



Town of Rye

Newsletter



Vol. 5, No. 4 A Publication of the Rye, New Hampshire, Board of Selectmen December 2002

You Could Name Rye's New Stream!

The Rye Conservation Commission is pleased to announce a townwide contest to select the name for a newly created stream in the Awcomin Marsh Restoration Project.

At this writing the 25± acre Awcomin Marsh Restoration Project is nearly 80 percent complete. More than seventy thousand cubic yards of spoil mate-

See Name Rye's New Stream, page 3

Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Report Property Tax Bills Are Out

Property Tax Bills were sent out on November 13, and are due by December 13, 2002.

This is the second issue billing for 2002. Your bill reflects the amount for the entire tax year, less the amount already paid. If you escrow your property taxes, be sure to send a copy of the bill to your mortgage

See Property Tax Bills, page 2

Rye Holiday Parade

Sunday, December 8, 1:00 p.m.

The Rye Fire Department Association, the Rye Lions Club, and the Seacoast VFW Post 168 invite you to the annual Holiday Parade. This year the theme is "A Winter Wonderland." The parade will march along Washington Road from Webster-at-Rye to Rye Junior High School.

SELECTMEN'S MESSAGE

State Education Property Tax Increase, Town Museum Are Current Concerns

General expenditures, capital items, and warrant articles for the proposed Town Budget for 2003 are receiving closer than ever scrutiny by Selectmen in the wake of announcement of the 2002 tax rate. The Town portion of that rate is but one of the four components that make up the total tax bill (Town, School/Local, School/State, County) plus water district or precinct tax, if applicable.

The Town of Rye is required to send to the State of New Hampshire \$3,178,954 for this year, which is more than a 15 percent increase in

the state education property tax over 2001. This figure represents nearly \$3.00 for every \$1000 of property value. Based on Rye's population of 5182 (2000 U.S. Census), it represents \$613 for each and every man, woman and child in our town. One year from now we are scheduled to send \$3,784,901 to the state, a 19 percent increase or \$605,947 over this year.

About 5 percent of Rye homeowners took advantage of the town's elderly property tax exemption program last year. Residents 65 and older who have lived in New Hampshire for at least five years, have single incomes lower than \$40,000 or joint incomes lower than \$59,900, and have assets worth less than \$199,000, excluding the value of their home, may qualify for a property tax exemption.

Residents 65-74 years of age who qualify can exempt \$60,000 from their assessed value. Those 75-79 can exempt \$75,000, and elders 80 or older can exempt \$90,000.

Applications are available through

RYE PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY SITE CHOSEN

With the unanimous recommendation of the Public Safety Building Committee and the endorsement of the Board of Selectmen, the Town has entered into a \$485,000 purchase-and-sale agreement with the owners of the property at 551 Washington Road, which is adjacent to the existing fire station. The final decision will be made by a vote on a warrant article in March 2003. It is expected that on a separate warrant article, also to be voted on in March, a proposal for a combined Public Safety Facility with estimated costs will be proposed.

Created by the Board of Selectmen, the Committee worked for almost two years to assess the needs of the fire and police departments, to retain an architectural firm to assist in Programming/Needs studies, to

See Public Safety Facility, page 3

See Selectmen's Message, page 2

Selectmen's Message *Continued from page 1*

the selectmen's office on the second floor of Town Hall. For more information, contact Bea Marconi at 964-5523.

On another matter, Selectmen hope that an affirmative vote on a warrant article next March will settle the ownership status of, and clarify the financial responsibility for, the Rye Town Museum by approving the sale of the building to the Rye Historical Society for \$1. The land upon which the museum sits will remain Town property. A reversionary clause in the deed will return ownership of the building to the town if the Society ceases to exist or use it as a museum.

The library expansion of 1997 had forced the Town to move or demolish this small, very "needy" cape. On rather short notice, the Historical Society accepted an offer to use the building as a town museum and the Town paid \$5000 to move the building onto a foundation provided by the Society. Since that time, the Society has expended over \$74,000 and countless volunteer hours on this project.

