



Town of Rye

Newsletter



Vol. 6, No. 1 A Publication of the Rye, New Hampshire, Board of Selectmen

March 2003

Be Sure to Vote on Tuesday, March 11

TOWN REPORTS AVAILABLE TUESDAY, MARCH 4

The Annual Report of the Town of Rye for the Year 2002 will be available for pick-up on Tuesday, March 4, at the following locations: Town Hall, Police and Fire Stations, Rye Public Library, Antiques at Rye Center, and the Hungry Horse. If you are unable to pick up your copy at one of these locations, please call the Selectmen's Office at 964-5523 to request that one be mailed to you.

Town Administrator's Message

I have been involved in government and politics for a long time and have seen and worked with employees in a number of other communities as well as with those in state government, and I can honestly say that Rye has the finest group of Town employees I have ever seen or had the pleasure of working with. Their work ethic is the best. They are all team players. I want them to know they are much appreciated and I want the public to know how lucky we are in Rye to have such dedicated employees.

The Rye Selectmen are also team players and have worked well with one another and with the Town employees. A while ago, all Department Heads participated in

See Town Administrator's Message, page 9

SELECTMEN'S MESSAGE

Winter, Revenue, and Town Needs Occupy Our Thoughts

WHILE NO NEW EMPLOYEE POSITIONS were created during 2002, our office has been advised by the DRA (Department of Revenue Administration) that additional assistance in the Assessor's Office will be necessary in order to avoid a complete revaluation at

Mel Low's Service to Rye Recognized

At the close of voting on March 11, Mel Low will no longer be a member of the Rye Board of Selectmen. Many within the town are familiar with his passion for the environment, his dedication to seeking amicable solutions to thorny problems, his sincerity in serving the needs of the citizens of our town, and his optimistic outlook on life.

Few know the less visible side of Mel's contribution as he transports Town Hall recyclables to the Recycling Center, attends numerous meetings on behalf of the Town's interests, and goes out to meet with individuals unable to come to us.

Fellow Board Members Joe Mills and Priscilla Jenness wish to recognize Mel Low's six years of dedication and service to the community. Mel loved the work of this office and willingly embraced its responsibilities. Although Mel will still be involved in the town, he will be greatly missed in the Selectman's Office.

the time of our review under the new State Standards Board. Our Town Administrator has been researching the possibility of a shared position with North Hampton since they find themselves in a comparable situation. You will find an in-depth article regarding this elsewhere in this newsletter from Howard Promer, our Town Assessor.

The last few months have brought us back to reality in regard to famed New England winters, starting early and ending late. At this writing, snowfall in excess of 43" has brought to light and emphasized a town-wide problem because items such as rocks, loam and grass, planters, fences, mailboxes, and even iron pipes have crept into the Town right-of-way. Other problems facing snowplows include cars that have been parked too close to the roadway for faster exit, mailboxes not shoveled out and exposed for a clear approach view, and older wooden fences that have become frail.

February 6 was the 25th anniversary of the Blizzard of '78. "Winging back" or widening after the initial

See Selectmen's Message, page 9

OFFICIAL BALLOT
Town of Rye
March 11, 2003

FOR SELECTMAN

for three years Vote for one
JOHN W. MOYNAHAN
ROBERT C. WILDER

FOR TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

for three years Vote for one
JANE E. IRELAND

FOR TREASURER

for three years Vote for one
BARBARA J. FLYNN

FOR TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

for three years Vote for one
PRISCILLA J. PATRICK

FOR SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

for one year Vote for one
JANE HOLWAY

FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

for three years Vote for one
DAVID S. BROWN

FOR PLANNING BOARD

for three years Vote for two
ROBERT BROWN
BOB HABLUTZEL
WILLIAM W. ZECHEL

FOR PLANNING BOARD

for two years Vote for one
MELVIN R. LOW

FOR BUDGET COMMITTEE

for three years Vote for two
DOUG ABRAMS
DIANE TOD SOUTH
WILLIAM W. ZECHEL

FOR CEMETERY TRUSTEE

for three years Vote for one
JOHN W. PATRICK

FOR SEWER COMMISSIONER

for three years Vote for one
BILL LADRIE

ARTICLE 3

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT QUESTIONS

Proposed by the Rye Planning Board

Amendment 1: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 1, as follows:

Amend Section 700 Establishment of Board of Adjustment to eliminate the provision which prohibits a member of the planning board from being a member of the board of adjustment, by amending the following sentence as indicated below: (Note: language to be deleted is struck through).

No person holding at the same time the office of Selectmen or a member of the Planning Board shall serve on this Board.

☐ YES ☐ NO

Amendment 2: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2, as follows:

Amend Section 203.2 Uses Permitted By Special Exception [in the Single Residence District] by adding the following:

K. Business Use of Residence. A

property owner may use a residential property for a business use (other than a permitted home occupation) by special exception, provided that the following requirements are met, in addition to the requirements of Section 701.3.

1) The use is subordinate to a single family detached dwelling.

2) The proprietor of the business is the owner-occupant of the property.

3) Not more than three persons, in addition to the proprietor, shall be employed in the business. Not more than one of the three allowed employees may be employed on the premises.

4) The business use shall not occupy an area greater than one-third of the floor area of the interior of the residence. Some or all of the business activity may be located in an accessory building to the residence, such as a garage or barn, but, if so, the total area occupied by the business (i.e. within the residence and/or within the accessory building) shall not be greater than one-third of the floor area of the interior of the residence.

5) There shall be no more than two (2) commercial vehicles kept at the premises. Heavy construction equipment, such as backhoes, bulldozers and dump trucks are not allowed. Only two axle business vehicles are allowed.

6) All parking associated with the business use shall be off-street, including any employee parking. Such parking shall not be located within 50 feet of the street line and shall be screened from adjacent properties.

7) The following business uses are prohibited: retail sales; kennels; automobile or small engine repair or maintenance, welding and any other uses which involve the storage on the property of motor vehicles or the parts thereof; uses which involve the storage of hazardous materials or substances.

8) Businesses which generate more than 12 trips per day (including employee trips) based upon the most recent trip generation data published by the Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE) are prohibited.

9) Signage, as permitted for a home occupation by Section 203.1 C(2)(d) is allowed.

10) The business use shall not detract from the residential character of the property; of the neighborhood; or of abutting properties. It shall not adversely affect the use and peaceful enjoyment of abutting residential properties.

11) The business use shall not:

a. Generate levels of noise, vibration, glare, smoke, dust, fumes, odors, or heat that are not customary in a typical residential neighborhood of Rye.

b. Generate nonresidential truck deliveries more than once a day.

c. Utilize the exterior spaces of residential structures or yard spaces for storage, display or other activities associated with the business in a manner that is not customary for a typical residential use.

☐ YES ☐ NO

Amendment 3: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 3, as follows:

Amend Section 503 Condominium Conversions by adding the following requirement to Section 503.3 Criteria for

Article 3 is discussed by the Planning Board on page 7, immediately following the ballot in this newsletter.

The Selectmen have prepared a breakdown of the effect on the tax rate each article would present. See the table on page 19 (inside back cover).

A REMINDER

If you study the ballot at home and fill in the checklist on the back page of this issue, you'll save yourself lots of time in the voting booth on Tuesday! But don't forget to take your checklist with you. (And don't leave it in the voting booth!)
If you have any questions, please call the Selectmen's Office, 964-5523.

The Town of Rye Newsletter is produced by Beckwith Bookworks
2075 Ocean Blvd., Rye, NH 03870
(603) 964-4800

Special Exceptions:

G. For condominium conversions involving detached dwellings, if the amount of land designated as common area is less than 1/3 of the area of the parcel, each limited common area assigned to a detached dwelling shall meet the minimum lot area and frontage requirements of this ordinance.

☐ YES ☐ NO

**ARTICLE 4
PETITION ZONING ORDINANCE
AMENDMENT QUESTION**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 4, as follows:

On Petition of Kenneth Crowell Issacson, Sr. and 24 or more other registered voters of the Town of Rye to see if the Town will vote to amend the Rye Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map, as follows:

Changing from the Commercial District to the Single Residence District that portion of Tax Map 10 Lot 15 lying easterly of the line 500 feet to the east of Lafayette Road.

(Note. Tax Map 10, Lot 15 is the former Ciborowski Airport, which is now the site of Rye Airfield Skateboard Park. A map showing the proposed rezoning is posted outside the Building Inspector's Office at the Rye Town Hall. The map will be posted at the polls.)

**THE PLANNING BOARD
DISAPPROVES OF THIS PETI-
TIONED AMENDMENT.**

☐ YES ☐ NO

**ARTICLE 5
PETITION ZONING ORDINANCE
AMENDMENT QUESTION**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 5, as follows:

On Petition of Kenneth Crowell Issacson, Sr. and 24 or more other registered voters of the Town of Rye to see if the Town will vote to amend the Rye Zoning Ordinance, as follows:

Add a new Article XI entitled "PERFORMANCE STANDARDS."

