



Town of Rye

Newsletter



Vol. 7, No. 4 A Publication of the Rye, New Hampshire, Board of Selectmen December 2004

SELECTMEN'S MESSAGE

A Progress Report

Safety Building Underway

Construction on the new Rye Public Safety Building is underway. Following meticulous preparation by the Public Safety Building Committee headed by Victor Azzi and Gary Dodds, the selectmen sent out invitations to bid in October. The Safety Building Committee analyzed the four proposals received and made its recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. On November 5, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the recommendation of the Building Committee and awarded the bid to Horne

Construction of Rochester, New Hampshire.

Property Tax Breaks: Do You Qualify?

Abatement Applications

Abatement applications are available in the Assessors Office for property owners who wish to challenge their property valuation for the tax year 2004. **The Assessing Office is accepting applications now and will continue until the deadline of March 1, 2005.** The Town has until July 1, 2005 to respond. If you do not hear from us by July 1, or if you are unhappy with the Selectmen's decision, you have until September 1, 2005 to seek an appeal with either the State Board of Tax and Land Appeals or Superior Court.

Veteran's Tax Credit

At the March 2004 town election Rye voters approved an increase in the amount of a veteran's tax credit to \$500. Previously, the credit was \$100. The credit for service connected total and permanent disability was raised to \$2,000 from the prior figure of \$1,400. The veteran must have been a resident of New

See Property Tax Breaks, page 3



WEBSTER AT RYE DONATED this 12-passenger van and a check to Senior SERVE. (Serve Elder Residents through Volunteer Efforts) in September. Accepting the donation from J. Leo Appel, president of the Rannie Webster Foundation Board of Trustees, are (l to r) Alan Gould, Rye police chief; Mr. Appel; Jim Cullen, president of Rye Senior SERVE; and Priscilla Jenness and Joe Mills, selectmen for the Town of Rye.

**Rye Holiday
Parade
December 5, 1 p.m.**

Webster at Rye Donates Van

In September, the Rye Selectmen accepted the generous donation by Webster at Rye of a 1987 twelve-passenger van and the sum of \$1500 to Rye Senior SERVE. Rye Senior SERVE, an outgrowth of the Planning Board visioning sessions held two years ago, has recently acquired nonprofit status. A weekly transportation program for seniors was initiated in 2003; at that time, Webster at Rye loaned its van for this purpose. At the present time, six to eight passengers regularly use this transportation service to pick up groceries, bank, or fill a prescription. The service was made possible thanks to the community-oriented philosophy of Webster at Rye and it will continue as the result of volunteer drivers and assistants led by the Senior SERVE Committee.

Taxes 2004

You are probably aware that the first billing of your Rye property tax

See Selectmen's Message, page 2

FLU VACCINE SHORTAGE

Rye Health Officer, Dr. Gail Snow, is keeping the Selectmen's Office advised of any news from the NH Department of Health and Human Services regarding availability of the flu vaccine. Please check the Town bulletin board and the Town website, <http://www.town.rye.nh.us/>, or call the Selectmen's Office at 964-5523 for any new developments.

Selectmen's Message: A Progress Report *Continued from page 1*

each year is not one half of your bill. The first billing is one half of the previous year's bill and the second billing will be more or less than the first billing depending on the current year's budget. The good news: This year the basic Town tax rate is down 52 cents, from \$14.74 per thousand in 2003 to \$14.22 this year. Applicable Water District and Precinct taxes are then added. In large measure, this year's lower base rate is the result of a reduction in Rye's portion of the Statewide Education Tax from 2.9 million to 2.1 million. It should also be remembered that we have not yet initiated payment on the 3.6 million dollar Public Safety Building bond. The bad news: We are still a donor town. Our 34-member Coalition of Communities continues to fight the current flawed formula that squanders education dollars. For a data-based analysis of projections under the current law, SB 302, contact the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies, a private, non-partisan think tank, at www.nhpolicy.org.

Cell Tower

The lengthy process of siting a cell tower to cover the southwest corner

of Rye is over. Opposition resulted in placement of the tower farther from homes and closer to the targeted "dead" zone. The 190-foot monopole, capable of housing up to five cell tower companies, was erected in October, and Cingular will be the first to install its equipment. This fall a request was made and approved to allow Rye Fire and Police radio antennae to be placed on the pole.

Recently, Tower Ventures, the original developer, was acquired by media giant Gridcom. The original agreement with Tower Ventures remains intact. That agreement provides income to the Town of Rye from the date of groundbreaking, and the Town started to receive checks as of September. The amount will change as additional companies are added to the tower. Ultimately, we can anticipate annual revenue from this source of approximately \$20,000.

Several suggestions have been made regarding use of this new revenue. Based on our desire to dedicate the income from the cell tower to a purpose that will benefit all residents equally, in March you will be asked to approve a Selectmen's Warrant Article establishing a special

revenue ambulance account. A new ambulance today costs in the vicinity of \$100,000. With this proposal in effect, when the time comes to replace our current vehicle, we will have accumulated a considerable amount if not all toward that purchase.