The Rye Historical Society has dedicated itself to preserving the history of our town and they have made that history accessible to all of us. Through memberships, donations and fund raising, the society has always paid its bills in full and on

time. An affirmative vote on this warrant article will provide the Society with pride of ownership as they officially accept responsibility for the museum building.

We'll All Miss Carol Beckwith

Carol Beckwith and her husband, Jack, worked as a team, editing and producing the *Newsletter* since its first edition in August 1998. On October 11, 2002, Carol passed away after a long, brave battle with cancer. She was only 65.

Carol will be remembered for many things, but most especially her gift of gab, her ability to find the joy in just about everything, and her dedication to public service.

Carol was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. At the service held in her memory, her son related some of their conversation when they talked together about her impending death. One of the things Carol told him was, "I'll miss the fun."

We'd like to think our friend Carol is comfortably residing in heaven, watching over her loved ones, and not missing a bit of the fun.

Mel Low, Chairman

Priscilla Jenness, Vice-chairman

Joe Mills, Selectman

Property Tax Bills

Continued from page 1

company. While our office works with several tax service companies to notify mortgage holders of the new tax amount, we cannot be sure your bank or mortgage company uses one of these services. To be certain, the best way is to notify your mortgage company yourself.

As soon as they arrive, we will be mailing the **2002 Applications for Education Property Tax Hardship Relief** forms to all those who applied last year, or who asked to be included on our list for this purpose. If you'd like to be added to this list just call us at 964-8562. The forms will also be available here at Town Hall. The application must be filed with the Department of Revenue within 60 days of the due date, which should be February 11, 2003. Again this year we will be arranging for help in completing the applications for anyone who would like it. Simply call our office to arrange for an appointment.

Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feel free to contact us with any questions or comments. Our phone number is 964-8562 and e-mail address is janei@town.rye.nh.us

Jane Ireland

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Rye Town Museum Announces Holiday Schedule and Gift Possibilities

The Rye Town Museum will expand its schedule for the holidays to include the regular hours of Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. as well as Sunday, Dec. 8 from 1:30-4:30 p.m., to coordinate with the parade, and Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 2:30-5:30 p.m. for our first week-day opening to accommodate students and others. The museum will be closed Dec. 22-Jan. 3, but can be open by appointment. (Call 964-9079)

We are beginning to create special exhibits, such as one on town graveyards, and we welcome your suggestions for other exhibit ideas. The museum affords the town a free public space to exhibit items on themes of importance to residents as well as artifacts from the past.

Holiday shopping at our museum store will yield the following interesting and original gifts.

1. six postcard scenes from historic photos
2. 8 x 10 glossy photos of 14 historic scenes suitable for framing
3. 8 x 14 quality map reproductions of Rye in 1805 and Gosport village on Star Island
4. *History of Rye* by Langdon Parsons, 1905
5. *Rye and Rye Beach* by Bill Varrell (Arcadia series)
6. *Rye and Beyond*, poetry of Jessie Herlihy, RHS founder, including 13 poems based on Rye history
7. Historic recipes from Rye
8. *The Churches of Rye, N.H.* by John Parsons, illustrated

The Rye Historical Society welcomes your interest and participation in the Town Museum and other activities of the society. (Questions: call co-chairs Bonnie Goodwin 436-5101 or Alex Herlihy 964-9079)

Public Safety Facility Site Chosen

Continued from page 1

evaluate candidate sites, to engage in conceptual design studies, and to estimate the likely costs of different alternative approaches to the facilities needs of the departments.

With the help of HKT Architects, the Committee assessed the programmatic needs of the two departments and looked at the costs and the possible savings of having two separate, distinct facilities for the two departments when compared to having one combined facility shared by the two departments. It was determined that the Town would best be served, and the capital costs as well as the operating costs would be minimized, by finding and acquiring a single site large enough to accommodate a combined "Public Safety Facility" to house both the Fire and the Police Departments.

