



Town of Rye Newsletter



Vol. 26, No. 4

A Publication of the Rye, New Hampshire, Select Board

December 2023

Selectmen's Message:

Tax Rate, Boston Post Cane, Parsons Creek and More!

Boston Post Cane: On November 7th, in a touching ceremony at Webster at Rye, the Rye Select Board honored the town's two oldest residents, Marion Cronin and Barbara Long with the prestigious Boston Post Cane. This unique and meaningful award is bestowed upon the oldest resident in each New England town, serving as a symbol of longevity and respect.



Born in Mount Vernon, New York, on February 7, 1921, Cronin has quite a remarkable life story to tell. She was born above a grocery store, delivered by her grandmother, and went on to

have three children, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Her mother, too, was a recipient of the Boston Post Cane, earning it in Stowe, Massachusetts at the age of 99.

Long shares a similar connection to the cane. Born on the very same day as Cronin, February 7, 1921, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, she has also had a rich and fulfilling life. She raised three children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, all while excelling in golf and athletics.

The two women first met at the senior living facility Webster at Rye, where they struck up a friendship that has continued to blossom over the years. Despite being born on the same day, they have never determined who was actually born first, adding a touch of mystique to their shared connection.

The Boston Post Cane, given to over 700 New England towns in 1909, has become a treasured artifact, representing the resilience and spirit of these communities. As these two remarkable women continue to grace Rye with their presence, the cane serves as a reminder of their enduring legacy and the inspiration they provide to all.

Parsons Creek: We want to continue to educate our residents on the issues surrounding coliform contamination in Parsons Creek. Parsons Creek was well above allowable levels of coliform throughout the summer and potentially responsible for beach closures on the south end of Wallis Sands beach.

Although we did not receive any grants for further investigative work in 2024, we intend to continue with the monitoring regimen which has accumulated data over more than a decade. To set the stage for future efforts, the Select Board has contracted with our long-time partner on this effort, FB Environmental, Inc, to update the 2011 Watershed Based Plan, which is essentially a "master plan" for the entire watershed. This will result in water quality goals and an action plan. This will create a new baseline and is a prerequisite for requesting future Federal

and State funding.

TAP Grant Update: The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Committee recently interviewed three firms interested in working on the engineering and design phase of the TAP Grant project to add sidewalks and bicycle lanes to our town center. The firms were ranked, and the scores sent to the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) for approval. We have just been notified that the DOT has approved both the process we used and ranking of the firms, with the BETA Group, Inc, being our preferred partner. The next step is to begin scope and fee negotiations with them.

This is a major milestone in this project and the Select Board would like to once again thank Chair John Loftus, Victor Azzi and Lydia Tilsley for all their hard work on this important project to increase pedestrian and bicycle safety in our town center.

Cell Towers: Rye has acknowledged that cell service has been at best spotty over the past decade at least. To remedy this situation and hopefully attract an interested cell provider a telecommunication overlay district was established in 1999 and updated to include the tower now located off Garland Road and Portway. Both towers are active and in service.

While these facilities are helpful, they do not provide adequate coverage for most of the town. The Telecommunication Infrastructure Committee along with the Select Board have been actively reaching out to various suppliers in the attempt to secure additional towers.

Lack of service is not only an inconvenience but is also a genuine safety concern. Many of us have cut our landline and depend solely on our cell phones for all forms of communication, including emergencies. Recently, the contracted cell tower located inside the Rye Congregational Church steeple was terminated. This of course exacerbated the already difficult situation. New tenants are actively being pursued to fill this

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Holiday Parade

"HOLIDAYS OF YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW"

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Webster at Rye, 795 Washington Road to the Rye Junior High School
For additional information call the Fire Dept. at 964-6411.



Selectmen's Message

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need.

The most critical area of town is its center and a circular area of two miles in radius. Contained within this area are the Public Safety Building, junior high school, elementary school, private homes and businesses. If an emergency should arise at any of these locations, a call to critical services is problematic. It's unthinkable that a teacher or other administrator could not reach outside help in a time of crisis.

In the above mentioned 1999 telecommunication overlay, a site located on the land occupied by the elementary school was identified as a possible cell site. Verizon has indicated a strong interest in this location. If built it will establish reliable service for this critical infrastructure. This location is under the control of the SAU so any agreement would have to be with them, but the town including the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Select Board would facilitate as much as possible.

Tax Rate Setting: At the November 13th Select Board meeting, the tax rate for 2023 was established. This process is always a challenge between the needs of the town while considering the financial impact it will have on all of us. Many of the factors that are included in the rate are outside our ability to hold them in check. Some are COLA raises, health insurance and contracts for municipal employees and the current rate of inflation in general to name a few. Also affecting the rate are the projects that were deferred during the past two years of the Covid-19 epidemic. Rye has enjoyed one of the lowest tax rates in the state and that trend will continue if the same diligence is shown in the future. The town rates are as follows.

Jurisdiction (town of Rye)

Municipal	\$2.26
County	\$0.70
Local Education	\$3.66
State Education	<u>\$1.41</u>
	\$8.03

Jurisdiction (Precinct)

Jenness Beach	\$0.15
Rye Water District	\$0.54
Rye Beach Village	\$0.29

Rye residents should add the Town wide tax rate to their respective

precinct rate to obtain the total tax rate for their property.

Landfill Obligations: In March 2023 DES directed the Town of Rye to prepare additional information beyond that required in the Town's existing permit regarding the Grove Road Landfill, including additional sampling and analysis, site evaluation and data analysis. The Town had budgeted the expected cost of permit compliance. The Town authorized the development of all information requested by DES, culminating in a submittal by CMA Engineers, Inc. dated July 14, 2023. This has resulted in a substantial budget overrun in this calendar/fiscal year for environmental monitoring. Upon recommendation from CMA, the engineering firm engaged by the Town of Rye to handle the post closure compliance of both Grove Road Landfill and Breakfast Hill Landfill, the Town budgeted \$16,000 for monitoring in the 2023 budget. To date the Town has spent \$34,035.57 on routine monitoring as well as on the unfunded mandates by DES.

Budgets and CIP: It's budget season again and many committees have been working hard to gather and organize all the information needed to create the 2024 budgets. Yes, you correctly noticed that budget(s) was plural, as the School District (SAU 50), the Rye Water District (RWD), Rye Beach Village Precinct and Jenness Beach Precinct all create budgets which together total the overall Rye tax burden. A very brief description of the process is described below. Establishing a budget is a comprehensive process that culminates with Rye residents voting on the final financial plan during the municipal election on March 12, 2024. We encourage all Rye residents to get involved in this ongoing process.

The Capital Improvements Program (CIP) committee began working on the 2024-2029 CIP in late summer. The CIP is a rolling six-year plan of potential capital expenses greater than \$15,000 broken out by year. The committee meets every year, pursuant to RSA 674:5. The Committee strongly encourages public attendance and public comment. This is a **planning tool** for use by the Select Board to estimate the impact of these expenses on the budget and to reduce fluctuations in the

property tax rate where possible.

In September, the Town Finance Director/Assistant Town Administrator begins to obtain budget proposals for all town entities, including departments, boards, commissions and committees. This culminates in an "all-day" November work session where every department or committee requesting a budget expense presents their budget proposal to the Select Board. Then, the Budget Committee (BC) takes this "Select Board recommended" budget and has its own similar all-day session to create a "BC recommended" budget. Any differences will hopefully be agreed upon, but it is important to note that the budget submitted to the residents at both the Public Hearing (PH) and Deliberative Session (DS) is the budget recommended by the Budget Committee. If there is a difference in budget recommendations, it is the Budget Committee's recommended budget that moves forward to PH and DS. This is due to voters previously adopting an official budget committee under RSA 32:14. The responsibility for budgeting has been delegated from the governing body to the official Budget Committee. Rye's Budget Committee, composed of ten dedicated members, bears the responsibility of recommending the budget.

Also, in November, capital outlay items are reviewed and warrant articles that require funding begin to be discussed and planned. The Budget Committee carefully reviews each department's funding requests, taking into account factors such as anticipated revenue streams, current economic conditions, and community priorities. The committee then works collaboratively with the Select Board and Department Heads to recommend a budget that meets the needs of the town while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Rye is a Senate Bill 2 town. RSA 40:13, Senate Bill 2, also known as SB2, (Official Ballot Referenda) is a form of town meeting that has two sessions. The first session (deliberative session) is for explanation, discussion, debate and amendments to the proposed operating budget and warrant articles. The second session in March (voting session) allows voters to cast an official ballot to pass/fail proposed articles. Rye residents play a crucial role in the

Selectmen's Message

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budget process by actively participating in town meetings and expressing their opinions on the proposed financial plan. Their feedback helps ensure that the budget aligns with the community's needs and priorities.

On March 12, 2024, Rye residents will have the opportunity to cast their votes on the final budget proposal during the municipal election. We encourage all residents to exercise their right to vote and participate in this critical decision-making process.

We hope this brief summary has been helpful in describing the long process from late summer until the March election. After a few months rest, the cycle repeats itself. The Select Board would like to thank everyone involved in these efforts – both our employees, and especially the volunteers on the CIP Committee and Budget Committee who donate their time and expertise to make our Town operate efficiently and effectively. Special thanks also to Town Finance Director/Assistant Town Administrator Becky Bergeron and Executive/Finance Assistant Janice Ireland who are both instrumental in the coordination and development of the town budget.



Gold Star Families: On Veteran's Day, the Select Board flew an Honor and Remember Flag to honor Gold Star Families. This flag was created as a national symbol to acknowledge the sacrifice of men and women in the United States Armed Forces who have given their lives for their country. The flag that was flown by the Town was flown in remembrance of Special Warfare Operator 1st Class William "Blake" Marston and in recognition of those family members that survived him.

