

How Do I Dispose of Mercury?

To the editor:

Recently, I was hoping to properly dispose of some items containing mercury at the transfer station in town.

Unfortunately, they cannot and will not accept this material, in any way shape or form.

While it is true that manufacturers are required to take back these items, I can imagine scenarios where folks would not go to the trouble. One would be required to take the initiative to box and ship these items. Sometimes tinkerers come across ampoules of mercury in the innards of old equipment, with no possibility of a return. Older cars had mercury switches under the hood to activate the lighting circuit, as they worked simultaneously as a position sensor. The list goes on...

My Dad always used to say: 'If they charged \$10 a tire for old tires, they'd show up everywhere on the side of the road for them to pick up anyway'. So I guess I'm saying that people will likely just hide them in the trash if it's too inconvenient to deal with.

Could it be possible for us to have a pick-up a couple times a year or something? With all of the other policies in place, and the overarching goal of environmental protection, this seems to be a big weak link.

For me personally, I'll hold on to the few items I have until the proper opportunity for disposal presents itself.

Even the hazardous collection in Nashua only takes latex-based products these days.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

We'd also like to remember and thank the folks at the transfer station and the DPW for all of their work. The guys we interact with are always upbeat, thoughtful, and helpful. Richard has always been a real gentleman. These folks always follow the rules, so it would be great to find a way for them to be able to help with the mercury issue!

Respectfully,
Martin and Martha Brown
Amherst

Learn To Row Program on Baboosic Lake

Join the Crew

AMHERST - Local man, Jim Kaveney, is spearheading an effort to establish a rowing club, with an eye toward Amherst's Baboosic Lake as the club's home. The initial vision is to offer a learn to row program this summer, while trying to generate interest and support within the town to grow the program into a sustainable club. While all of the details are not yet in place, the learn to row program is tentatively planned to run in the mornings from mid-July through early August.

"The immediate goal is to introduce rowing directly to the Amherst Community. Rowing is all around us in the greater North East region and Amherst would be another great town ambassador for the sport," Jim says. The ultimate goal is to have the Amherst Rowing Program to be the vehicle to build a thriving community center for competitive water sports around the beauty of Baboosic Lake. By adding a community rowing program, Amherst would join towns like Bedford, Hanover, Manchester and Hooksett that offer rowing programs for their community in some capacity, with other communities like Hollis-Brookline looking to develop a program of their own as well.

Jim has discussed plans for the rowing club with the Director of Amherst Town Recreation, Nancy McMillan. Nancy is supportive of the plan to bring rowing to the Am-

herst community and she thinks that Baboosic Lake is an ideal spot to initiate and offer a learn to row program.

Jim has also recruited the help of Tim Cotreau, a guidance counselor at Souhegan High School. Combined, the two have 30 years of experience in the sport. Jim got his start rowing at Mercyhurst University, coached novices at the collegiate level and most recently helped to build a competitive high school rowing program in Connecticut. Tim has been involved with the sport for a decade, after getting his start at the University of Massachusetts. During graduate school, Tim coached successful crews at Manchester Central High School and the University of New Hampshire. Most recently, Tim has been actively rowing with the Merrimack River Rowing Association.

"It would be great to provide an opportunity for the youth and adults of Amherst and surrounding areas to learn and compete in a life changing sport," says Tim. "Rowing is a sport that anyone can learn. It is graceful and may look easy, but the beauty of the sport requires hard work and persistence. The habits and lessons that can be taken from rowing will help in all avenues of life."

Tim, who is in his third year at Souhegan, knows several former students who have gone on to compete for their college or university in the sport. Perhaps the most notable is 2001 Souhegan graduate Francis Cuddy, who learned the



FILE PHOTO

Plans are in the works to start an Amherst Rowing Club

sport at UNH and remains a legend in that boathouse after making the US National Team and competing in the World Championships and the Pan American Games. More recently, Chandler Wallisch is in her senior year rowing at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland where she does quite well and David Brundage who rows for Bucknell.

"Rowing may be an option for students looking to remain athletic in college," Tim says, "Rowing teams keep large rosters, and there aren't many youth rowing programs for these colleges to draw from, so they are often in a place where they are teaching the sport to freshmen or recruiting athletes who competed in other sports. A student coming in with experience can make an impact on a college team."

Rowing is the ultimate team sport, where it requires everyone

to work in unison in order to move the boat forward. The same is true for building a community rowing program. Jim and Tim are dedicated to the development of the program in Amherst, but understand that it cannot be done alone. They are quite confident that a successful program will be built as many local parents have committed their time and energy already. For instance, a local attorney is donating his time to establish The Baboosic Lake Rowing Club Non-Profit Organization.

If you are interested in the learn to row program or want to get involved with an amazing community activity contact Jim and Tim at baboosiclakerowing@yahoo.com. No rowing experience necessary! Please stay tuned for updates and information about important meetings.

Amherst Recreation Commission Explains Field Availability Process

To the editor:

Recently, the Amherst Recreation Commission has received questions and concerns regarding the policy of allocating field space and its availability, specifically for this spring season. We are writing this letter in the hopes that it will dispel any misunderstanding about the process and field availability.

We are specifically concerned that at a recent public meeting it was stated "that the Recreation Director substantially cut back field allocation" this season. Additionally, we have become aware that an email was circulated among one club's correspondence that the Bean Fields were being rested. Neither statement is fact. No field space has been cut back by the Recreation Director and Bean Fields are not being rested.

The spring 2013 schedule is completed. The demand for field space as requested was fulfilled. There is no shortage of playing fields for spring sports.

The process to allocate the use of the available fields, in use for many years, is as follows:

1. January/February youth sports clubs are notified of a scheduling meeting.
2. At meeting the Recreation Department's and private club's schedules are merged.
3. Merged schedule is compared with both the Amherst Middle School and Souhegan High School athletic schedule.
4. Field space is divided out according to need. Neither the Recreation Department nor the private club's schedule receives priority. Space is allocated according to need/request of each entity.
5. Conflicts are worked out at the meeting or immediately following.
6. Where conflicts occur (typically because of school schedules) alternative space is allocated to the group who is affected by the conflict.
7. Cancellations/postponement of field space is decided by both the school and recreation department, i.e. inclement weather, wet fields, change in school athletic schedule, etc.
8. Approved schedule is made available to clubs and available on the recreation department's web site.

Both the private clubs and the recreation department received the space that they requested. A few adjustments had to be made where conflicts occurred because of either the high school or middle school schedule. A conflict typically arises when use of specific field is requested. Where conflicts occurred space was allocated to another field space.

We are anxiously awaiting the opening of all our fields and expect that our Department and the private clubs will begin their activities on safe and well maintained athletic fields.

Sincerely,
Amherst Recreation Commission
Karen Urbanik
Travis Warren
Addie Hutchison
William Dean
Patrick Daniel
Manny Almeida, Chair
Peter Maresco
Amy Facey



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