

RUSH TOWN NEWS

Volume 14, Bi-Monthly Issue No. 6

December 2009/January 2010

www.TownofRush.com

Dear Residents:

This issue of the Newsletter is filled with information about the many projects going on in our Town. We hope that you will enjoy the articles and we also want to take this opportunity to wish you a very safe and Happy Holiday season.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Over the last couple of months, many residents have commented on how nice the flowers look at the Rush Town Hall and also in other areas, for instance, at the Town of Rush signs that welcome people to our Town. We have also had comments on how nice the fall decorations look, in particular, the scarecrows and fall mums.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two of our employees who have worked very hard to keep our Town Hall looking beautiful over the last several years.



DONALD BOCK

First, I would like to thank our Gardener, Donald Bock, who you may have seen digging in our many flower beds, watering and weeding, planting flowers and bulbs year after year. Don has been and continues to be a great asset to our staff and to our community. Pictured here, Don is only sitting

because he was asked to pose for a picture, normally he would be hard at work beautifying and making everything look fabulous, as always.



RICHARD SCHNEIDER

Second, I would like to thank Richard Schneider (Dick) for all of his hard work and loyalty to the Town. Dick is on call for any problems that may occur at the town, from water leaks to heating and cooling problems, he is even called in to remove a spider from time to time !

Dick is here very early every morning to open up the building and keep it clean. He is also the person who picks up lost dogs and takes great care to see that their owners are located.

Dick and Don work together on many occasions, sometimes with the gardening, sometimes shoveling the snow from the walks around the Town Hall. Both Dick and Don have volunteered their time for many years helping the Rush Seniors and helping set up the Rush Fall Festival, moving tables, chairs, equipment, whatever is needed, they are there to help.

Thank you Don and Dick for all the jobs you do for the Town. Your efforts are appreciated by all.

OPERATING BUDGET

The 2010 Operating Budget was approved at the Town Board meeting of October 28th. The total tax rate per \$1,000 of Taxable Assessed Valuation (TAV) will be \$4.39 per \$1,000 of TAV. Our current total tax rate is \$4.40 per \$1,000 of TAV. The total tax rate is made up of the Operating Budget, which will be \$3.90, and the Revitalization and Building Debt Service of \$0.49. Comparing 2009, the Operating Budget is increasing from \$3.87 to \$3.90 per \$1,000 of TAV, while the Revitalization and Building Debt Service is decreasing from \$0.53 to \$0.49 per \$1,000 of TAV. The total TAV is increasing from \$266,001.508 to \$278,394,441, an increase of 4.66%.

Some of our major costs for operation, such as energy and health care, continue to increase. We continually look for ways to reduce our consumption of energy without sacrificing services we provide. No wage adjustment is planned for Town employees in 2010. For details of our 2010 Operating Budget, please see pages 13, 14 and 15 of this Newsletter.

Over the past 9 years, the Operating Budget has gone from \$3.20 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed valuation in 2001 to \$3.90 in 2010. This is an increase of \$0.70 per \$1,000 of TAV, which averages to \$.08 per year. Since 2001, we have gradually reduced the amount of fund balances carried from year to year, which has allowed us to maintain a relatively stable tax rate. We currently carry 15% to 20% of appropriations from year to year 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.

As you know, the residential growth rate in the Town is very small. We believe most residents prefer the rural character of Rush, however, the price we pay is a relatively stable Taxable Assessed Value for the Town. This, coupled with decreasing revenue from sales tax and increasing costs (i.e., health care, utility costs, etc.), makes our job more challenging to keep the tax rate stable. Be assured that we will continue to be conservative when it comes to spending tax payers' money. We welcome the opportunity to discuss suggestions you may have to improve the costs of operation.

TOWN PARK PROJECT

The restroom portion of the pavilion is nearing completion. The Town Board has budgeted funds for 2010 to complete the building. This work will commence in early spring. All of the newly added facilities (ball field, soccer field, pavilion) will be useable in the summer of 2010.

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD)

At the Town Board meeting on October 28, 2009, the Board voted to table any further action on PUD until the Comprehensive Plan is updated. The Planning Board is currently reviewing a proposal from the Engineer for the Town for updating the Comprehensive Plan which expires on 2010.

FORMER RUSH MARKET PROPERTY

Underground tanks, gas pumps and contaminated soil have been removed from the site. The owner and architect are planning to present a Site Plan to the Planning Board at the January 2010 meeting. New gas tanks and pumps will be installed after Site Plan approval. Perhaps by the time the next Newsletter is issued, we may be able to advise you of the opening date for the market.

THANK YOU TO THE RUSH LIONS CLUB

The Town would like to thank the members of the **Rush Lions Club** for installing the beautiful seasonal banners on the utility poles throughout our town each year, just **one** of the many great things that they do for our community.

Sincerely, *William R. Udicious*

William R. Udicious



Town Clerk's Office
Submitted by Pamela Bucci, Town Clerk
Mon.- Fri. 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Thurs. until 6 PM
Phone: 533-1312
Pam@townofrush.com

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW POSITION

The Town Board is seeking residents who are interested in serving on the Board of Assessment Review. Please submit letters of interest to Pamela Bucci, Rush Town Clerk. For further information, please contact the Town Clerk's Office.

2010 TOWN & COUNTY TAXES

PART-TIME ASSESSOR'S CLERK: 15 hours/week

This position requires strong administrative, communication and record keeping skills. Knowledge of real property assessment is helpful. Associates degree or 2 years experience required. Applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to Pamela Bucci, Rush Town Clerk. For further information, please call the Town Clerk's Office.

AGENDAS, PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES, APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

Meeting agendas and public hearing information are always available before a scheduled event and can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office or viewed on our website at www.townofrush.com. Legal notices continue to be published in the Rush-Henrietta Post and The Sentinel.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF RUSH

The Organizational Meeting for 2010 will be held on January 4, 2010, at 7 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Residents are welcome to attend all public meetings throughout the year.



RUSH DIRECTORY

Many residents have asked for an updated Rush Business and Information Directory. The Town Clerk's Office and Library are collaborating on a project to update it. Please check the Library section of this newsletter for more information.

