



LOCAL NOTES

COMMUNITY FORUM ASKS, ANSWERS COMPASSION QUESTIONS

PORTSMOUTH | The recent tsunami disaster and the war in Iraq bring up many questions about what American values are, both individually and as a nation.

In response to these questions, a community forum entitled "Compassion in a Time of Strife and Suffering" will be held on Wednesday, January 26 at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 292 State Street in Portsmouth.

Participants attending this forum will be given the opportunity to listen and share their thoughts on ethics, morality and spirituality. The forum, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by Seacoast Alliance for Democracy and Seacoast Peace Response.

For more information, contact Nancy at (603) 436-7861 or Amy at (603) 750-7506.

NEWS FROM THE ROCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ROCHESTER | The Rochester Historical Museum currently has three new collections on exhibit, all on loan from a member of the town's Historical Society.

These exhibits feature "Cowboys," "Beatles," and "Valentines." The public is invited to stop by the museum and take a look. Located at 58 Hanson Street in Rochester, the museum is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free.

The Historical Society continues its Thursday Night Lecture Series with a program entitled "Westwood Ho!" This program will be presented on Thursday, February 10 at 7 p.m. Check future issues of the Atlantic News for additional information about this event.

Also, the Historical Society is busy planning its annual Penny Sale, which will take place on Sunday, April 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rochester Community Center. The organization is currently accepting donations for this event, and volunteers are needed. For more information on donating items, volunteer opportunities, current exhibits or upcoming events, call the Rochester Historical Society/Museum at (603) 330-3099.

COMPILED BY LIZ PREMIO, ATLANTIC NEWS STAFF WRITER

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

TOWN NEWS

E-Reg available to Rye residents

BY JESSICA JENKINS
SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

RYE | Rye Town Clerk Jane Ireland has announced the addition of an online customer service for application and payment of motor vehicle registrations.

This new service, called E-Reg, is provided in conjunction with Interware Development Company, Inc. Rye residents are able to renew all plate types using this service. Currently available in more than 20 states, including Maine, California, Kentucky and Florida, online vehicle registrations are both convenient for residents and efficient for municipalities. With E-Reg, the clerk's office is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Residents can visit the Rye Web site www.town.rye.nh.us, order and pay for their registrations at their convenience.

E-Reg is a fee-based system with a low cost to cus-

tomers, which covers the costs of online bank authorizations for the town. E-Reg streamlines and simplifies the entire process and accepts payment by mail or direct, online bank drafts. Residents need only supply their account number and bank's routing number to authorize direct payment. There will be a \$1.50 processing fee added per vehicle to use E-Reg, and a \$50 charge to cover mailing costs, regardless of the number of vehicles.

To access E-Reg, go to www.town.rye.nh.us and provide the information required from the current registration. E-Reg accepts any plate types for the renewal of both Local and State portions of the registration. E-mail will be sent to customers to acknowledge the transaction. The registrations will then be processed by the town clerk's office

staff and mailed along with plate stickers to customers. The registration is not complete, however, until the customer receives the registration and stickers by mail, which can take five to seven business days. Residents can also continue to use the renewal notice to mail in payments if they prefer. Questions can be directed to the town clerk's office at (603) 964-8562.

The January workshop of the Rye Driftwood Garden Club will take place in the Meeting Hall on Tuesday, January 25, 2005. Club member Barbara Allen will instruct participants in the art of Oriental Flower Arrangements. Members can sign up for this workshop at the regular meeting and each participant is required to bring a container. For further information call Priscilla Jenness at (603) 964-8728 or e-mail her at: pjenness@comcast.net.

The filing period for the 2004 tax year will begin on May 1, 2005; ending June 30, 2005.

Elderly property tax exemption worksheet applications are available in the town hall at the clerk's office on the first floor, and in the selectmen's office on the second floor. For more information, please call the selectmen's office at (603) 964-5523 or email haustin@town.rye.nh.us.

Residents are asked to be aware that the town of Rye requires an event permit for any organized event occurring on town roadways or likely to impact the flow of traffic on town roadways. Event permit application packages are available from the police department. The chief of police reviews the completed application and presents it to the board of selectmen for approval.

