



School District and Community News



March-April-May 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

Clerk-Treasurer and Tax Receiver
Gerri Raschiatore

Upcoming Town/Village Meeting Dates

Town/Village Business Meetings
7 pm Thursdays June 9, July 14, and Aug. 11

Town/Village Board Workshop Meetings
7 pm Thursdays June 30, July 28, and Aug. 25

Planning/Architectural Board*
7 pm Tuesdays June 14, July 12, and Aug. 9

Zoning Board*
7 pm Tuesdays June 21, July 19, and Aug. 16

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

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

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

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



FROM MAYOR FRED RICCI: NYS TAX CAP/TAX FREEZE

The terms ‘tax cap’ and ‘tax freeze’ have become a prominent consideration for school districts and municipalities since the 2014 budget year, when Albany determined that no district or local government should increase its tax levy by more than two percent or the rate of inflation, whichever was lower. ‘Tax levy’ refers to the total amount of money raised by taxes in a budget year; the ‘tax rate’ is the amount of money a municipality or district must charge per \$1,000 of assessed value on all non-tax-exempt property in its jurisdiction.

However, the new law did not take into consideration the budgeting history of the district or municipality, and the differences in services provided by municipalities. The one seemingly good thing about the legislation was that homeowners could receive a tax ‘refund’ from the state if their counties, towns, villages, and school districts complied with the law. In theory, therefore, the taxpayer benefits in two ways: a minimal tax increase and a refund intended to equal that increase. There should be one more such refund arriving, in the fall of 2016.

Let’s apply this to our Town/Village. We’ve complied each of the three years the “freeze” has been in place. In spring of ’14 and ’15 we passed freeze-override resolutions, but rescinded them prior to budget approval. This year, we did not pass an override resolution because we were confident we had learned enough about the legislation to comply without paranoia. Our budget for 2016-17 is also in compliance. Although the tax rate will increase by 2 percent, the overall levy stays under the cap established by the rate of inflation for last year. (That rate was a miniscule 0.12%.)

I am writing this as a boast of sorts. As you might know, we are both a town and a village. Your village tax bill also includes fire protection, sewer and parks maintenance, etc. In most other municipalities, those services are separate charges on the tax bill, in much the same way our refuse collection is listed as a fee. We are very proud of having maintained the level of service in this community while making major improvements to our downtown area.

There are still a few considerations in the wake of the tax freeze, however. Healthcare and retirement-system contributions usually exceed the inflation rate. Equipment needs, such as fire trucks and snow plows, cannot be ‘frozen.’ Also, if you received a tax-freeze refund this past fall, did you claim it as income on your state and federal tax returns? Many of us did not.

In the coming year, the Village will be hosting open sessions to help explain where your tax dollars go and how we really compare with other municipalities. Stay tuned...

~ FREE WEDNESDAY SUMMER CONCERT SERIES ~

unless indicated, all start at 7 pm in the Town/Village lot, 317 Main St., weather permitting; food and beverages from local merchants available – including the famous Alfieri popcorn!

June 8 – ERHS Jazz at the Park (Edmund Lyon), 5:30 pm

June 29 – Mr. Mustard (Beatles tribute)

July 6 – Back in Town (rock)

July 27 – Ruby Shooz (’50s and ’60s)

(ERFD chicken BBQ night!)

Aug. 10 – That Party Band (oldies and new rock)

Aug. 24 – Redeye Jack (country rock)

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (381-1565)

The Department of Public Works would like to wish **David Bussey** a happy retirement after more than 32 years of service, 20 of them as Superintendent. David has served this community well, and we sincerely thank him for his commitment to our residents.

With Dave’s March 4 retirement, we welcome **Bill Marr** as his replacement. Bill joined the DPW team 37 years ago as a summer employee while in high school and college. He left to work full-time for Hoselton Chevrolet for 20 years before coming back to work for ER 14 years ago. He’s served as Foreman for the past three years, and is a longtime member of the ER Fire Department. Bill’s family has been in public service in this community for many years, starting with his father, Larry, who also served as DPW Superintendent. In addition, his wife, Barb, served as a Town/Village Trustee.

