



Town of Rye Newsletter



Vol. 15, No. 4

A Publication of the Rye, New Hampshire, Board of Selectmen

December 2012



Holiday Parade
"North Pole Fantasy"
Sunday, December 2, 2012
1:00 p.m.
Washington Road
Webster at Rye
To Rye Junior High School
All parade entries must comply
with state law.

Selectmen's Message:

From Space Needs To Farm Wagon

Missing Jack Beckwith

The September issue of the Town of Rye Newsletter was published in-house due to the illness of Jack Beckwith who served as the Newsletter publisher since its inception. Since then, we were deeply saddened by news of Jack's death on October 12, 2012. Jack was knowledgeable about Rye events and efficient in publishing our newsletter in a timely manner. He created the format and devised headlines with the

reader in mind. His contribution to this endeavor is greatly missed.

We seek to follow the example Jack set as this December issue is compiled. Please keep in mind that in-house publication requires greater lead time than was the norm as set up and editing must be sandwiched between regular duties of our limited Town Hall staff.

Mark Your Calendars Now

- ◇ Budget Committee Work Session
2013 School Budget Wednesday,
December 12, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall
- ◇ Budget Committee Work Session
2013 Town Budget Thursday,
December 13, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall
- ◇ Budget Committee Public Hearing
2013 School Budget Wednesday,
January 9, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
Rye Junior High School
- ◇ Budget Committee Public Hearing
2013 Town Budget Thursday,
January 10, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall
- ◇ Deliberative Session (First Session of
Town Meeting), Saturday, February 2,
2013, 9:00 a.m. Rye Junior High
School
- ◇ Precincts Work Session & Public
Hearing Tuesday, February 5, 2013,
6:30 p.m. Town Hall
- ◇ Snow Date Deliberative Session
Saturday, February 9, 2013, 9:00 a.m.,
Town Hall
- ◇ Municipal Election (Second Session of
Town Meeting), Tuesday, March 12,
2013, 8:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m.
Rye Elementary School

Town Hall Space Needs Committee Report Completed

We know that both of our town halls are in trouble: the historic Town Hall building and the town hall that encompasses the business operation of the Town of Rye. Over the past several decades, they have been one and the same.

In human terms, our Town Hall building should be in the emergency ward, perhaps on life support. Many have made the comment that, from a safety aspect, it is an accident waiting to happen. From a business operations standpoint, it is grossly overcrowded and is not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. The fact is we are fast approaching a time when we will be required to take corrective measures or incur fines.

Over the past several years a comprehensive energy audit was conducted by Acadia Design, a structural analysis of the Town Hall roof and foundation was carried out by AMEC and a Facilities Space Needs Assessment was developed by AG Architects. Each study provided valuable information. With the aid of an Energy Block Grant,



several important items have been undertaken and completed. Town Hall roof repairs, a solar powered attic ventilation system and a geothermal heating/cooling system, which can be extended if necessary, have been completed. However, a piecemeal approach can only go so far.

Since last spring, our goal has been to devise a means to attain consensus on the most basic Town Hall related questions and develop an action plan for the future based on that consensus. In June, we announced the formation of a Town Hall Space Needs Committee. The Committee membership is composed of representatives of our various boards, committees and commissions that have a close connection to the Committee's assignment plus

(See Selectmen's Message, page 2)

Selectmen's Message

(continued from page 1)

several Town employees capable of providing data requested by the Committee. In addition to Town Administrator Mike Magnant, Assistant TA Cyndi Gillespie, Town Clerk Beth Yeaton, Planning/Zoning Administrator Kim Reed and Public Works Director Dennis McCarthy, committee membership is as follows: Mel Low, Planning Board; Gregg Mikolaities, engineer/former Rec Commissioner; Paula Merritt, Historic District Commission; Curtis Boivin, architect/Planning Board; Ned Paul, Budget and CIP Committees; Phil Winslow, Historic District Commission; Peter White, Heritage Commission; Tom McCormick, financial administrator/Planning Board; Peter Kasnet, builder/Sewer Commission; Paul Goldman, Budget Committee and Lucy Neiman, former Energy Committee member and instrumental in the writing of the OEP Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant that awarded \$377,561 to the Library, Elementary School and Town Hall, making the geothermal system there a reality.

Ned Paul was elected chairman, Curtis Boivin vice chair and Beth Yeaton volunteered to serve as clerk. Priscilla Jenness served as Selectmen's Representative to the Committee.

The charge to the Space Needs Committee from the Selectmen included the following: *"Seek an economically sound proposal to resolve the space needs of the Town as an integral part of the preservation/renovation of our historic Town Hall, giving equal weight during deliberations to the Town Hall as a historic entity and to town hall as the center for the conduct of business of the Town of Rye including ease of access by the public and accommodation of the Americans with Disabilities Act."*

The Space Needs Committee met numerous times between June

and November. Provided with all of the information compiled to date, the committee worked diligently to focus on the charge as it toured Town office spaces, storage areas and the Safety Building, developed basic questions to be resolved, gathered additional data and, with the expertise of Curtis Boivin, revisited the AG Architects estimate of space requirements department by department with the goal of reducing square footage where appropriate.

Throughout the process, Chairman Paul sought consensus among committee members and beyond. He provided for and encouraged public input and the committee gave consideration to comments and documents submitted by members of the public. Many positive ideas came about as the result of this format.

The report of the Town Hall Space Needs Committee is scheduled to be presented at the Selectmen's meeting of November 14th. Based on the conclusions of this report, the Board of Selectmen plans to formulate a warrant article for your consideration in March that will, if approved, move resolution of the Town Hall problems to the next planning stage.

