



Town of Rye

Newsletter



Vol. 12, No. 4 A Publication of the Rye, New Hampshire, Board of Selectmen December 2009

SELECTMEN'S MESSAGE

RYE HOLIDAY PARADE "PEACE ON EARTH"

Sunday, December 6
1 p.m.

Parade Route:

Webster at Rye
to Rye Junior High School

Mark your 2010 calendars now!

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Saturday, January 30, 2010
9 a.m., Rye Junior High
(Snow date: February 6, 2010)

TOWN ELECTION

Tuesday, March 9, 2010
Rye Elementary School
8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

2009 RYE TAX RATE SET

(Per One thousand dollars of assessed valuation)

	2009	Change from 2008
Town:	2.87	.13 increase
School Local	3.65	.01 increase
State Ed	2.00	.07 increase
County	0.96	.01 decrease
TOTAL:	\$ 9.82	.20 increase

Precinct/District tax rates

Add to base tax rate of \$9.82

Rye Beach	0.22
Jenness Beach	0.18
Water District	0.48

Something for Everyone in Selectmen's Report

About your 2009 Tax Rate

THE 2009 TAX RATE was set on October 16 when Jeane Samms, Department of Revenue official, met with the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator Mike Magnant, and Assistant T.A. Cynthia Gillespie. Also present were John Murtagh representing the Rye Water District and Betty Smith from the Rye Beach Precinct. Cyndi, who also serves as our Financial Administrator, strives annually to have our financial tax preparation completed as early as possible in order to avoid

delivery of second half tax bills with the holiday mail.

In addition to rising costs, the Town portion of the tax rate was also adversely affected in 2009 as the result of a drop in revenue (\$420,899.00), investment income (\$131,100.00), and vehicle registrations (\$55,000.00).

In order to mitigate rising costs and, most recently, declining revenues, for the past three years the Board has applied varying amounts from the Town's undesignated fund balance account against the tax rate, mindful of the fact that we must not fall below a 5 percent retainage figure in that account. In 2006 the amount applied against the tax rate was \$700,000. In 2007, we applied \$875,000. Last year, the figure was \$600,000.

We were able to apply only \$562,571 this year, leaving 5 percent or \$1,035,092 retainage in the Fund Balance Account in keeping with State guidelines. The bottom line is a \$0.13 rise in the Town portion of the tax rate. This does include the \$52,500 represented by warrant articles approved by voters last March.

Overall the tax rate rose \$0.20 per

Town Clerk Says Internet Use Is Expanding

As I write this article, second issue tax bills and third quarter sewer bills have been sent out. For those of you who receive sewer bills, you can expect your fourth quarter bills to be mailed out by mid-December.

Many of you have taken advantage

of registering your motor vehicles over the internet using our E-Reg feature. I am happy to tell you that starting early next year we will be offering you the same convenience for licensing your dog and purchasing beach parking stickers. In addition, you will be

See Town Clerk, page 3

See Selectmen's Message, page 2

Selectmen's Message: Tax Rate, Route 1-A, Donor Communities, Pulpit Rock,

Continued from page 1)

thousand, plus the Rye Beach Precinct, Jenness Beach Precinct, or Rye Water District tax added to that base where appropriate.

There is little discretionary spending in the Town budget and the 2009 budget has been very tight. Hard decisions have been made in every department and priorities and goals assessed and reassessed.

Route 1-A Right-of-Way

During the summer, an application was received by the Rye Board of Adjustment from the Wentworth By The Sea Country Club (WBTSCC) for a special exception and numerous variances to develop a swim and beach facility for its membership at 1215 Ocean Boulevard (Route 1-A) at Wallis Road.

At the time of the initial BOA hearing, the Board of Selectmen began to receive letters from alarmed residents voicing objections to a related parallel process already well underway at the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) by which the WBTSCC was seeking to obtain 400 plus feet of Route 1-A right-of-way along the subject property from the State for use as part of their project. The Town had not received any notification from DOT regarding this matter.

We believe that such a transfer of Ocean Boulevard/Route 1-A right-of-way from public to private use would be precedent setting and could produce unforeseen ramifications not only along the length of 1-A in Rye but from Portsmouth to the Massachusetts border.