Pete Calabrese has been promoted to the new Foreman. Pete worked for the Town of Pittsford for 11 years, where he served on many Town committees. Like Bill, he is in the ER Fire Department, where he takes a leadership role in making this community a safer place. We look forward to all Pete will add to the DPW in his new role.

With these promotions, we have hired a new employee. Please join us in welcoming **Brandon Fox** – a 2007 graduate of ERHS, a 2011 graduate of St. John Fisher College, and a former summer employee.

2016 BULK REFUSE PICK-UP WEEKS: June 6-10, Aug. 1-5, Oct. 3-7, and Dec. 5-9

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 is pleased to welcome **Marie Deuel** to our staff. Marie is pursuing a bachelor's degree in human development, with a concentration in psychology, and has NYS certification as an Associate Teacher. She did her college internship with us, and is excited to be back working with the youth in our community.

Thank you to the former First Presbyterian Church of East Rochester for their very generous financial donation to the Youth Center. The money will be used to serve youth and provide services that aren't available through our other funding sources. Our latest Youth As Resources grant is off to a great start. Titled 'Forever Packs,' it will allow us to put together **gift packages for kids in foster care**. On Saturday, April 30 we had our first event to raise money and awareness for our Forever Packs: a Bingo night with the ER senior citizens. The participating youth were able to sit alongside the seniors and talk with them about the grant and what we're planning on doing with the donations. Our second event was a movie night for the youth in town, held Saturday, May 14. The YAR program is sponsored by the Rochester Area Community Foundation and the Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau.

The six-week **Summer Employment program** is quickly approaching; if you're interested in having our youth work at your business, please give us a call. The following businesses and organizations have participated in the past: A Second Thought Resale Shop, Linden East Condominiums, Penfield Place, Rubino's, Salvatore's Pizzeria, Valenti Sports, Village Fair, the ER School District, and the Town/Village Building Department, Community Resource Center, DPW, Local History Office, Public Library, and Village Office. The youth will work about 15 hours a week at your site and spend five hours in work-readiness training; the YAC covers all costs. Contact us today if you're interested in participating!

The Youth Activity Center offers services in preparation for the **High School Equivalency Diploma/TASC (previously known as the GED)**. If you are interested in this program, please give us a call at 586-1003 to arrange a time to discuss it further. We have had 18 young people enroll in our program and pass their exam, some in less than six months!

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

E.R. COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

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

NEW ADVENT CRAFT SALE CHAIRPERSON! Patricia Cragg has retired from chairing the annual Advent Craft Sale, so we have a new person to chair this important community fundraiser, set for Saturday, Dec. 10, at the ER Junior/Senior High gymnasium. The vendor fees benefit the ER Community Resource Center/Food Cupboard.

Families or individuals who live in ER and are in need of clothing or other services should call us to make an appointment.

ERCN TV-12 DEBUTS NEW SERIES: 'I WANT TO KNOW'

Tom Dezio, Jeff Renner, and Jim Hauser have been entertaining the Channel 12 viewing audience with their ER High School sports coverage and commentary for several years now, and have built quite a following. We get comments all the time from viewers who tell us they don't even like sports, but love watching our broadcasts because of the great color commentary.

Tom, Jeff, and Jim are not the type to sit around on their hands during the off-season, so they came up with a new program that's meant to be informative as well as entertaining: 'I Want to Know.' It features our ERHS sports coverage crew discussing a wide variety of subjects of local interest, from sports to politics to history. 'I Want to Know' premiered at the end of March with guest Deputy Mayor Mark Florack, who talked about his experience as a Senior Little League Baseball champion back in 1966.

The crew has a lot of ideas for upcoming episodes, but we invite the viewers to send us suggestions on what topics they'd like to see us cover. Please feel free to email your comments to us at ercn@eastrochester.org. Thanks for watching TV-12!

– John Schroth, ERCN TV-12 Station Director



'I Want To Know' hosts Jim Benson (left), Jeff Renner, Tom Dezio, and Jimmy 'Cheeseburger' Hauser, with guest Mark Florack in the center, sing 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game.'