A Gold Star family is one that has lost an immediate family member in the line of duty of military service. Although no one wants this distinction, it is meant to honor the service member's ultimate sacrifice while acknowledging their family's loss, grief, and continued healing. By recognizing the significance of the Gold Star Service Flag, we can honor those who have

survived, whether it's a parent, spouse, or child. As a community, we come together to remember the sacrifices made by the Fallen and their families. If you know of, or are a Gold Star family member, and are willing to be recognized by the town please contact Janice Ireland by phone at 603-964-5523 or by email to jireland2@ryenh.us.



As year-end approaches, events related to Rye400 are slowly drawing to a close. Be sure to check the Rye400 website for some festive holiday events including a "closing" ceremony to celebrate this incredible year. The Select Board wants to once again thank the Rye Historical Society and the Rye400 Committee for all their efforts. This year-long celebration is truly one to be proud of!

Save the date for the Deliberative Session: Mark your 2024 calendars now to save the date for the first half of our Town Meeting known as the Deliberative Session. At this time, the 2024 budget and warrant articles will be finalized for placement on the March ballot. For the coming year, the Deliberative Session date is **Saturday, February 3rd** and the snow date is set for Saturday, February 10th. The second half of our Town Meeting, the Town Election, will be held Tuesday, March 12th at the Rye Elementary School.

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Rye Select Board,
Tom King, Chairman
Bill Epperson, Vice-Chairman
Bob McGrath, Selectman

Moderator's Message

UPCOMING ELECTIONS, ETC.

There are three important dates coming up on the 2024 voting calendar:

- **The New Hampshire Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.** There are

separate ballots for the Republican and Democratic primaries. You must vote in the primary of the party in which you are registered. "Undeclared" voters may vote in the primary of either party. The deadline for changing your party affiliation has passed. Check the party you are registered in at: <https://app.sos.nh.gov/voterinformation>. The polls will be open at Rye Elementary School from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- The Rye **Deliberative Session will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at 9:00 a.m.** at Rye Junior High School. The snow date is Saturday, February 10th. Same time and place.
- The **Town of Rye and Rye School District elections** will be held on **Tuesday, March 12th**. The polls will be open at Rye Elementary School from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Absentee Ballots: Per the Secretary of State, you can apply for an absentee ballot for the following reasons: "being absent from . . . town, a religious observance, disability or illness, and employment commitments (including caregiving) during the entire time the polls are open. Absentee ballots may also be available when a weather emergency impacts an election."

An absentee ballot application for the Presidential Primary and the municipal election can be found on the Secretary of State website at sos.nh.gov or on the Town Clerk's page on the Town website. You can also get absentee ballot applications at the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall Annex located at 500 Washington Road.

For an absentee ballot to be counted, it must reach the Town Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election or primary; **or** it can be **delivered to the polls on voting day by an authorized agent no later than 5:00 p.m.** Absentee ballots cannot be left in a drop box.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

After eight terms and 16 years as your Town Moderator, I have decided to retire and pass the reins on to a new moderator. Consequently, I will not be running for reelection next March. I am making this announcement now so that anyone who might want to run for the job as Rye's top election official will have ample time to consider it. I am always available to speak with anyone who has questions about the

Moderator's Message

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responsibilities and commitment the job entails.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people of Rye who entrusted me for the last 16 years with the privilege and responsibility of ensuring that Rye's elections and deliberative sessions were conducted fairly, accurately, accessibly and in compliance with the law. With the support of numerous town officials and employees, and countless dedicated election volunteers, I hope I have come close to achieving those goals. While some may have disagreed with my rulings from time to time, I always strove to be impartial, to listen to the concerns of every voter, to explain the reasoning for my decisions, and to treat everybody fairly and courteously. As those of you who know me understand, the preservation of our democracy in both Rye and in America – the perpetuation of "government of the people, by the people, for the people" – is very close to my heart. I thank you all for allowing me to play a small part in that.

Bob Eaton
Town Moderator

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Update

Reminder, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office is open Monday through Thursday 8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m. and Fridays 8:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. Motor Vehicle and Vital Record transactions are not able to be processed **after 4:00 pm**. These transactions include but are not limited to: marriage licenses, motor vehicle registration renewals, titles, new plates, out-of-state transfers, and new resident transfers. For your convenience, you may renew your registration, dog license, beach parking permits, property tax and sewer payments online at www.town.rye.nh.us. Look for the color icon that pertains to the transaction you will be doing. We accept checks or credit cards as

payment options for online transactions.

Property tax bills were mailed out on November 22nd with payments due December 27, 2023. We accept check, cash or credit card as form of payment. Please note there is approximately a 2.99% surcharge for the use of a credit card that goes to the credit card company.

A drop box has been installed at the Town Hall Annex. The drop box is for tax or sewer payments, and motor vehicle registration renewals. For your convenience there is also a drive-up window for dropping off tax or sewer payments, doing motor vehicle registration renewals, picking up absentee ballot applications and dropping off ballots. All new motor vehicle transactions as well as transfers must be done inside the building.

In 2024 we have four elections. The Presidential Primary has been set for Tuesday, January 23rd, the Deliberative Session will be Saturday, February 3rd, with a snow date of February 10th, the Town Municipal Election is Tuesday, March 12th, the Primary Election is Tuesday, September 10th, and the General Election is Tuesday, November 5th. These dates are posted on the Town of Rye website calendar. Absentee ballot applications can be found on the Town Clerk's page on the town website and may be printed off and sent in or you can pick one up at the Town Clerk's office.



If you or a family member turned 18 years of age, please come to the Town Clerk's Office to register to vote before returning to school. Please make sure to bring a copy of your driver's license or passport. You are the upcoming generation; it is important that you vote.

Donna M. DeCotis
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Planning Board Update

The Rye Planning Board has been very busy in 2023 with the following projects:

2023 HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT: In February 2023, the Rye Planning Board was awarded a \$17,750 grant from InvestNH Municipal Planning & Zoning Grant Program's Housing Opportunity Program Needs Assessment Grant (HOP Grant) to prepare a Needs Analysis and Plan to fund the public engagement, analysis, and documentation of answering the question "what should the future of housing be in Rye?" Rockingham Planning Commission was selected to assist the Rye Planning Board with this effort. The primary tasks in the project included:

Develop a housing needs assessment that evaluates the housing status, demographics, and housing-related issues within Rye. Conducting a survey to provide information on housing and seek feedback from residents, businesses, and officials on housing preference to help guide potential actions.

Hosting public input event to present the background information, discuss housing preferences in Rye gained from the survey and other sources, and allow for facilitated discussion related to housing that may fit Rye's needs and desires. Thank you to all the citizens who participated in the survey and the public forum. The Final Report may be viewed on the Town of Rye Website at [2023ryehousingneed-assessment_final_0.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/2023ryehousingneed-assessment_final_0.pdf).

BUILD-OUT ANALYSIS: In June 2023, the Planning Board selected FB Environmental Associates (FBE) to prepare a Build-Out Analysis for the Town of Rye as part of the Rye Master Plan 2023-2024 update. The Master Plan Steering Committee worked with FBE to understand potential future development in Rye based on current municipal land-use regulations and vacant land areas. A draft report was presented to the steering committee at the September meeting which led to an updated report to include the discussion of "backland" lots and presenting results as ranges to help indicate the variability in future development. The steering committee will be discussing the alternative scenarios analysis later on in the master planning process and revising the report again with those results. To view the Baseline Build-Out it is on the Town of Rye website at [fbe_rye_baselinebuildout_analysis_october2023.pdf](https://www.town.rye.nh.us/fbe_rye_baselinebuildout_analysis_october2023.pdf).

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Planning Board Update

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MASTER PLAN UPDATE: **RYE 2035: Planning today for tomorrow's future**

In June 2023, the Planning Board selected Resilience Planning & Design to assist the Planning Board with a revised theme-based Master Plan. The process takes 18 to 24 months from start to finish. The Master Plan Steering Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1pm with the consultants. The past months have been based on looking at existing conditions in Rye. There have been rich discussions by the consultants, committee members and members of the public. All the meetings can be viewed through the Town website on Town Hall Streams. A public forum will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2024 from 6:30-8 pm at Rye Junior High. Please stay tuned to the Rye Website for more information.

RYE 2035

planning today for tomorrow's future

RPC put together a site called the Rye Future Page which started for the Housing Needs Assessment and morphed to include the Build-Out and the Master Plan Updates: PublicInput.com/RyeFuture. This important website will provide a great source of information for all three projects.

RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE: Process of amendments to Land Development Regulations, Zoning and Flood Ordinances, & Building Code

The Rules and Regulations Committee has begun meeting this fall to consider possible changes to the various Town Codes. The Rules and Regulations Committee is a subcommittee of the Town's Planning Board. Each year in the late summer/early fall the R&R committee begins its work by polling the town departments, committees, and commissions to receive feedback about items in Rye's Land Development Regulations, Zoning Ordinance, Flood Zone Ordinance and Building Code that may need to be reviewed and possibly

modified or clarified. The committee also considers suggestions regarding possible items to be added to the town's regulations and ordinances to update various land use parameters. Often such proposals are brought forth by consultants engaged in professional, technical, or legal review in connection with applications before the Town.

The R&R committee works closely with Kim Reed, the Town's Planning and Zoning Administrator, Kara Campbell, the Town's Land Use Assistant, and Attorney Eric Maher, the Town's legal counsel, to develop modifications, clarifications, and additions to the Town Codes. All proposed changes by the R&R committee are sent to the full Planning Board for its review. The review includes a public hearing for any proposal. During public hearings ample time is provided for questions, comments and suggestions by attendees. If, after a public hearing, proposed Land Use Regulation changes are approved by the Planning Board, they are implemented immediately. Any proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance, the Flood Zone Ordinance, or the Building Code that are approved by the Planning Board are then moved to the Town Warrant to be voted on at the next Town election. Any code or ordinance amendments that are approved by the Planning Board, go into effect provisionally once the change has been noticed to the public. Proposed amendments approved by the citizens are implemented permanently after the election.