Town and County tax bills will be mailed the week of December 28th. If you have not received a tax bill by January 15th, and do not have an escrow account, please call the Town Clerk's Office for a duplicate bill.

In order to help taxpayers who find it difficult to meet their financial obligations in this economy, legislation was signed into law on August 11, 2009. **It provides taxpayers an opportunity to pay town and county taxes in four payments rather than three. Full and installment options will still be available. Detailed payment instructions will be included with your bill.**

Unlike school taxes, all partial, installment and full payments are made directly to Pamela J. Bucci, Collector, 5977 East Henrietta Road, Rush, New York 14543 until May 31, 2010.

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

The Town offices will be closed on Friday, December 25th for Christmas and Friday, January 1st, New Year's Day.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE CLOSED

The Town Clerk's Office will be closed on Friday, December 11th for a Monroe County Town Clerks and Tax Receivers training session.

Assessor's Office



Submitted by: Dan Stanford, Assessor
Mon. & Fri. 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
dan@townofrush.com or
Assessor's Clerk
Mon. - Thurs. 8:45 AM - 12:30 PM

I would like to give everyone some great websites that should help with understanding the assessment process.

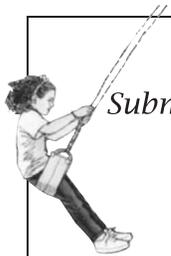
First, the State of New York's website has many links from its' Office of Real Property Services. The website is www.orps.state.ny.us. Here you can find exemption forms and help with the assessment cycle.

The next web site, which has a lot of great help, is the American Homeowner's Association website.

They have a download called Property Tax Reduction Kit and it is free at the present time. The website address is <https://www.ahahome.com>.

Please remember that if you are receiving an exemption for Agricultural Land, Star Enhanced or Low Income Senior...**YOU MUST** renew them before March 1st 2010. The assessor's office sends out a renewal form; however it is your responsibility to make sure the exemption is renewed.

Should you have any questions or concerns with assessments, please call me.



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

Men's Senior Basketball

The Men's Seniors Basketball program (55 and older) meets at the Monica Leary School gym on Thursdays from 7:30PM to 9:00PM. Please call Dick Wallace at 334-8202 for more information.

Town of Rush Badminton Camp

The Rush Recreation Department and Mr. George Yu (a Rush resident) have joined together to offer a Badminton Camp at the Monica Leary gym on Tuesdays from 1/19/10-3/2/10. The camp will run from 6:00PM-7:30PM on those days. (There will be no camp February 16th). The camp is designed for children ages 7-12. Mr. Yu is a RIT Badminton instructor and taught children how to play badminton at the Rush Summer Camp. The cost of the camp is \$50.00 for Rush residents and \$55.00 for non-residents. Sign up for the badminton camp begins December 1st. Come and learn more about this growing affordable family sport. To acquire an application for the camp you can go to townofrush.com and download the application.

Town of Rush Volleyball Camp

The Rush Recreation Department is joining with the Rush Henrietta School District Volleyball Coach Lindsey Williams to offer volleyball camps for younger children ages 7-12 years old at the Monica Leary School on Thursdays from 6:00PM-7:30PM. The camp will be from 1/19/10-3/4/10 (There will be

no camp on February 18th). The cost of the camp is \$60.00 for Rush residents and \$65.00 for non-Rush residents. To acquire an application for this camp, you can also download this application at townofrush.com.



Skating Classes and Free skate times!

ESL Sports Center and the Town of Rush Recreation Department have joined together to offer affordable skating classes to the Town of Rush residents. In addition, ESL will be offering FREE skate times to **RUSH RESIDENTS ONLY**. Please see classes and free skate times below. You can sign up for these classes at the Rush Town Hall or go to townofrush.com under Recreation and download an application to send in by mail. If you have any questions, please call Patricia at 533-2340.

Skating – Adult

Adult Basic Skills Skating Class

A skating class designed for adults (other specialty classes will be held through programs at ESL during this time also). Classes cover a wide range of skating skills from basic forward and backward moves to more advanced elements and maneuvers. Skaters will be divided into groups based on their ability levels for 25 minute group lessons with 25 minutes of additional practice time. Adult Basic Skills is a nationally recognized program accredited by the USFSA. This Session will be held Fridays beginning 4/30/10 – 6/11/10, seven weeks, from 6:25 p.m., to 7:15 p.m. Ages 15 and up. \$100.

Skating – Youth & Teen

Basic Skills Skating Class

A skating class designed for skaters 3 years old – Adult. Classes cover a wide range of skating skills from basic forward and backward moves to more advanced elements and maneuvers. Skaters will be divided into groups based on their ages and ability levels for 25 minute group lessons with 50 minutes of additional practice time. Basic Skills is a nationally recognized program accredited by the USFSA. Session 1: Presidents Clinic Tuesday-Friday, 2/16/10-2/19/10, 4 days, 1:00 p.m., to 2:20 p.m. Ages 3 and up, \$70. Session 2: Saturdays 3/6/10-4/17/10, 7 weeks, 11:20 a.m., to 12:35 p.m., ages 3 and up \$100.

Skating – Parent & Tots

Parents & Tots Skating Class

A skating class designed for skaters 3-6 years of age (& their parents) with little or no skating experience. Skaters will learn basic balance skills in a fun, introductory class that follows the

curriculum of the United States Figure Skating Association. Parents are also welcome to take a class during this time. Although the parents and tots will have different instruction, they will be able to share the ice and the fun together. Group lessons are 20 minutes in length with 40 minutes of additional practice time. Wednesdays 1/6/10 – 2/10/10, 6 weeks, 1:00 p.m., to 2:00 p.m., ages 3-6 years \$75 for child or adult (with no child), \$50.00 for parent when registering with child. If both are attending, total cost \$125.

Figure skates and hockey skates (limited amount) are available to rent for an additional \$3 per class for all classes listed above.

