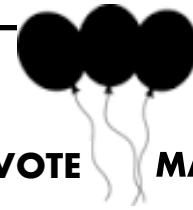


The Circle



VOTE MARCH 1

Rutland Town's Link between School and Community

February 2016

TOWN NEWS

From Chairman Joe Dicton 2015 - The Year in Review

It is with great pride that I am able to give our residents this report of the activities of the past year. First, I would like to thank my fellow board members for their confidence as it has been a privilege to serve as your Chairman and we have accomplished much in one short year. Without your cooperation and your hard work, the following accomplishments would not have been possible.

We were able to sell some surplus Town Cemetery property and use the proceeds to then purchase an adjoining lot to the Dewey Field Recreation site thanks to a very fair offered price by the owner. This purchase will allow us to add parking, thereby relieving a constant problem of overflow cars on the street, and also allowed us to correct some severe drainage problems.

We had some severe shortages on our Planning Commission which have been filled and we are now fortunate to have a full complement of dedicated planners working for our town, and we thank them for the quality work they are doing.

Using our 1% Option Tax funds, we commenced the planning, bidding, and initial construction on our new Highway Garage which will be completed in this construction season and will serve our town and our highway staff for many years to come. We also replaced our utility vehicle and purchased a new 6-8 yard workhorse truck with a plow, wing, and sander which should give our

(Continued on Page 8)

FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD ON THE BUDGET

The School Board assures you that our school offers educational opportunities which align with our community's values and that students are performing extremely well and achieving the educational results the community expects while being fiscally responsible.

The Board had difficult obstacles to overcome this year with few choices. A reduction in surplus (\$275,000), an increase in high school tuition and special education instruction and support services (\$258,000) along with increases in health insurance (7.9%) were factors which the Board had to deal with. Along with these were Act 46 and the Allowable Growth Provision of Act 46, which recommended artificial thresholds for education spending and a new formula for calculating tax rates.

As stripped as the 2016 budget was, we have been forced to cut an additional \$147,600 from the elementary portion this year. **No new initiatives have been included and staffing has been reduced by 2.9 full time educators.** Keep in mind that unlike the majority of schools in Vermont, our enrollment continues to rise each year. The Board asked town residents for their input at the Pre-Town Meeting. After a discussion with residents, the Board

(Continued on Page 6)

MY VIEW FROM HOUSE SEAT 101

From Tom Terenzini, State Representative

The Vermont State Legislature is once again in session. So far, we have debated and passed legislation making the "turnip" the state vegetable. We wasted far too much time on this legislative bill, but after all, it's Montpelier at its best.

The adjusted budget bill passed through the House. I voted against this bill as it added \$90 million more in federal and state spending. The Shumlin administration has proposed another 5% growth in state spending. Current revenue growth is less than 3% though.

Act 46 was passed in the dark of night during a midnight weekend session. It is a complex and difficult bill to comprehend as there are so many moving parts to this new law. I also voted in favor of adjusting some of the spending caps that were handcuffing our Rutland Town School Board into making some serious cuts that would have directly affected the education we provide at our great school.

As a member of the Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee, I am entrusted with trying to keep the waters of Vermont clean and pristine. Most of the bills we deal with in my committee are water bills. This session so far, we have

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Meet Patty Carbine

Administrative Assistant to Joe Zingale

My name is Patricia (Patty) Carbine and on January 4, 2016, I started at the Rutland Town Office as Town Administrator Joseph Zingale, Jr.'s assistant. I am a Rutland City native, having strong ties to many of the communities surrounding the area. I have experience in real estate, clerical and secretarial skills, and various municipal skills.

My main duty so far has been taking minutes for Select Board and Planning Commission meetings, as this is budget season and there are many meetings at this busy time. However, Joe has assured me there are lots of other interesting things he does. As you know, Joe has been with the Town for over thirty years and he is a wealth of information. I have learned so much in the short time I have been working with him. As he and I move forward, I will be learning about various types of permits, water and sewer matters, geographic information software for mapping, managing the website, as well as tackling the many other issues that come up from day to day.

I look forward to learning more about Rutland Town and all it has to offer. I would like to thank Joe and the Select Board for this grand opportunity, and look forward to serving the community in every way I can.

WHAT'S THE CIRCLE?

The Circle is a publication of Rutland Town and Rutland Town School, informing the community about issues of local interest. **The Circle** is not a public forum. The school administration has the right to exercise editorial control over style and content in keeping with a proper educational environment.

The Circle staff includes Principal Aaron Boynton as Editor in Chief, Carol Bam, Theresa Kulig, and Marie Pennington. Five issues are published every other month from October through June.

For more information, mailing list changes, to advertise or contribute articles, call the RTS office (775-0566) or email carolbam@aol.com.

**The Circle, c/o Rutland Town School,
1612 Post Road, Rutland, VT 05701.**

Rutland Free Library

Tax time and Budget Time

From Randal Smathers, Assistant Director

It's tax season again, and it continues to be hard to access forms. **You can find them at the library:** We can download and print most of the forms for either state or IRS purposes. We also have 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ forms and books and print a small supply of renter rebate forms. In fact, the IRS checked if it is OK for them to send people needing forms to us.

Taxpayers are constantly being encouraged to file online, and the library can help there as well. We have 10 public computers with fiber optic Internet connections, and during tax season they are particularly busy. On any given week, patrons use our computers about 400 times. Daily, about 400 people come through our doors.

In 2015, use continued to rise at Rutland Free Library. More materials were checked out and program attendance nearly tripled over 2014; we expanded the number of children's programs and opened a small meeting room – formerly the director's office -- to the public. Patrons have used the small meeting room for, among many other things, job interviews on Skype. Applying for work is a common use of our computers, as many local businesses want to see that prospective employees can sit down at a keyboard and navigate the web, send an email, perhaps even upload a resume. It is always great to hear from users later that they got the job!

