



School District and Community News



December 2015 – January-February 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 March 10, April 14, and May 12

Town/Village Board Workshop Meeting

7 pm Thursdays March 31, April 28, and May 26

Planning/Architectural Board*

7 pm Tuesdays March 8, April 12, and May 10

Zoning Board*

7 pm Tuesdays March 15, April 19, and May 17

* 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

HAVING TROUBLE FINDING ERCN CHANNEL 12?

Lately we've been getting quite a few calls from viewers asking why they can't get the TV-12 broadcast, so I wanted to review the different ways to get our programming and what to do if you lose it.

TV-12 can be viewed three different ways: through Time Warner cable TV service, Web streaming, and ROKU.

Time Warner Cable: Our broadcast is seen by Time Warner subscribers in East Rochester, Pittsford, Fairport, and Perinton on all Time Warner cable TV packages, including the very basic \$9.95/month package. If you use a Time Warner cable box (or smaller Time Warner digital adapter for older TVs) you can view our broadcast on channel 12. If you run cable straight from the wall to your TV without a Time Warner adapter AND you have a newer digital TV, you have to 'scan for new channels,' and our broadcast will be seen on either 5.12 or 94.8 (Time Warner has been shifting us back and forth between these two channels). If for any reason you used to get our broadcast on 94.8 but now don't see it, Time Warner has moved us and you'll have to 'scan for new channels' again. You'll then find us on 5.12. It's a good idea to scan for new channels every month anyway, as Time Warner is constantly changing channel designations and you're missing out on new channels without scanning for them.

Web streaming: Our broadcast can be seen from anywhere using a computer with a high-speed Internet connection. Just go to the Town/Village of ER's home page and click on the 'Watch TV-12' button. We also post video-on-demand of all our televised ERHS sports events, Town/Village events, and School Board and Town/Village Board meetings so viewers can watch them any time.

Roku: We now have our broadcast from Time Warner streaming in real time on Roku. So what is Roku? It's used to watch streaming Internet content on your TV instead of on your computer. You buy a hockey puck-sized unit for about \$75 (there are no other monthly or annual charges), connect it to your TV and wirelessly to your wireless computer router, and get more than 600 great channels of programming for free. When you activate the service online, you choose what channels you want loaded on your Roku unit. Among the choices is PEG-TV (Public, Education, Government). Once you have PEG-TV loaded on the Roku unit, choose PEG-TV from the list of channels and do a search for stations in New York. Our station – ERCN – will show up near the top of the list. Once you go through the search process, you can have your remote memorize the station so you don't have to go through the search process every time you want to watch us (like bookmarking a web page).

If you're still having trouble getting our broadcast or have any other questions (or if you'd like to volunteer!), please don't hesitate to contact us at 641-0183 or ercn@eastrochester.org. Sincere thanks to everyone for their viewership and support!
– John Schroth, ERCN TV-12 Station Director

SCOUTING FOR FOOD '16 will be held on SATURDAY, MARCH 19. The previous Saturday (March 12), our Scouts will be leaving plastic bags at ER homes for residents to fill with non-perishables and place on their front porch steps March 19. Please plan to help make a difference in the world, starting with our own community!

~ NEWS FROM THE JEAN DANIEL SENIOR CENTER ~

During the winter, our Singles Group continues to meet every other week for lunch at noon – check our calendar for exact dates. In addition, Line Dancing continues every Monday morning, with an average attendance of 20 to 25.

We hosted an AARP Safe Driving Course on Tuesday, Jan. 26. The cost was \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members, and the completion certificates are valid for three years.

On Friday, Feb. 12, we had a special, catered Valentine's Dinner at noon.

We're planning a day trip for Wednesday, March 30, to Sprague's Maple Farm for a pancake breakfast, then on to Seneca Allegany Casino, with a stop at Cuba Cheese on the way home. All are welcome to sign up. Other upcoming travels include a four-day trip to Washington, D.C. in April and a weeklong cruise to Bermuda in May.

Information about all activities is available at the Center.

I, along with my assistant, Anita Mance, recently accepted an invitation from the Rochester Institute of Technology to visit their display on Kate Gleason. (Miss Gleason was the first woman to earn an engineering degree in the United States, and was instrumental in the early development of our town/village.) Because our History Department has an extensive collection of material related to Miss Gleason, the RIT organizers were able to find many of the items they wanted to include in their display, entitled 'Kate Gleason: Visionary.' The exhibit was produced to coincide with her 150th birthday, and was displayed in the college's Wallace Library through November and December.

