

RUSH TOWN NEWS

Volume 16, Bi-Monthly Issue No. 6

December 2011/January 2012

www.TownofRush.com

Dear Residents:

I hope you find this issue of the Newsletter informative and interesting, particularly concerning the Operating Budget for next year and all other important Town topics.

TOWN HALL FRONT STEPS REPLACED



As you can see from the photo above, the front steps of the Rush Town Hall have been replaced with brand new steps.

OPERATING BUDGET

The 2012 Operating Budget was approved at the Town Board meeting of November 23, 2011. The 2012 tax rate per \$1,000 of Taxable Assessed Valuation (TAV) will be \$4.39 which is unchanged since 2009. The total TAV is increasing less than 1%, going from \$280,702,824 in 2011 to \$282,757,205 in 2012. Two of our major costs for operation, Health Care and NYS Retirement, continue to increase in double digits. Health Care is increasing by 16.1%, rising \$26,514 in 2012. NYS Retirement is increasing 28.1%, rising \$31,800 in 2012.

We have made 2 major changes to our Health Plan in the past few years which have resulted in cost avoidance of \$111,000. A number of towns in Monroe County, those with more than 50 full time employees, have formed a consortium in an effort to increase the group size with the expectation of reducing the individual towns' cost.

We may be able to join the group even though we have only 12 full time employees and, with the help of our broker, we continue to look at other options.

NYS Retirement contributions are controlled by NY State.

All employees will receive a 2% wage increase for 2012. For details of our 2012 Operating Budget, please see pages 13, 14 and 15 of this Newsletter.

Over the past 9 years, the Tax Rate has gone from \$3.89 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed valuation in 2003 to \$4.39 in 2012. This is an increase of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of TAV, which averages to \$.06 per year. We expect to carry 22% of appropriations at the end of 2012 and consider this to be adequate to pay our bills on time and to cover unforeseen expenses while taxes are collected for the next year.

CONSTRUCTION

Rush Town Officials (Supervisor William Udicious, Deputy Supervisor Richard Anderson, Code Enforcement Officer, Gerald Kusse, and Rush Fire Department Chief, James Bucci, attended a meeting held in Avon Town Hall on September 7, 2011 called by the NYS DOT. The purpose of the meeting was to review the DOT's plan on the Concrete Restoration Plan (CPR) that is planned for 2012 on Route 390 from Exit 11 in Rush to Route 5 and 20 (Exit 10) in Avon. Town of Avon officials, New York State Police and Superintendent of Schools from Avon were also in attendance. As a result of the input received from meeting attendees, the DOT has modified the scope of the CPR project. The project has been expanded to include shoulder work. With shoulder work now included, a single lane can be maintained while the adjacent lane is closed for repairs. No offsite detour will be required onto Route 15. The project is anticipated to take place throughout the 2012 construction season.

FAREWELL

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported me over the past twelve years as your Town Supervisor. It was very helpful to have your support through the many projects that were completed in the Town during those years.

It has been a pleasure to serve the residents of Rush and it is my hope that the Town remains a beautiful, rural community in the years to come.

I would like to also take this opportunity to congratulate the new Supervisor, **RICHARD ANDERSON**, and wish him success in all future Town endeavors.

I hope that you enjoy the upcoming holidays and want to wish you a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

William R. Udicious

Town Clerk's Office
Submitted by Pamela Bucci, Town Clerk
Mon.- Fri. 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Phone: 533-1312
[*Pam@townofrush.com*](mailto:Pam@townofrush.com)

**LEGAL NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF
TAX ROLL AND WARRANT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, the undersigned Collector of Taxes in and for the Town of Rush, have received the Tax Roll and Warrant for the collection of taxes for the Combined Town and County Taxes for the year 2012. I will receive these taxes at the Town Clerk's Office, 5977 East Henrietta Road, Rush, New York, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Mailed payment should be addressed to: Pamela J. Bucci, Collector, 5977 East Henrietta Road, Rush, New York 14543.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that taxes may be paid interest free through February 10, 2012. To be eligible for Installment Payment Option, the first payment must be made by February 10, 2012. Taxes paid under the installment option are payable as follows:

- 1st payment 25%, January 1st to February 10th - interest free
- 2nd payment 25%, February 11th to February 28th - 1½% interest penalty
- 3rd payment 25%, March 1st to March 31st - 3% interest penalty
- 4th payment 25%, April 1st to April 30th - 4.5% interest penalty

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that beginning taxpayers are also eligible for a Partial Payment Option. Initial payment of at least 25% of taxes due plus any accrued interest can be made at any time between January 1st and August 20th.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that all taxes are payable to the Town of Rush until May 31, 2012, when the Tax Rolls will be returned to the County of Monroe on June 1, 2012. Further information about payment, interest

charge and payment locations are on the back of the tax bill or by visiting the County website at www.monroecounty.gov.

ANY TAXPAYER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A TAX BILL BY JANUARY 13th, 2012, is requested to contact the Rush Town Clerk at 533-1312 for a duplicate bill.

Pamela J. Bucci
Town Clerk/Collector

BOARD OPENINGS

If you are interested in serving as a member on one of the Boards within the Town (Planning, Zoning, Assessment Review) please submit a **letter of interest** to Town Clerk Pamela Bucci on or before **December 14th, 2011**. Appointed officials receive an annual salary for their service to the town. For further information, please contact the Town Clerk's Office.

**OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY and
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF
RUSH**

The Organizational Meeting for 2012 will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Newly elected town officials will be sworn in at that time. Residents are welcome to attend all public meetings throughout the year.

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

The Town offices will be closed on Monday, December 26th for the Christmas holiday and Monday, January 2nd, for the New Year's holiday.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE CLOSED

The Town Clerk's Office will be closed on Friday, December 9th for a Monroe County Town Clerks and Tax Receivers training session.



THE ADAIR REPORT



The following is a submission by **Jeff Adair, Monroe County Legislature President**.

Over the past seven years, it has been my pleasure and honor to serve you in the Monroe County Legislature. Earlier this year, the district lines for Monroe County Legislators were re-drawn and beginning in January, I will no longer be representing the Town of Rush in the County Legislature. However, I hope to continue to serve you and the entire County as the President of the Legislature.

I am grateful for the friends I have made in Rush and I know you will be in good hands with my colleague, Karla Boyce, who will be sworn in as your County Legislator in January. Karla and I will work together in the Legislature to continue keeping the property tax rate flat and support job growth for Monroe County.

Thank you for your past support and trusting me to be your representative in county government. Please contact the Republican Majority Office for assistance at 753-1922.



Assessor's Office

*Submitted by: Dan Stanford, Assessor
Mon. & Fri. 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM*

Dan@townofrush.com

*Colleen Statskey, Assessor's Clerk
Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM*

Colleen@townofrush.com

The New York State Office of Real Property Services has combined with the NYS Department of Tax and Finance. You will find Real Property information at the Tax and Finance website (www.tax.ny.gov).

Please remember that all the exemptions available are on this website, as well as helpful assessment information.

While this merger will save the state money, the service and support will be reduced. The software that was developed in 1999 by Real Property Services will be difficult to maintain with the reduction of staff.

****Note:** This year you can renew your Senior Star and Agricultural exemption via email - dan@townofrush.com.

Office of the Fire Marshal/ Emergency Preparedness Administrator

*Submitted by: Richard L. Tracy
Phone: 533-1312*

Rick@townofrush.com

Winter Storms & Extreme Cold

The following information is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

While the danger from winter weather varies across the country, nearly all Americans, regardless of where they live, are likely to face some type of severe winter weather at some point in their lives. Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a

blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain. One of the primary concerns is the winter weather's ability to knock out heat, power and communications services to your home or office, sometimes for days at a time. Heavy snowfall and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region. The National Weather Service refers to winter storms as the "Deceptive Killers" because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. Instead, people die in traffic accidents on icy roads and of hypothermia from prolonged exposure to cold. It is important to be prepared for winter weather before it strikes.

Before Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

To prepare for a winter storm you should do the following:

- Before winter approaches, add the following supplies to your emergency kit:
 - Rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. Visit the Environmental Protection Agency for a complete list of recommended products.
 - Sand to improve traction.
 - Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
 - Sufficient heating fuel. You may become isolated in your home and regular fuel sources may be cut off. Store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
 - Adequate clothing and blankets to keep you warm.
 - Make a Family Communications Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.
 - Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or other local news channels for critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS). Be alert to changing weather conditions.
 - Minimize travel. If travel is necessary, keep a disaster supplies kit in your vehicle.
 - Bring pets/companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.

During Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

- Stay indoors during the storm
- Walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways.

- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack—a major cause of death in the winter. If you must shovel snow, stretch before going outside.

- Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly.

- Watch for signs of frostbite. These include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.

- Watch for signs of hypothermia. These include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. If symptoms of hypothermia are detected, get the victim to a warm location, remove wet clothing, warm the center of the body first and give warm, non-alcoholic beverages if the victim is conscious. Get medical help as soon as possible.

- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. If you must drive: travel in the day; don't travel alone; keep others informed of your schedule; stay on main roads and avoid back road shortcuts.

- Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.

- If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags. Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold (or where the cold was most likely to penetrate).

- Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters to avoid build-up of toxic fumes. Refuel kerosene heaters outside and keep them at least three feet from flammable objects.

- Conserve fuel, if necessary, by keeping your residence cooler than normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.

- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55°F.

After Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

- Go to a designated public shelter if your home loses power or heat during periods of extreme cold. Text SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: shelter 12345).

- Continue to protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia by wearing warm, loose-fitting, lightweight clothing in several layers. Stay indoors, if possible.

Winterize Your Vehicle

Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:

- Antifreeze levels - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.

- Battery and ignition system - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.

- Brakes - check for wear and fluid levels.

- Exhaust system - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.

- Fuel and air filters - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.

- Heater and defroster - ensure they work properly.

- Lights and flashing hazard lights - check for serviceability.

- Oil - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.

- Thermostat - ensure it works properly.

- Windshield wiper equipment - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.

- Install good winter tires - Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.

Update the emergency kits in your vehicles with:

- a shovel
- windshield scraper and small broom
- flashlight
- battery powered radio
- extra batteries
- water
- snack food
- matches
- extra hats, socks and mittens
- first aid kit with pocket knife
- necessary medications
- blanket(s)
- tow chain or rope
- road salt and sand
- booster cables
- emergency flares
- fluorescent distress flag

Winterize Your Home

Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.

- Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.

- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.

- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing. Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.

- All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside and kept clear.

- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.

- Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).

- Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.

- Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of the roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow - or water, if drains on flat roofs do not work.

Know The Terms

Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a winter storm hazard:

Freezing Rain - Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.

Sleet - Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.