(Note: The "PERFORMANCE STANDARDS" are 10 pages long and are posted outside the Building Inspector's Office at the Rye Town Hall. They will be posted at the polls. The standards are for Drainage; Landscaping; Screening; Noise; Fire and Explosion; Odor; Gases; Dust and Smoke; Heat and Glare; Exterior Lights; Vibration; Radiation; Waste Disposal and Toxic Matter; Electromagnetic Interference.)

**THE PLANNING BOARD
DISAPPROVES OF THIS PETITIONED
AMENDMENT.**

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 6

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 6, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to be placed in the Conservation Land Acquisition Fund for the acquisition of conservation easements or open space lands by the Town, all for the permanent protection of appropriate undeveloped land in the Town of Rye, and to authorize the Conservation

Art. 6: A Yes vote would provide the selectmen with "a line of credit" to borrow up to \$5 million over time to acquire land or conservation easements to preserve Rye's open space. All transactions would be subject to hearings and voter approval.

Commission and Selectmen to act on behalf of the Town in connection with such acquisition of conservation easements or open space lands (subject to the hearings and procedural requirements of NH RSA Chapter 36-A) and to further authorize the issuance of not more than five million dollars (\$5,000,000) of bonds and/or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA Chapter 33 as amended), and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds and/or notes and to determine the rates of interest thereon? (3/5 ballot vote required.)

**THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY
THE SELECTMEN**

**THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY
THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 7

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 7, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three million three hundred thousand dollars (\$3,300,000) for the purpose of constructing and equipping a new Fire and Police Station and authorize the issuance of not more than one million six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,650,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (N.H. RSA Chapter 33 as amended) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes, to determine the rate of interest thereof and to take such actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Rye, and further, to apply for and accept Federal and State Grants and private donations in the amount of one million six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,650,000) towards this purpose bringing the total to \$3,300,000. (3/5 ballot vote required.)

**THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY
THE SELECTMEN**

**THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY
THE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 8

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 8, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred eighty-five thousand dollars (\$485,000) for the purpose of purchasing land at 551 Washington Road for the construction of a new Fire and Police Station and to authorize the issuance of not more than four hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$420,000) of bonds and or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (N.H. RSA Chapter 33 as amended) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds and or notes, to determine the rate of interest thereof and to take such actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds and or notes, as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Rye, and further to withdraw sixty-five

A No vote would mean the Town might not have enough money to purchase land for conservation when it becomes available and would need to wait for a special town meeting or the next regular town meeting.

Art. 7: A Yes vote would allow the selectmen to raise \$3.3 million, half in bonds and half in grants and private donations, to construct and equip a new fire/police station.

A No vote would mean no action on the public safety building could be taken until there was another regular or special Town Meeting.

Art. 8: A Yes vote would allow the town to complete the purchase and sale agreement on the property next to the current fire station for construction of the new public safety facility.

A No vote would mean the selectmen could not follow through with the purchase-and-sale agreement and the town would lose its \$2000 deposit.

thousand dollars (\$65,000) from the Land Purchase Capital Reserve established for this purpose, bringing the total to \$485,000. (3/5 ballot vote required.)

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 9

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 9, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) to be added to the non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI, established by Article 11 of the 2002 Rye Town Meeting to hire an architect/engineer to design a new fire station. This is a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until the building is complete or December 31, 2005, whichever is less. If approved, this article only takes effect if Article 8 passes. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 10

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 10, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) pursuant to RSA 36-A:5 to be added to the Conservation Land Acquisition Fund. This fund is used to acquire land for the proper utilization of and protection of natural resources. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. If approved, this article will only take effect if Article 6 is not approved. (Majority vote required.)

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 11

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 11, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) to be added to the capital reserve fund established pursuant to the provisions of RSA 35:1 by Article 17 of the 2002 Rye Town Meeting for the purpose of upgrading, replacing or repairing the Town of Rye's computer hardware, associated equipment and computer software and related support. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

THIS ARTICLE IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 12

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 12, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and

Art. 9: A Yes vote would allow an architect/engineer to design the new fire/police facility, assuming Article 8 passes.

A No vote would mean there would not be adequate funds available to complete the design of the new facility.

Art. 10: A Yes vote would mean, if Article 6 fails, that an additional \$50,000 would be appropriated to acquire conservation land.

A No vote would limit the amount of money available to acquire such land.

Art. 11: A Yes vote would add \$2,500 to the Capital Reserve Fund for upgrading, replacing, or repairing the town's computer equipment.

A No vote would add no money this year.

appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Town Employees Accumulated Leave Fund established pursuant to RSA 31:19-a by Article 14 of the 1990 Rye Town Meeting. The Town Employees Accumulated Leave Fund pays severance benefits to Town Employees in accordance with the Town's Personnel Policy. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)

ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 13

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 13, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to add two (2) full time fire fighters in the Rye Fire Department and to raise and appropriate fifty-five thousand four hundred twenty-seven dollars (\$55,427) to fund the positions for the last seven months of calendar year 2003. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 14

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 14, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be added to the non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI established by Article 8 at the 1997 Rye Town Meeting for the purpose of engineering, designing and installing an overall drainage plan for the Town of Rye, updating the current drainage system. This is a non-lapsing appropriation that will not lapse until the project is complete or in five years (December 31, 2008), whichever occurs first. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 15

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 15, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand seven hundred ten dollars (\$40,710) for the purpose of purchasing a new One ton (3500 lb.) Pick-up Truck with Plow for the Department of Public Works to replace the 1993 103 Chevrolet Truck. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

☐ YES ☐ NO

Art. 12: A Yes vote would appropriate \$50,000 to adequately fund the Employee Leave Account in accordance with the Town's personnel policies.

A No vote could result in large budget shortfalls if a number of employees retire.

Art. 13: A Yes vote would appropriate \$55,427 to fund the hiring of two full-time fire fighters for the last seven months of 2003.

A No vote would result in no additional fire fighters being hired.

Art. 14: A Yes vote would appropriate \$75,000 to continue drainage improvement throughout the Town of Rye.

A No vote would delay the drainage improvement plan.

Art. 15: A Yes vote would allow the purchase of a new pick-up truck with plow for Public Works to replace a 1993 truck.

A No vote would not allow the purchase.

ARTICLE 16

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 16, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Recreation Building Capital Reserve Fund established pursuant to RSA 35:1 by Article 9 of the 1996 Rye Town Meeting. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

THIS ARTICLE IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 17

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 17, as follows:

Petitioned Warrant Article to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) to design and construct tennis courts on one acre of land in the approximately five-acre portion of the Town Recreation Area located north and west of the current soccer fields. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)

THIS ARTICLE IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

THIS ARTICLE IS NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 18

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 18, as follows:

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling five million six hundred forty two thousand five hundred twenty (\$5,642,520). Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be five million one hundred thirty six thousand six hundred sixty eight dollars (\$5,136,668) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required.)

NOTE: This warrant article does not include appropriations in ANY other warrant article.

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 19

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 19, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to sell the building at 10 Olde Parish Road, Rye, NH, otherwise known as the Town Historic Museum, to the Rye Historical Society for the amount of one dollar (\$1.00), so long as the building is used as a Town Museum by the Rye Historical Society. The building was moved to its present site at Olde Parish Road pursuant to a Town vote on Article 4 of the October 14,

Art. 16: A Yes vote would add \$10,000 to the Recreation Building Capital Reserve Fund.

A No vote would add no money this year.

Art. 17: A Yes vote would appropriate \$160,000 to build tennis courts in the Town Recreation Area.

A No vote would not appropriate the funds.

Art. 18: A Yes vote would appropriate \$5,642,520 to adequately fund the Town's operating budget.

A No vote would not fund the 2003 Operating Budget as proposed by the Selectmen and Budget Committee, but rather, would result in the adoption of a default budget of \$5,136,668.

Art. 19: A Yes vote would complete the process of turning over the Town Historic Museum to the Rye Historical Society, which has rehabilitated the building.

A No vote would prohibit the completion of the process.

1997 Special Town Meeting, and its intent was to allow the Rye Historical Society to rehabilitate the building and keep it for a museum to preserve various Town artifacts and historical items.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 20

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 20, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to RSA 261:153(VI), to collect a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) in addition to motor vehicle registration fees, for the purpose of supporting a municipal and transportation improvement fund, which shall be a capital reserve fund established for this purpose and governed by the provisions of RSA 35. The amount collected shall be deposited into the municipal transportation improvement fund established to allow the Town of Rye to fund, wholly or in part, improvements in the local or regional transportation system including roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking and intermodal facilities and public transportation. The funds may be used for engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction costs of transportation facilities, and for operating and capital costs of public transportation only. The funds may be used as matching funds for state or federal funds allocated for local or regional transportation improvements. Such funds shall be appropriated by the legislative body of the Town of Rye for the purposes stated in this warrant article only, and shall not be used to offset any other non-transportation appropriations made by the Town of Rye. The additional fee shall be collected from all land-based motor vehicles, both passenger and commercial, with the exception of all terrain vehicles as defined in RSA 215-A:1, I-b and antique motor vehicles or motorcycles, as defined in RSA 259:4. (Majority vote required.)