Free Skate Times for
RUSH RESIDENTS ONLY
(ESL has Master Resident List)

- 1/2 - 12:45-1:45pm
- 1/9 - 12:45-1:45pm
- 1/23 - 2:15-3:15pm
- 1/30 - 12:45-1:45pm
- 2/6 - 12:45-1:45pm
- 2/20 - 2:00-3:00pm
- 2/27 - 12:45-1:45pm
- 3/6 - 12:45-1:45pm
- 3/13 - 12:45-1:45pm
- 3/20 - 12:45-1:45pm
- 3/27 - 12:45-1:45pm

Rush After School Program: There is availability in the Rush after school program. If you would like more information, please call 533-2340 for more information.

Looking Ahead to Spring: In the spring there will be Flag Football and Basketball camps offered. Please look in the upcoming newsletters for more information. 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.

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,

As I write this newsletter in November, I'd like to take a moment to express my thankfulness for all of

our patrons, staff, volunteers and board members who make our little library a vital and engaging part of the Rush community. We continue to hear that household budget cuts have made the library more important to residents than ever, and we are glad to have been a resource this year for many displaced workers looking for new employment, as well as families looking for low-cost entertainment options. Budget cuts are also forcing us to be creative in our book-buying and program offerings, and so we are thankful to those of you who help us with our fundraisers. We look forward to continuing to meet your learning and information needs in 2010!



The **Central Library** of Rochester unveiled a new **“Freedom Calls Center”** on Monday November 9th. “Freedom Calls” provides free videoconferencing calls for local families and friends of military personnel serving at

selected camps in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. This center has been set up on the lower level of Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building, and is equipped with a 52” flat screen monitor, computer, and a web camera which families and friends can use to communicate with their loved ones serving their country. This service is provided free of charge by the **Freedom Calls Foundation**, a non-profit organization working to connect families and friends to soldiers at no cost. The equipment necessary to operate this Freedom Calls Center has been generously provided by the **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20**. For further information, call Deborah Nevin at 428-8304 to request a flyer or to schedule an appointment to make a call.

The Friends of the Rush Library are having their **6th Annual Wine Tasting Benefit** on **Saturday, February 6th, 2010, from 7-9:30** at the Rabbit Room in Honeoye Falls. Enjoy a tasteful evening with wines provided by our newest sponsor, *Erie Station Fine Wines & Liquor*, in a sophisticated atmosphere of fine art in the historic Mill Gallery. Tickets will be \$25 per person, \$50 per couple and will go **on sale December 1st** at the library. Tickets to this event make a unique holiday gift! There is still time to sign on as a **business sponsor** for this benefit. If you are a local business owner who is interested in supporting the Rush Library, you are encouraged to contact Friends’ chairperson, Heather Iannone (359-9914), to discuss

sponsorship options. We **are also soliciting products and services to be donated to the Silent Auction** (such as a cottage you'd donate for a weekend, or a unique talent you may have like taking family portraits, baking special holiday treats, etc.) *We'd love to have you share in our success!*

Nativity Scene Collections: During November and December I encourage you to stop in and see the lovely nativity scenes on loan from local residents, Louise Harris and Peg Franklin. Their displays come from all over the world and represent many years of passionate collecting.

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

- Dec. 24:** closed
- Dec. 25:** closed
- Dec. 31:** closing early at 5:00 pm
- Jan. 1:** closed

Due Date Reminder: Items collected from our book-drop when we open for the day are always "back dated" to the previous day we were open, and *materials are never due on days that we are scheduled to be closed.* **Please keep your charge slips to check your due dates.** Once an item has exceeded its renewal limit, our policy states that it must be returned to the shelves of the owning library; this gives other patrons an opportunity to browse and find it on the shelf. **You can check your library account and renew some items online (www.libraryweb.org)** or you can call us if you have questions regarding your account, your due dates, or to renew items. **We are always happy to help!**

Tax Forms: Federal and New York State tax forms will be available in limited supply at most public libraries beginning in January, or 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.)

Computer Installation: The library will be leasing new computers as part of our 3-year technology plan. The installation date has not yet been finalized, but it will most likely mean one day in December or January without internet access for our patrons. The wireless hotspot will remain

unaffected. You will be able to check out materials, and we'll try to maintain business as usual that day. If you like, you may call ahead of your visit to the library to check on computer status in case we encounter difficulties during the set-up. As soon as we know the date of installation, we'll post it on the website and on signs in the library.

Rush Directory: The Library and the Town Clerk's Office are collaborating on a project to update the local Rush Directory booklet. If you are new to Rush, or need to update your listing from the green 2005-2007 directory, please email me (kflask@libraryweb.org) or Pam Bucci, Town Clerk (pam@townofrush.org) or fill out the form below and mail it to the Town Clerk, or drop it off the next time you stop in at the library. Local business owners may place an ad to promote their business and to help offset the cost of the directory to residents. Ad placement may be purchased at the Clerk's Office during business hours. **The deadline for changes to your listing or to place an ad is Friday, January 29th.** Thanks for your help with this project!

Rush Directory Update

Last Name: _____

First Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Looking forward to seeing you,

Kirsten

*Upcoming Events at the Rush Public Library
for October and November, 2009
Submitted by Joan Celentano-Children's and
Adult Services and by
Trish Vanable, Teen Services*

DECEMBER EVENTS

Growing Readers with Mrs. Root: Our new drop-in story time will continue on Tuesdays for preschoolers on **Dec. 1st & 8th**, as well as **Jan. 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th** at **1:00 pm**. Mrs. Root is a

retired elementary school teacher with years of experience with children, and she would love to share stories with you and your child. This is a delightful way to prepare your child for kindergarten! No registration is necessary, just drop by for fun!



Movie Matinee for Children on **Tuesday, December 1st at 2:00 pm: *Santa Buddies* (Rated G.)**

“The irresistible puppies are back & taking a journey to the magical world of the North Pole in this

wacky twist on a Christmas classic.” Space is limited; call the library to register. Parents who wish to remain with their child in the movie must register for a seat.

Friends of the Rush Library will meet on **Wednesday, December 2nd at 7:00 pm.** We’ll be discussing the Wine-Tasting Benefit and other fundraising and advocacy efforts. New members are always welcome!

6th Annual Gingerbread House Workshop!

Children ages 6 and up are invited to join us for our annual gingerbread house decorating program which will be held **twice** on **Saturday, December 5th. Choose one session: 10:30-11:30 or Noon-1:00 pm.** Choose the time that works best for your family. 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.

