



Town of Rye

Newsletter



Vol. 9, No. 4 A Publication of the Rye, New Hampshire, Board of Selectmen December 2006

BREAKING NEWS: *The Board of Selectmen has announced that Acting Police Chief Kevin Walsh has been appointed Rye Chief of Police effective December 1.*

RYE HOLIDAY PARADE Sunday, December 3, 1 p.m.

The annual Holiday Parade will march from Webster at Rye to the Rye Junior High School on Sunday, December 3, starting at 1 p.m. The theme this year is "The Polar Express." 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. Following the parade, Santa will be at the Junior High with special gifts. For more information, please call the Fire Station at 964-6411.

A Chance to Get Involved in Your Town

Community involvement by residents is embedded in the quality and pride that is inferred with the simple statement, "I live in Rye." Numerous volunteers give generously through widely diverse activities as they make a difference and give back. Some of these activities require particular interest and background and sometimes there are those among us unaware of how valuable their time, knowledge, and experience could be to the greater good of our community.

At this time, the Board of Selectmen is seeking residents knowledge-

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SELECTMEN'S MESSAGE

At Last: Public Safety Building Open House

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, more than 600 townspeople attended the Rye Public Safety Building Open House hosted by the Rye Fire and Police Departments. Refreshments and activities were set up in the apparatus bays, and small-group tours of the completed facility were conducted throughout the afternoon by Fire Chief Rich O'Brien, Acting Police Chief Kevin Walsh, and Town Administrator Alan Gould. Members of both departments, including volunteer firefighters, assisted with various activities: free finger-

printing for children, exploration of emergency equipment, distribution of fire safety materials, and serving of refreshments. Rye's 1931 Model A fire truck, Portsmouth's 1872 Eureka water pumper, a Hampton Mobile Fire Prevention Classroom, and a 1950s police car were on display alongside emergency equipment of today. On behalf of the community, the Selectmen wish to thank all of the Fire and Police Department members who made this long-awaited day so enjoyable.

Outside lighting around the facility was questioned by the Rye Historic Commission last June. It was pointed out at that time that exterior lighting was necessarily brighter prior to occupancy than it would be once the Fire and Police Departments were moved in. Unfortunately, the glowing photograph of the complex that appeared with the article in the Portsmouth Herald was taken the evening Fire Chief Rich O'Brien was hosting a meeting of 60 fire chiefs from around the state. Tours were being given and, yes, the lights were all on. Since that time, both depart-

Town Clerk Talks Taxes, Dogs, and Cars

Property tax bills for the second issue 2006 billing were mailed to all property owners on October 20. Payment is due by December 1, 2006. After that date, 12% APR interest is charged on any outstanding balance.

For those who may have difficulty paying their property tax bill, remember that partial payments are always acceptable and will help defray interest costs. Our policy is to work with you in



Beth Yeaton, Deputy Town Clerk, and Jane Ireland, Town Clerk, are ready to provide guidance and assistance.

See Town Clerk, page 3

See Selectmen, page 2

Selectmen Discuss Taxes, Personnel Changes, Eel Pond, and More

Continued from page 1

ments have acclimated to their new home and every effort has been made to respond to neighborhood concerns by reducing the lumens of exterior lights by approximately 50 percent. We are also looking into the possibility of placing shields on several of the rear parking lot lights.

Taxes

No one likes to pay taxes, but we were pleased to be able to keep the overall 2006 tax rate identical to 2005 at \$8.66 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The Town portion of that amount actually represents a \$.27 per thousand reduction from 2005. This figure includes the first bond payment on the new Public Safety Building.

Changes in Personnel

Several changes have occurred within our staff since the September newsletter. Acting Town Administrator/Police Chief Alan Gould was appointed Town Administrator effective September 1. August 31st was Alan's last day as Rye Police Chief. Police Lt. Kevin Walsh was appointed Acting Police Chief at that time. To their credit, the transition has been very smooth.

In September, the Board received the resignation of Paula Snyder as our Welfare Director. We are grateful to Paula for her years of conscientious dedication to the administration of this highly sensitive area of Town responsibility.

Although this position generally required only one day per week, Paula maintained a Tuesday morning schedule and also responded to calls for assistance whenever they arose. The requisite high degree of confidentiality, relatively small number of hours combined with an unpredictable schedule plus the necessity for knowledge of an ever increasingly complicated welfare system caused us to carefully weigh our options regarding the filling of

this vacancy. Ultimately, we deemed it most efficient, practical, and financially sound to make arrangements with Portsmouth, through their Welfare Department, to assume responsibility for Rye clients on a case-by-case basis.

Eel Pond

On October 5, the Board of Selectmen held a special public meeting to hear concerns of residents in the vicinity of Eel Pond. Members of NH Departments of Transportation and Environmental Services were also in attendance. During the floods of last spring, Cedar Swamp Run overtopped Love Lane, Central Road at Burke's Pond, and Red Mill Lane on its way to Eel Pond. The surge of water into Eel Pond caused flooding around its perimeter, eventually closing Route 1A. At that time, the Selectmen received a request to breach the shale pile at Sawyer's Beach to allow the water to escape faster. Aware that incoming storm-driven tides could possibly do more damage than the flooding, we did not act on that request. State officials have since indicated that they also refuse to breach shale piles as a result of a lawsuit for damages resulting from a similar situation to our south where a breach was made. It must be understood that Eel Pond itself is privately owned, and the exit pipes that carry the flow from Eel Pond to the ocean are the responsibility of the State of New Hampshire.

