

# THE RYE



# RECORD

NEWS OF RYE

AND ITS PEOPLE

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## Looking Back

By Warren Ross

The end of a year, as well as a decade, seems like a good time for retrospection.

When we first moved to Rye in 1964, US 1 was still four lanes, the long-gone Oakland Beach pool was about to close, and the futures of today's municipal pool and golf course were in doubt. They were both still in private hands, and the owners had put them up for sale. Needless to say, the real estate lobby was anxious to take them over to build more private housing.

But the biggest pending problem was Robert Moses' proposal to build a bridge from Oyster Bay to Rye. We had just bought a house — the one we still live in — on Oakland Beach Avenue. I had a high school friend who had become an attorney and was now counsel to one of the caucuses of the State legislature, I forget which house and which party. And looking at a map I was convinced that the best we could hope for was that our house would be condemned for a bridge ramp. Worst case, we would be right next to it.

I called my friend.

He said, in essence, "You don't stand a chance; the fix is in. You're up against a coalition of banks and unions, with the governor backing them." Nelson Rockefeller was then the governor, and I agreed that even if the politics did not dissuade him from coming out against such potent political heavy hitters on behalf of one small community, his connection with the Chase bank would likely be decisive.

Nor were the people of Rye unit-

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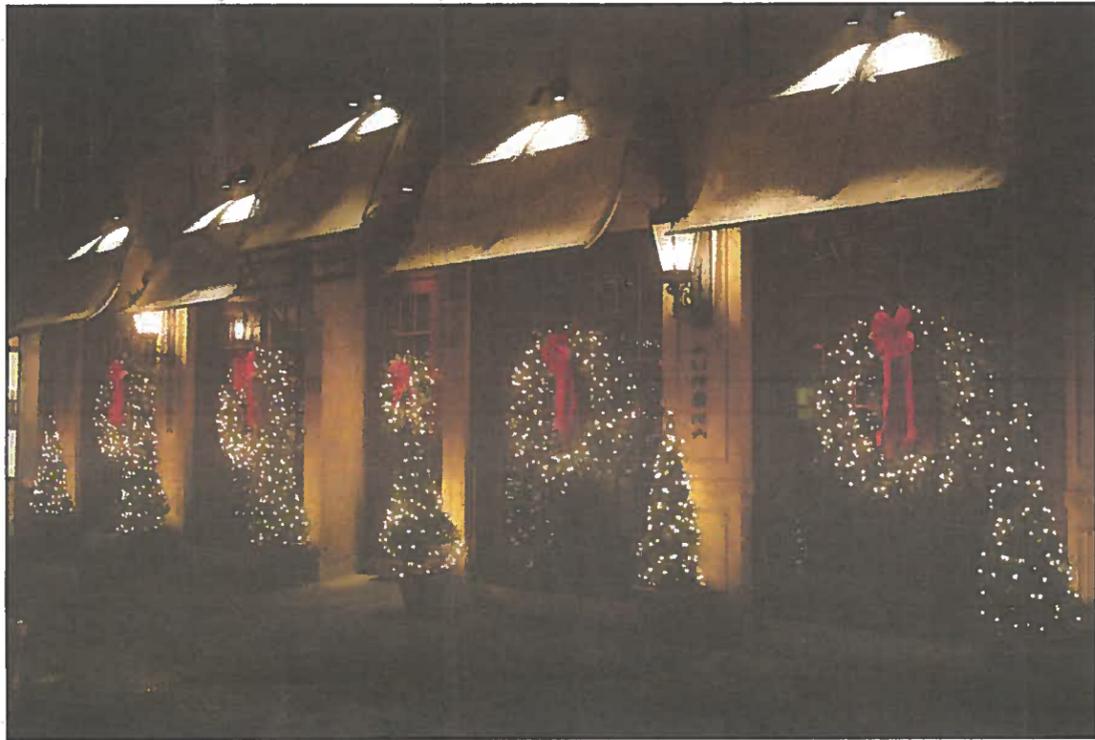
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And may all your Christmases be bright.

Photo by Kathleen Durkee

## Looking Ahead

The last City Council meeting of 2009, held December 16, provided residents with a wonderful opportunity to thank outgoing Mayor Steve Otis and fellow Councilmembers Mack Cunningham, George Pratt, and Andy Ball for their years of service. It also gave those Councilmembers the chance to say a few parting words. The words were gracious and thoughtful.

