



Town of Rye

Newsletter



Vol. 11, No. 4 A Publication of the Rye, New Hampshire, Board of Selectmen December 2008

RYE HOLIDAY PARADE

Theme: Peace On Earth
Saturday, December 13, 1 p.m.

**Parade Route: Webster at Rye
to Rye Junior High School**

**Attn: Organizations wishing to
participate:** There is an entry
form on the back cover.

2008 RYE TAX RATE SET at \$9.62

Town:	\$2.74	(up \$.49 from 2007)
School Local:	\$3.64	(up \$.10)
State Ed.:	\$2.27	(up \$.05)
County:	\$0.97	(up \$.07)
TOTAL RATE:	\$9.62	(up \$.71) up 8% from 2007)

Precinct/District tax rates added:

Jenness Beach:	\$.18
Rye Beach:	\$.31
Rye Water Dist.:	\$.48

MARK YOUR 2009 CALENDARS

**The Deliberative
Session has been set
for Saturday, January
31, 2009 with the snow
date on February 7.
The Town Election will
be held on Tuesday,
March 10, 2009.**

SELECTMEN'S MESSAGE

The Latest Updates on Town-Involved Items

Rye 2008 Tax Rate

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN met with State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration official Jean Samms on October 23 to set the 2008 tax rate for the Town. Also present were our Financial Administrator Cyndi Gillespie, Interim Town Administrator Michael Farrell and representatives from the Rye Beach Precinct and Rye Water District.

For the first time in three years, the Town's portion of the tax rate has risen as the result of several factors. Revenues dropped by 9.5 percent (down \$370,715), which includes decreases in investment income (down \$131,000) and motor vehicle registration (down \$81,000). Meanwhile, the Town's appropriations increased by 8.0 percent from \$7,575,279 of total appropriations for 2007 to \$8,182,511 of total appropriations for 2008, inclusive of all warrant articles.

Town Clerk Credits Cooperation in Making a Smoothly Run Election

The 2008 General Election is finally over. What an intense election season this has been! A great deal of cooperation between Moderator Bob Eaton, Rye Elementary School Principal Lane Richardson, Police Chief Kevin Walsh, Fire Chief Skip Sullivan, and this office meant that all areas of concern were addressed. The predicted size of the election required many more workers than we regularly have. The day was brutally long and our election staff hung in there to make sure every law and rule was followed. A big "Thank-you" goes out to all who worked to make our election go so smoothly.

Also, due to a decrease in the Town's undesignated fund balance, the Board was unable to apply the same amount from that account against the tax rate as in prior years. In tax year 2006, \$700,000 from the undesignated fund balance was applied against the tax rate and \$875,000 in tax year 2007. In tax year 2008, your most recent tax billing, we were able to apply only \$600,000. It has been the policy of the Board of Selectmen to apply undesignated fund balance monies against the tax rate whenever possible. However, it is unlikely that we will be able to lower the Town portion of your tax rate by this means in the foreseeable future since the State Department of Revenue strongly recommends retention of 5 percent to 17 percent in the undesignated fund balance account, and we have now reached that threshold.

Selectmen's Message: Beach Issues, Seavey's Creek, Bike Greenway,

(Continued from page 1)

Staff Changes

In early September, Alan Gould submitted his resignation as Town Administrator, after having spoken with each of us personally concerning his decision to take a position in the private sector with Municipal Resources Inc.(MRI). His residence will not change. Alan offered to continue as our Director of Emergency Management and we gratefully accepted. He also plans to remain involved with Senior Serve and the Rye Lions Club. Although we accepted his resignation with regret, we are pleased that he will remain an integral part of our community.

In order to provide for a smooth transition by October first, we decided to utilize MRI as we have in the past, and hired Michael Farrell as Interim Town Administrator. Mike has been a senior consultant with Municipal Resources Inc. since 2003, serving as interim town administrator or town manager in Lebanon, Plaistow, Raymond, Plymouth, Sanbornton and most recently in Windsor, Vermont. His background includes 14 years as a full-time municipal manager, a bachelor's degree from Villanova University, a master's in business from Southern New Hampshire University and a master's in public administration from Harvard. He became Rye Interim Town Administrator on October first.

Following the resignation of Rye Recreation Program Director Jonathan Carleton, a search for his replacement was conducted by the Recreation Commission, resulting in our appointment of Paul Penman, effective November 3. In addition to a bachelor's degree in Science from the University of Paisley (Scotland) followed by a Post Graduate Certificate in Outdoor Recreation from the University of Edinburgh, the Board of Selectmen was more than pleased to discover that Paul is

also a lifeguard and water safety instructor, certified in CPR and American Red Cross first aid.

Within our Fire Department, since the last newsletter Rye Fire Chief William "Skip" Sullivan has been appointed Rye Forest Fire Warden and Firefighter James Eslinger has been appointed Deputy Forest Fire Warden for Rye.

Beach Issues

On September 20, Beach Commissioners Michael Labrie, John Panopoulos and Tim Sanborn presented a season-end review to the Board of Selectmen. Among their concerns were on-going dog issues, surfing/ swimming area separation difficulties, and the increasing use of tow-in jet skies. In addition, the selectmen have had some discussions about extending the requirement for event permits to include beach activities. This issue has come up as the result of advertising by surfing schools to instruct surfing on our beaches and a body surfing contest that was held last summer.

In October, we received a comprehensive report from Police Chief Kevin Walsh regarding the summer of 2008. His report contained the following dog related statistics: 52 tickets were issued for dogs on the beach before or after hours, 21 warnings for same and 3 warnings issued for dogs not under control. There were four dog bites: two dogs and two people.