– Jim Burlingame, Town/Village Historian

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

We at the ER Youth Activity Center are pleased to announce our **2014-15 High School Equivalency graduates!** Congratulations to Gavin Calabria, Danielle Crawford, Lucsheena Nelson, Alexander Olson, Lisa Phillips, Nicholas Vanroon, and Evan Miller Watelet! We are very proud of their accomplishments and can't wait to see what the future holds for them.

Rochester Lumber Company made an angel tree to benefit our youth participants, and dropped the gifts off the day of our Christmas party (Friday, Dec. 18). **Thank you to Rochester Lumber** for bringing a ray of sunshine to our youth! We're happy to announce **we've been awarded the Winter/Spring Youth as Resources grant** we applied for. YAR uses a process that focuses on youth writing the grant applications and implementing the specified projects. Through this grant, 'Forever Packs,' we will put together gift packages for kids in foster care. As part of the grant we will also be hosting two movie nights at the Center to support this community-service project. Keep an eye out for more information on this initiative, and contact us at 586-1003 if you're interested in helping organize and implement it.

The Summer Employment program is quickly approaching! If you know someone who's 14-20 years old and looking to get some work experience under their belt, this program could be perfect! This six-week summer program teaches young people everything they need to know about the work environment, through the opportunity to work at a local business to gain experience. The following job sites have participated in the past: A Second Thought, Linden East Condominiums, Penfield Place, Rubino's, Salvatore's, Valenti Sports/Marketing, Village Fair, the ER Junior/Senior High School Office, the ERHS Guidance Office, and the East Rochester Building Department, Community Resource Center, Department of Public Works, Local History Office, Public Library, and Town/Village Office. Interested young people (who must be at least 14 by June) need to apply by the end of February. Call for more details! We are also looking for businesses interested in hosting youth participants at their work site, at no cost to them. (The work experience would be covered under a grant.) Please contact us for more information.

The YAC is still offering services in **High School Equivalency Test preparation**. If you're interested in this program, please give us a call to make an appointment to discuss it further.

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. You can make a lifelong impression on a youth for a small investment of time! The ERYAC promotes the '40 Developmental Assets' and 'Small Talk, Big Difference' initiatives.

– Barbara Maine, ERYAC director



Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the ER Fire Department: Chief Matt Parrone, Deputy Chief Neal Herko, Assistant Chief Matt Dombrowski, President Tim Swagler, and Vice-President Steve Williams.

Safety reminders: Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, toxic gas, and even low levels over an extended time can be fatal. Please take a few minutes to make sure your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. In addition, we'd appreciate it if you 'adopt' a fire hydrant in your neighborhood. Keeping them clear of snow and ice will make firefighting operations easier during an emergency. And remember, in a power loss, gas generators should never be run inside a home or any other structure. Thank you to ER Elementary School for inviting us to teach the students some basic fire safety lessons every year! A few photos from our visit with PK and K are on the District's Website, at www.tinyurl.com/ja9rkze.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe new year. And please remember to visit and 'like' us on Facebook!

Winter Fire Safety Tips from the ER Building Department:

Every year, fire departments respond to unnecessary chimney flue fires. If you have a wood-burning appliance (a fireplace or woodstove), make sure you keep the flue clear – and use only seasoned firewood to reduce the amount of creosote traveling up the flue, which can result in a fire. The best way to prevent chimney fires is to have your flue cleaned and inspected by a professional chimney sweep annually.

With the holiday celebrations comes an increase in the use of stoves and ovens, so now is the time to make sure they're clean. Dirty stoves and ovens lead to a large portion of kitchen fires every year. Kitchen fires are the leading cause of residential fires, which in turn are the leading cause of fire fatalities in the country.

Please keep your sidewalks, driveways, and porch steps clear of snow and ice for access during emergencies, and to prevent injuries from accidental falls. Snow that falls on your property must be stored on your property, not moved onto sidewalks, streets, or neighboring properties.

Thinking about Paying Your Debt with Coins to Protest? It Might Not Work as Well as You'd Hope.