Town Administrator Resigns

On October 5, the Board of Selectmen placed Town Administrator Earl A. Rinker, III on paid administrative leave. A hearing date was set for October 27 and at that time we received and accepted his resignation. At this writing, we have not begun to seek a replacement. The Selectmen's Office is running smoothly due to a dedicated staff. Special thanks go to Executive Secretary Nancy Weiland. During this period, your selectmen are more closely involved in the day-to-day operation of the Town.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the voters of Rye. Nearly seventy-nine percent of our eligible voters cast their ballots in the Presidential Election on November 2. Voters encountered several changes in the physical setup of the polls at the Elementary School. These changes, under the direction of Town Clerk Jane Ireland, proved beneficial by reducing the amount of time standing in line. Despite the huge turnout, the lines moved quickly.

A Final Word

As the last leaves are raked, screens are stored, and reflectors are placed along driveways, please be certain that all obstructions are removed from the Town right-of-way along your property frontage. The first snow will likely arrive before the next newsletter.

Joe Mills, Chairman

John Moynahan, Vice-Chairman

Priscilla Jenness, Selectman

Moving Day



The 1841 Walker Rand house, more recently called "Govoni house," passes Town Hall after being moved from the Washington Road location to make room for the new Public Safety building. Many townspeople were out to watch the house make its way to a new location near the old Philbrick homestead in September.

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

What Do You Think Should Be in the Master Plan?

Interested people have been helping chart Rye's course. During the recent Long-Range Planning Forums, ideas on land use, housing, environmental protection, transportation, recreation, schools, and Town facilities were brought forward and discussed. The groups prioritized the ideas so that the Board's Long-Range Planning Committee can incorporate them in our upcoming Master Plan update.

As the legal system has put more emphasis on Master Plans, it is now vital that they are up-to-date and accurately reflect the will of the Town. Most of us are not too happy with the fact that so many land use questions wind up in the courts. But they do. And when they do, the Master Plan is the document that is more and more frequently consulted.

This reliance on the Master Plan by the courts means that every citizen is in a way a member of the Planning Board. Some are more active than others and some are absent. The courts, however, say the Master Plan is the voice of all.

Luckily, for those who were for some reason absent from the Forums, there will be public hearings on the Plan prior to formal adoption. At these hearings comments will be solicited. However, for those who would like to steer the boat rather than just comment on where it is going, the Planning Board welcomes you. Meetings of the Long-Range Planning Committee are posted on the Town website and bulletin boards. Meetings of the full Planning Board are on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Bob Brown, Chairman
Planning Board

Property Tax Breaks

Continued from page 1

Hampshire for at least one year prior to initial application and have served at least ninety days during a period of armed conflict. The spouse of a deceased veteran is entitled to the same provisions.

The deadline for filing an application for the Veteran's Tax Credit is April 15, 2005. Your credit will be applied to your second-half tax bill in 2005. Eligibility requirements and application forms are available at the Assessor's Office.

Elderly Exemptions

The Elderly Exemption amounts are those adopted at the March 2003 town election. For ages 65 through 74 the relief is \$75,000 of assessed valuation; 75 through 79 is \$90,000, and 80 and older receive a reduction of \$105,000. **The filing deadline for the Elderly Exemption is August 1, 2005.** To qualify, you must have been a resident of New Hampshire for at least five years preceding April 1 of the year in which exemption is sought. In addition, there are qualifying limits on income and assets. Details regarding these as well as application forms can be obtained at the Assessor's Office.

Remember to check out Rye's values online. The information is updated four times a year. The address is

<http://data.visionappraisal.com/ryenh/>

If you have any questions or if you want to view your assessment record card, contact Heather Austin, Assessing Clerk at 964-5523.

Assessing Department
Howard Promer, Assessor
Heather Austin, Clerk

Town Clerk Discusses Election, Taxes

Like many of you, we are pleased to have the **General Election** behind us. Due to the national attention, media and political scrutiny, and the sheer number of voters, the voting process became an enormous undertaking. Dedicated volunteers helped with the work at the polls and did a magnificent job for us and for you, the voter. Sincere thanks goes to all of them. We are delighted to report that 3800 ballots were cast in Rye, which equals a 78.4 percent voter turnout.

Property Tax Bills were sent out on October 21 and are due by December 1. This is the second issue billing for 2004. Your bill reflects the amount for the entire tax year, less the amount already paid. If you escrow your property taxes, be sure to send a copy of the bill to your mortgage company. While our office works with several tax service companies to notify mortgage holders of the new tax amount, we cannot be sure your bank or mortgage company uses one of these services. To be certain, the best way is to notify your mortgage company yourself. Those who have filed for the Veterans' exemption will notice the new \$500 tax credit applied to this bill. The exemption amount was increased from \$100 to \$500 by a vote of the town last March.

Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feel free to contact us with any questions or comments. Our phone number is 964-8562.