Winter Weather Advisory - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.

Winter Storm Watch - A winter storm is possible in your area. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for more information.

Winter Storm Warning - A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

Blizzard Warning - Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

Frost/Freeze Warning - Below freezing temperatures are expected.

Dress for the Weather

- If you must go outside, wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.

- Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves.

- Wear a hat. A hat will prevent loss of body heat.

- Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

Stranded in a Vehicle

- If a blizzard traps you in the car:

- Pull off the highway. Turn on hazard lights and hang a distress flag from the radio antenna or window.

- Remain in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you. Do not set out on foot unless you can see a building close by where you know you can take shelter. Be careful; distances are distorted by blowing snow. A building may seem close, but be too far to walk to in deep snow.

- Run the engine and heater about 10 minutes each hour to keep warm. When the engine is running, open a downwind window slightly for ventilation and periodically clear snow from the exhaust pipe. This will protect you from possible carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Exercise to maintain body heat, but avoid overexertion. In extreme cold, use road maps, seat covers, and floor mats for insulation. Huddle with passengers and use your coat for a blanket.

- Take turns sleeping. One person should be awake at all times to look for rescue crews.

- Eat regularly and drink ample fluids to avoid dehydration, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.

- Be careful not to waste battery power. Balance electrical energy needs - the use of lights, heat, and radio - with supply.

- Turn on the inside light at night so work crews or rescuers can see you.

•If stranded in a remote area, stomp large block letters in an open area spelling out HELP or SOS and line with rocks or tree limbs to attract the attention of rescue personnel who may be surveying the area by airplane.

•Leave the car and proceed on foot - if necessary - once the blizzard passes.

Carbon Monoxide Kills

•Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area. Locate unit away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.

•The primary hazards to avoid when using alternate sources for electricity, heating or cooking are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire.

•Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide.

•If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door.

•Call for help from the fresh air location and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

Recreation Department

Submitted by: Patricia Stephens, Supervisor

Mon., Wed. 8:30 AM -3:30PM

Thursdays 8:30 AM-3:30 PM

Phone: 533-2340

Pat@townofrush.com

WINTER AERIBCS CLASSES

The Town of Rush Recreation Department and Vickie Menz will be offering evening aerobics classes for ages 16 and up. The classes are designed to improve cardiovascular health with fun moves choreographed to music. You can sign up to attend once a week or twice a week. Classes also include floor routines to target your stomach, legs and arms, as well as stretches to improve flexibility. A good exercise mat is essential; a pair of weights (3 or 4 lbs.) is optional. All fitness levels are welcome.

9 week classes

Tuesdays 1/3/12-2/28/12

Thursdays 1/5/12-3/1/12

Cost: Resident 1 day a week \$30.00

Resident 2 days a week \$50.00

Non-Resident 1 day a week \$35.00

Non-Resident 2 days a week \$55.00

Location: Town of Rush Pavilion

6:15PM-7:15PM

Applications can be found on the townofrush.com website.

SENIORS' EXERCISE CLASS

The Rochester Arthritis Foundation and Rush Recreation Department present a winter session

The 8 week program will be on Thursday's; January 5th – February 23rd 2012. The classes will be held at the Rush Pavilion and will be taught by Pat Rose a Certified instructor. The cost per person will be \$45.00 for Rush residents and \$50.00 for non-Rush residents. The cost of this program may be reimbursable through your own health insurance plan! Make sure you bring your bar weights or two cans of soup! Sign up begins now at the Rush Town Hall. Please call Pat Stephens at 533-2340 if you have any questions.

"OPEN TERRA CLASS"



The Town of Rush Recreation Department in cooperation with "Open Terra" will offer a class on making Open Terrariums. "Open Terra" will provide all the tropical flowers, plants, vases and materials. These mini-gardens are

colorful, lively and make great gifts during the indoor months.

- We will work with you step-by-step to make your own mini-arrangement in a vase.

- We will provide all the mini tropical flowers, plants, vases and materials.

The class will be February 22nd from 6-8PM in the Rush Pavilion. Cost will be \$20.00 for Rush residents and \$25.00 for non-Rush residents. You can sign up for the class at the Rush Town Clerk's Office.

RUSH AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM **2011-2012**

The Rush after school program is open for public registration. The program operates after school hours daily until 5:30PM. The children do a range of activities and have outings on a regular basis. Please call the Recreation Supervisor for more information at 533-2340.



SENIOR MENS' BASKETBALL PROGRAM

The Town of Rush Men's Seniors Basketball program for 55 yrs. and older started on November 7th, 2011 and will continue through April 10th, 2012 on Tuesdays at the Monica Leary Elementary School

gym from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM. The program is free. Please contact Dick Wallace at 334-8202 for more information on times and any other questions.

Coming in the Spring!!



There will be a **Cheerleading/Tumbling** class that will be offered in March until May at the Monica Leary School gym. More details in the next newsletter.

and . . .



The **Youth Basketball** program at Leary will also be offered in the Spring. More details about the cost and registration will be in the next newsletter.

TOWN OF RUSH PAVILION: The Town of Rush Pavilion is available for rentals. For Rush residents the cost is \$100.00 a day (\$150.00 non-Rush residents) with a \$100.00 refundable deposit. The cost of renting the fields is \$25.00 for each field. The pavilion has bathrooms, kitchen, stove/oven, microwave, and enough tables and chairs for 100 people. There is also a working wood fireplace and a beautiful playground for children's birthday parties. The Town Board has also approved alcohol use at the pavilion. If there is a date you are looking to rent the pavilion, please call the Recreation Supervisor at 533-2340 for availability. The pavilion and parks permits are available on the townofrush.com website.