Our computers are old, however, and get a lot of wear and tear; they crash and we are starting to see software they can't run. **We are asking for a 3 percent increase (\$2,650) in additional funding from Rutland Town and the four other supporting towns to upgrade our public computer system.** The goal is to replace the 10 public computers. All five towns that fund the Rutland Free Library will be contributing to this goal proportionally.

With the additional computer upgrade monies, the total the library is asking of the town is \$91,011. Please support our efforts to update our patron computers by voting for our library funding.

Check out Front Porch Forum

Many Vermont communities, including Rutland Town, have Front Porch Forums. Members post on many topics: lost dogs, car break ins, plumber recommendations, school budgets, local events, helping neighbors in need, and much more.

Each town's forum is exclusive to that town. Neighborhood forums are private, limited to just the folks who live in each area, plus local public officials.

To join, visit www.frontporchforum.com and sign up today.

Rutland Town PTO

By Theresa Czachor, Secretary

The RTS PTO has had a busy fall and winter thus far. Our membership drive resulted in 75 families paying dues which got the year off to a great start.

Each member family received a directory with class lists and contact information. We still have some directories available for those that would like to purchase one for \$10. You can call Theresa Czachor at 775-0566 x2030 and leave a message.

Attendance at our Breakfast With Santa was up this year with one hundred fifty hungry breakfast goers coming through the doors. Santa had a long line of children waiting to talk with him before they left. It was an enjoyable morning for all in attendance.

A Middle School Valentine's Day dance was scheduled for February 12th and we are beginning the planning for our annual Super Market Bingo where the community is invited for a potluck supper and a few games of Bingo. We will keep the community informed of this event as it draws closer.

The goals of the RTS PTO are to provide learning, support and opportunities to the Rutland Town Community; and to provide financial support for materials and programs not available through the school budget for the benefit and enrichment of our students.

Please email rts.pto@rcsu.org if you would like to suggest an event or fundraising activity for our organization.

The Rutland Conservation District

Annual Tree Sale

Order Until April 15

Trees beautify our surroundings, help save energy and protect our waterways. For these reasons and others the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (a non-profit organization) is offering a spring planting program. The Rutland Conservation District has been offering this program for over 15 years and has sold thousands of high quality plants at an affordable price.

Some trees available are: balsam fir, fraser fir, caanan fir, hemlock, blue spruce, white cedar and white pine, sugar maple, black cherry and black walnut, lilac, and dogwood, apple, pear, peach, and sweet cherry trees. Strawberry, blueberry, raspberry and asparagus plants are also available.

All stock is bare root and is offered at a reasonable cost. It is necessary to plant bare-root trees immediately in order to keep the roots from drying out.

This sale helps to generate funds to support the District's many programs. For further information, or an order form, please contact Nanci McGuire at the Rutland District office 802-775-8034 ext. 117 or visit <http://www.vacd.org/rcd>

Orders will be taken until April 15, 2016, or until supplies last, so order early!

From Principal Aaron Boynton

As we begin the second half of the school year, I reflect on our year so far and we have a lot to be proud of. I would like to congratulate our middle school science teacher, Mr. Brian Crane for recently being recognized as a Vita-Learn Vermont IGNITE Educator. Brian will be recognized at an upcoming event in Montpelier with me and our technology integrationist, Erica Zimmer. This organization recognizes teachers who demonstrate innovation and transformation. Mr. Crane has been implementing a student centered, proficiency-based model in his classroom and we have seen students make significant gains in their learning with this model. Congratulations Brian!

Also, recently our Multi-Tiered Support System committee was recognized by the Agency of Education for the work we have done in improving our student support and intervention model. Much work has been done in our team meetings to improve classroom instruction and intervention based on assessment results. We have seen less intervention needed due to this focus. We continue to strive to support all students to meet not only the benchmark, but their potential. We have also been recognized as the first school in Vermont to be certified as a Digital Citizenship school through the Common Sense DC program. This curricular program allowed students to engage and learn skills in internet safety, privacy and security, relationships and communication, cyber bullying and digital drama, digital footprint and reputation. It was a very powerful and impactful curriculum.

We look ahead to a very busy yet wonderful time of year. Our 8th graders are poised to attend a field trip to Washington DC this spring. We are looking forward to this experience. Middle school teachers will begin to engage in deeper professional development in the proficiency-based, learner centered model. We will be working with the grant funded Tarrant Institute to guide this work and create a model of instruction and learning that is researched based best practice.

We welcome you to our 4th grade Science Fair that will take place the evening of March 1, Town Meeting day. We hope you stop by and see the great work our students have done!



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The Highway Garage under construction



Road Notes

**from Byron Hathaway,
Road Commissioner**

The proposed next fiscal year's highway budget is up by 2.58% over this fiscal year's budget. Two line item increases account for most of that increase. The first item is an increase in the maintenance amount for the Town's loader. To preserve the metal work on the loader, I plan to send it out to have it sand blasted, epoxy primed, and painted. The loader is 10 years old now, and a good coat of paint will extend the useful life of the loader for at least another 10 years or more.

The second item, and a new budget line item, is for painting intersections along U.S. Routes 4 and 7. Stop bars, cross walks, turning lanes, and directional arrows at these intersections were maintained by VTrans crews in the past. This practice was given up several years ago and now to continue to provide for vehicular and pedestrian safety we must paint these intersections ourselves. This will be done either by a subcontractor or the highway crew whichever is more cost effective.

So far, this winter season has been very good to our winter budget. Should this continue, then a winter budget surplus will be carried over into next fiscal year's budget to help with paving and associated paving costs. Let's hope for an early spring.

The highway garage project is moving forward. The steel frame work is up and by the time *The Circle* gets to you, most, if not all, of the roofing, siding, and insulation will be done. The project is still on track for spring completion.

Remember Town Meeting day is March 1 this year. Take the time to go and vote, or vote absentee if you need to. Thanks for your support of the Highway budget in the past. I look forward to your support for this year's budget.

From TOWN CLERK & TREASURER Donna Zeller

Mark your calendars for Town Meeting at the elementary school on Post Road Monday, February 29 at 7:00 pm. Polls are open from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 1 at Town Hall for voters living on the west side of Route 7, and the elementary school on Post Road for voters east of Route 7.