Look for the Town Hall Space Needs Committee Report on the Town website, at Town Hall and at the Library.

Article 20: Televised/On-line Streaming Coverage

Article 20 of the March 2012 ballot approved advising the Selectmen that the Town would like to implement televising or on-line streaming of the meetings of town boards but provided no funding. Research by our Town Administrator Mike Magnant has resulted in the following options which have widely varying costs:

♦ Comcast PEG Channel

This option requires exclusive fiber optic cable from Town Hall and/or other buildings to the "head end" at

Greenleaf Avenue, Portsmouth. A small studio set up, high end equipment and an operator are also required. (North Hampton currently has a contract employee and budgets \$45,000 annually.) Comcast indicates that outfitting a room ranges from 25 to 50 thousand dollars, up to \$150,000 for 3 buildings.

♦ Portsmouth Public Media TV (PPMtv)

PPMtv is a public access channel run by a non-profit organization. Currently not available in Rye, we could request Comcast to make it available. This would require a formal vote of the PPMtv Board of Directors. If approved, Rye would be required to video meetings and deliver a DVD copy to the station, the video to be shown at scheduled times. Cost yet to be determined, this option would require camera, operator and maintenance. Estimate, based on Portsmouth's experience, is around \$13,000 per year.

♦ On-line Streaming

The only access for this option is via internet. Recipients must have a computer and supported software. Our website vendor offers this service. The cost varies with options. Basic equipment includes camera, microphones, microphone mixer, video digital encoder, video digital uploader or server plus odds and ends such as hiring an audio video vendor to install equipment. Limitations can include poor sound quality and restricted sightlines. Hiring an operator can improve the overall quality.

Initial cost of Live Streaming and On Demand (provided by 3 vendors) ranges from an initial cost of \$10,498 (plus annual subscription fee of \$2,998) to \$13,985 (plus annual subscription fee of \$2,995). These figures do not include an operator or maintenance.

Access via On Demand only

Selectmen's Message

(continued from page 2)

would cost (from 2 vendors) \$9,153 to \$12,850, also without operator or maintenance included.

♦ On-line Streaming-DIY

A bare bones approach, an operator could upload video to YouTube or a similar free site. Equipment, operator and maintenance are still required.

Portsmouth provides all 4 options. Costs of the options outlined above are covered either by taxation and/or a franchise fee.

Please note: In keeping with the Americans with Disabilities Act, should the Town receive a request to provide close captioning for someone hearing impaired, most vendors provide this service. Someone would have to attend the meetings being broadcast and type what is being said into the software program. This cost has not been included above.

FEMA:Non-compliance Status

Given the plight of coastal areas to our south in the aftermath of megastorm Sandy, few if any would dispute the importance of maintaining our ability to participate in the National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP).

The number of homes encompassed by the Rye Floodplain Ordinance that were deemed non-compliant as a result of the 2009 FEMA audit has now been reduced from the 18 reported earlier this year to 7 as homeowners have complied with the FEMA mandates. At this writing, several more properties are nearing compliance.

Access to NFIP is at stake, making it imperative for the Town to take any and all steps necessary to achieve full compliance. Negotiations with home owners and FEMA officials have required numerous hours of staff time during this process.

2012 Revaluation Process Nearing Completion

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) requires cities and towns to revalue all properties every five years. In our case, discovery of serious aberrations in the assessing program made the currently ongoing revaluation a necessity at this time.

The goal of any revaluation is to correct disproportionate taxation by valuing properties at fair market value and adjusting values for market shifts.

During 2012 in Rye, an appraisal update in the form of a statistical revaluation is being conducted by KRT Appraisal. A statistical revaluation includes physical inspection of interiors (where the inspector is allowed inside) plus remeasurement of the exterior of those properties sold within the last two years. All other properties receive what is termed a field review. A statistical revaluation is not a full revaluation during which every property receives a complete physical inspection at a considerably greater cost.

The new assessment values, as of April 1, 2012, were sent to property owners via letter in early October. These figures were based on fair market sales from April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2012. Property owners wishing to speak with KRT representatives regarding individual assessments were encouraged to make an appointment for an informal review hearing between October 10 and 17 to present the rationale for change. Adjustments may have been made as a result of evidence presented at these hearings.

The tax rate for 2012 can now be set; but the revaluation process is not yet complete. Property owners dissatisfied with the results of their informal review hearing may file for abatement with the Selectmen. If denied or they still do not accept the valuation, they may apply for a hearing before the NH Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA). In some

cases, residents may apply for relief through such avenues as our Elderly Exemption, Veterans Exemption and others.

Employee Health Care Side Bar Agreement Approved

At our meeting of October 11th, the Board of Selectmen approved an agreement reached with our unions to change from a BC/BS 500 deductible to a Blue Cross/Blue Shield 2500 Deductible Plan. As a result, the Town should realize a savings of \$50,000 to \$70,000. The policy change will take place January 1, 2013.

Capital Improvement Program Update (2013-2018)

The newest version of our CIP document was presented to the Board of Selectmen by Chairman Ray Jarvis on October 22nd.

Once again, the CIP Committee has provided the Town with an updated advisory document that can serve to assist Town boards, committees and commissions in many ways including budgeting and avoidance of huge bumps in our tax rate as municipal and school improvements are planned. Composed of Ned Paul, Jeanne Moynahan and Tom McCormick in addition to Chairman Jarvis, the CIP Committee has gathered and presented 2012 data, often referred to as "a snapshot in time", that looks out 6 years with regard to anticipated needs for capital investments of \$10,000 or more. It should be noted that Town Administrator Mike Magnant, Assistant TA/Financial Director Cyndi Gillespie and Planning/Zoning Administrator Kim Reed assisted in the preparation of this document.

