

The Circle

Rutland Town's Link between School and Community



February 2017

TOWN NEWS

By Board Chairman Josh Terenzini

Tuesday, March 7 is approaching and with it the age old tradition of Town Meeting Day.

In the fall of 2016, your Select Board, department heads, town administrator and town clerk-treasurer started to create the FY 2017-2018 budgets for the March 7 election. These budgets have been scrutinized and dissected to ensure that every dollar we ask for is going towards a worthy cause. Dozens of meetings were held, passionate discussions were had and now we are proud of our final budgets that will continue to support the day to day operations of our great town!

Overall, the total out-of-pocket increase to the taxpayers is only \$38,261 on a \$2.7 million dollar budget. The combined budgets are increasing by 5.12%, but don't be alarmed by that percentage. That is not the percentage we are looking to raise by increasing your tax bill. The reason we are able to provide more service at such a low increase to our budgets is due to our "anticipated income."

Anticipated income is money that we receive which funds different sections of our budget. For example, look at the Recreation budget. We anticipate \$30,000 in income. You might be asking, "Why would a Recreation Department take in income?" Recreation generates income from selling pool passes, registration fees from youth athletics and food

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SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET OVERVIEW

The School Board and administrators continue to be extremely sensitive to the financial burden of taxpayers in our community and have made every effort to propose a budget which is affordable while meeting the needs of our students. We had difficult obstacles to overcome this year with few choices. A few of these were: a reduction in local revenue, an increase in high school tuition fees and special education obligations, along with decreases in state funding. Our proposed FY18 budget has decreased 3.86%. Proof of the dedication of your Directors is our expenditure budget has only increased 2.6% over the past ten years.

Highlights of the proposed budget include; increasing the Pre-K from one half day class to two full time classes. Experience and data has proven that early intervention in their early formative years can greatly impact their future success in school and beyond. The addition of one primary grade teacher will assist in keeping class sizes smaller in grades K to 3. Supplies are up by 10%, replacing the 10% cut from last year. A new item, Field Trip Transportation is included in this budget at a cost of \$7,000. Our schedule to replace the old classroom Chromebooks continues, with replacements for grades 3

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UNDER THE GOLDEN DOME

A Report By Senator Kevin Mullin

We have just finished our sixth week of the legislative session and we are off to a rocky start. The positions of the administration and the majority in the legislature are at polar extremes. The governor has made it clear he will not support any new taxes or fees. He wishes to put more money into higher education, early education and economic development but in order to do so he proposed level funding school budgets across the state. With Town Meetings coming quickly, the proposal had little support. Now it is up to the Legislature to attempt to craft a budget that the governor will sign. This is no small task and I am not optimistic for an early adjournment at this point in time.

Gov. Scott also proposed three mergers of departments in state government to try to gain efficiencies. The proposed merger of Commerce and Community Development with Labor to create a new Agency of Economic Opportunity has already been voted down by the Senate. These three reorganizations were created by executive order and it only takes one body, House or Senate, to derail them. The second proposal was to merge Liquor and Lottery into one department. The

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Curious Kindergarten Students

By Linda Mullin

Our Kindergarten students have been in school for only about 100 days and they are making remarkable progress. They are beginning to read! They are looking at symbols and making sense of the printed word including discriminating between fact and fiction. They are also learning to write letters, words, sentences, and stories. What power they feel when they share their writing with other students. They are learning number values and comparing amounts. They are gaining skills, but much more than that, knowledge. They are also very curious. Here's what they want to know:

How can I get to be a florist?

What happens to Curious George next?

How many different kinds of dogs are there and how many stray dogs?

What is the weather going to be like every day?

How did people get the idea of making letters of the alphabet?

What is the name of the big ship that sank?

What is inside of people's bodies?

How do you build a castle?

How does a car stay on the road?

How big is the biggest sea turtle?

How does my big buddy read so good?

Why did Pluto become a planet and then not?

How do hamsters eat?

How many jumps can a dolphin do in a row?

Where do clouds come from?

What is oxygen made out of?

What's inside of a seed? How does it know what to turn into?

How do planes land?

What makes up the color green?

Where does the moon go during the day?

Please consider visiting our Kindergarten and read a book to the class or bring in something to demonstrate and explain. You would enjoy your visit and the students would, too. Call me at 775-0566 ext. 2020 to arrange a visit.

Attention, High School Seniors!

