



# School District and Community News



September-October-November 2016

## ***TOWN/VILLAGE of EAST ROCHESTER***

***317 Main St. East Rochester, NY 14445***

Mayor  
Fred Ricci

Deputy Mayor  
Mark Florack

Trustees

John R. Alfieri, Ted Conners, Amy Monachino

Administrator  
Martin G. D'Ambrose

Director of Finance  
Brian Luke, CPA

Town/Village Clerk and Tax Receiver  
Karen Smith

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### **Upcoming Town/Village Meeting Dates**

**Town/Village Business Meetings**  
7 pm Thursdays, Dec. 8, Jan. 19, Feb. 9

**Town/Village Board Workshop Meetings (if needed)**  
7 pm Thursdays, Dec. 29, Feb. 23

**Town/Village Board Organizational Meeting**  
7 pm Tuesday, Jan. 3

**Planning/Architectural Board\***  
7 pm Tuesday, Dec. 6

**Zoning Board\***  
7 pm Tuesday, Dec. 20

\* A pending application is required, and applicant must be on the agenda to participate.

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### **How to reach us**

Town/Village of East Rochester  
317 Main St. East Rochester, NY 14445  
phone 586-3553 fax 419-8282

[www.eastrochester.org](http://www.eastrochester.org)

Office hours 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Friday

***Department of Motor Vehicles visits every Wednesday 10 am - 3:30 pm***



### FROM THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR: ***SECOND-GRADERS MAKE ANNUAL TRIP TO TOWN/VILLAGE OFFICES***

In October, residents and visitors to the Eyer Building might have seen Town/Village staff members welcome East Rochester's second-graders. This annual fall tour has been going on for many years and has been hosted by several past administrators. I'm proud to say that 2016 was my eighth consecutive year of guiding the tour. The second-graders who were on the first tour I gave, in 2009, are now freshmen – the graduating class of 2020.

This introduction to the 'Village of Despatch,' now the Town/Village of East Rochester, is a good foundation for learning about how the community has evolved over the past 119 years. The Eyer Building is the most appropriate historic site we have. The annual tour is often the first opportunity our school children have to meet the Mayor, one of our town justices, the librarian, and many other members of the staff. It's also a great opportunity to see firsthand the rich tradition of the community they call home.

We invite the entire community to visit the Eyer Building and see what ER has contributed over the past 100-plus years!

It continues to be a pleasure and honor to serve the citizens, businesses, and visitors of the Town/Village of ER. Best wishes to all for a happy and safe Thanksgiving!  
– Martin G. D'Ambrose, Village Administrator

### **FROM ERCN TV-12: FRONTIER'S NEW SERVICE AND WHAT IT MEANS TO ER**

Many of you might have already heard that Frontier Communications presented to the ER Town/Village Board earlier this fall, because they want to provide a competitive TV programming service to ER and surrounding communities. This service will be similar to Time Warner (now Charter Communications).

Last year ER Cable TV-12 conducted a survey to learn how ER residents receive and view TV. 47% subscribed to Time Warner Cable, but many complained about the cost. 27% had satellite service (such as DISH or DirecTV) but complained about frequent disruptions during inclement weather, and 19% used free TV (digital antenna) and/or some type of Web streaming content. The remaining 7% had Web streaming only. If the Frontier franchise is approved, it affects us in three positive ways:

First, ER residents will have a new option for paid TV service other than Time Warner and satellite. Being the new guy on the block, Frontier will offer either lower pricing or better services than the other two – and might even drive Time Warner's prices back down. Second, just like Time Warner, Frontier will provide a franchise fee to the Town/Village. These fees help finance ER Cable 12, and the rest drops directly to the Town/Village's bottom line. Granted, there will be some residents who switch from Time Warner to Frontier – which would offer no increase in fees provided to the Town/Village – but there will also be some households who have gone offline from paid TV service and will now go back to paid programming through Frontier, if the price is right. There will also be households who don't like their satellite service and will instead sign on with Frontier (satellite doesn't pay a franchise fee to the Town/Village). Finally, ER Cable TV-12 will be provided two cable-access channels, just as we have with Time Warner. We're anticipating an overall increase in viewership to match the same households that move from satellite or free TV to Frontier.