Taken under advisement on October 22nd, the BOS held a Public Hearing on November 14th and voted to accept the CIP Plan. We

(See Selectmen's Message, page 4)

Selectmen's Message

(continued from page 3)

wish to take this opportunity to thank the CIP committee members for their diligence in bringing this guide up to date.

Monitoring Manganese

You may be aware that recent monitoring of the closed Rye Municipal Landfill site at the corner of Breakfast Hill Road and Route #1 has revealed the presence of elevated levels of manganese in down gradient groundwater. The elevated manganese levels may be from natural causes, or due to the influence of the landfill.

The groundwater beneath this site flows primarily southeast under Route #1 toward property known as Lot 82 on Tax Map 10, a vacant 3.6 acre parcel located in the Commercial District at the intersection of Route #1 and Washington Road.

The immediate concern as we work with DES is to ensure that any development on Lot 82 must connect to water. Currently, Rye Water District water mains exist on both road frontages. With the assistance of Town Counsel and the Planning Board, we proposed enactment of a Groundwater Protection District (GWP) as an amendment to the Rye Zoning Ordinance, the GWP to include Lot 82 and the old landfill site. Within the GWP District, the use of groundwater for drinking water purposes would be prohibited.

Job Well Done

Many are now aware that exploration of the Goss barn on the Conservation Commission Goss Farm site led to the discovery of an 18th century farm wagon beneath the barn, mired in mud and in a state of disrepair.

Bud Jordan, former Rye DPW Director, volunteered to take on this remnant of our history as a restoration challenge. With gifts of

wood from Rye residents Jack Spink and Joe Tucker, and untold hours of labor invested in handcrafting the necessary replacement parts, Bud embarked on this daunting task. The result is a handsome gift to the residents of Rye and to generations to come.

On behalf of the Town, our thanks and appreciation goes to Bud for a job well done.

In closing, we wish you and your families a happy, safe and healthy holiday season.

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

News From The Town Clerk/Tax Collector

I'm happy to say the elections are over for this year. The General Election was particularly busy; we had an 82% turnout, processed 730 absentee ballots and the Supervisors of the Checklist registered 333 new voters. The new Voter ID law imposed the need for extra election workers to help voters get through the process. We got through the day with no major problems. My thanks go out to Robin Baker and Donna Decotis for dealing with all those absentee ballots before and during the election, to our hard working, capable election staff for working efficiently through a grueling day and to Town Moderator Bob Eaton for fielding many questions and situations thus making the day go smoothly. A special thank you goes out to all of our voters who waited in lines to vote and were so cooperative in dealing the new Voter ID law. Kudos to all!

As I write this article, the tax rate has not been set yet. The tax bills will go out as soon as we get the new tax rate and I have a signed

warrant from the Selectmen. No matter how late the bills go out, be assured you will have 30 days from the date of the mailing to get your tax bills paid. Sewer bills have been late going out all year due to problems with water usage figures received from Aquarion Water Company. I expect to have 3rd quarter sewer bills out by the end of the November providing I get a warrant from the Sewer Department. Again, the bills will be due 30 days after the mailing date. The 4th quarter sewer bills should follow shortly thereafter.

You can begin licensing your dogs in January, 2013. All dogs should be licensed by April 30th. A current rabies certificate will be needed. Beach parking permits will be available soon after the beginning of the year. A registration will be required for each vehicle you want to put a beach parking permit on. The fee will again be \$20 per vehicle. In order to obtain a parking permit, you must be a Rye resident or property owner. Both dog licenses and beach parking permits can be done in person, by mail or online at www.town.rye.nh.us.

Effective immediately, a driver's license must be presented by anyone registering a vehicle. It doesn't matter if the vehicle belongs to someone else; the person actually doing the registration will have to show his/her ID. This is a state regulation that we must follow.

A reminder:

Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope when doing vehicle registrations, beach parking permits or dog licenses by mail. Thank you.

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season,

Elizabeth M. Yeaton
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Winter Happenings at the Rye Historical Society Museum

Museum Winter Hours: Occasional Saturdays from 10-12 and most Wednesdays from 2-4. To request a visit at other times, please call Director Alex Herlihy at 997-6742 or write to him at

alexherlihy@comcast.net

Holiday Open House at the Museum: Thursday December 13 from 3-6 pm. We have several new acquisitions including the church windows described below. Refreshments will be served and films about Rye will be on view.

Historic Church Windows: The museum has an exciting new donation from the Congregational Church in Billerica, MA. In 1947, the brown Victorian church (1890), which used to sit on the site where the entrance to Old Parish Road is today, was moved to Boston Post Rd (RT 3-A) in Billerica. We knew of this fact, but did not visit the church until earlier this year. While the building looks nothing like the original, we were shown two round (4' diameter) stained glass windows, which were not used after the church was moved. We now have them in the museum and one is on display.

Rye Historical Society Membership Drive

Membership benefits include: Invitations to our quarterly Board meetings, An invitation to the annual meeting held to vote on make important decisions, Receipt of the quarterly RHS Newsletter via e-mail, plus special notices on issues that arise relating to Rye History. Dues are - \$10 individual, \$15 family or \$200 lifetime.

If you are interested in joining, please send us your name, mailing address and email address with a check for dues made out to RHS and mail all to: RHS, PO Box 583, Rye, NH 03870 or place your envelope inside the storm door of museum.