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 21

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 21, as follows:

To see if the Town, having a Master Plan adopted by the Planning Board on April 14, 1998 and amended on October 13, 1998, will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a Capital Improvement Program Committee, which shall include at least one member of the Planning Board and may include but not be limited to other members of the Planning Board, members of the Board of Selectmen, members of the Budget Committee, members of the School Board and other town residents, to prepare and amend a recommended program of municipal capital improvement projects projected over a period of at least six years in accordance with RSA 674:5?

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

☐ YES ☐ NO

Art. 20: A Yes vote would allow the Town to collect a fee of \$5 in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee, to create a capital reserve fund for transportation improvement purposes. Such uses are limited by RSA and any expenditures require approval of the voters at Town Meeting.

A No vote would not create the fund.

Art. 21: A Yes vote would establish a Capital Improvement Program Committee to recommend a program of Capital Improvement projects over a six-year period.

A No vote would not create the committee.

ARTICLE 22

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 22, as follows:

Shall we adopt the August 1 prior to the setting of the tax rate as the date for filing for an elderly exemption from the property tax? Majority vote required.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 23

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 23, as follows:

Shall we modify the Elderly Exemptions from property tax in the Town of Rye, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 74 years of age, \$75,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 79 years of age, \$90,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$105,000? To qualify a person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five years, own the real estate individually or jointly or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$40,000, or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$59,900 and own assets not in excess of \$199,000, excluding the value of the person's residence. Majority vote required.

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 24

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 24, a Noise Ordinance, as follows:

1. Between the hours of 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM, it shall be unlawful for any person owning, leasing, operating or controlling the source of sound to make, allow or continue any sound which would: (a) endanger or injure the health of humans; or (b) annoy, disturb, injure or endanger the peace, comfort or repose of a reasonable person of normal sensitivities by the operation of any radio, phonograph or other mechanical sound device or instrument or in the playing of any band, orchestra, musician or group of musicians or in the use of any device to amplify the aforesaid, or the making of loud outcries, exclamations, other loud or boisterous noises, or loud and boisterous singing by any person or group of persons or in the use of any device to amplify the aforesaid noise where the noise is clearly audible at the property line of the property from which the noise is generated. Any person violating this section shall be punished by a civil penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for a first offense, two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for a second offense, three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for a third offense and five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each subsequent offense within a 24 month period. Each such act which constitutes a violation of this section, which either continues or is repeated more than thirty (30) minutes after the issuance of a warning to cease said activities, shall be considered a separate offense and shall be prosecuted as a separate offense.

2. Notice to Owner of Rental Property
If the violation occurs on the premises

Art. 22: A Yes vote would move the elderly exemption filing date to a time more favorable for both residents and town budget projections.

A No vote would not move the date, which is currently March 1.

Art. 23: A Yes vote would increase the elderly property tax exemptions.

A No vote would hold exemptions at their present levels.

Art. 24: A Yes vote would adopt an ordinance to restrict noise in the community.

A No vote would mean the Noise Ordinance would not be adopted.

of rental property, the owner and/or his agent of said property must be notified in writing by certified mail that a violation of Section 1 has occurred on said rental property, and that a complaint for violation of said section may be taken against him if said property owner and/or his agent fail(s) to mitigate the activities of the person or persons who have rented said property.

3. Other Prohibited Noises

A. Loading and unloading. It shall be unlawful to load, unload, open, close, or otherwise handle boxes, crates, containers, building materials, trash cans, dumpsters or similar objects between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM so as to project sound across a real property line, except as exempted under Section 4, below.

B. Power tools. It shall be unlawful to cause a noise disturbance across a real property line by operating any mechanically powered saw, sander, grinder, drill, pneumatic nail or staple drivers, lawnmower or garden tool or similar device used outdoors, with the exception of snow blowers, before 7:00 AM Monday through Sunday.

C. Radios, television sets, musical instruments and similar devices. It shall be unlawful to operate, play or permit the operation or playing of any radio, television, phonograph, drum, musical instrument, sound amplifier or similar device which produces, reproduces or amplifies sound between the hours of 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM in such a manner as to create a noise disturbance across a real property boundary.

D. For the purposes of Subsections B and C, above, a "noise disturbance" is sound which annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the reasonable quiet, comfort or repose of a reasonable person of normal sensitivities or the health or safety of others.

4. Exemptions.

The following uses and activities shall be exempt from this ordinance.

1) Noises of safety signals, warning devices and emergency pressure relief valves, when used for such purposes.

2) Noises resulting from any authorized vehicle when responding to an emergency call or acting in time of emergency.

3) Noises resulting from emergency and maintenance work as performed by the town, by the state or by public utility companies.

4) Noises resulting from activities of a temporary duration permitted by law and for which a license or permit therefore has been granted by the town.

5) Parades and public gatherings for which the Selectmen have issued a permit.

6) Any event licensed or issued a permit by the Board of Selectmen.

THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 25

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 25, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to send the following resolution to the New Hampshire General Court: Resolved, in

Art. 25: A Yes vote would encourage the State to continue funding the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program.

its first two years of operation, the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) has helped communities throughout New Hampshire preserve their natural, cultural and historic resources and, therefore, the State of New Hampshire should maintain funding for LCHIP in its next biennial budget.

**THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY
THE SELECTMEN**

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 26

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 26, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to approve the following amendment to the Town of Rye Parking Ordinance, Section 6, enacted by the Selectmen at their meeting June 17, 2002: No person shall park a vehicle on the traveled portion of any highway or in a manner which is likely to impede free passage on any highway unless the vehicle is disabled and when told to do so by a police officer.

**THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY
THE SELECTMEN**

☐ YES ☐ NO

A No vote would result in no resolution being sent to the State.

Art. 26: A Yes vote would adopt a stricter law covering parking on highways.

A No vote would not change the existing law

ARTICLE 27

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 27, as follows:

On petition of at least twenty-nine registered voters of the Town of Rye, to have the polling hours for all regular state, federal and town elections be from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY
THE SELECTMEN**

☐ YES ☐ NO

ARTICLE 28

Are you in favor of the adoption of Article 28, as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell to the highest bidder at public auction, or sealed bid, such surplus Town equipment as is not traded in on new equipment in 2003.

**THIS ARTICLE IS RECOMMENDED BY
THE SELECTMEN**

☐ YES ☐ NO

Art. 27: The hours in this article were changed in the Deliberative Session so that additional costs would not occur. Either a Yes vote or No vote would result in the existing hours being upheld.

Art. 28: A Yes vote would allow the Selectmen to return funds to the town by selling surplus equipment.

A No vote would mean the town couldn't dispose of surplus equipment.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT

It's a great time to be living in Rye.

The Seacoast has not been severely impacted by the dot-com stock slide. The ground water is being replenished. Best of all, negotiations among citizens, developers, and the Planning Board have protected the prized semi-rural environment of our town. Also, the Planning Board and the Selectmen are jointly going to sponsor a new Capital Improvements Program.

This is the time of year when we look to the March elections. You will find the names of the candidates for the Planning Board on page 2 in this newsletter. These are extremely important positions. There are three Planning Board sponsored zoning articles on the warrant this year. There are also two zoning articles on the warrant by public petition. The Planning Board has, in the sidebar, commented on each of the articles, as is our custom.

Additionally, we have included the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) article (Article 21). Most of the town is unfamiliar with the CIP because it has not been updated since 1989. The CIP is a long-range planning program to deal with those items that cost over \$10,000 and last several years. This committee will be able to advise the Selectmen, the Budget Committee,

See PlanningBoard, page 8

PLANNING BOARD PROPOSED ZONING CHANGES

These amendments are in ARTICLE 3.

Amendment 1: Section 700. To allow a Planning Board member to be a member of the Board of Adjustment. Many applicants need to appear before both boards. This amendment would allow one person to be on both boards to provide continuity. The change brings the Rye zoning ordinance into synchronization with the NH statute on board membership. Both the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment feel that this is a good change.

Amendment 2: Section 203.2. Business Use of a Residence [in the Single Residence District]. A new section is proposed to make the limitations on new home-based businesses more specific. This section

See Zoning Changes, page 8

Planning Board *Continued from page 7*

and the taxpayers about big purchases planned so as to minimize swings in the tax bill from year to year. We hope that these comments will help you to understand the wording in the warrant articles. If you would like more information, talk to any of the Planning Board members or call the office at 964-9800.

The Building, Planning, and Zoning Department has been reorganized for 2003. The department has been realigned to provide better response for applicants to the Building Department, the Planning Board, and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. In this realignment, Susan Zarlengo, the Building Inspector, has taken on the added responsibility of the overall management of Planning and Zoning.