Title 31 (Money and Finance), Subtitle IV (Money), Chapter 51 (Coins and Currency), Subchapter I (Monetary System), Section 5103 (Legal Tender) of the United States Code states: United States coins and currency (including Federal Reserve notes and circulating notes of Federal Reserve banks and national banks) are legal tender for all debts, public charges, taxes, and dues. Foreign gold or silver coins are not legal tender for debts.

What this statute means, in the words of the U.S. Treasury, is that all U.S. money... is a valid and legal offer of payment for debts when tendered to a creditor. There is, however, no Federal law mandating that a person or organization must accept currency or coins as payment for goods and/or services.

In other words, U.S. currency and coins can be used for making payments, but merchants don't necessarily have to accept it for all forms of business transactions. For example, if a shoemaker wants to sell his products for 8,000 jelly beans per pair, he's entitled to do so; the buyer cannot demand that he accept the equivalent value in legal tender instead. However, legal tender is the default method of payment assumed in contractual agreements involving debts and payments for goods or services, unless otherwise specified. So, for example, if an auto dealer signs a contract agreeing to sell you a car for \$8,000, but when you begin making monthly payments he rejects them and insists he wants to be paid in gold instead, you can go to court and have your debt discharged on the grounds that valid payment was offered and refused.

Up until the late 1800s, pennies and nickels weren't legal tender at all. The Coinage Acts of 1873 and 1879 made them legal tender for debts up to 25 cents only, while the other fractional coins (dimes, quarters, and half dollars) were legal tender for amounts up to \$10. This remained the law until the Coinage Act of 1965 specified that all U.S. coins are legal tender in any amount. However, even in cases where legal tender has been agreed to as a form of payment, private businesses are still free to specify which forms of legal tender they'll accept. If a shop doesn't want to take any currency larger than \$20 bills, or they don't want to take pennies at all, or they want to be paid in nothing but dimes, they're entitled to do so (but, as mentioned earlier, they should specify their payment policies before entering into transactions with buyers). Businesses are free to accept or reject pennies as they see fit; no law specifies that pennies cease to be considered legal tender when proffered in quantities over a particular amount.

– submitted by the Town/Village Court, courtesy of Snopes.com

ER COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

317 Main St. (mailing) 333 E. Chestnut St. (site) 586-0525

Teresa Quinzi-Willette, director Pat Cragg, associate director

With Christmas and New Year's Day now in the past, what better time than this to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas project sponsored by the East Rochester Fire Department and the ER Community Resource Center. The numbers to thank are many, and if we miss someone, it is not intentional. However, we do wish to make our appreciation known and will have to take that chance, and hope we'll be forgiven.

What better place to start than with the ERFD, the ER Association of Churches, and other ER churches as well. St. Jerome's Giving Tree had more than 300 gift tags on it with the names of ER families and DePaul Parkside Adult Home residents. The names were divided by ER's four major remaining churches and DePaul employees; ERAC sponsored a Christmas party with gifts, refreshments, and singing of Christmas carols.

The Fire Department's representatives – Rick and Gina Rinaldi – and I worked diligently to coordinate this major event in our community, and did the best we could to make sure those families who were really in need were given the help necessary to make their Christmas brighter and happier. Our volunteer firefighters and their families were truly great in putting together the huge boxes and bags of food, and bags of gifts for each family member, and made sure everything was tagged properly and delivered to the right family. Huge effort! This would not be complete without special thanks for the guidance and watchful eye of former ERFD coordinators Angelo and Gloria Pascazi. Thank you to all who donated gifts and food, and others who sponsored entire families; because of you we were able to help 78 families (including 127 adults and 168 children) and 84 residents of DePaul Parkside Home. What a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ! God bless you all!

With sincere best wishes to the whole community for a very happy and healthy New Year!

– Teresa Quinzi-Willette, ERCRC Director

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.

LIBRARY NOTES.... The East Rochester Public Library and the Book Nook store welcome you this winter, keeping you supplied with a wide variety of books. The Library has many authors for you to peruse and a variety of ways to enjoy their writing. Electronic books, as well as traditional hardcovers and paperbacks, await your discovery. The Monroe County Library System offers Overdrive, a simple and convenient way to download books onto your phone, tablet, or computer. There is an ever-increasing selection of e-books on the County Library Webpage, www3.libraryweb.org; click on 'download e-books' for more information.