20th Century Rye families

RHS is in the middle of an exciting

project that will eventually result in an updated history of Rye to include the 20th century. Louise Tallman, a devoted Rye historian during much of her life, did extensive research on Rye families of the 20th century, including descendants of earlier families and others who moved to Rye during the century up until 1970. More and more people are working on this project, helping to expand the list and adding any information they may have on these families. If you would like to receive the document via email and help with our research, please send your request to info@ryenhistoricalociety.org

Researching Rye History On-Line

The Rye Town Museum, the Rye Junior High School and the Rye Public Library are working on an exciting new project that will enable on-line access to all research materials on the history of Rye held by the museum and the library. We expect this to be up and running early next year.

RHS Board Member

The RHS is looking for our ninth Board member. The perfect candidate is an energetic person with an interest in Rye history and is a long-time resident or native of Rye. The Board meets once a month, but what is as important as attendance at meetings is the work Board members do on projects and research and the feedback they give via e-mail. Board members have access to the museum so that they can attend to the many tasks needing to be done.

Museum Volunteers Needed

We are looking for museum volunteers to help out in a number of areas including: computer work, face book manager, custodian, public programs, organizing printed material, school program coordinator, etc. If you are interested, please call Alex Herlihy at 997-6742 or email to

alexherlihy@comcast.net

A House Plaque Would Make a Great Holiday Gift

The Rye Historical Society is offering wooden plaques to document your home. The plaques are made of locally grown select pine, milled by Rand Lumber. They are individually shaped and painted white by a local woodworker. Vinyl letters and numbers, which are crisper and clearer than paint, are applied by Timberline Signs. One of these plaques can be seen on the outside of the Rye Town Museum, 10 Olde Parish Road. Wooden plaques are \$85.00 each, and identical plaques in vinyl are available for \$75.00. Each includes a one year membership to the Rye Historical Society. Checks should be made payable to The Rye Historical Society.



In the past, plaques were available only for houses built prior to the Civil War, and many of these plaques can still be seen on buildings in Rye. In an effort to document other buildings in town, there is no longer a restriction on the date of the house. However, as was done previously, documentation to substantiate the age of your home must be provided when you order the sign. The Rockingham County Registry of Deeds is available on line at <http://www.nhdeeds.com/rockingham/RoHome.html>, and the Historical Society is available to guide you. Documentation for houses that have plaques, or had them in the past, is available from the Rye Historical Society.

Alex Herlihy
Chair RHS and Museum Director

RHC To Present Louise Tallman Heritage Award

The Rye Heritage Commission has celebrated the first anniversary of its formation on October 19, 2012. Eleanor Barnes, an engineer, was sworn in this year as our third alternate and has joined members: Priscilla Jenness, Mae Bradshaw, Rich Davis, Sara Hall, Jane Holway and alternates, Peter White and Alex Herlihy. There is still room for two more alternates. We are particularly interested in a citizen from Rye Beach joining our historical preservation efforts.

The Commission has worked diligently with the ad hoc Town Hall Space Needs Committee to encourage consideration of a historically appropriate addition to Town Hall. Two Commission members, Priscilla Jenness and Peter White, also serve on the Space Needs Committee. On October 12, 2010, Commission Chair, Mae Bradshaw, prepared and submitted a written report with exhibits which has been made a part of the official record of the Space Needs committee which addresses the mandate of the 2012 Warrant Article 27.

To supplement the effort by the Commission on behalf of the historical preservation of Town Hall, Sara Hall, with the able assistance of Rich Davis, filed an extensively researched application to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources in order to place the Rye Town Hall on the prestigious list of historical properties in the state. The formalities are being completed for that approval which will make the building eligible for a matching grant from the Preservation Alliance to complete an architectural study applying the Secretary of the Interior Standards for additions to historical buildings.

Other significant work of the Commission was the completion by Alex Herlihy of the Natural, Historical

and Cultural Sites of Rye – an Inventory for the Rye Heritage Commission, which can be accessed on the Heritage Commission page of the town website.

The Heritage Commission supported the Demolition Review Committee's submission to the Planning Board of a proposed zoning ordinance change to make buildings in Rye which are fifty years of age, rather than sixty-five years old, subject to review, before demolition, for historical significance.

The Heritage Commission will present its first *Louise Tallman Heritage Award* at 5:00 pm on December 27, 2012 during a Holiday Gathering at the Rye Historical Society Museum. The public is invited.

The positive work of the Rye Heritage Commission has been generously recognized by many citizens who have contributed nearly five thousand dollars in the past few months in response to a town-wide fundraiser led by Peter White to create the Rye Heritage Fund.

Mae Bradshaw,
Rye Heritage Commission Chair

Historic District Commission

**Is Your Home in the Historic District?
Are you contemplating exterior changes?**

If your home is in the Historic District and you are planning changes to its exterior appearance, please see Section 303.4 of the Rye Zoning Ordinance for guidance in processing an *Application for a Certificate of Approval* from the Historic District Commission (HDC). This application is required, unless you are replacing "like materials with like materials". If like materials are being used, written notification to the Historic District Commission in advance of the work is the only HDC requirement.

Applications for an *HDC Certificate of Approval* are available in the

Rye Building Inspector's office located in Town Hall and must be approved by the HDC prior to obtaining a building permit.

The Historic District Commission is here to work with residents within the Historic District on changes they would like to make to the exterior appearance of their home. We are aware that many new materials are now available which incorporate energy efficiencies or offer substantive maintenance benefits which may not significantly change the visual exterior of the homes.