This new reorganized department is pleased to announce that John Elsdon, AICP, has become the new Planning and Zoning Administrator as of February 3. John has previous experience with long-range planning, preparing master plans, grant writing, and working with planning boards. John will be responsible for administering all planning board functions and introducing new planning strategies to support the town's needs.

John received his bachelor's degree from Salem State College in Salem, Massachusetts in 1975. He was later awarded a masters degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. He has worked in urban and regional planning for the cities of Galveston, Texas, Yakima and Naches, Washington, and was most recently on the staff of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Maps and full text of the petitioned articles are available outside of the Planning and Zoning Office at Rye Town Hall. They will also be available at the polling place on the day of the election.

Zoning Changes *Continued from page 7*

was last amended in 2001. Since then, we have discovered that too much was left to interpretation. This addition will help Rye people to be "good neighbors" by defining more closely what business activities are acceptable in a residential district. The amendment provides guidance to both the business owners and their neighbors. It does not affect existing home businesses.

Amendment 3 - Section 503.3 Criteria for Special Exceptions for Condominium Conversions. The condominium form of ownership implies by its name that the owners share elements of a property in common and work together on their maintenance and use. The amendment is to assure that this common ownership of some element(s) is part of any new condominium conversion in Rye.

ZONING CHANGES PROPOSED BY CITIZEN PETITION

ARTICLE 4. This amendment to the Rye Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map changes the portion of the Rye Airfield Skateboard Park lying east of a line 500 feet from Lafayette Road from the Commercial District to the Single Residence District. The land was formerly the Ciborowski Airport.

The Planning Board Disapproves of this
Petitioned Amendment.

ARTICLE 5. This petitioned amendment would add a list of standards to the zoning ordinance for such things as Drainage; Landscaping; Screening; Noise; Fire and Explosion; Odor; Gases; Dust and Smoke; Heat and Glare; Exterior Lights; Vibration; Radiation; Waste Disposal and Toxic Matter; and Electromagnetic Interference. These standards would be a separate article in the zoning. Many would be replacing regulations already in the zoning ordinance or in town ordinances.

The Planning Board Disapproves of this
Petitioned Amendment.

PLANNING BOARD RELATED ARTICLE

Article 21. Authorizes the Selectmen to appoint a committee of Planning Board members and others to recommend a Program of Capital Improvement projects.

Selectmen's Message *Continued from page 1*

plowing is preparation for the possibility that it could happen again. If there is insufficient space for additional snow, the result can be one-lane roads or even road closure.

When spring finally comes and this snow is but a memory, please recall that through it all fire, police, and ambulances were always able to reach your home.

We were aware during budget preparation that the State Education Property Tax will be up \$600,000 this year over last. We have scrutinized expenses and sought assistance from department heads to explore cost savings and possible sources of revenue. User-based fees are among the latter, resulting in a Selectmen's Warrant article that has the potential of generating \$35,000 by adding a five-dollar fee to each motor vehicle registration. Last year 7,000 vehicles were registered in Rye. Uses of funds raised in this manner are limited by the RSA and include such items as sidewalks and bicycle paths. Any expenditure of these funds requires a town vote.

We will also try a budget reduction suggestion that will affect the Town beaches. We have voted to discontinue trash containers at our beaches, institute a Carry-In/Carry-Out policy, and enforce fines for littering. This will save at least \$5,000. The State of NH stopped trash collection at their beaches three years ago. We

are aware that household trash has also been deposited in beach containers in the past. If you own rental property, please educate your renters regarding proper disposal.

As our voting day, Tuesday, March 11 approaches, please study the issues carefully, consider the options and ramifications of each, and set your priorities. Studies have shown that taxes raised as a result of development **never** cover the cost of added schools, services, and infrastructure. We support the line-of-credit concept that will be established by passage of conservation easement/open space Article 6.

Also, new quarters for Fire and Police are needed. It's that simple. How we acquire them is up to you, but it should be clear to all that we are best served when emergency assistance is issued from a central location. Thirteen locations within a one-mile radius of the center of Rye were identified and researched. Some were unsuitable due to topography, some proved to be too small, and others were "bought out from under us." In the case of Article 8, we have a willing seller, suitable land adjacent to the existing station, a central location and, chances are, **an opportunity that will not come again.**

Mel Low, Chairman

Priscilla Jenness, Vice-chairman

Joe Mills, Selectman

Town Administrator's Message

Continued from page 1

Team Building Exercises. What was particularly unusual was that the Selectmen were willing to participate in these exercises. I'm told that usually doesn't happen in most towns. It has made for a well-functioning town, run very efficiently and in a way that keeps the public needs uppermost in all our minds.

We are losing one of our Selectmen, Mel Low, who has chosen not to run for reelection. I can safely say that no one has been more dedicated to the needs of this Town than Mel. He has been a delight to work for and I will miss him very much.

Once again the Deliberative Session was quite well attended, and while lengthy, the folks in attendance disposed of the Town's business in a fair and open manner. Now it's up to the voters on Election Day to make the final decisions. The Department Heads, the Selectmen, and the Budget Committee worked very hard on the 2003 budget.

Finally, I want to say what a pleasure it has been for me to work for you as your Town Administrator these last two-and-a-half years. I have just signed a new contract to continue working for you and the Town of Rye and am looking forward to working with Rye's Town Employees for years to come.

Earl A. Rinker, III

Town Administrator

Rye Open Space Bond Issue—Article 6 Explained

Rye, like other Seacoast communities, is in jeopardy. Development is threatening the quality of life we have come to enjoy, endangering our water sources, and impacting the rate of future tax increases. What can we do?

Article 6 on the March 11 Warrant offers voters an opportunity to preserve and conserve what they value most about Rye—open space, clean water, accessible beaches and forests, and our historic semi-rural character.

The Rye Open Space Bond Issue will:

- **Establish a line of credit** so that development rights, conservation easements, and, in some instances, properties themselves can be purchased by the Conservation Commission and Selectmen to protect fragile resources.
- **Encourage smart growth.**

- **Curb the rate of tax increases** that follow development.
- **Provide options for landowners** to retain their property rather than selling to a developer.
- **Give voters a voice** in determining which properties will be protected.
- **Attract matching funds** from federal, state, and private sources.
- **Spread the cost** of conservation over many years.
- **Protect Rye's future.**

If you have questions regarding the Rye Open Space Bond Issue, please call Ray Jarvis at 436-2137 or Jim Raynes at 431-6962. Rye Open Space decals are available at a variety of locations around town.

TOWN OF RYE RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

10 Central Road Rye, NH, 03870, Tel. 964-6281, Fax 964-1516, E-mail larthur@town.rye.nh.us Town Website www.town.rye.nh.us/

Spring 2003

PROGRAMS SIGN-UP NIGHTS

RYE RECREATION HOUSE, 55 RECREATION ROAD,

6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.



SPRING, MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2003



SUMMER, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2003



FALL SOCCER, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2003

RYE & NEW CASTLE RESIDENTS ONLY

Registrations for programs are limited to a first come, first serve basis and will not accepted prior to the particular sign-up night commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Rye Art in Bloom - Join the Rye Driftwood Garden Club, the Rye Art Study Group and Webster at Rye for Rye's own Art in Bloom. This spectacular display of flower arrangements interpreting selected works of art will be held in the Activity Room at Webster at Rye, 795 Washington Rd., Rye, NH on Friday, April 25, 2003, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 26, 2003, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. **No charge** to the public and open to all ages.



African Safari #2 is a colorful slide presentation of the fascinating African wildlife by Lenny Thomes. Relive his adventures in the African bush with gorillas, leopards and exotic birds. Held in the Activity Room at Webster at Rye, 795 Washington Rd., Rye, NH on Wednesday, March 12, 2003, 6:30-7:30 p.m. **No charge** to the public and open to all ages.



Culinary Step III & IV is offered by great chefs of the Carriage House. Learn how to prepare and purchase shellfish, cook "Frutti de Mare", and how to incorporate the five grand sauces into dishes. Held at the Carriage House Restaurant, 2263 Ocean Boulevard, Rye, N.H. Tuesday, March 18, 2003, 12:00-3:00 p.m. Fee: \$40.00



Meet & Greet/Walking Club If you enjoy a friendly social gathering, this is for you. Relax and share conversation over a beverage and/or start walking for your health and fitness in a friendly group atmosphere. Meeting on Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2003, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Recreation House, 55 Recreation Rd. **No charge**



After School Program is open to grade K, 11:10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday- Friday. The cost of the program is \$52.50/week and there is a 20% discount for each additional child in the same family. Participants are also welcome to register for the afternoon program that operates for grades K-5, 2:40-5:50 p.m., Monday-Friday. The cost of the program is \$52.50/week for full time, \$10.50/day for part time, and there is a 20% discount for each additional child in the same family. Registration forms for 2003-2004 are now available. Space is limited and individuals will be notified of acceptance.



Recreation Highlights

In 2002 the Recreation Department raised \$194,558 in program fees, which is 72% of the Department's expenditures. The Recreation Commission and staff would like to thank all volunteers, participants and sponsors for their support.