Holiday Stories with Shella: **Tuesday, December 8th from 7-8:00 pm.** Local author and illustrator Shella Shubuck will read to young children (ages 2-8) and their families from her latest book ***A Home for Peter*** (about a stray cat at Stokoe Farms in Scottsville) plus ***Christmas for Isaiah***, as well as other delightful stories. Cookies and cocoa will be served. Please register in advance for this program.

Knit Chicks: Our knitting group is having so much fun we’ve decided to meet bi-monthly! We’ll now be meeting on **the 2nd and the last Saturdays** of the month **from 10:00-noon** in the library meeting room. We’ll meet on **Dec. 12th & 26th**, and on **Jan. 9th & 30th**. Bring any project that you’re currently working on; we’ll supply the coffee and tea. New members are welcome!

Game Day for Middle-Schoolers! **Saturday December 12th, 12:00-2:00.** FLUXX - This game is different every time! Will the goal be Death by Chocolate, Collect All The Money, or Get to The Moon?? To win, you might trade hands, bribe other players, or just change the rules. We’ll have pizza

donated by *BBQ & Pizza Too*, pop, and a prize for the winner! **For 6th to 8th graders.** Invite a friend & call to register in advance.

Homespun Holidays- A new program for boys and girls **ages 6-10** will be held on **Tuesday, December 15th from 3:30-4:30pm.** Come and listen to two wonderful stories (one that takes place in the 1930’s during the Depression) and another from the 1940’s (about a mother who went to work in a factory while their father is away fighting in WWII.) Find out how people had to make do with what they had. We will be listening to some holiday music from the 1940s and making a snowman ornament. Space is limited and registration is required.

Movie Matinee for Kids for ages 5 and up on **Tuesday, December 29th from Noon-2:00pm.**

Join us for *Disney-Pixar’s UP* (Rated G). “A retired balloon salesman and an 8-year-old wilderness explorer stick together in the wilds of the jungle, and meet some fantastic friends!” Space is limited and registration is required. Popcorn and sodas will be available. Parents who wish to remain with their child must also register for a seat.

Needle Felting Class for Beginners for **youth in Grades 6 and up** will be held on **Wednesday, December 30th from 2:00-3:30.** Young adults will learn the technique of needle felting with combed wool roving, and will be able to make a colorful flower pin. All supplies will be provided and a sample will be on display in the library in December. Space & supplies are limited and registration is required for this class.

Wii for Middle-Schoolers! **Thursday, December 31st, 1:00 – 3:00 pm.** Mario Super Smash Brothers! We’ll provide snacks and soda. Invite a friend & call to register. **For 6th to 8th graders.**

Wii for Middle-Schoolers! **Thursday, December 31st, 1:00 – 3:00 pm.** Mario Super Smash Brothers! We’ll provide snacks and soda. Invite a friend & call to register. **For 6th to 8th graders.**

(Note from Joan: “I am hoping to acquire some toy percussion instruments- tambourines, maracas, shakers, rhythm sticks etc.- for programs geared toward our littlest patrons. If you find that your children have outgrown these items, I would be happy for your donation! We can give you a receipt for your taxes. Thank you!”)

JANUARY EVENTS

First in a series of Self-Awareness Workshops:
Stress Reduction: The holidays will be over, but stress may linger. Join local expert **Barbara Bruce** on **Tuesday, January 7th at 7:00 pm** for this interactive presentation on the various aspects of stress. Learn strategies to deal with those things that cause stress, and have fun too - there may

even be a little dark chocolate! Space is limited and registration is required.

Toddler Story Time: children ages 2 & 3 are welcome to join us for weekly story time beginning on **Thursday, January 7th from 11:30-Noon** (also January 14th, 21st and 28th)



Children will be listening to simple stories, learning finger-plays, and moving and grooving to some fun music. Parents will remain with their child during story time, and we encourage their participation in all activities. Space is limited and registration is required.

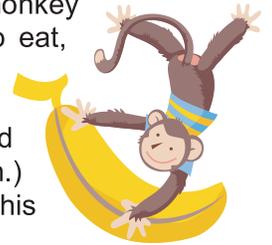
Knitting for Adults: Knitting From the Top: Trish says there are lots of great reasons to knit a sweater from the top! (1. You do all the hard knitting at the start. 2. You can knit until you run out of yarn. 3. You don't need a pattern. 4. It's all knit in the round--no purling!) Let her show you how! In this class, bring the yarn of your choice to knit a pullover. This class is for people who can already knit, purl, and increase & decrease. You can choose any yarn, any gauge you like! The class will be held from 10:30 - 1:00 on the following 4 Saturdays: **January 9th, 30th, February 13th, and 27th.**

Game Days for Kids! This is a **NEW** program for **boys and girls** ages 8 through 12 beginning on **Tuesday, January 12th** and also **January 19th** and **26th** from **3:45-4:30pm** The Hasbro Company has donated some new games to our library- they believe that "games and libraries bring people together, help us learn and grow, educate us and make us laugh". We agree, and will be playing **Monopoly Deal, Scrabble Slam! And Pictureka!** – these are card games that can be played in 20 minutes or less. An after school snack will be provided. Space is limited and registration is required.

Crafter's Corner for Adults will be held on **Tuesday, January 12th at 6:30 pm**. Come learn how to **needle felt** with combed wool roving, and make a gorgeous flower pin to brighten your winter coat! Warning--this craft is addictive! All supplies will be provided, and a sample will be on display in December. Space & supplies are limited, and registration is required.

Rochester Trivia Contest: So you've lived here all of your life and know all there is to know about the Flour--or is it Flower--City? Come and test your wits with your neighbors on **Thursday, January 14th from 7-8:00 pm**. Prizes will be awarded! If you love Jeopardy, you won't want to miss this fun event! Space is limited and registration is required.

Get Wild about Reading--Peel Open a Good Book! Children in grades K-2 are invited to join us on **Saturday, January 16th at 11:00 am** as we celebrate PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) with Leary Elementary School. Children will listen to stories about that crazy monkey Curious George, have a treat to eat, **and** enter their name to become eligible to win Curious George prizes. (Winners will be notified by phone after the program.) Please register in advance for this program.