Chief Walsh also noted that 50 tickets were issued for open containers with alcohol.

Further study of these concerns and their remediation by Beach Commission, Police Department, and the Board of Selectmen is ongoing. Specifically regarding the dog issues, within the next few weeks an open discussion will be held during a Selectmen's meeting. All attendees at the last discussion of dogs on the beach and residents who have contacted the Town regarding dog issues

will be notified. This discussion will be used to provide input for a possible amendment to our existing Animal Beach Use and Waste Removal Ordinance. The meeting will be held prior to a Public Hearing and placement of a Warrant Article on the 2009 March ballot.

Seavey's Creek Bridge Replacement

The Seavey's Creek bridge on Pioneer Road/Route 1-A was closed for repair and replacement on November third. This is a New Hampshire Department of Transportation project on a State road. The bridge will remain closed until mid-May 2009 and all traffic must detour as there will be times when there is a gap in the span. Although the bridge under renewal was built in 1943, it is believed (Parsons: *History of Rye, N.H.*) that the first bridge constructed at this site, along with a dam and mill, was built in the late 1600s at a time when this area was part of Portsmouth and settlers at Pannaway (now Odiorne) sought connection to other coastal settlements.

Inaugural Bike Ride—

East Coast Greenway Segment

Under the auspices of the Rockingham Planning Commission, the opening of the Rye segment of the East Coast Greenway was celebrated as part of the inaugural bike ride from Hampton Beach to Portsmouth on September 20. The day concluded with events at Strawberry Banke. The route through Rye was planned to avoid the most congested areas. Work is ongoing to eventually create a pedestrian/bike path from Florida to Maine.

The Town of Rye Newsletter is produced by
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Pulpit Rock, Education Funding, Mosquitos, Zoning, Foye's Corner

Energy Committee Wash Day Project

Congratulations to our Energy Committee on the success of the Wash Day Project. As a result of the enthusiasm and leadership of this committee, a number of Rye residents became engaged in energy savings by abandoning their dryers during July and August in favor of hanging clothes outside to dry. Many of the participants offered their clotheslines as subject matter for local artists. Through collaboration of our Energy Committee and the Seacoast Science Center, the resulting works of art were brought together in an art display and Rye Day Celebration that was held at the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne State Park on November 14 and 15. The artwork will remain on display through December 15.

Pulpit Rock Tower

The September newsletter reported on the possibility of transfer of the ownership of the tower at Pulpit Rock from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (the current owner) to the Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower through the Town of Rye.

Since that time, we have received a letter from Betsey McNaughton, Land Agent for New Hampshire Fish and Game, outlining the general terms of agreement required of the Town of Rye, Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower, and an Easement Grantee or Easement Holder (which could be one of several entities) that are necessary in order to pursue this goal. This process is ongoing.

Education Funding

We remain vigilant regarding education funding.

The Legislature has defined a constitutionally adequate education, along with cost per pupil, and the new education funding formula is in the process of being implemented. We will continue to operate under the transition portion of the new formula until July 1, 2011.

You are reminded that the only way to eliminate our exposure as a "Donor" community is to repeal the Statewide Property Tax. Without repeal, the best way to reduce it is a constitutional amendment allowing the state to target aid to neediest students.

Mosquitos

A hard or killing frost, necessary to end the West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) surveillance season, did not occur in Rye until late in October. The latest and final 2008 N.H. Arbovirus Surveillance report indicates that of the 188 humans tested, none tested positive for WNV or EEE and of the 7 animals tested, 1 (an emu from Barnstead) tested positive for EEE. Of the 10,020 mosquito pools tested, 1 tested positive for WNV and 8 tested positive for EEE. No pools in Rye tested positive. The closest town with a positive pool test was Exeter.

Do Your Homework

Between now and the voting in March, diverse additions and changes to our zoning will become available for your consideration. Details of a demolition ordinance, an energy systems ordinance, and inclusionary zoning (IZIP) are among the topics currently being worked on by the Planning Board.

Laid to Rest

Following a town wide survey through this newsletter to determine interest in the installation of a sculpture at the Foyes Corner roundabout, the results were as follows:

Good idea/would contribute: 1,

Don't care/won't contribute: 1, and

Bad idea: 8.

Underwhelmed by this response, the issue has been laid to rest.

Closing

Congratulations to Town Clerk Beth Yeaton and our election team. Beth's organization and preparation

for the November 4 election provided Rye voters with an efficient voting experience as 3,822, 77 percent of our registered voters, cast ballots during this historic event. Moderator Bob Eaton attended to legal details, aided by Assistant Moderator Frank Drake. Deputy Town Clerk Robin Baker, Police Chief Kevin Walsh and his officers, Public Works employees and carpenter Norman Yeaton all contributed to the success of the planning for this day.

In closing, we take this opportunity to thank Fire Fighter David Kornechuk and members of the Rye Fire Department Association for organizing the 2008 Holiday Parade. They have chosen Peace on Earth as the theme for this year and, as anticipated, Santa will arrive during this event. The parade is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 13.

We wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday season.

Craig Musselman, Chairman
Priscilla Jenness, Vice Chairman
Joe Mills, Selectman



CATCH BASINS

As the last leaves of autumn fall and yards are put to bed for the winter, it behooves residents to also keep the covers of catch basins in adjacent areas free of debris. This could prevent an icy patch or even flooding.

Holiday Safety Message from the Fire Chief

The holiday season is fast approaching and it is once again time to remind the residents of Rye about winter time heating safety and safe practices around the home while celebrating what should be one of the happiest times of the year.