In his opening remarks, Selectman Craig Musselman outlined the Eel Pond problem, which also included a description of the flooding in Douglas Circle off Huntervale Avenue (Rye Crest) that occurred during the same weather event. The Rye Crest development was built soon after WWII and was a major reason for the creation of Rye's orig-

inal Zoning Ordinance. During the flooding of May 2006, residences in Douglas Circle were surrounded by water. Although no specific plan was proposed at this meeting, some thought has been given in the past to directing water from Rye Crest either toward McLaughlin Drive or Cedar Swamp Run via Love Lane. In either case, that water would be added to Eel Pond. The meeting discussion centered on the feasibility of lowering Eel Pond over the winter each year by one stop log (6"-9") in order to provide capacity for the spring runoff.

The discussion was lively and many concerns were voiced including the question of growth of invasive species if the water depth is altered. Some were concerned about adding more water to Eel Pond while others urged the construction of additional exit pipes by the State. It was noted by State representatives that funding is not currently available for such a project. Based on the comments of that evening, we will continue to seek resolution of this problem.

UNH Marine Research Laboratory Update

Most residents are aware of the continuing plans by the University of New Hampshire to site a Marine Research Lab within Odiorne State Park here in Rye.

Since last summer, several things have occurred. Details of the New Castle pier component of the project have neared completion, planning for the laboratory at Odiorne is about to restart, and UNH has requested larger Rye representation on their Working Group. Since its inception, we have had one representative.

Meanwhile, opposition to use of the proposed site at Odiorne for anything other than recreational purposes, and specifically for an

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

Selectmen *Continued from page 2*

oceanfront research facility, has been growing. In response to the request from Jonathan Pennock, Director of the UNH Marine Project, for greater Rye representation, the Board of Selectmen has appointed four additional representatives. Melvin Low, Kevin Walsh, Craig Musselman, and Jim Raynes join Victor Azzi as our appointments to the UNH Marine Laboratory Working Group. At this writing, we are awaiting word from UNH on the next scheduled meeting.

Mosquito Control Is Year Round

With a killing frost, everyone can breathe a sigh of relief that the mosquito breeding/biting season has ended for this year. However, mosquito control is a year-round process with much "off season" activity, including larviciding in the Berry's Brook watershed, workshops, outreach programs, and budget planning for the year ahead. Many towns faced the threat of West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis for the first time this year. We are fortunate to have an established and diversified mosquito program in place.

Self-Interest

As winter approaches, please remember that it is in your self-interest to do the following: remove fallen leaves and debris from catch basins in your vicinity, keep the hydrant near your home free of snow and, as in every season of the year, be sure that your house number is clear and visible from the street.

On behalf of the community, the Board would like to thank Lieutenant Ron Hordon for serving as Chairman for the 2006 Annual Holiday Parade, and we wish you all a happy holiday season.

Rye Board of Selectmen
Joe Mills, Chairman
Priscilla Jenness, Vice-Chairman
Craig Musselman

Town Clerk *Continued from page 1*

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 with 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.

A reminder to vehicle owners: When you want to register a vehicle you must bring either the renewal letter we mailed you or the old registration with you. The new privacy concerns prevent us from looking these up as we did in the past. Similarly, if you trade in or sell a vehicle, hang onto the registration and plates. You'll need both of those in order to get transfer credit on a new vehicle.

In January our office will be initiating a new vehicle registration service. The State of New Hampshire Dept. of Safety is requiring all cities and towns to go directly on line with their system, MAAP (Municipal Agent Automation Program). As you might imagine, this has been a huge undertaking, and in development for more than a year. We have chosen to wait as long as possible in the hope most of the "bugs" would be out of the system before we have to work with it. We're told that point has been reached, so we'll be starting to work with this system in January. We will be asking for your patience, particularly for the first month or so. The good news is we'll have great new services to offer, including the ability to issue duplicate registrations and vanity plates. In talking with clerks from other New Hampshire towns who are now using MAAP, we're told that after that initial difficult and trying phase, we will be happy with the new system.

Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8 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

Chance to Get Involved

Continued from page 1

able in the field of telecommunications who are willing to share their expertise as we approach renewal of the contract between the Town of Rye and Comcast. If your background is in the telecommunications or legal fields and you are interested in contributing to the contract renewal process, please leave your name and telephone number with Nancy in the Selectmen's office (964-5523).

Several other openings also provide opportunities for service at this time. The Seacoast Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is responsible for transportation planning activities in the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester urbanized area and is comprised of the Policy Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and staff. Membership is granted to Rye through our association with the Rockingham Regional Planning Commission. Rye is entitled to a representative and an alternate to the Seacoast Technical Advisory Committee, which meets five to six times a year to give and receive input on regional transportation issues and is a critical component in the decision making process of the MPO. If you are interested, please send a letter to the Selectmen, 10 Central Road, Rye, NH 03870.

The Planning Board would welcome persons interested in serving as alternates to that board. Serving as an alternate helps individuals become knowledgeable about Rye land regulations and land issues currently facing our community. Alternates allow the Planning Board to maintain the required number of members at each meeting. Interested? For further information call Kim in Planning (964-9800).

The Rye Historic District Commission is also seeking interested residents at this time. If you would enjoy taking part in the preservation of our Historic District, please send a letter of interest in care of the Selectmen at Town Hall, 10 Central Road, Rye, NH 03870.

Assessing Dept. Discusses Tax Bills and Appeals

The 2006 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, 2006.

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. Thus changes after this date in ownership may not be indicated on some mailings. Accordingly, 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 this office does not receive the deeds recorded each month at the Registry until approximately the middle of the following month. By the time they are processed, the bills have already been prepared. 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.

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, 2007.

Update on the Elderly Exemption residency requirement: As of June 1, 2006, you must have been a resident of New Hampshire for **three years** preceding April 1 of the year in which the exemption is claimed. Revised per Chapter 212 (SB 231) E.D. June 1, 2006. Previously an applicant must have resided in the state for at least five years.