Jane Ireland
Town Clerk/Tax Collector
janei@town.rye.nh.us

A Reminder to Residents

Remember to mark your 2005 calendars NOW for the Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 5, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at Rye Junior High. The Town Election will take place on Tuesday, March 8, 2005.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. LEAVE A LEGACY.
Help preserve some of the last greatest places
in Rye for all generations to come.

- **Help maintain the unique character of Rye's rural community;** conserve places of natural beauty and open space.
- **Help protect wildlife habitats, endangered species, and natural ecosystems;** preserve wildlife corridors.
- **Help define the Town of Rye;** protect places of historic and cultural importance.
- **Help preserve water quality and the natural beauty of our coasts and waterways;** conserve sensitive wetlands.
- **Help keep a lid on town tax rates;** less development means lower taxes; conserve developable land.
- **Help keep your annual property taxes at their lowest;** possibly receive federal tax deductions and reduce estate taxes for your heirs; call Rye Open Space



Washington Road: 23 acres of land surrounding this historic home were recently placed under a conservation easement. The parcel includes open fields, forested uplands, wildlife corridors, wetland pools, and stonewalls.

For more information call Rye Open Space at Town Hall: 964-5523.

SERVE Offers Daily Call Service for Seniors

A no-cost service for Rye senior citizens who live alone is being offered by Rye Senior SERVE.

The Daily Call service offers telephone contact seven days a week. Volunteers will place the calls prior to 10 a.m. for the purpose of providing reassurance and to help residents live independently for as long as possible.

Those who live alone and would like to receive a daily call should contact the **Rye Library Info-Line** at **964-8401**. Anyone wishing to volunteer to make phone calls is also asked to apply at the same number. Volunteers will be interviewed and must agree to a criminal-record check.

Volunteers also are needed by Rye Senior SERVE to help with the once-a-week transportation program, which offers van rides for seniors to a nearby shopping center as well as assistance with carrying bundles.

The Daily Call program is somewhat patterned after others used throughout the country but differs in that real people are making the calls rather than computers that dial the numbers and generate a recording when the resident answers.

"We think this approach is more personal and that Rye is small enough to rely on people rather than machines for making the calls," said Tricia Quinn, who is coordinating the program for Rye Senior SERVE, a nonprofit organization "dedicated to identifying and responding to community needs that maximize the quality of life for our senior residents."

All senior citizens who live alone are eligible and will be given a full, in-person explanation of the program at their home or apartment by a member of the Rye Police Department before deciding whether to participate. If they agree, residents will provide Rye Police with the name and contact information for a neighbor or relative living nearby.

If the senior resident plans to be away on a particular day, he or she will notify the volunteer in advance. If the resident is scheduled to be home but the phone is not answered, the volunteer will set in motion a check-up procedure.

The check-up will include either notification of a family member or neighbor, or, when deemed necessary, the Rye Police.

Rye Water District News

Welcome, Patricia

Welcome to Patricia Owens, who joined the District on November 1st as our new Business Manager. She is replacing Liz Komisarek, who will be leaving in December. We want to take this opportunity to thank Liz for her dedication and hard work over

the past years and to wish her the best in her new job. We will miss you, Liz.

New Office Hours

We have expanded our office hours to better serve you. The office is now open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Please Help with Hydrants

Hydrant markers have been installed on all hydrants within the District in anticipation of the winter snowfall. Once again we ask for your help in clearing snow away from hydrants near your property. In an emergency, minutes saved can be invaluable.

Chief Gould Warns of Scams, Offers Safety Tips

The Police Department has remained very busy throughout the fall months. Although our daily case-load decreases this time of year, we spend a considerable amount of time preparing the summertime cases for court, and then prosecuting them in District or Superior Court. By the time some of these cases are finalized it will be summer once again!

There are a number of fraudulent schemes you should know about. One involves receiving an e-mail or telephone call that seems to be a legitimate request from a bank for your personal banking information. The message will tell you that the bank is updating its records and needs you to "confirm your banking details." These requests look and sound legitimate. I have received them from Citizens Bank and CitiBank but don't have an account with either bank. If you get this type of request, take it to your local branch to verify its authenticity. No financial institution will make an unsolicited request for your banking information in this manner. The other schemes you will encounter involve winning a lottery (usually in Canada) or a request for your assistance from the widow of a prominent ministry official in Africa or the Middle East. These are scams and you should avoid responding to them in any way.

With the holiday shopping season upon us, everyone should be reminded of some safe shopping tips. Please keep your car doors locked when driving slowly through a crowded parking lot. If you park late in the afternoon try to park under a light pole so that you can load your packages and enter your car after dark with the safety provided by the light. Store all packages in the trunk or at least out of sight whenever possible. Have your keys ready as you approach your car. Be

Historical Society Receives State Grant to Aid in Archival Storing and Indexing

The Rye Historical Society is proud to announce that it has been awarded a grant from the State of New Hampshire Conservation License Plate program. These grants are administered by the State Library for the preservation and processing of publicly owned archives. Historical Society member and professional archivist Susan Kindstedt is working with the Town Clerk's office, the Rye Public Library, and the Society to gather together and assess the records that are out there. Some of these are tax assessments from the 18th and 19th centuries, records of fires in the 19th century, records of the town poor farm, and militia records.

