



# Town of Rye Newsletter



Vol. 8, No. 4    A Publication of the Rye, New Hampshire, Board of Selectmen    December 2005

## Rye Holiday Parade Sunday, December 4, 1 p.m.

The annual Holiday Parade will march from Webster at Rye to Rye Junior High School on Sunday, December 4, starting at 1 p.m. The theme this year is Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." 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.

## Town Clerk Talks Taxes, Dog Licenses

Property tax bills for the second issue 2005 billing were mailed to all property owners on October 28. Payment is due by December 1, 2005. After that date, 12% APR interest is charged on any outstanding balance.

We are often asked if we accept credit or debit cards. The short answer to that is sorry, no we don't. Payments must be by either cash or checks. The problem we encounter is that credit card companies charge a fee for each transaction processed, and those costs would have to be passed on to all the property owners of Rye, thereby penalizing those who did not pay via credit or debit card. For those who may have difficulty paying their property tax bill, remember that partial payments are always acceptable and

*See Town Clerk, page 3*

## SELECTMEN'S MESSAGE

# Mixed Agenda for Selectmen

### Search for Town Administrator

Our quest for a new Town Administrator was initiated with assistance from Donetta Haley of the Local Government Center of the New Hampshire Municipal Association. A field of 57 applicants was narrowed to 9 for a first round of interviews conducted by an Interview Committee composed of Planning Board Chairman Bob Brown, representing our boards, commissions, and committees, Police Chief Alan Gould, representing our department heads, former Treasurer Barbara Flynn, chosen from our citizenry at large, and our Interim Town Administrator Phil Arel.

At the conclusion of the interviews, the committee summarized their deliberations and prioritized their recommendations in a report to the Board of Selectmen. The Board wishes to publicly thank the members of this committee for their work on behalf of the Town.

At this writing, Selectmen are scheduling a second round of interviews to be held toward the end of November.

## Did You Know Your Computer Safety Devices Could Catch Fire?

During the last year, the Rye Fire Department has noticed an increased problem with power strips and surge protectors at some residences. The problem seems to be either the surge protector wears out or the circuit becomes overloaded. Even though these items look similar they have different jobs.

### Power Strips

These give us the ability to plug more products into the same outlet, which can be a help but also a hindrance to safety if used inappropriately. Power strips with too many appliances plugged in can overheat by being overloaded and cause a fire.

#### Power Strip Don'ts:

- Do not use in moist areas;
- Do not "piggy back" power strips;
- Do not use with extension cords;
- Never use a three-to-two prong adapter to power the unit;

*See Computer Safety Devices, page 10*

## State Education Tax

You have now received both your updated property valuation and your second 2005 tax bill. The entire town valuation was adjusted upward from 67.9% to near the goal of 100% in keeping with state law. The second 2005 tax bill has a base tax rate of \$8.66 per \$1000 of valuation, down from last year's base of \$14.22. Water district or precinct tax is added to the base.

You are reminded that 2005 taxes include the first payment on our five million dollar conservation bond as well as the first payment on the new Public Safety Building bond.

Close examination of your 2005 tax bill will reveal an amount designated as State Education Tax, yet Rye is no longer a "donor town." In fact, unless corrected by the Legislature in January,

*See Selectmen's Message, page 2*

## Selectmen's Message

*Continued from page 1*

only Hebron, Jackson, and New Castle will remain on the donor town list. The amount collected as State Education Tax this year will be returned to the Town of Rye in its entirety.

The troublesome bottom line is that the donor concept remains part of the current law and a tweak of the formula could place Rye back on the donor list.

### Wash Your Hands

Rye is an active member of the Greater Portsmouth Public Health Network. At a recent Avian Flu Forum, Dr. Jose Montero, State Epidemiologist, and Mary Ann Cooney, Director of the State Division of Public Health Services, provided an overview of services being put in place to respond to any type of pandemic (defined as person-to-person transmission of a virus).

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Emergency Vaccination Exercise providing 2000 regular flu shots, scheduled for November 19 at Portsmouth High School, will have been conducted to test logistics for mass inoculation with an eye to improvement. Currently, there is no vaccine for avian flu as this virus has not yet evolved the capability of human-to-human transmission.

Any virus may persist many hours in the environment and is spread by direct contact or by being airborne. In his remarks, Dr. Montero repeatedly stressed, "Wash your hands, cover your mouth when coughing (but not with your hand), and stay at home when you are ill."