RUTLAND TOWN SCHOLARSHIPS

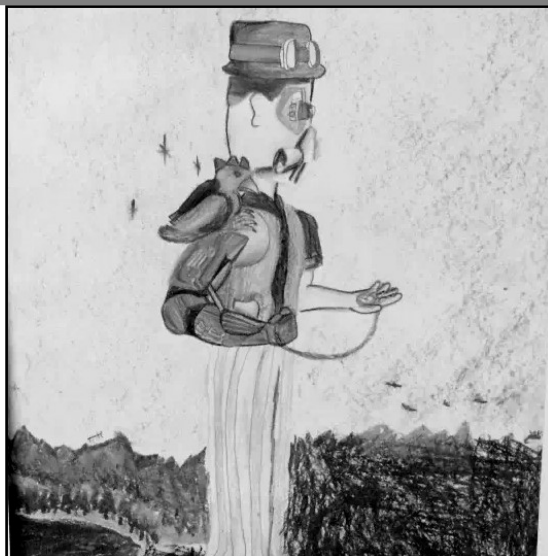
Scholarship applications will be considered if the \$10,000 funding request is approved by Rutland Town voters at Town Meeting, March 7, 2017.

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
Friday, April 21 at noon.



Detail of a drawing by Levi Billings and Torvin Kibbey, Grade 6


This is a drawing of a steampunk and his pet steam-punk falcon overlooking a mountain landscape wondering what journey lies ahead (Torvin).

On the forest we made tiny trees. On the man we made a robot leg and eye. The falcon has a rocket on it's back and a spiky head (Levi).

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 to June.

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



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The Middle School Kindness Club recently posted inspirational messages on students' lockers one morning before school. Club members left to right: Juliana Grabach (5), Adriana Grabach (6), Carlie Thomas (6), Kate Labate (6), Grace Fothergill (6), Gabby Sicard (6), Kelsey McNeil (6), Katelyn Welch(6).

(Senator Mullin ~ Continued from Page 1)

Senate signaled their willingness to go along with it but I have heard from House members that it has an uncertain fate there. The third proposal involves information technology and I haven't heard a lot of opposition at this point. Decisions on these executive orders must be made by April 15 or they will go into effect.

Some of the bigger initiatives this year will be a rural economic development bill that focuses on areas outside of Chittenden County. We will be working on a workforce housing bill and a bill to consolidate our workforce development efforts. I am keeping an eye on the work being done in Natural Resources as I believe that a bill that is very well intentioned to codify 90% renewables could end up hurting our wallets greatly.

The Senate Education Committee has spent a lot of time looking at possible tweaks to Act 46. I see little happening that will ease Rutland Town's concerns. If we don't figure out a solution, then one will be handed to us by the State Board of Education. I would much rather that we, as a community, figure out our future rather than letting the state do it for us. At the risk of being shot, I wish to share my thoughts on this. I believe the most viable option is to begin a dialogue with the city. In my opinion, we should negotiate a deal to keep Rutland Town School open and have it run by the current Board but have it serve as an advisory board. Rutland Town would then have represent

From Principal Aaron Boynton

With town meeting and the budget vote around the corner, we hope to see you out on voting day.

Our proposed school budget continues to support students by providing quality experiences and approaches to curriculum that meet current standards. Our recent winter data shows that students are making great progress in reading and math. Student support in these areas specifically targets learning needs.

However, we aim to provide rich experiences beyond reading and math that foster well rounded students and future contributive citizens. We have established a character education program that develop skills such as kindness, perseverance, fairness, integrity, and generosity. Our Middle School students are working towards self-direction and responsibility, a skill that they will need their whole lives for whatever they do. We have been also working to implement a proficiency-based grading system where students are assessed on a skill or standard that they have learned and that they understand their learning of that skill. It's a different way of assessing students but the goal is to allow students to understand who they are as a learner.

We would like to invite the Rutland Town School community to our annual Science Fair which takes place on Town Meeting/Voting Day, Tuesday, March 7th. Our 4th grade students will be showcasing their science projects and demonstrating their learning about the scientific method. Please take the time to stop in!

tation on the board overseeing the high school and have more say there. We have a high school choice law existing that would allow students to go to other regional high schools. The only thing we would lose is the ability to pay for private school choice. Students already enrolled would be grandfathered if the deal was struck correctly. I know this is a bitter pill to swallow for most of us, but I believe this type of arrangement would be better than doing nothing. Quite frankly I'm not sure why Mendon and Chittenden didn't pursue this option as well. My biggest fear is that if we wait to the end we will be aligned with Proctor or West Rutland High. They are both very good schools but don't compare to the academic, athletic, and social options available at Rutland High School. It is food for thought.

In the remaining months of the session, I am hopeful that people will come together, put aside differences, and work for the common good. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Rutland county in the statehouse and encourage anyone with concerns to contact me at kjmbjm@aol.com or call me at (802) 353-6770.

Town Select Board to Form a Celebration Committee!

We are seeking 8-12 dedicated town residents who believe that Rutland Town deserves a summer celebration. The committee will help create a town wide, all day event of tours, open houses, music and fun for all ages.

Please consider volunteering. Contact Joshua C. Terenzini, Select Board Chairman at 802-353-7749 or email me at jterenzini@yahoo.com by March 8.

(School Board ~ Continued from Page 1)

and 6 this year. The bell and clock system at school is the original system and needs replacement. This expense, along with lighting upgrades results in a \$30,000 expense. The new lighting is energy efficient and will quickly cover the costs of the replacements.