Susan prepares all for safe, archival storage by removing paper clips, staples, elastic bands, etc. She gets them out of cardboard boxes and into acid-free museum storage boxes. Susan will then create a finding aid and index that will locate all known early Rye records and make

them easily usable by the public for research. These aids will be available at the Town Clerk's office, the Library, the Historical Society, and the Portsmouth Athenaeum. We are very grateful to Susan for applying for and working on this grant, and to the others in Rye who have helped her. Just preserving Rye town records is an important contribution, but making them available to all is an especially valuable service.

Society members continue to work on the Hotel and Boarding Houses grant exhibit to prepare it for opening day of the Museum in May. Remember, if you have stories to tell or items to show that help tell the story of Rye's first tourist industry, contact one of our members or call Bonnie Goodwin (436-5101).

WINTER MUSEUM HOURS

Saturdays 12 noon to 3 p.m.
through December 4.

First Tuesday of every month 2 to 5 p.m.

extra careful if you see someone around your car as you approach. When going through the check-out never let your credit card leave your sight. On the back of your credit cards write "photo I.D." in permanent marker near your signature as this will help deter a thief from using it if it is lost or stolen.

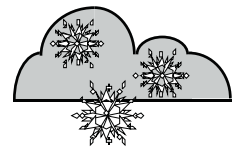
Please give yourself a little extra time before you head onto the roads in winter conditions. All car windows and lights should be clear of frost or snow. Stopping distances are greater on winter roads and visibility at intersections is poor. When plowing or shoveling you must not put snow in the road.

On behalf of the men and women of the Rye Police Department, I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

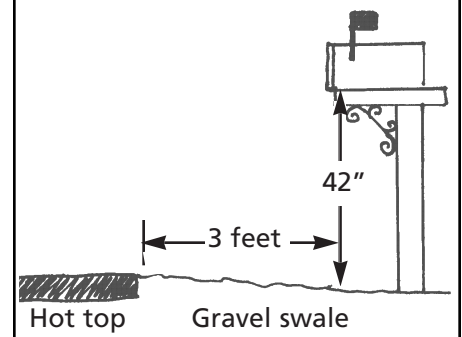
Alan Gould
Chief of Police

The snow is coming

So remember that your mailbox (not its post) must



be placed three feet from the edge of the highway pavement. This location will help your mailbox and snowplows to coexist when the snow starts flying!



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/ Winter 2005

PROGRAMS SIGN-UP NIGHT



RYE RECREATION MODULAR, 55 RECREATION ROAD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2004, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.



RYE & NEW CASTLE RESIDENTS ONLY

Registrations for programs are limited to a first come, first serve basis. When registering for tennis you will only be able to sign up for one session and have your name go on a waiting list for a second. This is in response to the overwhelming interest in our tennis program. Registrations will not be accepted prior to sign-up night commencing at 6:00 p.m.



Gulf of Maine Whales & Other Sea Life

is a colorful slide presentation by a Blue Ocean educator.

Enjoy stunning photographs, plus whale artifacts such as bones and baleen. Held in the Activity Room at Webster at Rye on Thursday, January 20, 2005, 6:30-7:30 p.m. **No charge** to the public and open to all ages.

Accordionist Extraordinaire

Gary Sredzienski will perform old favorites and display a variety of his accordions. This New Hampshire artist is the longtime host of "The Polka Party" radio show. He has represented the Granite State at the Smithsonian Museum, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and as part of a U.S. State Department sponsored cultural tour to Eastern Europe. Held in the Activity Room at Webster at Rye on Monday, February 7, 2005, 6:30-7:30 p.m. **No charge** to the public and open to all ages.



Border to Border - Coast to Coast: A Bicycling Journey Across America

is a slide show presented by Dreams Unlimited's Michael Perry. Discover the beauty and diversity of the land, the friendliness and support of the people met along the way. 5513 miles - 14 states - and 25 flat tires! A program featuring fun, inspiration, and learning. Held in the Activity Room at Webster at Rye on Thursday, March 31, 2005, 6:30-7:30 p.m. **No charge** to the public and open to all ages.



Youth Recreational Basketball

starts December 11, 2004 and ends February 19, 2005.

Adult Pick-Up Basketball will be held November 7, 14, 21, 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2004 and January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2005 and will be held Sundays 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Rye Elementary School. There will be no basketball on December 26, 2004. (Other black-out dates may be added later).