The field reconstruction project will be completed this spring, but the fields will not be available for use until the fall in order to allow for the grass to mature. **Please assist us and stay off the fields!**



This March 11 there are two recreation warrant articles on the ballot. Article 16, to add \$10,000 to the Recreation Building Capital Reserve Fund, which is needed for facility upgrades. Petitioned Article 17, to raise and appropriate \$160,000 to design and construct tennis courts at the Recreation Area, in order to meet public demand for tennis. After careful consideration and review the Recreation Commission unanimously supports both of these articles. For more information please do not hesitate to contact the Recreation Office at 964-6281. **Voting Day is Tuesday, March 11, 2003.**

The Recreation Commission plays an important role in providing programs and services to Rye residents. It is a volunteer board that meets monthly. The meetings are open to the public and your attendance is welcomed. Commissioners are Gregg Mikolaities (Chairperson), Chick Hayden, Dr. Harold Hoeffle, Steven King, Vicki Loring, Paul Mackey and Steve McBride.



**RYE RECREATION
GAMES NIGHT**

RYE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2003
6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

**Town of Rye
MEMORIAL DAY
CEREMONY**



Central Cemetery

(beside Rye Town Hall)
Monday, May 26, 2003
9:00 a.m.



Adult Yoga instruction is provided by Dana Lincoln (Monday classes), Karin Backstrom

(Tuesday classes) and Jeanie Ryan (Thursday classes). This beginner program will be flowing form of Hatha Yoga designed to link breath and movement, creating a safe and effective means of connecting body, mind, and spirit. This is a physical practice and students should discuss any contraindications with their physician. Held at the Recreation House, 55 Recreation Rd.

Session 1-1, Mondays, March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 28, 2003, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Session 1-2, Tuesdays, March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 29, 2003, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Session 1-3, Thursday, March 27, April 3, 10, 17, May 1, 2003, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Session 2-1, Mondays, May 5, 12, 19, June 2, 9, 2003, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Session 2-2, Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2003, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Session 2-3, Thursday, May 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5, 2003, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Fee: \$55.00 per session (5 classes)



is a unique yoga program by Dana Lincoln for kids 3 yrs.-Grade 12. Held at the Recreation House, 55 Recreation Rd.

3-5 yrs. (with caregiver) & 4 yrs.-Grade 1 (kids only): Instruction is provided by Dana Lincoln. Learn body awareness through basic yoga poses through creative expression, stories, songs and dance.

3-5 yrs. (with a caregiver) *Please note: caregiver participates

Session 1, Monday, March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 28, 2003, 12:45-1:30 p.m.

Session 2, Mondays, May 5, 12, 19, June 2, 9, 2003, 12:45-1:30 p.m.

Fee: \$90 per session (5 classes)

4 yrs.-Grade 1 (kids only)

Session 1, Monday, March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 28, 2003, 3:00-3:45 p.m.

Session 2, Mondays, May 5, 12, 19, June 2, 9, 2003, 3:00-3:45 p.m.

Fee: \$55 per session (5 classes)

Grades 2-6: Instruction is provided by Dana Lincoln. Learn basic yoga postures, standing poses, the ability to focus through balance, relaxation and breathing techniques.

Session 1, Monday, March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 28, 2003, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Session 2, Mondays, May 5, 12, 19, June 2, 9, 2003, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Fee: \$65 per session (5 classes)

Grades 7-12: Instruction is provided by Karin Backstrom. Learn power yoga, athletic flowing sequences of postures to build confidence and self-esteem as well as tools to channel energy and manage stress.

Session 1, Monday, March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 28, 2003, 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Session 2, Mondays, May 5, 12, 19, June 2, 9, 2003, 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Fee: \$65 per session (5 classes)



Cheerleading instruction is provided by Jessica Dickey

and open to grades 4-6. Held at the Rye Library on Mondays, March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, 2003, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Fee: \$45 (includes T-shirt and pompons or gloves)

Group Tennis Lessons instruction will be provided by John Marlowe at the New Castle Recreation Facility.



Session 1, Tuesdays, April 1, 8, 29, May 6, 2003

Grades 1-2, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Grades 3-4, 5:30-6:30 p.m., HS, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Session 1, Thursday, April 3, 10, May 1, 8, 2003

Grades 5-6, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Grades 7-8, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Adult, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Session 2, Tuesday, May 13, 20, 27, June 3, 2003

Grades 3-4, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Grades 1-2, 5:30-6:30 p.m., HS, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Session 2, Thursday, May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 2003

Grades 7-8, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Grades 5-6, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Adult, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40.00 per session (4 lessons) and rackets are not provided. When registering for tennis you will only be able to sign up for one session and your name go on a waiting list for a second session.

Adult Group Golf Lessons

Instruction is provided by John Stacey, PGA Pro.



These co-ed lessons will be held at Bramber Valley Golf Course in Greenland. Maximum 6 participants per group.

Session 1, Mondays, April 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

4:00-5:00 p.m. or 5:00-6:00 p.m. or 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Session 1, Thursdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

4:00-5:00 p.m. or 5:00-6:00 p.m. or 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Session 1, Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

4:00-5:00 p.m. or 5:00-6:00 p.m. or 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Session 2, Thursdays, June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 3, 2003

4:00-5:00 p.m. or 5:00-6:00 p.m. or 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Session 2, Fridays, June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 4, 2003

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. or 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. or 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Fee: \$70.00 per session (5 lessons), clubs available if needed.

Adult Pick-Up Basketball



Held Sundays ending April 20, 2003, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

at Rye Elementary School. There will be no basketball on

Sunday, March 16, 2003 (School Play in session). **No charge**

To Register for Programs: Complete Rye Recreation Department Registration Form indicating specific program(s). If paying by check, make it payable to Rye Recreation. Submit both registration form and payment to the Town of Rye Recreation Department, 10 Central Road, Rye, NH 03870. Forms are available on the Recreation Department Bulletin Board outside Town Hall or at the Recreation Department M-F, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Programs are not refundable and offered to all Rye and New Castle residents. For more info., contact the Town of Rye Rec. Dept. at 964-6281.

ACTIVE, ALIVE AND LIVING IN RYE!

Changes in Assessing Procedures Bring More Grief to NH Towns

In 2001, the Coalition Communities (the so-called donor towns) challenged the statewide education property tax (*Sirrell v. State*, 146 NH 364). Rockingham County Superior Court ruled the law unconstitutional, but the judgment was overturned on appeal by the State. The New Hampshire Supreme Court upheld the provisions of the legislation but also concluded that the State needed to implement enforcement measures to ensure that municipalities complied with Part II, Article 6 of the State Constitution. That section specifies in part that "there shall be a valuation of the estates within the state taken anew once in every five years, at least, and as much more often as the general court shall order".

Although that obligation has existed for over two hundred years, it had not been strictly enforced. Now the situation has been rectified. As a result of the above-cited case, the general court (the Legislature) has responded to the Supreme Court's concern by enacting a number of measures to assure compliance. These include the establishment of an Assessing Standards Board (ASB) and an Equalization Standards Board (ESB): the former to institute criteria for uniform assessing practices and the qualifications of assessing personnel; the latter to formulate uniform requirements for every assessing jurisdiction. The result is that within the next five years every community must attain certification from the State's Department of Revenue Administration (DRA). For Rye, the certification year is 2005.

What that means to Rye, as well as all communities in New Hampshire, is that the practice of assessments remaining unchanged from one revaluation to the next, other than for property alterations, will no longer be acceptable. Instead, all taxing jurisdictions will annually undertake sales ratio studies to track fluctuations in

value by neighborhoods and by strata, which refers to classes of property such as vacant land, residential or commercial structures, and mobile homes. By means of statistical analysis, valuations will then be factored up or down as reflected by the real estate market. For the certification year of 2005, Rye must be in compliance with the criteria established by the Equalization Standards Board. Failure to comply could result in an order from the State Board of Tax and Land Appeals for revaluation at Town expense.

Implementation of the process will require verification of the database in order to insure its validity. To accomplish this, a sampling of properties will be visited in each of the years leading up to the year of certification. The inspection by assessing staff will include measurement of the exterior of buildings and listing of interior features. This will entail additional expenditures by the Town. The DRA has deemed that these are not mandated costs to be borne by the State as the requirement has long been explicit in the Constitution. However, the Assessing Standards Board is compelled to study and recommend to the Legislature whether municipalities should be reimbursed for such expenses. At the outset, being only two years from 2005, inspections will focus on properties involved in open market transactions to ascertain exactness of the records, since sales are the benchmark of the statistical study. Taxpayers may also request an inspection if entrance was not made during the 2001 revaluation or if the owner feels the data is inaccurate. Taxpayers were extremely cooperative during that period and we trust that relationship will continue with the understanding that the goal is accuracy and fairness.