Veterans can now request DD-214s (separation from service) online. Documents can be requested at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>. NPRC designed the new online system to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mail-room processing time. Individuals other than veterans must complete a Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records, which can be downloaded from

Planning Board Lists Proposed Ordinance Changes

The end of Fall means reflection on the zoning and land use regulations for the Planning Board. It is a very appropriate time to review what has worked, what has not, and what needs "tweaking" based on applications that have come before the Board in the past year and feedback from the town departments.

The Rye Planning Board is proposing some zoning changes that will be up for public discussion before appearing as a Warrant Article on the March, 2007 ballot.

Amendment No. 2007-02 is a definition of seasonal dwellings. The present zoning ordinance contains regulations relative to seasonal dwelling units, but the term "seasonal dwelling unit" is not defined.

Amendment No. 2007-03 is about Condominium Conversions of Commercial Spaces. The explanation is that the present zoning ordinance regulates the conversion of existing dwelling units to condominium ownership, but there are no requirements in the present ordinance relative to the conversion of existing commercial spaces to condominium ownership.

Amendment No. 2007-4 is a Con-

the website for the information.

A reminder that Todd Hayward, our field appraiser, will again be around town conducting the *State requirement that one quarter of the town be remeasured and inspected each year*. Your courtesy in allowing him to view the interior has resulted in accurate data beneficial to property owners whose homes may have had incorrect information because of prior estimating when entrance could not be obtained.

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

Howard Promer, CNHA-Assessor
Heather Austin, Assessing Clerk

dominium Conversion of Tourist Accommodation Units. The explanation is that the Rye Zoning Ordinance allows the condominium conversion of "existing dwelling units" by special exception approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The ordinance was amended in 1991 to clarify that hotel, motel, tourist cabin, and lodging house units are not "dwelling units." The intent of the 1991 amendment was to preclude such units from being changed in use to dwelling units via condominium conversion.

A recent superior court decision (which has been appealed to the NH Supreme Court) appears to have negated one of our zoning provisions by allowing a business enterprise of ten tourist cabins to be converted via "condominium conversion" to a development of ten owner-occupied dwelling units. The proposed amendment addresses the court decision by setting forth and affirming the determinations the Planning Board has made with respect to the differences in the two types of land uses.

Amendment No. 2007-5 is a Condominium Conversions of Accessory Apartments and "Grandfathered" In-Law Apartments ordinance. It is to Amend Section 503 Condominium Conversions and clarifies the present zoning ordinance on how the condominium conversion provisions of the ordinance should be applied to accessory apartments and "grandfathered" in-law apartments.

These are some of the changes the Board proposes and there may be more. We welcome the public to participate in the process by attending the public hearings and letting us know your thoughts on the changes. Notices will be published in the newspaper and also posted on the website, Library, and Town Hall.

The Planning Board is also looking for volunteers to become alternates. If you are interested, you may contact Kimberly Reed, the Planning and Zoning Administrator, at Town Hall or call 964-9800.

Bob Brown,
Chairman, Rye Planning Board

The Latest from the Rye Fire Department

What an exciting time for the Rye Fire Department! We have now been operating from the new Public Safety Building and our personnel are constantly commenting on how much improved their working conditions are. The Open House was held on November 5 and more than 500 residents arrived to visit our great building. All of the Fire Department personnel tried to thank as many residents as possible for the opportunity to work in such a great environment.

Without sounding like a broken record, our calls for service are constantly increasing. Both fire/hazardous conditions calls and ambulance calls have continued to keep crews busy. Another aspect of the Fire Department that has constantly grown is the Fire Prevention/Code Enforcement Division. Fire safety/life safety inspections of educational/commercial/residential struc-



Rye Fire Department's newest piece of apparatus: Chevrolet 4x4 pickup with 225 gallon water tank, fire pump, and hose reel.

tures in town require a constant effort to ensure the State Fire Code is enforced. Fire prevention and safety should be on the minds of all residents. If you would like to schedule a free home fire inspection, please contact our Fire Prevention Division at 964-6411.

The Rye Fire Department is happy to announce that we have received another grant for needed fire equipment. Under the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant, the Rye Fire Department received funding

to purchase a state-of-the-art breathing air filling station and compressor at the new Public Safety Building. This will allow our firefighters to fill the breathing air bottles faster and more efficiently. In the past, in order to fill the department air tanks, we were required to send the equipment to Hampton to be serviced and filled.

Lastly, now that the home heating season is among us once again, the Rye Fire Department would like to remind residents about the dangers of carbon monoxide (see accompanying box).

If you suspect you have a problem with carbon monoxide, call the Fire Department immediately (9-1-1).

Once again, I would like to thank the town residents for their continued support of your Fire Department.

Richard S. O'Brien
Fire Chief

What Is Carbon Monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless gas. It is a common by-product of incomplete combustion, produced when fossil fuels such as oil, gas, or wood burn. Because you can't see, taste, or smell it, carbon monoxide can KILL you before you know it's there. Exposure to lower levels over time can make you sick.

Why Is Carbon Monoxide Dangerous?

Carbon monoxide robs you of what you need most—oxygen—which is carried to your cells and tissue by the hemoglobin in your blood. If you inhale even small amounts of CO, it quickly bonds with hemoglobin and displaces oxygen. This produces a toxic compound in your blood called carboxyhemoglobin (COHb).

Carboxyhemoglobin produces flu-like symptoms, such as headaches, fatigue, dizzy spells, confusion, and

irritability. Since symptoms are similar to the flu, carbon monoxide poisoning can be misdiagnosed. As levels of COHb rise, victims suffer vomiting, loss of consciousness, and eventually brain damage or death.