Bottom line, Frontier's new paid TV service is a win-win across the board. We're excited to see the franchise deal go through and start a relationship that will bring competition, better market rates and/or services, more revenue to the Town/Village, and more viewers to ER Cable TV-12.

Please feel free to email your comments to us at [ercn@astrochester.org](mailto:ercn@astrochester.org). Thanks for watching TV-12!

– John Schroth, ERCN TV-12 Station Director

### ***~ from the TOWN/VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE ~***

Just a reminder of **holiday office hours**: The Town/Village offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, in observance of Thanksgiving, and Friday and Monday, Dec. 23 and 26, in observance of Christmas. All other days will be regular hours, 8:30am-4:30pm. If you have any questions, please call 586-3553. *Have a safe and joyful holiday season!*

### **FROM THE EAST ROCHESTER CHAMBER of COMMERCE**

**We have partnered with equaTEK to offer our first multi-class instructional program.** Online Presence (Digital Marketing) is being offered in five sessions, with a Certificate of Completion to be presented to each individual completing the series. These seminars (presented by an equaTEK instructional leader and approximately 90 minutes long) are designed to help you grow your business, so please be sure to send the individual(s) who will best be able to put these new skills to work for you.

Our goal is to provide classes to help you improve your online business and presence. Each presentation is 'self-contained' within its subject and has no prerequisites for attendees. These sessions are not watered-down in content, so attendees should come prepared to expand their understanding, explore new thoughts, and be challenged by an ever-changing environment.

All classes are held at the equaTEK classroom (201 Main St., ER) at 7:30 am. Advance registration (\$10) is required for all events, as seating is limited. Those who have signed up for the first four sessions will be sent a promo code to get the last session free!

So far we've presented Chaos Marketing (Oct. 28) and 10 Things Every Business Should Know About Google (Nov. 17). Coming up, all on Thursdays, are Google Analytics: Understanding Key Website Metrics (Jan. 26), Content Marketing: When Words Count (Feb. 23), and Social Media: It's the Place to Be (or Not) (March 23).

*continued on page 26...*

**LIBRARY NOTES....** The East Rochester Public Library hosted a number of youth story times and events this past fall, including a fantastic children's Halloween Party. Our youth programming will take a brief break during the second half of December and will resume after the holidays, on Monday, Jan. 9. The Library offers youth programs for newborns all the way through your child's senior year of High School, seamlessly blending play and fun with education. After a long day of school, sports, and other commitments, we want to provide families with free activities that support your child's education while also being relaxed and fun! We offer traditional story times, arts and crafts, games, STEM activities, and more. This year, with the support of the Monroe County Library System, we are also offering programs on technology, coding, and robotics, using fun gadgets like LittleBits, Cubelets, and more! If you can't make one of our events, the children's and teen areas also offer plenty of play opportunities with toys, games, and of course, books. Each youth program is designed for a specific age group, but youth of all ages and abilities are always welcome at all of our events. Baby Story Time, which meets Mondays at 9:30 am, supports caregivers in the important role of being an infant's first language and literacy teacher. Caregivers learn songs and games to play with the baby, while also getting some time to meet other local parents and caregivers. PreK Story Time now meets Fridays at 11:30 am. Preschoolers and their caregivers enjoy books, rhymes, lots of movement activities, and a simple craft, all designed to help your child get ready to read. For the K-5 set, Afterschool Adventures meets Mondays at 3:30 pm and offers a different activity each week, such as Minute-to-Win-It challenges, arts and crafts, science experiments, and much more.

Every other month, we offer a 'Tween/Teen event designed by our Teen Advisory Board. 'Tweens and teens (grades 6-12) are invited to join this Board to help our Youth Services Librarian create programs and a book/movie/music collection of high interest and relevance to their age group. We are also looking for teen volunteers to help with children's programming, shelving, and other tasks that help keep the Library running smoothly. For more information on any of our youth programs, please contact Miss Kelly at 586-8302 or [kelly.rosengren@libraryweb.org](mailto:kelly.rosengren@libraryweb.org).