Phil Winslow, Chairman

Programs For Rye Seniors Offered by Rye Senior SERVE

The Rye Senior SERVE van continues to roll each Tuesday taking senior residents to DeMoulas Plaza for grocery shopping and other errands. To reserve a place on the van, call Town Hall, 964-5523, by noon on Monday.

If you need a ride to a medical, dental or other important appointment, a SERVE volunteer will drive you. Starting December 1, Claudia Hackett will be coordinating this service. Call her at 964-5633.

With winter approaching, you may wish to receive a daily phone call to check on your well-being. Call Tricia at the Library, 964-8401, regarding the Daily Wellness Calls.

SERVE has been supporting Rye Recreation as they offer more programs for older residents including the revival of the Active, Alive and Over-55 Club, fitness classes, day trips and other activities for all seniors. See Rye Rec's calendar in this newsletter for details about these programs.

For information about Rye Senior SERVE and its programs, call Connie Olson at 964-5170. We welcome new volunteers who would like to devote a few hours per month to helping their neighbors in Rye.

Connie Olson,
President Rye Senior Serve

Assessing News

The 2012 Property Values Update

The Assessing Department has worked hard on the 2012 Property Values Update along with KRT Appraisal, since March of this year. The last phase of the study occurred in October, when we met with property owners who requested hearings to discuss their property values.

Results of this project indicated that approximately 1/3 of values increased, 1/3 decreased and 1/3 stayed relatively unchanged. The 2012 ratio study report was sent to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) in order to obtain our equalized assessment ratio.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, you will have received your second half property tax bill for 2012. Joanne Drewniak, Assessing Assistant, worked diligently entering the new data into our tax billing software and balancing the MS-1, which the DRA used to calculate the tax rate. I appreciate all of the hard work she has done over the course of this project.

Please remember that if you have questions in reference to an exemption or credit you think you may qualify for, or any other questions or concerns you may have, you can contact our office. We will be glad to assist you.

Norm LeBlond, C.N.H.A.

Joanne Drewniak
Assessing Assistant

The Goss Farm 2012 Update

There has been a great deal of progress on many projects being undertaken to prepare the Goss Farm to be available for productive farming in the near future. A one and ½ acre area is ready to accommodate a local farmer and at least one high tunnel (which functions as a green house and extends the growing

season) is available for that farmer through a cost-share conservation practice from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). During the summer, the first community gardens at Goss Farm flourished. A tremendous thank you goes out to our amazing Community Garden Coordinator, **Bob Carter**. He assisted with everything from fencing dilemmas to coordinating final garden clean-ups. Everyone seemed to enjoy the growing experience, and it was a wonderful first year. The garden areas are now prepared for winter with a cover crop and will again be available in 2013. The Rye Junior High garden had success in growing pumpkins, but will need some extra care (and a coordinator) for 2013. At least five full boxes of extra produce were donated to two local food pantries through volunteer efforts from our local gardeners. For that we thank you! Some produce grown at the farm was sold at the Rye Farmers' Market and was contributed to the effort to restore the barn. The Rye Farmers' Market also sponsored the first Sunday Farmhouse Dinner to benefit the Goss Farm, which was a wonderful community achievement raising almost \$3000. Thank you to everyone that helped and to hosts, **Jaci & Otto Grote** for opening their barn for the occasion.

A thank you also goes out to **Joe Allen** for his Eagle Scout project building rustic picnic tables out of cut Norway Maples and covering the ground with wood chips, splitting wood, and building a fence to keep vehicles off the agricultural lands. The Goss barn is listed in the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. Last month, it was the subject of a Barn Preservation Workshop, which we co-sponsored with the New Hampshire Preservation

Alliance and will likely plan another workshop for the spring of 2013. Last spring, the

Commission applied for a Conservation License Plate grant from the NH Division of Historical Resources for the restoration of the barn, and will now receive \$10,000 toward this effort for the spring 2013 foundation work.

Be sure to drive past the barn and take a look at the new roof being installed by noted timber framer **Ian Blackman**, Ian Blackman, LLC. He is almost finished with the new roof, but will be continuing in the spring with foundation work, restoring the southern shed and the interior of the barn. This will allow the barn to be utilized by a farmer and perhaps for small community gatherings/workshops. A warrant article will be on the 2013 ballot to ensure enough money is available to complete the full restoration of this historic barn. Please support this worthy effort!



Please contact Sally King of the Rye Conservation Commission or Janice Ireland at Town Hall, jireland2@town.rye.nh.us if you would like to discuss farming possibilities for 2013 or have an interest in donating goods, services, or money. The Goss Farm is under the auspices of the Rye Conservation Commission and qualifies as a tax-exempt organization. As such, donations of services, money, and materials may be tax deductible.

We are grateful for the support that we continue to receive from the town staff, town organizations and the townspeople of Rye.

Sally King
Rye Conservation Commission

News from Rye Public Library!

Check out all our activities and the latest report on our Strategic Plan Progress on our website at www.ryepubliclibrary.org. Our newest offering to members is the **indieflix** service. Visit our website to select and stream films from independent film festivals around the world! View our calendar for scheduled events and speakers.

Ongoing Activities:

Adult Book Discussion: All are welcome to join these lively discussion groups here at RPL!

Now offering two sessions: Third Tuesday of each month at **2 pm (upstairs) and 7 pm (downstairs)**.