Where Does Carbon Monoxide Come From?

Gas or oil appliances such as a furnace, clothes dryer, range, oven, water heater, wood burning stove, or fueled space heaters can produce CO. It can occur when appliances malfunction, for example; a furnace heat exchanger can crack; vents can clog, a kerosene heater is not properly vented, or debris may block a chimney or flue, causing the gas to seep into the home.

How Can I Protect Against Carbon Monoxide Poisoning?

The Rye Fire Department recommends that UL-listed CO alarms with an audible warning signal be installed on every level of the home and one in

or near each sleeping area.

Have your appliances, chimneys, and flues inspected and cleaned by a qualified technician at least once a year or as recommended by the manufacturer.

Always ensure your home is properly ventilated. When exhaust fans run they lower the indoor air pressure. If the indoor air pressure is lower than the outdoor air pressure, the airflow in chimneys and vents can reverse, pulling exhaust-containing CO back into the home.

How Does the Fire Department Check for Carbon Monoxide?

The Rye Fire Department has special detectors that monitor parts per million (ppm) of the atmosphere at any given location. These detectors can detect even small amounts of CO. If a problem is found, ventilation and mitigation of the hazard will be performed.

Police Department Update

Officers enjoy new space, teach children safety, enforce speed limits

The Police Department is finally in the new safety complex. We are enjoying our new space and appreciate the residents' support. Please feel free to stop by to visit and say hello.

We are continuing our speed enforcement throughout town. We have put the speed trailer in many different parts of town and we feel it has had an impact on the speeders. If you feel there is a speeding issue in your area, please call and let us know.

Sgt. Blaisdell and Officer Porciello are working with the second, fifth, and seventh grades teaching the children about Myspace.com, with Internet safety a top priority, how to get help with 911, bullying, and drugs and alcohol. Stranger danger and safety rules are the core of the program.

Surrounding towns are experiencing daytime break-ins. We would like to remind everyone to lock their doors and windows. If you plan to be away for any length of time, let your neighbors and the police know where you can be reached. If you have an alarm system, make sure it is in good working condition. Also, make arrangements for your mail and newspapers so they don't pile up outside your residence.

The men and women of the Rye Police Department thank you all for supporting us at our recent open house. We hope to serve you for many years to come in our new building.

Kevin Walsh
Chief of Police



Alan Gould at his desk in the new Rye Public Safety Building on August 31, 2006, his last day as Rye Police Chief. He was appointed Rye Town Administrator effective September 1.

Rye Hears Novel Approach to Helping Elderly Remain in Their Homes

On Nov. 2, a meeting of SERVE (Serving Elderly Residents through Volunteer Efforts) was held at the Rye Public Library to hear a presentation on the important question of "Helping the Elderly to Stay at Home." SERVE invited Stephen Roop (president-elect of Beacon Hill Village, Boston, MA) to discuss how this question has been addressed and facilitated by his organization.

Margaret Carroll (president of SERVE), in her introduction to Roop, noted that in Rye, there is and will continue to be a growing population of senior citizens who may require assisted living or nursing homes. However, many of these seniors prefer to remain in their own homes.

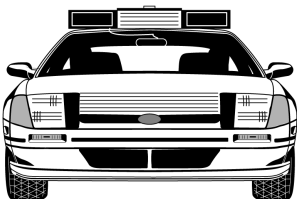
Beacon Hill Village was founded in 2001 by a group of community residents who shared the goal of staying in their homes. Several basic criteria were employed, including (1) health and home maintenance needs, (2) home safety, (3) the need to keep members stimulated, challenged mentally, and happy, (4) developing a structure of companionship, and (5)

meeting the demand for programs such as tours to museums, etc.

The Village is a non-profit membership organization that began with 74 members and currently has 390. Most members are affluent, and fees range from \$520 (individual) to \$720 (per couple). Since the neighborhoods contain many non-affluent senior citizens, it was decided to markedly reduce the fees, namely, to \$100 (individual) and \$150 (per couple). At present, 27 percent of the membership are in this category. Roop noted that the Village is not a volunteer group and has no real estate because its goal is to keep people in their own homes. As a consequence, money is needed to pay for staff to serve more people. This additional money usually comes from individual and foundation contributions.

At the close, Stephen Roop suggested that should Rye consider Beacon Hill's model, it is clear that the "different transportation" issue will need to be addressed.

Sally Mirsky
Rye Senior SERVE



Rye Mosquito Control Commission Reports on Season

The 2006 mosquito season in Rye was uneventful as a result of good planning, hard work, and coincidence. The good planning started early in the year on the part of Rye Selectmen, town employees, and the Mosquito Control Commission. Municipal Pest Management, Inc., the Town's mosquito control contractor, provided many hours of labor monitoring, larvaciding, and adulticiding mosquito breeding sites. The weather and local tidal cycles provided coincidental help with mosquito control in two ways. The unusually high amounts of rainfall in May actually washed away countless numbers of freshwater mosquito larvae before they could hatch. By a stroke of good fortune we are also in a period of low tidal amplitude. Lower tides mean fewer salt marsh areas are flooded and therefore fewer salt water mosquitoes were able to hatch. They are the dominant mosquito pest because of their aggressive behavior and huge numbers.

The Rye Mosquito Control Commission is actively pursuing ways to achieve better mosquito control with less dependence on pesticides. Salt marsh management is one of the methods we are exploring with the help of the NH Coastal Program and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Another pioneering strategy being employed by Rye for the first time this fall is to locate and larvacide breeding sites of the *Melanura* mosquito. These mosquitoes are the primary vectors for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

As you know, birds carrying EEE and West Nile Virus were found in Rye this year and, for the first time in Rye, mosquitoes carrying EEE. No one knows what will happen with regard to the incidence of these

Historic District Commission Seeks New Member

A membership position on the Historic District Commission has become available upon the resignation of Kathleen Goldman. If you are interested, please send your letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen. The HDC is composed of seven regular members and three alternate memberships.