After a rather exhaustive search, it was decided to proceed to acquire a property immediately adjacent and contiguous with the existing fire station on Washington Road. When the two parcels are combined, a parcel of approximately two acres (the target size) is created on which a combined facility of requisite size, for present and future needs of the community, could be designed and built. The central location relative to the population and geographic distribution of the town, along with the size and availability, were very strong factors in this choice.

The conceptual design and schematic design processes continue with HKT Architects. That information will be shared in meetings with all members of the Community as the design and cost estimates emerge. The Committee is also working with HKT to find a solution that will save, and possibly relocate to another site, the house presently located on the

Name Rye's New Stream *Continued from page 1*

rial, the result of Rye Harbor dredging in 1941 and 1962, has been removed. This also includes the invasive plant known as phragmites, the symbol of a dying marsh. Eighth-grade students, as a community service through Corp Explorer, have been assisting Dave Burdick, of UNH Jackson Lab, with reestablishment of native marsh grasses by planting bare root stock seedlings and plugs collected from creeks slated for vegetation removal. These planting sessions by the school have been going on during October and November and will continue in the spring. This is independent of the restoration project but has already complemented that work with more than ten acres being planted.

Plans are being made, if funds allow, for a handicapped-accessible viewing area near the road and a raised observation deck on the original island.

Incorporated into the restoration of normal tidal flow, more than a mile of new streams have been built in the marsh. One of the main streams is more than thirty-five feet wide and over eighteen hundred feet long. This new and currently unnamed stream provides you an exciting opportunity to put your stamp on history.

Consider the possibilities for a

name and provide us with your rationale. The winning entry will become a part of future maps of the Town of Rye.

CONTEST RULES:

1. Any person submitting a name must be a Rye resident (include your name and address)
2. Proposed stream name must be clearly printed
3. The proposal must be accompanied by a paragraph of 300 words or less to explain your name choice
4. Proposal must be received at Town Hall c/o The Conservation Commission (10 Central Road, Rye, NH 03870) no later than December 31, 2002

Submit your idea as an individual or make it a family undertaking. Judging* will be based on appropriateness of the name and supporting justification. Announcement of the winner will be made in the next Town of Rye Newsletter. Completion of the project and dedication is planned for September 2003.

* The judging panel is to include a Selectman, a Conservation Commission member, a member of the Rye Historical Society and a member of the eighth-grade class that has been involved with the planting of the marsh.

property to be purchased. Further, should the overall plan for a combined facility come to fruition, the land and building of the existing police station building will no longer be required for public safety needs; the townspeople could then decide whether to recycle it into some other municipal use or to dispose of it with the proceeds of the sale accruing to the benefit of the new Public Safety Facility.

Particularly because of the important location in the town center, HKT and members of the Committee are extending great effort to design a building which will have a scale, size, massing, and architectural character that is in harmony with, and which will fit in well as a good neighbor in, the town center.

Victor D. Azzi

Public Safety Building Committee

Police Check Out Speed Monitoring Trailer

Many of you may have probably noticed the "speed monitoring trailer" that has been parked on the side of the road in various sections of town. We asked the distributor if we could borrow this trailer in order to determine how well it worked and whether our community liked it. The goal is to remind people of the speed limit and how fast they are actually driving. It also lets out-of-town travelers know that we take speed enforcement seriously.

The positive response from residents has been overwhelming. This trailer costs approximately \$9000 and although I think it is very effective, I am not comfortable passing the cost on to all of the residents. We should be able to secure a grant for half the cost and I was hoping to raise the rest through private funding. If you have any ideas or would like to make a donation, please contact the Police Department.

While we are on the subject of driving, I would like to remind everyone to be extra cautious as winter approaches. It seems like it takes motorists too long to adjust their dri-



ving habits to the snow and ice. Be extra careful when pulling out of side streets and driveways since visibility is often reduced by snow piles.