FROM THE TOWN/VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR: *HISTORIC FRYATT BUILDING BEING RESTORED TO A RESIDENCE*

One of the most recognizable structures in East Rochester, the Fryatt Building at 901 Main St., was recently sold by the Town/Village to a couple with plans to develop it as a single-family home. This property has served the community faithfully in many ways since its gifting in the mid-1950s. Some generations will remember it as the first Library, while others will remember it as the Recreation Department. More recently it served as the home of the Local History Office, Cable Channel 12, and American Legion Post #1917.

This wonderful asset that has served the ER community for more than 60 years will be returning to its origin as a residence. When the structure was built in 1918 it was on the southern-most boundary of the Village. The then-emerging community was less than 15 years old and still had a very rural feel to it. Rapid residential and commercial expansion over the next couple of decades transformed ER into the community you see today. All the streets south of Ivy began development in the early 1920s and were completed in the '40s. East Rochester continues to grow toward its future while never forgetting its roots.

It continues to be a pleasure to serve the citizens, businesses, and visitors of the Town/Village of East Rochester. Thank you!

– Martin G. D'Ambrose, Town/Village Administrator

~ NEWS from the LOCAL HISTORY DEPARTMENT ~

The Town/Village Department of Local History has been very active in the weeks since the last newsletter. I gave a presentation on the first 10 years of the Village's history to the Senior Citizens. We also continued to provide research and materials for the ER Alumni Foundation's display case in the Junior/Senior High School foyer. We are anxiously awaiting more artifacts and papers from the Cabby Providence collection. His daughter, Eleanor Providence Perry, has been our valuable contact in this endeavor.

We do not do individual genealogy research, but would be glad to help you with yours, by providing material to help you in your quest. Feel free to call 381-3023 for details on how to proceed. We are on the third floor of the Eyer Building. Stop in and see us from 9 am to noon Wednesday through Saturday. It's a good idea to call first if you're coming from afar, to make sure someone will be there!

– Jim Burlingame, Town/Village Historian

FROM THE E.R. CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Our Chamber has grown so much over the past several months, and our growth in member benefits is an area we are especially proud of! Did you know that your membership provides the following?

1. A voice in how the Chamber reaches out to local communities on behalf of our members' businesses.
2. Networking opportunities with other local industries, including coffee hours, luncheons, and after-hours gatherings, which are announced through our e-mail list and Website calendar. (Additional fees may be required to cover costs.)
3. Increased Internet presence through the Chamber:
 - An individual directory page for your business on our site, including 24/7 access to update your page.
 - Promotion of your business events on our online calendar.
 - Promotion of your business on our Facebook page, with the ability to add posts on your own 24/7. (You must 'like' the Chamber's Facebook page before posting.)
 - Promotion of your business on our LinkedIn page. (You must 'follow' the Chamber's LinkedIn page before posting.)
4. You can attend the ER Chamber University classes for business owners and employees. (Additional fees may be required to cover costs.)
5. You can schedule a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new business, and host a coffee hour/networking event at your business.

This is what one of our newer Chamber members, Lisa DePalma of the Eastside Jazzercise Fitness Center, has to say: "Thanks so much for all the valuable tools and information for advertising, and for all the wonderful gifts!"

Please contact me with any questions, and I'll respond as quickly as possible.

We proudly co-sponsored the ER CleanSweep on Saturday, May 21. This is an annual event sponsored by local businesses and the Chamber, in which volunteers clean up ER, promote 'green' solutions, and participate in enriching the community. You can become involved through sponsorship, volunteering, participating in our best-pizza contest, and/or supporting our scrap metal collection.

Upcoming events – mark your calendar! Plans are in the works for the inaugural ER Chamber of Commerce Wine Walk, during June. This will be a great opportunity for our business owners to meet and greet with potential customers and clients. Also, the 19th-annual KarKnocker Walk/Run is scheduled for the evening of Friday, July 29. We are excited to partner with the Finger Lakes Regional Burn Association as our benefactor in this event!

Welcome to our new members: Colonial Fire Protection Systems and Landmark Family Restaurant.