This election includes the Presidential Primary.

You will be asked to choose either a Democratic ballot or a Republican ballot at the polls, or when you request an early/absentee ballot. If you are a Vermont resident and will turn 18 years old before November 8, 2016, you may register to vote for the Presidential Primary only. The last day to register to vote for this election is Wednesday, February 24 at the Town Clerk's office or online.

We are using the State-mandated voter checklist to generate the mailing list for the Annual Town Report and for *The Circle*. If you or someone you know did not receive *The Circle* or Annual Town Report in the mail, please call the Town Clerk's office to check your voter status or request to be added to the mailing list. Additional copies may be picked up at the Town Hall.

Dog Licenses are due April 1. All dogs need a current rabies certificate signed by a veterinarian.

I look forward to meeting and helping all Town residents whenever you stop in at Town Hall.

"Cyber-Seniors" Documentary and Discussion at The Gables Feb. 25

The Gables at East Mountain will host a free screening of the humorous and heartwarming documentary *Cyber-Seniors* on Thursday, February 25, 2016 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The critically acclaimed film, called "charming, hilarious and poignant" by NBC News, follows a spirited group of senior citizens as they discover the wonders of the internet and new technology. Under the tutelage of teenage mentors, the lives of the men and women are enriched by digitally connecting them to their families, friends and each other.

A discussion about the victories and challenges faced by the cyber-seniors will take place following the film. Joining the talk will be Linda and John Bryant of Senior Circuit, a local business that focuses on in-home computer and technology education for Vermont senior citizens.

Please contact Randi Cohn at 770-5275 or rcohn@thegablesvt.com to reserve a seat. The Gables, an independent living retirement community, is located at 1 Gables Place, off Gleason Road in Rutland.

Report of the Fire, Police and Transfer Station Committees By Selectman Don Chioffi

In a very active last quarter of our year, Joe Dicton and I are pleased to report that our Fire committee and the board is slowly but surely dealing with the remaining items of litigation required to totally complete the Center Rutland fire station project. In addition, the department's truck committee has successfully developed some real specific specs for the bidding on a new pumper to replace our 25 year old Engine 1 at McKinley Station. This will be approximately a year long process, from bid to acceptance to assembly of all components into a completed fire engine, and will be paid for through the depreciation fund established for exactly these purposes. The department, under the capable leadership of Chief Cioffi, has also successfully accomplished a replacement of the aging fuel tank at McKinley and installation of a 30 KW backup generator, in addition to the successful upgrades to both the aging heating system at the station and the outdated wiring to the administrative office. Our department is strong at 42 active and highly qualified members. Even including many items in the budget such as DISPATCH, over which we have no control, we managed to keep the increase this year to a reasonable 4.53%, and we encourage your support of this valuable town asset.

The Police Committee has also been very active with a successful application and approval process on our SRO Grant. This 3 year grant provides \$125,000 for the employment of a full time School Resource Officer in our school. With today's threats and challenges, it is incumbent on us to provide the most responsible, efficient, and cost effective protection of our most valuable resource—our kids. This program will be administered by our Police Department in close coordination with school officials, and the officer will be available for general policing activities, during all school vacation periods. We also applied for and received a full 100% cost grant, (\$28,000) for one License Plate Reader (LPR) which will provide advanced warning for our department for many auto related threats, i.e. abduction, robbery, and dangerous and threatening vehicle operation. With all this, we were able to provide a budget that reflects a 16.08% decrease in the amount to be raised by taxes,

ATTENTION, HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

RUTLAND TOWN SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications will be considered if the \$10,000 funding request is approved by Rutland Town voters at Town Meeting, March 1, 2016.

Qualifications: The applicant must have resided in the Town of Rutland for at least two years prior to the date of graduation.

Scholarship Criteria: Awards will be made on the basis of scholastic achievement, leadership, and financial need.

Instructions: The application is in two parts. Part 1 is to be completed by the applicant; Part 2 is to be completed by the school Guidance Dept.

Applications are due in the Town Office by April 22.

RUTLAND TOWN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

These awards are given with pride by the faculty of Rutland Town School to honor their former students.

Eligibility: Applicants must be graduates of Rutland Town School who will attend some form of higher education upon graduation from high school.

Awards: Five scholarships of \$200 or four scholarships of \$250 each will be awarded.

Selection Process: Applicants are reviewed by the Rutland Town Education Association Scholarship Committee and recipients are determined based on the quality of submission of the following items: Scholastic and extracurricular record, Moral character, Community service, and 2 letters of recommendation

Essay - See application for specific requirements.

Applications are available from high school guidance offices. **They must be received by Friday April 29, 2016**

Mail to: Rutland Town School Scholarship Committee
C/O Melissa Theis
Rutland Town School
1612 Post Road
Rutland, VT 05701

and we commend our Police Department for their scrutiny of costs.

Lastly, our Transfer Station has never been in better shape. We have recently replaced our groaning compactor with a new and more efficient model and did so within the present maintenance budget. We are presently in the process of making the transition to a complete Zero Sort facility and hope to have an additional compactor for this purpose, also within the current budgeted maintenance amount, hopefully by late winter or early spring. We are proud that we have a clean, efficient, well run facility, and Zero Sort will save all of us lots of time and yet still achieve environmentally sound objectives. We are eager to achieve these efficiencies. Thank you and if you have any questions about any of these departments, please come to Town Meeting, or call Joe or me, or any board member.



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Vote and Visit . . . The 4th Grade Science Fair

By Kathryn Duguay, Grade 4 Teacher

The Fourth Grade students at RTS have been hard at work preparing for the fourth annual Rutland Town School Science Fair. We hope that many community supporters will attend the event **Tuesday, March 1 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm in the school gym.**

Our young scientists have investigated many interesting topics this year from electricity to how accurate weather predictions are. We are very pleased to announce our panel of judges that include some new faces, as well as veterans. They include our own Aaron Boynton, Sarah Tetzlaff, Lori Patterson, Wendy Lozyniak, Brian Crane, Mary Ashcroft, Marnie Roussel, and even an eighth grade student (Alex Stute). Judges will use a rubric to score students based on their display, as well as their oral presentation. First, second, and third place awards will be given to students in each fourth grade class.