The Rye Planning Board and its Committees: Master Plan Steering Committee, Long Range Planning, and Rules and Regulations, and staff: Kim Reed, Planning and Zoning Administrator, and Kara Campbell, Land Use Assistant wish everyone Happy Holidays!

Pat Losik, Chair
Rye Planning Board

Tips from the Police Chief

Winter Parking: Winter is here, and soon the snow will arrive. Residents and visitors are asked to park

in their driveways during the night and during snow removal to assist the Rye Highway Department with snow removal. The parking ban is in place from November 1st to April 15th.



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

Traveling to the Transfer Station: As you pack your vehicle or trailer, please ensure the load is secure. The Police Department as well as the Public Works Department have been responding to trash bags, recycling items, and brush falling on the roadway. Please take the time to secure your items before driving.

Vacation: If you are planning to go away, even for just a few days, please make sure your home is locked. If you have a security system, use it, and let your neighbors know you are going away. Always make sure the driveway and walkways are maintained. Whenever possible ask someone to check the house, and please let the Rye Police know you are away.

Holidays and Package Deliveries: It's a good idea to plan ahead for when you may have deliveries being made and you're not going to be home to have a neighbor or family friend pick them up. Please keep an eye on deliveries made to a neighbors' home when they aren't home. Helping to not leave packages outside for an extended period will ensure no one drives by and takes them.



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 take caution when traveling around town.

Invisible Fences: We have been receiving a lot of calls for loose dogs. Please make sure your dog always has his/her collar and tags on. 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 is not working, the fence is useless. If your dog has his/her tags on, the officer will be able to return your dog to you. Snow on the ground will prevent an electric fence from working. Please check the fence in the area to make sure snow piles are not preventing the fence from working.

Police Chief's Tips

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Scams: In the age of technology, scams are quite prevalent now and scammers are always looking for new ways to get your money.

With the holidays upon us, please double-check any packages arriving at your residence and notify the Rye Police if you find packages arriving with your address on them that you did not order or packages with another address on them. Scammers are tracking packages that are purchased with stolen account information and are waiting for the packages to arrive so that they can retrieve the fraudulently obtained items before the homeowner retrieves the packages. Some of the people will walk up to a house with the package in hand to appear they are delivering a package and walk away with another package. **Please never give your date of birth, social security number, or any bank account information, or allow someone not known to you, to dial into your cell phone or computer.**



Speed of vehicles on Rye roads: The Rye Select Board's number one priority is safety. The Board assigned the Police Department to come up with a plan to improve safety several years ago. The Police Department has been using a driver compliance plan to fix poor driving behavior and move forward with a culture change. The Rye driver compliance plan has objectives and strategies that match best practice safety standards to reduce vehicle crashes. Education/Awareness, Engineering, and Enforcement are used to reduce vehicle crashes and complaints of poor driving behavior and improve driving culture. The following statistics show positive results of the driver compliance plan. Reported traffic crashes have reduced over the last 5 years.

- Year 2018 – 104 crashes
- Year 2019 – 83 crashes
- Year 2020 – 76 crashes
- Year 2021 – 75 crashes
- Year 2022 – 67 crashes

Since October of 2023, 51 crashes have been reported. The Education/Awareness plan educates drivers that when driving above posted speed

limits, they do not necessarily obtain a better arrival time to their destination. Even when speeding, drivers would arrive at approximately the same time and it results in more fuel consumption or battery power, the vehicle's brakes and tires are worn quicker, ultimately costing the vehicle owner more money. Driving at the speed limit costs less and the driver and passengers arrive at approximately the same time. I would like to thank the previous and current Select Boards, as well as businesses owners, private clubs, and Rye residents for your support with the Rye driver compliance plan.

All Rye officers and the Select Board take your safety seriously. The Rye Police Department wishes you and your family happy holidays.

Kevin Walsh
Chief of Police

Rye Fire Rescue Update

Lieutenant Jake MacGlashing: It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to Rye Lieutenant Jake MacGlashing. Jake has accepted a position as Deputy Fire Chief in North Hampton effective December 3, 2023. We are excited for Jake to have this new opportunity but will certainly miss him at Rye Fire. Jake has been with Rye for 16 years, including 8 years as Lieutenant, 12 years as our EMS Coordinator and 10 years as coordinator of our life-guards. Rye Fire Rescue thanks Jake and his family for all the commitment and dedication given over the years and we wish him well in his new position!

Winter is around the corner: The colder months are upon us, and this time of year we see an uptick in certain types of emergencies we respond to:

- Carbon Monoxide:
 - ◊ Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless gas that is a byproduct of improper combustion. The only way for someone to detect carbon monoxide is by having properly installed and working carbon monoxide detectors. Blocked chimneys,

malfunctioning furnaces, stoves, hot water heaters, gas & wood burning fireplaces, or an engine accidentally left running in an enclosed space can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

- ◊ Carbon monoxide molecules bind to red blood cells in a person's blood stream and have an affinity two hundred times greater than Oxygen. This can lead to a person experiencing headaches, nausea & vomiting, dizziness, shortness of breath, and chest pain in mild cases. In severe cases a person can become unconscious and stop breathing due to hypoxia. Should a carbon monoxide detector activate in your home relocate everyone to fresh air, including pets, leave your doors and windows closed, and call 911. By calling 911 it ensures that we are going to receive your call as we are not always in the fire station. You can prevent a carbon monoxide emergency by having your home's major appliances serviced annually, chimneys cleaned, and not leaving small engines or vehicles running within close proximity of a structure.
- ◊ By calling 911 it ensures that we are going to receive your call as we are not always in the fire station. By leaving your doors and windows closed the fire department can meter the environment and potentially identify the source, isolate it, and ventilate your home.
- Ice and snow: Our responses to motor vehicle accidents and slips and falls increase during the winter months, and sometimes snow can be wet, heavy, and hard to shovel. We encourage everyone to remain cautious during inclement weather, apply sand & salt to those slippery steps & parking areas, leave extra time while traveling, plan your stops, slow down, and take plenty of breaks when shoveling those heavy snowfalls to prevent injuries.
- Woodstoves and fireplaces:
 - ◊ Woodstoves and fireplaces can provide a nice ambiance & heating source for many homes. However, failure to maintain a clean chimney, free of creosote,

Rye Fire Rescue Update

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can lead to a chimney fire. A chimney fire can cause significant damage or result in the loss of a home. Creosote is the black or brown residue that forms because of wood-burning fires. The creosote sticks to the walls of the chimney and is highly flammable.

- ◇ Annual inspection and cleaning of your chimney, or more frequently depending on its frequency of use, can prevent a chimney fire and significant damage to a home. Visible fire from the top of a chimney, smoke within a home, or sounds of crackling within a wall should be immediately reported to the fire department by calling 911.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Mark Cotreau
Rye Fire Chief

Public Works Update

With winter just around the corner, the Rye Public Works and Highway Department are transitioning from construction and maintenance operations to winter maintenance emergency response. These preparations consist of a number of pre-planning activities such as, setting up plows and deicing equipment, reviewing treatment and plow routes while identifying potential hazards, the installation of grade stakes at select locations to delineate the edge of the road shoulders, removal of encumbrances in the road right of ways, patching potholes in the pavement, removing low hanging branches, and adding gravel to low road shoulders. Rye Public Works has planned a winter operational meeting, will perform dry runs of plow routes, and calibrate deicing material spreaders.

Homeowners should remove any sports equipment such as basketball

hoops, skateboard jumps and street hockey nets, from the road right of way. Residents who desire to mark the edge of their lawns to minimize plow damage may install thin plastic road delineators which can be purchased at any local hardware store or building supply. These delineators may be installed along your road frontage but must be at least three feet off the edge of road pavement towards your property. The use of items not intended for plowing delineation, such as metal rods, stones, and granite posts, should not be employed for road delineation. Delineators not properly located or constructed of unacceptable material will be removed by the public works staff.

- Mailboxes should be inspected to ensure the support structures can resist the forces of Mother Nature. Only mailboxes actually struck by road maintenance equipment will be eligible for replacement by the Public Works Department.
- Alternate locations for vehicles currently parked within the road right of way should be secured. The Police Department will be ticketing vehicles parked within the right of way, and vehicles adjacent to the road during snowstorms may be towed, at the owner's expense.
- Sump pump discharges should be relocated to a location which prevents freezing on the pavement and not cause a problem.
- Clear the area around and over area drains and catch basins of leaves and debris or notify the departments of potential blockages.
- To minimize lawn damage set thin plastic delineators no closer than three feet to the edge of road pavement.
- Do not plow or blow snow into the road.
- Watch out for plows and give sufficient room to operate.

Your cooperation is appreciated by the entire Public Works staff.

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR LEAVES AND GRASS CLIPPINGS TO PROTECT RYE'S WATERS.

MULCH YOUR LEAVES: Mulched leaves on your lawn add valuable nutrients and organic matter. Grass clippings provide a source of slow-release nutrients reducing the amount of fertilizer needed.

Remove the bag from your

lawn mower or use a mulching lawnmower. Leave the clippings to add organic matter and recycle nutrients.

Remember, backyard composting of your leaves, grass clippings and brush reduces the flow of waste, while at the same time, producing valuable organic matter for the soil. It improves your soil and the plants growing on it.

Never dispose of yard waste in surface waters or near wetlands. Decomposing leaves and grass in waterways use oxygen that other organisms need to survive. Yard waste dumped near waterbodies contributes to stream algae and odors.

Dumping leaves in or near water bodies and wetlands is against the law. Storm water-management regulations set by the Environmental Protection Agency, warning that state law (RSA 482-A:3) "prohibits filling streams and wetlands with waste materials, including yard waste." The law specifically states, "No person shall excavate, remove, fill, dredge, or construct any structures in or on any bank, flat, marsh, or swamp in and adjacent to any waters of the state without a permit" from the state.

Grass clippings may contain fertilizer and pesticides which can contaminate rivers and lakes and contribute to impairments of rivers and oceans. Decomposing yard waste uses up oxygen in the water that aquatic wildlife needs to live. It blocks sun and smothers plant life that is food for animals including turtles, ducks, chipmunks, and deer. Yard waste can also stimulate algae and other nuisance weeds that "form foul-smelling, green mats on the water surface and degrade water quality".