In a letter to David J. Brillhart, P.E., Assistant Commissioner of the NH Dept. of Transportation, we expressed our concern and brought to his attention the vision and intent of the proponents of Ocean Boulevard at the time of its inception in 1900 including the following excerpt from the *History of Rye N.H. 1623-1903*, L.B. Parsons, 1905:

A principal object of the promoters of this shore-line road is said to have been to secure to the public, for all time, free and unobstructed access to the seashore of the state at all points; and when completed it will very nearly accomplish this end, and will not only be

a superior road, viewed merely as a thoroughfare to travel over, but such a road as no other state in the union can duplicate. Other states may easily build longer highways, but none of them can build one to extend along its entire coast and within view of the ocean nearly every rod of the way. It is laid out 100 feet wide; wrought for travel to a width of thirty feet, with a strip in the centre fifteen feet wide surfaced with crushed stone to the depth of eighteen inches. The land side to be marked at short intervals with stone posts suitably inscribed.

In addition, we stated our unanimous opposition to the loss of any public parking along the Route 1-A corridor through Rye and pursued dialogue with State officials on this matter. With the assistance of Rye Representative David Borden, a discussion was held during our regular Selectmen's meeting on October 5. Among those present, in addition to Representative Borden, were David Brillhart, NHDOT, State Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Executive Councilor Beverly Hollingworth, and Senior Transportation Planner Scott Bogle of the Rockingham Planning Commission.

At this writing it appears that a combination of alert citizenry, facilitation efforts by Representative David Borden to bring together State and local officials, and the stand taken by the Board of Selectmen has resulted in a temporary halt to State disposal of this section of right-of-way, providing time to step back and view the larger picture. A second meeting, to include representatives from the Department of Transportation and Rockingham Planning Commission, is planned for the Selectmen's meeting on November 30. Although held in public, this will not be a public hearing.

Be Very Concerned

"Be very concerned." That was the message delivered by Pat Remick, Coordinator for the Coalition Communities, at our BOS meeting of October 19. We have reminded everyone on numerous occasions over the past two

years that, without a constitutional amendment to remove the requirement for per-pupil adequacy, donor communities will return July 1, 2011 (payment due 3/15/12). On that date, July 1, 2011, the \$160 million in federal stimulus money used to finance the new education funding formula expires, **leaving an \$80 million dollar annual deficit and the return to donor communities.**

The Legislature may alter factors determining the exact Statewide Property Tax figure between now and then; but, regardless of the outcome, it appears that only Moultonborough will be sending a higher amount to Concord annually than Rye. Under the current legislation, the communities hardest hit by the education funding formula are those that are either property rich or pupil poor. Complete contact information for all of our State representatives may be found in your 2008 Annual Report.

Pulpit Rock Tower

Over the past two years The Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower, led by Patricia Weathersby, has worked diligently to promote the transfer of ownership of the tower from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to "a government entity," namely the Town of Rye, in order to preserve this historic tower once part of the WWII Harbor Defense System.

Early discussions revealed that while the Board of Selectmen would like to see the tower used as a cell tower site, the Friends are steadfastly opposed.

Since then the Board has moved to develop and put forward our position/response (sans cell tower). This is a plan for action that could both enable transfer of the tower to the Town and protect the Town and its taxpayers in the future.

Potential acquisition and maintenance of the Pulpit Rock Tower involves many legal requirements. Among them are the terms of both Federal and State governments related to the process, NH RSA 41:14-a governing the process by which a Town acquires property and, since this would

Mosquitoes, Happy Holidays

be a "substantial change in use", the provisions of RSA 674:54 regarding "Governmental Land Uses" which must also be met. Regarding RSA 41:14-a, the Selectmen would require Town Meeting approval although it is optional in the RSA.

It should be noted that The Board of Selectmen cannot lawfully bind future Boards of Selectmen or future Town Meetings relative to any expense required for maintenance, repairs, or renovations. Scope of work and need for funding from private sources is outlined in the response as well as requirements for reports and insurance.

Although we have omitted cell tower use as a condition for placing a Warrant Article on the ballot for consideration of tower ownership transfer, the Board of Selectmen consider it imperative to require installation of wireless equipment on the tower for use by Town police, fire, public works, and lifeguard personnel.