Serving on the Council isn't always an easy job, as the outgoing members have noted. And the agendas aren't likely to get shorter or issues less challenging.

The community understands all that, and the fact that the economy isn't likely to pick up early next year or even by year's end. What they do hope is that the Council puts its best foot forward starting January 1.

In no special order, we'd all like: greater traffic safety enforcement, downtown improvements, additional parking, a practical sidewalk repair process, a public forum on 1037 Boston Post Road, the repair of the Central Avenue Bridge or a pedestrian bridge in its place, and a way to allow residents and non-residents alike to enjoy Rye Town Park and Oakland Beach every summer without allowing parking on the road.

We hope the Council will review the reports already done by consultants and temporary committees, inform the public, and make the important decisions quickly.

Rye voted for change in the last election, and residents are really hoping for action.

— Robin Jovanovich

## MR. GOUVEIA, HE'S THE TOP!

Before the year was out, we didn't want it to go without saying a few words about the 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year, Mr. Peter Gouveia.

He came to the Rye City School District in 1998 after teaching at Cromwell Middle School and Cheshire High School in Connecticut. Mr. Gouveia teaches Grade 7 language arts at Rye Middle School and also serves as advisor to the Student Council and co-advisor to the yearbook. Six years ago, he created the Beyond Rye Middle School career elective, which he has also taught. He's chaperoned trips to help students expand their horizons and has served as a curriculum writer and peer coach.

"I was extremely happy that the award went to a middle school teacher," he said enthusiastically. "I believe that the last time an RMS teacher received the honor was close to 20 years ago."

His favorite part of teaching English is "helping students develop and showcase their thoughts and ideas in creative ways. It's so exciting when they immerse themselves in really good literature and make connections between what is happening in the novel, their own lives, and the world around them."

Over the past few years, Mr. Gouveia has taught a variety of literature at the middle school that he loved at that age, including two of

his favorites, "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "The Mockingbird".

"I also love exposing my students to mysteries, short stories, and really good poetry. He added, "In today's fast-paced society, where kids are busy playing sports and chatting online, it's so refreshing to hear a student talk about a really good book and share their love of literature with their peers."

Being named Teacher of the Year is a big honor, as he or she is selected by peers, students, administrators, and parents. Leading up to the announcement of Mr. Gouveia's name, Superintendent Dr. Edward Shine said, "When this teacher was leaving his former district to move to this area, the school's Director of Curriculum wrote, 'This teacher is one of those rare individuals whose character and ebullient spirit infect an entire building with energy, hope and a clear focus on the needs of young people.'"

Dr. Shine noted that the winner had won awards before, including the Excellence in Higher Learning Award from the State of Connecticut, and that "it was time he was presented with another."

Mr. Gouveia, on behalf of all Rye residents, we're so grateful that you "crossed state lines" 12 years ago. Thank you for your dedication and for continuing to use the serial comma.



Peter Gouveia

## Inauguration Day Is New Year's Day

sworn in as Mayor and Richard Filippi, Peter Jovanovich, and Suzanna Keith as City Councilmembers January 1 at 4 p.m. on the steps of City Hall

A reception will follow in the Council Room. All are welcome.

## A Little More Rockwell in Rye

If you are like me, you love Rye, and you love the holidays. There are so many wonderful holiday traditions that we all count on. But there is one in particular that that my family has grown to depend on in the 12 years we've lived in this town, and that is the tasteful and attractive holiday displays which adorn the Welsh family's front lawn at 1 Milton Road.

No matter the season, from Easter to St. Patrick's Day to Halloween to Christmas, Libby Welsh manages to decorate her home's exterior with style and panache. I find myself feeling gratitude, time and again, for her efforts, her reliability, and her success in creating a more welcoming and wholesome feeling in Rye.

Because of its central location, it's a safe bet to say that a good majority of Rye residents benefit from the holiday cheer that the

entire Welsh family for spreading good cheer in Rye all year long. We'll be looking out for the Christmas season to appear on your front lawn soon. Happy Holidays to all!

— Lisa Miller



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