If you will be traveling over the holidays or taking a vacation during

the winter, feel free to call us so that we know that your house is unoccupied. From all of us at the Rye Police Department, have a happy and safe holiday season.

Alan Gould
Chief of Police

Rye Open Space Committee Plans Article:

The Right Thing At The Right Time

After months of careful consideration and preparation, the Open Space Committee is in the process of writing a land conservation and preservation Article for the 2003 ballot. The town attorney and Selectmen are reviewing the draft before it goes to other town boards for their comments and approval, and then to you, the voters. A series of four newsletters is also in the process of being written and will be mailed to every Rye resident over the next couple of months. The newsletters will give you the information you need to make an informed decision.

The overwhelming response to questions on the town survey about

enhancing conservation and preservation efforts, coupled with the concern we share with other Seacoast communities experiencing rapid growth, leads us to believe that this Article for a *bond to protect open space is the right thing at the right time*.

A build-out analysis, conducted by the Rockingham Planning Commission, will help the Committee identify the properties most at risk for development and, of those, the most fragile in terms of their location. Properties adjacent to conservation land, watersheds, forested land, and the coastline will be prioritized. By allocating funding to purchase conservation

easements, development rights, or even properties themselves, Rye can help ensure that landowners have valuable options other than selling to a developer. The article will give voters an opportunity to save some of the open space, fields, and forests that make Rye such a special place to live *and* to reduce the tax burden that inevitably follows development.

Watch your mail for the Open Space Committee's newsletter and consider purchasing a sticker (non-permanent) for your car when they are available. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call Jim Raynes at 431-6962 or Ray Jarvis at 436-2137.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Town of Rye Deliberative Session to be Held Feb. 1

The first session of Rye's town meeting, the Deliberative Session, will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2003. (Snow date Saturday, February 8) The session begins at 9:00 a.m. and is held at the Rye Junior High School.

All of the important issues you will be asked to vote on at the Town Election on March 11 will be presented for citizen input.

This is your chance to be a participant in the process and an informed voter. We urge you to attend.

Rye Catch Basins Are for Rainwater Only

The pollution in storm drains comes from things we do every day, which means it is an everyday problem. The good news is that we can all be part of the solution. Here are eight things you can do to keep your neighborhood's catch basin and our storm drain system clean:

1. **DON'T LITTER!** Never throw waste of any kind into a catch basin or on the street. Everything winds up in the storm drain and goes straight to the river.
2. Don't over-water your lawn and garden, and be careful about using pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.
3. **Keep these things out of the catch basin:** gas, oil, and antifreeze from

Fire Department Report

Fire Prevention Week a Success

The Fire Department open house held during Fire Prevention Week was a great success with about 160 residents attending. Dave Kornechuk, our fire prevention coordinator, has done a fine job getting the fire safety message to all the children in our schools and day care facilities.

If you did not change your batteries in your smoke detectors on October 26, it's still not too late to do it now.

With winter and the holiday season just around the corner I would like to remind everyone to be very careful with live Christmas trees. Check all electrical cords, lights, and seasonal displays that have not been used since last Christmas for safety before using them this year. After the mild winter we experienced last year with very few snowstorms, we may have forgotten how the white stuff can work against us. Remember to keep your walks clear and treated to prevent injury to yourself and others.

While you're out in the winter wonderland with your shovel, take a few minutes to be sure any hydrant on your property is clear of snow. It sometimes is not possible for the water department to get to all the hydrants right after a storm, and the hydrant you adopt could save your life and property.

The wall renovation that I mentioned in the last newsletter is now complete except for some cosmetics. I

would like to thank all of the department members who volunteered their time to this project:

Brian Nickerson,
Kim Nickerson,
Jason Lajoie,
Steve Laing,
Norm Yeaton,
Dave Kornechuk,
Ron Hordon,
Jeff York, and
Jeff DiBartolomeo.

I would also like to thank Rand Lumber Company for its assistance with the proper materials and advice.