– Mary Beth Lovejoy, Vice President/Communications Director (marybeth@lovejoy-photography.com)

LIBRARY NOTES.... The East Rochester Public Library has had record turnouts for our children's and teen programs so far this year, including more than 100 guests for the Wegmans Zoomobile visit on Monday, March 28 (*see photo*). Children's programming continued through May, culminating with an all-ages Garden Party the afternoon of Monday, May 23.

Story Times (programs designed to encourage informal learning, literacy, science, and the creative arts) are offered for different age groups throughout the year. Mondays at 9:30 am, babies and their caregivers can enjoy activities that support infants' language development, including books, rhymes, puppets, and play. Wednesday mornings at 11:30, children ages 2-5 and their caregivers learn pre-reading skills with books, rhymes, movement activities, and simple crafts. Mondays at 3:30 pm, children ages 4 and up can listen to stories followed by a craft or game. Each story time is designed for a specific age group, but patrons of all ages and abilities are always welcome. If you need special accommodations to attend one of the library programs, please contact us at 586-8302. Children's events are now being offered in cycles, with two to four weeks of planning followed by five to eight weeks of activities. Please visit www.libraryweb.org/erochester for exact dates and times, and 'like' us on Facebook for event reminders.

'On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!' The Summer Reading event cycle runs from Friday, June 24 to Friday, Aug. 19, kicking off with the Bubble Olympics program presented by Doug Rougeux ('the Bubble Guy'), at 3 pm June 24. Summer Reading is a great way to avoid the 'summer slide' by encouraging children and teens to continue reading and learning all summer long, so in the fall, their minds will be more alert and ready for the rigors of school again. The ERPL Summer Reading program is for the whole family! Babies, children, teens, and adults are all invited to participate. The program is fun and simple: keep track of how much you read, and earn prizes. In addition to small prizes, local museum passes will be raffled each week. At the end of the summer, grand prizes for each age group (including small goodies, a Barnes & Noble gift card for children and teens, and 15 free holds for adults) will be raffled off. Registration for 'On Your Mark, Get Set, Read! Summer Reading 2016' starts Wednesday, June 1.

In addition to the reading program, there are a lot of great events planned for throughout the summer, including story times, Jeff Peden's Airplay juggling show, a teen cooking program, Library Olympics, a hands-on demonstration from the Rochester Fencing team, and more! Visit our Webpage for more information about summer events.

Summer Reading is a lot of work and we need your assistance! Kids age 12 and up can help out by volunteering at the Library; applications are available at the circulation desk.

This year, the ERPL has focused on updating its programs and services for teens and 'tweens. In March, we had our first Teen Advisory Board meeting, to great success. The Teen Advisory Board, for kids in grades 6-12, meets once a month. Members decide on programs and events for the Library to host, and help plan and promote the events. The first TAB activity was a Teen Writing Workshop, held in April. We are still looking for new members for TAB; contact Miss Kelly at the Library for more information. For more information about the Library or any of our programs, call us at 586-8302, visit our Website at www.libraryweb.org/erochester, or 'like' us on Facebook. We look forward to seeing you!



FROM THE E.R. POLICE DEPARTMENT

~ to Protect and Serve the Residents of East Rochester ~

As we wind down the school year, I'd like to follow up on a few things I've written about in past issues....

As the weather gets nicer we have more students walking to and from school. I ask that parents remind their children to be careful and alert when walking, and to pay attention to the crossing guards. Parents should also stress the importance of never talking to, or getting in a vehicle with, a stranger. If you know of any suspicious incident happening to a student walking to or from school, please report it as soon as possible. Our crossing guards and traffic monitor are positioned throughout the Village to help our children get to school safely, and I'd like to thank them for the work they do. I would also ask parents who drive their kids to school to follow the directions of the crossing guards and traffic monitor. Again, they are here to help make your trip to and from school as safe and smooth as possible.

As an update, **Officer Brett Pierson**, a 2002 graduate of ER High School, has completed his field training and is working the afternoon shift.

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 and some creams – no needles. For needles, all other creams, and pills, 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.

If you have questions about these or any other issues, please contact the ERPD at 586-4399. Our **non-emergency hours of operation** are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm weekdays; we are closed on weekends and holidays.