The Board of School Directors would like to thank town residents for their continued support of our school and students. The popular proverb, *'It takes a village to raise a child'*, continues to send a clear message. The whole community has an essential role to play in the growth and development of our children. We are very fortunate that our community takes great pride in their school system. It is partially due to this that your school system continues to draw families into the town, thus providing a stable tax base. We have not seen the decrease in student enrollment as other towns in Vermont have. The educational opportunities provided through your support enables Rutland Town to remain one of the best 'PreK to 8 with 9-12 school choice' school districts in the state. We thank you.

As always, feel free to contact any of the Board members or Administrators with your questions.

Lynette Gallipo, Chair

Town Considers Service Road By Mary Ashcroft

Any town resident who shops at the Green Mountain Plaza on the south end of town during heavy travel times has witnessed the traffic problem on and off Route 7. Lines of cars queue to leave the plaza and turn north, while cars leaving events at the Holiday Inn have a significant wait time. Motorists using Cop John Drive may be blocked from exiting south by cars on Holiday Inn Drive, or exiting north by cars leaving Green Mountain Plaza. And there is no way to get from businesses at the plaza to Aldi's or on Randbury Road without going back onto Route 7.

This traffic congestion issue has arisen during the Act 250 hearing on the proposed BJ's store, and during the state Transportation Board hearing on the Farrell slip lane. And although the Town did recently win approval for the slip lane—which would allow south-bound trucks to exit Route 7 just below the Green Mountain Plaza, cross Cop John Drive and enter Farrell Road—the project won't solve significant traffic issues and may create others.

A possible solution is the construction of a service road on the west side of Route 7. The road would move local traffic from Route 7 onto Holiday Inn Drive, behind the Hampton Inn and the Green Mountain Plaza, across Randbury Road and exit near Aldi's back onto Route 7. The service road would also be used as an underground utility corridor and contain pedestrian and bicycle paths.

The service road is not a new idea. The US Route 7 Corridor Management Plan of 2009 suggested the need for service roads on the both sides of Route 7, citing the same significant traffic delays and car queuing problems we are experiencing today. The Management Plan also contained a build out analysis which projected an additional 223,000 square feet of new commercial space in this area of Rutland Town by 2030. That, of course, would create not only an economic boon, but a traffic bloom, for our town.

The Town Select Board wants to take the next step toward constructing this service road, and has included in the FY2017-18 Highway Budget \$125,000 for a scoping study. "Engineering services" is a new item in the highway budget. The amount of \$140,000 would cover this study and two other projects—\$10,000 for our share of culvert replacements and \$5,000 toward a pocket park near Center Rutland Falls.

These new proposed expenditures are mostly balanced out by a reduction of \$100,000 in the town's road paving budget. This reduction is possible because aggressive paving in past years has brought most town roads up to good condition, so less paving is needed this year.

Overall, the town highway budget has increased only 1.33 % over last year. A vote in favor of the Highway budget will allow your Select Board to move ahead with plans for a south end service and pedestrian road.

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VOTER INFORMATION For March 7, 2017

Same Day voter registration is now in effect in Vermont allowing voters to register when they go to the polls. 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 7, 2017.

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 **Mon., March 6, or they can be delivered to the poll site on Election Day by 7 pm closing.**

Vote Tuesday, March 7, from 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 for more information. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8-4:30pm; Tuesday: 8-6pm, Friday: 8-2pm.

The Iron Giraffe Challenge

By Savannah Corey, Samantha Merrow,
and Jonah Neri, Grade 7

From 7th Grade Teacher Erin Hanrahan:

Last month, 7th graders read the book A Long Walk to Water, which tells the true story of a boy named Salva Dut who undertook a daring journey to escape the Sudanese Civil War. Here are some facts they learned:

- ◆ Thousands of children in Sudan have to walk for 8 hours or more each day to collect drinking water for their families.
- ◆ Because they are so busy collecting water, these children do not ever get to go to school.
- ◆ The water they do find is often contaminated with a parasite called Guinea Worm, which makes people very sick.
- ◆ 15% of children in Sudan die before the age of 6.
- ◆ Since founding Water for South Sudan in 2003, the real life Salva Dut has built hundreds of wells in South Sudan, bringing safe water to tens of thousands of Sudanese people.

This month, Rutland Town 7th graders voted to take action to help the real-life Salva Dut in his quest to bring safe drinking water to his home country. Students are doing this by participating in Salva's Iron Giraffe Challenge. Here is their report.