As always, the department is looking for anyone who would be interested in helping the community as a call firefighter or EMT. We have had some results from the ad in the last newsletter but our ranks are still very thin. I am currently trying to get a warrant article on the ballot to hire two additional full-time firefighters next year. This would give the department two persons on for 24 hours a day to allow better response times; this is practically a necessity with ambulance calls. If you have any questions about our staffing, operations, or any related issues, please call or come to the station. This is your Fire Department, too, and you should know how it operates.

Leon C. Blaisdell
Rye Fire Chief

cars, pesticides and fertilizers from lawns and gardens; and animal wastes.

4. Sweep your driveways and sidewalks—never use a hose.
5. Pick up after your pets.
6. Wash cars on grass or gravel surfaces.
7. Report trash dumping on our streets or roads.

8. **Remove leaves from top of catch basin.**

**Call 964-5300 to Report
Trash Dumping or
a Clogged Catch Basin**

**Keep Our Town's Catch Basins
Clean**

Everett Jordan
Director of Public Works

Activities Galore at Rye Public Library

Programs

Friends of the Library Speaker Series 2002–03. *Struggling for Peace: the Middle East Through Time.*

Thursday, February 13, 2002. 7 p.m. *Being the Sword of God: Massacre, Demolition and Suicide as Religious Acts.* Refreshments served. No charge. Open to all.

JAZZ is back and moving to Tuesday nights!

First lecture/performance on February 11, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. The featured musician to be announced.

Book Discussions

Adult: Tuesday, December 17, 7 p.m. *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

Tuesday, January 21, 7 p.m., *Daughter of Fortune* by Isabel Allende.

Tuesday, February 18, 7 p.m., *West of Kabul, East of New York: an Afghan American Story* by Tamim Ansary.

Military: First Thursday night at 6:30. Book titles chosen at the end of each meeting.

Stroudwater: Formerly meeting at Stroudwaters in Portsmouth, this group now meets at 1 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in our New Hampshire Room.

Young Adult – Yattitudes: (Middle School students and their parents)
Tuesday, December 10, 7 p.m. at Rye Public Library.
Harris and Me by Gary Paulsen.
Tuesday, January 14, 7 p.m. at Rye Junior High.
Shadow of the Bull by M. Wojciechowska.

Tuesday, February 11, 7 p.m. at Rye Public Library.
Love Among the Walnuts by Jean Ferris.

New Hampshire Humanities Council Book Discussions. *With Earth in Mind.*

Thursday, December 12, 7 p.m. *Hunting for Hope: a Father's Journey* by Scott Russell Sanders.

Computer Instruction

Digital Photography: January 8, 10, 13, 17, 22 and 24. Mornings, 10–12. Limited to 12 participants. \$75.00. Contact Joan Sweeney, 430-2172

Introduction to Computers, Part B: January 8, 10, 13, 17, 22 and 24. Afternoons, 1–3. Limited to 12 participants. \$60.00. Contact Joan Sweeney, 430-2172

Appointments are available with our qualified staff for individual instruction on the Internet.

Ongoing

Storytime every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.. (There will be a break from December 18–January 1, 2003.)

Health Clinic by COMPASS CARE on the fourth Tuesday from 1–3 p.m. No charge.

Art Exhibits:

Fiber Arts by the Fiber Art Mavens in the Meeting Room now until December 31, 2002.

Senior Open. Artist must be 65 or older. January 11 through April 11, 2003.

*** Come in out of the cold this winter ***
Coffee is available every morning we are open

'Welcome to Rye' at the Library

We are calling on all civic groups, non-profit organizations, and town offices to help us to put together an information bag for new residents of Rye. We need a one-page information sheet or brochure from each organization that would like to participate. This literature will be put into a Rye Public Library canvas book bag, which will be given to new Library patrons when they come in for a Library Card. Please help us keep Rye residents well-informed! Call 964-8401 for details.