The fourth grade teachers are extremely proud of all the scientific thinking and hard work students have put into their projects. We would like to extend a special thank you to parents for all the support they have provided at home. The Science Fair is a great opportunity to recognize and celebrate the important role science plays in our everyday lives.

We hope to see you at the Science Fair!

(School Board ~ Continued from Page 1)

voted to add back The following positions into the budget: .4 fte Math teacher, .6 custodian and to increase Reading from .5 to .8 fte.

Thankfully, our CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) increase is positive in the tax rate calculation. An increase in the CLA decreases the tax rate.

While our Expenditure budget increased 2.44%, the estimated Tax Rate will DECREASE .52%.

After great discussion, the Board has decided to ask for a \$400,000, 20 year bond for repairs, replacements and renovations. We retired a twenty year bond this year which enables us to address facility needs. This bond would complete necessary building upgrades including a security entrance, tiling, carpeting and ceiling repairs. These have been priorities in our facility plan for several years. We feel we can no longer put them aside and now is the time to address them. We expect interest rates to be less than 3%. The approximate annual impact on the tax rate due to the bond would be \$.0049 (annual cost for \$100,000 home \$4.90).

The Board would like to thank each and every one of you for your time, talents and financial support.

Without you, the voters, residents, parents and community members who have supported the school district we could not accomplish the tasks necessary to meet our students' needs.

The Board wishes to thank you for your support of the school and the education of the children of Rutland Town.

Lynette Gallipo, School Board Chair

VOTER INFORMATION

For March 1, 2016

Last day to register to vote is Wed., February 24 until 5 pm at Town Hall

New voters are required by the "Help America Vote Act" to show a driver's license or provide the last four digits of their social security number.

Voters must be 18 years old on or before March 1, 2016 to vote for local issues, but must be 18 years old on or before November 8, 2016 to vote in the Presidential Primary.

Absentee Ballots are available. Voters may request an absentee ballot for several elections by filling out an official "REQUEST FOR EARLY ABSENTEE VOTER BALLOT (FOR ONE YEAR ONLY)" form available at the Town Office. Ballots can be picked up in person (by the voter only) or mailed to you.

To be counted, completed ballots must be dropped off at the Town Office by the close of the office **Monday, Feb. 29**, or they can be delivered to the poll site on Election Day by 7 pm closing.

Vote Tuesday, March 1, 7 am - 7 pm

Residents living on the east side of Route 7 vote at Rutland Town School; west side residents vote at the Town Office.

Call the Town Office at 773-2528 if you need more information.



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SELECT BOARD RACE:

Incumbent **Don Chioffi** is challenged by former Fire Chief **Joe Denardo** for a 3 year term.

Joe Denardo

Hi, I'm Joe Denardo and I'm running for the position of Selectman on the Rutland Town Select Board.

I have a history of a good work ethic, both personally in my career as a farmer, and serving and supporting the Rutland Town Community. A 3rd generation native of the Denardo Farm in Rutland Town, I joined the volunteer Rutland Town Fire Department (RTFD) in 1972. I was elected Lieutenant in 1977 and served in that position at different times for 13 years. In 1979 I was appointed Town Fire Warden, which is a position I continue to hold today. In 2002 I was elected Chief of the RTFD and served in that office for 11 years. During my time as chief I organized the replacement of outdated equipment in an effort to modernize and streamline the fire department. I was also instrumental in the proposal and plans for the new Center Rutland fire station. While taking on these projects for the RTFD, I worked hard and successfully developed department budgets that minimized the tax burden on the community. My focus on strengthening both leadership and teamwork helped make the RTFD strong and versatile; today the RTFD is held as a model for volunteer fire departments in the state of Vermont. My time as chief also makes me uniquely knowledgeable about the workings of the board that will allow me to hit the ground running if elected Selectman.

I am now ready to continue my efforts in public service and would like to offer my work ethic, leadership, and teamwork skills to the Rutland Town community in a new venue. My institutional knowledge of the Town will be a great asset insuring success for the community. I believe I have a fresh and positive view to offer the residents of Rutland Town, and ask for your support as I run for the Rutland Town Select Board.

On March 1st come out and support your community. Vote for Joe Denardo for the Rutland Town Select Board!

Don Chioffi

Community service is an honor and a privilege. My name is Don Chioffi and I have respected the opportunity that the citizens of Rutland Town have given me for some forty years now to contribute to the building of a proud and vibrant community. As a teacher of 17 years, I have been proud to see many of my students and their families continue, as I have, to make our town a great place to live and work. Indeed, for our Chairman, Joe Dicton, it is a short but rewarding trip from Seventh Grade to leadership of our Board, and one that makes me smile with pride.

From the early vision and leadership required to bring Dewey Field and Northwood Park from a concept to the reality of the present, to the hard work and foresight to get the 1% Local Option Tax adopted by our community, the betterment of our town in creative ways that still keep our taxes low has always been my goal.

Funding for our Recreational Parks was 90% Federal and State dollars, and our Treasurer has indicated that the 1% Option Tax has generated over \$ 7.3 MILLION of municipal dollars since we voted for it. In fact, at \$1.1 Million/year, it now pays for over one half of our total municipal budget.

During the past three years as Clerk of our Select Board, my service on the Police, Fire, Transfer Station, Scholarship, and Town Report Committees has contributed to many progressive, forward looking, and beneficial improvements to our community. Additionally, I took a keen interest in developing a meaningful Solar Siting Standards document, which was unanimously approved by both our Planning Commission and our Board. My work and Rutland Town's foresight has resulted in a coalition of over 91 towns now demanding local community participation in the Siting process used at the PSB level.

I respectfully ask that you allow 40 years of dedication, experience, drive, and determination to continue to serve you in municipal government. I promise you faithful service and most of all, an open ear to any of your concerns. Thank you.