Rock Band for Middle-Schoolers! **Saturday, January 16th, 12:00- 2:00.** Rock Band Full Game! Come and rock out with your friends **in 6th- 8th grade.** *Pizza will be provided by BBQ and Pizza too!* Please call to register in advance.

Book Buddies Week beginning **Monday, January 18th through Saturday, January 23rd.** Kohl's Department Store has been very generous to the library by donating a wonderful assortment of plush toys. When young friends come in to check out any **book** during this week, they will receive a stuffed animal (book buddy) of their choice. **Limit of one per child while supplies last.**

Friends of the Rush Library will meet on **Monday, January 18th at 7:00 pm**. We'll be finalizing the Wine-Tasting jobs plus planning other fun events to benefit the library! New members are always welcome.

Second in a series of Self-Awareness Workshops: **New American Plate** - **Tuesday, January, 19th at 7:00 pm**. The New American Plate emphasizes the kinds of foods that can significantly reduce our risk for disease. Developed by the American Institute for Cancer Research, the New American Plate relies on a wide range of vegetables, fruits, whole grains and beans. Learn more about this program and how you can gradually incorporate it into your current lifestyle. This program will be presented by Suzanne Feather - a Community Health Educator from MVP Healthcare. Please register in advance for this free program.

Young Adult Book Club: a new program for kids ages in **Grades 6 and up!** We will be discussing **Call of the Wild** by Jack London on **Thursday, January 21st from 7-8:00 pm**. This discussion will be a part of the Monroe County Library System's "**Big Read**" program taking place in January & February. A limited number of free copies of the book will be available on a first-come/first-served basis. "This gripping story follows the adventures of

the loyal dog Buck, who is stolen from his comfortable family home and forced into the harsh life of an Alaskan sled dog... a journey that ends with his becoming the legendary leader of a wolf pack." Snacks will be provided. Call the library to register.

Rush Readers' Book Club: will meet on **Thursday, Jan. 28th from 7-9:00 pm**, and we will also be discussing *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London, as part of the Big Read. A limited number of free copies of the book will be available on a first-come/first-served basis. Join us for interesting discussion and wonderful desserts & coffee.

Geocaching: To go along with **The Big Read**, many libraries in Monroe County will be offering programs related to Geocaching (high-tech treasure hunting using GPS units.) We will be creating a **Rush Library "cache"** that will be available to treasure seekers inside the library **beginning in January**. Start your search at www.geocaching.org, and happy hunting!

Thank you all for your participation in so many of our programs throughout the year. We are looking forward to another year of fun activities for the whole family!

Best wishes for the New Year. ~Joan & Trisha

	<p>Office of the Fire Marshal/ Emergency Preparedness Administrator Submitted by: Richard L. Tracy Phone: 533-1312 rick@townofrush.com</p>
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A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

- ∞ **Selecting a Tree for the Holiday**
Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If

many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

- ∞ **Caring for Your Tree**
Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- ∞ **Disposing of Your Tree**
Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Holiday Lights

- ∞ **Maintain Your Holiday Lights**
Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- ∞ **Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets**
Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.
- ∞ **Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended**

Holiday Decorations

- ∞ **Use Only Nonflammable Decorations**
All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.
- ∞ **Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace**
It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.
- ∞ **Artificial Christmas Trees**
If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Candle Care

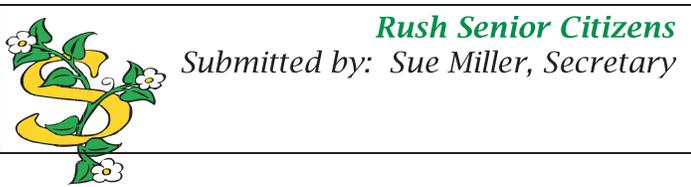
∞ Avoid Using Lit Candles

If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

∞ Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.



The Christmas season is upon us once again, and with it the cold, snow, wind and even the beauty, but, as promised, I'd like to take you back to the fall and our trip to Vermont. It was awesome! The lodge keepers couldn't have been more accommodating. We had three delicious breakfasts and three dinners right there at the lodge. The chef was top notch and the food plentiful, as our expanding waistlines will attest. As for the day trips, well, now going to a granite quarry wasn't exactly at the top of my list but---it was very impressive. The granite extends down 10 miles and is 2 miles wide and 4 miles long. A few of us even bowled at the "granite bowling alley" And of course they had a gift shop and a movie. Then there were the Friesians of Majesty Horses, big, beautiful, talented and glossy black. They are obviously loved by their owner and trainer, as he sleeps with all the newborns for a night or so to bond with them. We toured the stables, had a carriage ride and watched those magnificent animals go through their paces.

The Von Trapp Lodge was beautiful, perched on the mountain top with lovely flower gardens and a scrumptious luncheon buffet. The climb to the chapel was very steep, attempted by a brave few, Dick S. and Dick P. made it, as did Pat and Chris. Of course the latter two were late returning and we had to hold the bus for them! There were many other day attractions, including a train ride, a visit to

the longest covered bridge in Vermont and tastings at the Ben and Jerry's factory.

The lodge provided entertainment, a Magician the first night, who was amazing and enlisted the help of Shirley O., who really didn't take her job too seriously, as the poor man, blindfolded, ran into a pole twice while she was leading him around.

The last night's entertainment was two impersonators. And right away "Roxanne" zeroed in on Gene, crooked her finger at him and mouthed "call me". "Bobbie Darrin" took a shine and sang to Chris, Pat and Ann Marie. Then "Judy Garland" asked for a dance partner. Dick W. volunteered and when the song ended "Judy" was breathless. What a dancer that Dick is! "Dolly Parton" singing, 9 to 5 was there as were "Ricci and Lucy" (Chicky, Chicky, Boom Boom), "Carol Channing" (Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend), "Hank Williams" (Your Cheatin' Heart), and many others. Yes, the entertainment was wonderful.

Dinnertime was typical of meals shared with "Recycled Teenagers". There was a lot of laughter and general rowdiness, but they say good company and laughter aids digestion, so that's a good thing. After dinner, some of us swam in the pool, relaxed in the hot tub or played Euchre. I think it will be a long time before the Horizon Inn forgets us. They claimed we were the most energetic group they'd ever had. Maybe they say that to all their groups, but I suspect it was really true this time.