The lights at the Public Safety Building have been toned down *somewhat*. The HDC has no authority over the lighting; it can only act in an advisory capacity. The Selectmen are under no obligation to adhere to the Commission's recommendations despite the obvious light pollution and light trespass that definitely affects surrounding privately owned property within the District.

Please remember that building permits are required for any changes within the district. HDC approval of proposed changes must be approved by the HDC before a building permit is issued. Application for a building permit may be obtained at the office of the Building Inspector at Town Hall. Town-owned property is exempt from this requirement per Section 303 of the Town of Rye Zoning Ordinance.

Jane Holway
Chairman

diseases in the coming years but the Town will continue to do its best to protect and advise residents of the situation. The Rye Mosquito Control Commission will be providing outreach programs on topics relating to mosquito-borne illness and mosquito control for the students and residents of Rye.

Tom Aspinwall
Rye Mosquito Control Commission

TOWN MUSEUM NEWS Museum Is Open December 2 and 3

The Rye Town Museum lost its main founder this past August when Bonnie Goodwin passed away. She was a founding member of the Rye Historical Society in 1976 and was active throughout its 30-year history, especially in overseeing the renovation of the Museum. The Museum has compiled a memorial album of her society work that is on display there. She will be sorely missed, but her spirit will inspire us to carry on her good work.

The Museum has many tasks that need attention. We welcome your interest in any area that appeals to you: museum maintenance, school program coordinator, public programs coordinator, staffing of museum, doing oral history interviews, working on exhibits, town graveyard maintenance, writing grants, research on a wide variety of town history topics, computer work, public relations, outreach to other historical societies, etc. If interested, just contact Historical Society chair at alexherlihy@comcast.net.

The Museum will close for the season at the end of the day on Sunday, December 3, but we are available for special openings year round on demand; just contact the chair. We will be open both days, December 2 and 3, and people are welcome to visit the Museum after the holiday parade for refreshments and holiday shopping; many books about Rye and historic photos of the town are available.

We would like our next special exhibit to relate to the history of land use in Rye, past and present, and we are looking for people interested in writing the grant and/or developing the materials to mount the exhibit.

Happy Holidays!

Alex Herlihy
Rye Historical Society

Happenings at the Rye Public Library

MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC

Tom Barron on trumpet and his friends Terry McDonald on drums, George Bodgett on base, and Larry Garland singing on piano are coming back by popular demand on Monday, December 11 at 1 p.m.

Cynthia Chatis on flute and Jennifer Lynch on hammered dulcimer will return on an afternoon in mid-January to play at a reception for our new Library Director, Kerry Cronin. Watch for the time and date.



If you missed Tom Barron and his friends this summer, don't worry. They are coming back by popular demand! Be sure to visit us on Monday, December 11 at 1 p.m. (Picture by Judy Underwood.)

ART ART ART

Currently on exhibit in the Community Meeting Room is a display of "Any Type of Painting on Any Type of Surface," sponsored by the Library's Fine Arts Committee. The exhibit includes Rye artists, some first-time painters, and many artists from the Seacoast Art Association. Come see if you recognize any friends or neighbors. For information on the upcoming February display, please call the Library at 964-8401.

Mary Vermeersch is the featured artist upstairs in the adult area of the Library. Along with a painting by Mary, there are twenty other works presented by her students, who are experienced artists as well as new artists. This exhibit is in celebration of the 15th-year anniversary of the operation of her store, the Brush & Palette Art Supply Store in North Hampton. Mary is one of ten art instructors who teach at her store. A reception for Mary and her students will take place on Thursday, December 7 at 7 p.m.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS at 7 p.m.

Third Tuesday of each month

December—*Peyton Place* by Grace Metalious

January—*Running North* by Ann Mariah Cook

February—*West with the Night* by Beryl Markham

First Thursday of each month

Military Book Discussion group

Call the Library for book title each month.

KNITTING every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Mary Smith will help you with your knitting questions. 10

HEALTH CLINIC with Compass Care at 1 to 3 p.m.

Fourth Tuesday of each month (mark your calendars)

- Blood pressure checks
- Medications review
- Help with managing diabetes/other chronic illnesses
- Lifestyle changes: exercise, nutrition, stress management

Rye Senior SERVE meetings

First Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m.

RYE REFLECTIONS online magazine

Writing and publishing sessions every Thursday at 1 p.m.

Newcomers always welcome!

COMPUTER CLASSES with Judy Underwood

Digital Photography

Jan 23, 30, and Feb 6 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Buying & Selling on eBay

Jan 23, 30, and Feb 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tips & Tricks for Microsoft Office

Jan 25, Feb 1, and Feb 8 from 10 to noon

Photoshop Elements 4/5

Jan 25, Feb 1, and Feb 8 from 6 to 8 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE RYE PUBLIC LIBRARY

MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES

"Emerging Powers—Turkey"

Sunday, February 11, 2007 at 3 p.m.

FRIENDS meetings

Second Tuesday of each month

Newcomers are most welcome!

* * * *

FRIENDS 2007 CALENDARS FOR SALE

Rye Public Library is featured in the NH Dept. of Cultural Resources 2007 Living Legacy Calendar highlighting fourteen NH libraries. Friends are selling a limited number of these calendars for a donation of \$4.