Please remember "no news is good news" if you do not hear from the Recreation Department, the programs go on as scheduled. For any questions, please call the Recreation Department at 533-2340.

Highway Department

Submitted by: Mark David

Highway Superintendent

Phone: 533-1770

Hours: Monday - Friday 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

www.townofrush.com

All of us at the Highway Department would like to thank everyone for their patience during this year's construction season. Every project has its difficulties and this year was no exception.

We began with the road closure for a culvert replacement on Honeoye Falls #6 Road, facing one of the wettest springs in recent history. The rain finally came to an end in early June, and we made up for the poor conditions and breached cofferdams in short order, finishing the project ahead of schedule and under Monroe County's projected budget. From there we started numerous other projects simultaneously according to weather conditions, including reconstruction

of a new drainage system, mix paving and final capping and restoration of Aprille Lane. We also surface treated over 12 miles of road, completed asphalt prep work on 3 miles of road and performed other various drainage work and tree trimming. Working with other surrounding towns and Monroe County through shared service projects, we increased the year's anticipated revenues by nearly 15%. A few drainage projects await final topsoil restoration due to wet fall conditions hindering the screening process.

Snow and ice season is now upon us and, unfortunately, poor weather conditions frequently occur at peak drive times, especially the morning drive. We will be out on the roads performing our snow removal duties. Please help us out by just slowing down and driving according to conditions.

I appreciated your support on Election Day and will continue giving my best effort serving all the residents of Rush in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible.

Historian's Office

Submitted by Marjorie A. Kirch

Mondays, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 533-1312

Margie@townofrush.com

At the request of the Editor of the **Rochester Genealogical Society** for an article about Rush, I wrote the following, which was published in the Society's November newsletter. Since I felt it would also be of interest to Rush residents, I am sharing it with you in our newsletter.

Some say that George Washington himself was responsible for our early settlers. He sent soldiers to the east to punish the Indians for their alleged atrocities at Wyoming and Cherry Valley. Upon seeing the fertile land and beauty of the region many soldiers returned to make their homes in the area, and were thus among the first settlers. One of them was Col. William Markham and his brother John, who in 1788 came down the Genesee River and were the first to establish a home in the vast, almost uncharted wilderness we now call Rush.

Rush is believed to have been named for Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, although some have claimed that the town was named for the thick rushes that grew along its waterways. The majority of early settlers and historians seem to agree that Dr. Rush deserves the credit for the name.

Until 1818 our little settlement had been part of Hartford (later called Avon). Hartford began at what is now Rte. 5 & 20 and ended at the present Henrietta Line. On March 18, 1818 the Town of Rush was named and established by the State Legislature and became separate from the Town of Avon. The Town remained in Ontario County

until November 24, 1824 when it became part of Monroe County, with the county seat in Rochester.

The first roads were merely trails made by roving animals and the moccasins of the Indians. In 1805 Col. Markham cut a "wood road" to the Henrietta line. By the mid 1800's there were seven sawmills, two grist mills, a flour mill, a cider mill, and a sugar mill. Many of the mills were powered by the waters of Honeoye Creek. Farming played a major role in the growth and history of Rush. By the year 1880 there were a total of 219 farms in Rush. Today there are very few farmers but still many acres of usable land. To quote Bessie Hallock, who was Town Historian for 30 years, "the day of the farmer in the Town of Rush may well be likened to the passing of the solar day. It has known sunrise, high noon, mid-afternoon, and now the twilight is approaching".

The Price, Stull, Martin and Sherman families were among the early settlers. On July 24, 1900, 75 members of these four families met at the Price homestead held a reunion and began a tradition of holding an annual reunion to celebrate their heritage. There are still a sizable number of their descendants living in Rush today. On October 9, 2011, descendants of these four families held their 110th reunion at the American Legion, in Rush.

Today Rush is the smallest town in Monroe County. It covers 30.7 sq. miles, with a population of approximately 3600. The median income is around \$75,000 a year and the median price of a home is \$194,000. Rush has retained a rural atmosphere while at the same time offering easy access to the metropolitan area because of its proximity to both the NYS Thruway and Route 390. Residents of Rush zealously guard their quiet lifestyle. Someone once told me "the last person to move to Rush, wants to **be the last person** to move to Rush".

The Rush History office is open 5 hours a week; the following are the types of records and documents available to the public.

- Maps of Rush dating back to the early 1800's
- Cemetery Records
- Biography files on Rush residents, farms, homes, businesses
- Early census records
- Photos – New and old of town buildings, barns, bridges, celebrations, cemeteries, churches, clubs, the Rush dam, dedications, disasters, events, farms, parades, parks, roads, schools, veterans etc.
- 1872 Beers Atlas
- Some artifacts representing Rush residents, farms, schools, businesses etc.
- Newspaper clippings regarding marriages, births, deaths, accidents etc.