– Steven J. Clancy, ER Chief of Police

~ NEWS from the CLERK'S OFFICE ~

From Clerk-Treasurer Gerri Raschiatore....

It is with great joy and excitement that I announce my retirement as Clerk-Treasurer, effective Monday, Aug. 1. After 30 years of service to the Town/Village of East Rochester, it's time for me to move on to the next chapter of my life. It's been my absolute privilege and pleasure to have served under the direction of these leaders of The Greatest Little Town in the World: Mayor Peter Quinzi, Mayor David Bonacchi, Mayor Fred Ricci, and those board members who were and are the leaders of this community and who have allowed me to serve the residents of ER.

I would also like to say a special 'thank you' to Administrator Marty D'Ambrose and all my co-workers, especially Karen Smith, Janet Mandile, and Sandi McLean. These outstanding people are truly the ones who keep East Rochester running so smoothly every day. I would be remiss if I didn't express my deep gratitude to Raymond Parrotta, with whom I've had the extreme pleasure of working side-by-side for 30 years. He has been my best friend and mentor every step of the way, and truly made coming to work every day a joy!

Last but certainly not least, I owe my parents, Tom and Shirley Raschiatore, a deep debt of gratitude for setting such an incredible example of loyalty, love, and hard work. Without their love, guidance, and support I never would have been able to achieve my personal or professional goals.

To the rest of my personal support team – which include my daughters, Amy Consaul and Stephanie Guarino, my loving and devoted sister, Kim Duffy, and my very best friend and confidant, BJ Schoonmaker – thank you from the bottom of my heart for always being there for me.

And I am so thankful to the Lord, for taking all the broken roads in my life and turning them into unbelievable blessings.

I am and always will be very proud of my East Rochester heritage. My grandfather Pasquale's family was among the original settlers here. So you see, I come from a long line of family members who went to school here, lived here, and died here. My heart, love, and devotion will always be in East Rochester.

Thank you once again for allowing me to serve you.

The Town/Village of ER's Clerk's Office will be restructuring this summer. As of Monday, Aug. 1, the position of Clerk-Treasurer will be eliminated, and replaced by the positions of Director of Finance (Brian Luke, CPA) and Village Clerk/Receiver of Taxes (Karen Smith). Visitors will still see the smiling faces of Clerks Janet Mandile and Sandi McLean. While there will be only two full-time clerks in the office daily, we believe it will operate as well as it always has, due to new processes and efficiencies.

Village tax bills were mailed on Wednesday, June 1. Taxes can be paid in full, without penalty, by Friday, July 1. Payments can also be made in installments, without penalty. If paying in installments, the first installment must be paid by Friday, July 1, and the second must be paid by Monday, Aug. 1. A fee of 5% will be added to late payments; additional penalties for late payments are computed pursuant to applicable provisions of the Real Property Tax Law. Payments must be made with cash or check only.

East Rochester is one of only a handful of villages in the state that allows its residents to pay in equal installments without an interest penalty.

If you have any questions, please call 586-3553

NEWS FROM THE JEAN DANIEL SENIOR CENTER

April was a busy month for the Senior Citizens! In addition to line dancing, card games, and Bingo, Mr. John Polvino brought the ER High School Choir to entertain us. We also went to BOCES for our annual Fish Fry luncheon, and held our annual spaghetti dinner and Pinewood Derby. This is always an exciting event, with both new and modified cars. We had a day trip to see a tribute performance to the Supremes, and the New Horizons Clarinet Band entertained at one of our meetings. On Monday, May 16, podiatrist Dr. Paul Merkel met with those who made appointments at our Center; he visits every three months. Our guest on Thursday, May 19 was Chet Fery, also known as 'The Bread Man.' He was a most interesting speaker, and brought a small loaf of bread for each of our members.

We have added two very popular activities: a chime choir and a group that does adult coloring and dot-to-dot. The Singles Group continues to meet every other week; monthly pool tournaments create a lot of excitement and competition; and our Craft Group is very active, with a new project each month.

We are now on summer hours, and we go out to dinner at 5 pm on Tuesdays until the end of October.