The certification standards to attain appraisal uniformity involve maintaining a median ratio between

Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Report

Absentee Ballots Are Available

If you need an absentee ballot for the town election to be held March 11, stop by our office for an application, or you can call us and we'll mail or fax one to you. You can also download the application form on the town's website. The absentee ballots will be available right up until 5:00 p.m. the day before the election. Polling is at the Elementary School from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Now is the time for dog licensing! Between January 1 and April 30 of each year, all dogs are supposed to be registered. Bring a current rabies certificate for the dog you wish to license. The fees are \$9.00 for a non-neutered animal, \$6.50 for a neutered dog and puppies less than seven months old. Senior citizens are allowed to license one dog in their name for just \$2.00.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Office hours: Monday through

Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Telephone 964-8562; fax 964-4132;

email: janei@town.rye.nh.us

90 and 100 percent with a 90 percent confidence level in the year of certification and a coefficient of dispersion (COD) not greater than 20. These are measurements of equity which will be explained in a future article. Also subject to certification compliance are annual maintenance and conformity of such records as tax maps, current use applications, exemptions, credits, and abatement filings.

Even if the statewide education property tax were to be reformulated or repealed, it would not change the constitutional requirement referenced in the opening paragraph of this report. The Board of Selectmen and town office staff express their appreciation to property owners in adjusting to this transition, which will be a learning experience for all concerned.

Rye Offers Many Senior Services

A **Senior Issues Committee** was formed as a result of the Planning Board's Visioning Session last June in order to work on three goals: **housing, transportation, and communication.**

Housing is beginning to be addressed by the Land Use Committee's proposal for an amendment to the zoning regulations in order to create space for senior housing. **Transportation** is being addressed by selectman Mel Low and his committee's establishment of a shuttle service for seniors made possible by the use of a van from Webster at Rye.

The issue of **communication** was the topic for discussion recently when representatives from town organizations were in attendance to discuss how senior issues can be heard and addressed within our community. The committee's goal is to get information to seniors. People or organizations willing to be of service to seniors in town should supply their contact information to Kim Reed, chairman of the committee, at **964-2109**. Other senior services available include:

Transportation Available on **Tuesdays** to Market Basket/Brooks Pharmacy (Call the Town Hall **964-5523** by noon on Monday to be on the "pick up" list for Tuesday.)

Free Cell Phone For use in case of 911 emergency calls only (Call the Police Department **964-7450**.)

★ If you have an old cell phone that is not in use, please consider donating it for use by seniors and drop it off at the police station.★

Senior Registry Available to all seniors who wish to be contacted by phone once a day (Call the police station to register **964-7450**.)

Contact Information Meals-on-Wheels, Visiting Nurses, Compass Care, Hospice, and other senior services (Visit or call the Rye Library **964-8401**.)

Library materials Available for delivery to your home on Wednesday afternoons (Call the library in the morning to request delivery **964-8401**.)

Medical equipment Available for loan from the Rye Lions (Call Don Osborne **431-4749** or Bob Vincent **964-4211**.)

★ **SNOW ALERT** ★ Seniors in town may be in need of assistance to clear snow off their porches and steps. Please try to be aware of the seniors in your neighborhood who may not ASK for your help.

SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE meets the first Thursday of each month at the library. The next meeting is on Thursday, March 6, at 4:30 p.m. **New members are most welcome. Come join us!**

RYE SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECT A SUCCESS!

On Tuesday, January 14, the Town of Rye began a new service—providing seniors with door-to-door transportation to the plaza that is home for Market Basket, Brooks Pharmacy, and the Bank of NH. The project is a collaborative effort and is a direct result of the Rye Visioning Sessions. Webster at Rye has donated the use of a van and Sargent's Service Center has donated the gas. Numerous individuals from the Rye Police Association, the Rye Lions, and the Selectmen's Office have volunteered to be drivers.

Any Rye seniors who need trans-

portation on any Tuesday should call the Selectmen's Office at 964-5523 by noon Monday and ask for Nancy or Bea. The service is free, but small donations from participants are gratefully accepted to cover incidentals.

This project is another example of Rye's volunteerism at work. Because of the generosity of Webster at Rye, Sargent's Service Center, and the many volunteer drivers, this service does not affect the tax rate. The Selectmen wish to thank all those who have stepped forward to make the project a success.

Public Works Spring Cleaning Schedule Announced

Bud Jordan, Director of Public Works, announced that because of the heavy snows this winter, road maintenance will start a little later than usual this spring

- Sweeping of Town roads will take place mid-April.
- Clearing of catch basins will start a week or so after the street sweeping begins.
- Street lining will start mid-May.

For more information, call Bud at 964-5300.

Fire Chief Emphasizes Need for Additional Fire Fighters

Warrant Article 13 proposes to increase the full-time fire fighter force from seven to nine members, which will allow us to consistently provide two fire fighter/EMTs on duty 24 hours a day. This would allow the ambulance to leave the station immediately, instead of waiting for another attendant to arrive from home.

The total calls for emergency services have increased steadily for the past ten years, while the department manning has remained the same since 1986. In 1992, when the ambulance was transferred to the Fire Department, a suggestion to increase the force by three men was considered but rejected because at that time all fire fighters were trained as EMTs and the call department could train if they wanted to, although it was not mandatory. This was seen as a temporary measure. But now it is ten years later and it is time to improve the run times, which are exceeding the national average by several minutes. The community's safety should be considered.

Also on the ballot this March will be several articles concerning the proposed public safety building. A larger facility would greatly improve the department's capabilities for training, maintenance, and safety of the fire fighters. The members of the department will be happy to answer any questions about the warrant articles or the building and give any interested parties a tour of the present building.

INCINERATORS. I would like to remind everyone who in the past has had an incinerator permit that as of January 1, 2003 they are no longer legal in the state of NH. Outside burning of clean wood materials is still legal with a permit from the Fire Department. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) is playing an ever-increasing role in the control of fire permits because of the

Police Chief Explains Ballot Issues, Cautions Homeowners

As I write this article it is hard to believe that spring is right around the corner. Please drive with extra caution while these huge snowbanks are at intersections and at the ends of driveways. As the snow clears, remember that drivers will be sharing the road with walkers and bicyclists.

I mentioned in the previous newsletter that we would be accepting donations toward the purchase of the "speed monitor trailer" that was on loan to us last fall. The cost for the trailer is about \$9000 and we hope to get half of that from a grant. We are happy to report that we have received approximately \$2500 in donations and hope to raise the balance over the next few months. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact the Police Department.

There are several questions on the ballot in March that affect the Police Department. Three of these involve a new Fire/Police building. This building would have a significant impact on safety services for years to come, so I ask each of you to understand the issues before voting. If you would like to tour the police station or speak with me about the proposed building, please feel free to call or stop in.

Article 24 on the ballot proposes the adoption of a Noise Ordinance. In 2002 we received 73 loud-noise complaints. Most of these occurred between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. The proposed ordinance is intended to protect residents from unreasonable noise between these hours. If you read the entire ordinance, I think you will see it as a matter of common courtesy.

Article 26 on the ballot involves a very minor change to one paragraph of the parking ordinance. The change

effect of burning on the environment. If you have any questions about outside burning please contact the Fire Department.

Leon C. Blaisdell,
Chief, Fire Department

has actually been in effect since June 17, 2002 but it needs to be approved by the voters in order to be permanent.

On a final note, spring is the time we see a lot of home repair scams. If you need work done, protect yourself by getting referrals from friends and neighbors or by using the "Yellow Pages." Always ask for a written estimate and never give in to a demand for a cash deposit or cash payment. If you think something might be wrong, please call us.

Alan Gould
Chief of Police

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome long-time Rye resident Christina "Tina" Lear to Town Hall. She has been serving in the capacity of Administrative Assistant for the Rye Sewer Commission since August 2002 when Terry Zartarian retired. Tina is no stranger to the Town; both she and her husband John grew up in Rye. She served as a member of the former Rye Volunteer Ambulance Corps for five years, was the former secretary for the Rye Conservation Commission, and is also a Notary Public and Justice of the Peace. Stop by to say "hello" and visit Tina in her new office on the second floor of Town Hall.

NEW ADDRESS FOR TOWN WEBSITE

The Town Website was temporarily out of commission for a short time after February 1. It is now back in action, with this new address:

<http://www.town.rye.nh.us/>

We hope you'll visit the site soon for news and up-to-date information for the town, including meeting notices, agendas, and minutes.

We send our thanks and appreciation to Drew Doherty, who has donated his time and expertise to create and maintain the website for the Town.

Beat the Winter Blahs at the Library

Computer Instruction:

March 10, 12, 17, 24 & 26: "Introduction to Personal Computers" 10-Noon
"Beginning Word Processing" 1-3 p.m.
May 12, 16, 19, 21 & 28: "Overview of E-Mail" 10-noon
"Advanced Word Processing" 1-3 p.m.
Taught by Kathy Litch, of Leisure Computing.
Each session is 10 hours and costs \$60.00 Call the Library for more information at 964-8401.