(Rep. Terenzini ~ Continued from Page 1)

also dealt with the sale of ivory or rhinoceros horns. This bill is already covered under federal law. We are also looking at increasing membership of the clean water fund. This would include more civilian participation on the state board. Another example of what we are working on includes bill H-552; an act related to threatening of endangered species. Those are just a few examples of what we work on in my committee.

I have always said that you, the citizens of Rutland Town, have not sent me to Montpelier to raise your taxes. I am reminded of this every time I sit on the floor of the house. It is a humbling experience representing our town and I thank you for this.

Rutland Town Seniors

From James Hall, Treasurer

Town Meeting day in Vermont is just around the corner, Tues., March 1. We sincerely urge all to vote in that election; most local offices have terms of service expiring and balloting will be done accordingly.

Anyone needing to vote early, or have ballots brought to the place of residence can arrange that by contacting the Town Clerk in Rutland Town or the City Clerk if residence is in Rutland City.

Hope everyone is having an enjoyable winter; it is nice to see the days getting longer.

SELECT BOARD RACE:

Chris Kiefer-Cioffi and Philip Allen are competing for the remaining one year of Joe Dicton's 2 year term.

Chris D. Kiefer - Cioffi

Dear Voters:

Good Day. My name is Chris D. Kiefer-Cioffi and I would like to fill the Select Board position being vacated by Mr. Joe Dicton. This will be a one year term.

I have been a resident of Rutland Town for over 20 years. My husband, Ernie and I own property in Rutland Town.

The Select Board is responsible for many decisions which affect the future of Rutland Town. My skills as a good listener, voice of reason and calm demeanor will be a great addition to the current membership of our board. As a property owner, I have a vested interest in the future of Rutland Town.

I currently serve as a Justice of the Peace for Rutland Town. This has been a positive experience.

Please remember to voice your opinions and maintain your control by voting on 1 March 2016. This is an important time for Rutland Town

Thank you for your time regarding this matter.

Philip Allen

My name is Philip Allen and I am running for the last one year of Mr. Joe Dicton's Select Board seat. My wife Marlene and I have owned our home on East Pittsford Road since 2003. Our children Miles and Leah are both 13 years old and attend Rutland Town Elementary School. Marlene and I own Same Sun of Vermont, Inc. in Rutland City. We employ 13 full time people and many others on a part time or contractor basis to design and install solar arrays.

I am running for the Select Board as a father, a local businessman and an environmentalist. I offer a point of view that I believe is shared by many of us and lacking on the current board.

My Pledge

Complete transparency. Unless, required by law, I will never go into "executive session." Rutland Towners deserve all things that involve them to be fully disclosed.

I will encourage public comment and make the board meetings more about the citizens and taxpayers than about the board members.

I will spend our money wisely. The current board has denied us tax revenue while spending tens of thousands of dollars of our money without a ballot measure or allowing us a vote.

I will authorize no major expenses without the community's support

I will address aesthetic concerns in the town by identifying decaying building and working with owners to repair or replace the structures.

I will take into account the needs of all Rutland Towners and not just those of a few families.

My family and I love Rutland Town. With your help we want to make it a more beautiful and prosperous place to live.

(Town News ~ Continued from Page 1)

Highway Department more control of our winter maintenance.

In support of our Town's well thought out position on Renewable Energy Siting, and in support of our Planning Commission's inclusion of that document in our Town Plan, we have pursued our position of objection to the Cold River Road (RRE) solar project for non-compliance with that Town Plan and have filed a formal complaint with the Vermont Supreme Court which is presently pending decision.

We have supported the Clerk/Treasurer functions in our Town Office with the support of the New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) and have greatly enhanced the financial and cash reporting and accounting systems in our town. This transition has greatly improved both our recording and our reporting systems and modernized both. In addition to this, we have supported the hiring of a full time assistant Clerk and Treasurer.

Following a successful search and hiring process, we now employ a half time Assistant to our Town Administrator, who at this time is concentrating on the production of minutes for both the Select Board and the Planning Commission, freeing our Administrator to concentrate on more critical matters.

We have completed a lengthy application process and were

awarded a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant which is now providing a School Resource Officer as a full time position at the Rutland Town Elementary School. This is a three year grant and the school is sharing in the local split for this position. The grant is providing nearly \$42,000 in this current year. The program will be administered by the Rutland Town Police Department and the officer will be available for general town policing during all school vacation periods. During all school attendance days this valuable position will provide safety, security, and informational assistance to our educational community.

We have also applied for and received another grant providing our Police Department two License Plate Readers (LPRs) which will further add to the efficiency and accuracy of our policing activity in our town.

We have successfully completed the bid process for our Town Hall renovations which will provide a modernization of our rest room facilities, which were severely in need of upgrade, and also expands our administrative office space to accommodate our assistant and our Police Department.

At our Transfer Station we have replaced an aging compactor using budgeted maintenance funds and also paved the way for a smooth transition to a Zero Sort facility. This will provide

(Continued on next page)

(Town News ~ Continued from previous page)

a great savings in time and convenience for all our citizens and a much greater flow through our facility.

We hosted a nice community celebration at our newly constructed Fire Station in Center Rutland and formally dedicated it to the citizens of Rutland Town. It was a wonderful day of celebration and hundreds of our townspeople enjoyed a nice bar-b-q and an educational tour of the new station and equipment, conducted by our very capable volunteer firemen and women. We used some of the surplus money from the Fire Station bond to bring the McKinley Station into compliance with code requirements by replacing an aging underground fuel tank and adding a 30 KW backup generator, gas heating system, and electrical code upgrades to the office wiring.

We were also successful in securing major funding and construction of a tremendous improvement to our US RT 4 corridor. The installation of water and sewer mains due to the outstanding contribution and cooperation with our neighbor, West Rutland, will pave the way for successful redevelopment of our entire western gateway and will provide all our residents and businesses and the users in Fire District 1 reliable services at very favorable rates.

We are indeed fortunate, even in challenging economic times, to be able to encourage and foster quality development in our town commercial centers, both on the west and the south, which will favorably impact our tax base and make our town more affordable for our residents.