12/18 *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain

2/19 *A Good Hard Look* by Ann Napolitano

1/15 *In The Bleak Midwinter* by Julia Spencer-Fleming

3/19 *Townie* by Andre Dubus III

Movies and popcorn on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 pm! Enjoy our new projection system!

In honor of the loss of Grace Putnam, mother of staff member Gwen Putnam-Bailey and stalwart volunteer at our movies, we've named our afternoon movie series *A Touch of Grace*. Enjoy!

12/5 *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day* PG-13 92 min

12/26 *Cider House Rules* PG-13 126 min

12/12 *Open Water* R 80 min

1/2 *Peace, Love and Misunderstanding* R 93 min

12/19 *A Christmas Carol* 70 min

1/9 *Sense and Sensibility* PG 137 min

Please visit the Library or check our website ryepubliclibrary.org for forthcoming movie selections!

Drawing Together Sketchbook Group:

Every Tuesday 10:00- 11:00am. No special art supplies – with paper and a marking implement you are on your way! Learn at your own pace, with plenty of encouragement in a pressure-free environment.

Generations Genealogy Club:

First Tuesdays at 1:00pm in the New Hampshire Room. Learn about the process, find resources at RPL!

12/4, 1/1, 2/5

Knitting with Mary:

By the Fireplace at 10 am every Thursday! All skill levels are invited to join this welcoming group.

Military Book Discussions:

First Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. 12/6, 1/3, 2/7

Mah Jongg Club: Every Thursday at 12:30pm in the Community Meeting Room. Learn and play American style Mah Jongg with this enthusiastic group

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! Schedule will be determined based on response and weather considerations.

Sponsored by Friends of the Rye Public Library

Discounted Museum Passes: Borrow our passes for reduced or free entry to the following:

Children's Museum of N.H., Dover

Museum of Science, Boston

Currier Museum of Art, Manchester

New England Aquarium (no summer passes)

Historical New England

Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston

Seacoast Science Center, Rye

Museum of Art, Portland, Maine

Strawbery Banke, Portsmouth

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Museum Passes Donated by the Friends of the Rye Public Library

News from Rye Public Library!

FRIENDS OF THE RYE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 pm. New members welcome!

Watch our website for a schedule of programming sponsored by the *Friends of the Rye Public Library*

All programs are free and open to the public!

COMPUTER CLASSES @ Your Library with our Technology Librarian

Lisa Breton-Eaton! Use our computers or bring your own.

MONDAY COMPUTER TUTOR- Call to make an appointment between 9:30–11 AM.

This is an opportunity to bring in your specific computer-related questions.

2012 -13 TECH TALK COMPUTER CLASS

Specific Wednesdays each month from 9:30-11 AM. Call 964-8401 to register for classes.

12/5 **Introduction to Windows Computer Basics**

12/12 **Computer Basics: Files & Folders**

FRIDAY DEVICE ADVICE – Call 964-8401 to make an appointment between the hours of 9:30-11 AM. Learn to borrow downloadable content for your e-reader or tablet through RPL

1/9 **Round Them Up! Managing ALL my Programs**

1/23 **Computer Basics: Tune it up**

2/6 **Introduction to Internet Security**

2/20 **Introduction to the Mac OS X Lion**

Rye Public Library Youth Department Winter Programming 2012-13

Ongoing Activities:

Story Time

Wednesdays @ 11:00 A.M.

Knitting with Pam

2nd and 4th Fridays @ 3:00 P.M.

Family Movies

2nd Fridays @ 3:10 P.M.

Lego Mania

First Monday of the month 3:00 – 4:30 P.M.

Y-LA Teen Advisory Board

3rd Tuesdays of the month @ 6:00 P.M.

Cupcakes, Snacks, Crafts, and Book Chats for Teens

Wednesdays through December 19th

YAttitudes Teen Book Club

2nd Tuesdays of the month @ 7:00 P.M.

Teen Movies

4th Fridays @ 3:10 P.M.

X-Box Gaming

Third Monday of the month 3:00 – 4:30

Manga Club

3rd Thursdays of the month @ 3:00 P.M.

Additional Programs:

Beading: Grades 5 and up

Sharpie T-Shirt Making

Please review our website at ryepubliclibrary.org or call us: 964-8401 for expanded lists of Fall programming and events, and to check dates and times.

2012 Mosquito Season Recap

It was another good year for mosquito control in Rye. With the exception of one spike in salt marsh mosquito populations (the nuisance biting species) near some beaches in August, there were very few complaints received by the Rye Mosquito Control Commission (RMCC) from residents this summer. The concentrated efforts of Dragon Mosquito Control's crews working in the marshes helped keep adult (airborne) mosquito populations to a minimum and for the second year in a row, we avoided the need for emergency street spraying. More mosquito samples tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) nationwide and in New Hampshire this past summer than is normal, however, there were no positive test results in Rye this year. Town residents' vigilance in reducing standing water on their properties combined with Dragon's treatments of the Town's numerous catch basins likely contributed to this successful result.

The RMCC continues to explore and implement alternative methods for controlling mosquitoes and biting green-head flies. To that end, we will purchase and deploy 20 tree swallow houses next year, to be placed in various marshes throughout the town. Tree swallows do an impressive job controlling mosquitoes, as they commonly eat the equivalent of their body weight in flying insects on a daily basis. The 96 green-head fly traps performed well this year, however 10 need to be retired due to age and their degraded condition. We will build and set out 24 new units in the coming year, bringing the total inventory of traps to 110 in 2013. The RMCC is also committed to marsh management and is in contact with experts in the field seeking recommendations for solutions going forward. Healthy marshes

increase fish populations and fish feed on mosquito larvae, thus significantly reducing the number of adult, biting mosquitoes breeding within those sources.