We're happy to announce the Library has recently received two NYS grants. A \$5,000 grant from NYS Assemblyman Mark Johns will be spent on new seating, a table for the Children's Room, and wireless printing and other technology. We are pleased to provide the community with these improvements to our Library. NYS Sen. Rich Funke has also promised funding to the Library, known as Bullet Aid, in the amount of \$6,000; how we spend this money is yet to be determined. Both men are very supportive of the Monroe County Library System and the residents of ER, and we are extremely grateful to them for their efforts!

The Friends of the Library sponsored a book fair fundraiser at the Pittsford Barnes & Noble on Saturday, Oct. 22. A portion of the day-of and online proceeds will benefit the Friends in the form of a B&N gift certificate, which will be spent on books for both children and adults. Many thanks to Suzie Ricci for coordinating the event! I would also like to thank those at ER Schools who helped make it a success: Mr. Polvino and the Sixth-grade Choir, Principal van Harssel for reading a story to the children, and Anita Ricci, who taught children's yoga.

We also express many thanks to the Friends who participated, as well as to those who run our Book Nook (which is open from 11 am to 1 pm Wednesdays and Saturdays, and 5:30 to 7:30 pm Thursdays). We are very fortunate to have this resource in our community, which provides great reading material and DVDs at an affordable price. Interested in becoming a Friend of the Library and joining this dynamic group? Contact Library Director Meredith Fraser at 586-8302, or simply stop by one of their meetings, held at 3 pm the second Thursday of every month at the Library.

For more information about the Library or any of our programs, call us at 586-8302 or visit our Website at [www.libraryweb.org/erochester](http://www.libraryweb.org/erochester). You can also 'like' us on Facebook for updates, literary and movie news, and fun trivia about your favorite movies, books, and TV shows! *We look forward to seeing you!*

### ~ NEWS from the LOCAL HISTORY DEPARTMENT ~

The big news from the Department of Local History since the last edition is that **we are moving to bigger and better quarters**. This is a long-awaited change to a location that was first proposed about three years ago, when we were planning the move from the Fryatt House (at the corner of Main and West Ivy) to the Eyer Building. The plan at that time was to move into the second floor of the Eyer Building, adjacent to the north wall of the Library. However, this was decided against so more space would be available for leasing.

Last summer we were approached by Town/Village Administrator Martin D'Ambrose, who asked if we wanted to revert back to the original plans. Because we are now located at the end of the third-floor hall, away from most of the pedestrian traffic, we jumped at the chance. Construction by the Department of Public Works staff is set to begin in November and be completed by early spring. Our future location will enable us to have a small museum, an area to present programs to Town/Village residents and students, and an enlarged working area. This will also allow us to consolidate our operations, which are now spread over three floors.

However, for the next few months, we are still on the third floor of the Eyer Building. You're more than welcome to stop in and see us from 9 am to 1 pm Wednesday through Saturday. If you are coming from afar, though, we suggest you play it safe and call 381-3023 ahead of time, as we are occasionally out of the area for meetings and projects.

– Jim Burlingame, Town/Village Historian

**ER COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**

317 Main St. (mailing) 333 E. Chestnut St. (site) 586-0525  
Teresa Quinzi-Willette, director Pat Cragg, associate director

**ER Community Resource Center and ER Fire Department  
2016 Christmas Program for the Needy in East Rochester**

send, or bring, to ER Town/Village Office or Public Library (317 Main St.) or CRC (333 E. Chestnut St.)

\* for families with children only \*

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's \_\_\_\_\_

(if living at home) veteran? \_\_\_\_ (if living at home) veteran? \_\_\_\_

**child's name**                      **age**   **gender**   **size**                      **child's (reasonable) wish list or interests**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total household income \_\_\_\_\_ weekly monthly yearly (circle one)

From: employment \_\_\_\_ public assistance \_\_\_\_ disability \_\_\_\_ unemployment \_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_

***Please return this form as soon as possible (first come, first served).***

***The application deadline is Friday, Nov. 25 – after this date, only a food basket can be guaranteed.***

If you have any questions, please contact the Resource Center at 586-0525 – thank you!