Fiber Arts in the Meeting Room of the Library

Since January 2002 the Rye Public Library Fine Arts Committee has been bringing exceptional art and artists to our Meeting Room. Our latest exhibit, "Fiber Arts," by the Fiber Art Mavens, represents the fourth show and features 28 unique and original pieces. Many of these dazzling works are for sale with a percentage of the sale being donated to the Library to help sponsor future exhibits. Past exhibits were "Artists of Rye," "Photography from A–Z," and "Budding Artists of Rye." The Library Staff and Trustees wish to thank the Fine Arts Committee, all of whom are volunteers, for bringing these shows to our Meeting Room. Peg Johnson, Sandra Dombrowski, Nina Herlihy, Dorine Gross, and Judy Sponaugle make up this enthusiastic and talented committee. The current exhibit runs until December 31, 2002.

Rye Public Library Youth Department Celebrates National Library Card Sign-up Month

September was National Library Card Sign-up Month. Zach Rohacek and Curran Sullivan proudly hold up their new cards that open the portal to all the exciting books, tapes, magazines, and DVDs in the Rye Public Library. Many children came to sign up for a card, but if your child didn't, he/she only needs to be six years old or in first grade to get one. It is a wonderful first step in learning responsibility.

Storytimes continue until December 11. They will resume Wednesday on January 8, 10:30 in the morning.

Children's Book Week was held November 17-23 to celebrate the many excellent children's books written through the years. Our celebration included dressing up as favorite storybook characters for that week's Storytime.

Drop-in Craft was held during the week of November 18. Visitors had a chance to create their very own NUT people. NUT people make great decoration, and if you feel like talking to them, they listen really well.

Be on the lookout for a magical



yummy-looking dwelling to appear in the Youth Section in December. It will be a perfect place to curl up with a good book on a snowy evening.

The Teen Advisory Board of the Rye Public Library has opened the Café. From 3 to 4 p.m. the Young Adult Room turns into a Café, where teens can buy cold juice drinks or hot cocoa. Other snacks are available as

well. The teens run the Café themselves, and at 4 o'clock the YA room turns back into the library. It is closed when the school is closed.

With a bit of chill in the air be sure to warm up to a good book soon.

Sharon Macdonald
Director of Youth Services
Rye Public Library

Senior Transportation Coming to Rye

The need to establish a senior transportation system for Rye residents is a high priority for a couple of recently formed groups; the Selectmen's Ad Hoc Transportation and the Senior Issues Committees. Out of the Ad Hoc meetings, a pilot program between Webster-at-Rye and the Town is in the planning stages. This program will help to assess the actual need of transportation services. Webster has agreed to make its 12-passenger Chevrolet van available one day a week for eight hours (day to be determined at a later date) for a period of three months. Trips may be

taken for up to twenty miles.

As winter approaches, we hope to have this pilot program in place to assist those of you who need rides to the supermarket, pharmacy, local errands, etc. Please watch for further announcements in your local newspapers, town hall, library, and post office. Call the selectmen's office for updates and information.

Thank you to the local churches, friends, neighbors, and charitable organizations that have been assisting our seniors with transportation.

Margaret Carroll
Kimberly Reed

Fuel Assistance Programs Start

Rockingham Community Action is taking applications for their fuel assistance program now. This program assists with the heating and/or electric bills for homeowners and renters. The assistance is based on your monthly income and yearly heating cost of at least \$100. Income levels start at one person with a monthly income of \$1,347.

Please call Rockingham Community Action at 436-3896 or 1-800-639-3896.

NEWS FROM THE RYE RECYCLING CENTER

As of November 5, the Town of Rye has received \$26,807 for the recycling of paper, plastic, and metal brought to the Rye Recycling Center by our citizens and fees collected for the disposal of additional recyclable products such as batteries, wood, construction material, and electronic equipment. This represents 545 tons of material that did not go to the landfill, which would have cost our taxpayers an additional \$30,000 to bury.

The total tonnage of trash that did go to the landfill was 920 tons and cost the Town \$87,266 in tipping fees and transportation costs.

