



***Town of Sheffield
Board of Health***
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Bird Feeders / Outdoor Garbage Reminder

Happy Spring, everyone!

This message is a reminder that if you have feeders out for our feathered friends, please remember to bring them indoors at night to ensure that our local critters (bears, raccoons, skunks, and others, but mainly bears!) don't feast on your bird food, damage your bird feeders, or threaten you and your pets.

Likewise, if you put garbage outside, you are effectively inviting these critters to your yard for a meal (and you'll get a mess to clean up at no extra cost). So please secure your garbage by putting it in your closed garage or shed - and don't leave your garage door or shed door open...

Black bears can pick up a smell or scent seven (7) times more effectively than a bloodhound. The area inside a black bear's nose (called the nasal mucosa) is 100 times greater than that found in humans, meaning they can smell things you and I can't, and they can do this when they are up to three miles away! As importantly, bears remember the location where they found food before (such as the site of bird seed, or of garbage), and they return to that location to search again.

Our Police Department and Animal Control Officer (ACO) get frequent calls about unwanted critters "visiting" yards and buildings, including homes. Often times these requests for assistance interfere with the other important duties that our police officers and ACO need to attend to. And **killing a bear or another critter is NOT the answer - we humans are the ones that create these problems – our critters aren't to blame.**

Sheffield currently does not have a bylaw or ordinance that requires you to take precautions with your feeders and garbage storage. Rather than pass a local law that requires you to take responsibility for your bird feeders and unsecured garbage, and then impose fines for those folks that violate the law, ***we are simply asking for your cooperation.***

Thank you as we work together to promote public (and animal!) health and safety.

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