Hopefully by this time, you will have had your heating system checked for safe and proper operation. Gas or oil burning appliances can produce carbon monoxide, which is an odorless and colorless gas. When appliances malfunction, vent pipes clog and a chimney flue becomes blocked, carbon monoxide can seep into the home. If the situation goes undetected, it can make you ill at lower concentrations and KILL at higher levels.

This is why it is imperative that a CO warning device with an audible alarm be located on each level of your home in addition to a working smoke detector.

If you are heating with wood, make sure that the wood or pellet stove is properly installed and away from all combustibles. When cleaning out the stove, place ashes in a metal container and away from the

house. You would be amazed at the number of fires that start each winter from wood or coal ashes being placed in a paper bag or a cardboard box and left on the back porch.

Anyone burning wood as a method of alternative heating should go to this website provided by the UNH Extension Service: <http://extension.unh.edu/Energy/WoodHeat.html>

Decorative candles have become one of the leading causes of residential fires in the home. They smell nice when burning, but when left unattended or placed too close to combustible materials, they have been responsible for a large number of residential fires. Before leaving the house or retiring for the night, make sure that all candles are extinguished.

Unless you go out into the woods and cut down your own tree, the Christmas tree that you purchase locally could have been cut back in October somewhere in Maine or Canada, so it is already drying out when you bring it home. Once indoors and set up, the heat dries it even faster. The advice from the fire department is to keep your tree watered while it is set up and remove it as soon as possible after the holidays.

The strings of lights that decorate the tree or



The new 2008 Chevrolet/Life Line ambulance approved by the voters at the 2008 annual town meeting and recently delivered to the Rye Fire Department.

the outside of your home should be carefully checked each year before using them. If your inspections show any sign of frayed or bare wire, dispose of them immediately.

I know we sound like a broken record every year when preaching fire prevention, but home fires around the holiday season are especially sad. We hope you will heed the advice of your fire department so that all residents of Rye enjoy not only safe and happy holidays, but continued safety throughout the winter months.

William "Skip" Sullivan
Fire Chief



Firefighter John Cots and Lieutenant Jeff DiBartolomeo of the Rye Fire Department were recently commended by the New Hampshire Fire Service Committee of Merit for their actions during a water rescue off of the ledges back in the spring of 2007. "Pictured from left to right: Fire Chief William "Skip" Sullivan, Lt. Jeff DiBartolomeo, and Firefighter John Cots.



Assessor Discusses Tax Bills

TAX BILLS DUE DECEMBER 1, 2008

The State's Department of Revenue Administration has calculated the 2008 tax rate, as shown above. To avoid interest and penalty, be sure to make payment by the due date of December 1, 2008.

Property owners who do not receive a tax bill may contact the Tax Collector's Office for a duplicate. Your options to do so are by telephone 603-964-8562; fax 603-964-4132; or email rbaker@town.rye.nh.us. Real estate deeds are current through September 30, 2008. Any changes of ownership occurring thereafter may not be included in the recent mailings unless this office or the Tax Collector was notified by the responsible party. It is important to be aware that the property owner is responsible for paying the taxes, regardless of who got the bill.

The mailing of the autumn real estate bill is the trigger that commences the appeal period, which then continues through the fall and winter months until the statewide deadline of March 1, 2009. Any appeal must be in writing, with the easiest method being the filing of the abatement application form available at the assessing office on the second floor of Town Hall or in the mail by calling 603-964-5523 or email haustin@town.rye.nh.us.

Please be aware that the burden of proof is the responsibility of the property owner. Statements such as "valuation too high" or "taxes too much" do not constitute basis for appeal without specific documentary evidence of inequity or comparison to recent sales of similar properties in the neighborhood.

Assessed valuations and property data are available online. Please visit <http://data.visionappraisal.com/ryenh>. The web site is updated four times a year. Our department continues updating on a daily basis for all

Police Chief Offers Tips, Requests, and How to Foil a Scammer!

Winter Parking: Winter is here and soon the snow will arrive. We are asking residents and visitors to please park in their driveways during the night and during snow removal to assist Rye Highway Department with snow removal.

Snow Plowing: If your driveway is plowed by a private contractor, please remind the contractor not to push snow across the road from your driveway.

Deer Crossing: During this time of year, deer are on the move. We have several herds in town and they cross the roads frequently. Please use caution when traveling around town.

Solicitors: Residents, please make sure, before giving a check or cash to anyone, you have verified that the person is associated with a legitimate organization. The Rye Police have taken complaints of people going door to door in an attempt to get money. If a solicitor says he or she only takes cash, won't answer your questions, doesn't have a business card or legitimate organization contact information for you to verify they are part of an organization, please do not give them any money or checks. Some people will call and say a relative has been arrested in Canada and needs money right away. If you are not sure or if it sounds strange, please call the Rye Police and we'll help verify if the organization and/or person is legiti-

mate. Some of the scams will tell you have won money but have to wire some money, usually they say for taxes, in order to get the money you won. If it sounds too good to be true, IT IS, DON'T DO IT! Check with the Rye Police first.

Holidays: Please lock your vehicle when shopping and put any purchases out of sight. Gift cards are also being targeted by thieves. Put the cards out of sight even when you are at home. Keep your receipts for gift cards. If a card is lost or stolen, the receipt can help track it. **Do not give out your social security number**, including when using the computer to make purchases. Never give out personal information.

Vacation: if you are planning to go away for a couple of days, weeks or the winter, please make sure your home is locked. Use the security system, if you have one. Talk to a neighbor and let them know you are going to be away. Whenever possible, ask a family member to check the house, and please let the Rye Police know you are away and when you will return.