In my year and a half as Town Historian I have responded to inquiries from people from various parts of the country, via phone calls, personal visits, e-mails and even sometimes at the grocery store. The following are ways I reach out to the residents to enhance their knowledge of what historical information is available through my office and to encourage them to share current information with me:

- Write a column in each Town Newsletter
- Address local groups, clubs, schools etc.
- Coordinate and organize programs with the Rush Library – Each program has been well attended. We have the programs videotaped and copies are maintained in the Library and one in my office and they are available to be loaned to residents upon request
- Meet with the local Senior Group
- Interview & record local residents regarding their lives in Rush, attendance at early schools, stories about their families, events, their homes, military service etc. I then have 2 CDs made. One is given to the interviewee and one is maintained in my office
- Maintain a booth at the Rush Fall Festival with pictures, artifacts and answered questions

The above actions have resulted in an increase in inquiries, people stopping by with questions, residents donating original or copies of family documents and advertisements or artifacts from their businesses.

I see my responsibility as Town Historian, as not only assisting people to uncover information regarding their past, but also to capture the present – because today becomes tomorrow's history.

Happy Holidays - Margie



The Rush Seniors had a great trip to visit the Medina Railroad Museum's amazing model train layout and antique exhibit, followed by a fine trip on a vintage train. After lunch, at the Basket Factory, we had wine tasting at the Spring Lake Winery, a small, family-run establishment. It was a very successful trip. On November 14th, forty one eager-to-win Seniors traveled to the Seneca Allegheny Casino. At the November meeting, Tom Walsh entertained us with story and song. Sign-ups for the annual Holiday Party to be held at Wildwood Country Club on December 8th were completed. The slate of officers for next year was presented and will be voted on at the Christmas Party.

COOKBOOK NEWS! Chris Miller presented the draft copy of the Rush Seniors' Cookbook. It looks wonderful with great sketches and photos of Rush History and, of course yummy recipes. There will be copies on sale before Christmas at the Library and Town Hall. Pre-sale copies may be reserved by contacting Chris at 334-7373. This cookbook will be a treasured gift!

All members and interested Rush Seniors (55 or over) are reminded to pay dues in December for 2012!

Library News

*Submitted by: Kirsten Flass, Director
Mon., Wed., Fri. 1 PM - 8 PM,
Tues., Thurs. 11 AM - 8 PM
Saturdays 10 AM - 2 PM (Sept. - May)
Phone: 533-1370, Fax: 533-1546
www.libraryweb.org/rush*

Dear Neighbors,

Happy Holidays! I'm certain you've been hearing the buzz about e-books, tablets, and e-book devices this year, such as the Nook, the Kindle, or apps for the iPad or smart phones. Maybe you've even had the chance to try one out. Their prices are really dropping, and I expect that some of you will give one as a gift, or perhaps even be on the receiving end of one this month. Did you know that you can borrow popular and classic e-books from your local library for those devices *for free*? We've partnered with a service called Overdrive that allows you to check out e-books for up to 3 weeks, and download them to your device. At the end of the lending period they are checked back in automatically; overdue fines are a thing of the past with e-books. Virtually all works of classic literature are in the public domain, and can also be downloaded free of charge. To get started just go to www.libraryweb.org and click on the "Download" tab. There you'll find tutorials and frequently-asked questions about the devices. Our e-book collection is constantly growing with new titles added each week. And unlike Amazon's "lending" program, you won't have to pay \$80 per year for this service, or be limited to only 12 book loans per year. If you are in need of personalized instruction, feel free to call the library for an appointment.

Wine-Tasting Fundraiser: Friends of the Rush Library are planning their 8th annual "Friends' Night Out" benefit. Join us on **Saturday, March 10th at Magnolia's Restaurant at Wildwood Country Club.** Tickets are \$30 each and are on sale **December 1st** at the library. This year we'll be enjoying music by our local Beatles cover band **Eight Days a Week**; they were last summer's GazeboFest favorites! Proceeds make our summer concert series possible, plus support educational and community programs for all ages. Business sponsorships are available and we are also soliciting products and services to be donated for the Silent Auction (a very popular event of the evening!) We

hope you can join us for a truly wonderful night of delicious food, fine wine, and fun with your friends and neighbors. For more information about sponsorship opportunities or to volunteer at the benefit, please call Heather Iannone, Friends' Chairperson at 359-9914.

Rush Seniors' Cookbook Sale: in support of our beloved Rush Seniors we will be a location for purchasing their new local cookbook. Beginning **December 15th** you can purchase a copy for \$15.00 and enjoy not only favorite recipes provided by Rush residents, but also notable historic photos from our community's history.

Staff Retirement: At the end of December we will be bidding a fond farewell to our wonderful clerk, Pam Harris. She has been employed at the library for 21 years and was a volunteer for many years before that. Pam has weathered the many challenging technological changes to the library during that time, and has always remained steadfast in her commitment to our patrons. She has been a dedicated staff member, and someone you could always rely on for a recommendation of a good British movie, TV series or mystery novel. Enjoy your retirement, Pam!

Holiday Hours: Changes to our operating hours for the holidays are as follows:

Saturday, Dec. 24 through Monday, Dec. 26: closed for Christmas
Sunday, Jan. 1 through Monday, Jan. 2: closed for the New Year

Just a reminder... materials owned by the Rush library are never due on days that we are closed, but if you have borrowed an item from another library branch, it could be due on a day that we are closed if they are open. Please refer to your check-out receipt to confirm when your items are due. You can also check your account and renew some items online at www.libraryweb.org. Items placed in our bookdrop before business hours are always backdated to the last day we were open.

Tax Forms: Federal and New York State tax forms will no longer be mailed to your home, but *will* be available in limited supply at most public libraries beginning in January. You can download NYS forms at <http://www.tax.state.ny.us/> and federal forms at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/>, or stop in and see our library staff members for help. (The normal forms provided by the government are free, but printing out unusual forms at the library will cost you 15¢ per page.)