### Recycling and Disposal Fees

In the face of steadily rising landfill transport costs, a noticeable drop in tonnage of Rye recyclables reported recently by Public Works Director Bud Jordan is cause for alarm. The trend by manufacturers to convert packaging from glass or metal to plastics does not account for the extent of this decline. Simultaneously, we have witnessed a rise in disposition of bulk items.

Recycling has been mandatory in Rye since a vote by the Town in the 1980s. The types of materials we can recycle for revenue have grown, and most residents using the recycling facility have been extremely conscientious. For this program to continue as a financial success, we must all remain vigilant and dedicated since every item tossed into the packer that should be deposited in a recycling container or the metal pile becomes a minus instead of a plus. Currently we pay \$60.85 to dispose of each ton that enters the packer.

The most serious problem, however, concerns items disposed of incorrectly around the corner from the recycling/packer area, in the bulk container. There is a growing list of items that require payment of a disposal fee. This list includes: propane tanks, TVs, fax machines, VCRs, tires, dehumidifiers, microwaves, carpets, water heaters, bed springs, wood, and shingles. Disposal of these items incurs extra cost to all residents if payment of fees are omitted through ignorance or intent.

In order to prevent these items from bypassing the attendants at the recycling area, Bud Jordan has requested and the Selectmen have approved the realignment of personnel to provide more oversight in the area of bulk disposal.

### Policy Changes on the Horizon

In order to combat illegal parking, particularly along Ocean Boulevard during the summer, and to thwart scofflaws, the Selectmen have proposed purchase of a "boot" that will allow our Police Department to immobilize any illegally parked vehicle whose owner has accrued a given number of parking tickets or fines of a certain amount. Police Chief Alan Gould has also requested that a fine be included for the illegal removal of the device. The number of tickets and amount of fines will be determined shortly.

A recent petition received from Bob Vincent and 85 others requested that the Board of Selectmen "take under consideration widening the shoulders of all major (Class 4) roads

in Rye whenever they are scheduled for overlay or other upgrade." This request is very close to the direction the Town has been moving in over the past several years but citizens need to be aware that when a highway is overlaid (new surface laid down over the existing surface), it is not possible to increase pavement width, as there is no adequate substructure. However, in the future on roads that are overlaid, the travel lanes will be reduced to a width of 11' 6".

When a road undergoes reclamation (existing roadway is ground up and relaid) or reconstruction, the pavement will be increased from 24' to 26' whenever feasible, which will provide a 3' paved shoulder on at least one side of most Class 4 roads.

It may also be of interest to many that we have been in communication with Victor Azzi, Project Manager for the new Public Safety Building, regarding alignment of the sidewalk across the front of this project as part of a planned walkway from the Library to the Rye Junior High.

See you at the Holiday Parade sponsored by the Rye Fire Fighters Association on December 4.

Priscilla Jenness, Chairman

Joe Mills, Vice Chairman

Craig Musselman, Selectman

### 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.

# Updated Valuations and Lower Tax Rates: An Explanation

As you know, the 2005 tax rates have been set for Rye and second-issue bills have been mailed out. To avoid interest and penalty, remember the due date of December 1, 2005.

Any property owner who does not receive a tax bill may contact Town Hall for a duplicate. Real estate transfers are current through September 30, 2005. Thus, changes after this date in ownership may not be indicated on some mailings. Likewise, it would be greatly appreciated if former owners of a property that has since been sold would kindly forward the bill to the new owner inasmuch as stated herein, the town does not have that information. It is important to note that the property owner is responsible for paying the taxes, regardless of who got the bill or even if no one got the bill. There are no exceptions.

The updated valuations and lower tax rates were the culmination of the State Constitution requirement to review valuations at least once in every five years (Part 2, Article 6). With the sending of the bills, the appeal period has commenced. Appeals must be in writing or on the application form available from the Assessor's office at Town Hall. The filing deadline is March 1, 2006.

From property owners who have come to the office, we are aware of some issues needing clarification:

1: Vision Appraisal Technology, the company that did the last full-scale revaluation in 2001, was not involved in this update, with the exception of mailing the notification letters.

2: Several owners mentioned that no one came to their property. That is because this was a statistical analysis based on sales within each neighborhood, rather than the 2001 approach of measuring buildings and conducting interior listings when able to gain entry.

3: It is very common for owners to tell us that the valuation went from

\$200,000, for example, last year to \$300,000 this year, but there was no physical change. Last year the ratio (relationship of assessed value to fair market value) was 67.9%. Dividing \$200,000 by .679 equals approximately \$294,500. In other words, the previous valuation reflected about \$300,000 but the owner didn't realize it. Some who do understand ask why, if we're assessing at about two-thirds, we didn't just raise all valuations by one-third. The reason is twofold: properties increase at different rates depending on location and to increase from \$200,000 to \$300,000 requires not a thirty-three percentage but fifty percent ( $\$200,000 \times 1.5 = \$300,000$ ).

