



WELCOME BACK
TO
SEAGRAVE MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY

Skyscrapers Inc. Annual Meeting

April 4, 2026 @ 7 PM

AGENDA

Introductions

Budget

Election

For the Good of the Organization

Announcements

Adjournment

Budget FY2026
Approved by EC
04/02/2026

Categories	2025 Budget	2025 Actuals	2026 Budget
		as of 2/28/26	
INCOME			
Dues, Skyscrapers	\$3,200	\$2,945	\$3,460
Dues, AstroLeague	\$280	\$333	\$306
AstroAssembly	\$3,500	\$3,254	\$3,269
Donations	\$1,000	\$666	\$1,000
Sales	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$100
Interest	\$1,200	\$1,213	\$1,350
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,180	\$9,811	\$9,485
From SAVINGS	\$4,167	\$0	\$830
	\$14,347	\$9,811	\$10,315
EXPENSES			
AstroAssembly	\$1,340	\$673	\$675
Dues, AstroLeague	\$270	\$307	\$316
Outreach	\$1,070	\$207	\$880
Refreshments	\$150	\$40	\$100
Website	\$40	\$139	\$287
Zoom	\$160	\$160	\$160
Quicken	\$72	\$72	\$77
Speakers	\$750	\$310	\$500
Utilities	\$3,500	\$3,026	\$3,500
Property Insurance	\$2,500	\$2,462	\$2,500
Trustees	\$4,000	\$2,034	\$900
Donations	\$125	\$0	\$125
Corporation Fee	\$25	\$25	\$25
PayPal Fees	\$225	\$120	\$170
Postage	\$20	\$0	-
Misc.	\$100	\$77	\$100
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$14,347	\$9,652	\$10,315
SPECIAL PROJECTS			
Stone Wall & Trees			\$8,000
Digitize 16mm Films			\$750
		TOTAL	\$8,750

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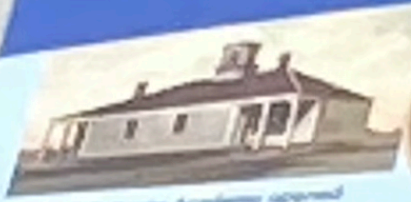
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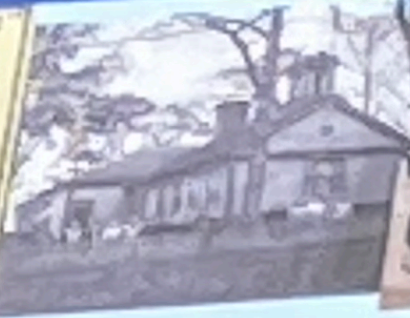
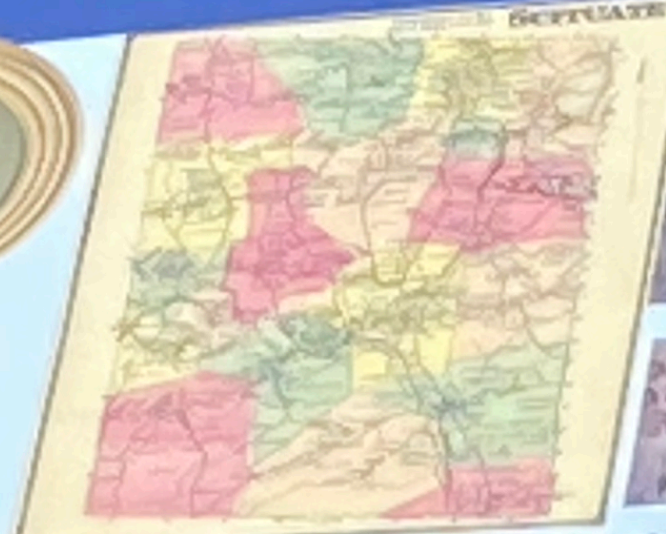
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Scituate Schools



All Jewish Scituate Academy opened in 1820 and served as a school for 100 years. It was expanded during WWI to become a community house and still serves the public today at the North Scituate Community House. See Scituate Town Hall for more.