**Families or individuals who live in the Town/Village of ER and are in need of clothing or other services should call the Community Resource Center at 586-0525 to make an appointment.**

**BULK REFUSE PICK-UP WEEK: Dec. 5-9**

***Save the date! Sixth-annual East Rochester Christmas Festival  
9 am - 4 pm Saturday, Dec. 10***

***Much more info to come as the date approaches – please check [www.erchamber.org](http://www.erchamber.org) for updates!***

The East Rochester Christmas Festival will be held at the Eyer Building and the school campus. It's once again sponsored by the ER Chamber of Commerce, with assistance from the Town/Village of ER, the ER Association of Churches, the ER Alumni Foundation, the ER Rotary, and the ER School District. For the past five years, it has provided visitors with activities such as music and caroling, children's stories, food and item vendors, games and crafts for all ages, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, sales and giveaways by local merchants, and horse-drawn carriage rides around Edmund Lyon Park. **New this year: a *Cucidatai* (Italian fig cookie) 'throw-down'!**

*Organizers are working to make our sixth-annual holiday celebration even bigger and better!*

*We look forward to making this an event everyone will enjoy and we can all be proud of.*

***HOLIDAY HOUSE-DECORATION CONTEST!*** Have your displays up by Saturday, Dec. 3; judging (by the Town/Village Board) runs through Saturday, Dec. 24; the winners will be announced on Tuesday, Dec. 27.

The owners/residents of the three best-decorated houses will receive prizes from Salvatore's!

**\* ADVENT CRAFT SALE \***

**9 am-3 pm Saturday, Dec. 10 ERHS gymnasium (Woodbine at Garfield)**

Crafts \* Baked goods \* Christmas and holiday gifts \* Coffee, doughnuts, and pizza for sale

*Free admission – Handicap accessible*

~ sponsored by the ER Association of Churches to benefit the Community Resource Center’s Food Pantry ~

The ER PTA’s Breakfast with Santa will also begin at 9 am; pre-paid tickets are available at the ER Elementary School office.

Enjoy your breakfast with St. Nick, shop at the Advent Craft Sale, and visit with your friends and neighbors, new and old.

The Advent Craft Sale is sponsored by the ER Association of Churches to benefit the CRC – a non-profit agency serving the poor and needy of our community.

In addition, these two annual events are now connected to the East Rochester Christmas Festival. There will be free bus service from the other Festival venue to the school from 9 am to 4 pm, as well as a free taxi-style ride between the school’s lower parking lot and the building. You will be able to take in all the Festival events without ever moving your car, which you can park in the Town/Village parking lot, accessible from West Commercial and West Elm streets (next to the Eyer Building).

**VENDORS NEEDED!** Space rental (approximately 9’x9’) is \$25 and non-refundable. A limited number of tables are available for \$15 extra; it is recommended you bring your own. Chairs are also available on a limited basis. Handcrafted items only; no flea market or commercially manufactured items. This sale, which has been running for more than 25 years, is limited to around 50 vendors and fills quickly. Vendors who leave early will not be invited back. Vendor setup starts at 7:30 am. You can unload at the entrance by the flagpole but you **must** move your car to the lower lot **before** beginning setup. It is illegal to double-park while unloading! Please make check or money order payable to the ER Community Resource Center, and include your driver’s license number. Confirmation will be made as registration form/payment is received. For written confirmation, please include a SASE. For more info, please call Mary Therese Biltucci at 586-0525.

**MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT TO**

Advent Craft Sale ’16, c/o Mary Therese Biltucci, 220 West Ave., ER, NY 14445

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

*Special needs will be met on a first-request basis. If you want the same space you had last year, check ‘same space’ and we will try to place you there. Spaces with electric are very limited.*

Wall \_\_\_\_\_ Electric \_\_\_\_\_ Tables (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ Same space \_\_\_\_\_

Type of craft \_\_\_\_\_ Number of spaces \_\_\_\_\_ Amount paid \_\_\_\_\_

**\* ADVENT TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY with LIVE NATIVITY SCENE \***

**5 pm Sunday, Nov. 27, in the Nick Verzella Gazebo at Edmund Lyon Park (Main Street)**

Tim Hortons Timbits, coffee, and hot chocolate to follow!