* * * *

Yearly Membership Drive Continues

I want to be a Friend: Donations gratefully accepted:

_____ \$10	Individual	_____ \$ 25	Patron
_____ \$15	Family	_____ \$ 50	Sponsor
_____ \$ 5	Seniors	_____ \$100	Benefactor
		_____ \$100+	Literary Lion

Can you help with: Name: _____

_____ special events Address: _____

_____ baking _____

_____ hospitality Phone: _____

Send information to: Friends of the Rye Public Library, 581 Washington Road, Rye, NH 03870.

MUSEUM PASSES

The Friends of the Rye Public Library have generously donated free and discounted admission/memberships to the following museums for use by our patrons:

BOSTON	Museum of Fine Arts, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and Museum of Science
PORTLAND	Museum of Art
SALEM, MA	Peabody Essex Museum

PORTSMOUTH	Strawbery Banke and Children's Museum
RYE	Seacoast Science Center
MANCHESTER	Currier Museum of Art (re-opening in 2007)

(You may call the Library to reserve an admission ticket up to two weeks in advance.)

Whats Happening in the Youth Department

- Nickleby and Hank, a poodle and black lab respectively, came along for story time in September. Kids enjoyed having these wonderful listeners visit the Library!

- Lisa visited first graders at Rye Elementary and read to students, encouraging them to sign up for their library cards and come in for a visit.

- Teen Read Week Raffle: Each entrant wrote about their favorite book. We had two winners who each won \$30 gift cards to Best Buy. Congratulations!

- Story Time kids paraded around the library in Halloween costumes—to everyone's delight!

- A surprise gift card to Best Buy for \$15 was awarded to a young patron who had seen the offer on our website. Be sure to check it over from time to time; you never know what you'll find!

STORY TIMES

Join Lisa in the community meeting room for stories, fingerplays, songs, and crafts!

Every Wednesday: 10:30 a.m.—preschool/kindergarten
3:30 p.m.—elementary

(No Story Time on Dec. 20 or Dec. 27; it'll resume on January 17.)

FRIDAY FLICKS

Friday flicks are back! Shows begin in the community meeting room downstairs at 3 p.m. All titles were selected from a survey done of our youth department patrons. Be sure you check the rating before allowing your son or daughter to attend. Free popcorn and juice!

December 1	<i>Eight Below</i> , rated PG
December 8	<i>Hoot</i> , rated PG
December 15	<i>Over the Hedge</i> , rated PG
December 22	no movie today
December 29	no movie today
January 5	<i>Freaky Friday</i> , rated PG
January 12	<i>Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire</i> , rated PG-13
January 19	<i>Cars</i> , rated G

January 26	<i>The Incredibles</i> , rated PG
February 2	<i>Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl</i> , rated PG-13
February 9	<i>Nanny McPhee</i> , rated PG
February 16	<i>Cheaper by the Dozen</i> , rated PG
February 23	<i>The Shaggy Dog</i> , rated PG

BEADING EUPHORIA!

This beading fun is open to young adults, but there is limited space. Be sure to sign up with the youth librarian early as the sessions fill up quickly. Sample beading projects will be on display in the youth department.

December 5, 7–8 p.m. Make two pairs of earrings with beautiful beads and findings!

January 9, 6:30–8 p.m. In this beading session, you'll take home a gorgeous swirl of beads to decorate your room.

February 6, 6:30–8 p.m. In this final session, we will make a funky bracelet.

THURSDAY NIGHT FIGHTS AND FOOD

Snacks and soda will be provided for this drop-in session. Young patrons will discuss and argue about their choice of topics.

December 14, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
January 25, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
February 15, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

LEARN MANGA DRAWING!

Check in the youth department for the exact date of this session; look for the event to take place at the beginning of January.

YATTITUDES

Join this book group for snacks and lively discussions. Meetings take place in the young adult room. Check with the Library for book titles.

December: no session planned due to holidays
January 23, 7–8 p.m.
February 27, 7–8 p.m.

How Do Conservationists Feel About Open Water Marsh Management?

Conservationists are often confused about terminology describing marsh management. Techniques used for Open Water Marsh Management (OWMM) were developed in the 1960s, when the name was Open Marsh Water Management (OMWM). During the 1980s, the name changed to Open Marsh Water Management (OMWM), and currently the program has been renamed to Integrated Marsh Management (IMM). When asked to differentiate the three methodologies, even the original developers/promoters cannot define any significant changes among the three methodologies.

There are many reasons to be concerned about OWMM, OMWM, and IMM techniques. Although these methodologies are each labeled as a Marsh Restoration Technique, the core of these techniques revolves around restricting tidal flow and excavating pools where there is no prior evidence of these natural features. To resource managers and conservationists, this does not meet the definition of resource restoration, which is to return a resource to a former, original, normal, or unimpaired condition. Conservationists and resource managers prefer to use sound, science-based methodologies, which look at mosquito control issues in conjunction with many other wetland values, in restoring wetland systems. In the past 14 years, the Rye Conservation Commission has completed 16 salt marsh restoration projects utilizing these sound, science-based methodologies.

The following is a list of concerns that conservationists have been asking mosquito control agencies to address for close to a decade.

The Reduction in Primary Production

In a salt marsh, the sun's energy is captured by the marsh grasses and is converted into plant tissues.

After they die, these plant tissues become nutrients, providing food for phytoplankton, shellfish, shrimp, crabs, lobsters, pollock, striped bass, and you, if you eat seafood.

When OWMM, OMWM, and IMM techniques dig up marsh grasses and restrict tidal flow, they immediately reduce the primary production in that area, and as these areas age, sulfur toxicity increases in the surrounding soils, further reducing the plant growth.