The Iron Giraffe Challenge is a challenge created by Salva Dut, one of the 1,200 'Lost Boys' who escaped the civil war in Southern Sudan. This challenge helps provide fresh, clean water via water pumps to a village in Southern Sudan. This year, Rutland Town School's 7th graders voted to participate in the Iron Giraffe

Proposed REC Fund Tax Increase By Director, Mike Rowe

I would like to inform you of a ballot item on Town Meeting Day which is asking for an increase to the Recreation Depreciation Fund. We are asking for an increase in the tax from $\frac{1}{4}$ cent to $\frac{3}{4}$ cent. The reason is to create a dedicated fund to help offset the cost of the future replacement of the Northwood Pool.

The pool is entering its fourth decade in use and will need to be replaced at some point. With close to 10,000 visitors each summer, the pool gets a great deal of use by people not only in Rutland Town, but other neighboring communities as well. With the increase to the depreciation fund, we will be able to make the necessary improvements to a future pool.

Thank you for your support! If you have any questions on the proposal, please contact Michael Rowe at 779-2518.

Challenge, with the goal of raising \$1000 to help Salva and his team drill wells for clean water.

The reason why Rutland Town School is participating in this event is because the students in the seventh grade wish to help villages in Sudan who suffer from constant drought and lack of clean water. If the students can raise the \$1,000 for Water for South Sudan, Rutland Town School will get to enter for a chance to meet Salva Dut and provide money for the Iron Giraffe organization to give clean water to people in South Sudan.

Seventh graders are in the process of planning several fundraisers to help raise the money. **If you would like to donate money to this cause, you can make checks payable to Rutland Town School.**

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SELECT BOARD CANDIDATES:

Incumbents **Mary Ashcroft** and **Chris Kiefer-Cioffi** are running unopposed for three year and two year terms respectively.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES:

Incumbents **Lynette Gallipo** and **Nicole McPhee** are running unopposed for three year and two year school director positions.

Mary C. Ashcroft

Moving Rutland Town Forward

When I first ran for Select Board in 2014, townspeople told me their goals for our town. Three years later, here's my report on our progress.

Build two walkways: People need safe paths from Adele Stanley Apartments to Route 7, and from the school to Northwood Park. The Adele Stanley sidewalk will be built this spring, funded in part with a state grant. UVM engineering students have designed—for free-- a shared-use path at Northwood, but we need to fund and build the Post Road/Chasanna portion of the walkway.

Cooperate More: Townspeople want better cooperation between the School Board and the Select Board. I serve as liaison to our school board and am on the Act 46 study committee. Select and School Boards worked together to win funding for our School Resource Officer program and to redesign the school parking lot to improve drainage and traffic flow.

Communicate Better with Townspeople: Our Select Board and subcommittees now post minutes and notices regularly on the town's webpage. We have expanded the annual Town Report both in physical size and in content, providing more, readable information. But we still need to redesign our town website, and we are exploring social media options.

Ask More Volunteers to Help: We have appointed both veteran and new members to our Planning Commission and to other positions in local government. A citizens' committee works on our Complete Street inventory, and another will plan town-wide celebrations. Comcast volunteers cleaned up our Center Rutland cemetery, while Boy Scouts built bleachers, painted dugouts and planted trees at Northwood. In April, Rotarians and neighbors will build a playground at Northwood.

Improve Town Infrastructure: Our town has a new Highway Garage and is current with road paving. The Select Board is studying a service road to relieve traffic congestion in the area of the Green Mountain Plaza. Each town department now has a five year plan so we can better anticipate and budget for major expenditures. We are asking voters to increase the depreciation fund for recreation so we can one day build a new pool at Northwood.

I'm running for a second Select Board term because we have made progress toward your goals, but there is more to do. Thank you for your consideration.

Lynette Gallipo

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for re-election to the Rutland Town School Board. I have lived in Rutland Town for 42 years and am proud to be actively involved in the community. My children, and now, grandchildren, have and do, attend RTS. They have directly benefitted from their exceptional teachers, previous school boards, and the continued support of the community.

My motivation to run for School Board comes directly from my children's educational experiences, my pride in the community and my continued concern over property taxes and how that money is spent. Our town is not immune to the current economic conditions; we continue to face tough economic times. Any proposed tax increase must be justified with concrete benefits or future cost savings.

I have served on the Rutland Town School Board for nearly 30 years. I continue to be passionate about the children of our community passionate about education and their education. I believe my vision, experience and understanding is needed to ensure Rutland Town students in Pre-K through 12 are prepared to meet the challenges of higher education and life in general. My continued goal is to set policy that permanently establishes a productive continuum throughout each child's educational experience, while being fiscally responsible to you, the tax payers.

I respectfully request your support for School Board on Tuesday March 7th.

(Town News ~ Continued from Page 1)

from the Northwood Park snack bar, just to name a few areas. All of that money goes into lowering your "out of pocket" exposure. The total amount of anticipated income for this upcoming fiscal year is up to \$402,000.

The single largest budget increase this year is coming from the police department. The budget has gone up 29.8% to \$366,595. However, our anticipated income has increased from \$41,667 in 2016-2017 to \$112,000 in 2017-2018. The increase is up largely due to an additional \$60,000 we are receiving from Child First Advocacy Center for the funding of our police chief.