Looking forward to seeing you...

Kirsten

*Upcoming Events at the Rush Public Library
for December and January
Submitted by Joan Celentano-Children's and
Adult Services*

Note to our patrons: If you sign up for a program, but later realize that you cannot attend, *please call the library to cancel your registration.* Often there are patrons waiting for a space to open up so they can register for a "full" program. Thank you for your consideration.

DECEMBER EVENTS

Rush Readers' Book Club: will be meeting to discuss *The Last Days of Dogtown* by Anita Diamant (author of *The Red Tent*.) Choose either **Thursday, December 1st** or **Thursday, December 8th from 7-9:00pm.** Set in the early 1800's in rural Massachusetts, Ms. Diamant's novel imagines the lives of people who have been left out of history: the poor, widows, spinsters, orphans, and New England Africans. These fascinating folks bring together an entire world of longing, loss, laughter and hope. Join us for coffee and dessert. Space is limited and registration is required.

3rd Annual Cookie Tasting Party will be held on **Monday, December 5th from 6:30pm-8:00pm** in the Rush Town Pavilion. Bring in about 2 dozen or so of your favorite cookies and the same number of copies of the recipe to share. We will provide *live holiday music* with the **Okey Dokies**, plus beverages and a crackling fire! This is a fun way to share some holiday spirit with your friends and neighbors and try some new cookies *you* might want to bake for the holidays.

Unforgettable Horses: Wednesday, December 7th at 7:00pm. Local Rush author, horsewoman and former town historian, Jeanne Yawman will present her new book of short stories, photographs, original sketches, and incidents (which include other Rush residents) from the 1930's until present day. Some of you may know her from Terra Vista Trails, 1970-2009. "Saddle up and come along with me to a simpler time," says Jeanne. Coffee and dessert will be served. This program will appeal to both horse lovers and history buffs! Please register in advance. *Copies of her book will be available for sale, and Jeanne will be happy to sign them.*

8th Annual Gingerbread House Workshop:

Children ages 6 and up are invited to join us for a gingerbread house decorating session which will be held on **Saturday, December 10th from 10:30-noon in the Rush Town Pavilion.** Children are asked to **bring one bag of candy decorations** to share with others. We will supply the rest of the building materials. This is a cute photo opportunity! Space is limited and children must register in advance for this program.



Library Knit Chicks is our knitting & crocheting circle at the library; it's a friendly and supportive group. Due to the holidays in December we will only meet once, on

Sat., Dec. 10th at 10:30 am. Join us for coffee, tea, and crafting inspiration.

American Girl Club: meets on two Tuesdays: **December 13th & 20th from 3:45-4:45pm.** Meet **Rebecca** who lives in 1914. Rebecca's teacher assigns her class to make Christmas decorations, but Rebecca's family is Jewish and doesn't celebrate Christmas. Rebecca does not want to disobey her teacher, or offend her parents. Learn how she comes to understand the real spirit of the season. Space is limited and registration is required.

Bedtime Story Time for Kids for ages 2 and up on **Tuesday, December 13th from 6:45pm-7:30pm.** Children and their families are welcome to come and listen to holiday stories from around the world and snack on cookies and hot cocoa. All children who participate will receive a FREE book courtesy of Kohl's Department Store. Space is limited; please register in advance.

School Break Fun Day for kids ages 6 and up on **Tuesday, December 27th**

1. Movie Matinee: Noon-2:00pm. Jim Carrey stars in Disney's, *A Christmas Carol* (Rated PG) Children may bring their lunch; we will provide drinks. Space is limited and registration is required. Note: Parents who wish to watch the movie with their child must also register for a seat.

2. Wii for Kids: 2:30-4:30 for kids ages 6 and up. **Gaming and Dancing Fun!** Sign up with a friend or two. Snacks will be provided. Space is limited; please register in advance.

Home Alone Safety: When I'm in Charge will be presented by **E.P.I.C. Trainings** on **Thursday, December 29th from 1-3:00pm.** This program is designed to teach children ages 7-14 the importance of behaving responsibly when home alone. Topics include first aid, what to do when a stranger comes to the door, telephone and internet tips, and advice for a variety of emergencies. The fee for this class is **\$18.00** (payable on the day of the program) and includes a Certificate of Completion and a workbook to take home. We require at least 4 participants in order to hold this event and registration is required.

JANUARY EVENTS

Movie Night for Adults: Thursday, January 5th at 7:00pm. We'll have a screening of *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* (Rated PG-13) based on the best-selling novel and Rush Readers' Book Club selection. Refreshments will be served. Space is limited and registration is required.

Get Your Soup On! Do you make a great soup that you'd like to share? Here's your chance. Join us on **Wednesday, January 11th at 5:30pm** in the **Rush Town Pavilion** with a crock-pot or pot full of your favorite soup. The Friends of the Library will provide the bread, drinks, tableware & a cozy fire. Please register in advance for this program so we know how many people to expect, and bring at least **20 copies of your recipe** to share with participants. *If you came last year, you know*

how much fun this was, and if not, then plan to attend this year- it's a marvelous community event!