A reminder as stated in previous newsletters that in the upcoming months the State Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) will be conducting an assessment review of the Town of Rye. Random properties will be chosen that the state will re-measure and re-inspect for accuracy. This will be an ongoing process throughout the remainder of the year. **That procedure is separate from the requirement that one quarter of the town must be re-measured and inspected each year independently of the DRA review.**

The values and property information are available to you online. It is updated four times a year. Please visit <http://data.visionappraisal.com/ryenh/> or call the office at 964-5523 if we can help you.

Howard Promer, CNHA—Assessor  
Heather Austin, Assessing Clerk

**A Reminder to Residents**  
**Remember to mark your**  
**2006 calendars NOW for the**  
**Deliberative Session on**  
**Saturday, February 4, 2006**  
**at 9:00 a.m. at Rye Junior**  
**High. The Town Election**  
**will take place on Tuesday,**  
**March 7, 2006.**

## Town Clerk

*Continued from page 1*

will help defray interest costs. Our policy is to work with you in any way we can in a confidential and considerate manner, to help manage what we know can be a problematic burden for many. Feel free to call us if you have any questions about your bill.

Dog owners, when the first of the year rolls around it will be time once again to license your pet. You can take care of that chore anytime between January 1 and April 30 of each year. Simply bring in a copy of your dog's rabies certificate.

We introduced E-Reg over a year ago. This makes it possible for you to renew your motor vehicle registrations over the internet. Just go to the town's website ([www.ryenh.org](http://www.ryenh.org)), and scroll down until you see a New Hampshire number plate with the word "E-Reg" on it. Many who have tried it have told us it's very easy and convenient. Of course, you are still most welcome to renew your registrations by mail or in person at our office.

Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feel free to call us with any comments or questions at 964-8562.

Jane Ireland

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

## RYE WATER DISTRICT NEWS

**Fall Flushing.** The semiannual water main flushing has been completed.

**New Office Hours.** The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Hydrants.** We are asking your help in clearing snow away from hydrants near your property. In an emergency this will be invaluable.

**Projects.** The Cole Noyes Avenue water main project is now completed and will improve fire protection and provide alternative options for isolating water mains in that area in the event of water main failures.

Rye Water District Commissioners

John Murtagh

Joseph Kenney

Edward Stokel

# Town Officials and FEMA Outline Flood Protection Steps

## *What is our local risk?*

### **Local Flood Hazard**

The greatest flood threats in Rye come from hurricanes, seasonal storms, and seasonal high tides. Homeowners insurance will not cover losses due to flood events for properties within the 100-year floodplain. Currently we have about 250 properties insured within the floodplain in Rye. The risk of substantial property loss is very real for structures located within the floodplain.

### *First things first*

#### **Flood Safety**

The first thing you should do is check your flood hazard. There is a flood map located at Rye Town Hall, 10 Central Road.

### *How can you protect yourself and your family?*

- **Advance Warning**—When a storm watch is issued: refill needed prescriptions, check battery powered equipment, and buy extra batteries. Fuel your car. To prevent flying glass, board up or tape windows, or protect with storm shutters. If you are going to a shelter, make arrangements for all pets to be safe, as pets are not allowed at emergency shelters.

- **Do Not Walk Through Flowing Water**—Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or a stick to insure that the ground is still there.

- **Do not Drive Through a Flooded Area**—More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around road barriers; the road or the bridge may be washed out ahead.

- **Stay Away from Power Lines and Electrical Wires**—The number two killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to PSNH at 1-800-662-7764.

- **Electric Service**—If your home becomes flooded, have your electricity turned off. After the electricity is turned off, continue to be careful because some electrical appliances such as televisions hold electrical charges even after they are unplugged. Do not use electrical appliances that have been damaged by flooding before they have been professionally serviced first.

- **Be Alert for Gas Leaks**—If your home has gas service, use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not smoke or use candles, lanterns, or an open flame unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

### *Why should I get flood insurance?*

- If you do not have flood insurance, do not wait for the next flood to apply. There is a 30-day application waiting period before the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) coverage takes effect. Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

- **Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods.** However, because the Town of Rye participates in the NFIP, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been previously flooded.

- Some people have purchased flood insurance because the lender requires it as part of their mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually, these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During a major hurricane, there is usually more damage to the furniture and contents than there is to the structure. Therefore, if you are covered, check out the amount and make sure you have contents coverage.