Mosquitoes

By the time you receive this newsletter, the 2009 mosquito season will be over due to sufficient frost. Data from the Dept. of Health and Human Services current as of October 13, indicated that despite testing of 86 humans and 21 animals over the season, none tested positive for West Nile Virus this year. On the contrary, positive tests for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) reached a new high in NH, with one positive human case identified in Candia and 11 animals from seven counties testing positive, none of which were in Rye.

When mosquitoes from two pools in Rye tested positive for EEE, we approved the relocation of Rye Recreation activities to Parsons Field from 5 p.m. to dusk, and the school and recreation areas received additional spraying. While the EEE alert reminded parents to protect children through use of 25-28 percent DEET and adequate clothing, we will never be able to eradicate every EEE mosquito.

Happy Holidays

Our thanks go to Fire Fighter David Kornechuk, for organizing the 2009

Holiday Parade with assistance from the Rye Fire Department Association. The parade will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 1 p.m. The Fire Department is also participating in the Toys for Tots Campaign again this year and will be gratefully accepting donations until December 21.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season to you and your family,
Board of Selectmen

Priscilla Jenness, Chairman

Joe Mills, Vice Chairman

Craig Musselman, Selectman

Town Clerk

Continued from page 1)

able to pay tax and sewer bills over the internet as well. Please watch the Town's web site for the details sometime in January. We are excited to offer these services as many of you have asked for the convenience of doing business over the internet.

Beginning in January it will be time to begin thinking about licensing your dogs. All dogs must be licensed every year by April 30. Please bring an up-to-date rabies certificate for each dog being licensed.

Elizabeth M. Yeaton
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Rye Seniors... Make New Friends... Go Great Places

Rye Senior Serve continues to offer the following adventures on the Senior Van!

- Weekly shopping trips to the Market Basket every Tuesday morning.
- Visits to the Rye Public Library every first and third Monday.
- Monthly luncheon trips with your senior neighbors.
- Theater Trips to the Seacoast Repertory Theater.
- **The van will pick you up and deliver you right to your front door!**



Van riders (from left): Alma Locke, Roberta Lannie, Jane Hayes, and van driver, Gwen Putnam-Bailey, after a visit to the Rye Public Library.

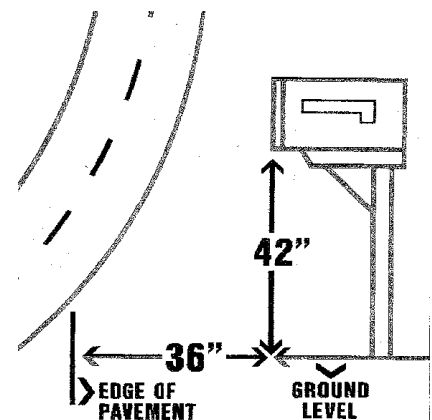
Rye Senior Serve also makes wellness check calls each morning to those who live alone. Please let us know if you would like to be added to our list.

Call 964-1728 for more information on all of our many services.

Margaret Carroll, President
Rye Senior SERVE

DPW Reminder— Help Yourself!

Your mailbox has an enhanced chance for survival if you ensure that its location conforms to the measurements shown, allowing snow plows and mailboxes a reasonable chance to coexist.



Planning Board Updating Master Plan

The Planning Board has been busy over the last several months reviewing and voting on applications, along with addressing other issues. One notable application was the approval of a subdivision in the center of Town nearby to Parson's Field. As a result, land was purchased by the Conservation Commission that abutted the Town forest and increased its area.

The 2006 Rye Master Plan has been updated to align it with the requirements of the Workforce Housing law, which was passed by the State Legislature last year. As of this writing, the board must still vote to adopt the Master Plan changes. The Zoning Ordinance will also have to be updated to be compliant with the provisions of the new law and to align it with the updated Master Plan. The law requires that reasonable opportunities be provided in all cities and towns for affordable housing. This should not be confused with low income housing, but is housing affordable to working people, including young families. Zoning cannot preclude multifamily housing and must allow affordable housing on more than half of residential land.