Here is the best part... comparing the current police budget to the one you will vote on next month, the amount TO BE RAISED BY TAXES has truly increased only by \$13,865. The reason? Anticipated income The last piece of this puzzle that is truly out of our control is the increase in health insurance spending. In one budget cycle, health insurance premiums increase our budgets by \$34,650.

I invite you to the Rutland Town School on Monday, March 6 at 7 pm as the Select Board and School Board present their budgets. Please call me at 802-353-7749 or email me at jterenzini@yahoo.com with questions.

Kirsten Hathaway

Running unopposed for 3 year term
Town Clerk and Treasurer

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as Clerk and Treasurer for Rutland Town these past 6 months. We had an astounding 80% voter turnout for the Presidential election this past November, and we hope to see many of you again for Town Meeting Day on March 7.

Please keep in mind that April 1 is the due date for renewing and purchasing dog licenses. We look forward to seeing everyone before May 10th for final tax payments!

Rutland Town Senior Corner

By James B. Hall

After having a very active year for Rutland Town/Cheney Hill Seniors, a few words to bring everyone up to date.

First, it is with sadness that one of the group's oldest members passed on last fall. In his 90's, Charles "Charlie" Sherman was attending lunches until he no longer could in the past year and half. Charlie worked for several years for the regional Council on Aging and arranged most of our transportation for the trips the group took. Charlie will be missed, may he rest in peace.

Trips this past year were as follows: Woodstock Senior Center in the spring, Fair Haven Seniors, and a boat ride on a Lake George passenger boat with lunch included. Also, in mid-summer for the second year, Mike Rowe and his Recreation staff treated the seniors to a cookout at the Northwood facility, which was very well attended. Two folks from the Council on Aging joined us. These are the folks that coordinate the trips taken through Elders on the Go with the bus service provided by Marble

Valley Regional Transit District. A thank you to Mike and all his staff for a very nice cookout. Also with Mike's arranging, a holiday meal was served at Seward's for the seniors and was very well attended. Thank you again, Mike.

This coming year's events will be starting in March or April, depending on weather, and we are all looking forward to a great year ahead of us.

The Rutland Town Seniors want to thank the voters in town for the continuing financial support that has been handled by the Select Board. We have worked closely with the Board to keep them informed of our activities and financial positions. The budget requests have been responded to very favorably and for that we are most grateful. Our group numbers are holding evenly in spite of losing some members, meaning that newer faces are becoming involved, a good thing indeed.

From Theresa Kulig:

The Senior Lunch Group is still on winter break, Sue Colomb reports, with no date set for their monthly lunches at Seward's to resume. Sue, Mary Ashcroft and Melody Hemenway are the search committee to find someone to take over leadership of the lunch group. Pat Tucker has been the leader since she took over from Ann Glagola a few years ago, but it's time for someone else to step up. Mary Ashcroft is also filling in as interim treasurer until they find someone to fill this position as well. The Seniors are an active group once lunches resume in the spring; look for updates in future issues of **The Circle**.

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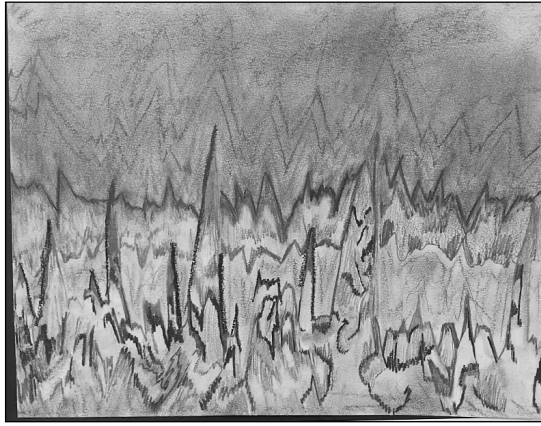
Conservation District ANNUAL TREE SALE until April 17

Trees beautify our surroundings, help save energy and protect our waterways. The Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (a non-profit organization) is again holding a spring planting sale. All stock is bare root and is being offered at a reasonable cost. The RNRCD has offered this program for over 15 years and has sold thousands of plants. This sale helps to generate funds to support the District's many programs.

Some of what is available are: balsam fir, Fraser fir, blue spruce, white spruce, sugar maple, birch, lilac, elderberry, apple, pear, peach, as well as blueberry and strawberry plants. It is necessary to plant bare-root trees immediately in order to keep the roots from drying out.

Orders will be taken until April 17, or until supplies last, so order early! For more 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>.

Pick up of stock will be on Saturday, April 29, 10:00am - 12:30pm in Rutland (location to be determined). A postcard or email reminder will be sent to you.



Karsyn Bellomo - 6th Grade

In this project, I wanted to try shading with different materials. I used; chalk pastels, graphite, white charcoal, charcoal, shading pencils, pencils, ebony pencils, oil pastels, colored pencils, crayons, paper, and clay erasers. I took my time to draw the different lines.