### *Local regulation considerations*

The Town requires elevation certificates to verify that any new construction or substantial improvement of any residential structure shall have the lowest floor at least one foot above the base flood elevation.

### *How can I protect my property?*

Measures to protect a property from flood damage include retrofitting, grading a yard, correcting local drainage problems, and such emergency measures as moving furniture or placing sandbags around the structure. While recent construction practices and regulations have made new homes less prone to flooding, many existing structures remain susceptible. Retrofitting means modifying a building that is subject to flooding to prevent or minimize flooding of a habitable space. Some ways to retrofit a structure include:

- Elevating the structure above flood levels
- Construction of barriers like floodwalls or berms

- Dry floodproofing, which means installing watertight floor and wall systems
- Wet floodproofing, which means constructing the flood prone areas so as to permit the entry and passage of flood waters and removing or relocating items of value to higher elevation levels

- Elevating heating and hot water systems, washers, and dryers on a platform above the flood level

- Relocating electrical panels and utilities above the flood level

If you know a flood is coming, it is always advisable to take the following emergency actions:

- Sandbag to reduce erosion and scouring
- Elevate furniture above flood levels
- Shut off the gas and electricity
- Seal off sewer lines to the dwelling to prevent the backflow of sewer waters

### *Be prepared: flood warning systems*

Flood warnings are forecasts of impending storms and are broadcast to the public via local radio, tv, newspapers, and through local emergency agencies. These warnings are intended to help people prepare, protect, and lessen their exposure to damage from flooding by establishing time frames and levels of flooding expected. For emergency instructions, monitor storm reports on radio and television and in local newspapers.

### *How can you help?*

Helping with some flooding problems depends on your cooperation and assistance. Here is how you can help:

#### **Drainage Maintenance**

- Do not dump or throw anything into drainage ditches or streams. Even grass clippings can accumulate and plug channels. A plugged channel cannot carry water and could lead to potential drainage problems during rainstorms.

- If your property is next to a ditch or stream, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris.

#### **Permit Requirements**

- It is very important to contact the Town of Rye Building Official's office if you are planning home improvements in flood hazard areas. For additions or new construction, elevation certificates will be required in and around flood zone areas to prove that the finish floor was constructed to the proper elevation.

## FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP DETERMINATIONS

The Town of Rye will provide you with the following information regarding whether property located within the Town of Rye is located in specific flood hazard areas, as well as other information on the Flood Insurance Rate Map such as:

1. The community number
2. The panel number and suffix
3. The date of the FIRMs
4. The FIRM zone (e.g., A, B, C, V, AE, A2, A0, etc.)
5. The base flood elevation (the depth on A0 zones), if available

The Town also has elevation certificates on file in the Building Official's office for new construction with Certificate of Occupancies.

If you would like to make an inquiry, please have the following information available regarding the property when you contact us: street address and/or map and lot number. To request a flood plain determination, either fax your request to 964-2964, call our number at 964-9800 to make an appointment, or stop by the Building Official's or Planning office at the Rye Town Hall, 10 Central Road. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

## It's a Long Time 'till Spring—or Not

Changes in how Rye will treat retirement housing and condominium layouts are now being put together by the Planning Board for Town Meeting consideration. State law dictates that these proposals must be ready by January 3 to be sure of being included in the 2006 Town Meeting Warrant. Thus, for the Planning Board, our Spring comes in December. Your role and your interest is to make room in your Christmas rush for a little time for the hearings that steer Rye's future. So that you can plan for the dates and places for all the hearings on the new zoning proposals, they will be posted in the usual places—Rye town website, *Portsmouth Herald*, Library, Post Office, etc. For sure, one hearing will be at town hall on December 13. Remember, these "hearings" are not just for you to hear; they are also for you to speak up so the zoning will reflect what you want.

In advance of the hearings, the texts of proposed zoning changes will

be posted in the hallway leading to the Planning and Zoning Office in our town hall. Look them over and, if you cannot get to the hearing, send your comments to:

JohnE@town.rye.nh.us.

Look for "Retirement Community" and "Condominium" articles and come out whether you are interested for yourself, for your parents, or for a friend.

Something related that you will be "hearing" is the Master Plan update. The relationship is that all zoning flows from the Master Plan. This makes a good Master Plan more important than many people realize. Our new Master Plan will have a new organization that will reflect the latest changes in the state laws (RSAs) and the latest we get on your "vision" for our future. Come to the hearings after New Year's to make sure we have your latest. Representative democracy is NOT a spectator sport.