The Book Nook is the Library's marketplace for gently used books and DVDs. The Nook, part of the outreach of the Friends of the Library, always welcomes volunteers and used items; please contact Library Director Meredith Fraser at 586-8302 to help out.

We are happy to offer a series of meditation classes. Suzie Ricci will be teaching guided meditation at 8:30 am these Wednesdays: March 16, April 20, and May 18. Please register (for any or all of the sessions) by calling 586-8302, as space is limited. You will not need a yoga mat or any yoga gear.

The Library continues to offer story times and programs for babies and children of all ages and abilities. Each story time is designed to support your child's language and literacy development, encourage a love of reading, and seamlessly blend play with education in an informal learning environment. Baby Story Times (for babies/toddlers and a caregiver) are most Mondays at 9:30 am, and feature books, movement activities, rhymes, and songs. PreK Story Times (for preschoolers and their caregivers) are most Wednesdays at 11:30 am; participants enjoy books, songs, rhymes, movement activities, and simple crafts. Looking for something to do after school? At Crafty Kid Story Times, held most Mondays at 3:30 pm, children listen to a story and then make a craft, conduct science experiments, or play games. Please contact the Library for exact story time dates, or check our Website for more information.

For the 'tweens and teens, we hosted a Metal Valentine-making project the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb 10.

Love your ER Public Library? Want to look great on your college applications and résumé? We're always looking for volunteers to help out with after-school programs and other tasks that help keep the library running. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old, and must have a parent or guardian's permission if under 18. Come in and pick up an application! We're also forming a Teen Advisory Board to help plan and promote our teen events; please contact our Youth Program Coordinator, Kelly Rosengren, for more information.

The Adult Book Discussion Group meets at 7 pm the third Thursday of the month in the Community Center. Never been to one of our book discussions? Our group is open to the public, and new members are always welcome.

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!

Congratulations and thank you to Jeannette Pullano for her 20 years of service as Library Board president!

THE MONROE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY PROVIDES:

Community Fire Protection: Unless you're looking for a parking spot or walking a dog, you probably don't pay much attention to fire hydrants – but we at the MCWA do. The same system of water mains, pumps, and storage tanks that reliably supplies clean tap water to your home and business also provides excellent fire protection to the community. We're proud to provide this important service to our entire customer base.

Always at the Ready: While firefighters generally handle hydrants only in an emergency, the MCWA is responsible for day-to-day hydrant operation and maintenance. This means keeping clean water flowing, at the right pressure, to working hydrants around the clock all year long.

An Extensive Challenge: In the MCWA's service area, we tend to more than 25,000 public fire hydrants strategically placed along our 3,240 miles of water mains. Having a hydrant relatively close to a residence or commercial building can be a factor in fire insurance premiums.

You can help maintain the hydrants in your neighborhood by making sure snow is removed from around them. Precious minutes can be saved during a fire if the hydrant is clear and available to firefighters. Also, if a hydrant near your home looks like it needs to be painted, please call us at 442-2000 to get it added to the schedule.

FROM THE E.R. ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: Renewal applications for Limited Income Senior, Limited Income Disability, and Enhanced STAR exemptions have been mailed, and are due by Tuesday, March 1. If you have recently purchased a home, please note that the Basic STAR exemption application is also due by March 1. Additional exemption information and the Real Property Assessment Cycle are available on the Town/Village Website, www.eastrochester.org. Assessment Office hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

FROM THE E.R. POLICE DEPARTMENT

~ to Protect and Serve the Residents of East Rochester ~

As we continue to get into the swing of things for 2016, I'd like to follow-up on a few items I've written about in past articles....

The ER Police Department's **2015 statistics/data** showed a significant increase in several categories throughout the calendar year. Penal law and DWI arrests, vehicle, traffic, and parking tickets, and overall calls for service all increased significantly. Although we've seen an increase in these areas, our community also continues to experience crimes that are prevalent in many surrounding towns, villages, and counties. For example, we respond to frequent calls for car larcenies, criminal mischief, identity theft, and monetary scams. Your vigilance in ensuring your personal property is locked and secured, as well as your attentiveness to any suspicious activity, is crucial. I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping your eyes and ears open to protect yourself and your neighbors.