Educational Programs:

Friends of the Rye Public Library and the New Hampshire Humanities Council present the two concluding speakers in the series: "Struggling for Peace: the Middle East Through Time"

March 13: Nermien Al-Ali, Research Professor, Franklin Pierce Law Center, speaking on "Islam and the Empowerment of Women" 7 p.m.

April 10: Marline Elizabeth Heck, Ph.D and senior lecturer in Art History and History at Dartmouth College, speaking on "What's Islamic About Islamic Art?" 7 p.m.

The Seacoast Jazz Society and the New Hampshire Humanities Council present two jazz programs.

March 11: 'Jazz on Film in the 40's and 50's: "Soundies", Selected Short Subjects, and Early Television' by Peter Bodge, Art Instructor and Musician. 7:30 p.m.

April 8: 'Vaudeville and its Contributions to Jazz and Tap Dance' by Drika Overton, Jazz and Tap Dance Teacher, Performer, and Choreographer. 7:30 p.m.

March is Small Press Month. Peter and Deidre Randall of Peter Randall Publishers present "Publishing Options: Getting It Into Print" for current and prospective authors and anyone interested in the publishing world. **March 4** at 7 p.m. There is no charge, but please sign up at the Circulation Desk in the Library.

Book Discussions

Adult: Tuesday, **March 18**, 7 p.m. *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Dai Sijie.
Tuesday, **April 15**, 7 p.m. *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo
Tuesday, **May 20**, 7 p.m. *Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving.

Military: First Thursday evenings at 6:30. Book titles chosen at the end of each month.

Stroudwater: Formerly this group met at Stroudwaters Book Store in Portsmouth. Since the store closed, they have reconvened at the Library on the second Tuesday of each month in the New

Hampshire Room at 1:30 p.m.

Young Adult - Yattitudes: (Middle School students and their parents)
Tuesday, **March 11**, 7 p.m. *Stop Pretending*, by Sonya Sones, at Rye Junior High
Tuesday, **April 8**, 7 p.m. *Witness*, by Karen Hess, at Rye Public Library
Tuesday, **May 13**, 7 p.m. *Lord of the Nutcracker Men*, by Ian Lawrence, at Rye

Junior High

Ongoing

StoryTime occurs every Wednesday at 10:30. No sign up required.

Health Clinic sponsored by COMPASS CARE of Portsmouth occurs on the fourth Tuesday from 1-3. No charge.

Art Exhibits: Coordinated by the Rye Public Library Fine Arts Committee.

January through April 11: 'Young-at-Heart Art' by residents of Webster of Rye and COMPASS CARE of Portsmouth.

April 19 through June 30: 'Masks of the Seacoast'
March 17 through April 10: Preview of ArtSource Auction (Seacoast Family YMCA benefit).

Tax Help: Sponsored by AARP and the IRS. Trained individuals will prepare your taxes at no charge. **February 3 - April 14**, Tuesdays 4-6 p.m. and Wednesdays 2-4 p.m. Primarily geared for moderate-to-low income citizens.

Coming in May

Blood Drive: The American Red Cross will conduct a Blood Drive on Thursday, **May 8** from 2-7 in the Library Meeting

News from the Youth Department

March will go by quickly, and if you do not know how to make it go by fast, come into the Rye Public Library. We have a lot of fun things going on.

There may still be snow, but the first day of spring will arrive in March as usual. We will do our best to pretend it is Spring (we like to pretend in the Youth Department) and there will be crafts to help maintain our "spring is near" attitude! The Youth Department is already planning the Summer Reading Program: "Reading rocks the granite state!" Please bring in paper towel tubes or anything rock-and-rollish! Sequined clothes you no longer want, old records we can hang from the ceiling, or whatever else might fit the theme, bring over. Anything will be appreciated.

Happy Reading
Sharon Macdonald, Martha Jones

Rye Historic District Commision Report

Rye Center lies within the Historic District created by Town vote. It has its own unique history. Any attempt to recreate a "typical" New England village would deny its past.



This fall three signs were erected designating the Rye Center Section of the Historic District. Additional signs on Lang Rd., the Brackett Massacre Site, the Cable House, and Star Island will be erected by early summer.

The second printing of the Rye Historic District informational manual has been completed. This manual contains pertinent information concerning all aspects of the Rye Historic District. A copy is on file at the Public Library and at the Town Museum. Copies may be obtained at Town Hall free of charge.

There is currently a one-year opening on the HDC for an alternate member. Members and alternates are *appointed* by the Board of Selectmen. Application should be in writing.

Meetings are generally held every other month.

Jane Holway, Chairman

Historical Society Asks for Voter Support

At Town Meeting this year, Rye voters will be asked to vote on **Article 19** as submitted by the Selectmen. This will ask that the building being used as the Rye Town Museum be sold to the Rye Historical Society for \$1. The Historical Society would assume all responsibility for the building, including financial. If the Society should no longer use the building as a Museum for the Town, or should fail to keep the property in good repair, the building would revert back to town ownership.

Five years ago, in the midst of the Library expansion, the small Cape Cod house had to go. It was situated right where the new entrance of the Library would be. It would either be torn down or moved. The Selectmen at the time asked the Historical Society if they would like to move the building and use it as a museum for the town. The Society said "yes," of course, and proceeded to stabilize and rehabilitate the building. In all of that time, there was no formal deed. The Society asked for a written agreement yearly, and finally it was ready in 2002.

With the help of local businesses, volunteers, members, and friends, the

Museum opened to the public on 4th of July weekend, 2002. Countless hours, lots of hard work, and Society funds have made it all possible. This project cannot continue unless the building is finally turned over to the Historical Society. We need to feel secure in ownership of the Museum building in order to proceed with our plans for keeping and protecting the history of Rye. Please vote "YES" on Article 19. Thank you.

Medical Equipment Loans Available

One of the many beneficial programs administered by the Rye Lions Club is a Medical Equipment Loan Program. If you, or a loved one, has recently had surgery, or has a physical limitation requiring a particular piece of medical equipment, you may want to contact the Rye Lions representative to discuss your needs. The Club maintains a supply of wheelchairs, hospital beds (non-electric), shower seats, potty chairs, raised toilet seats, crutches, and walkers that may be checked out, free of charge, for the period of your recuperation. Contact Lion Norm Ayotte (964-8430), Don Osborne (431-4749), or Bob Vincent (964-4211) to check on availability and arrange for delivery.

Rye's "Our Town" Event Announced

Rye's "Our Town" event organizers are busy planning a full day of activities for Saturday, May 31, 2003. Since last years event was rained out, organizers promise that this year's event will be extra special.

Although it is too early to announce the entire schedule of events, the organizers are announcing that the theme of their parade will be "A salute to Veterans—past and present". They will be asking local veteran groups for their participation and are also working with the schools to encourage the involvement of the community's youth. The parade committee would like to hear from any groups interested in participating. Antique cars are always a favorite, if you have one please call and sign up, as space is limited.

In order to entertain spectators along the parade route, the parade will include some professional entries. Since there is a cost for these "professional units," the parade committee is seeking sponsors. Each sponsor will be matched with an entry according to how much they would like to spend and the type of entry they would like to sponsor. Sponsors can pick from a list of available units including clowns, bands, and equestrians, to name a few. Each sponsor will have a banner in front of it announcing the name of the sponsor. This is a great opportunity for local businesses or residents to show some "Town Spirit."

The parade committee would like to hear your ideas or to sign you up as a sponsor. Please call 436-6839 for further information.

Community participation is a must! Sponsored in part by the Rye Lions Club

Town of Rye Board Meetings

March 2003

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.						1
2	3	4 7 pm, Sewer Commission 7 pm, Recreation Commission	5 7 pm, Zoning Board of Adjustment	6	7	8
9	10 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	11 TOWN ELECTION 8 am-7 pm Rye Elementary 7 pm, Planning Board	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 7 pm, Historic District Commission 5:30 pm, School Board, Rye Jr. High	20 7 pm, Conservation Commission	21 First Day of Spring	22
23	24 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	25	26	27 6 pm, Library Trustees at Library	28	29
30	31	APRIL 2003				
		1 7 pm, Sewer Commission 7 pm, Recreation Commission	2 7 pm, Zoning Board of Adjustment	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings Time Begins	7 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	8 7 pm, Planning Board	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 5:30 pm, School Board, Rye Jr. High	17 7 pm, Conservation Commission Passover begins	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter	21 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	MAY 2003		
				1	2	3
4	5 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	6 7 pm, Sewer Commission 7 pm, Recreation Commission	7 7 pm, Zoning Board of Adjustment	8 6 pm, Library Trustees at Library	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13 7 pm, Planning Board	14	15 7 pm, Conservation Commission	16	17
18	19 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	20	21 5:30 pm, School Board, Rye Jr. High	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day observed Town offices closed Memorial Day Observances 9 am, Central Cemetery	27	28	29	30	31 "Our Town" events and parade

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

Public Safety Building Committee Explains Three Articles

In the upcoming election, voters are asked to support three articles pertaining to the building of a new combined Fire/Police facility.