One problem the Rye Police Department consistently encounters is that people do not always call us when they observe something that just doesn't seem quite right. People they tell us they don't want to bother the police with something they feel is small. Please, nothing is that small—call us. Police are only as effective as the people who support them. We look forward to hearing from you.

I hope residents have noticed the flower boxes in front of the Public Safety Building. Thank you, Rye Driftwood Garden Club, for keeping them filled so beautifully.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Kevin Walsh
Chief of Police

properties as necessary. For the most recent information please call the office at 964-5523.

Howard Promer, CNHA-Assessor
Heather Austin, Assessing Clerk

Town Clerk's Message *Continued from page 1*

This office received an incredible 900+ applications for absentee ballots shattering the record of requests from all previous elections by 300 applications. Requests came in from all areas of the world and it was a delight to make sure all of the Town's globetrotters received their ballots.

Tax Bills. All tax payers should have noticed the new style of tax bills. In addition to being far less expensive to print, I believe they are easier to read.

Dog Licenses. As a reminder to dog owners, your dogs can be licensed for 2009 beginning in January. All dogs are required to be licensed by April 30 of each year.

Town Offices. The filing period for



The prize for the voter whose ballot traveled the farthest goes to Patrick Jeffery (left), who is serving at the McMurdo Station in Antarctica until February. This picture shows him along with Rye Jr. High teacher, Robin Elwood, who is also in Antarctica but at a field camp some distance away from McMurdo Station.

town offices will be January 21 through January 30 for the 2009 town election.

Elizabeth M. Yeaton
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Congratulations to Fellow Board Member



Craig N. Musselman, Board of Selectmen Chairman (right), was recently named a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is shown here being congratulated by ASCE President, David Mongan. Photo courtesy of David Hathcox for ASCE.

Congratulations to Board of Selectmen Chairman Craig Musselman! Craig was named a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) at a special awards dinner during the national ASCE conference held in Pittsburg on November 6. While Craig's accomplishments including the success of CMA Engineers were noted, his selection as distinguished member had most to do with his unique work nationally to increase

the requirements for engineering licensure to keep pace with growing demands of society.

In addition to offering congratulations to Craig for this national recognition, we would like the residents of Rye to be aware that at the local level we have all been the beneficiaries of his engineering expertise.

Fellow BOS members
Priscilla Jenness
Joe Mills

Senior SERVE Members Were Busy in October

Rye Senior SERVE volunteers were busy assisting seniors in October with transportation requests leading the list of needs, including 26 trips to doctors. We continue to offer the Tuesday visits to the market and Monday afternoon tea at the Library, luncheon socials once a month, and theatre trips.

We are also able to help people in their homes with some chores. We have reliable neighbors who have offered to do light housekeeping, "fix-it jobs" or occasional meals. **We're here to help you.**

Call 964-1728 or 964-8401.

We want to thank some of the individuals and organizations who have generously made donations: Rye Beach Club, Town of Rye, Friends of the Rye Public Library, Sally and Israel Mirsky, the Estate of Stella Ciborowski, Mel Low, Jim Helms, and the Rye Civic League.

What was the Rye Civic League? This group operated from 1968 to the mid 1980s, describing its mission as follows: "The purpose of the Rye Civic League is to secure and make public accurate and factual information on matters of concern to the town and its residents." Most notable was the *Town News*, a publication that informed citizens of activities going on in the town and was an excellent source of information on schools, town boards, commissions, and other groups. They arranged Candidate's Night and gatherings when some issue of importance was occurring. Marjorie Miller acted as treasurer and held the purse all these many years. She is now passing its contents on to the Rye Senior SERVE.

Copies of the Rye Civic League monthly papers can be found at the Rye Public Library. You might find it to be interesting reading. We are certain you will respect the hard work these people did for their town.

Margaret Carroll
President
Rye Senior SERVE

Planning Board to Discuss Six Zoning Amendments

The Rye Planning Board has been addressing new state requirements over the last few months. This is also the time of year when any proposed changes to Rye's Zoning Ordinance must be written and for public hearings to be held on the changes. The proposed changes are then placed on the March ballot as warrant articles. Some of the new requirements were discussed in the last newsletter. Any changes to Rye's zoning require public hearings and a Town vote. There will be opportunities for public input that the citizens of Rye can take advantage of.

As of this writing, there are six zoning amendments that will be heard at upcoming meetings. Some are for updating zoning that could be made clearer, and others are the result of new regulations. Below is a summary of the items that the Planning Board is working on.

- Senate Bill 342, Chaptered Law 0299, establishes a mechanism for expediting relief from municipal actions which deny, impede, or delay qualified proposals for workforce housing. In planning organizations, there is much discussion lately concerning "workforce housing" or "inclusionary zoning." Based on state demographic studies, it has been determined that it is becoming increasingly difficult for workers and their families to find housing in New Hampshire. The Planning Board, along with the resources from the Rockingham County Planning Commission, is determining how to modify our zoning to address this new requirement, along with every other town and city in New Hampshire. This item is a challenge, and will require significant effort on the part of the Planning Board, and others, to ensure that it is fair and does not result in any unintended consequences. It is likely that work will not be complete on this item prior to the March 2009 Town voting.