It is expected that two warrant articles related to the zoning changes will appear on the March 2010 ballot. One will address allowing multifamily housing in specific larger commercially zoned areas. The other amendment will address a new type of development called a Conservation Land Development (CLD). The CLD concept is based on the Retirement Community Development (RCD) model that was previously voted into the Zoning Ordinance. It is a development type where the dwellings are arranged in a cluster which helps to conserve the open space of the parcel. A fraction of each type of housing in either of the multifamily or CLD will have to be affordable and the remainder shall be market rate. Both of these changes will require a Town vote to approve.

Lastly, in other newsletters, requests have been made for ideas and input on zoning issues. At a November 3, 2009 Special Planning Board meeting, several Rye business owners and others provided constructive ideas and feedback to proposed zoning amendments that were scheduled for discussion. The Planning Board then simplified the proposed zoning amendments based on the testimony and eliminated the need for two of the four amendments proposed.

Respectful and open communication is an important part of any decision-making process. The Planning Board appreciates the time that people took out of their busy schedules to help finalize our required updates of the Zoning Ordinance. Working together, we can solve our community's complex problems in a way that will benefit the citizens of Rye. Thank you for your support.

Donald A. Cavallaro
Chairman, Rye Planning Board

Emergency Medical Care— We Have Come a Long Way

The emergency medical services portion of the Rye Fire & Rescue budget has gone up almost 40 percent over the past five years, dating back to 2005. The good news, however, is the fact that your chances of surviving a life-threatening medical condition in this town has gone up over 100 percent during the same period of time.

One of the best things that has happened in the past two decades with regard to emergency medical care is the development of the fire department-based paramedic program. Here in Rye both the elected officials and the Town's registered voters have supported their emergency medical personnel time and time again. Rye's first paramedic has been a member of the fire department staff since 2001, and in 2007, town meeting approved the hiring of one additional firefighter paramedic, resulting in a medic on duty at least 50 percent of the time. These two positions, coupled with the three "on call" or part-time firefighter/paramedics who are members of your fire and rescue service, make it a rare occasion now when mutual aid has to be called from Portsmouth to provide advanced life support.

And, if you want more good news: Sometime in March 2010, four more members of the Rye Fire & Rescue will be graduating from the current paramedic class that is being held here at the public safety building every Tuesday. These new paramedics will have invested between 1500 and 1800 hours of training in the classroom, clinical time in the emergency department of the Portsmouth Hospital and riding alongside a paramedic ambulance crew somewhere in the state of New Hampshire.

The Portsmouth Regional Hospital has been a terrific partner and team player with our emergency medical technicians and paramedics when it comes to patient care and pre-hospital treatment of the sick and injured. The emergency department physicians and nursing staff of the PRH work hand in glove with the personnel of Rye Fire & Rescue and that is a win-win situation for everyone.

Chief William H. Sullivan
Rye Fire & Rescue

Rye Water District News

Tank Restoration. Both Washington Road water storage tanks were recently refurbished inside and out.

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

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

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.

Rye Water District Commissioners
John Murtagh, Ralph Hickson, Arthur Ditto

Board of Adjustment Looking for Alternates

The Board of Adjustment is looking for alternates. Please write a letter to the Board of Selectmen to be considered. The BOA meets once a month.

What are the Board of Adjustment's responsibilities?

The Board of Adjustment is a "quasi-judicial" board and follows procedures established by the Rye Zoning Ordinance, NH State Law, and the NH Supreme Court. The Board reviews applications for zoning variances, special exceptions, equitable waivers, and appeals from decisions made by administrative official. Arguments before the board must address the zoning issues involved and the specific criteria the Board must apply to every case.

The Board considers the application as presented before them the night of the hearing. A decision is typically made that night. The application submittal is lengthy and detailed; state permits must be obtained, architectural drawings must show every elevation compared to the old structure, a survey must depict all pertinent site impacts—existing and proposed, calculations of percent coverage, distances to property lines and septic systems, location of parking etc.—all need to be clearly delineated.

A complete application is due the second Friday of the month. The agenda is posted in the Town Hall, Library, and *Portsmouth Herald* by or on the Wednesday before the meeting.

Any person affected directly by the Board's decision has the right to appeal the decision within 30 days of the date the decision was made (meeting date) and submit a "Request for Rehearing." The "Request for Rehearing" is discussed at the next public hearing but no testimony is allowed. If the BOA votes to grant the Request, another hearing will be scheduled as a new hearing, the abutters will be re-notified, and a public notice will be issued.