*In case of inclement weather, the ceremony and refreshments will be in the Community Center at the Eyer Building, 317 Main St.*

~ sponsored by the ER Association of Churches, with participation from Town/Village leaders ~

**~ NEWS FROM THE TOWN/VILLAGE COURT ~**

The East Rochester Town Court has a new employee as of May 23 of this year: Judge Brown-Steiner’s new court clerk, **Tracey Evert**. She is a wonderful addition to our office, and we are very pleased to have her.

A friendly reminder that the Town/Village of ER has a winter parking regulation which states that any car on the streets in the village between 3 and 6 am from Nov. 15 through April 15 is subject to being ticketed and/or towed by the ER Police Department – regardless of weather conditions. These tickets start at \$25 per violation and double in 15 days, then triple and quadruple. Nov. 15 has come and gone, and the regulation is in effect. Information on places in the Town/Village where parking is permitted during those hours is available in the Court Clerk’s office, on the third floor of the Eyer Building.



October was Fire Prevention Month. The ER Fire Department would like to thank the Elementary School and teachers for allowing us to meet with students and teach them about fire safety. We are very proud to be able to give every second-grader a 10-year smoke detector. This is the second year of this program, which helps ensure that these students will have a working detector in their home until their senior year. Special thanks to the Alumni Foundation for the purchase of the detectors; this wouldn't be possible without their help. (Please see page 14 for more information.)

**Fire safety:** It's recommended you check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace the batteries twice a year, when you change your clocks. All families and residents should review and practice their fire-escape plan. The heating season has begun – chimneys should be cleaned and inspected annually to avoid creosote buildup. During this especially hectic time of year, please remember to use care when cooking. Make sure ovens are clean. If you plan to fry a turkey, do it in a safe location and follow instructions on how to avoid burns and fires. We wish all a happy and safe Thanksgiving and holiday season! For more information about our Department, please visit [www.erfd.org](http://www.erfd.org) or our Facebook page.

## FROM THE E.R. POLICE DEPARTMENT ~ to Protect and Serve the Residents of East Rochester ~

I hope everyone has enjoyed the first few months of the new school year. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who drive their children to and from school and obey the **crossing guards and traffic monitors**. Remember, they are there to help keep the traffic flowing and our students and other pedestrians safe. I will mention one slight issue, with respect to the school loop. When dropping off or picking up passengers, please pull to the curb on the right. Do not let your passengers run out into the roadway to get into your car; this is not safe at all. Please be reminded there is also a drop-off and pick-up zone in the lower parking lot, which can be accessed from West Ivy Street (near the ambulance base). The Police Department has experienced an increase in complaints about **phone scams**. If you receive a call wanting money in any way, please notify 911. As mentioned previously in the news, the IRS will never call and demand money to avoid prosecution. If you receive any suspicious phone calls, please contact the ERPD and we will try to help you. We encourage residents to be aware of their surroundings at all times, and report any suspicious behavior.

The ERPD has also seen a spike in **car larcenies** over the past couple of months. To help avoid this, simply make sure your vehicles are locked and valuables are hidden out of sight. A majority of the thefts have occurred in unlocked vehicles.

**To report a crime or for police assistance**, you need to call 911, or the ERPD's non-emergency line (586-4399 from 8 am to 4 pm weekdays). Again, I suggest that when you have a problem that needs police attention you call 911, and not air your frustration on the local social media sites. **Complaining on social media is counterproductive**, and hinders our ability to actually help you.

The ERPD, like many other law-enforcement agencies, has a **pharmaceutical drop box** outside the department. The public has access to this drop box whenever the building is open. This drop box is only for pharmaceutical pills – no needles. For needles, creams, and other medications, we also have a pharmaceutical drop-off on the third Wednesday of every month – simply bring your items up to the window and the Police Clerk will take them for you.