Winter Day Camp This program provides participants with a week of jam packed fun based activities. For grades K-5. Campers need to bring a drink, lunch and snack each day. Held at the Recreation House on Recreation Road. M-F, February 28 - March 4, 2005, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fee: \$100/wk (Limited to 20 participants)



Winter Fare is a cooking class offered by great chefs of the Carriage House Restaurant. Join the trio of Paul Mackey, Proprietor, Jim Lancaster, Executive Chef and Adam Olsen, Sous Chef for a dynamic cooking class. Adult participants will have fun while learning valuable cooking techniques and tips on cooking simple winter fare. Held at the Carriage House Restaurant, 2263 Ocean Boulevard, Rye, Tuesday, February 1, 2005, 12:00-2:30 p.m. Fee: \$40.00



DONATIONS REQUESTED!



The Rye Recreation Department again this year requests your assistance in providing **Cross Roads House, Inc.** with items they are in need of this Holiday Season. Items can be dropped off at the Recreation Office located in Town Hall. The following items are desired: Non-perishable food items, Toilet Paper, Laundry Detergent, Cleaning Supplies, Personal Hygiene Products, White Twin Size Sheets, Blankets, White Bath Towels etc.

Core Moves (Pilates) instruction is provided by Kirsten lafolla. Pilates helps lengthen and strengthen muscles, improves body alignment and encourage full-body awareness. The Pilates Reformer is used and is a piece of equipment specifically designed to enable the participant to achieve greater movement with added resistance and stability. This adult program will be held at the Recreation House, 55 Recreation Road.



Session 1

Mondays, January 10, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 2005, 5:00-6:15 p.m.
 Mondays, January 10, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 2005, 6:15-7:30 p.m.
 Wednesdays, January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2005, 8:15-9:30 a.m.
 Wednesdays, January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2005, 6:00-7:15 p.m.
 Fridays, January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 2005, 8:15-9:30 a.m.
 Fridays, January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 2005, 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Session 2

Mondays, February 21, March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2005, 5:00-6:15 p.m.
 Mondays, February 21, March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2005, 6:15-7:30 p.m.
 Wednesdays, February 23, March 9, 16, 23, 30, 2005, 8:15-9:30 a.m.
 Wednesdays, February 23, March 9, 16, 23, 30, 2005, 6:00-7:15 p.m.
 Fridays, February 25, March 11, 25, April 1, 8, 2005, 8:15-9:30 a.m.
 Fridays, February 25, March 11, 25, April 1, 8, 2005, 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Fee: \$60.00 per session for 1 class for 5 weeks

Yoga instruction is provided by Karin Backstrom (Tuesday Evening) and Jeanie Ryan (Tuesday Morning). This beginner program is designed to link breath and movement; connecting body, mind and spirit. This adult program will be held at the Recreation House, 55 Recreation Road.



Session 1

Tuesdays, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 2005,
 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Session 2

Tuesdays, February 22, March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2005,
 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Fee: \$55.00 each session

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



Session 1

Tuesdays, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 2005
 Grades 1-2, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Grades 3-4, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Adult, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 Thursdays, January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 2005,
 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

Tuesdays, February 15, 22, March 8, 15, 2005,
 Grades 3-4, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Grades 1-2, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Adult, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 Thursdays, February 17, 24, March 10, 17, 2005
 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 have your name go on a waiting list for a second.

After School Program



The After School Program is open to grade K, 11:10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., M - F. The cost of this full time 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., M-F. The cost of the program is \$52.50/week for full time, \$10.50/day for part time with a minimum of 2 days required, and there is a 20% discount for each additional child in the same family. Limited space available.

To Register for Programs: Complete a 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 Rye Town Hall or at the Recreation Department. Office hours are Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Programs are not refundable and offered to Rye and New Castle residents. For more information, contact the Town of Rye Recreation Department at 964-6281. Registration will not be accepted prior to the commencement of sign-up night at 6:00 p.m.

Library Director Discusses 2004 Productivity and New Schedule

This has been an interesting Fall season for the Rye Public Library and myself. I am still very pleased to be your librarian. I have been welcomed by the Library Trustees, Library staff, Rye Town officials, and residents in typical New England fashion, with politeness, courtesy, and with the well-known Yankee reserve. For this I am grateful; I find mushiness embarrassing.

Board of Trustees/ Staff Workshop and Retreat

Now that the addition to the Library is almost seven years old, the Rye Public Library Trustees feel it is time to survey Rye citizens, both users and nonusers, on how and why they use the Library—or why they do not. This was the topic of discussion when Library Trustees and staff held their Annual Workshop/Retreat on November 1. Joining the Trustees and staff as resource persons were: Michael York, New Hampshire State Librarian; Mary Ann List, Library Director of the Portsmouth Public Library; and Kerry Cronin, Head of Collection Development at the Boston Public Library and Rye resident.

Survey questions will ask how you think we take care of your building and where you think we should be headed. Trustees and staff also want to know what you think of our hours open, services provided, materials purchased and in which formats, and automation goals. We wish to hear your comments and suggestions. It is also okay to tell us the things you think we do well along with the changes you think will make the Library even better.