Many of the districts with schools were submerged in the development of the K-Grade Program. The children of families who lost their homes to the century project had to attend schools in the surrounding districts. Shown left is #9 Hopewell Chapel, packed with students.



Private residences were also used, as in #10 Rockland School, at Joseph's Almond Foster House with children at recess.



477 Glenville School, built in 1846, is well-preserved and has had many uses.

Rhode Island passed the Free Public School Act in 1819. Before schools were built, children were taught in private homes. It wasn't until 1824 that Scituate had approximately \$300 for schools. The town was divided into twelve school districts, which later increased to nineteen districts. Each district provided its building and teacher, and each school had a district number. Note the district number of the schools pictured.



810 Orchard School Class



45 Chopin School, built in 1830, featured separate entrances for boys and girls, as was typical for the period.



Outhouses were referred to as "necessaries." This outhouse (above) is from #7 Pottersville School.



McClure (left) in the front row, third from right, is Helen O. Larkin at #6 Rockland School. History's family moved to Hope when Rockland Village and the school were demolished for the century project. Like many children there, Helen did not return to school but went to work in the textile mills. Before the enactment of child labor laws, most children worked on farms or in mills. Entire families worked together in factories, a practice known as the "Worcester System."



Mill advertisement targeting children

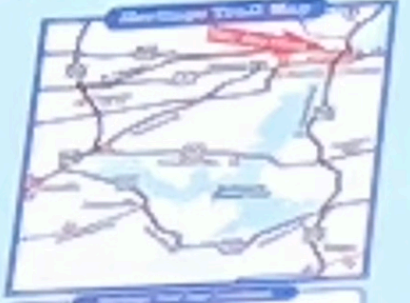
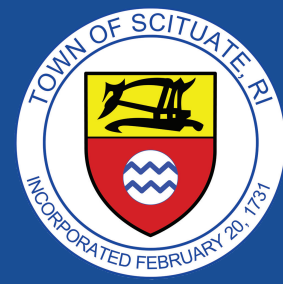


Table with 2 columns: District Number and School Name. The table lists various school districts and their corresponding school names.

Scan the QR code for more information about Scituate schools.



Scituate Heritage Trail

Historic Scituate, Rhode Island

Seagrave Memorial Observatory

41° 50' 41.0" North
71° 35' 34.0" West
Elevation 349'



In 1914, Frank Evans Seagrave, a well-known and respected Providence astronomer, began constructing this uniquely-shaped building on PeepToad Road in North Scituate. Frank's astronomical observations from his original observatory in Providence were being seriously hampered by light pollution and coal dust that blanketed the city. Frank moved the telescope, an eight-inch Alvan Clark refractor ordered for Frank's 16th birthday in 1876 and delivered in 1878, here in October 1914.