I know I'm supposed to concentrate on telling you about future trips rather than past ones, but this Vermont trip was so indicative of the good times we have, and there are so many more stories to tell----Well, you'll just have to join us on some of our excursions next year and be a first hand participant. In October we went to The Grand Canyon of the East in Wellsboro, PA. What beautiful views. Then we took a rail excursion along Crooked Creek and Hammond Lake. The weather was a little crisp that day!

By the time this newsletter comes out we will have enjoyed our trip to Syracuse for The Christmas Spectacular, featuring The Swing City Orchestra and, on Dec. 16th we'll go to Carey Hall Banquet Center in Walworth for a "Branson Country Christmas". It includes an all-you-can-eat buffet at noon and a performance that starts at 2:00; we'll hear great fiddling, gospel, bluegrass and country music. This is a show we've gone to before and it's



a foot-stompin good time. If you would be interested in joining us, call Mary Anne at 533-1185 for more information.

Our Christmas Party this year will be Thursday Dec. 10th, at the Wishing Well Party House on Chili Ave. This is a Members Only event. If you haven't already signed up, and you want to attend, please call Mary Anne.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be Thursday, January 14th. If you'd like to join in the fun and are a Rush resident 55 years of age or older, we always welcome new members to our "family". We meet at the Rush Firehouse at 11:30 a.m. Just bring a generous dish to pass and your own table service. Coffee is provided. For more information call our President, Marge Williams, at 533-2101. Hope to see you there! In closing, I'd like to wish all of you, your families and loved ones, a warm, wonderful and Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy, fruitful New Year.



**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 8th from 6 to 9 PM at the main Rush Fire Station. Mike (peewee) Terzo is completing his term as commissioner and is on the ballot for 2009. This election is open to all registered voters in Rush.

FIRE DISTRICT ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING: will be held Saturday, January 2nd, 2010 at Rush Fire Station #1 at 10:00 am.

FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING: Not one person showed up for this mandated hearing that we are required by law to hold every year. Our budget is \$321,000 for 2010. Your tax rate remains \$1.10 per thousand. **ANNUAL INSPECTION DINNER:** It was held at the Riverton golf facility. 35 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.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE: The fire apparatus will receive their annual maintenance, oil, lubes and filters

within the next few weeks. Annual pumping tests were conducted in October. The automatic transmission on one truck uses a case of ATF. Each apparatus requires 6 gallons of engine oil. One large air filter for the one engine is \$100. The average cost for the annual maintenance and pump tests per apparatus is \$1,500. We buy all the filters wholesale and have a 55 gallon drum of engine oil for the person doing the service at the fire station. This saves the taxpayer some money. Most of the minor maintenance is conducted by the officers and members of the fire department. Even though fire apparatus is exempt, we have NYS Heavy Duty State Truck inspections conducted on our equipment every year. The district spent over \$3,000 on the ambulance last month. New brake pads, rotors, six new tires, oil, lube, filters new batteries and a new AC compressor were installed. We also want to thank Bob Stenzel at Bucci's Auto Repair for the extra work and time he spent on the ambulance.

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 ID.

RUSH FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE SERVICE: ANNUAL FUND DRIVE: The annual fund drive second request went out last month. 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. \$30,000 of this year's fund drive will go towards the new Rescue truck which will cost \$438,000. The fire department will then donate it to the Rush Fire District taxpayers. The fire department has been putting money away for 19 years for this purchase. Very few fire departments make these kinds of donations. We conduct our own fund drive with no telemarketers.

WHY NO TELEMARKEETERS: The NYS Attorney General reports on average, just 39.5 cents of every charitable dollar raised by professional telemarketing companies in 2008 actually went to charity, If you get called on the phone, it is one of these outfits. According to the report, telemarketers raised \$204.8 million on behalf of 444 charities statewide in 2008. Of that, \$123.9 million, or 60.5 percent, was paid to the telemarketers in the form of profits, administrative costs or operating costs, leaving charities with 39.5 percent of the money actually raised for their causes. **Charitable organizations in the eight Western New York counties, including numerous police and firefighters groups, fared even worse. Just 29 percent of the \$1,712,233.50 that telemarketers raised in their name actually made its' way into the charities' coffers. Almost 3/4 of the money went to the telemarketers;**

some took as much as 85%. Website, www.oag.state.ny.us . This online list makes it easier to check how much goes to fundraisers and how much goes to charities and "will ensure that people looking to give this holiday season can make an informed decision before they donate, and hopefully will encourage giving to those charities which keep and use more of the funds raised," Cuomo said.

FD ACTIVITY: As of November 17, we have responded to 330 calls for service, fire and EMS. We have had several serious car crashes where extrication was required for the victims. In both calls of this type this past month, the victims were extricated in 10 minutes or less. It the time of year for "**Black Ice**" and we have many bridges and areas in town where there are several crashes every year. We had several on November 7th. When you see flashing emergency lights on vehicles up ahead, slow way down and watch for direction from the fire, police, sheriffs or troopers. On days where we could have ice problems, leave early and slow down.

LADIES AUXILIARY: The Ladies Auxiliary of the Rush Fire Department held their annual Election Day Ham Dinner on Tuesday, November 3rd. Thank you so much 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 11th at 6:45 p.m., at the Rush Firehouse, 1971 Rush-Mendon Rd. Come and enjoy refreshments, gifts and this year we will have **live animals!!!**

WE NEED YOU: The Ladies Auxiliary is still looking for new members. Just come to one meeting and you will see what we're all about. The feeling you'll get from participating in community events is wonderful. You will meet new people and establish lifelong friendships and you'll be helping support your community Fire Department.

Ladies 18 years of age or older and residents of Rush who are interested in joining should contact Joan Madigan at 229-4168 or jnmadigan@aol.com or by visiting www.rushfd.org/ladiesaux.htm.