Article 8 would allow the town to complete the purchase and sale agreement and acquire the property at 551 Washington Road, next to the existing fire station. It was the **unanimous** decision of the Committee, after a rather exhaustive search, for the town to purchase the property immediately adjacent to the existing fire station parcel on Washington Road. The two parcels combined are approximately two acres, the target size 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 the choice of this site.

It was also **unanimously** agreed that, on a separate article, **Article 7**, a request is made to approve bonding authority to raise \$1,650,000 (to be matched by an equal amount to be raised by grants and gifts) to underwrite the construction of a combined public safety facility. For these two articles, the estimated effect on the Town tax rate would be \$0.04 per thousand and \$0.15 per thousand, respectively.

The third article, **Article 9**, is to appropriate \$80,000 for the completion of the design process and the production of the final construction drawings and specifications for competitive bidding on the construction of this project.

The Public Safety Building Committee was created to assess the facilities needs of the Fire and Police Departments and, if warranted, to locate a suitable site on which to renovate, expand, or build a new facility for the Fire Department and, if warranted, for the Police Department. For the Town of Rye, with a current year-round population of some 5200, and with a summer population of some 10,000, and with a summertime day-

time population of some 20,000, all distributed over some 13.1 square miles, the Committee found both existing facilities to be grossly inadequate in size, substandard, and of inferior quality. To better serve the needs of all the residents of Rye, the Committee worked for more than two years to assess the needs of the two departments, to find and retain an architectural firm to assist in programmatic/needs/feasibility studies, to 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.

The Committee membership has included Gary Dodds (Chairman), Victor Azzi, Leon Blaisdell, Alan Gould, Mark Josephs, Gregg Mikolaities, Brian Nickerson, and Paula Snyder.

The Committee established criteria such as location, topography, size, access, cost, sight lines, availability, etc., by which each potential site would be evaluated, and proceeded to identify and evaluate several dozen possible sites.

With the help of HKT Architects, the committee determined and assessed the programmatic needs of the two departments, and further assessed the costs and the possible savings, the advantages as well as the disadvantages of having two separate distinct facilities for the two departments compared to having one combined facility shared by the two departments. It was determined and **unanimously** decided that the Town would be best served, and the capital costs and operating costs minimized, by locating and acquiring a single site large enough to accommodate a combined "Public Safety Facility" in which to house both departments.

The conceptual design process, through its many iterations, has continued with HKT Architects. The Committee worked with the various interested groups and boards of the Town, including the Historic District Commission and the Planning Board.

The developing information, including three-dimensional models and renderings, will continue to be shared, inviting feedback in public meetings with all members of the community, as the design and cost estimates emerge. To date, the information presented at the various public meetings and presentations, such as at the Deliberative Session, have been the product of unanimous approvals of the Committee at the various stages of the project's evolution.

The Committee is also working with HKT to find a solution that will save, and relocate to another site, the house presently located on the property to be purchased, thereby preserving the house as well as enhancing the Washington Road streetscape. It is the intent of the Committee to see the house relocated to the site across Old Parish Road, alongside the existing Old Parsonage Apartments, to augment the number of rental units being managed by the Housing Partnership. 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 purposes; the townspeople could then decide whether to recycle it into some other municipal use such as a Senior Center, or to sell 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 (which has earned a solid reputation of designing public safety facilities with great sensitivity to the character of historic old New England towns) and members of the Committee are extending much effort, with the continued input from the interested public, to design an efficient building for all the townspeople that will have a scale, size, massing, and architectural character that is in harmony with, and will fit in well as a good neighbor of, the Rye Town Center.

Victor D. Azzi
for the Building Committee

Selectmen Provide Breakdown of Effects on Taxes by Budgets and Warrant Articles

The Selectmen's Office stated at the Deliberative Session that we would try to project next year's tax bill based on the operating budget and the increase estimated by each warrant article. To do this, we have also projected that total assessed valuations will increase by \$13 million.

This year is very unusual with a 19% increase in Rye's portion of the Statewide Education Property Tax, going from \$3.179 million to \$3.785 million, which is beyond our control.

This year is also unusual in that two projects which have been in progress for two and three years are coming to fruition. The very able committee that has been trying to locate a central location for a safety building to replace our outdated fire and police buildings, has found an ideal spot. This project includes purchase of a property and putting up a new building after project design and financing have been completed.

The dedicated Open Space Committee has come forward with a long-term plan to preserve the rural character of Rye with conservation easements and land purchase, as many communities are doing.

Taking into consideration these worthwhile projects, together with increases in the School and County Budgets, we project that our tax rate could increase an estimated 10%. This would mean that last year's base tax rate of \$14.31 would increase to \$15.76. This would mean a dollar increase of \$580 on a \$400,000 home. For details, see the Comparison Table at the right.

Please study the warrant articles and cast your ballot on March 11. If you have any questions, please contact your Selectmen or members of the Budget Committee, who have been struggling with these problems.

Cordially,
Your Selectmen

Comparison of 2002 & 2003 Budgets and the Estimated Effect on Tax Rate

	2002	Tax Rate	Percent of Change	2003	Tax Rate per \$1000
Net Town Appropriation	\$2,912,166	\$2.31	+10%	\$3,223,079	\$2.70
Warrant Articles 2003 details below	\$ 912,064	\$.97	+ 10%	\$ 799,937	\$.71
School Portion	\$7,719,785	\$6.98	+ 10%	\$8,561,582	\$ 7.65
State Property Tax	\$3,178,954	\$2.88	+ 19%	\$3,784,901	\$ 3.38
County Tax Portion	\$1,443,332	\$1.31	+ 1.87%	\$1,470,332	\$ 1.32
Current Projection		\$14.31	+10.13%		\$15.76

TOTAL PROPERTY VALUATION:

Year 2002: **\$1,105,568,220**

Year 2003 (Estimated): **\$1,118,568,220**

2003 Warrant Articles

Article Number	Description	2003	Tax rate per \$1000
6	\$5,000,000 Land Conservation Proposed Bond issuance of \$1M per year	\$ 90,000	\$.08
7	\$1,650,000 Construction of Fire/Police Building	\$148,500	\$.13
8	\$ 420,000 Purchase of Land for Safety Building	\$ 37,800	\$.03
9	\$ 80,000 Architect for Safety Building *	\$ 80,000	\$.0715
10	\$ 50,000 Conservation Land Article (If Article 6 fails)	\$ 50,000	\$.0447
11	\$ 2,500 Capital Reserve – Computers *	\$ 2,500	\$.0022
12	\$ 50,000 Town Employee Accumulated Leave Fund	\$ 50,000	\$.0447
13	2 New Firefighters – 7 months in 2003 Note: \$95,018 on an annual basis	\$ 55,427	\$.0496
14	\$ 75,000 Roadway Drainage	\$ 75,000	\$.0671
15	\$ 40,710 One-Ton DPW Truck *	\$ 40,710	\$.0364
16	\$ 10,000 Capital Reserve—Recreation Building *	\$ 10,000	\$.0089
17	\$ 160,000 Tennis Courts – Recreation Area *	\$160,000	\$.1430
	TOTALS	\$799,937	\$.7081

* One year only

BEACH PERMITS ARE NOW \$20.00

On December 30, 2002, Selectmen voted to increase the cost of a Beach Parking Permit to \$20.00, effective immediately. Beach Parking Stickers are available in the Town Clerk's office. To qualify you must be a property owner and/or a resident of Rye and you need to bring the current registration for the vehicle on which you wish to place the sticker.

Rye Water District Tax Rate to Decrease

Tax Rate to Decrease in 2003

The District is pleased to announce that our precinct tax rate is expected to be lowered this year from \$0.80 to approximately \$0.66 per \$1,000 valuation, a decrease of 17.5%!

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the Rye Water District will be held on Saturday, March 29 at 10 a.m. at the Rye Jr. High School. Some of the

agenda items include:

- Peter Mullaly will run for re-election (3 yr. term) as Commissioner.
- Larry Gormley will run for re-election (2 yr. term) as Moderator.

Winter Hydrant Maintenance

We wish to thank those residents who assisted us with snow removal around their hydrants this winter. Your efforts are appreciated.

My Voting Notes

Selectman (1)

Town Clerk/Tax Collector (1)

Treasurer (1)

Trustee of Trust Funds (1)

Supervisor of the Checklist (1)

Library Trustee (1)

Planning Board, 3 years (2)

Planning Board, 2 years (1)

Budget Committee (2)

Cemetery Trustee (1)

Sewer Commissioner (1)

Article 3.

Amendment 1. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 2. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Amendment 3. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 4. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 5. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 6. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 7. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 8. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 9. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 10. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 11. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 12. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 13. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 14. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 15. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 16. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 17. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 18. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 19. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 20. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 21. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 22. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 23. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 24. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 25. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 26. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 27. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 28. ☐ Yes ☐ No

SCHOOL ELECTION

School Board Member (1)

School District Moderator (1)

School District Clerk (1)

Article 1. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 2. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 3. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Article 4. ☐ Yes ☐ No

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