R. T. Brown  
Chairman, Rye Planning Board

## Rye Public Safety Building—A Status Report

Construction continues on the new Rye Public Safety Building at 555 Washington Road. Although the construction is now running behind the several oft-revised schedules promised by the general contractor, Horne Construction continues to assure us that they will complete the project on the schedule that requires "Substantial Completion" by mid-December and "Final Completion" by mid-February. In an effort to expedite the completion of the work remaining, Horne did make a change in their project management in early November.

The building envelope including exterior wall finishes, roofing, and windows is mostly complete, although some of the work remains to be corrected. The interior work, including insulating, electrical, heating, plumbing, securi-

ty systems, and dry-walling, is progressing, but still running late. Exterior painting, site work, paving, and landscaping will follow, weather permitting.

The Administration Building/Apparatus Building massing relationship is now obvious to all interested observers, and clearly mimics the plans, renderings, and three-dimensional models that the Building Committee had shared with the townspeople during the development of the design of this project. Many compliments have been received regarding how well the building fits on its site and within the context of the fabric of the Rye Town Center.

The construction-completion and moving-in sequences continue with the requirement that, once the building is complete and ready for occupancy, the

Fire Department and Emergency Services will be relocated into the building, the existing Fire Station will be razed, the site-work landscaping and visitors' parking lot created on that Fire Station site, and, lastly, the Police Department will be relocated to the new building, leaving the old building behind.

We expect to deliver the institutional-quality building promised to the townspeople throughout the four-year long planning and design process. We further expect to deliver the building within the budget approved and allocated for this project.

Any person or group interested in taking a building project tour need only contact the RPSB Project Manager, who will be pleased to provide a personal tour, hard hats included.

Victor D. Azzi, Project Manager  
Rye Public Safety Building

# Happenings at the Rye Public Library

**Monthly Book Discussions**—Third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

December 20 *Hotel Paradise* by Martha Grimes  
January 17 *Slaves in the Family* by Edward Ball  
February 21 *Mrs. Kimble* by Jennifer Haigh

**Military Book Discussion** meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Book titles to be announced—just call the Library at 964-8401.

**Monthly Health Clinic by Compass Care**—Every fourth Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m.

**Fine Arts Committee**—Everyone is invited to visit and enjoy the varied art medium display that is currently on exhibit in the Community Meeting Room entitled "Seacoast Teaching Artists and Their Artist Students" of Sanctuary Arts in Eliot, Maine.

## Call for Art

Seacoast artists who work in any medium are asked to submit a work for the next Library exhibit entitled "Winter in New Hampshire." All types and mediums that express the winter theme will be included in the exhibit from January 12 to March 31.

Please pick up an application or call the Library at 964-8401. Applications are also available on the Library website at [www.rye.lib.nh.us](http://www.rye.lib.nh.us).

**Senior Social Time**—Meets the First Wednesday of every month from 2 to 3 p.m. (December 7, January 4, February 1).

**FREE tax assistance** beginning in February—Every Tuesday from 2 to 6 p.m.

**Knitting Assistance** with Mary Smith every Wednesday at 10 by the fireplace.

**Rye Reflections**, an online publication, produced and directed at the Library every Thursday afternoon at 1 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room. Editor Jack Driscoll is always looking for new writers to join the group. He may be reached at 964-4742.

Look for some FUN in the YOUTH DEPARTMENT

**Story-times**—Wednesdays at 10 (for children ages 3 and younger)

—Thursdays at 10 (for children ages 3 and older)

**Friday Flicks**—Every Friday at 3 p.m.

Drop-in crafts, teen craft workshops, voting for the Flume and Great Stone Face book awards, book discussions, seasonal events, guest performers, interactive displays, and raffles.

## FRIENDS of the Rye Public Library

### New Speaker Series

Sunday, February 12 at 3 p.m.

#### Lincoln and the Civil War, Part I

Richard D. Schubart, Chairman of the History Department, Phillips Exeter Academy

### Museum Passes sponsored by the Friends

FREE and discounted admissions

*Seacoast:* Portsmouth Children's Museum, Strawberry Banke, and Seacoast Science Center

*Boston:* Museum of Fine Arts and Boston Science Museum

*Portland:* Children's Museum of Maine and Portland Museum of Art

*Manchester:* Currier Museum of Art

*Salem, MA:* Peabody Essex Museum

*Concord:* Christa McAuliffe Planetarium

### Film Discussions sponsored by the Friends

**Fourth Monday** of each month; led by Carol A. Glaser (no meeting in December).

**January 23:** *The Thief*—a haunting tale of passion, betrayal and innocence as seen through the eyes of an impressionable boy in post WW II Russia.