**If you need a copy of a filed police report**, please contact ERPD Clerk April Thiel at 586-4399 or stop by the Department (in the lower level of the Eyer Building, 317 Main St.). Identification will be necessary to process the request, and please give at least 48 hours notice for the paperwork to be completed.

We are proud to announce that **2012 ERHS graduate Trey Pascazi has been attending the Monroe County Law Enforcement Academy** since Sept. 1, and is expected to complete his coursework in late February or early March. Trey will be a great addition to the Police Department.

If you have questions about these or any other issues, please contact the ERPD at 586-4399. Have a safe and happy holiday season, and remember to drive safely and sober.

– Steven J. Clancy, ER Chief of Police

**FROM THE E.R. ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:** All eligible homeowners who purchased a home after March 2, 2015 will now receive a **School Tax Relief** credit. Registrants receive a credit in the form of a check directly from NYS instead of receiving a school property-tax exemption. The amount of your STAR benefit is the same regardless of how you receive it. New Basic and Enhanced STAR registrants must contact the NYS Tax Department to receive a STAR check. You can register any time at [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star). Owners prior to March 2, 2015 will continue to receive a school property-tax exemption. All other exemption applications for the 2017 roll are due by March 1, 2017. Renewal applications for Limited Income Senior, Limited Income Disability, and Enhanced STAR will be mailed throughout November and December. Additional exemption information and the Real Property Assessment Cycle are available on the Town/Village Website. Assessment Office hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

....continued from page 22

**Value of Our Business Directory and Your Business:** Only 24 of our 69 members are taking advantage of our Business Directory, which is being reviewed on a scale greater than we initially expected. 32% of our Website's page views are Business Directory pages, with the top four categories visited being Restaurants/Bars, Business Services, Retailers, and Fitness/Health/Beauty. Online searchers might be learning of your business through our Website!

You should join our Business Directory if you haven't done so already. Then, you should update your directory page regularly with specials, images, and member-to-member discounts. Contact me to get your username and password to get started today.

The Chamber of Commerce has an outstanding commitment to work with our businesses to help them succeed in our community. If you have any questions and/or would like to participate in our Chamber, please contact me at 348-7380 or [marybeth@lovejoy-photography.com](mailto:marybeth@lovejoy-photography.com). You can also reach us at [info@erchamber.org](mailto:info@erchamber.org). We look forward to working with you!

– Mary Beth Lovejoy, Vice President/Communications Director

## News from the E.R. Youth Activity Center (for students in grades 5-12)

317 Main St. 586-1003 open 3-7 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

The ER Youth Activity Center had a great summer, and we were open from noon-6pm every day. We also had some new staff members to introduce! **Lori Pritchard** is an ER English teacher who started working part-time with us back in May. She mentored some of the youth in our summer program, and supported the students working toward their High School Equivalency Diploma. **Marie Deuel** has been with us since February, and was a huge asset in putting the summer program together. She mentored our summer youth and continued her support of our older year-round participants, and has been working with our kids on a Youth as Resources grant this fall! Returning for his second summer was **Mark Loria**, who, like Mrs. Pritchard, is an ER teacher who mentored some of the youth in our summer program and helped teach the HSED class. **Brady Farnand** returned as well, as an Assistant Director. He has been with us for many years, and enjoys helping the kids build lifelong skills they can take with them as they go. Last but not least, **Samantha Hook** also worked as an Assistant Director this summer. She was busy supporting all the youth in the program and running the **Day Camp at Northside Park**. Speaking of which, we were fortunate to get another opportunity from the ER Chamber of Commerce to put on the camp, which ran from 10 am to 1 pm weekdays from July 7 until Aug. 19. There were different crafts and sports every week, and food and drinks for the kids. We thank the Chamber for again providing funds to make this Camp available for the youth in ER!

With 23 participants in our six-week **Summer Employment program**, it took a lot of effort to find placements for everyone. We'd like to thank the following worksites for helping provide this experience to our youth: Crust Pizza Kitchen, Day Camp in the Park, GrandeVie Senior Living Community, Linden East Condominiums, North Eastern Pool & Spa, Rubino's, A Second Thought Retail Shop, Sunoco, Wendy's, and the Town/Village Community Resource Center, DPW, and Public Library.