On a personal note, it has been an extreme pleasure to serve my town and I have enjoyed my relationships with fellow board members and all the town departments and staff. Our town is very fortunate to have such dedicated and hard-working people and I want to thank all departments for their excellent service and wish each and every one of them and our town continued success in the future.

Finally, thanks to board members Don Chioffi and Mary Ashcroft, and Town Administrator, Joe Zingale for doing a fantastic job organizing, editing and constructing the Town Report. It is a product all town residents can be proud of!



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SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES:

Incumbent **Sharon Russell** is running unopposed for another 3 year term.

Matt Branchaud is running unopposed for the 2 year seat vacated by Josh Terenzini. He is also running unopposed for the one year term of Town Moderator

Sharon G. Russell **3 Year Term**

We have a wonderful school, and my job as a school board member is to maintain the school and help to provide the best education that the tax payers can afford. With all the new regulations, this is as tough as we have seen in Act 46, but education is a path to a good life and a better future for all of us. So I will do my best to consider our children and the taxpayer in making my decisions.

Matt Branchaud **2 Year Term**

Hello, my name is Matt Branchaud and I'm running for Rutland Town School Board and Town Moderator. Rutland Town is a wonderful place to live and I have spent most of my life here. I graduated from Rutland Town in 1990, Rutland High School in 1994, Champlain College in 2001, and Suffolk Law in 2004. During my education I also studied at UVM and Vermont Law School.

Given my history, I value a quality learning experience and want to make sure our children receive the best education possible. All three of my boys will attend Rutland Town in the next decade, and every time I attend school meetings I hear talk of cuts to teachers, programs, trips and opportunities.

School funding is under attack by the State of Vermont, and Act 46 threatens our right to school choice. Act 46 also creates a host of other problems for our community.

We need to correct these issues and I am willing to offer my hard work, energy and time towards finding a solution. I promise to advocate for Rutland Town from here to Montpelier, and do everything I can to make this a better school for everyone.

Thank you and don't forget to vote on Tuesday March 1, 2016.

FOUR WINDS BLOWING

By Kirsten Marsh



We are half way through our year of learning about "Structure and Function" in the Four Winds nature study program at RTS. I will often start a Four Winds lesson by reviewing with the students what the program is all about and what it means to be a scientist. You don't need a lab coat, safety glasses or a microscope to be a scientist.... an inquisitive mind and your senses are the most basic tools of the scientific trade. In November, I asked a class of 1st graders if they remembered what being a scientist was about. Two hands went up. The first answer was this: "Being a scientist is like when you're looking at something and you look at it with wonder and you ask questions and try to figure it out." I was left speechless. This is probably the best answer I've ever gotten to that question. Moving on to the second raised hand: "It's like when you're outside, and you see something gross, and instead of saying 'YUCK!' you look at and try to figure out what it might be." Wow! I couldn't have put it better!

We investigated **Skulls** in January. It's amazing what you can tell about an animal by checking out the structure of the skull and teeth. Which way do the eye sockets point? To the front? Predator. To the side? Prey. How about the teeth? Herbivore? Carnivore? Omnivore? We even checked out some human dental molds to determine what kind of diet we are built for.

Birds are our topic for February. We'll check out beaks, feathers and feet in order to observe and compare the different characteristics and behaviors of birds to see how structure and function help them survive.

In March we will be '**Calling all Owls!**'. This is one of the most beloved units, the students will get to dissect owl pellets (think fur balls). Once they get past the 'yuck' they will be full of wonder!

Volunteers and students will continue to explore Structure and Function in this hands-on, classroom program throughout the year. Volunteers--parents and friends of learning--are trained each month by Four Winds Nature Institute staff. They then team teach an hour long program in the K-5 classrooms. Experiments, workstation projects, and outdoor scavenging are among the activities enjoyed by students. This program would not be possible without all our volunteers and the support of the school and teachers. A huge THANK YOU to all those that make this program work, past and present. This is an amazing program with amazing resources. Just another example of how fortunate we are to live where we do.

From the Rutland Town Fire Department By BJ Hathaway



Greetings all from the Rutland Town Fire Department! Hopefully this finds everyone well and enjoying the mild winter we've been having. After the last couple of winters we certainly deserve it. The members of the Fire Department have been making great use of the mild weather as well as we are able to get outside to do training that would otherwise have to wait until spring.

The department's Truck Committee has been busy as well, putting together a comprehensive set of specifications for the replacement of one of our engines. The current engine is 23 years old and has served the community well over the past two decades. It will be replaced with a modern piece of equipment that carries a greater amount of water, has larger pumping capabilities as well as a host of other updates. The formal bidding process for that truck will begin as soon as the Select Board finishes reviewing the specifications generated by the Chief and the Truck Committee.

The Fire Dept. reminds everyone to check their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Carbon Monoxide detectors should be replaced every 5 years and typically have a date of manufacture and/or an expiration date printed on the back. Batteries in all detectors should be replaced semiannually. A good time to do this is when setting our clocks forward or back. Also please remember to inspect and sweep your chimneys regularly. Though there hasn't been much of a need to yet, should it snow before spring arrives, remember to check and clear the vents for any direct vented heating appliances that you may have.

Remember to vote on Town Meeting day, March 1.