**February 27:** *Le Boucher*—a classic murder mystery by the French "Hitchcock" director Claude Chabrol.

**Computer Classes** to resume in 2006, sponsored by the Friends.

Call the Library with any special interest you may have or to be put on the mailing list.

The Library will be closed for the holidays on Saturday, December 24; Monday, December 26; Monday, January 2.

### DID YOU FORGET TO "BEFRIEND" YOUR LIBRARY?!!

If you missed the opportunity to become a Friend of the Library, please complete and return the following:

I want to be a Friend (annual membership dues).

☐ \$10 Individual ☐ \$15 Family ☐ \$5 Seniors

Donations gratefully accepted:

☐ \$25 Patron ☐ \$50 Sponsor ☐ \$100 Benefactor

☐ Over \$100 Literary Lion

Can you help with:

☐ Special Events ☐ Baking ☐ Hospitality

Thank you!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Friends of the Rye Public Library.  
c/o Rye Public Library, 581 Washington Road, Rye,  
New Hampshire 03870

## Rye Fire Department Receives Federal Grant

The Rye Fire Department recently received and accepted a grant of \$113,123 from the 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This grant process was extremely competitive since thousands of fire departments across the nation applied for funding of fire-fighting equipment and vehicles.

The Rye Fire Department will use these funds for the purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). SCBAs are the air tanks you commonly see our firefighters wear on their backs when entering a hazardous area or building. The air packs we currently have are not compliant with the latest safety standards established for the equipment, and have been prone to many maintenance problems. If we had not received this grant, the Fire Department would have been forced to ask the taxpayers in the next one or two years to fund the replacement and upgrade of the air packs.

On a separate note, now that the weather is getting colder and the heating season is back with us, the Fire Department urges residents to make sure measures are complete to render their homes safer:

- Service all heating units annually. Make sure all furnaces are cleaned and serviced annually by a trained service technician.
- If a wood stove or fireplace is used, make sure the chimney is cleaned each year—preferably before winter use.
- If a furnace uses a 'power-vent' instead of a chimney, make sure the area where it exits the house is clear of leaves and snow. If this becomes blocked, deadly carbon monoxide gases will back up into the residence.
- If you heat with gas, oil, or wood, please make sure a working carbon monoxide detector is installed in the residence.

## Police Chief Offers Winter Safety Tips

With the approach of winter and the holiday season I would like to use this space to pass along some tips which I hope will help keep you safe.

- To reduce the risk of an untimely breakdown, be sure that your car is in good working order. Pay special attention to the battery, belts, antifreeze, and tires.

- If you do have a breakdown, call the police using 911 if necessary and keep your doors locked until police or a recognized road service arrives.

- If you think you are being followed, don't drive home—drive to a police or fire station, or twenty-four-hour store/gas station.

- When cruising through a crowded parking lot looking for a parking space, keep your doors locked and your windows closed. Don't leave your pocketbook plainly visible on the seat beside you.

- If parking in the late afternoon, try to park near a light pole so you will have some extra safety when you return to your car after dark.

- Keep all packages and other valuables in the trunk or out of sight.

- Try to avoid carrying a large purse by taking only what is necessary in a pocket or "fanny-pack." Big pocketbooks on a long strap are a purse-snatcher's favorite target, but

you can minimize your risk if you put the strap over your shoulder and then wear a sweater or jacket over it.

- When using a credit card to pay at the checkout in a restaurant, keep your credit card in sight at all times. Write the words "photo I.D." beside your signature on the back of your card.

- Don't allow yourself to be distracted when returning to your car with packages. Look for anyone standing near your car before approaching and do a quick visual check of the interior before entering.

If you are traveling this winter, we encourage you to call us so we can add your home to our extra patrol list. We will also be happy to come to your home before you leave in order to do a security survey. If you will be home for the winter, please slow down and drive with extra caution. Roads will be slick and snowbanks will obscure vision. Please clear ice, snow, and frost from all windows and lights **before** heading out on the roads. When clearing your driveway, remember that plowing or shoveling snow into the road is against the law.

We wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

Alan Gould  
Chief of Police

- And if you live near a fire hydrant, please help out the Fire Department by shoveling any snow that covers the hydrant.

Lastly, the Rye Fire Department will be starting a new Firefighter Internship Program. This program was formed to seek interest from young adults who may be interested in a career in Fire or Emergency Services. With the increased demands for more firefighters, it is our hope that this program will help the Department recruit and train new members for firefighting. This structured program is open to eligible juniors or seniors in high school. The program will encompass all aspects of the fire service and it will help prepare the student for entering this challenging profession. If a town resident is interested in the Internship Program or joining the Fire Department Call Firefighting force, please contact the Fire Station at 964-6411. Thank You.