However, this regulation should not affect the majority of Rye residents, as the Transfer Station accepts yard waste and brush from residents, Tuesday through Saturday between 7:30 am and 3:45 pm, throughout the year. In addition, local landscaping contractors may obtain a temporary dumping permit for a yearly fee of \$150. Residents who contract with landscapers should insure they are properly disposing of their yard waste and brush.

At the Transfer Station all yard waste received is pushed up into long piles called windrows. These windrows are turned over multiple times throughout the year, then run through a course

Public Works Update

(continued from page 7)

and fine screener. Resulting in a high-grade compost/loam material. This material is available to the town's residents, for as long as the stockpile lasts. The process is repeated each year.

As always, you can pick up informational brochures at the Public Works Department and Transfer Station on proper yard waste disposal.

Welcome Our New Staff!

This year the Select Board approved a new part-time position for the Public Works Department, Administrative Assistant to the Public Works Director.

Please join me in welcoming our new addition, Beth Grecoe! Beth brings a wealth of experience from the private sector and is an incredible asset to the department. She is personable, knowledgeable, eager to learn, and a great addition to our incredible team! Make sure to introduce yourself when visiting the Public Works office at the Town Hall.

RYE'S TOWN VEHICLE FUELING ISLAND REPLACEMENT:

The Town's current vehicle fueling station is 39 years old and has reached the end of its useful service life. Public Works, Police and Fire Departments, Code Enforcement, Senior Serve, and Rye Water all use the current facility.

Given the reality of the current Public Works site, current economic conditions, cost of additional land purchase, Town fueling and operational needs, the current location at the Department of Public Works property offers the most sensible option. A centralized fueling station located in town is beneficial to the efficient and safe operations of all Town departments, versus an offsite fueling location. The Police and Fire Departments are both supportive of having the new fuel station located in town. Having the fuel station in town enables the Police, Fire and Public Works departments to respond to emergencies without the interruption of traveling out of town to fuel vehicles and heavy equipment. This equates to keeping the plow trucks on the road longer during snowstorms. Having the loader working, removing downed trees in the road and ocean storm high tide events. Keeping the ambulance and police patrols in town and enable them to

respond to calls from town and not from an offsite fueling station.

Rye's vehicle fueling station was installed in 1985. With the exception of the installation of a fuel use tracking system the fueling station has not been upgraded since it was installed in 1985. The fueling station consists of two fuel tanks: a 1500 gallon gasoline tank and a 3000 gallon diesel tank, both with secondary containment walls, a pump and dispenser for each fuel, and an outdated, antiquated DOS software fuel tracking system. The fuel tracking system is no longer supported by any service provider. Replacement parts and technical repair service for the tracking system are unavailable. Should the tracking system fail, record keeping would be done manually causing loss of time, efficiency, and production in all departments that use the fueling station.

The fueling station is located too close to the Transfer Station and impacts the flow of residential traffic using the Transfer Station as well as requiring town vehicles to travel against the flow of traffic to access the fuel island. The Department of Public Works site master plan calls to relocate the fueling station to the rear of the DPW site away from the Transfer Station and its traffic flow.

Total project cost is anticipated to be \$1,400,000 which includes site preparation, fuel island construction, electrical service, contingencies, and engineering.

This is a very worthwhile project for consideration by the voters and affords an opportunity to correct a current site deficiency and continued use of the existing designated Department of Public Works site.

As always, the Public Works Department appreciates all the assistance and cooperation we receive from the town residents and the public in general.

Jason Rucker,
Public Works Director

Rye Energy Committee Update

Rye Community Power continues to offer the most competitive rates

in the state, with the price for Granite Basic at 10.9 cents per kWh, once again lower than Eversource's 12.58 cents per kWh. Granite Plus (33% renewable/carbon-free) and Clean 50 (50% renewable/carbon-free) are both below the Eversource rate. Customers can also choose Clean 100 for slightly more than the Eversource rate if they would like to choose 100% renewable/carbon-free energy. According to the latest data, only a small fraction (less than 1%) of Rye's 2,914 electric customers have opted out of Rye Community Power, while 53 new customers have actively chosen to join the program. The current rates will continue through January 2024. The Community Power Coalition will announce new rates in mid-December after Eversource announces their rate change. Check the [RyeCommunityPowerNH.gov](https://www.RyeCommunityPowerNH.gov) website for more information or compare competitive electric supplier rates on the NH DOE webpage at <https://tinyurl.com/shopelectric>.

The Rye Junior High School solar array is saving the schools money on electricity. The total RJS electricity bill for 2023 to date is \$2,760 or 14% less than the same period in 2022. The Rye School Board has approved a Power Purchase Agreement for installation of solar panels on the Elementary School next summer.

Discussions are on-going regarding development of a solar array on the Breakfast Hill landfill, although challenges related to land management persist. In parallel, the Committee is closely monitoring discussion of offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine, emphasizing potential economic and environmental benefits.

The Rye tax assessor provided a report on properties in town that have solar panels installed. We were pleased to learn that 110 properties have 3,214 solar panels installed. Besides reducing emissions, solar panels also help save money on your electric bill by reducing the charges for power delivery. If you are interested in installing solar you should know the Inflation Reduction Act offers a 30% federal tax credit for the cost of a solar system and for a battery back-up system. Once solar is installed the Town offers a tax exemption for up to \$35,000 of the cost of the system so you won't owe property taxes on this home improvement. Only 30 of the

Energy Committee Update

(continued from page 8)

solar properties in town have taken advantage of the solar tax exemption. If you would like to apply for it, contact the tax assessor's office to learn how.

We have also been focusing on the building energy code. We know that about 40% of statewide greenhouse gas emissions are the result of heating homes with oil and gas and about 90% of properties in Rye use these fuels. To reduce these emissions and to save money on heating and cooling, the Rye building code follows the state in requiring compliance with the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code. The IECC requires new homes to be constructed with very low air leakage. The state is considering adopting the more stringent 2021 IECC to further improve new home energy efficiency. We are discussing with Planning and Zoning how to best enforce the code while ensuring proper health and safety standards are also met.

We encourage community members to stay informed about community power and other energy-related activities by attending our meetings at the Town Hall the first Tuesday of every month at 3:00 PM or stream the meeting online from the Town Hall Live Streaming webpage.

Rye Energy Committee,
Tom Pfau & Howard Kalet, Co-Chairs
Lisa Sweet, Carl Nicolino, Rob Spork,
Frank Melanson & Silas Proft

**Thank you from the
Rye400 Committee**



As we approach the end of this remarkable year, I am honored to write this letter on behalf of the Rye400 Committee, reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared throughout 2023.

The Rye400 Committee was formed by the Rye Historical Society, at the request of the Town of Rye. It has been our privilege to plan and offer more than 60 programs and events that

reflect the diverse and long history of our town. Those activities ranged from historic lectures and walks, trolley & Shoals tours, beach clean-ups and athletic events, to Rye Day, founding-family reunions, an historic home tour, holiday tree lighting, art shows and educational programs for our Rye students to name a few. These events acknowledged our Indigenous, European and enslavement roots as well as the environmental, economic, and social realities of fishing, farming, tourism, and community activism. As a result, we believe we achieved our goal to strengthen the bonds with the community, our history and each other.

One of the most heartwarming outcomes of our collective efforts was the financial support we were able to provide to Rye's educational institutions. Several events raised funds for not only field trips to the Seacoast Science Center for Rye students and classroom art programs, but also for the installation of a new 2024, accessible playground at the Rye Elementary School.

In addition to the many memories and photographs, we are excited to announce that this year-long celebration will culminate in the dedication of a Rye400-specific monument that will stand as a permanent testament to our celebration and the history that defines our community. Furthermore, we are committed to distributing any remaining funds from the Rye400 fundraising efforts to several causes that benefit the quality of life in our community. More information is forthcoming.

None of it would've been possible without the support of our Town, generous individual donors, community-minded local businesses, and a host of dedicated volunteers. To all of them, too many to list, we say **THANK YOU!** In addition, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Rye Historical Society and members of the Rye400 Committee, who worked tirelessly throughout the year to bring these programs to you. It is they, who through their unwavering support, dedication, and enthusiasm, made it happen on the community's behalf.

Rye's legacy is something we all share, and it is our collective responsibility to protect, honor and preserve it for generations to come.

Thank you for an extraordinary

year, and here's to an even brighter future for the Town of Rye. Onward and upward!

With heartfelt appreciation,
Andy Stecher, Chair
Rye400 Committee

**Rye Senior SERVE
is here to serve
Rye Seniors**

As the town of Rye celebrates its 400th year, Rye Senior SERVE (RSS) is closing in on its 20th year serving Rye's senior population. Since our humble beginnings in 2004, RSS volunteers have continually provided needed transportation services to our town's elder residents. Over those years RSS has provided more than 900 shopping and errand trips for over 9,000 riders and roughly 240 luncheon trips for close to 2,400 riders. Our volunteers have also provided personal transportation to nearly 5,900 medical and other important appointments.

This summer we started a donation drive to raise funds to buy a replacement for our old and tired 2006 13 passenger van. Thanks to the generosity of many Rye residents and local businesses, in just a few months we have received donations and pledges totaling 90% of our goal. It is our hope to raise the other 10% by year's end and purchase the new van early in 2024. It would be an auspicious way for us to head into our 20th year.

Of course two decades of service could not be possible without the support of our dedicated volunteers. From our Board of Directors to our van and individual drivers, all our volunteers have and continue to demonstrate their willingness and commitment to serving Rye's senior population. The time they donate and energy they bring is the engine that drives RSS. We are truly grateful for all their efforts.

As 2023 closes and 2024 quickly approaches, everyone with Rye Senior SERVE would like to send our best wishes to all this holiday season and into the New Year. Happy Holidays!