The Reduction of Fish Nursery Habitat

OWMM, OMWM, and IMM techniques are often promoted as improving fish habitat. Conservationists strongly disagree. When OWMM, OMWM, and IMM techniques restrict tidal flow to large areas of a salt marsh, these areas then only provide marginal habitat for two species of fish—mummichogs and sticklebacks—that both breed in the vast creek system of a salt marsh and enjoy a longer lifespan in a tidal channel. Species such as silversides, alewives, american eels, river herring, sand eels, and striped bass, which all use the vast network of tidal channels to feed and hide from predators, are eliminated when tidal flow is restricted.

Inconsistent Plant Biology

Many wetland plants have developed aerenchyma (*ai-reng-kuh-muh*) systems to survive. An aerenchyma system is a collection of hollow, thin-walled cells that circulates air down into the roots of nonwoody wetland plants, such as cattails, sedges, and rushes. The dominant New England salt marsh species all have aerenchyma systems as well, but they are poorly developed—traits that reveal that these salt marsh species did not develop in soils that are continually saturated.

If New England salt marshes did not develop under saturated grow-

ing conditions, then how are restricting tidal flow, raising the ground water to the marsh surface, and inundating marsh soils restoring these areas to their unimpaired condition?

Increases in Sulfur Toxicity

Sulfur is responsible for the familiar “rotten egg” or “burnt match” smell associated with a New England salt marsh. Simply stated, OWMM, OMWM, and IMM techniques raise the ground water elevation, bringing the toxic sulfur cycle up into the active root zone of the existing plants. Over time, the marsh “sulfur cycle” reduces the vigor and productivity of existing plants, increasing plant mortality, and new mosquito breeding habitats that are inaccessible to fish begin to form. These effects also impact the near shore waters by decreasing the volume of nutrients available to the coastal species.

Impacts on a Current Local Site

During a recent site review in the marshes adjacent to the Rye Recreation Area, a group of Rye officials and conservationists discovered an adjacent tidal channel with an artificial tidal flow restriction, where a historic fence line crossed the channel. The characteristics at this spot exhibited a classic tidal flow restriction caused by tide wrack accumulating on the fence line and settling into the ditch at this location. It appeared that the entire area currently breeding mosquitos was being affected by this ditch plug, and by removing the plug the breeding in this location would be reduced by approximately 90 percent.

In Conclusion

Roger J. Wolfe, Ph.D., with the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, a leading authority on OWMM, OMWM, and IMM techniques on the Mid-Atlantic Coast, repeatedly refers to OWMM,

Conservation

Continued from page 12

OMWM, and IMM techniques as effective point source reduction techniques with an effective lifespan of less than 20 years, and states that these techniques should not be incorporated into locations where the effects of the project will negatively impact the existing plant community.

Based on the fact that there is no historic evidence to show that salt ponds occurred at this Awcomin location in the past, the Rye Conservation Commission believes that OWMM, OMWM, and IMM techniques are inappropriate for this location. In our opinion, the continued exploration of OWMM, OMWM, and IMM techniques, which will result in the project costing the Town tens of thousands of dollars for outdated methodology, is an inappropriate use of the Town's resources and also a contradiction to the definitions of restoration.

It is the Rye Conservation Commission's understanding that the mosquito breeding in this location can be effectively controlled by up to 90 percent with the removal of the tidal restriction by hand, and for less than \$100. In addition, the removal of the artificial tidal restriction will also eliminate the standing water on the surface of the marsh that is being used by mosquitoes as a breeding habitat, while preserving and enhancing all of the wetland values previously discussed. It should also be noted that the Rye Conservation Commission is currently working with NRCS on an amendment to the original Awcomin contract, with the goal of connecting the Recreation Area to the ocean via Gamons Brook.

As the stewards of the Town's natural resources, we feel that our concerns with the potential negative effects of OWMM, OMWM, and IMM techniques are well founded. Many other New England resource managers, including the United

Public Works Director Says Thank You

The flooding in May and the wild winds of August 2 caused extensive damage and loss to many of our residents. In response, the Public Works staff put in long and hard hours at the Recycling Center and on the roads assisting in the cleanup after each storm. I want to thank them all.

Thanks also go to the many residents, who were patient, appreciative, and helpful in the aftermath of these events. Special thanks go to Dennis Berry, who donated the use of his heavy equipment, enabling us to reduce a mountain of tree debris into mulch, clearing the area and saving the town thousands of dollars.

Just a reminder: The Recycling Center is open from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Brush and yard debris is accepted on Tuesday and Saturday only. Please call Public Works at 964-5300 if you need more information.

Everett "Bud" Jordan
Director of Public Works

States Fish and Wildlife Service, The Essex County Green Belt Association, and New Hampshire Fish and Game, have either terminated their prior OWMM, OMWM, and IMM programs or share our concerns.

The Rye Conservation Commission appreciates having had the opportunity to express our concerns and offer our solutions to the Rye community regarding this important wetlands issue.



Rye Water District News

Fact or Fiction?

"RYE WATER IS HARD WATER"

Answer: FICTION!

On a scale from soft to moderately hard, to hard, to very hard our water fits into the category of soft to moderately hard. For those of you who are familiar with water hardness (caused by calcium and magnesium in the water), the NH State Laboratory measurements consistently set our hardness at approximately 74 mg/l (4.3 grains/gal).

Fall Flushing

The semiannual water main flushing has been completed.

Hydrants

As winter approaches, hydrant markers have been installed on all hydrants within the District. Once again we ask for your help in clearing snow away from hydrants near your property. This will be invaluable in an emergency.