Richard S. O'Brien  
Fire Chief

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

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

## Rye Senior SERVE

## Public Hearing Dec. 13 on Proposal to Enable Senior Housing Clusters

The Rye Planning Board will hold its second public hearing on Tuesday, December 13 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall regarding a zoning by-law amendment that would enable the development of several small clusters of senior housing in Rye. Please attend if you can. The first public hearing was held on November 8.

The Retirement Community Development (RCD) zoning amendment evolved from the Visioning Session of June 2002 and is now presented by the Housing Committee of Rye Senior SERVE after meetings, guest speakers, deliberations, and visits to numerous senior housing developments in other communities. The committee's goal is to have the proposal placed on the March, 2006 ballot. The amendment would allow a parcel of 10 acres or more to be considered for up to 16 modest housing units of varying types. An advisory warrant article in March 2005 to encourage the Town to work toward a retirement-community concept was supported by a vote of 663 to 291. We encourage all Rye residents to support this zoning amendment that would help to allow our seniors to continue to live in Rye.

### Transportation Committee

We are excited to announce that a new Senior SERVE 15-passenger shuttle bus should be hitting the streets of Rye in time for the new year. With major sponsorship from the Rye Lions Club, Mark H. Wentworth Home, Shanley Realtors, Portsmouth Regional Hospital, and some generous residents, enough funds have been raised for the purchase. We are still in need of donations to put us over the top to cover insurance costs. If you are interested in this service or able to make a donation, please contact Alan Gould at the Police Department.

### Daily Call Program

The Daily Call service offers telephone contact seven days a week for seniors living alone. Volunteers have been placing calls for more than a year to provide reassurance and to help res-

idents live independently for as long as possible. 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. Please call the Rye Public Library at 964-8401 if you would like to receive a phone call each morning or if you know of someone who may be interested.

### Snow Alert

Students at Rye Junior High School who are participating in the Community Service Program will be asked to assist seniors in their neighborhoods this winter, even if it just means removing snow from their porch or just clearing a path to their mailbox. All students who are willing to help their neighbors are asked to call or stop by the Rye Public Library for more information.

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to make a **Daily Call** one morning a week or participate in the **Tuesday Morning Shuttle** to Market Basket once a month by driving the van or assisting with grocery shopping, please call or stop by the Rye Public Library for more information.

If you have a skill or information you would like to share with seniors, our **Wednesday Senior Social Time** is in need of your services. Contact the Library if you are interested.

### Senior Social Time

Seniors who have been meeting on Wednesday afternoons at the Rye Public Library will continue to meet on the **first Wednesday** of each month. The next meeting will be on December 7 from 2 to 3 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Sean Shambo, an occupational therapist, who will talk about safety in your home.

\* The Communication Committee of Rye Senior SERVE wishes to extend warm thanks to the staff at the Rye Public Library for its willingness to encourage communication of senior services and information. \*

## Computer Safety Devices

*Continued from page 1*

- Do not locate a power strip in any area where the unit would be covered with carpet, furniture, or any other item that will limit or prevent air circulation;

- Never plug medical equipment into a surge protector or power strip unless it is approved for this purpose.

### Surge Protectors

These protect appliances such as computers, TVs, phones, and faxes from power surges or power spikes. Power surges or spikes can be caused by lightning storms as well as turning on large appliances such as a garbage disposal, air conditioner, etc.

### Warning!

**Most people don't realize that surge protectors wear out!** Because they act like an electrical sponge, absorbing dangerous excess voltage and preventing most of it from reaching your sensitive equipment, like a sponge they do have a limited capacity to absorb. The problem found with MOV (metal oxide varistor) components is that, over an 18- to 24-month period, the materials used begin to break down. The operating characteristics change and can dissipate more heat. If the case is made of plastic, this process could eventually cause the plastic to melt, flow, or ignite. Early signs of failure include discoloration on the underside and top due to heat buildup.

If at any time the surge protector or plug strip is hot to the touch, remove and replace the unit. Evaluate the electrical load for this strip for overloading.

### Purchasing Surge Protectors

There are three levels of protection to consider:

- Clamping voltage—ranges are 330V, 400V, and 500V. Look for under 400V; over is too high.

- Energy absorption—ranges from 200–600(+) joules. For better protection look for ratings 600 joules or greater.

- Response time—Look for surge protectors that respond in less than one nanosecond.