Following the survey and the analysis of its results, we will begin a planning process. Elected officials, Rye Library users and nonusers, and professional resource persons will be asked to join representatives from Trustees and staff in forming and serving on a Library Service for the Future Planning Committee.

2005 Budget

The 2005 Budget planning process has begun. The Library has had cordial and productive meetings with the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. The Trustees and I look forward to finalizing the budget and presenting it to Rye citizens and taxpayers.

Synopsis of 2004

The Library has had a very productive year to this date. Besides hiring me as the latest Library Director (the process was productive but the jury is still out on the productivity of the Library Director):

- A wireless network was installed.
- A gift of five laptop computers with wireless cards for Internet access were obtained at no cost (these now circulate for in-library use).
- A review and upgrading of policies was begun.
- A review and upgrading of job descriptions was begun.
- The Caswell Reference Room was reconfigured to a more comfortable, almost "living room" ambiance.
- Programs and meetings at the Library continue to increase, from the Library itself and community-initiated.
- Usage and circulation continue to increase, even as loan periods for books and other materials has increased from 2 weeks to 1 month (except for materials on reserve for another patron).
- Hours open to the public increased from 44 hours per week to 52 hours per week by opening at 9 a.m. instead of 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- The DVD and Classic Books Collections have been substantially enhanced.
- The Library staff continues to absorb change and increased Library usage and hours with their usual friendliness and helpfulness.
- Becky Marden donated her mother's Imager to the Library,

making it possible for our partially sighted and older members to read print material in larger type, compose correspondence, and fill out forms.

- Dozens of mystery books and mysteries on DVD, as well as a rocking chair, were purchased from donations in memory of Priscilla Ann Mather.

- A birdbath for our backyard was purchased from donations from the Rye Driftwood Garden Club and the Portsmouth Garden Club in memory of Barbara H. Pearson.

- A granite bench facing the staff garden and an oak book truck were purchased from donations in memory of Martha W. Phelps.

- Donations were received from the Friends of the Library, Edward H. Tate II, Rye Art Group, Rye Women's Club, and Rye Lions Club to support programs, the Children's Summer Reading Program, the purchase of museum passes, and the purchase of books and magazines. Alma Locke has donated her collection of Rye Junior High School yearbooks to the Library.

Youth Services

The Rye Public Library Youth Services completed a very successful Fall program on Banned Books. Currently, Rye young people are helping to choose the Ladybug Award-winning author for the best picture book of the year. Kids are following the ladybugs to the reading corner set up to display the book candidates. They are reading as many as they can and voting during Children's Book Week November 17–23.

Well-known librarian and author Michael Sullivan will be visiting the Library on Tuesday evening December 7 at 7 p.m. He will be talking about ways to connect boys with books. It will be a great time for parents looking for the right books for their sons to find appropriate titles and strategies, and also for teachers to find out how to inspire the non-reader. Teachers may receive profes-

sional development credit for attending. Mr. Sullivan's program, *Connecting Boys With Books*, is being sponsored by the Rye Lions Club.

Youth Services also has monthly book discussions, weekly story times, and drop-in crafts, so keep checking their calendar.

Winter Schedule

December 7, at 7 p.m. Michael Sullivan: *Connecting Boys with Books*, sponsored by the Rye Lions Club

December 14, at 10 a.m. Writers Workshop with Mimi White (Workshop filled)

December 24-25, Library closed (Christmas)

December 31-January 1, Library closed (New Year's)

January 11, at 10 a.m. Writers Workshop with Mimi White (Workshop filled)

January 17, Library closed (Martin Luther King Civil Rights Day)

January 20, at 7 p.m. Friends of the Library Program: *Boarding Houses and Hotels of the New Hampshire Coast*

February 8, at 10 a.m. Writers Workshop with Mimi White (Workshop filled)

February 17, at 7 p.m. Friends of the Library Program: *The Role of the Theater and Arts on the New Hampshire Coast*

February 21, Library closed (President's Day)

March 8, at 10 a.m. Writers Workshop with Mimi White (Workshop filled)

Many other programs and activities will be presented at the Rye Public Library. Please visit the photography exhibit currently in showing in the meeting room. A computer class will be forming in the near future. Do not hesitate to call the Library and/or visit the website frequently for programming updates.

Happy reading, listening, and viewing!

Gary Mason, Librarian
Sharon Macdonald, Youth
Services Librarian

Could Ed McMahon Find YOUR House?

If you knew that Ed McMahon was coming to your house to deliver that ten million dollar check, would you have a neon sign out front pointing to your house so there would not be any chance of him missing the address?

If you were going to have a garage sale, would you have arrows pointing down the driveway to ensure your success?

What if something in your house was on fire, or you or someone you loved needed an ambulance, could the Fire Department find or approach your home from the front or right-of-way and know that they were in the right location?

These are critical situations that affect you personally. Time is of the essence when firefighters are responding to your call for help. A quick and orderly response could mean your safety, or it could mean life or death!

