weight slips were not available at press time, gross receipts from the day topped \$2,100 and are typically just about enough to cover all the hard costs of the event. As usual, electronic recycling and tire disposal were the big hitters. A fair amount of items were also exchanged between participants. Old chairs, tables and lightly used exercise equipment all found new homes. One or two yard sale lookers stopped in and shopped as well. Our Solid Waste Committee makes this event possible to the community each year. It would not happen but for them. Thanks are due to Hillary Sundell, Sue Williams, Nancy Mogielnicki, Richard Atkinson, Richard Colburn, Russ Kelly, William McGonigle, Brad Thompsom, and Betsy Ryebeck-Lynd. In addition, Sean Smith and David Hollinger from the Highway Department worked the event providing access to the department's heavy equipment for bulky items. You really haven't been in the recycling trenches until you have unloaded a couple of water filled tires from the 1950's or accepted a computer or two that have been run over or dismantled by young minds wanting to learn what makes the machine actually work.

Junk Car Violations: While it is one of the tasks we like the least and frankly one that we are not even particularly good at, the Selectboard has decided that enough is enough with the junk cars and general debris around town. While we try, as long as significant public safety or environmental hazards don't exist, to live and let live there does come a point when even our local government has to act to effect change. So while we have no intention of crawling around on private property or peering into and under bushes we are now starting a serious campaign to eliminate some of the high visibility junk cars and general debris around town. RSA 236 makes it illegal to possess two or more junk cars or the some total of parts that would constitute two or more junk cars without first having obtained a salvage yard permit from the town. Currently, we have no permitted salvage yards in town, but we do have a lot of properties with three or four or more junk cars and or lots of debris. If you happen to be one of these property owners or you know someone that is, considering getting ahead of the curve and doing some clean up now. Metal prices are not as high as they were, but they are still pretty good. A few minutes working with Google or the local yellow pages provides ample opportunities to get rid of at no cost or even to sell junk cars and scrap metal. Check out <http://www.junk-car.org/state/New-Hampshire.html> or any other number of sites that you will come across on the subject. The alternative for those with lots of junk is, nasty letters from the town, visits from and eventually the person finds themselves sitting in a crowded district court room with all manner of humanity discussing with a judge plans to restore that 1983 Pinto that has been serving as a mosquito breeding ground for the last two decades.

Master Plan Update: Before you turn away from this highly exciting topic and starting reading the next column, consider learning more about the Planning Board's work to keep this important document up to date. A town's master plan is the fundamental document that all other local land use regulations and efforts are based on. If you wish to have any say at all about what Plainfield looks and feels like in twenty or thirty years a key place to start is communicating with your local Planning Board. Many times a single letter or comment does start the process for change or makes a difference on how a proposal is put together. So, our Planning Board at their next few workshop meetings (first Monday of every month at 7pm, Meriden Town Hall) will be working on a general update of the master plan. If you have strong feelings on any land use or community based issue stop in and discuss it with them or drop me an e-mail and I'll share it with the Planning Board. The town's Master Plan is available at both libraries and the town office, there is an electronic version posted on the website www.plainfieldnh.org

National Service Recognition: In honor all of our current and past residents who have or are now providing service to the nation, the Selectboard will place a wreath at the Town's Service Memorial on Saturday July 4th at 10:30am. Residents are encouraged to attend this event and to make it a part of this year's 4th of July celebration.

Steve Halleran