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

We've recently welcomed a few new officers to our department. Officer Michael Simpson was hired in October 2015 as a full-time officer. We've also hired Officer Andy Hildreth, who recently retired from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office after 20 years. Officer Hildreth will serve as our School Resource Officer and DARE instructor, as he has experience in both roles. Officer Brett Pierson has completed the Police Academy, and is undergoing Field Training Officer training and working with us part-time. We've also hired Daniel Legault as a part-time officer; he recently retired from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and brings more than 20 years of experience to the Town/Village.

I'd also like to recognize Officer Earl Lergner, who will be receiving an award at the Traffic Safety Board/STOP-DWI Program luncheon in March for going above and beyond for traffic safety in Monroe County. Officer Lergner is being honored for the 33 DWI arrests he made in 2015. I'd also like to take this opportunity to **thank all the ERPD officers** for the outstanding work they did throughout last year. There were multiple cases that became very involved and in-depth, and their commitment to serving East Rochester is much appreciated.

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

* **WINTER PARKING RULES** *

The following outlines the procedures for ticketing and towing of vehicles from Nov. 15 through April 15, when winter parking regulations are in effect per Town/Village policy and law:

Prior to Nov. 15, the regulations are posted in the *Fairport-ER Post*. In addition, a notice is placed in the *Community News* and posted on Cable Channel 12. There are signs at the entrances to the village outlining the regulations.

The ER Police Department issues only warning tickets from Nov. 1-14. After that, parking tickets are issued to any vehicle on the street between 3 and 6 am, whether or not there is inclement weather. This includes the Town/Village Hall parking lot, at 317 Main St. If necessary for snow removal, the vehicles are issued parking tickets and then towed.

There are a few exceptions. The first is alternate parking on the 200 block of Main Street – vehicles are allowed to park as long as they are in compliance with the posted signage. The second exception is the municipal parking lot on the 100 block of West Commercial. Also, during Thanksgiving and Christmas we are lenient, as there are many guests visiting from out of town.

We are also amenable to special requests. Permission can be granted to allow parking under special circumstances. Please be advised that if plowing is necessary, vehicles will have to be moved or they will be towed. This especially holds true for disabled vehicles. If a State of Emergency is declared within the Town/Village of East Rochester for snow-related reasons, all vehicles will be removed from the streets.

Photos from the fifth-annual East Rochester Christmas Festival, of which the Town/Village was a proud sponsor, are at www.tinyurl.com/j964xpm.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (381-1565)

The Department of Public Works is saying goodbye to two longtime employees in February and March. **Bruce Kier** and **Mike Ross** are retiring after both have served the department for more than 30 years.

Bruce started with the DPW in December 1984 as a truck driver, and over the years has been responsible for much of the Town/Village's electrical needs. In addition to performing all his other assigned duties, his electrical skill and knowledge has saved the ER community from having to hire an outside electrician, resulting in a savings of countless dollars. He retired in February.

Mike joined the department in November 1985, also as a truck driver, and over the years has been responsible for the maintenance and repair of all Town/Village-owned vehicles and equipment. His ability to perform necessary repairs quickly in all kinds of situations has saved ER countless expenses from having to hire an outside mechanic. He will be retiring in March.

Both Bruce and Mike – along with their knowledge, skills, dedication, and laughter – will be greatly missed. It will be very difficult to replace more than 60 years of experience working for the Town/Village. We enthusiastically thank them both for a job well done, and wish them the best of luck in retirement.

In addition, longtime DPW Superintendent **David Bussey** is retiring on March 4 after more than 32 years of service to ER, which has been his family's home for nearly a century. David's family has been in public service in this community for many years, starting with his father, Clyde, who served as Chief of Police.



Bruce Kier



Mike Ross

What time of the day do you plow snow? Snow is plowed at any given time when more than two inches of snow has accumulated on the roadway. It normally takes us three hours to complete a plow run of the entire village. That means some areas of the village will have more snow on the ground by the time we get to your street. If snow's falling at a rate of one inch per hour, there could be an additional three inches on the road after we've already plowed your street. Whenever snow remains on the ground at the end of the day, we come back at 3 am to plow the streets again to clean up the remaining snow.

2016 BULK REFUSE PICK-UP WEEKS:

March 7-11, April 4-8, May 2-6, June 6-10, Aug. 1-5, Oct. 3-7, and Dec. 5-9

The Monroe County Mobile DMV Unit is at the ER Town/Village Hall (first floor) from 10 am to 3:30 pm every Wednesday, for all routine transactions.