I wish to thank Frank Drake, Chair;

Assessor Explains Valuations

This is the time of year when changes to real estate records by this office are submitted to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector for the second bill of the cycle. The first property tax bill in March of 2009 was the balance remaining on the December 2008 assessment. The current bill reflects changes in ownership if such transpired as of April, 2009 as well as revisions to properties where construction, renovations, or demolition likewise occurred as of that date.

Upon receipt of the fall bill, the appeal period commences. The form to make application for abatement is available at the Assessing Office in Town Hall from December first to March first. Obviously, every property owner has the right to appeal, but requests based upon loss in value because of the presently depressed economy would likely not result in a reduced valuation. There are several reasons for such.

First and foremost, the current market is the same for all property owners. As such, reducing valuation on the basis of an individual request does not resolve inequities but instead creates them. This factor was most evident during a case many years ago in an appeal to the State's Board of Tax and Land Appeals. Its chairman told an appellant that his petition citing economic downturn was similar to the tide in a harbor. When it is high tide, all the boats are lifted by the water; when the tide goes out, all the boats float lower on the surface.

Ben King, Vice Chair; Jay Nadeau, Clerk; Shawn Crapo, Ray Jarvis, and alternates Paul Goldman and Patty Weathersby for their energy, time, and professionalism. They are all committed volunteers who take their responsibilities very seriously.

Susan Labrie
Building Inspector/
Zoning Administrator

The same is true for the real estate market and is most obvious in subdivisions where multiple homes were built during the same time period, all of similar styles and quality and sold at prices within a relatively comparable range at its outset and thereafter. As a result, reducing one valuation does not correct deviation, but rather created the greater problem of making the appealed property more disproportionate. By the same token, as in past inflationary periods, no valuation increases were imposed until the five-year update by State Statute. Even so, this does not necessarily mean higher taxes as greater valuation produces a lower tax rate, depending on budget requirements.

As specified above, the State of New Hampshire has resolved these issues through legislation specifying five-year cycles for community-wide updates. Rye's last such revision was 2005; the next will be the upcoming year of 2010. Essentially this means all property will undergo computer-derived statistical analysis relating to current market transactions.

This procedure is further enhanced by the ongoing four-year cycle of field inspections whereby one quarter of all properties are visited, measured, inspected, and revised accordingly for updated information. An interesting result of these procedures is that a good percentage of properties where data collectors gained admission resulted in reduced valuations because prior estimates made without interior inspection reflected guesswork inaccuracies.

As a result of many of the processes indicated herein and a realistic budget presented by the Board of Selectmen and Department Heads, Rye produced a tax rate of \$9.82 for the Town, among the lowest ten percent of all communities in the State.

Our best wishes to all for a happy holiday season.

Howard Promer, CNHA Assessor
Joanne Drewniak, Clerk

Winter Programs at the Rye Public Library

Rye Public Library, 581 Washington Road Rye, NH 03870 • 603-964-8401 • www.ryepubliclibrary.org

New Library Director

The Rye Public Library is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Director, Andrew Richmond. Andrew was most recently the Assistant Director of the Kelley Library in Salem, NH, and is the former Director of the Nichols Memorial Library in Kingston, NH. He previously worked as the Manager of the Travel and Nature store in Exeter. Andrew holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Plymouth State University and a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Rhode Island. He has roots in the area's arts community, and was an exhibiting artist at the Portsmouth Public Library *Recycled Art Show*, the Seacoast Science Center's *Wet Paint* fundraiser, and at our own Rye Public Library *Paint on Alternative Surfaces Show*. Andrew lives in Portsmouth with his wife and three-year-old daughter.

Please come by the Library and introduce yourself to Andy!

Gwen Putnam-Bailey

Adult Book Discussion

Third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

12/15 *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

1/19 *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell

2/16 *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin

Movies Showings at the Rye Public Library

Every Wednesday at 1 p.m.

Free and open to the public, and popcorn too!