Rutland Free Library Dealing with the Budget Deficit

From Randal Smathers, Assistant Director

Rutland Free Library has begun the process of identifying what we can pare back in order to absorb about a \$40,000 budget deficit for our 2017-18 budget year. The shortfall is due to lower interest returns on our endowments, coupled with the level funding of the Rutland City Board of Aldermen. In the interest of fairness among the five supporting communities, Rutland Town, Ira, Mendon, Tinmouth and Rutland City, the Library will not be asking for any increases this year. We hope you will support the Library budget on Town Meeting Day.

Unfortunately, this is a double hit to our upcoming budget. The library wrote over \$30,000 worth of grants this past year in order to supplement an already shrinking budget. It's difficult to maintain consistent service and materials with inconsistent funding.

The city aldermen recommended we make up the difference through fundraising. The library already has fundraisers every year (Mini Golf and Tables of Content in alternating years) in order to stay within budget. **We hope for a big turnout of support for this year's Mini Golf on March 25-26** to help us with the upcoming deficit. Mark your calendar!

We have also launched a Penny Campaign, in which we are asking users to donate a penny for every item they check out. The library circulated over 172,000 books, magazines, DVDs and CDs last year, so a penny per item would be some \$1,700. Every penny makes sense (cents?) to us!

Look for the I Love Our Library campaign, which kicked off Feb. 13. The Board of Trustees paid for a colorful photo board -- with generous donations from Green Screen Graphics and designer Lyz Tomsuden. Users are taking pictures with it and posting to social media, and bumper stickers are available for \$2.



Road Notes **from Byron Hathaway,** **Road Commissioner**

Despite some exciting projects coming up this year the highway budget is up a modest 1.33%. Most line items are level funded. I will highlight the increases in this year's budget.

Winter maintenance is up \$6,464 due to labor and an anticipated increase in salt prices next year.

General maintenance is down \$116,869 due to the following reductions:

Retreatment is down \$100,000 due to a reduction in paving needs this year.

Road painting is down by \$9,000 to include only the paint cost now that we own a striper.

New equipment needs are down by \$1,000

Signs and barricades are reduced by \$1,500 now that we are up to date on federal requirement for signs.

Culvert replacements are down by \$5,000

Cold patch has been reduced by \$2,000 as a result of our paving program keeping our roads in good shape.

Equipment maintenance is down by \$14,500 because extra was put in the current fiscal year to paint the loader.

Two Special projects are planned for this year:

A new sidewalk will be constructed from U-haul to the Adele Stanley apartments on Cold River Road. A VTrans grant to cover 50% of the construction cost has been obtained already.

Preliminary engineering will be done for a business service road in the Holiday Drive, Randbury Road, Aldi's area. Such a road will open more land for possible development, it will address the stacking issue at Holiday Drive, it will improve traffic flow around the Plaza by allowing shoppers to access other businesses without having to enter onto U.S. 7, and it will give Randbury Road businesses improved access to U.S. 7. This preliminary work will give us the information to come up with one or more alignments for the road, and will provide us with the information we need to get the necessary easements for construction of the actual road; \$125,000 is needed for this work.

A VTrans structures grant will be applied for to engineer four large culvert replacement projects. \$10,000 will be required to match the VTrans structures grant.

A VTrans alternatives grant will be applied for to fund a scoping study for the Simons Ave. side of the Otter Creek and Center Rutland falls area to possibly establish a park in that area.

Storm water permits will stay the same this year but will go up next fiscal year to nearly \$3,000 as a result of new regulations imposed by the Lake Champlain clean-up initiative.

The total highway budget this year is \$1,004,049. Of this, \$894,049 is to be raised by taxes. The remainder will be supplied by regular state aid.

60 Plus

Why Not Consider VOLUNTEERING From Heather Baker, SVCOA

Do you have an hour or two or more of free time each week? Do you want to engage yourself in finding a greater sense of purpose and meaning in life while giving back to your community at the same time? Well, volunteering may be the answer for you.

Studies show that seniors who volunteer live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives. If you have the time, there is a volunteer role for you. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, Vermont volunteers contribute services worth over \$400 million every year. About 40% of Vermonters aged 55 to 74 are volunteers, as do 23% of those over age 74.

The Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) is one of five Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) across Vermont that are dedicated to supporting elders age 60 and over in maintaining maximum independence. SVCOA has a wide variety of volunteer opportunities such as delivering meals to elders at home, helping at community senior meals, providing friendly visits, helping with events, and helping with Medicare Open Enrollment. By volunteering your time

through SVCOA, even just an hour a week, you can help elders remain healthy and independent.