Town residents with questions, comments or concerns about mosquito control are encouraged to contact us:

Rye Mosquito Control Commission
Ted Merritt, Chairman
Brian C. Helfrich, Vice Chairman/
Clerk
Charles Moore
www.ryemosquito@gmail.com

Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.
www.sarah@dragonmosquito.com
603-734-4144

Planning Board News

Your Planning Board has been busy working with the Planning Department on various zoning ordinances. The goal is to see if they need to be revised, rewritten, better explained, eliminated or added to the zoning regulations

Recently we held a public meeting with the ZBA for the first time in a few years in an attempt to get their feedback on relief issues that come before them on a regular basis. By most opinions the meeting was productive and we came away with some valuable information upon which to act.

Our monthly meetings have dealt with applications that are as varied as the applicants themselves. They range from tree removal in the town right of way to the addition of private roads. We attempt to be fair and impartial when dealing with anyone who comes before the board. Everyone gets a complete hearing and a prompt decision. The long range planning committee has been working on the Master

Plan which was last updated in 2006. Most departments have added their updates which we found extremely useful. Reading and updating this document is not a task to be taken lightly so our thanks to all who have participated. The first draft for public viewing will be available in the next few weeks.

Recently hurricane Sandy visited the Town. As you will recall during the Halloween storm of 2011, where most of the town was without power for up to a week, nearly 100% of us retained power throughout this event. This, in large part, was because of cooperation between PSNH, our own DPW and the planning board who collaborated on the cutting and trimming of trees in and out of the town right of ways. More of this cooperation can be expected in the future.

Whether or not you have an application, we invite all the citizens of Rye to attend our meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of the month

Bill Epperson
Chairman, Rye Planning Board

Rye Water District News

Water Main Flushing

District personnel have completed our semi-annual water main flushing to ensure clean safe drinking water and fire protection through the winter months.

Hydrants

Fire hydrants are now winterized and snow markers have been installed throughout 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.

Freeze Prevention

To prevent damage and water loss due to freezing, all irrigation piping should be winterized, all outside faucets should be shut off; hoses removed and drained.

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

Rye Fire and Rescue Looking For Volunteers

Rye Fire & Rescue was recently awarded a federal grant totaling \$343,000 under the SAFER program (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) and is looking to recruit and train up to ten new volunteer firefighters. They will be provided with personal safety equipment and will work and train alongside the fulltime and call firefighters of the department.

Having the necessary men and women needed to protect Rye and respond to emergencies is a top priority for us as the recruitment and retention of volunteer and part-time firefighters and emergency medical personnel is a major problem for the nation's fire service and Rye is no exception.

Applicants for this volunteer program must be in good health and be able to pass a physical examination. They must be willing to commit a reasonable number of hours to the department and in return the program will reward with gift cards or debit cards from local businesses.

Anyone interested in volunteering under this grant may contact Lieutenant Ronald Hordon of the Rye Fire & Rescue by calling 964-6411 ext. 417 or by e-mail rhordon@town.rye.nh.us.



Annual Fire Prevention Concerns

Winter is fast approaching and hopefully those of us that are heating by wood or pellet stoves have had chimneys checked and cleaned as necessary.

Also, we missed the "Change your clock and Change your battery" message this fall, but please change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. A nine volt battery may save your life and the lives of your family.

If we suffer power outages this winter and you are operating a portable generator, make sure that it is placed at least ten feet from any structure with the exhaust pointing away from the structure. When refueling the generator, shut it down and allow it to cool before filling the tank.

Never run portable generators inside of any building including garages and basements. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can build up in a short time and can affect occupants with no warning.

Please remember always store gasoline for the snow blower or the generator in approved containers in a well vented storage area. Never store gasoline in basements or other enclosed areas of your dwelling.

William H. Sullivan
Chief of Department



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 that will be unable to share in the joys of the season. This is the 8th year that the Rye Firefighters have been able to participate in the Seacoast Area Firefighter Toy Bank and we greatly appreciate all of 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. This is why we once again must ask for your help in preparing for this season. Beginning on November 7th we will be accepting any donations until December 23rd.

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 and 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, Saint Theresa Church, Rye Town Hall, Rye Junior High, Rye Elementary, Bethany Church, Rye Congregational Church, TD Bank with more to come.
- ◇ If you or someone you know could use some assistance for the holidays please contact the number below.

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

Police Chief Offers Winter Safety Reminders and Regulations

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. The Town ordinance for overnight parking starts November 1st and ends April 15th.

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

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. **DO NOT MAKE A DONATION IF:** A solicitor says they only take cash, won't answer your questions or doesn't have a legitimate business card and contact information for the organization.

Scam Artists

If someone calls and says they are a relative and have been arrested in Canada and need money right away. Be careful. If you are not sure or it sounds strange, please call the Rye Police and we'll help verify if the organization and/or person is legitimate. Other scammers will notify you that you have won money but have to wire some money, (Usually they say for taxes) in order to get it. Beware. If it sounds too good to be true **IT IS, DON'T DO IT!** Check with the Rye Police first.

Holiday Shopping

Please lock your vehicles. People purchase gifts and put them in the car. If you walk to another store, secure your vehicle and put any purchases out of sight. Gift cards are also being targeted by thieves so keep the cards out of sight even when you are at home. Also, retain 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.

Invisible Fence

We are receiving a lot 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. You should be aware that snow on the ground will prevent an electric fence from working. Check the fenced in area to make sure snow is not piled against the fence.