12/2 *Doubt*

12/9 *Angels and Demons*

12/16 *Frida*

1/6 *Julie and Julia*

1/13 *My Sister's Keeper*

1/20 *The Age of Innocence*

1/27 *Arranged*

2/3 *Slumdog Millionaire*

2/10 *Bridges of Madison County*

2/17 *Howard's End*

2/24 *The Class*

Job Networking Meetings:

Every Friday from 10–11:30 a.m. in the Community Meeting Room. Join fellow job seekers for informational discussions of employment search strategies and networking. Learn about available library resources to support your search.

Wentworth Connections (formerly Compass Care)

Health Clinic

Fourth Tuesdays from 1–3 p.m.

12/22, 1/26, 2/23

Military Book Discussions

First Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Knitting with Mary

By the fireplace at 10 a.m. every Thursday.

Monday afternoon senior visits to the library with pick up by the Rye Senior SERVE van. Please call the library if interested in joining the group! The seniors meet at the library from 2 to 3 p.m. on the first and third Monday of every month. *Sponsored by Friends of the Rye Public Library.*

Writers of the on-line publication *Rye Reflections* meet at the Library on Thursdays at 1 p.m. Editor Jack Driscoll extends an invitation to others who may be interested in being part of this group. Come join them!

Discounted Museum Passes *Donated by the Friends of the Rye Public Library*

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Museum of Science, Boston

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston

Museum of Art, Portland, Maine

Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA

Strawbery Banke, Portsmouth

Childrens Museum, Dover

Seacoast Science Center, Rye

Historical New England

Currier Museum of Art, Manchester

FRIENDS OF THE RYE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Meet on the second Tuesday of every month from 6 to 7 pm. New members welcome!

If you have not yet renewed your 2009-2010 Friend's membership or you have not signed up to become a Friend, please drop by the Library to pick up the annual membership brochure.

It's never too late to be a Friend!

Special SUNDAY programs sponsored by the Friends this winter

Sunday, January 10, 2–3 p.m.

The McKenneys of Rye will present: **"Traveling with Dick and Amelia McKenney"**

Sunday, February 7, 2–3 p.m.

"America's Dilemma—The Afghan-Pakistan Riddle: A Study in Cultural Awareness and American Diplomacy"

Glenn W. Swanson, PhD, participant U.S. Department of State's "Scholar-Diplomat Seminars" and NHPR "Exchange" program. Author of *Oil and Water*, *A Look at the Middle East*, and *Storm Clouds Over Iraq* as well as profes-

Winter Programs at the Rye Public Library

sional articles relating to the Middle East.

All programs are free and open to the public and refreshments served too!

**The Library will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. on these two special Sunday afternoons.
Bring the family!**

ART, ART, ART

Art Reception on December 1 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for Mary Vermeersch and her students. Mary and her students will display their art upstairs in the Library through the month of January.

New Art Exhibit is currently on exhibit downstairs in the Community Meeting Room.

Next **CALL FOR ART** will begin the first of February. Please call the Library for details.

Computer Classes @ Your Library

New computer lectures on "Setting Up and Using E-mail" and "Using Downloadable Audio Books" and "FREE/Open Source Software for Windows" will be scheduled starting in January.

Individual 30-minute computer sessions on specific problems or questions can be scheduled by appointment. Please call the Library for details or to schedule a session with Technology Librarian, Sharon Foster

Winter Youth Department Programs

Friday Flicks

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

Movies begin at 3:10 in the Community Meeting Room, popcorn and drinks included!

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 featured films.

YAttitudes Book Discussion Group

Third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

This dynamic group of young people and their parents meets monthly to discuss great literature. Join us! We always have snacks and an exciting discussion! December 15: *Across America on an Emigrant Train* / January 19: *The Hunger Games* / February 16: *Restless Spirit*.

Garden Club

Meets All Year 'Round—in all weather! Second Tuesday of the month 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Pat Ritter of Nature's Wonder continues offering her time and energy to work with families in our beautiful chil-

dren's garden. Each month will be featured some planting, garden maintenance, special nature projects, and the chance for your young ones to become bot-anists! Projects include making a journal to track garden pro-gress or painting a birdhouse—among others! Sign up is required: 964-8401. See the article on our club in *The Portsmouth Herald*, November 5, 2009!

Story Time for Preschool-Aged Children

Wednesdays at 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. See our website for dates of story time through January.