Congratulations from the ER Fire Department to **Dave Bussey** on his recent retirement from the Department of Public Works and to members **Bill Marr** and **Pete Calabrese** on their promotions! You can read more about them on page 22.

Recruit N.Y., for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter, was held April 23-24. ERFD members were at the fire hall to answer questions from 11am-3pm. New recruits are always welcome!

The **Field Days Carnival** will be Thursday, July 28 through Saturday, July 30 at the school grounds, with the parade and fireworks Saturday evening. This year's chicken BBQ will be Wednesday, July 27, at the fire hall. For details as the carnival draws closer, please check ERCN-TV 12 and our Facebook page.

For information about our initiative with the ER Alumni Foundation to provide **new smoke detectors to all ER second-graders**, please see page 12.

Fire safety: With picnic and barbecue season here, please be smart and safe when grilling. Charcoal and propane grills should only be used outdoors. Grills should be placed well away from houses, deck railings, and flammable materials, and out from under eaves. Keep grills clean from grease buildup on grates and trays. Never leave a grill unattended, even for a minute. If you smell propane, shut off the tank and check the connections. Always have a professional make any necessary repairs.

FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT: We are responsible for issuing building permits, code enforcement for property-maintenance issues, animal control, NYS Fire Code enforcement, and Planning/Zoning Board coordination. **Carbon monoxide and smoke detectors** need to be replaced every seven to 10 years – and more frequently in damp areas, such as basements. **Pools, including inflatable pools**, are subject to NYS law if they are capable of holding water at a depth of 24 inches. **NYS Property Maintenance Code** addresses maintenance of structures and surrounding property areas. All structural components such as roofs, gutters, doors, windows, and porches must be maintained and in good condition. Exterior property areas must be maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition. **Lawn maintenance:** The Town/Village Code requires that grass and weeds be kept at a height of no more than 6 inches. **Permits** are required for sheds, fences, decks, plumbing, retaining walls, driveways, pools, and building additions, as well as new construction and structural demolition. The Building Department is the best place to research your future projects to see if permits are required. We act as an independent third party between you and your contractor to help ensure that both parties' interests are protected. We will review and inspect your project to ensure it's built correctly and satisfies all NYS code requirements. Permit information and forms can be found on the Town/Village Website under 'Building Inspector.' The contractor performing the work must apply for the permit, and proof of General Liability and Workers' Compensation insurance must be supplied before the permit can be issued. You can contact the Building Department at 385-3513 or visit us at our new location, on the second floor of the Eyer Building, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm weekdays.

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FIRES have become a popular activity, especially with the recent increase in marketing and sales of portable outdoor fireplaces made of metal, ceramic, and similar materials, but they've also become a concern within the Town/Village of ER. Please note that recreational fires are a privilege and have been allowed for special occasional and limited recreational purposes. A recreational fire that causes property damage or personal injury, or is deemed a nuisance, could be cause for legal action by the Building Department or Police Department. Any fire causing police or firefighters to be called can be considered by the responding official as a nuisance fire. Nuisance fires must be extinguished immediately. The Building Department has allowed burning for recreational purposes consistent with state, county, and local codes and laws, using the following guidelines:

- Safety precautions must always be followed, and fire (including any smoke and/or odors) cannot create a nuisance.
- Fires must be the same size as in indoor fireplaces (no larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet high), located 25 feet from combustible structures (houses, fences, sheds, garages, wooden decks, and similar structures), and conducted on non-combustible surfaces. In addition, burning materials must be clean, seasoned firewood only. (Wet, fresh-cut, painted, or stained wood creates smoky conditions and is not allowed to be burned.)
- Competent adult supervision must be at the site while the fire is burning. ('Competent adult supervision' is defined as someone over 18 years of age, and not impaired by drugs, alcohol, or a medical or mental condition which would impede his/her ability to take proper actions if required.)
- A source of water (a charged garden hose hooked up to a water supply, multiple pails of water, or a 4-A rating fire extinguisher) must be available to control or extinguish any fire.
- Portable outdoor fireplaces made of metal, ceramic, and similar materials must follow these same rules.