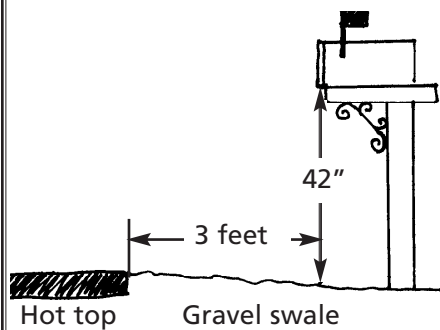
Fence, Trees, and Labor Donated to Improve RES

The Rye Elementary School recently held a Beautification Day to spruce up the school grounds. Despite the cold, rainy weather, many parents, teachers, students, and community members worked hard to lay mulch, plant perennials, and rake debris. The entire RES community is grateful to Kathy and Bill MacAlpine, who generously donated trees and shrub-beries, as well as the wonderful new fence leading to the school entrance. The MacAlpines hope that their contribution will encourage the generosity of others to address the needs of the schools and community.

Following a site walk on August 16, the Board of Selectmen approved installation of those portions of the fence to be erected within the Town right of way.

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!



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.WMUR.com

Conservation Commission Seeks Alternates

The Rye Conservation Commission has openings for volunteers for positions as "alternates." Alternates use that position to learn the regulations and responsibilities before them, and, as full time positions open up, they fill those vacated seats.

As a commission appointed by the Selectmen, the RCC meets publicly once a month at the Town Hall to review issues regarding the Town's wetlands and woodlands. Board members must be available for meetings, site walks as needed, and should be good communicators, with an interest in the environment and preservation of our natural resources. Members are often tasked with small projects that are especially suited to writing, organizational, and interpretive skills. Other projects might involve the more physical aspects of post-storm cleanup or work with invasive species on Town-owned land. If working as a steward of Rye's beautiful natural resources appeals to you, please call Chairman Jim Raynes at 431-6962, and join a truly wonderful, dedicated group of conservationists.

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

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
Recreation.....	964-6281
Recycling Center (Recycle or Brush).....	964-5300
Rye Water District.....	436-2596
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
Welfare (Portsmouth Welfare Dept.).....	610-7267



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.

Town of Rye Board Meetings

December 2006

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 3:30 pm
Rye Water District
60 Sagamore

5 7 pm
Recreation Commission

6 4:30 pm Long Range Planning
7 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment

7

8

9

10

11 6:30 pm
Board of Selectmen

12 9 am Sewer Commission
7 pm Planning Board

13

14

15

Hannukah begins

16

17

18

19

20 6 pm
School Board
Rye Junior High

21 7 pm
Conservation Commission
First day of Winter

22

23

24

25 *Christmas Day*
Town offices closed

26 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen
7 pm Technical Review Committee

27

28

29

30

31

New Years Eve

January 2007

1 *New Years Day*
town offices closed

2 3:30 pm
Rye Water District
7 pm Recreation Commission

3 4:30 pm Long Range Planning
7 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment

4

5

6

7

8 6:30 pm
Board of Selectmen

9 9 am Sewer Commission
7 pm Planning Board

10 7 pm
Town Budget Public Hearing
Library

11 7 pm
School Budget Public Hearing
Library

12

13

14

15 *MLK Civil Rights Day*
Town offices closed

16 7 pm
Town and School Budget Public Hearing
Snow Date, RJH

17 6 pm
School Board
Rye Junior High

18 7 pm
Conservation Commission

19

20

21

22 6:30 pm
Board of Selectmen

23 7-7:30 pm
Supervisors of the Checklist

24

25

26

27

28

29

30 7 pm
Technical Review Committee

31

February 2007

1

2

3

9 a.m.
Deliberative Session
Rye Jr. High

4

5 3:30 pm
Rye Water District
60 Sagamore
6:30 pm Board of Selectmen

6 7 pm
Recreation Commission

7 4:30 pm Long Range Planning
7 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment

8

9

10 *Snow date for Deliberative Session*

11

12

13 9 am Sewer Commission
7 pm Planning Board

14

15 7 pm
Conservation Commission

16

17

18

19 *Presidents Day*
Town offices closed

20 6:30 pm
Board of Selectmen

21 6 pm
School Board
Rye Junior High

22

23

24

25

26

27 7 pm
Technical Review Committee

28

Library Trustees, first Tuesday of the month
6:30 pm at the Library

Rye Lions Club, first Wednesday every month, 7 pm at the Rye Library
Friends of the Library, second Tuesday every month, 7 pm at the Library

Additional Civic Meetings

A Reminder to Residents

Remember to mark your 2007 calendars NOW for the Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 3, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at Rye Junior High. The Town Election will take place on Tuesday, March 13, 2007.

WELFARE ASSISTANCE

Effective Immediately
Rye residents in need of welfare assistance should call the Portsmouth Welfare Department to make an appointment at (603) 610-7267.



The Library front porch light is shining again thanks to Jim Holway.
(Picture by Judy Underwood.)

TOY BANK DONATIONS WANTED

Seacoast Area Fire Firefighters' Toy Bank Donations will be accepted until December 21.

Here's how you can help:

- * Donate new, unwrapped toys for ages newborn to 17 years old. Good ideas are toys, crafts, games, dolls, inflatable sleds, footballs, basketballs.
- * Donate gift cards for local merchants.
- * Donate financial contributions to the Rye Firefighters Toy Bank. Mail to or drop off your contributions at the Rye Fire Station, 555 Washington Road.
- * Toy Drop-off locations are: Rye Fire Station, Depot Honda, Hungry Horse, Rye Airfield, and more. Watch for the Toy Bank Drop-Off signs!

Questions? Contact Rye Firefighters Charles Gallant or John Klanchesser at (603) 964-6411. Thanks for your support!



Town of Rye
Rye, NH 03870

Bulk rate
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Rye, NH 03870

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RYE, NH 03870