- House Bill 310, Chaptered Law

0357, allows municipalities to regulate small wind energy systems. Currently, structures are regulated by more generic zoning requirements that are not well suited for addressing small wind turbines. New zoning regulations are being written to address how Rye will implement control over wind energy systems. The difficulty in this is that there are many different wind systems and installation configurations. Some are mounted on poles, and others mounted on buildings. Some look like fan blades, while others are more spiral in nature. With a near infinite number of equipment combinations and installation locations, it is likely that initially, each wind system will require a site plan review. This is only a proposal, but review of a site plan will allow the Planning Board and any abutters to comment on the potential impact of a wind energy system. As the wind energy industry becomes more predictable and knowledge is gained on what impacts the systems may have, our zoning can then be adjusted in the future.

- A few projects have been proposed in town that required a decision by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. It had to be determined if "home for the elderly" applied to the project. A zoning amendment is being proposed to delete this outdated term, and replace it with a better description.

- A proposal is being made to amend part of the zoning that applies to Wireless Telecommunication Facilities. This change is to ensure that no structures related to the facilities are within a protective radius of the Rye Water District wells.

- A proposal is being made to require building permits for all work done on a property. A fee for the associated building permit would only be required if the value of the work meets a certain threshold.

- A Demolition Delay Ordinance is being proposed. This would allow time for a Demolition Review

Committee to explore alternatives to the demolition of historically significant buildings.

- Another zoning amendment proposal is to update the list of adult establishments, and add definitions to new terms that are not currently in the zoning. It was realized that the list of adult establishments was not up to date or complete.

On another subject, Senate Bill 422, Chaptered Law 0269, added an energy section to zoning and planning master plans, as an option. The Long Range Planning Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Planning Board, has approached the Rye Energy Committee to work on this energy component.

The Long Range Planning Committee is also working on an evaluation of whether the zoning of the Route 1 Corridor is appropriate. An idea has been suggested that a visioning meeting be held by a professional facilitator along with residents, businesses and abutters, along Lafayette Road, Route 1, to discuss the current zoning and the future of the corridor.

This information is only a brief summary of the items that the Planning Board is currently working on. The proposed zoning amendments will be available at the Town Hall when they are prepared. Meeting agendas and meeting minutes are also available for review. Citizens are welcome to attend any of the meetings of the Planning Board where these items are discussed also. Sometimes a single comment can bring some improvement to light that may have been missed otherwise.

The Planning Board is a group of elected members, of various backgrounds, working in the best interest of all of the citizens of Rye. Please know that we are doing our best to make sure that your concerns are being addressed, as they are very likely our concerns as well.

Donald A. Cavallaro
Chairman, Rye Planning Board

The holiday season is on its way...



This is the time that the Rye Firefighters start to plan for families in the Rye Community and surrounding Seacoast Area that will be unable to share in the joys of the season. The many donations of toys and financial contributions have helped to make the season a wonderful time for families who would be unable to celebrate on their own.

This is the fifth year that the Rye Firefighters have been able to participate in the Seacoast Area Firefighter Toy Bank. We greatly appreciate all of the support that our local community has offered to fellow residents.

However, it is not only during the holiday season that we are able to help in our community. Throughout the year, the Rye Firefighters Toy Bank also works to assist families to recover from tragedies such as a home fire or natural disaster. This is why we once again must ask for your help in preparing for this season.

We will be gratefully accepting any donations until December 21.

Here is how you can assist:

- Donate new, unwrapped toys for age groups from newborn to 17 years old. We are always looking for ideas for the 11-17 age groups. Some good ideas for donations are toys, crafts, games, dolls, inflatable sleds, footballs, basketballs.
- Donate gift cards for local merchants to aid in purchasing items such as clothing and toys.
- Donate financial contributions to assist in making certain wishes come true. Checks should be made out to the Rye Firefighter Toy Bank.
- Please drop off or mail any of your donations to the Rye Fire Station, located at 555 Washington Road in Rye.

HOUSE NUMBERING

Failure to Comply with Rye Town Ordinance #21 Can Result in More Than a Fine

Stand on the edge of the street in front of your home this evening and observe the visibility of your house number from that vantage point. Imagine a call for help placed to police, fire, and/or ambulance from your home. Could emergency personnel find you quickly and accurately, based on the visibility of your house number at a time when every second counts?

Ordinance #21: Building Numbers, was adopted in March of 1989 and states that all buildings in the Town are to display a street number issued by the Building Inspector. These numbers are to be Arabic numerals only, a minimum of one half inch in width. The number is to be displayed at the side of or over the door, if visible from the street, or on a sign or marker at the street end of the driveway or walk leading to the building. Apartments, cabins, and other dwelling units are to have an on-site numbering system, said number to be displayed on or near the entrance of each unit.

Recommendations and reminders:

- Black numbers, on white or green reflective background, posted so as to be visible to vehicles approaching from either direction, are preferable.
- No brass numbers should be used as they are difficult to see at night.
- Script lettering is prohibited.
- Post numbers to avoid screening by foliage or snow drifts.
- Address kits are available at most hardware stores.

If your home is not in compliance with Ordinance #21, it can lead to significant delay in response by fire, police, and EMS personnel. Remember, in the event of simultaneous emergencies, we call on mutual aid responders from neighboring towns that also benefit from prominent placement of building numbers.

Susan Labrie, Building Inspector
William Sullivan, Fire Chief,
Kevin Walsh, Police Chief

-
- Toy Drop-off Locations are: Rye Fire Station, Depot Honda, The Hungry Horse, Rye Airfield, and TD Banknorfh, with more to come.

Please feel free to contact FF Charles Gallant or FF John Klanchesser at (603) 964-6411

Thank you for your support
Rye Firefighters



Rye Mosquito Control Commission Explains Methods Used

There needs to be clarification of what “spraying for mosquitoes” actually means. Many people assume that all mosquito treatments involve the application of long-lasting pesticides which stay in the treated area and effect non-target pests. A generation ago, when DDT was being used, that was true. Today there are many non-residual pest specific pesticides that have been effectively used for many years.