The Rye Fire Department would like you to check your house numbers to make sure that they are easy to see. Drive past your home. If you didn't already know, how long would it take to find your house number? Emergency personnel experience the same difficulties when trying to locate house numbers. Those difficulties can mean extra minutes when responding to an emergency—extra minutes that could save a life.

The Rye Fire Department is making the following recommendations:

- Use contrasting numbers that are at least three inches high. **Cursive style numbers are discouraged.**
- Numbers should be visible from up to 150 feet from all angles.
- For buildings set back from the street or obscured in any way, the number should be displayed on a sign or marker at the street end of the driveway or walk leading to the building. (If your mailbox is

located on the opposite side of the street, please place a sign or marker at the entrance of your driveway.)

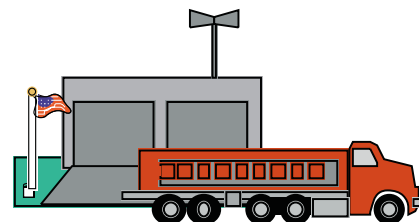
- Be sure your numbers can be seen at night (reflective numbers are ideal).
- Keep your numbers clearly visible throughout the year.

With the recent increase in remodeling of existing houses, firefighters have noticed that many houses are without numbers. House numbers are required by Town ordinance so emergency and service personnel can easily and quickly locate your house. *It is for your safety!* Properly numbering a home or business is a low-cost project that could result in life-saving time.

As a service to you, the Fire Department is in the process of confirming all Rye addresses with the New Hampshire 9-1-1 database. This database will locate an address of an emergency by the telephone number used to dial 9-1-1. If this database is not accurate, emergency crews could be dispatched to the wrong address or location. **Do not assume that emergency help will be able to locate your residence by your name!**

Numbers must be at least three inches tall and one-half inch wide, as referenced in Building Number Ordinance #21, and can be purchased at any hardware store. Choose a color that contrasts well with your house color so the numbers stand out easily. Thank you.

Richard O'Brien
Fire Chief



Public Safety Building Committee

Issues Status Report

Following the previous approvals of the people of Rye, the Rye Public Safety Building Committee has continued its efforts to bring to fruition the design and construction of this important new building at 555 Washington Road in the Rye Town Center. Working with the RPSB Committee and with input from other Town bodies, HKT Architects completed the drawings and specifications, or "Construction Documents," in anticipation of proceeding to construction.

Through a broad-based advertising of the project, all interested general contractors in the region were invited to submit their qualifications

for our critical review. Of the thirteen firms who submitted their qualifications, five GCs were invited to submit sealed competitive bids. Following a month-long bidding period, the RPSB Committee received four bids on October 29th; these were opened and reviewed in detail, including an analysis of the various add and deduct "Alternates." Based on the results of a detailed review of the base bid cost, along with the alternate prices and values, and a public safety needs analysis, the Committee, working within the available budget, decided to choose the low responsible bidder, Horne

Construction Company, Inc. of Rochester, NH, to be the General Contractor for this building. With this recommendation from the RPSB Committee to the Board of Selectmen, a "Notice of Award" was signed and issued, and negotiations initiated to conclude a Construction Contract for \$2,931,385 with Horne Construction for an early December construction start. As an added bonus, the building structural system, as now designed, will be built with the potential of providing for other Town needs in the future—several thousand additional square feet of floor space on the level above the fire apparatus bay.

It is expected that the construction duration will be between 12 and 14 months; the first phase will include the construction of the new building on the site once occupied by the Govoni house, while the Fire Department continues in operation in its present building. Once the new building is complete, it will be occupied by the Fire Department. As a last phase of the project, the existing Fire Department building will then be razed and the remaining site work, including green-space plantings and a parking lot for visitors, will be completed on that portion of the site. The Police Department will move into the building at that time.

After four years of effort, the members of the RPSB Committee are eager to see this project reach a successful conclusion with a new state-of-the-art facility that will be conducive to the personnel of the Police, Fire, and Emergency Services providing ever better services to the deserving and supportive residents of the Town of Rye.

Victor D. Azzi
Project Manager for the
Rye Public Safety Building
Committee

CLIP AND SAVE

AMBULANCE-FIRE-POLICE EMERGENCY 911

AMBULANCE OR FIRE EMERGENCY	911
Fire Department—Non-Emergency.....	964-6411
POLICE EMERGENCY	911
Police (routine calls only).....	964-5522
Police Department Fax.....	964-7458

Be sure to give your name and address as well as the nature of your emergency clearly. DO NOT HANG UP until you are sure that your message has been understood.

DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORY

Assessing Department.....	964-5523
Building/Planning/Zoning Department.....	964-9800
Building/Planning/Zoning Fax.....	964-2964
Cemetery Superintendent.....	964-6777
Library.....	964-8401
Library Fax.....	964-7065
Public Works.....	964-5300
Public Works Director/ EMERGENCY (Home)...	964-8263
Recreation.....	964-6281
Recycling Center (Recycle or Brush).....	964-5300
Selectmen.....	964-5523
Selectmen Fax.....	964-1516
E-Mail: nancyw@town.rye.nh.us	
Town Website: www.town.rye.nh.us	
Sewer Commission.....	964-6815
Town Administrator.....	964-5523
Town Clerk / Tax Collector.....	964-8562
Town Clerk / Tax Collector Fax.....	964-4132
Treasurer.....	964-8562
Welfare, Overseer of Public.....	964-5523

Town of Rye Board Meetings

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

December 2004

			1 7 pm, Zoning Board of Adjustment	2	3	4
5 <i>1 pm Rye Holiday Parade</i>	6 4 pm, Water Dist. 60 Sagamore	7	8 6:45 pm, Vision Session Rye Jr. High <i>Hanukkah</i>	9 7 pm, Open Space Committee at Library	10	11
12	13 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen 9 am, Sewer Commission	14 7 pm, Planning Board	15 6:30 pm, School Board Rye Jr. High	16 7 pm, Conservation Commission	17	18
19	20	21 <i>First Day of Winter</i>	22	23	24 <i>Town offices closed</i>	25 <i>Christmas</i>
26	27 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	28 6:00 pm, Library Trustees at Library 7 pm, Planning Bd Tech. Rev. Com.	29	30	31 <i>Town offices closed</i>	1 <i>New Year's Day</i>

January 2005

2	3 4 pm, Water Dist. 60 Sagamore	4	5 7 pm, Zoning Board of Adjustment	6	7	8
9	10 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	11 7 pm, Planning Board	12	13 7 pm, Open Space Committee at Library	14	15
16	17 <i>MLK Civil Rights Day Town offices, Library closed</i>	18 7-7:30 pm, Supervisors of the Checklist	19 6:30 pm, School Board Rye Jr. High 7 pm, Historic District Com.	20 7 pm, Conservation Commission	21	22
23	24 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen	25 6:00 pm, Library Trustees at Library 7 pm, Planning Bd Tech. Rev. Com.	26	27	28	29

February 2005

30	31	1	2 7 pm, Zoning Board of Adjustment	3	4	5 9 a.m. Deliberative Session Rye Jr. High
6	7 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen 4 pm, Water Dist. 60 Sagamore	8 7 pm, Planning Board	9	10 7 pm, Open Space Committee at Library	11	12 Snow date for Deliberative Session
13	14 9 am, Sewer Commission	15	16 6:30 pm, School Board Rye Jr. High	17 7 pm, Conservation Commission	18	19
20	21 <i>President's Day Town offices, Library closed</i>	22 6:30 pm, Board of Selectmen 6:00 pm, Library Trustees at Library 7 pm, Planning Bd Tech. Rev. Com.	23	24	25	26 11-11:30 am, Supervisors of the Checklist
27	28	Selectmen's meetings are held in the Rye Public Library Meeting Room (handicapped accessible) at 581 Washington Road. Other board meetings are held at Rye Town Hall, 10 Central Rd., unless otherwise noted. Because meeting schedules are subject to change, check the bulletin board at Town Hall for up-to-date information.				

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

Additional Civic Meetings

Rye Holiday Parade

December 5, 1 p.m.

The annual Holiday Parade will march from Webster at Rye to Rye Junior High School on Sunday, December 5 starting at 1 p.m. The theme this year is Winter Wonderland. The parade will form behind Webster at Rye, 795 Washington Road at 11 a.m. with judging of entries at noon. Sponsors are: Rye Fire Department Association, Rye Lions Club, and the Seacoast VFW Memorial Post. For more information, please call the Fire Station at 964-6411.

COME TO OPEN HOUSE

at the Rye Town Museum after the
Parade on Sunday afternoon,
December 5

SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN THE MUSEUM GIFT CORNER

BOOKS

History of Rye - Parsons

Rye & Rye Beach - Varrell

Rye & Rye Beach, Postcards - Karabatsos

Rye & Beyond, Poetry - Herlihy

Reproduction maps, notecards,
reproduction postcards,

and more...

Christmas cookies and punch!

Fuel Assistance Is Available

Winter is here and so are the high fuel costs. If you are in need of fuel assistance, please call **Rockingham Community Action 436-3896 or 1-800-639-3896** to get your application. Assistance is provided to eligible households from December 1 through April 30. Also, Public Service of New Hampshire offers a Statewide Electric Assistance Program. This is a discount on your monthly electric bill. The discount is based on the household gross income and the type of space heating used in the home. You may call one of the phone numbers listed above for further information and to see if you meet the income qualifications.

WINTER STORM CLOSING INFO

For information on Town offices and school closings, tune in to Channel 9, WMUR-TV.

Schools: The ticker will run continuously at the bottom of the screen.

Town Offices: The ticker runs twice an hour at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour.

The same information will be found on WMUR's website:
www.theWMURchannel.com

Visit the Town Web site
<http://www.town.rye.nh.us/>
for news and up-to-date
information for the town,
including meeting notices,
agendas, and minutes.

Town of Rye
Rye, NH 03870

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