One senior volunteer program offered by SVCOA is the Senior Companion Program (SCP). The SCP is a federally funded program that matches mobile, independent seniors age 55+ with home-bound seniors who are often all alone and struggling to stay independent. The program offers a \$2.65/hour tax-free stipend to income eligible companions, which does not affect eligibility for Medicaid, 3Squares, SSI or subsidized housing. Companions also receive mileage reimbursement, paid vacation, holidays and sick days.

Whether providing a ride to an appointment, grocery shopping, or simply spending a little time to decrease a senior's loneliness, Senior Companions offer hope and shed a positive light into the lives of these seniors. I can't count how many times a client has contacted me to tell me, "I don't know what I would do without my volunteer companion." The long-lasting friendships that are created, coupled with the substantial positive impact that the Program leaves on both the lives of the volunteers and the clients they serve is truly remarkable. And it all starts with the volunteer.

If you're someone who wants to make a difference in the community and bring a smile to the face of a senior, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-642-5119.

Music Update

By Marc Whitman, Music and Chorus Teacher

February 3rd was the first of two annual District Music Festivals. Middle School chorus and jazz band students were featured in the evening concert at the College of St. Joseph. This year Rutland Town School sent two students to the Festival Chorus and two students to the Festival Jazz Band. The festival is an all day event beginning at 9:00 in the morning and stretching until 9:00 at night.

RTS trombonist, Brady Geisler explained, "We learned a lot, it was really fun and it was a good experience." Students are introduced to a guest conductor at 9 am and then they immediately set to work making music together with their peers that hail from Bennington to Vergennes.

RTS is not the smallest school represented at the festival, but it can be a major adjustment performing with people you've never met before. RTS singer Abby Churchill said, "It was definitely, really fun and it helped me with confidence; it's a good way to build confidence."

After a day of rehearsing and meeting new people the students dine in the college cafeteria before performing for their parents and community. RTS students made many new friends and good memories at this festival. "It was amazing and everyone should try it," chorus member Sarah Chase said. "It's a lot of fun and you're going to make a lot of friends." To top it off, the concert was an amazing success.

Students who participated in chorus were Abby Churchill and Sarah Chase. Brady Geisler and Chris Swezey Hurst participated in the jazz ensemble.

March 3rd will be the second district festival featuring a Middle School Concert Band. There were three students

accepted: Toby Jakubowski, Tristan Stute, and Abed Alawi.

Friday, March 31st is the annual "Bistro" sponsored by RTS Friends of Music. M Jazz, T Jazz, and the Alumni Jazz Band will perform 7-9pm in the Rutland Town School Gymnasium. The gym will be decorated to give a nice jazz lounge vibe, along with plenty of food and beverages to choose from. This is a fundraiser, so there will be a ticket price, and a 50/50 raffle. Please come and support these fine young musicians.



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From the Rutland Town Fire Department By BJ Hathaway

Greetings from the Rutland Town Fire Department! It would appear that any January thaw we may have had is now safely over and we are now in February and back into winter.

The Fire Department has been making good use of the winter months renovating the McKinley Station office. New flooring, painting and upgraded electrical service are now pretty much complete. The department would like to thank a host of its members for sharing their time and expertise to get this project completed.

The Department is also finalizing all the appropriate permitting to drill a new water well at the McKinley station. The current well is poorly located and produces very little water that is not safe for drinking. All the members at McKinley station are looking forward to a new well with much better capacity and safer water.

The replacement for Engine 1 is currently being constructed. A tentative delivery date of May, 2017 is expected. You can follow progress on our department Facebook page by searching "Rutland Town Fire Department".

In January the membership held its annual meeting which included its election of officers for the 2017 calendar year.

Officers were elected as follows:

Chief- Frank Cioffi

Asst. Chief (Stn 1): Chris Clark

Asst. Chief (Stn 2): Mike Carlson

Captain (Stn 1): Tim Clark

Captain (Stn 2): Matt Voity

Lieutenant (Stn 1): BJ Hathaway

Lieutenant (Stn 2): Billy Jo Mills

In closing, we'd like to thank the community for its continued support and we look forward to continuing to serve you for another year. Please remember to get out and vote on Town Meeting Day, March 7th!

Community Supports

Tanya Lee Stone

Author Visit March 22

By Theresa Czachor, RTS Librarian

On Wednesday, March 22, renowned children's author Tanya Lee Stone will spend the day at Rutland Town School speaking with students about her career as a nonfiction writer for children. I extend my sincere gratitude to those families and individuals of the school community, past and present, who have donated towards the author's fee for this visit.

Although the Donors Choose Project, "An Author Visit Makes Writing Come Alive", is now fully funded, your kind donation in any amount can still be made to the RTS Library, as we continue to fundraise an additional \$500 to support this worthwhile opportunity for our students. The good news is that \$100 has already been received so we are closer than ever to our goal!

Members of the community are extended a warm welcome to attend this event. Ms. Stone will be presenting several times throughout the day to different age groups at school. If you are interested in receiving a schedule of her presentations via email, please contact me at theresa.czachor@rcsu.org. You may also call the library and leave a message at 775-0566 x2056. We would love to have you.