Babysitter's Training will be presented by E.P.I.C. Trainings on **Saturday, January 14th from 10am-2:00pm**. This course is for children **ages 11-16** and teaches the roles and responsibilities of the babysitter, how to prevent accidents, and how to handle emergencies. Students are encouraged to bring a bagged lunch and refrigeration is available. We require at least 4 participants to hold this event, so invite a friend! The cost of this program is \$42.00 and payable the day of the program.

Library Knit Chicks will resume meeting twice per month to stitch up some fun! Join us on two **Saturdays: Jan. 14th (in the Town Pavilion) and Jan. 28th (in the library meeting room) at 10:30 am**. Coffee, tea, and craftiness are in store when you attend.

Lego Club: is a *new* program for **boys ages 6-10** being held on two **Tuesdays: January 17th and 24th from 3:45-4:30pm**. Children (and parents- if they want to play alongside their child) will listen to a story and then create a Lego model based on the theme of the book if they wish. Space is limited; please sign up in advance. Note to kids: please leave your own Legos at home; we have plenty and wouldn't want yours to get mixed in with ours. *Thank you to our Lego donors who have helped us amass a terrific collection!*

Gentle Decluttering Class will be held on **Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00pm**. Are you ready to let go? If your home makes you feel sad, if you aren't living the life you want, it's time to let go of all the STUFF. Former "clutterbug" Diane Zielinski will show you how to make your home happy again in this informative and fun session. Please register in advance for this class.

Friends of the Rush Library will meet on **Wednesday, January 18th at 6:30 pm**. We'll be discussing the Wine Tasting jobs plus planning other fun events to benefit the library. New members are always welcome, and the time commitment is minimal.

Pre-School Story Time will resume on **Thursdays, beginning January 19th from 11:30am-Noon**. This program is for children **ages 3-5**, and includes, stories, music, simple games and crafts. Children must be able to sit by themselves in a group with their peers. Space is limited and registration is required. (Dates are: Jan. 19th 26th. Feb. 2nd, 9th 16th, March 1st, 8th 15th, 22nd and 29th) Please plan on attending on a regular basis so your child can get the most out of the sessions.

Crafter's Corner for Adults will be held on **Thursday, January 19th at 7:00pm**. This month we will be hand-crafting Valentine greeting cards and sending them to our Troops wherever needed. Come and join us for this fun and worthwhile event. No prior crafting experience is necessary. Call the library to register.



Family Bingo will be held on **Monday, January 23rd** in the Rush Town Pavilion from **7-8:00pm**. This is a fun, free community event for all ages, sponsored by the Friends of the Rush Library.

Rush Reader's Book Club: January's choice is **Lake of Dreams** by Kim Edwards. "Set in the beautiful Finger Lakes area, this novel is the story of Lucy Jarrett and her discovery of a hidden past, glimpsed first through fragments of old letters and traces left in stained glass windows. With surprises at every turn, this is a saga in which every element emerges as a carefully placed piece of the puzzle." Join us on **Thursday, January 26th or Thursday, February 2nd** for coffee, dessert and stimulating conversation. Space is limited; please register for a seat.

A Reading Power Play will be held **Tuesday, January 31st at 6:30pm**. Everyone is invited to the library to **meet an Amerks Hockey Player and the Moose!** Listen to a story read by a player; see an equipment demonstration, have an autograph session, and enter to win Amerks merchandise. Each participant will receive a gift. **The Amerks would like at least 15 registrants, so invite a friend to attend with you!** Please register in advance.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY:

CRAFTER'S CORNER FOR ADULTS: **Tuesday, February 9th at 7pm**. We will be making a Vintage Box Luminary for Valentine's Day. A sample of this craft will be available in the Library. Space is limited and registration is required.

Rochester Folklore Program: Calling all history enthusiasts: local author Michael Keene will be here to share musings about his book, **Folklore and Legends of Rochester: The Mystery of HooDoo Corner and Other Tales** on **Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00pm**.

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Election Week Book Sale. Best wishes for your Holidays and have a wonderful New Year!

From the Rush Library Staff

Rush Fire District Fire Department & Rush Ambulance

*Submitted by: Robert Faugh, Fire Commissioner
Phone: 533-2058, www.rushfd.org*

COMMISSIONERS ELECTION: The annual Rush Fire District Commissioners election will be held on December 13, 2010 from 6 to 9 PM at the main Rush Fire Station. Bob Faugh is completing his term as commissioner and is on the ballot for 2012. This election is open to all registered voters in Rush.

FIRE DISTRICT ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING: Check Rush FD.org home page for time and date.

FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING: Our budget is \$327,000 for 2012. Your tax rate remains \$1.10 per thousand. We also were under the new State mandated 2% cap on any tax increases, and we complied. Major

projects for 2011 came from reserve funds. They were new overhead doors at station one. Repairs to the meeting, kitchen and small meeting room floors at station one. New brighter lights for the rear of station one. New floors in the office and bathroom at the West Rush station. Fire Commissioner Faugh painted the ceilings and walls in those rooms at West Rush and also the back outside wall of station one. Bob Kuhls, the District Treasurer, and two commissioners also removed the large bushes that were on the west side of station one. These efforts by them saved the taxpayers some money.

ANNUAL INSPECTION DINNER: It was held at the Riverton golf facility. 30 members attended. This dinner is authorized by state law for the active firefighters of the fire district. Commissioner Mike (Pee wee) Terzo coordinated the affair.

It's time to put those plastic hydrant markers back. They could save your life and property! It is dark along our roads – please wear some reflective clothing when jogging or walking and also carry some identification.