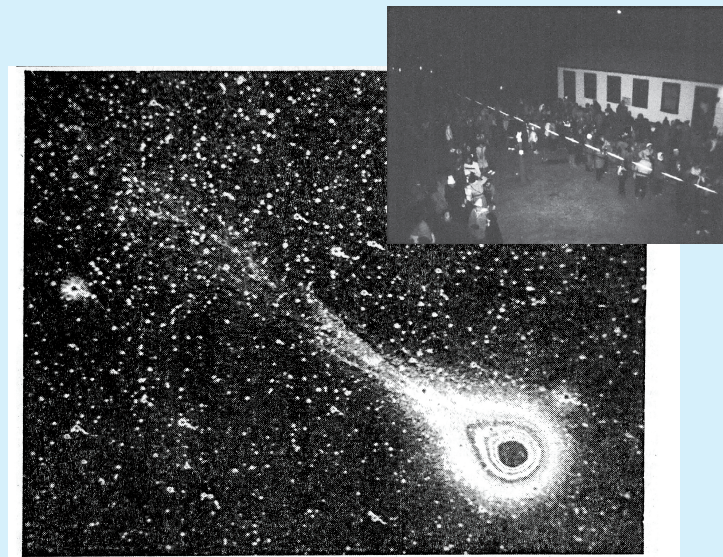


On May 5, 1932, Skyscrapers was founded by Astronomy Professor Charles H. Smiley of Brown University. At that meeting, then 72-year old Frank Seagrave was given honorary membership. In gratitude, he invited Skyscrapers to visit his North Scituate observatory. They did so on September 18, 1933. Seagrave passed away on August 30, 1934. Skyscrapers, after receiving their incorporation charter, reached an agreement to purchase his estate for \$1,000 on November 23, 1936.



Skyscrapers's logo features a woodcut of Seagrave Memorial Observatory created by Vermont-born artist and engineer Russell Porter, designer of the 200-inch telescope at Palomar Observatory in California.

Special celestial events always provide the organization with an opportunity to strengthen interest in astronomy through public outreach. Comets, especially, are a big attraction. The biggest event the organization ever hosted was for the return of Halley's Comet from the depths of the solar system. On the evening of Saturday, January 4, 1986, an estimated 2,100 people crowded North Scituate. Roads were lined with parked cars for at least a mile. Police had to shut down Route 6 for a time. The ground on our property could not be seen due to the throngs of people.



CAPTURED: To the unaided eye, Halley's Comet appears as a faint dot, but this computer-enhanced photo from the Naval Observatory provides greater detail.

'Halleymania' strikes Scituate

By C. EUGENE EMERY JR.
David Huestis couldn't believe it. Last Saturday when more than 1,000 people showed up at the doorway of the observatory in North Scituate to get a peek at Halley's comet.
"It's like Halleymania," said the historian for Skyscrapers, the local astronomy group that runs the Seagrave Observatory on PeepToad Road. "Everyone's caught comet fever."
Halley's, which last appeared in the skies in 1910 and won't return for another 75 years, is rapidly approaching the sun and will disappear from the evening sky after Jan. 25.
Even before that, the moon will move into the western sky at dusk, its light making it increasingly difficult to see the glowing chunk of ice and rock. By late next month, after Halley's has swept behind the sun, the comet will be nearly impossible to see from this part of the country. Although masked by four stars that make a giant diamond, it is above and to the right of Jupiter.
Huestis said it becomes dark enough to see the comet around 5:45 p.m. Halley's drops behind the trees at 7:15 p.m. Some visitors, he acknowledged, have been disappointed by what they saw.
"That's because they've seen the pictures taken by the major observatories in 1910 when the viewing was much better, and that's what they expect to see," he said. "They expect something the size of a full moon with a giant tail."
Instead, Huestis said, Halley's looks like a big fireball. You have to look closely and be accustomed to looking at dim objects to see the tail. Unfortunately, 85 to 90 percent of the people have never looked through a telescope.
You can get directions to the observatory by calling the sky hotline. Huestis said visitors should dress warmly and not expect to see the comet unless the skies are clear.
Providence Journal, January 6, 1986. Reprinted with permission.



And, more recently, hundreds of folks visited Seagrave Memorial Observatory to view the August 21, 2017 partial solar eclipse.