- *Street Spraying* is done when adult mosquito populations are high. A truck with a fogging machine drives slowly along the town roads applying a pyrethrum fog which knocks down any mosquitoes it contacts during the several minutes it is in the air. It is a short term non-residual treatment.

- *Turf & Brush Treatments* are done to recreation areas and school playgrounds to control mosquitoes and ticks that rest in these areas during the day and emerge when they sense a potential host. These treatments are applied with hydraulic sprayers or mist blowers using a residual material called Bifenthrin. One treatment may last for three to four weeks.

- *Larvaciding* is the best approach to mosquito control and there are several effective materials with good track records in use today. BTI is a biological agent which affects only mosquito larvae during their first four instars*. Golden Bear is para-

* A stage in the life of an insect between two successive molts.

finic oil which covers the surface of a breeding pool and suffocates the larvae. The oil dissipates quickly and does not build up in the marsh habitat.

Marsh management is another effective way to control mosquito populations. There are many marsh restoration techniques that may be used depending on the nature of the specific problems which exist. Each marsh is different and restoration projects must be well designed and well executed to be effective. Two of the most common techniques used are the removal of tidal restrictions and creation of pool habitat where tidal restrictions cannot be removed. Pool habitats support minnows that prey on mosquito larvae effectively reducing a significant amount of larvae without the use of pesticides.

The Rye Mosquito Control Commission uses an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to solving Rye’s mosquito problems. We are actively seeking ways to lower the cost and lessen the amount of pesticide applied each year. Please attend our meetings. They are posted at the Town Hall, Rye Library, and on the Town Website.

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season.

Rye Mosquito Control Commission
Charles Arcidiacano
Tom Aspinwall

Rye Water District News

Public Information Meeting

The District is planning to hold a public meeting before the end of the year to present a proposal to build a central water treatment/distribution plant. Information will be presented describing operation of the current system, current issues, future regulatory requirements, and the rationale supporting the proposal. The time and location will be announced.

Bond Hearings

The Commissioners will be proposing warrant articles in the 2009 budget for two bonds of \$200,000 each. One will be for maintenance of the Breakfast Hill water tank and the other for design of a central water treatment/distribution plant. A public hearing for these bonds will be held in February; the time and location will be announced.

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. A six-foot radius around all hydrants should also be kept clear of any permanent structures or plantings.

Irrigation

Now is a good time to be sure all irrigation piping has been drained or blown dry.

Rye Water District Commissioners



Upcoming Programs at the Rye Public Library

In celebration of the holidays, the Rye Public Library's Board of Trustees and library staff are pleased to offer a fine amnesty during the month of December. All overdue books and materials returned during the month will not be charged late fees. Please join us for refreshments on Saturday, December 6 as we kick-off "Amnesty Month." Pressed for time and interested in saving a few steps? Beginning in December, the Rye Public Library is launching a new "Curbside Delivery" service Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Just call us at 964-8401 with your request and anticipated arrival time and we will check-out the materials and deliver them to you in the Library's parking area. As the Library has expanded its programming for residents of all ages, we are also adding more electronic resources to provide for your informational and research needs 24/7. Among the databases added in the past year include: *The World Book Encyclopedia*, *Reference USA*, *Learn-A-Test*, and *New England Ancestors*, all of which can be accessed via our web site at www.ryepubliclibrary.org. Thanks to the generosity of a local donor, the Rye Public Library recently purchased Amazon's Kindle, an electronic book reader. Interested in learning more about this new technology that uses an electronic-paper display to provide a sharp, high-resolution screen that looks and reads like real paper? Please stop by and experience it first at the Rye Public Library.

Kerry Cronin, Library Director

Author Visits (Books will be available for purchase and make great holiday gifts!)

- **(12/6) at 1 p.m.** Jack Driscoll, editor of *Rye Reflections*, will launch his new book, *Couch Potatoes Sprout*, a do-it-yourself guide to creating your own community journalism site.
- **(12/16) at 7 p.m.** Thomas and Mariah Thomas, Owners of the Beach Pea Bakery in Kittery, ME, will be here to sign copies of their new cookbook, *Artisan Breads, Pastries, Cookies, and Desserts Techniques and Recipes from the Beach Pea Baking Co.*

Holiday Sing-a-Long December 11 7-8 p.m.

(Community Meeting Room) Residents of all ages are welcome to join us for refreshments and a holiday sing-a-long. Rye seniors are invited to take a drive to see the holiday lights in the SeniorSERVE Van prior to the event. Interested seniors should call the Library at 964-8401 to sign-up. The Snow date will be December 18.

Chair Yoga Wednesday mornings January 7-February 11 from 9-10:30 a.m. (Community Meeting Room)

If your New Year's resolution is to become more active, then perhaps this series is for you. Rye Resident, Amelia McKenney, RN, will lead this six-week series, which will

include meditation, breathing, joint warm-ups, and stretching and relaxation techniques for adults of all ages. This series is free of charge. Pre-registration is required, as space is limited to 12 people. *This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Rye Public Library.*

Lectures

- **Investing in Uncertainty: A Discussion on Loss, Opportunity and Emotion** 1/22/09 at 6-7:30 p.m. Tom Sedoric, Managing Director-Investments, Wachovia Securities, LLC, will lecture on the personal impact of the recent financial crisis in the United States on investors. The program will include ample time for Q & A.
- **Impressions of the Shoals: Four Centuries of Life on the Isles** 2/19/09 at 7 p.m. Ann Beattie, President of the Shoals Historical and Research Association, will offer this lecture as part of the Friends of the Rye Public Library's *On the Waterfront Lecture Series*.
- **Susan Tuveson Will Lecture on Travel Abroad, Food, & Books** 2/24/09 @ 6:30 p.m. Tuveson, the owner of Cacao Chocolate in Kittery, ME, will speak about her travels, food and favorite books. Come join us for a fun evening and taste a sample of her exquisite chocolate.