Y-LA stands for Youth Library Advocates

Dates and Times on Website

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 and Youth Knitting with Pam Anthony

First and third Fridays of the month 3–4:30

Make a fun project of your own—we're starting to work on hats. Make one for yourself or as a gift for a family member or friend. 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!

Lego Mania Wednesdays

First and third Wednesdays of the month 3:30–4:30

All ages are welcome to create fun Lego structures each Wednesday afternoon. We'll be offering a "challenge" each session, but you can make whatever you want! We supply the Legos, and there is no sign-up required!

Teen Beading Euphoria

Tuesday, December 1, 6–8 p.m.

Grades 5–12: please join Lisa for an evening of beading. Project will be the "Free Form Peyote" bracelet. We'll make the base and then you'll have the skills needed to embellish the top of the bracelet. Bring your own supplies (supply lists are provided) and make this beautiful bracelet for yourself or make it as a gift for someone special! Sign-up is required; Fills up fast (already half-full now!) so call right away. 964-8401

Holiday Family Sing Along with the Junior High!

Thursday, December 17

Join the great choir group and band from Rye Junior High for this evening of fun holiday songs. Also, there will be a
See Youth Department Programs, page 10

Safety Tips from the Chief of Police

Home Security

If you plan to leave for the winter and have a house alarm system, please be sure it has been serviced and is in good working order. If you do not have an alarm, remember to secure your house before you leave. In all cases, even if you are going away for a shorter period of time, it's important to let the Police Department and your neighbors know of your plans. Even if you are only going out for the day, be sure your house is secured with doors locked. Do not give thieves a chance! Several police departments in the area are taking home break-in reports almost daily. If you see or hear anything unusual, even if it is minor, PLEASE call right away. This will help your police solve and prevent crimes in your neighborhood.

Christmas Gifts

DO NOT leave your Christmas gifts in your car. The gifts are visible to people looking through the car windows and it makes for an easy target.

Solicitors

Please make sure, before giving a check or cash to anyone, you have verified 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 they only take cash, will not answer your questions, do not have a business card or 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, say they are a relative and have been arrested in Canada and need money right away. If you are not sure or it sounds strange, please call the Rye Police and we will help verify if the organization and/or person is legitimate. Some of the scams will say 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.

Snow Plowing

One issue that arises in the winter is plowing snow across the road. It is against the law to plow snow across

the road. Please keep this in mind when you snow plow and if you hire a plow service, please notify your plow operator of this.

Deer Crossing

During this time of year, the deer are on the move. We have several herds in town and they cross the roads frequently. Please use caution when traveling around town. Hitting a deer can damage your vehicle, seriously injure the deer and, most importantly, cause severe injuries to you or your passengers.

Loose Dogs

We are receiving a high number of calls for loose dogs. Please make sure your dog has his/her collar and tags on at all times. If you have an electric fence, the battery in the collar needs to be replaced regularly. If the dog is wearing the collar and the battery isn't working, the fence is useless. If your dog has his/her tags on, the officer will be able to return your dog to you.

THE RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT
WISHES YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON!

Kevin Walsh
Chief of Police

Non-Emergency Telephone: 964-5522
EMERGENCY: 9-1-1

TOWN OF RYE SEWER COMMISSION NOTICE

ROOF DRAINS AND SUMP PUMPS PROHIBITED

Please note per Sewer Use Ordinance § 402 Drains: No person(s) shall maintain or make connection of roof downspouts, foundation drains, areaway drains or other sources of surface runoff or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain, which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer. The Sewer Commission checks the sewer system regularly and enforces penalties to those found to be violating this ordinance.

Winter Youth Department Programs

(Continued from page 9)

cello quartet with Michelle Wirth, music teacher at RJH. This will be just what you need to get into the holiday spirit!



Cole Struble (left) and Luke Gagne pose in the nasturtium/morning glory house they created with Pat Ritter in the library's Family Garden Club.

Family Story Time for Children ages 3-5 December 29 / January 5, 6:30-7 p.m.

Join Lisa for bedtime stories for your children! Kids may attend story time in their jammies, and we ask that your child bring a bedtime friend on the 22nd for this relaxed, sleepy atmosphere featuring stories and lullabies. The child's "friend" will be invited to stay the week at the library. When you return on the 29th, you'll get to see what this friend did all week! Oh what fun it is to BE at the Rye Public Library!! Sign up required for these two sessions; call 964-8401 to get your name on the list.