Jim Delaney, President
603-436-6041



WINTER PROGRAMS

Physical Address: 55 Recreation Road, Rye, NH 03870

Mailing Address: 10 Central Road Rye, NH 03870

Tel. 964-6281, Fax 964-1516

E-Mail: Dmartin@town.rye.nh.us, Town website www.town.rye.nh.us/

2024

WINTER PROGRAMS SIGN-UPS

Rye Recreation Office, 55 Recreation Road, Rye, NH and online www.town.rye.nh.us

Programs are limited to a first-come, first-served basis.

WORLDWIDE ADVENTURES WITH RYE RECREATION

EXPLORE BRITISH LANDSCAPES



This is your opportunity to witness breathtaking British landscapes during a 10 day stay in Scotland, England, and Wales with an optional extension in France! Visit the historic capital of Scotland, witness the crown jewels, stand in the presence of Ancient Roman architecture, and knock on the door of William Shakespeare's childhood home. Keep an eye out for the upcoming info session dates and come see us at Rye Rec for a brochure!

Dates: August 20–29, 2024

EXPLORE SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA & BAVARIA



Join Rye Recreation in a 10 day stay in Switzerland, Austria, and Bavaria. You will have the opportunity to visit a UNESCO world heritage site, witness authentic yodeling, experience the picturesque Austrian alps, walk through the Mirabell Gardens and so much more! We welcome you to enjoy this pre-planned, stress-free vacation. Keep an eye out for the upcoming info session dates and come see us at Rye Rec for a brochure!

Dates: November 6-15, 2024

A travel information session for both trips will be held at The Wave on Thurs., January 11, 2024, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Learn about the fun that awaits you on these adventures while you enjoy refreshments.

THE WAVE LUNCH PROGRAMS AND DAY TRIPS

The lunch programs are held at The Wave at Rye Congregational Church is the second Thursday of each month. Lunch begins at 12:00 p.m. followed by entertainment at 1:00 p.m. Reservations for lunch are required and the cost is \$15 for a complete lunch or \$5 for a beverage and dessert only. If you are not having lunch, you can still attend, but we ask that you notify us in advance. Space is limited for day trips, so it is important to register early. No refunds will be given unless funds can be recovered from the contract provider. Prior to the trip, you will receive correspondence confirming the departure time and location as well as schedule.

SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

The Old Man: His Life and Legacy by Inez McDermott

This program presents the “story” of the Old Man and examines the ways that public perceptions of the Profile played a role in shaping and establishing New Hampshire’s identity.

Program sponsored by NH Humanities & open to the public.

Date: Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024

Lunch: Chicken parmesan, dinner rolls, garden salad, dessert, and coffee/tea/water

Reservation deadline: Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024

Oil, Ice and Bone: Arctic Whaler Nathaniel Ransom by Helen Frink

This program tells the story of the two sunken whale ships found in the winter of 2016, and how they came to be lost in the greatest whaling disaster in American history.

Program Sponsored by NH Humanities & open to the public.

Date: Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024

Lunch: Stuffed shells, dinner rolls, garden salad, dessert, and coffee/tea/water

Reservation deadline: Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024

The March lunch program is coming soon!

BEST OF TIMES SENIOR DAY TRIPS

THE BEACH BOYS – ULTIMATE TRIBUTE SHOW



Their tribute performances are as true to form as the originals, featuring the incredible five-part harmonies of the beach boys, so much so you might forget this is a tribute show!

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024

Lunch: Baked stuffed chicken or vegetarian lasagna with salad, potato, vegetables, breads, dessert, coffee/tea/water

Reservation Deadline: Mar. 28, 2024

Fee: \$89 per person

HAPPY 2 GATHER -ULTIMATE 60'S SHOW



Sing along to the sounds of “The Doors”, “Simon and Garfunkel”, Janis Joplin”, and many more. This show promises to leave you feeling GROOVY.

Date: Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024

Lunch: Stuffed shells, rolls, garden salad & Boston cream pie.

Reservation Deadline: Aug. 22, 2024

Fee: \$89 per person

JIMMY BUFFETT TRIBUTE SHOW



Jimmy and The Parrots have been playing for delighted crowds for years. So, what screams out it's summertime more than lobsters and Jimmy Buffett?

Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024

Lunch: Whole lobster, clam chowder, fresh steamed mussels, fresh Maine clams, corn-

on-the-cob, potatoes & onions, blueberry cake, rolls, butter, and coffee/tea/water.

Reservation Deadline: June 18, 2024

Fee: \$89 per person

THE SICILIAN TENORS – LIVE CONCERT



The Sicilian Tenors filmed in England at the beautiful Highclere Castle, the home of the hit TV series Downton Abbey.

Now is your opportunity to hear the songs and enjoy an amazing reproduction

of this special concert live!

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024

Meal Choice: Thanksgiving dinner with the fixings and sides or vegetable lasagna, dessert, coffee/tea/water

Reservation Deadline: Oct. 16, 2024

Fee: \$89 per person

STRENGTH & BALANCE



Instructed by Kim Rivest, this group fitness class will help you strengthen major muscle groups using weights and work on balance. A combination of exercises performed standing or seated

will challenge you and allow you to work at your own pace.

Class begins with a warm-up and finishes with a series of stretches to leave you feeling refreshed and energized.

Please wear sneakers and comfortable clothing. Classes are held on Wed., 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Dates: January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024 (13 classes)

Location: The Wave at Rye Congregational Church, 580 Washington Road, Rye

Fee: \$65 (Prorated to start date)

CHAIR YOGA



Instructed by Amelia McKenney; Rye resident, volunteer, and life-long athlete. This gentle form of yoga is practiced sitting in a chair or standing using chair for support. Build inner and

outer strength while relaxing and centering the mind. Have fun with others while learning postures that help you build strength, flexibility, and balance. Focusing on the relaxation response to reduce stress and promote health. Please wear comfortable clothing. Classes are held on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Dates: December 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, January 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30, February 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29, March 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, April 2, 4, 9, 11,

16, 18, 23, 25, 30, May 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30, June 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27, 2024 (60 classes)

Location: The Wave at Rye Congregational Church
580 Washington Road, Rye

Fee: No cost (Registration required)

ADULT YOGA & MEDITATION



This course is instructed by nationally certified classical yoga teacher Jeanie Ryan. Build core strength, flexibility and balance while gaining relaxation tools and healthy living tips. Learn the

ancient practice of combining yoga and meditation to harmonize the mind, body, and spirit. This is a multi-level class. Beginners welcome. Please bring a yoga mat, they are not provided. Classes are held Thursday, 9:30a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Dates: *Session 1*, January 11, 18, 25,

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024

Session 2, February 29, March 21, 28,

April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024

Location: The Wave at Rye Congregational Church, 580 Washington Road, Rye

Fee: \$115.50 per session (7 classes each session)

ADULT PICK-UP BASKETBALL



Facilitated by Dennis Okyere, pick-up basketball will be hosted on Sundays. Play scrimmage games and practice your skills. Participants are required to sign up with Rye Recreation in advance so they can be notified of any schedule changes. Program

is held at the Rye Junior High gym on Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Dates: Sundays, January 7, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18,

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, 28, May 5, 12, 2024

Fee: \$66

THE WAVE CLUB

After great anticipation, The Wave Club is finally here! This after school program is open to 6th – 8th grade students from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m., M-F, at Rye Congregational Church. The Wave Club is a space built for middle school teens to hang out, congregate, and do their homework. There will be activities, games, and enrichment programming available for teens to participate in weekly. If you have any questions, give us a call at Rye Rec!

Location: The third floor of Rye Congregational Church, 580 Washington Road, Rye.

Dates: M-F starting Jan 2nd – June 13th or the last day of school (excluding school holidays)

Fee: \$125



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

PART TIME AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM COUNSELORS

For more information contact Dyana Martin
Recreation Director 603.964.6281 and/or
dmartin@town.rye.nh.us

Rye Public Library Events: Winter 2023/24

“What good is the warmth of summer without the cold of winter to give it meaning?”
— John Steinbeck

Ongoing Activities:

Adult Book Discussion: Please sign up to join these lively discussion groups.
Fourth Wednesday of each month at 2 pm!

12/27 *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham

1/24 *The Uses of Enchantment* by Bruno Bettelheim

2/28 *Mother-Daughter Murder Night* by Nina Simone

Coloring for Adults: 11am on Mondays! Materials provided.	Military Book Discussions: First Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. 12/8, 1/5, 2/2
RPL Knitters: By the Fireplace at 10 am on Thursdays! All skill levels are invited to join this welcoming group.	

Monday Movie Matinees – shown in the Community Meeting Room on the second Monday of every month at 1:00 pm

Dec 11 <i>Barbie</i> PG-13 114 min	Jan 8 <i>Book Club: The Next Chapter</i> PG-13 126 min
February 12 <i>Love Again</i> PG-13 104 min	

FRIENDS OF THE RYE PUBLIC LIBRARY

New members welcome!

The FRPL meet monthly on Third Tuesdays at 6:00PM

Museum memberships supported by *The Friends*:

Children’s Museum of NH, Dover	Museum of Science, Boston MA
Currier Museum of Art, Manchester	Strawbery Banke, Portsmouth
Historic New England	Ogunquit Museum of Art, ME
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston MA	Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA
Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME	Seacoast Science Center, Rye
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA	Woodman Museum, Dover

Museum Passes Donated by the Friends of the Rye Public Library

Walk-in Tech Help – Drop in every Wednesday from 11AM-1PM and Thursday evenings from 5PM to 7PM with questions about your electronics. These sessions are process oriented and not meant to troubleshoot device functionality. If you wonder how to download books and other library materials to your device, create an e-mail account, or manage storage, etc. this session is for you. If your device just crashed or won’t boot up, that’s beyond the scope here.