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- Have a more comfortable home



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Collage by Rebecca Churchill, Grade 3

60 PLUS:

Home Efficiency Help is Available From Heather Baker, SVCOA

The Southwest Vermont Council on Aging now has a grant from Efficiency Vermont to help seniors over the age of 60 (as well as eligible, younger disabled folks) save energy and money in their homes through home energy visits. Here's how the process works:

A home energy referral form is filled out and then passed on to SVCOA's volunteer coordinator, Aaron Brush. If the home **has been weatherized** in the last 3 years, then nothing more can be done. If it **has not been weatherized**, then SVCOA checks the individual's home electricity usage (kw/h). From this point, there are two types of referrals; high-users (>10,000 kWh/year) and non-high users (<10,000 kWh/year). If the individual is a *non-high user* (regardless of income), then an SVCOA will send a trained volunteer to go in and complete a walk-through and direct install of energy efficient products. If the individual is a *high-user*, then we look at income in the following manner:

- ♦ **Low income individuals** (household income less than \$42,062). An SVCOA volunteer will go in and do a walk through but *without* the direct install of energy efficient products. Instead, the volunteer will assist the client in filling out the "Target High Use Form." This form will then be forwarded to Efficiency Vermont and BROCC. Within 30 days of receiving the Target High Use Form, BROCC will send out a trained volunteer to complete the direct install of energy efficient products as well as to install new appliances (if need be).
- ♦ **Higher income individuals** (household income more than \$42,062). An SVCOA volunteer will go out and complete the direct install of energy efficient products.

A home energy visit involves:

- ♦ Installing low-cost energy efficient products, such as compact fluorescent light bulbs and low-flow showerheads;

Remembering BART RECZEK

By Carol Bam

The Town lost a longtime friend when Bart Reczek died at the end of January. He worked at Town Hall for over 15 years and at the School for more than 25. Though he worked largely behind the scenes, he was trusted, respected and made fast friendships in both places.

Former Town Clerk Marie Hyjek gave this tribute: "Bart was the Rutland Town Municipal Building custodian, giving up his weekends to accommodate Rutland Town taxpayers during off business hours. It is hard to find someone that dedicated and trustworthy to be in the Town Office alone, but Bart was as honest as they come. Many days I would actually find a nickel or dime on my desk, which he found when he was cleaning.

"His dedication was amazing. No matter how bad the weather, Bart would be there. There was one weekend when Bart knew that he would not be able to get back home. So he brought his sleeping bag, planning to spend the night there. Despite an offer to have my husband pick him up in his four wheel drive and spend the night at our house, Bart would not think of that. It was imposing on our privacy. Instead he spent the night at the Town Office... sleeping on a hard wood floor.

Theresa Czachor, RTS librarian observed: "Bart was a dedicated employee and a loyal friend to many teachers and staff. He will always be remembered for performing acts of kindness not only to members of the school but also to their family members. He would go out of his way to help anyone in need. Bart was a voracious reader who enjoyed absorbing the news and sharing his knowledge each day to those who would gladly listen. He entertained many with his quips and comments. Good "Ole" Bart touched many hearts. It was a pleasure knowing him."

- ♦ Identifying energy saving opportunities in the home and
- ♦ Providing seniors with resources and information to help them save more energy.

A home energy visit is not a professional energy audit, but rather a walk through assessment. Visits are conducted by trained volunteers who have been approved by the Southwest Vermont Council on Aging. Each visit lasts approximately 1 – 1 ½ hours.

To schedule a visit, please contact **Aaron Brush at 802-772-7835** or fill out a home energy visit referral form (www.SVCOA.org). You can also contact Aaron or Courtney with any questions that you have.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

SAT., APRIL 9, 8-11:30

TRANSFER STATION

Emergency Management Requires Planning Ahead

By Martin Wasserman
Rutland Town Emergency Manager

Rutland Town Emergency Management encourages voluntary registration of individuals who may need special help in a town-wide emergency. An important task of Emergency Management is to identify in advance those needing assistance in evacuating their homes to go to a town-designated protective shelter. Our primary shelter is Rutland Town School and a secondary shelter is the Center Rutland Fire Station.

If you are someone, or know of someone, who would require assistance in an emergency, please register by providing the following basic information. This information will be password protected in the Rutland Town computer and accessible only by town officials in an emergency.

- ◎ Resident's name
- ◎ Address
- ◎ Home and cell phone numbers
- ◎ Contact info for relative
- ◎ Medical conditions; list of medications
- ◎ Primary physician, (name, address, phone number)

We also suggest compiling in advance the same relevant personal and medical information including the resident's name, date of birth, medical conditions plus a list of medications, and contact information for a relative or other emergency contact. Place this information in a clearly labeled container or zippered plastic baggie and leave in the freezer compartment of the kitchen refrigerator where emergency personnel can find it.

Please consider signing up yourself or a loved one for this service. You can submit this information by email to **emergencymanagement@rutlandtown.com** or send it by mail to the Town Office address:

Emergency Management Director
Town of Rutland
181 Business Route 4
Center Rutland, VT 05736

If you have questions about emergency evacuation or your situation, please contact Martin Wasserman via this email address or via the town office, **phone 773-2528**.

What's UP with MUSIC at RTS

By Aaron Audet and Sue Tall

We are having a great year in music! Our students worked very hard to bring excellent performances to our winter concerts in December. Our 18th annual Talent Show on January 22 was well attended and featured some very talented students. Our "T" Jazz Band had a great night performing at the Rutland High School Jazz Night. We've had some very nice coverage in the Rutland Herald for our Middle School Chorus and "T" Jazz groups performing at The Meadows and The Gables in December and for the Talent Show in January.

On February 5, ten RTS students participated in the **Green Mountain Music District V Festival** at College of St. Joseph in Center Rutland. This district includes music students from schools in the Bennington through Vergennes geographical area. Students performed in Jazz Band and Chorus. The **second festival is on Friday, March 4 at CSJ** and will feature RTS participants in the Symphonic Band.

We are looking forward to our **annual Jazz Bistro at RTS on Friday, March 25 from 7-9:00 pm**. Students in "T" Jazz and "M" Jazz, as well as an alumni jazz group will perform. Please come and kick up your heels to an evening of jazz, pop and refreshments. Tickets are \$7. This is a wonderful and fun fundraiser sponsored by RTS Friends of Music and we'd love to see you there! Upcoming concerts are scheduled for K-4 Vocal and 4th Grade Band, March 31' and for 5-8 Bands and Choruses on April 28.

The middle school band and chorus **trip to Proctor's Theater will happen on Friday, April 8**. Students and chaperones will have dinner and then see "The Lion King" at Proctor's Theater in Schenectady, N.Y.