We wish to acknowledge that many of our local businesses and other organizations also process recycling material at the center:

Organization/ Business	Products Processed
Rye Elementary & Rye Junior High	cardboard, mixed paper, bottles, cans
Lang's Corner Garage Webster-at-Rye	cardboard cardboard, news- paper
Rye Congregational Church	cardboard, mixed paper, bottles, cans
St. Theresa's Parish	cardboard, mixed paper, bottles, cans
Rye Town Hall, Library, Fire & Police	office paper, card- board, bottles, cans, newspaper
Sargents Service Center & European Auto Service	metal oil filters

To date 1-1/2 tons of old computer monitors, TV's and VCR's have been received for small fees and recycled to eliminate any hazardous materials from the landfill.

The largest product processed at the Rye Recycling Center is mixed paper, which includes glossy paper, junk mail, magazines and cata-

RYE WATER DISTRICT NEWS

Washington Road Storage Tank Refurbished

One of the two Washington Road storage tanks has been completely repainted (interior and exterior). The cost to taxpayers was \$105,000. The District had received three other bids for the project, which ranged from \$155,000 to \$188,000.

Corrosion Control Update— Special Thanks

At this time we wish to thank the twenty resident volunteers who have participated in this program since 1998. The program, implemented in November 1997, monitors the amount of copper and lead received at the homeowner's tap due to corrosion of internal plumbing.

We have successfully met all state requirements for five consecutive years, something that several neighboring towns have yet to accomplish! Due to this success, we will not have to test again until 2005.

Once again—**Thank You!** Without your dedicated assistance we would be unable to accomplish our mission.

Conservation Notes—A Little Food for Thought:

A recent newspaper article made reference to an out-of-state town manager who insisted upon watering

the town's sports fields during the drought "to protect the town's investment." The author questioned whether the town manager had considered the Fire Department's ability to protect "homeowners' investments" if the wells went dry. It was also noted that some residents of the same town were having private wells drilled, solely for the purpose of watering their lawns when drought restrictions are imposed by their utility company. The author questions the ethical and/or legal issues involved with this scenario. After all, isn't their private well water ultimately coming from the same source as the town water?

A second newspaper article described America's obsession with green lawns and how this contributes to our water shortage problems by unnecessarily drawing on our aquifers. The author of the article recommends researching plants that require less watering when landscaping your yard and also points out that grass is able to survive long periods without water. The green color of the grass reappears naturally when the rains come. Many people are driven to tan their bodies in the summer sun, so why not tan the lawns as well, he suggests. It's a shame to use high-quality *drinking water* for lawn irrigation! Priorities...

logues, all paper food packaging, office paper, etc. The mixed paper total was 233 tons, which is twice the amount of recycled newspaper.

An example of why mixed paper has increased so much can be illustrated using the *Boston Sunday Globe*, weighing in at approximately 4-1/2 pounds, including 2 pounds of glossy advertising material. If 1000 families in Rye received this paper on one Sunday and used the Recycling Center, we would have

one ton of mixed paper.

Increasing the number of items that can be recycled, we have received notice that the light blue plastic containers labeled *Dasani* can now be recycled.

These are just some of the interesting facts about what is going on at the Rye Recycling Center. Thanks for recycling. It saves the taxpayers money and is good for our environment!

Everett Jordan
Director of Public Works

Town of Rye Board Meetings

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Selectmen's meetings are held in the Rye Public Library Meeting Room (handicapped accessible) at 581 Washington Road, Rye, NH. Other board meetings are held at Rye Town Hall, 10 Central Rd., Rye, NH, unless otherwise noted. Because meeting schedules are subject to change, check the bulletin board at Town Hall for up-to-date information.