**Rye Public Library Youth Department
 Programming December 2023 – February 2024
 More details at ryepubliclibrary.org or (603) 964 – 9551**

<u><i>Youth Programs:</i></u>	
<u><i>Regularly Scheduled Programs</i></u>	<u><i>Special Events (by age group)</i></u>
<p><u><i>Youth Programs:</i></u> Playtime Party — Mondays - 10:30 am Sensory Play — Tuesdays - 10:30 am Games and Snacks — Tuesdays - 3:00-4:00 pm, Grades 5+ Teen Thursdays — <i>Check website for details!</i> Thursdays, 3:00-4:00pm, Grades 6+ Story Time — Fridays - 10:30 am Pokémon Night — 1st Tuesday of the month 5:00-6:00 pm Lego Night — 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of the month 5:00-6:00 pm Minecraft Night — 4th Thursday of the month 5:00-6:00 pm Crafternoon — 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month 3:00-4:00 pm, Grades 5+ Teen Advisory Board — 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month 4:00-5:00 pm, Grades 7+ Graphic Novel Book Club — 3rd Wednesday of the month 4:00-4:45 pm, Grades 4-6 YAttitudes Book Club — 3rd Wednesday of the month 6:00-7:00 pm, Grades 6+</p>	<p>Candy Making Wednesday, December 6th 3:00-4:00pm Grades 4+ Polar Bear Party Wednesday, December 13th 3:15-4:15pm Gift Workshop Thursdays, December 14th 3:00-4:00pm Visit us at Seacoast Science Center Friday, December 15th 4:00-6:00pm</p>

Rye Library Board of Trustees Update

The Rye Public Library Board of Trustees continues moving forward in our plan and vision for the Library Common project. We have spent numerous meetings walking the property, reviewing, and revising the design with our landscape architect, Terrance Parker of Terra Firma Landscape Architecture. Some of you may have noticed stakes placed and moved on the property as we work collaboratively to design a community space to meet both RPL and Rye residents' needs and desires.

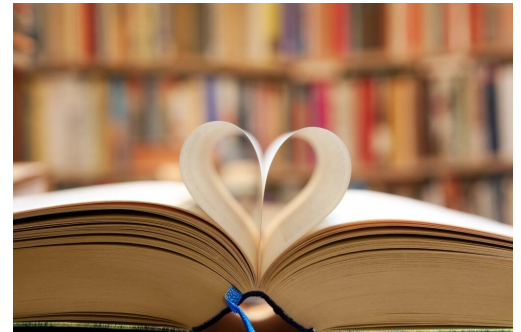
Creating a welcoming space which will include a structure to host performances, accommodate outside seating, reading, and gathering is key to our vision. Comfortable “nooks”, ample shade and welcoming common areas utilizing plantings of easily maintained native trees and shrubs are also part of this vision. The Common itself will feature a designated main performance area, while maintaining an open sense of

space. Welcoming walkways and hard-scaping will provide areas for smaller library programs or public gatherings. The Library Common will lend functional, outdoor space for RPL programming as well as other programming and informal public gathering. We've already made extensive use of the Common space for Library and other programming, especially Rye 400 events, during our planning time, and know this successful model will only grow through as we work to enhance the Common. This historic and prominent space has created the opportunity for a more vibrant Town Center for all to enjoy far into Rye's next 400 years.

The Rye Public Library Board of Trustees anticipates proposing a Warrant Article for the next election to supplement the amounts raised by RPL, donated funds and additional private fund-raising. We humbly request our citizens to vote in favor of this Article

and to otherwise support this initiative so that we may continue to enhance this gathering space for all Rye residents and for generations that follow.

Respectfully,
 Michael Moody
 Victor Azzi
 Jeff Ross
 JoAnn Hodgdon
 Rachel Bradt McCann



Conservation Commission - Goss Farm Update

Due to the popularity of the community gardens at the Goss Farm, the Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) has continued to expand the garden area that now consists of twenty-four plots. All plots were utilized by residents during the 2023 growing season. So far, RCC has managed the gardens to ensure that all residents who request a plot have been accommodated.

The owners of the Carriage House Restaurant, located a stone's throw from the Farm, grew vegetables for the restaurant in the western field and hoop house during their successful first year at the Farm, creating a truly local farm-to-table experience. Enjoying long days and hard work, the Carriage House plans to be back next season to continue to grow what they serve.

RCC members Susan Shepcaro and Sally King attended the UNH Extension course, Taking Action for Wildlife. The course culminated in a project to increase pollinator habitat through pollinator friendly plantings and low mow areas at the farm. This ongoing project invited a regular visitor from New Hampshire Butterfly to write in August that, "The town-owned Goss Farm in Rye continues to be one of the best butterfly spots in southeastern New Hampshire right now." Among the butterflies recorded were the Zabulon Skipper, Spicebush Swallowtail, Eastern Tailed Blue and Silver Boarded Fritillary. To view a more in-depth accounting of butterflies at the farm you can download the free I-naturalist app.

RCC members and volunteers cultivated, harvested, and sold blueberries to Seaport Fish and the Carriage House. Members and volunteers also cut, split and sold firewood, using downed trees and donated cut trees. Both activities raised funds that will be reinvested at the farm.

To volunteer, contact Sally King or Susan Shepcaro from the RCC section of the town website.

Off-highway Recreation Vehicles Rules on RCC property: Just a reminder that the New Hampshire rules for Off-highway Recreation Vehicles (OHRVs) state that you can only ride on trails designated and signed for your

type of vehicle. Written landowner permission is required to operate on another person's property.

Rye's conservation properties do not have any trails designated for OHRV (or snowmobile) use so please leave all your motorized vehicles at home and enjoy our conservation trails to nature-walk, hike, ski, and bike.

Karen Oliver, Member
Rye Conservation Commission

Rye Mosquito Control 2023 Season Summary

In NH, the busy 2023 mosquito season lasted well into October. No mosquitoes from Rye tested positive for disease this year. Dragon sent 230 batches of mosquitoes for disease testing at the State Lab in Concord. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services announced two human cases of Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) from Bedford and Belmont this season. There were 14 confirmed JCV positive mosquito batches in the State. Mosquitoes trapped in Stratham tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). No human or veterinary cases of WNV have been identified in New Hampshire to date. A wild turkey from Farmington and mosquitoes trapped in Exeter and Fremont tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). The number of mosquitoes has dwindled and the disease risk will continue to diminish with falling temperatures.

The State also reported two human cases of Powassan Virus (POW). One case was in Rockingham County and the other was a child in Carroll County. Powassan Virus is transmitted to people by infected ticks. A tick needs to be attached to a person for only 15 minutes to transmit POW. Adult black-legged ticks will be active until there is snow on the ground. Be vigilant and continue to avoid tick bites.

The wet summer kept the Dragon crew busy monitoring and treating salt marshes, swamps, woodland pools, ditches, and catch basins. New greenhead fly traps were built bringing the total to 210 traps on the salt marshes

to combat the aggressive greenhead flies during the summer. School grounds, town trails, Parsons Field and the Recreation Area were sprayed as requested before the start of school, to prepare for events and to combat disease carrying mosquitoes and ticks.

In 2023, the US experienced the first local transmissions of malaria in 20 years and saw increased local transmissions of dengue. It seems certain that for the near future, arboviruses will increase. Currently, only a handful of NH municipalities are monitoring mosquitoes in their communities, which give an incomplete picture of the risk of mosquito borne disease in the state. Without local surveillance, residents would have no notice of increased mosquito borne disease risk.

If you're planning to travel to somewhere warm this winter you can find Travel Health Notices, which include arboviral disease risks and precautions to take on the CDC website. Check travel advisories for your destinations at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>.

Rye Mosquito Control Commission
Timothy Sanborn, Chair
James Farrelly
Mark Troy

Rye Historical Society News

Rye Proud!

What a year it has been! Rye400 programs, events, and celebrations took center stage for the Rye Historical Society in 2023. Board member Andy Stecher led the charge, spending countless hours working with people and businesses in the community to bring Rye residents together. The entire board participated in so many aspects of events, but special recognition needs to be given to Debbi Toohey, who cycled off the board this summer, for a fantastic job raising money through donations and sponsorships, and Lew Karabatsos, who made sure that all the activities were publicized using every means available to us. Bravo to this trio of hard workers!

Historical Society News

(continued from page 14)

We began this year with the lofty goal of increasing our membership to 400 and we have not yet reached that number. It's not too late to join us if you have been sitting on the fence! Our members are the lifeblood of our organization and enable RHS to offer interesting programs, tours, and social events for the community. Memberships can be purchased online at RyeNHHistoricalSociety.org/membership. Memberships make excellent gifts as well!

Are you Rye Proud? Moving forward into the new year, the Society does not want to lose its momentum. We are looking for a few good board members to join our team in the areas of finance, publicity, technology, event planning and exhibits. Board members serve 3 year terms and are required to cycle off of the board after two consecutive terms. Two thirds of the board meetings take place on Zoom on the third Monday of the month, with quarterly meetings in person. Board terms begin and end at the Annual Members Meeting in August. Showing your interest now will help us get to know you and vice versa.

Please join us after the Holiday Parade on Sunday December 3rd to visit the museum and enjoy some mulled cider and donuts, and browse our gift shop.

Respectfully Submitted,
Virginia Macdonald

Live in an Old House in Rye? Check out Rye Advocates!

The Rye Advocates are a volunteer group of committed town residents whose purpose is to raise awareness of the importance of Rye's historic houses and support the protection and preservation of those historic houses. Some of Rye Advocate's work includes continuing the search for documentation of the 317 buildings in Rye constructed before c. 1905 started by

Louise Tallman. And, we have been holding workshops for those wanting to learn more and document the history of their own home. The website (a work in progress just like our homes) currently features the following:

- **Documentation for 317 buildings in Rye** constructed before c. 1905, listed by year and by road. Check back monthly for new content added. Louis Tallman documents coming soon
- **List of deed search workshops** (virtual and in small groups) for Rye residents to research history of their older homes. A great value-add for homeowners, documentation for town history, and the opportunity to learn in your community. The next in-person class is scheduled for the evening of **January 18th 2024**.
- **Opportunity to Volunteer:** If you have experience with any of the following (archiving / digitizing of documents, organizing pdf documents, developing Facebook groups, or website expertise) please contact any member of R.A. (list on website).