Adult Book Discussion on Tuesday Evenings at 7 p.m.

- 12/16 *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett
- 1/20 *Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919* by Stephen Puleo
- 2/17 *Out Stealing Horses* by Pet Petterson

Computer Classes on Monday nights from 6-8 p.m.

12/1 Web 2.0 ; 12/15 TBD

Preregistration is required. Please call the library for details. Sponsored by the Friends of the Rye Public Library.

Movies Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

12/3	<i>27 Dresses</i>
12/10	<i>Jane Austen Book Club</i>
12/17	<i>The Shipping News</i>
1/7	<i>Hairspray</i>
1/14	<i>Kite Runner</i>
1/21	<i>The Great Santini</i>
1/28	<i>Frida</i>
2/4	<i>Into the Wild</i>
2/11	<i>The Bridges of Madison County</i>
2/18	<i>The Hours</i>
2/25	<i>The Shell Seekers</i>

The Health Clinic sponsored by Compass Care takes place the fourth Tuesday of the month from 1-3 p.m.

Library News continued

JUST FOR TEENS

YAttitudes Book Discussion Group

Second Tuesdays of the month 7 p.m.

This dynamic group of young people and their parents meets monthly to discuss young adult titles. Join us! We always have snacks and an exciting discussion! Check our website for book titles and the occasional change of date.

Y-LA stands for Youth Library Advocates

Meets monthly—check website for details

This Youth Advisory Board meets monthly to assist the library with collection development, planning of programs, and will often be present to help with programs. If you'd like community service hours or just want to have fun helping the library (and eating snacks)—join us! Call Lisa at 964-8401.

Teen Beading Session

December 2 6–8 p.m.

Beading Euphoria returns with a “Hugs and Kisses” bracelet just in time for holiday gift-giving! Please call to sign up right away - and remember to supply your e-mail address to get the list of materials you'll need to bring.

College Admissions Evening—*Hear Directly From Recent College Freshmen*

January 6 6:30 p.m.

Have questions about the college application process and college life, but have been afraid to ask? Tonight's program features advice from 2008 recent high school graduates currently enrolled in a wide variety of colleges. Learn firsthand about the factors that influenced their college selection decisions. Pizza and refreshments will be provided. *Pre-registration is required.*

SAT Practice Test Session

January 10 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Everyone gets nervous about those SATs, but we can help you get over it! Take the practice test under the same conditions that you'll encounter when you take the official test! Additionally, get the results so you can figure out what skills you need to sharpen! You must sign up, and do so early as the test fills up quickly!

SAT Practice Test Results Session

January 15 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

If you attended the January 10 practice session, come to the library tonight to get the results along with helpful tips on what you can do to improve your score.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT Winter Programs

Teen and Youth Knitting with Pam Anthony

First and third Fridays of the month 3–5 p.m.

Make a project of your own, or help us knit squares for “Adopt-Me” dog blankets. The dogs at the SPCA will thank you! Statistics show that if there is a blanket in the dog's kennel, he or she is much more likely to be adopted. Let's help the dogs find families!! Pam Anthony will be on hand to help you learn to knit or to help sharpen your skills if you have knitting experience. No sign-up required—just drop in!

Friday Flicks

Second and fourth Fridays of the month 3:10 p.m.

This fun way to start the weekend continues! Movies begin at 3:10 in the Community Meeting Room, popcorn and drinks included!

Dec. 12: *Wall-E*

Jan. 9: *Space Chimps*

Jan. 23: *Kit Kittridge*

PLEASE NOTE: Occasionally a film will be longer than our 5 p.m. closing time, so be sure to arrange rides accordingly. Check the library website for other featured films, their duration and rating.

Garden Club—Meets All Year 'Round!

Second Tuesdays of the month 3:30–5:00 p.m.

Pat Ritter of Nature's Wonder has generously offered her time and energy to work with families in our new children's garden. Each month will feature some planting, garden maintenance, special nature projects, and the chance for your young ones to become botanists! Projects include making a journal to track garden progress or painting a birdhouse—among others! Sign up is required: Call the Youth Department at 964-8401.

Story Time for Preschool Aged Youngsters

Wednesdays 11 a.m.

Please join Margaret and Lisa for story time! These engaging story times include finger plays, songs, stories, a craft, and FUN!! No sign-up is required. Guest readers may appear, so don't miss a single Wednesday! Check the website for dates in December and January.

Drop-In Chess with Mike Sullivan

February 9, 16, 23 3:30–5 p.m.

Great news! Mike will be back for more drop-in chess sessions! Don't miss these fun afternoons with Mike. There will be two more Mondays in March as well as the culminating chess tournament on March 14.



Rye Safe Routes to School

The Rye Safe Routes to School (SRTS) has had a great year with some much needed successes.

The First Annual Bike Rodeo, held on the 17th of May in the parking lot of the Rye Congregational Church, had approximately 50 children attending. This event was a team effort by Rye Recreation, SRTS, Police and Fire Departments. There were demonstrations on road safety, helmet checks, bike decorating, bike turn-ups, face painting, riding stations and a parade. There was a contest for a t-shirt logo for the event. We look forward to hosting our Second Annual in the spring 2009.