The Rye Police continue to find some people who don't call the department and say it's because 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.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Kevin Walsh
Chief of Police



Rye Public Works Permits in the ROW's

With winter conditions just around the corner, and the need for road plowing approaching, the Public Works Department is taking a look at structures such as landscaping, basketball hoops, fences, and others which are adjacent to the town roads. The only structures allowed within the Town right of ways without prior approval are mailboxes; all others require approval from the Town. Please ensure that any unpermitted structures are removed from the right of way. Keep in mind that the road right of way is not just the paved portion of the road, but in many instances extends as much as 15 feet beyond the edge of pavement.

When working within the right of way a town permit is required. Any one of the following permits may be required.

Relocating or installing a new driveway requires a "Driveway Permit". Excavating for installation of any utilities requires a "Trench Permit, and repaving or installing road pavers requires a "Paving Permit". Each permit can be obtained from the Public Works Department located at the rear of the Transfer Station. The minimum charge for each is \$25.00, payable to the Town of Rye, NH.

Installation of a wall or fence requires the issuance of a permit from the Code Enforcement/Building Inspector. Should the fence or wall be proposed for installation adjacent to the right of way residents are required to consult with the Public Works Director for determination of the right of way limits.

Residents who live at the corner of roads should be aware that the Town's Zoning Ordinance requires homeowners to maintain adequate site distance from the corner. This ordinance states that landscaping and fencing be maintained below two and one half feet for a distance of 50 feet from the road intersection.

Dennis McCarthy
Public Works Director

Town of Rye Board Meetings

December 2012

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.

2 1:00 pm Rye Holiday Parade	3 6:00 pm Recreation Commission 7:00 pm Town Government Forum Rye Library	4	5 9:00 am Rye Water District 60 Sagamore Road 7:00 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	6 6:30 pm Heritage Commission	7	1
9 Hanukkah	10 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	11 8:00 am Sewer Commission Meeting 7:00 pm Planning Board	12 6:30 pm Budget Committee Work Session – School Budget	13 6:30 pm Budget Committee Work Session – Town Budget	14	15
16	17	18	19 5:30 pm School Budget Public Hearing 6:00 pm School Board	20 7:00 pm Conservation Commission	21 First Day of Winter	22
23	24	25 Christmas Day Town Offices Closed	26 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	27 5:00 pm Heritage Comm. Holiday Gathering Tallman Award Rye Town Museum	28	29
30	31	January 2013				
		1 New Year's Day Town offices Closed	2 9:00 am Rye Water District 60 Sagamore Road 7:00 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	3 6:30 pm Heritage Commission	4	5
6 1:00 pm Rye Energy Committee	7 6:00 pm Recreation Commission	8 8:00 am Sewer Commission 7:00 pm Planning Board	9 6:30 pm Public Hearing School Budget Jr High School	10 6:30 pm Public Hearing Town Budget Town Hall	11	12
13 1:00 pm Rye Energy Committee Snow date	14 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	15 6:30 pm Public Hearing Town/School Budget Snow Date	16 5:00 pm School Board	17 7:00 pm Conservation Commission	18	19
20	21 MLK Civil Rights Day Town Offices Closed	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	29	30	31		
February 2013					1	2 9:00 am DELIBERATIVE SESSION Jr. High School
3	4 6:00 pm Recreation Commission	5 6:30 pm Precincts – Work Session & Public Hearings Town Hall	6 9:00am Rye Water District 60 Sagamore Road 6:30pm School District Deliberative Session Jr High School 7:00 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	7 6:30 pm School District Deliberative Session Snow Date 6:30 pm Heritage Commission	8	9 9:00 am DELIBERATIVE SESSION Snow Date
10	11 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	12 8:00 am Sewer Commission 7:00 pm Planning Board	13	14	15	16
17	18 President's Day Town Offices Closed	19	20 5:00 pm School Board	21 7:00 pm Conservation Commission	22	23
24	25 6:30 pm Board of Selectmen	26	27	28		

Library Trustees, first Thursday every 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, 7pm at the Library

A Thank you from Run for the Fallen NH

We at Run for the Fallen New Hampshire would like to thank the Town of Rye, Board of Selectmen, Chief Walsh, Chief Sullivan and especially the residents. Your support of our 2nd annual run honoring all the fallen Heroes from NH who have been killed in the War on Terror was exceptional. The people that came out to cheer on the runners and those that set up water stations were greatly appreciated. The residents who allowed us to put posters of NH Heroes so their families could stand beside their son, husband, brother to greet the runners was so special. Many residents went above and beyond by decorating the Hero poster, serving the families snacks and drinks etc. We had over 250 family members of the fallen in attendance this year and every one of them could not say enough about the outstanding support and comfort they were greeted with. Rye's aesthetic beauty goes without saying but the beauty of her residents shines even brighter. We are so grateful for your support of our run and our Heroes.

Thank you,
Run for the Fallen NH Board

An Invitation From The Rye Energy Committee

Is your house cold and drafty? Are your utility bills too high? You can stay warm and save money through NH Home Performance with Energy Star, a comprehensive, whole-house approach to improving the energy efficiency and comfort of your home. Best of all, PSNH pays for half of the improvements! To learn more about this program and tour Rye homes who have already participated, come to the Rye Energy Committee's Stay Warm-Save Money presentation and tour starting at the Rye Town Hall at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 6th (Snow date Jan. 13). Email Susan Anderson for more information at sorazi3@comcast.net.



Susan Anderson
Rye Energy Committee

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

Town of Rye
RYE, NH 03870

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