To attend a workshop or volunteer your expertise, please contact us by email at: Ryeadvocates@gmail.com

Rye Heritage Commission Update

The Rye Heritage Commission (RHC) has finally secured the services of a carpenter to restore the historic gazebo that originally sat in front of the Ocean Wave Hotel at Rye North Beach (1879 - 1960). It is expected that the project will be complete by the spring of 2024 and it will be located on the lawn above the Town Hall.

Conversations with the Friends of Pulpit Rock continue as to the tower's future management. It is possible that the Tower, owned by NH Fish and Game, could come under the management of the RHC, with a new Friends group to maintain it. New blood is needed for this group. The original Friends group has done a stellar job for over ten years in repairing the tower and opening it to the public. It has

become Rye's WWII museum. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact RHC chair Alex Herlihy at: alexherlihy@comcast.net.

Now that the Town Hall Annex is open, RHC has renewed its efforts in the restoration of Rye Town Hall by bringing back the historic auditorium on the second floor. Once this is done, all town government boards will have a first class place to meet and accommodate any number of the public that may attend. The hall will also be used for a wide variety of town cultural activities.

After Louise Tallman died in 2011, the RHC began presenting an annual award to honor her long work on historic preservation in Rye, including the documentation of old houses. This year's recipient is David Choate, a member of the RHC, chair of the Rye Demo Review Committee, chair of Rye Advocates for Historic Preservation and member of the Historic District Commission. A plaque on the first floor of the Town Hall displays the names of previous recipients.

The RHC has three open alternate positions. Being an alternate allows you the chance to see how the RHC works and there is always an opportunity to serve as a regular member if one of the regular members is absent. If interested in serving or want more information please contact the RHC chair, Alex Herlihy.

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Herlihy, Chair
Rye Heritage Commission

Rye Beach Committee Update

Rye provides beachgoers with many access points along our coastline, beginning at Sanders Point and ending at Bass Beach on the North Hampton Townline. The Beach Committee usually meets onsite at different access entryways pre-season and post-season. Last September we met with our Select Board representative Tom King near E/F Streets and Concord Point to review updates and any concerns voiced by beachgoers. It was noted that the DPW works to keep these areas free of debris

(See Beach Committee Update, page 16)

Beach Committee Update

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and any items or plants that may obstruct access to the beaches.

At the end of the summer season, the Beach Committee discussed "summer at the beach." Last summer the beaches were relatively quiet, although with a lot of rain and some fog there were a few times when the line between swimmers and surfers crossed over the flag directions. It was eventually worked out. We met with Fire Chief Mark Cotreau and Lt. Jake MacGlashing (lifeguards and ocean rescue) to review the summer and further educate ourselves on beach safety. The lifeguards prepared and trained thoroughly before the season. We appreciate all their efforts.

The Beach Committee regularly reviews the results of water samplings taken by DES during the summer months and the NH Chapter of Surfrider during the shoulder season. Generally, the shoulder season results have met the standards for water quality set by NH DES, except on 9/13/2023. Jenness State Beach had a high level of bacteria and Sawyer's came close to the medium level for bacteria. As we had unusually warm weather in the fall, our beaches were more crowded during this time than usual. Testing conducted at the UNH Jackson Estuarine Lab always looks for fecal bacteria indicators, known as Enterococci. Fortunately, current shoulder season results show low levels, as designated by DES.

The Beach Committee believes it is essential to continue shoulder season testing. Currently volunteers from the NH Chapter of Surfrider take water samples from the following five sites: Wall at 15th Street, Plaice Cove/Northside Park, North Hampton State Beach, Sawyer's Beach, Jenness State Beach. While overall our beaches are clean, Wallis Sands Beach has experienced a few advisories in past summers. The Beach Committee is working on providing some additional testing in this area.

The Beach Committee appreciated the support this year of Fire Chief Mark Cotreau, Lt. Jake MacGlashing, Police Chief Kevin Walsh, Janice Ireland, Becky Bergeron, Dyana Ledger and the DPW. A special shoutout to the RES Grade 4 Team and last year's

grade 4 artists.

We welcome community members to join a meeting or send concerns and/or suggestions by email to: beachcommittee@town.rye.nh.us. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month (except where noted on the Town Calendar) in the Town Hall at 5:30pm and posted on the Town's website.

Mary-Ann Sullivan, Chair
Beach Committee

Rye ♻️ Recycling – Let's Do It the Rye-ght Way!

The Rye Recycling Education Committee (RREC) continues its efforts to educate the public about the proper use of the recycling center and transfer station. Did you know that items like small rugs, yoga mats, etc. cannot go in the trash compactor? These items do not break down easily and must be thrown into the bulky bin.

The Swap Shop is in better shape thanks to the efforts of two new volunteers for whom we thank. We also thank the community for helping to keep the shop clean. We ask again that old sports equipment, large kids toys and furniture etc. not be left in the swap shop but disposed of elsewhere. Offer free items at the end of your driveway or post on Facebook pages such as "Seacoast Buy Nothing." Think about the audience at the swap shop and if the item is in good condition. Anything left for too long at the shop ends up in the bulky bin.

There are now two HELPSY bins outside the Swap shop for all textiles, fabric items of any kind. This is a great place for clean items that may have a hole or broken zipper.

RREC is also exploring a role with the schools, getting students involved in recycling education and actions.

We all need to become better aware of the challenges to recycling nationwide. (see excellent online articles under: Recycling in the US). There is no federal mandate to recycle, only EPA guidelines. This means we have 20,000 different community recycling programs including no program at

all. Way too much recyclable material ends up in the land fill. Recycling is a business that needs to turn a profit and there are some hopeful trends outlined in the online articles.

The most important thing we can do as citizens is demand that producers stop using materials that cannot be recycled, especially single use plastic bottles. There are alternative biodegradable water containers available.

Holiday Tips that are environmentally friendly include:

- Reusing tissue paper, wrapping paper and gift bags (FYI-these items go quickly at the swap shop! Don't ever throw away!)

- Use LED lighting, as it's more cost effective and energy efficient
- Regift items, Shop at second hand stores and Facebook marketplace for things such as books and kids toys.
- Instead of tangible gifts, offer your time to family and friends! A night of babysitting or help with a chore could be more valuable than a set of towels!
- Don't forget to compost leftover food at the Transfer Station! Visit the Mr. Fox bins near the trash compactor. Turkey carcasses are accepted, so after you make your turkey soup don't throw the bones away!

Rye was a pioneer in the 1970s in establishing one of the first recycling centers in the county. A half century later, we need to redouble our efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alex Herlihy, Chair
Rye Recycling Education Committee

Rye School Board Update



Congratulations to the staff, administration and students of Rye Elementary School for being honored as 2023 National Blue Ribbon School! The award "affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and

School Board Update

(continued from page 16)

communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. The National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing an entry or flying overhead is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.”

The National Blue Ribbon Schools (NBRS) Program is one of the U.S. Department of Education’s longest-running recognition programs. NBRS recognizes outstanding public and non-public elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall high academic achievement or success in closing the achievement gap among diverse groups of students. Since its inception in 1982, the goals of the program are to shine spotlights on the best schools in the United States and to share best practices of outstanding schools across the country.

Through a rigorous review process, the U.S. Department of Education awards several hundred outstanding schools annually, to celebrate their achievement. This prestigious award serves not only as a symbol of exemplary American schools, but also as inspiration for schools across the nation.

Rye Elementary School's 2023 National Blue Ribbon Award affirms the hard work of Rye's students, educators, families, and community in creating a safe and welcoming school where students thrive.

Susan Cole Ross, Secretary
Rye School Board

Rye Water District News

What a difference a year makes! We were dealing with a fairly significant drought last year, while this spring and summer have been wetter than most years in recent memory. This cut down significantly—although not as much as you might think—on irrigation and overall water use this year. Nevertheless, we know that climate variability is the new normal and we could just as easily find ourselves dealing with drought conditions again next year and in subsequent years. Therefore, we have

continued our conservation efforts because we cannot count on this amount of precipitation going forward.

Water Conservation: Our conservation efforts continue on three main fronts. We strongly believe in educating our users on the benefits of conservation for each of us and for our community. We prefer voluntary compliance rather than top-down regulation. Second, we are continuing to replace older meters with “smart meters” that allow you (and us) to monitor our water use on a continuous basis. This type of feedback will allow each of us to more easily manage our water usage. Third, we will be adopting new water rates designed to incentivize more conservative water use patterns. These new rates have been based on extensive studies and deliberations as part of our asset management initiative.

Water Quality: Delivering safe and reliable water is our highest priority as a district. Rye Water District just completed the NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) required one-year anniversary (of the boil water order) monitoring. There were no issues detected. The success was attributed to our effective chlorination protocol. Additionally, NH DES just completed its regular triennial sanitary survey of RWD operations and water quality. No deficiencies were detected and any previous deficiencies have been satisfactorily addressed.

Obviously, most concerns about water quality in Rye are focused on the presence of PFAS and related “forever” chemicals. Importantly, Rye Water District currently meets all federal and state requirements for these chemicals. However, there is a rule change that has been proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to lower the maximum contaminant level to 4 parts per trillion. Rye water slightly exceeds this level. The EPA rule is supposed to take effect this December, but things aren’t moving very quickly in Washington these days. Nevertheless, the commissioners and staff must plan for this lower level.

To that end, we are actively planning for the construction of a treatment facility that would address potential PFAS issues in addition to dealing with iron and manganese contamination. Both of these elements are present in our water at levels that are currently

considered acceptable, but we anticipate lowering the acceptable level of manganese in the near future. We would like to believe that if the proposed EPA rule is enacted, it will be accompanied by funding support for water systems. However, we are working to secure funding through grants, bonds, and other means to be prepared because we do not anticipate the federal government to fully fund this requirement.