Your Town Budget for 2010

General Revenues

	Dollar Amount	Percent of Total
Sales Tax	\$ 200,000	16.64%
Mortgage Tax	\$ 65,000	5.41%
Franchises	\$ 21,000	1.75%
Clerk Fees	\$ 500	0.04%
Park and Rec.Fees	\$ 35,853	2.98%
Zoning & Planning Fees	\$ 2,500	0.21%
Service to Other Gov.	\$ 20,090	1.67%
Interest Earnings	\$ 15,000	1.25%
Property Rental	\$ 46,459	3.87%
Licenses & Permits	\$ 11,530	0.96%
Court Fines	\$ 33,600	2.80%
Other State Aid	\$ 25,990	2.16%
Sale of Property & Other	\$ 700	0.06%
Real Property Taxes	\$ <u>723,478</u>	<u>60.20%</u>
Total	\$ 1,201,700	100.00%

General Appropriations

	Dollar Amount	Percent of Total
General Government		
Support	\$ 570,495	47.48%
Public Safety	\$ 43,274	3.60%
Public Transportation	\$ 128,572	10.70%
Economic Assistance and Opportunity	\$ 7,771	0.65%
Culture & Recreation	\$ 169,248	14.08%
Home & Community	\$ 13,575	1.13%
Benefits	\$ 121,265	10.09%
Bond Principal & Int.	\$ <u>147,500</u>	<u>12.27%</u>
Total	\$ 1,201,700	100.00%

Highway Revenues

Service to Other Gov.	\$ 191,211	20.03%
Interest Earnings	\$ 1,500	0.16%
Equipment Rental	\$ 206,929	21.68%
Sale Excess Material	\$ 17,800	1.86%
State Aid	\$ 38,000	3.98%
Transfer from Reserve	\$ 90,000	9.43%
Unexpended Balance	\$ 65,000	6.81%
Real Property Taxes	\$ <u>344,215</u>	<u>36.06%</u>
Total	\$ 954,655	100.00%

Highway Appropriations

Road Repair & Const.	\$ 84,421	8.84%
Machinery	\$ 158,042	16.55%
Capital Outlay	\$ 162,000	16.97%
Misc./Brush & Weeds	\$ 97,666	10.23%
Town Snow Removal	\$ 55,950	5.86%
Service to Other Gov.	\$ 204,711	21.44%
Benefits	\$ <u>191,865</u>	<u>20.11%</u>
Total	\$ 954,655	100.00%

Library Revenues

Library Charges	\$ 6,410	3.86%
Interest Earnings	\$ 325	0.20%
Minor Sales & Gifts	\$ 1,450	0.87%
State Aid	\$ 1,635	0.98%
Real Property Taxes	\$ <u>156,259</u>	<u>94.09%</u>
Total	\$ 166,079	100.00%

Library Appropriations

Library	\$ 140,861	84.82%
Employee Benefits	\$ <u>25,218</u>	<u>15.18%</u>
Total	\$ 166,079	100.00%

General Fund

Appropriations by Department

	dollar amount	percent of budget
Town Board	\$ 33,068	2.75%
Court	\$ 59,948	4.99%
Supervisor and Secretary	\$ 47,615	3.96%
Finance	\$ 33,638	2.80%
Auditor	\$ 10,000	0.83%
Budget	\$ 4,013	0.33%
Assessor and Clerk	\$ 31,464	2.62%
Town Clerk and Deputy	\$ 84,468	7.03%
Attorney	\$ 48,000	3.99%
Engineer	\$ 35,000	2.91%
Elections	\$ 5,090	0.42%
Buildings	\$ 88,641	7.38%
Storeroom	\$ 2,800	0.23%
Mailing & Printing	\$ 20,011	1.67%
Insurance	\$ 28,000	2.33%
Association Dues	\$ 999	0.08%
Payment to Reduce Taxes	\$ 1,740	0.14%
Contingency	\$ <u>36,000</u>	<u>3.00%</u>
Total General Gov. Support	\$ 570,495	47.46%

Fire Marshall	\$ 7,716	0.64%
Dog Control	\$ 4,634	0.39%
Safety Inspection	\$ 29,885	2.49%
Civil Defense	\$ <u>1,039</u>	<u>0.08%</u>
Total Public Safety	\$ 43,274	3.60%

	dollar amount	percent of budget
Highway Administration	\$ 81,782	6.80%
Garage	\$ 34,140	2.84%
Street Lighting	\$ 12,100	1.01%
Sidewalks	\$ <u>550</u>	<u>0.05%</u>
Total Transportation	\$ 128,572	10.70%

Veterans' Services	\$ 400	0.03%
Programs for Aging	\$ <u>7,371</u>	<u>0.62%</u>
Total Economic Assistance & Opportunity	\$ 7,771	0.65%

Recreation	\$ 51,941	4.33%
Capital Outlay-Pavilion	\$ 90,000	7.49%
Parks	\$ 19,612	1.63%
Historian	\$ 6,995	0.58%
Celebrations	\$ <u>700</u>	<u>0.05%</u>
Total Cultural & Rec.	\$ 169,248	14.08%

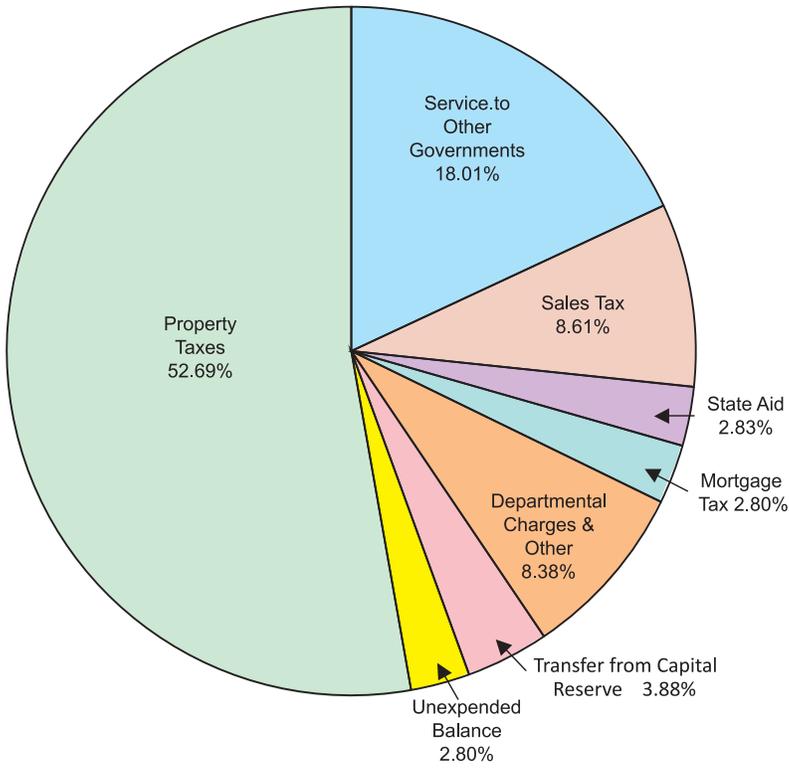
Zoning	\$ 3,183	0.26%
Planning	\$ 5,209	0.43%
Environment Conservation	\$ 2,783	0.23%
Refuse	\$ 500	0.05%
Community Beautification	\$ <u>1,900</u>	<u>0.16%</u>
Total Home & Community	\$ 13,575	1.13%

