

# RYE UNITED

*Celebrating 300 Years of Rye · 250 Years of the United States*

*A full year of community events, historic programming, and civic celebration across Rye, NH — spanning May through December 2026.*

## M A Y

**May – October**     **RHS Museum: Rye in the 20th Century**  
Ongoing exhibition at the Rye Historical Society Museum.

**May 31**     **Rye Congregational Church Dedication Celebration**  
A celebration of the Dedication of the fourth building on Meeting House Hill, 65 years ago — inviting all who have worshiped in this building to join in service and fellowship.

**May 23**     **Rye Century Walk – 1600s**  
First installment of the monthly Century Walk series exploring Rye's history by era.

**Memorial Day**     **Historic Trolley Tour**  
Guided trolley tour through Rye's historic sites.

## J U N E

**June 2**     **Star Island: 150 Years – RPL Presentation**  
A history of fishing, communal living, and independence. Presenters: Ann Beattie & Joe Watts. Hosted at Rye Public Library.

**June 14**     **Rye Congregational Church – International Children's Day**  
Youth-led Sunday service featuring skits depicting historical events across Rye's 300-year history.

**June**     **Rye Century Walk – 1700s**  
Second installment of the Century Walk series.

## J U L Y

**July 2**     **"Rye Bicentennial Celebrations 1976" – RPL**  
An old-fashioned slide show by Town Historian Alex Herlihy. Hosted at Rye Public Library.

**July 4–5**     **RYE DAY – Parsons Field**  
Saturday (11 AM–4 PM): Live DJ & band, entertainers, old-fashioned organ, vendors, face painting, bubble party. Sunday (6–9 PM): Live band, fireworks, food trucks, ice cream truck. Keynote speaker recognizing the US 250th birthday.

**July 5**     **Historic Trolley Tour – Independence Day**  
Special Independence Day guided trolley tour.

July 12	<b>Rye Congregational Church Special Service &amp; Cookout</b> Special church service followed by a cookout in the parking lot.
July 15	<b>"Live Free and Dial" – RPL Presentation</b> Megan Hurley presents the story of the telegraph, including the history of the overseas cable from Europe to North America through Rye, NH.
July 18	<b>Isles of Shoals Full-Day Tour</b> Full-day tour out of Rye Harbor to explore the Isles of Shoals (Star Island & White Island – 150 years as part of Rye), with historian narration by the Rye Historical Society. Second date: August 20.
July	<b>Rye Century Walk – 1800s</b> Third installment of the Century Walk series.
July 15	<b>Strawberry Festival – Library Green</b> Annual community festival on the Library Green.

**AUGUST**

August 8	<b>St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea – 150th Anniversary</b> Celebration from 10 AM–2 PM. Liano & Rye Live Fire Barbecue on site. Replica Concord Coach adjacent to the chapel carriage blocks for viewing and photos. Docents available to share the St. Andrew's story.
August 13	<b>"Rye History over 400 Years" – RPL Presentation</b> Presented by Town Historian Alex Herlihy at Rye Public Library.
August 20	<b>Isles of Shoals Full-Day Tour (Second Date)</b> Full-day tour out of Rye Harbor to the Isles of Shoals with historian narration by the Rye Historical Society.
August	<b>Rye Century Walk – 1900s</b> Fourth installment of the Century Walk series.

**SEPTEMBER**

September	<b>4th Annual Open Community Picnic – Parsons Field</b> Community-wide picnic with an Apple Pie contest.
September	<b>Rye Century Walk – 2000s</b> Fifth and final installment of the Century Walk series.
Labor Day	<b>Historic Trolley Tour</b> Labor Day guided trolley tour.

**OCTOBER**

October	<b>Rye History Month</b> Celebrating "Rye History Month" per Warrant Article 34, 2026 elections.
October	<b>New Arcadia Historic Picture Book Release</b>

New Rye picture book: Arcadia Historic Picture Book about Rye 1880–1980 by Lew Karabatsos.

**October**

**Rye Photo Exhibition & Contest**

Community photography exhibition and contest celebrating Rye's landscapes and history.

**October 17**

**Rye Congregational Church – Harvest Dinner**

Harvest Dinner with apple bobbing and pumpkin carving in the afternoon, followed by a movie after dinner.

**October**

**Halloween Event – Library Green**

Community Halloween celebration on the Library Green.

## **N O V E M B E R**

**November**

**Rye Civic League Presentation**

"300 Years of Town Government of Rye" — presented by the Rye Civic League.

## **D E C E M B E R**

**December**

**Tree Lighting – Parsons Field**

Annual community tree lighting ceremony.

**December**

**Holiday Parade – Rye Center**

Holiday parade through Rye Center.

**December 27**

**Rye Congregational Church – Concluding Celebration Service**

Concluding service of the 300th anniversary celebration year.

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*For sponsorship opportunities and partnership inquiries, contact **Rye United**.*

*All events subject to change. Schedule current as of April 2026.*