It is the time of year for “**Black Ice**” and we have many bridges and areas in town where there are several crashes every year. On days where we could have this ice problem leave early and slow down.

MONROE COUNTY JOINT FIRE SERVICE AWARDS: On October 6th the Rush FD, Honeoye Fall FD, Mendon/HF and Henrietta Ambulance received a unit commendation for members who were involved in vehicle extrication in Mendon this past winter. A woman was trapped between a car and a 15 ton truck down the bank up next to a tree. Because of their quick response, efficient size up and detailed and rapid extrication, the people involved were awarded this **Unit Commendation Award**.

David Simpson of Fishell Road received the "**Good Neighbor Distinguished Service**" award after being nominated by the Rush Fire Department. Dave rescued a teen female from the front seat of her burning car after it crashed into a tree on East River Road this spring. He also moved an ejected male teen from the area of the car before it exploded in flames. Monroe County Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn presented Dave their "Civilian Service" award for his heroic efforts earlier this year.

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE: The annual fund drive second request went out November 14th. We sent out over 500 letters to people who our records show did not respond in May. We realize the some give through the United Way but we have not been notified of all their names yet. We also understand that the economy is still not good for many of our residents and they have to watch every penny. We have just purchased a new ambulance which will be donated to the Rush Fire District. These vehicle

donations from the Rush Fire Department Inc. save you, the taxpayer, a lot of money.

NEW AMBULANCE: The Rush Fire Department members have voted to buy a new ambulance. We can save \$2,500 by going in with Henrietta Ambulance to buy ambulances together. The cost will be \$130,000. We have these funds in a replacement account and as was reported earlier, the fund drive money from this year will complete the amount needed. It will have a V-10 gas engine and be a bit smaller and closer to the ground than our present unit. We expect a much smoother ride from this vehicle. We also expect to get a minimum of \$17,000 for our 7 year old rig. We could get as much as \$30,000.

PLEASE: When you see ANY COLOR (amber, Blue, Red or Clear) flashing emergency lights on vehicles up ahead slow down and watch for direction from the fire police, sheriffs or troopers. **YOU MUST CHANGE TO THE LEFT LANE** if safe to do so on any highway with two or more lanes in one direction, and slow down when you approach any emergency vehicle with flashing lights on.

LADIES AUXILIARY

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Rush Fire Department held their Annual Election Day Ham Dinner on Tuesday, November 8th. Thank you to all who attended and who helped make this dinner a success. Proceeds help to fund the Scholarship given to a Rush student entering college.

SANTA IS COMING TO RUSH



The Children's Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 9th at 6:45 pm at the Rush Firehouse, 1971 Rush-Mendon Rd. Come and enjoy refreshments, gifts and a special visit from Santa.

New Members: Please contact Joan Madigan at 229-4168 or email her at

jmadigan@aol.com, or visit our website at www.rushfd.org/ladiesaux.htm.

Lost and Found

The following items were left and/or found on Town Hall property/grounds:

Two Sets of Car Keys, A single key, A bracelet, An earring, Blue/Gray/Black Baseball Glove, Kodak Battery Charger w/Kodak batteries

If you think one of these items may be yours, please stop by the Town Clerk's Office and see one of the Town Clerk's.

**RUSH TOWN HALL
5977 EAST HENRIETTA ROAD
RUSH, NEW YORK 14543**

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID ROCHESTER, NY PERMIT NO.3



December, 2011 Calendar

<i>Conservation Board</i> <i>Court</i> <i>Library Board of Trustees</i> <i>Zoning Board of Appeals</i> <i>Seniors Lunch</i> <i>Planning Board</i> <i>Board of Fire Commissioners</i> <i>Town Board</i>	7:30 PM 5 PM 7:15 PM 7:00 PM 12 noon @ Rush Firehouse 7:30 PM 7:00 PM @ Rush Firehouse 7:00 PM	<i>Thursday - 1st</i> <i>Mondays - 5th, 12th and 19th</i> <i>Tuesday - 6th</i> <i>Thursday - 8th</i> <i>Thursday - 8th</i> <i>Tuesday - 20th</i> <i>Tuesday - 20th</i> <i>Wednesdays - 14th and 28th</i>
Christmas Eve	Library Closed	<i>Saturday - 24th</i>
Christmas	Town Hall/Town Court and Library Closed	<i>Monday - 26th</i>
New Year's Eve	Library Closing at 5:00 p.m.	<i>Saturday - 31st</i>



January, 2012 Calendar

<i>Conservation Board</i> <i>Court</i> <i>Library Board of Trustees</i> <i>Zoning Board of Appeal</i> <i>Seniors Lunch</i> <i>Planning Board</i> <i>Board of Fire Commissioners</i> <i>Town Board</i>	7:30 PM 5 PM 7:15 PM 7:00 PM 12 noon @ Firehouse 7:30 PM 7:00 PM @ Rush Firehouse 7:00 PM	<i>Thursday - 5th</i> <i>Mondays - 9th, 23rd and 30th</i> <i>Tuesdays - 3rd</i> <i>Thursday - 12th</i> <i>Thursday - 12th</i> <i>Tuesday - 17th</i> <i>Tuesday - 17th</i> <i>Wednesdays - 11th and 25th</i>
New Year's Day	Town Hall, Court, Library Closed	<i>Monday, 2nd</i>

For legal notices and meeting agendas, refer to The Henrietta Post, The Sentinel, and our website at www.townofrush.com or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 533-1312.