Chess with Mike Sullivan

Mondays, February 8th, 15th, 22nd
Mike Sullivan will be here to work with youth on learning and/or improving chess skills. He's an expert himself, so don't miss this great opportunity to learn from a pro!

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

Town of Rye Board Meetings

December 2009

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	2 9 am Rye Water District 60 Sagamore 7 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	3	4	5
6	7	8 9 am Sewer Commission 7 pm Planning Board	9	10	11	12
13	14 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	15	16 6 pm School Board Rye Junior High	17 7 pm Conservation Commission	18	19
20	21 <i>First day of Winter</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas Day Town offices closed</i>	26
27	28 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	29 7 pm Technical Review Committee	30	31	January 2010	
					1 <i>New Year's Day Town offices closed</i>	2
3	4	5	6 9 am Rye Water District 60 Sagamore 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 6:30 pm, Rye Junior High Budget Comm. Public Hearing Schools Budget	14 6:30 pm Rye Library Budget Comm. Public Hearing Town Budget	15	16
17	18 <i>MLK Civil Rights Day Town offices closed</i>	19	20 6 pm School Board Rye Junior High	21 7 pm Conservation Commission	22	23
24	25 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	26 7 pm Technical Review Committee	27	28	29	30 9 am DELIBERATIVE SESSION Jr. High School
31	February 2010					
	1	2	3 9 am Rye Water District 60 Sagamore 7 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	4	5	6 9 am DELIBERATIVE SESSION Snow date
7	8 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	9 9 am Sewer Commission 7 pm Planning Board	10 7 pm Town Hall Budget Comm. Public Hearing Precincts	11	12	13
14	15 <i>Presidents' Day Town offices closed</i>	16	17 6 pm School Board Rye Junior High	18 7 pm Conservation Commission	19	20
21 28	22 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	23 7 pm Technical Review Committee	24	25	26	27

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

Summer is over and the holiday season is on its way. . .

This is the time that the Rye Firefighters start to plan for the families of the Rye Community and the surrounding Seacoast Area who will be unable to share in the joys of the season. This is the fifth year that the Rye Firefighters have been able to participate in the Seacoast Area Firefighter Toy Bank and we greatly appreciate all the support that our local community has offered to fellow residents. The many donations of toys and financial contributions have helped to make the season a wonderful time for various families who would be unable to celebrate on their own.

However, it is not only during the holiday season that we are able to help in our community. Throughout the year we're able to assist families in being able to recover after they have been through such tragedies as a home fire or natural disaster. This is why we once again must ask for your help in preparing for this season. We started on October 27 will continue to accept 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. Donations should be made 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.
- * Toy Drop-off locations will be located at: Rye Fire Station, Depot Honda, Hungry Horse, TD Bank, and the Rye Airfield, with more to come. Just look for the Seacoast Firefighter Toy Bank Drop-off signs

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

Thank You for Your Support
www.toy-bank.com

H1N1 PUBLIC INQUIRY LINE

On October 27, the NH Department of Health and Human Services announced activation of the New Hampshire H1N1 Public Inquiry Line. **Residents with H1N1 questions can reach NH 211 for answers Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by dialing 2-1-1.**

Rye Historical Society Town Museum News

Winter hours at the museum will be Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2-4 p.m. unless otherwise noted. We may be open some Saturday mornings as well. If the welcome flag is out, we are open. As usual, we will open on request at most times; call 997-6742 or write alexherlihy@comcast.net

We may be having a Holiday Open House in December during the week; watch for publicity.

Recently 7th grade English teacher Kim O'Connell borrowed many primary sources from the museum and her students created projects for their Harvest Fest. The next day they all came to the museum and discovered many interesting things about their town. Now we would like to see their parents visit the museum!

Rye history does not go into hibernation during the winter. We will continue to research and organize our collection, and there are many volunteer opportunities awaiting your interest, such as updating and expanding our Old House inventory and creating a power point on it, etc. See our website (www.ryenhistoricalociety.org).

Alex Herlihy,
Chairman, RHS

Town of Rye
Rye, NH 03870

Bulk rate
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 10
Rye, NH 03870

POSTAL PATRON
RYE, NH 03870