This summer we focused on an **anti-animal abuse campaign** with the youth in the program – discussing what animal abuse can look like, how you can prevent it, and who to contact if you suspect it. The participants worked with Holy Childhood to make informational bags to hand out to various organizations that work with animals.

We're proud to announce our **'Forever Packs' project** was a big success. The youth worked hard putting together 25 bags that were donated to the Monroe County Foster Care system for students who enter foster care without any belongings. A special thanks to Marie Deuel for monitoring the grant, and **Gavin C., Jessie G., Ashley H., Brianna L., Mady M., Holly S., and Hailey W.** for all their hard work planning and implementing the initiative.

We hosted a **graduation party** on Thursday, Nov. 10 for 10 of our youth who earned their HSED over the last few months. We are so proud of them! And along those lines....

**Are you out of school and between the ages of 17-24?** Are you stuck in a rut when it comes to where your future is going? We can help you find a job, choose a career path, get your High School Equivalency Diploma/TASC (formerly known as the GED), look into colleges, apply for your driver's license, and whatever you need to get you on track for a successful future. Slots are going fast, so call us today while they're still available! Check our Facebook page to get information on our holiday party.

If you are interested in **volunteering at the Center** or if you'd like to serve on our **Board of Directors**, please call us at 586-1003. Both youth and adult members are needed. The time commitment is small – just one or two hours a month! The ERYAC promotes the '40 Developmental Assets' and 'Small Talk, Big Difference' initiatives.

– Barbara Maine, ERYAC director

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**FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT:** Throughout my 14 years as a NYS Code Official, a consistent theme has been that the general public doesn't fully understand who we are, what we do, and why we do it. My mission in this column is to help shed some light on this issue as it pertains to the East Rochester Building Department.

All NY Code Officials are certified and trained by the NYS Department of State Division of Codes, and are listed on its Website. They are responsible for enforcing the International Code Council's family of codes, which includes Building, Residential, Fire, Plumbing, Energy, Mechanical, Fuel and Gas, Existing Buildings, and Property Maintenance. These codes are used throughout the country as well as overseas, and are not unique to New York or the Town/Village of ER. Code Officials are also required to partner with outside agencies like the NYS Department of Conservation, FEMA, EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, local Health Departments, and the NYS DOT, to name just a few.

### Code Officials:

\* are required to review permit applications for code compliance before the permit can be issued. The permit guarantees that an independent third party has looked at the plan before construction begins to help ensure it meets the code requirements for construction and its intended use. We also make sure contractors have the correct insurance to safeguard the owner(s). Inspections are required to be done and documented by Code Officials and/or third party inspectors.

\* are required to do fire inspections of all buildings, with the exception of single and two-family dwellings, every one to three years. In ER, fire inspections for these commercial and multifamily buildings are done every year. These inspections, which are documented by the Building Department, safeguard employees, visitors, and the occupants of these structures.

\* have enforcement powers as set forth by the Department of State, to protect our citizens and support our Town/Village. They can issue appearance tickets and citations, take remedial action to safeguard the public, revoke permits and Certificates of Occupancy, etc. When violations don't pose an immediate danger to the public, a notice must be issued to the owner of record, allowing a 'reasonable' time frame to correct the violation(s). It's important to note that the administration of our Building Department is dictated and set forth by the International Code Books, not by individual Building Department heads or other administrators. Processes and technologies might differ, but the rules are the same. Zoning laws, however, are somewhat more customized and are allowed to be created by individual municipalities to fit specific local needs (but must still be registered and approved by the Department of State).

In closing, the ER Building Department is a highly trained and knowledgeable team that works on behalf of the state of New York, the Town/Village of ER, and you in order to help ensure and maintain a safe environment – one you can be proud to live and work in.

You can contact the Building Department at 385-3513 or visit us on the second floor of the Eyer Building, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm weekdays.

– David Smith, Building Inspector