The SRTS Committee has worked on and submitted a grant proposal to fund “**A Travel Plan.**” This comprehensive travel plan will depict the routes that children are actually walking and biking to/from school. Once these routes are determined a plan may be formulated as to how to make them safe and a proposal will be held for the public to determine the course of action to make it happen. The Rye SRTS was awarded the grant in the amount of \$4,851.00 in October, 2008. The task force has hired Rockingham Planning Commission to help implement the Travel Plan and Action steps. The grant funds will be used to create educational materials including brochures/fliers on the routes and safety rules/guidelines as well as school assemblies and clothing for crossing guards. We look forward to presenting this to the public in February/March of 2009.

International Walk-to-School Day. On October 8, 2008, Rye participated in International Walk-to-School Day. There were approximately 113 Elementary Students and 60 Junior High Students who walked or biked. It was a beautiful morning and we thank the Schools, Police and everyone who helped make this event successful and safe. The State of NH Coordinator for SRTS chose our town to participate with and rode with children and parents from West Road to the Elementary School. We anticipate participating in May for the International Ride-to-School Day.



About Safe Routes to School Programs:

SRTS programs use a variety of education, engineering and enforcement strategies to help make routes safer for children to walk and bicycle to school and to find innovative, creative ways to encourage walking and biking. SRTS is a decades-old, well-established program with international origins that has spread across the United States. At the state level, SRTS is administered by the N.H. Department of Transportation (NHDOT). Their website is <http://www.walktoschool.org>.

Kimberly Reed, Planning Administrator

Town of Rye Board Meetings

December 2008

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Selectmen's meetings are held in the Rye Town Hall Courtroom (first floor), 10 Central Road. Other board meetings are also 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 3:30 pm Rye Water District 60 Sagamore 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	2	3 7 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	4	5	6
7	8	9 9 am Sewer Commission 7 pm Planning Board	10 6 pm Budget Committee School Budgets Review Jr. High	11	12	13 <i>Holiday Parade</i> 1 pm
14	15 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Rec Comm	16	17 6 pm School Board Rye Junior High	18 7 pm Conservation Commission	19	20
21 <i>First day of Winter</i>	22 <i>Hanukkah</i>	23	24	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> Town offices closed	26 <i>Town offices open</i>	27

28	29 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	30 7 pm Planning Board Technical Review Committee	31 <i>New Years Eve</i>	January 2009		
				1 <i>New Years Day</i> Town offices closed	2	3
4	5 3:30 pm Rye Water District 60 Sagamore 7:30 pm Recreation Comm	6	7 7 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	8	9	10
11	12 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	13 9 am Sewer Comm 6:30 pm BudComm Town Budget Public Hearing Jr. High 7 pm Planning Board	14 6:30 pm Bud Committee School Budgets Public Hearing Jr. High	15 7 pm Conservation Commission	16	17
18	19 <i>MLK Civil Rights Day</i> Town offices closed	20	21 6 pm School Board Rye Junior High	22	23	24
25	26 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	27 7 pm Technical Review Committee	28	29	30	31 9 am Deliberative Session Rye Junior Hlgh

February 2009

1	2 3:30 pm Rye Water District 60 Sagamore 7:30 pm Recreation Comm	3	4 7 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	5	6	7 Snow Date Deliberative Session Rye Junior Hlgh
8	9 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	10 9 am Sewer 7 pm BudComm Precincts Public Hearing, Jr. High 7 pm Planning Board	11	12	13	14
15	16 <i>President's Day</i> Town offices closed	17 7 pm Technical Review Committee	18 6 pm School Board Rye Junior High	19 7 pm Conservation Commission	20	21
22	23 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	24	25	26	27	28

Library Trustees, first Thursday of the month
5:30 pm at the Library

Additional Civic Meetings: 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

Call for Parade Entries

The Rye Fire Department Association, Rye Lions Club , and the Seacoast VFW Memorial Post would like to invite your organization to participate in the annual Rye Holiday Parade. Date/Time: Saturday, December 13 , 2008 at 1 p.m. The parade will form behind Webster at Rye, 795 Washington Road at 11 a.m.

Judging of entries will take place at 12 p.m. All parade entries will be included in the judging. Trophies will be awarded to the winning entries following the parade at the Rye Junior High School. This year's theme will be Peace on Earth. For additional information call 964-6411

David C. Kornechuk
Rye Holiday Parade Chairman

Please return entry forms as soon as possible to: The Rye Fire Department Association, 555 Washington Road , Rye, N.H. 03870. Attention: Parade Chairmen.

Organization _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Contact person: _____

Phone: _____

Type of entry (Please circle one:)

BUSINESS

NON-PROFIT

FIRE APPARATUS

FLOAT

BAND

WALKING UNIT

EQUESTRIAN

**ANY FLOATS CARRYING CHILDREN MUST HAVE ADULTS ON BOARD
TO SUPERVISE CHILDREN—NO EXCEPTIONS**

Do your interests match the needs of the Rye Town Museum?

The Town Museum has identified 12 needs and outlined them in one-page flyers. They are available on the coffee/public notice table in the Library. The most immediate and exciting need is the creation of a new exhibit on how Rye has used its land over the last four centuries, including current land use issues. Please take any flyers that interest you and get in touch with us. We look forward to working with you.

Alex Herlihy

Chair, Rye Historical Society

PO Box 583, Rye, NH 03870

Website: ryehistoricalsociety@comcast.net

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

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