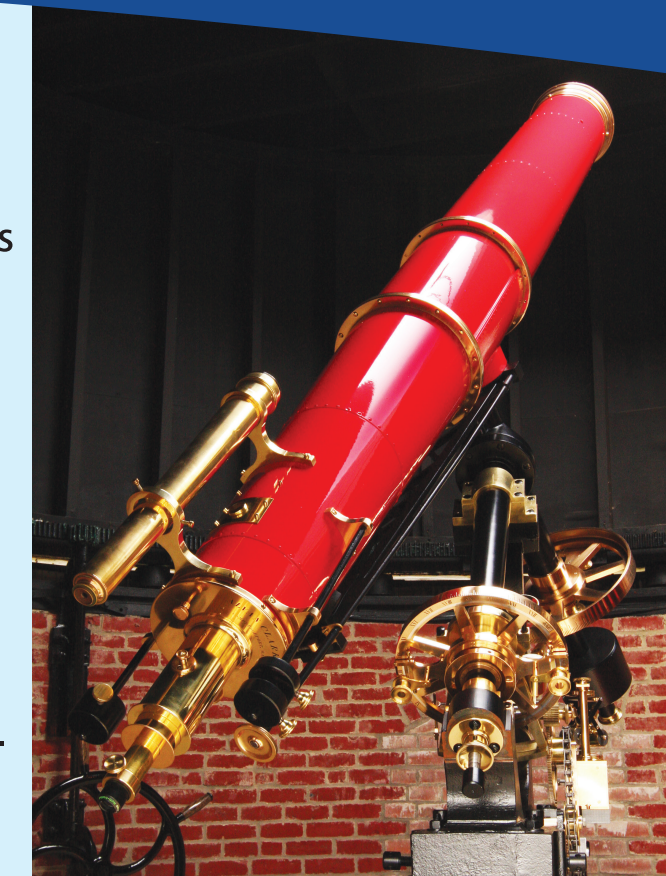
Over the years, Skyscrapers has expanded its footprint on PeepToad Road. In 1952 a meeting hall was completed. Additionally, two new roll-off roof observatories have been built, housing 12- and 16-inch reflecting telescopes.

In addition to enlightening our membership on the wonders of the universe, Skyscrapers's focus has always been to "educate the general public...on matters pertaining to astronomy." Our members enjoy sharing their love of the sky, especially with children. The society also hosts star parties for many local school and civic groups both on and off-site.



If you'd like to experience what Skyscrapers has to offer, Seagrave Memorial Observatory is open on Saturday nights, weather permitting. We also hold monthly meetings where our speakers present lectures on a variety of astronomical topics. You may even wish to join the society. Learn more at theskyscrapers.org.

Keep your eyes to the skies!



The Skyscrapers organization continues to be a productive and valued member of the Scituate community as we enlighten our Rhode Island neighbors about the wonder and beauty of the heavens.



Heritage Trail Sign Locations

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1—Main Scituate Kiosk
555 W. Greenville Rd | 7—Stephen Hopkins
& Town Hall
195 Danielson Pike | 13—Lost Villages East
& Town Hall
600 Plainfield Pike |
| 2—Congregational Church
554 W. Greenville Rd | 8—RI State Police
313 Danielson Pike | 14—Hope Village
116 Main St |
| 3—Scituate Schools
546 W. Greenville Rd | 9—Ezek Hopkins (at Park)
328 Danielson Pike | 15—Hope Furnace
11 Hope Furnace Rd |
| 4—Smithville Seminary
46 Institute Lane | 10—Town Economics
705 Hartford Ave | 16—Potterville
316 Old Plainfield Pike |
| 5—Seagrave Observatory
47 Peep Toad Rd | 11—Chopmist (at Sr. Center)
1315 Chopmist Rd | 17—Clayville
479 Field Hill Rd |
| 6—Native American
(at Tusca Field)
43 Hartford Ave | 12—Lost Villages West
600 Chopmist Rd | 18—New Rockland Cemetery
1537 Plainfield Pike |



Scan the QR code for information about Seagrave Memorial Observatory

Sign curated by Dave Huestis
with contributions from Jim Hendrickson and Francine Jackson

Skyscrapers, Inc., has operated Seagrave Memorial Observatory on this site since 1936.

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Skyscrapers, Inc.

2026 Election

Skyscrapers, Inc.
Executive Committee 2026

President: **Michael Corvese**

Vice-president: **Steve Hubbard**

Recording Secretary: **Lisa Baccala**

Treasurer: **Kathy Siok**

Member-at-large: **John Kocur**

Member-at-large: **Michael Kerr**

Trustee, 1-yr: **Matt White**

Trustee, 2-yr: **Jay Baccala**

Trustee, 3-yr: **Bob Janus**