Total Employee Benefits	\$ 121,265	10.09%
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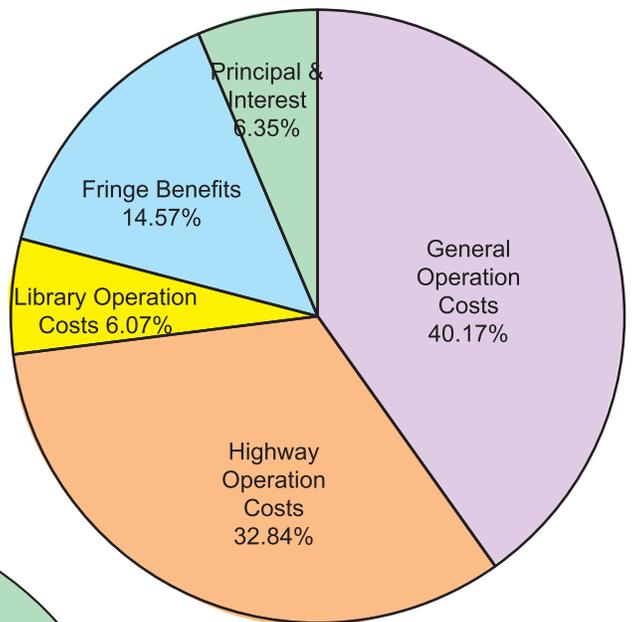
Total Bond Principal & Int.	\$ 147,500	12.27%
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TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 1,201,700	100.00%
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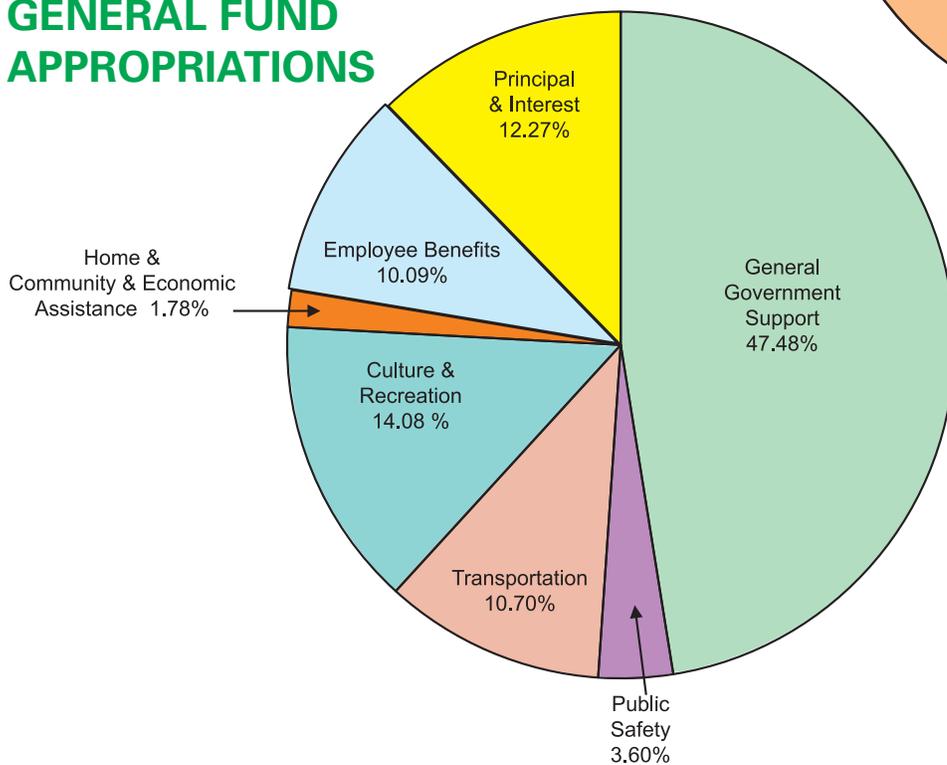
TOWN WIDE REVENUES



TOWN WIDE APPROPRIATIONS



GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS



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

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RUSH, NY
PERMIT NO.4



December, 2009 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 - 3rd</i> <i>Mondays - 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th</i> <i>Tuesday - 1st</i> <i>Thursday - 10th</i> <i>Thursday - 10th</i> <i>Tuesday - 15th</i> <i>Tuesday - 15th</i> <i>Wednesday - 9th</i>
Other Important Information and Dates: Christmas Day	<i>Town Hall, Library and Courts Closed</i>	<i>Friday - 25th</i>



January, 2010 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 @ Firehouse 7:30 PM 7:00 PM @ Rush Firehouse 7:00 PM	<i>Thursday - 7th</i> <i>Mondays - 4th, 11th and 15th</i> <i>Tuesday - 5^h</i> <i>Thursday - 14th</i> <i>Thursday - 14th</i> <i>Tuesday - 19th</i> <i>Tuesday - 19th</i> <i>Wednesdays - 13th and 27th</i>
Other Important Information and Dates: New Year's Day	<i>Town Hall, Library and Courts Closed</i>	<i>Friday, January 1st</i>