Epping approves charitable request budget

BY JESSICA JENKINS
SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

EPPING | At the recent meeting of the Epping board of selectmen, Town Administrator Fournier presented a list of charitable requests for 2005 listing the amount requested in 2005 with any increases for donations listed. They were as follows:

A Safe Place requested \$1,500.00 that was an increase of \$1,000.00 from the 2004 Request. Adult Tutorial Program of Rockingham County requested \$500.00 for 2005. AIDS Response Seacoast requested \$600.00, which was an increase of \$75.00 from the 2004 request. American Red Cross, Great Bay Chapter requested \$800.00 which was an increase of \$300.00 from the 2004 request. Area Homecare & Family Services requested \$2,610.00 for 2005.

Also, Big Brothers Big Sisters requested \$8,100.00, which was an increase of \$6,480.00 from the 2004 Request. Child & Family Services requested \$4,000.00

for 2005. Community Development Program requested \$1,590.00 for 2005. Lamprey Health Care requested \$8,950.00, which was an increase of \$5,170.00 from the 2004 request. Meals on Wheels requested \$3,910.00 for 2005. Retired & Senior Volunteer Program requested \$300.00 for 2005.

Also, Richie McFarland Children Center requested \$4,200.00, which was an increase of \$350.00 from 2004 request. Rockingham Community Action requested \$19,119.00, which was an increase of \$8,834.00 from the 2004 request. Seacoast Hospice requested \$1,500.00 for 2005. Seacoast Mental Health Center requested \$2,500.00 for 2005. Sexual Assault Support Services requested \$1,250.00 for 2005.

It was approved to recommend the 2004 charitable request budget in the amount of \$39,220.00 and forward it to the Budget Committee.

Selectman Gilbert stated that she felt that the ques-

tions on the request forms submitted were not adequate to make a decision and added that she had contacted the charities and asked for clarification of administrative costs. She added that they are not charities but are businesses and 85 percent of the donations are utilized as salaries and not worthy of town's money. Selectman Gilbert stated that the administrative salaries for these positions are not provided to the taxpayers so that they could make an informed decision.

Selectman Murphy stated that although a method to provide that information to the voters is not available, the request to fund at the 2004 request is reasonable.

Selectman Chairman McGeough stated that all the groups have come in year after year and the salaries in a lot of these groups are doctors and the salaries are lower than they would make in the private sector.

Selectman Gauthier stat-

ed the charities have submitted forms stating how much was expended on Epping residents and the costs far exceed the requests. Selectman Gilbert asked if the charities could be required to sign an affidavit stating that the costs submitted in that regard are correct.

Paul Spidle stated he thought that the charities would appear before the Budget Committee. Selectman Sullivan stated that the charity information and requests could be presented at the Deliberative Session. It was approved to list all charities and amounts requested individually on the warrant.

The Accounts Payable Manifests for week ending December 23, 2004 in the amount of \$142,290.05 and for week ending December 30, 2004 in the amount of \$32,625.20 was approved. The payroll manifest in the amount of \$54,907.33 for payroll period ending December 30, 2004 was approved.



ENTERTAINMENT NOTES

AUDITIONS AT AMESBURY PLAYHOUSE

AMESBURY | The Valley Players will be holding open auditions for the adult comedy "Cheaters," on Saturday February 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Amesbury Playhouse, located at 194 Main Street in Amesbury, Massachusetts

Needed for the cast are two men and two women (middle aged) and one man and one woman (early twenties). Performances of "Cheaters" will be presented at the playhouse from April 1-24.

For more information and directions call the Amesbury Playhouse at (978)-388-944 or visit www.amesburyplayhouse.com.

ART CLASSES IN NEWBURYPORT

NEWBURYPORT | Painting classes in pastels will be offered by artist Sandy Sereno of the Newburyport Artist Association. These classes will take place on Thursday, January 27 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, January 29 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the NAA, located at 65 Water Street. For more information about these classes, call (978) 465-8769.

MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH SWE

SEACOAST | Instrumental musicians are invited to join the Seacoast Wind Ensemble (SWE) for a rewarding, educational and challenging musical experience.

An adult volunteer concert band, SWE welcomes adult and proficient high school musicians. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings from 7-9:30 p.m. and are conducted in the Seacoast area.

The ensemble is under the direction of Paul Erwin, a dynamic conductor who often composes and creates arrangements for the ensemble.

A typical concert schedule includes the SWE's annual "Sounds of the Season" concert in December; a Patron's concert in the spring, and an extensive summer season.

To further music education in the Seacoast region, SWE includes an annual "Music in Our Schools" concert among their activities.

SWE has made two CDs as part of an ongoing recording project, and also rehearses and performs with numerous vocal and instrumental groups in the Seacoast area.

Instrumentation includes trombones, euphonium, tuba, string bass, flute/ piccolo, oboe (English horn), bassoon, all clarinets and saxophones, trumpet/ cornet, French horn, percussion and harp.

For more information, contact Luanne at (603) 436-3966; e-mail luoreilly@comcast.net; or visit www.seacoastwindensemble.org.

COMPILED BY LIZ PREMIO, ATLANTIC NEWS STAFF WRITER

ENTERTAINMENT

Poetry reading at PEA

SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

EXETER | On Wednesday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m., Billy Collins, former U.S. Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry (2001-03) will read from his work as part of this year's Lamont Poetry Series at Phillips Exeter Academy.

LAMONT POETRY SERIES

What
Poetry Reading

Who
Billy Collins
Former U.S. Poet Laureate

Where
Assembly Hall
Phillips Exeter Academy
Front Street, Exeter

When
Wed., Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Admission
Free

Phone
(603) 777-3328

Web
www.exeter.edu

The reading will take place in the Assembly Hall, located on the second floor of the Academy Building on Front Street in Exeter. The event is free and open to the public.

Collins is the author of seven volumes of poetry and creator of the "Poetry 180: A Poem a Day for American High Schools," a Web site and

anthology designed to "broaden the audience of poetry beyond the precincts of its practitioners." It is Collins' hope that the "program would suggest to young people the notion that poetry can be a part of everyday life as well as a subject to be studied in the classroom."

Collins' honors include fellowships at the New York Foundation for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. He has also been awarded the Oscar Blumenthal Prize, the Bess Hokin Prize, the Frederick Bock Prize and the Levinson Prize — all awarded by "Poetry" magazine.

Upon his appointment as Poet Laureate, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington said, "Billy Collins's poetry is widely accessible. He writes in an original way about all manner of ordinary things and situations with both humor and a surprising contemplative twist."

Collins, a resident of Somers, New

York, is a Distinguished Professor of English at Lehman College, CUNY, where he has taught for the past 30 years. He is also a writer-in-residence



Billy Collins

at Sarah Lawrence College and served as a Literary Lion of the New York Public Library.

The Lamont Poetry Series, endowed in 1982 by Corliss Lamont, Phillips Exeter Academy class of 1920, continues to bring

remarkable poets to Exeter and remains a testimony to Lamont, who died in 1995.

For more information about this event, contact Jacquelyn H. Thomas, Academy Librarian at (603) 777-3328, or visit www.exeter.edu.

Get ready for some 'Joint Relief'

SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

HAMPTON | Winnacunnet High School graduate Jon Rineman presents "Joint Relief III: It Is What it Is," scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 29 at 7 p.m. at the Winnacunnet Community Auditorium in

Hampton.

The comedy/ variety show comes on the heels of 2003's "Joint Relief II: Coming Back for More." The show will raise money for arthritis research through the Arthritis Foundation.

The show is for all ages,

consisting of live and taped sketch comedy, as well as musical performances. The show is sponsored by the Hampton Rotary Club, and produced in association with Winnacunnet and Emerson's 24th Annual EVVY Awards.

Tickets will be available

before the show, at \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased at WHS, and will also be available the night of the show.

For more information about this event, please contact Jon at Jon_Rineman@emerson.edu.

ATLANTIC NEWS

But our true

STRENGTH

is good

Community News!