Finally, the district is currently surveying service lines (the pipes that bring the water from the main to your house) for the presence of lead. This is a required action, but we have not yet and do not anticipate finding any lead service lines.

Construction Projects: The Water District is maintaining a very busy construction schedule. Some of our key projects include the following:

- We completed the “point of entry” (POE) building on September 20th. This building contains approximately 500 feet of 12-inch iron pipe that allows for the blending of all three wells so that all residents are supplied from the same source. More importantly, the POE building allows for a more uniform and efficient chlorination process.
- The Wallis Road main replacement was completed soon after we were able to get back to work after the beach season. Our contractors replaced over 1200 feet of highly degraded 8-inch cast iron pipe with 12-inch high-density plastic pipe. This is a really interesting example of how coastal physics affects our infrastructure. Despite the strength of cast iron, the movement of the coastal landscape due to the tides stresses an inflexible material like cast iron to the point where it is compromised. Hence, there was a need to replace the inflexible material with a flexible substance.
- We have replaced 70 meters with “smart meters” thus far in 2023. As noted above, this is something that we plan to continue until all meters have been upgraded.

Personnel: Congratulations to operator Jacob Madore, who received his Distribution 1 and Treatment 1 NH DES licenses. We also welcomed Caleb Thibodeau as a new staff member. Arik put him right to work, helping with the fall flushing that most of you

Water District's News

(continued from page 17)

experienced.

Other News: The Rye Water District has had several meetings with representatives from the Aquarion Water Company over the past year at the request of Aquarion. Aquarion, a subsidiary of Eversource, currently supplies the water for Hampton and the Rye and Jenness Beach precincts in Rye. They have expressed interest in buying RWD and taking over water production, treatment, and distribution in Rye. The Commissioners and staff have many

concerns about giving up control of our municipal water system as well as overcoming many substantial hurdles in selling a public water system to a private entity. Therefore, we have decided, at least for now, not to proceed with further discussions with Aquarion.

Brrr...: As cold weather approaches, the District would like to remind everyone to make sure that irrigation systems, outdoor water connections, water meters, etc. have either been properly winterized or otherwise protected against freezing. Failure to do so can cause unnecessary damage and water loss. Also please assist us with

keeping our hydrants clear of snow. This may benefit you or neighbors in an event of fire.

Contact Us: If you have any issues or concerns with the water system operations feel free to attend our public meetings (the first Wednesday of each month) and/or email the Commissioners directly at: commissioners.ryewater@comcast.net.

Rye Water District Commissioners,
Ralph Hickson,
Scott Marion,
Rosalie Lopresto-Drakatos

Sewer Department Update

Financially Speaking: The Rye collection system was constructed in the early 1990's and consists of 6.9 miles of gravity sewer, 3.5 miles of force main, and 3 pump stations. The Town of Rye wastewater collection system discharges to the Town of Hampton and is treated at their Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). As part of the current Inter-municipal Agreement, Rye is responsible for paying 4% of the WWTP upgrades. Please see the table below indicating the current list of bonds and the budget impact for in 2024.

Year	Total \$	Rye's Share	2024 Payment	Upgrade Description	Final Payment Year
2005	\$4.75 Million	\$190,000	\$9,850.36	Additional clarifier, dewatering equipment, sludge thickening facility	2024
2009	\$1.38 Million	\$55,200	\$3,223.20	Process/control building, replace generator, upgrade headwork's	2028
2011	\$1.265 Million	\$50,600	\$3,240.64	Sludge monitoring and handling, NPDES Engineering	2034
2018	\$11.78 Million	\$471,200	\$32,253.84	Plant upgrades	2042

The proposed sewer budget for 2024 is \$528,484 which includes \$60,000 that is recovered by the owner of Adams Mobile Home Park. This is a \$102,836 increase over last year's budget. The Town of Hampton Treatment Rate in 2023 surged due to an unanticipated increase in the bids received for chlorination, the impact of EPA requirements, the effect of the flow from the previous year and other influencers that attributed to an increase in the WWTP Budget. The rate calculation is estimated each year and adjusted annually, in the first quarter of the year. The proposed budget increase for Hampton Treatment in 2024 is \$67,000 and is based on 2023 expenditures. This item alone accounts for 65% of the overall increase in the proposed 2024 Sewer Budget. Other increases worth noting is \$18,500 set aside for grant matching, if a FEMA BRIC Grant is awarded. This represents 25% of the total cost for a Sewer Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment. The proposed budget increase for engineering services is \$7,000 required to conduct planned pump station upgrades and \$3,000 for legal services to assist with the renewal of the Intermunicipal Agreement with Hampton.

The current sewer rate is .105 cents per cubic feet of H2O consumption. It is projected that the rate will need to increase by 1½ - 2 cents in 2024. Rye does not bear the full cost of a WWTP because the flow is treated by Hampton. The original bond for Rye's sewer service in the amount of \$4.4 million was shared (40%, Town of Rye general fund and 60%, users of the sewer services) and paid off at the end of 2012. Sewer in Rye was originally mandated, to protect the shoreline. The Sewer Department Operating Budget is covered by user fees. However, the Sewer Commission remains active in identifying federal, state and local funding opportunities to assist in maintaining Rye's sewer infrastructure.

American Rescue Plan Act Funds in the amount of \$166,200 have been designated to conduct pump station upgrades. This past year \$95,719 of those funds were expended to upgrade the Abeniqui Pump Station (two new pumps, side rails, control panel, and generator). The remainder of the funds have been assigned to replace the generator at Church Road Pump Station, pumps at the Jenness Beach Pump Station and conduct structural repairs at all three stations. These upgrades are currently in process.

The Sewer Budget operates out of fund 2. Revenues received from fees and charges are deposited into the fund and department costs are expended from the fund. The monies can accumulate from year to year and are not deemed part of the general fund. The fund is self-supporting.

The Sewer Commissioners are David Kohlhase, Chairman, Susan Labrie, and John McCune, the Sewer Director is Lee Arthur. The Sewer Commission Office is located on the second floor of the Rye Beach Village District Building, 830 Central Road, Rye Beach, NH. If you have any questions, please feel free to drop in or contact us at (603) 964-6815.

Town of Rye Board Meetings

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 Road, unless otherwise noted. Because meeting schedules are subject to change, check the bulletin board at Town Hall or the Town Website www.town.rye.nh.us for up-to-date information.

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, 7 pm at the Library

December 2023						1 12:00 pm Rules & Regs Committee	2
3 1:00 pm Holiday Parade	4	5 1:00 pm Master Plan Steering Committee 3:00 pm Energy Committee	6 9:00 am Rye Water District 7:00 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment 6:30 pm Budget Committee	7 5:30 pm Heritage Commission 6:30 pm Budget Committee	8	9	
10	11 6:30 pm Select Board	12	13 5:30 pm Historic District Commission	14 6:30 pm Budget Committee 6:30 pm Conservation Commission	15	16	
17	18 5:30 pm Beach Committee	19 5:00pm Mosquito Control 5:30 pm Recycling Education Committee 6:00 pm Planning Board	20 9:00 am Rye Water District Work Session 60 Sagamore Road	21	22 First Day of Winter	23	
24	25 Christmas Day Town Offices Closed	26 6:30 pm Select Board	27	28	29	30	
31	January 2024						
	1 New Year's Day Town Offices Closed	2 1:00 pm Master Plan Steering Committee 3:00 pm Energy Committee	3 9:00am Rye Water District 60 Sagamore Road 7:00 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	4 5:30 pm Heritage Commission	5	6	
7	8 6:30 pm Select Board	9 8:00 am Sewer Commission	10 5:30 pm Historic District Commission 6:30 pm Budget Committee Public Hearing	11 6:30 pm Budget Committee Public Hearing 6:30 pm Conservation Commission	12	13	
14	15 MLK Civil Rights Day Town Offices Closed	16 5:30 pm Recycling Education Committee 6:00 pm Planning Board	17 9:00 am Rye Water District Work Session 60 Sagamore Road 5:30 pm Beach Committee	18	19	20	
21	22 6:30 pm Select Board	23 8:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. Presidential Primary Rye Elementary School	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31 9:00am Rye Water District 6:30 pm Budget Committee	February 2024			
				1 1:00 pm Master Plan Steering Committee 5:30 pm Heritage Commission	2	3 9:00 am DELIBERATIVE SESSION Jr. High School	
4	5	6 3:00 pm Energy Committee	7 9:00 am Rye Water District Work Session 7:00 pm Zoning Board of Adj.	8 6:30 pm Conservation Commission	9	10	
11	12 6:30 pm Select Board	13 8:00 am Sewer Commission	14 5:30 pm Historic District Commission	15	16	17	
18	19 Presidents' Day Town Offices Closed	20 5:30 pm Recycling Education Committee 6:00 pm Planning Board	21 9:00am Rye Water District 5:30 pm Beach Committee	22	23	24	
25	26 6:30 pm Select Board	27	28	29			








Rye Firefighter's Toy Bank

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

'Tis the season 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 18th 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. We will be accepting any donations that could be offered from November 1st until December 21st.

Here is how you can assist:

-  Donate new, unwrapped toys for ages from newborn to 17 years old. Some ideas for donations are toys, crafts, games, dolls, inflatable sleds, footballs and basketballs. We are always looking for ideas for the 11-17 age group.
-  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 Toy Bank.
-  Please drop off any of your donations to the Rye Fire Station located at 555 Washington Road or mail to PO Box 704, Rye.
-  Toy Drop-off Locations will be located at: Rye Fire Station, Rye Town Hall, Rye Town Hall Annex, Rye Elementary, Rye Junior High, Rye Congregational Church, Saint Theresa Church, Seaport Fish, Atlantic Grill, Common Roots, and Rye Country Day School.

If you or someone you know could use some assistance for the holidays please contact Chuck Gallant or John Klanchesser at the Rye Fire Department by phone at (603) 964-6411 or by email at ryetoybank@gmail.com.

Thank You for Your Support

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RYE, NH 03870

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