- ALL surge protectors or power strips need to be UL approved. Be sure that the product meets the criteria for UL 1449, UL's minimum performance standards for surge protectors.

Remember that surge protectors, power strips, or extension cords are not a substitute for permanent wiring.



# Town of Rye Board Meetings

December 2005

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. 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.				1	2	3
4 <b>Holiday Parade</b> 1 pm	5	6 7 pm <b>Recreation Committee</b>	7 4:30 pm Long Range Planning 6:00 pm School Board, RJH 7 pm ZBA	8	9	10
11	12 6:30 pm <b>Board of Selectmen</b>	13 9 am Sewer Commission 7 pm Planning Board	14	15 7 pm <b>Conservation Commission</b>	16	17
18	19	20	21 4:30 pm Long Range Planning <i>First Day of Winter</i>	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26 Christmas observed. Town offices closed Hanukkah	27 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen 7 pm Technical Review Comm.	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

## January 2006

1 New Year's Day	2 New Year's observed. Town offices closed	3 7 pm <b>Recreation Committee</b>	4 4:30 pm Long Range Planning 7 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	5	6	7
8	9 6:30 pm <b>Board of Selectmen</b>	10 9 am Sewer Commission 7 pm Planning Board	11	12	13	14
15	16 MLK Civil Rights Day. Town offices closed	17	18 4:30 pm Long Range Planning 6:00 pm School Board, RJH	19 7 pm <b>Conservation Commission</b>	20	21
22	23 6:30 pm <b>Board of Selectmen</b>	24 7-7:30 pm <b>Supervisors of the Checklist</b>	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 7 pm <b>Technical Review Comm.</b>	<b>February 2006</b>			

5	6 6:30 pm <b>Board of Selectmen</b>	7 7 pm <b>Recreation Commission</b>	8	9	10	11 Snow date for <b>Deliberative Session</b>
12	13	14 9 am Sewer Commission 7 pm Planning Board	15 4:30 pm Long Range Planning 6:00 pm School Board, RJH	16 7 pm <b>Conservation Commission</b>	17	18
19	20 President's Day. Town offices closed	21 6:30 pm <b>Board of Selectmen</b>	22	23	24	25 11-11:30 am <b>Supervisors of the Checklist</b>
26	27	28 7 pm <b>Technical Review Comm.</b>				

## Museum Holds Holiday Open House on Parade Weekend

The annual Holiday Open House at the Rye Town Museum will be during the weekend of December 3 and 4. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 3, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, December 4, after the Christmas Parade in Rye Center.

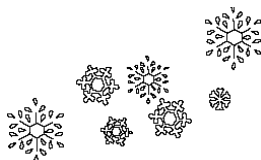
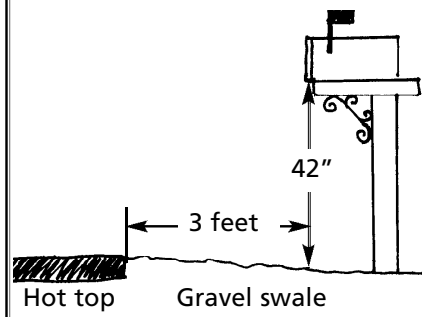
Consider doing some Christmas shopping at the Museum. We have Rye notecards, reproduced photos from our collection, and maps suitable for framing. We have all the Rye books available, including Parson's *History of Rye*, and two brand new books. *Just Rye Harbor* by Rosemary and Tom Clarie is a more contemporary history with tales told by some folks you may know. Easy to pick up and read a chapter here and there. *Star Light* by Bruce Parsons is a 30-year collection of photographs of Star Island at the Isles of Shoals—a very beautiful gift or for yourself.

After the weekend, the Museum will close for the winter. If you need information or want to schedule a visit, call 964-9079 or 436-5101. You may also keep track of us on the web at [www.ryehistoricalsociety.com](http://www.ryehistoricalsociety.com).

Rye Historical Society

### 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!



## Professional Firefighters of Rye Need Your Help

This holiday season, your firefighters are once again involved with the Seacoast Toy Drive. Last year, the Toy Drive helped families in our community and was very rewarding to the Firefighters.

If you would like to make a child (age 1–15) smile, please donate a new, unwrapped present by Wednesday, December 21 at any of the following locations: Rye Fire Station, Depot Honda, The Hungry Horse, Rye Airfield, Rand Lumber, or anywhere you see a Seacoast Toy Drive drop-off sign displayed.

For more information, please call Chuck Gallant or John Klanchesser at the Rye Fire Dept., 964-6411. Thank you.

The Rye Professional  
Firefighters Association

## 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](http://www.theWMURchannel.com)

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