We are very thankful for the community support and donations to our Friends of Music organization. Our F.O.M. officers and volunteers have helped tremendously to bring enrichment and opportunities to our students!

NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Mike Rowe

Spring is just around the corner and that means baseball and softball sign-ups. You can start signing up for the spring season after February vacation by stopping in at Town Hall, downloading the form off the town's website or by seeing me. We are looking for coaches for all age groups K-6. If you would like to help, please give me a call at RTS.

Great thanks to our basketball coaches who made this past winter season a very successful one. The time and energy that you volunteered is greatly appreciated.

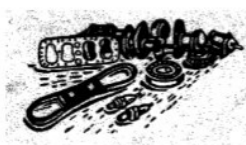
Summer will be here before you know it and we will be signing up for the pool season, more info to follow as it gets closer.

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Penguin Collage By Julia Labate, Grade 3

Book Award Winners for 2016

From Theresa Czachor, RTS Librarian

The American Library Association for library service to children recently announced the winners of the Newbery Medal and Caldecott Medal for 2016.

The **John Newbery Medal** for “the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children” went to the “**Last Stop on Market Street, by Matt de la Peña.**”

“CJ’s journey with his Nana is not just a simple bus ride; it is a multi-sensory experience through which he discovers that beautiful music, nature and people surround him. CJ’s questions are familiar, and Nana answers him with gentle wisdom. Right up until their arrival at the last stop on Market Street, Nana guides CJ to become “a better witness for what’s beautiful.”

Honor Books:

The War That Saved My Life, Kim Bradley

Roller Girl, Victoria Jamieson

Echo, Pam Munoz Ryan

The **Caldecott Medal** is awarded to the artist of “the most distinguished picture book for children.” The winner is “**Finding Winnie, The True Story of the World’s Most Famous Bear**” illustrated by **Sophie Blackall**.

“*Finding Winnie* is an incredible account of the friendship and love shared between a soldier and the real bear who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh. Blackall beautifully interprets this multi-dimensional family story through her distinctive Chinese ink and watercolor art, capturing intimate and historical details perfect for a child’s eye.”

Honor Books:

Trombone Shorty, illustrated by Bryan Collier

Waiting, illustrated by Kevin Henkes

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement, illustrated by Ekua Holmes

Last Stop on Market Street, illustrated by Christian Robinson

2ND QUARTER HONOR ROLL MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 6-8

HIGH HONORS

Grade 8

Ashleah Adams
Leah Allen
Miles Allen
Laura Macpherson
Amy McGee
Luke Ragosta
Dylan Roussel
Ethan Schmitt
Alexander Stute

Grade 7

Joseph Anderson
Sarah Chase
Abigail Churchill
Cory Drinwater
Matthew Goulette
Lucienne Horrocks
Jaden Kelley
Brady Kenosh
Maxfield Lovko
Samuel Macpherson
Olivia Merrill
Emma Notte
Gianna Pezzetti
Izabella Racine
Hannah Solimano
Jenna Sunderland
Mary Sutton

Grade 6

Molly Abatiell
Laurel Baker
Maci Celentano
Brady Geisler
Isabelle Ladabouche
Tessa McLaughlin
Samantha Merrow
Zachary Nelson

HONORS

Grade 8

Madison Abatiell
Tommy Baker
Ethan Coarse
William Corcoran
Kyle Delbianco
John Foley

William Hemenway
Sean Olsen
Tyler Regula
Megan Smith
Kathleen Sunderland
Jade Weinberg
Amber Young

Grade 7

Alexander Aiken
Arianna Billings
Mariah Crossman
Isabella Decandio
Jaden Derosia-
Rosenzweig
Lucia Gallo
Cameron Greene
Hunter Hathaway
Toby Jakubowski
Elaina Kearney
Devon Kibbey
Maya Marcy
Justine Peters
Tatyana Pratt
Gage Randall
Louise Wu

Grade 6

Abed Alawi
Regan Bird
Emanuel Bowie-
Reimers
Savannah Corey
Colin Joyce
Deidre Lillie
Alexa McLaughlin
Katelynn Regula



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RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 24** Voter Registration deadline - 5 pm, Town Hall for March 1 Town Meeting and Presidential Primary
- 25** Middle School Recital – 6:30 pm, RTS Gym
Cyber-Seniors documentary and discussion - 1:30-3:30 at The Gables (see page 4)
- 29** Informational Town Meeting - 7 pm, School Cafeteria

MARCH

- 1** VOTE - 7 am - 7 pm, Town Hall and RTS, Annual Election and Presidential Primary
Four Winds training - 9-11 at Cheney Hill Community Center
- 3** PTO meets - 6 pm, RTS
- 3&17** Planning Commission meets - 7 pm, Town Hall
- 8** Friends Of Music (FOM) meets - 4 pm, RTS
- 8&22** Select Board meets - 6:30 pm, Town Hall
- 9&10** RTS Early Release - 11:55 am, for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 11** No School – Teacher In Service



- 14** School Board meets - 6:30 pm, RTS
- 25** Jazz Bistro – 7 pm, School Gym
- 31** K-4 Concert Rehearsal - 1:30 pm, RTS Gym
Concert – 6:30 pm, School Gym

APRIL

- 1** Dog License registration due, Town Hall
- 5** Four Winds training - 9-11, Shrewsbury
FOM meets - 4 pm, RTS
Music Awards Night - 6 pm, School Gym
- 5&19** Select Board meets - 6:30 pm, Town Hall
- 7&21** Planning Commission meets - 7 pm, Town Hall
- 8** Article Deadline for April *Circle* issue
- 9** Hazardous Waste Collection - 8-11:30 at Transfer Station
- 11** School Board meets - 6:30 pm, RTS
- 18-22** RTS Spring break
- 27** Town Clerk & Treasurer's Office closed for training. Town Hall will remain open
- 28** Grade 5-8 Vocal & Band Concert rehearsal 1:30 pm, School Gym
Concert - 6:30 pm, School Gym

TOWN AND SCHOOL WEBSITES: rutlandtown.com and rutlandtownschool.org