**DECEMBER
2002**

1	2 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	3 7 pm, Sewer Commission 7 pm, Recreation Commission	4 7 pm, Zoning Board of Adjustment	5	6	7
8 <i>Holiday Parade 1 pm</i>	9	10 7 pm, Planning Board	11 7 pm, Historic District Commission	12 9 am, Jr. High Library, School Budget Work Session 5 pm, Library Trustees at Library 7 pm, Open Space Comm. at Library	13	14
15	16 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	17	18 5:30 pm, School Board, Rye Jr. High	19 7 pm, Conservation Commission	20	21 <i>Winter begins</i>
22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas Town offices, Library closed</i>	26 7 pm, Open Space Committee at Library	27	28
29	30 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	31 <i>New Years Eve</i>	JANUARY 2003			
			1 <i>New Years Day Town offices closed</i>	2	3	4

5	6	7 7 pm, Sewer Commission 7 pm, Recreation Commission	8 7 pm, Zoning Board of Adjustment	9 5 pm, Library Trustees at Library 7 pm, Open Space Committee at Library	10	11
12	13 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	14 7 pm, Planning Board 7 pm, BudCom review Petitioned Articles	15 5:30 pm, School Board, Rye Jr. High	16 7 pm, Conservation Commission	17	18 9 am, Public Hearing Town & School Budgets, Rye Jr. High
19	20 <i>MLK Civil Rights Day Town offices closed</i>	21 7 pm, Snow date, Public Hearing, Town & School Budgets, Rye Jr. High	22	23 7 pm, Open Space Committee at Library	24	25
26	27 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2003

2	3	4 7 pm, Sewer Commission 7 pm, Recreation Commission	5 7 pm, Zoning Board of Adjustment	6	7	8 Snow date for DELIBERATIVE SESSION
9	10 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	11 7 pm, Planning Board	12	13 5 pm, Library Trustees at Library 7 pm, Work Session Public Hearing, Rye Beach, Jenness Beach, Rye Water District 7 pm, Open Space Committee at Library	14	15
16	17 <i>Presidents' Day Town offices closed</i>	18	19 5:30 pm, School Board, Rye Jr. High	20 7 pm, Conservation Commission	21	22
23	24 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	25	26	27 7 pm, Open Space Committee at Library	28	

Additional Civic Meetings: Rye Lions Club, first Wednesday every month, 7 pm at the Rye Library; Friends of the Library, first Tuesday every month, 7 pm at the Library

Abatement Appeal Process for Assessment Begins

The receipt of your fall bill begins the appeal period. Applications for abatement are available in the Assessor's Office (second floor, Town Hall). The deadline for their return is **March 1, 2003**. The Town then has until July 1 to respond. If you do not hear from us by July 1 *or* if you are unhappy with the Selectmen's decision, you have until September 1, 2003 to file further with either the State Board of Tax and Land Appeals or Superior Court. (Local appeal must be made in order to file with the state or court.)

If you have any questions or if you want to review your assessment record card, contact Bea Marconi at 964-5523.

WANT TO SAVE 35% OR MORE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

The Statewide Electric Assistance Program (EAP) provides qualifying *PSNH* customers with a discount on their *monthly electric bills*. The discount is based on the household gross income and the type of space heating used in the home.

Renters and homeowners who receive an electric bill from PSNH may apply for the Statewide EAP. Eligibility is determined by total household income and the number of household members. For example, one person with a annual gross income of \$13,290 would be eligible.

Rockingham Community Action is taking the applications for this program. Call 436-3896 or 1-800-639-3896.

Fliers for BOTH programs are available in the Selectmen's office.

**Don't Miss
Rye's Holiday Parade**
Sunday, December 8, 1 p.m.

TOWN TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Fire/Police Emergency: 911

Assessing Office: 964-5523, Ext 13

Building Inspector: 964-9800, Ext 20

Finance Office: 964-5523, Ext 12

Fire Dept.: 964-6411 (non-emergency)

Highway/Recycling: 964-5300

Library: 964-8401

Planning/Zoning: 964-9800, Ext 21

Police Dept.: 964-7450 (non-emergency)

Selectmen: 964-5523, Ext 10

Sewer Commission: 964-6815

Town Administrator: 964-5523, Ext 11

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: 964-8462

Water District: 436-2596

Town of Rye
Rye, NH 03870

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