From 11:00am -1:00pm, Phoenix Books of Rutland will be at the school to sell from a list of Ms. Stone's best known titles, including:

Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote - paperback available

Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors? The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell - paperback available

Sandy's Circus-A Story about Alexander Calder

The House That Jane Built: A Story About Jane Addams

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream - paperback available

Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickels - paperback available

Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time

Any of these books can also be ordered by calling Phoenix Books at (802) 855-8078.

A heartfelt thank you to the following families and individuals who made a donation to support this author event which will be an enriching opportunity for our students. **Individuals:** Carol Barbagallo, Marie Pennington, Carol Bam, Michael Rowe, Amy Allen, Marion Smith/Kurath; **Families:** Saunders, Horrocks, Swett Grandparents, Solimano, Shipley, Kenosh, Walker, Anderson, Hogenkamp, Cooley, Alderman, Whalen, Pezzetti, Nicaise; **Anonymous:** two.

In the library, the month of March will be spent reading and discussing Tanya Lee Stone's books for children. We look forward to her visit and hope YOU can join us.



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Fun Times at RTS Tapestry

By Site Coordinator, Lori McNeil

Fall and winter have been very busy for Tapestry students. They have gone on field trips, made beautiful crafts and projects, learned new games, and played outside. Our annual Lights on Afterschool Celebration was a huge success. Many community members and faculty turned out to celebrate with us. We were excited to have Senator Brian Collamore, PEG TV, the Rutland Herald, parents, and many teachers and school administrators join us in the fun! Watch for our Lights On Afterschool segment on PEGTV.

At the end of January, Tapestry students took part in the 5th annual Community Celebration. This year's theme was "Kids First!" It took place at the

Rutland Intermediate School. Community partners provided engaging activities and provided lots of information for Tapestry students to learn about.

As the days get longer we will keep busy with a variety of projects. As always, time is set aside each day for homework with assistance available from our very qualified staff. Activity time features outdoor fun and indoors activities including crafts, cooking, crocheting, and some long term community projects. Each group will work on building up each students "Me Power", the power to make positive choices.

Outside, we will have fun in the snow and later, playing kickball, basketball, tag and other outdoor games. Possible field trips will include Bowl-erama and swimming at VAC. There will be opportunities for free swim and swim lessons for all students.

Plans are already in the works for our exciting summer program. This summer we are pleased to be able to provide 8 weeks of fun at our camp from June 19 - August 11. If you have questions about the afterschool or summer program or are interested in coming in to share a craft, idea, or information with our children please feel free to contact me, Lori McNeil at 779-7429.



NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Mike Rowe

Spring is just around the corner and that means baseball season. Sign up forms are at Town Hall and in the RTS weekly notices. The deadline to sign up for grades 1-6 is March 24, in order to set teams and order uniforms. The T-ball program will start the first week of May.

Sincere thanks to our basketball coaches this season! The kids had a great time and a lot of success. Thank you for your time and energy.

We will build a new playground at Northwood Park on April 22. This is a community build project. We need YOU. If you can help, contact Michael Rowe at 779-2518.

Enjoy the last bit of winter even as you think spring. We are always looking for baseball coaches, and if you have any programming ideas, just let me know.

Visit the 4th Grade Science Fair

March 7 - Voting Day- 5-6 pm

By Kathryn Duguay, Grade 4 Teacher

The Fourth Grade students at RTS have been hard at work preparing for the fifth annual Rutland Town School Science Fair. We hope that many community supporters will attend the event Tuesday, March 7 from 5:00-6:00pm in the Rutland Town Gym. Our young scientists have investigated many interesting topics this year that tie in with our fourth grade science standards.

We are very pleased to announce our panel of judges: Aaron Boynton, Sarah Tetzlaff, Lori Patterson, Wendy Lozyniak, Mary Ashcroft, and eighth grade student Luci Horrocks. Judges will use a rubric to score students based on their display, as well as their oral presentation. Four 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.

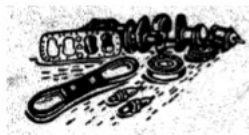
We extend a special thank you to parents for all the support they have provided at home. The Science Fair is a great opportunity to recognize and celebrate the important role science plays in our everyday lives. We hope to see you there!

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RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

- 2 PTO meets 4 pm, RTS (new time)
- 6 **Informational Town Meeting 7pm, RTS Cafeteria**
- 7 **VOTE 7 am–7 pm, RTS and Town Hall**
Town Clerk Office Closed
Four Winds training workshop
12:00, Cheney Hill
Friends of Music meets 4:30 pm
RTS Chorus Room
4th Grade Science Fair 5-6pm, RTS
- 8 **Deadline to sign up for Town Celebration Committee (page 4)**
- 13 School Board meets 6:30 pm, RTS
- 16 Planning Commission meets 7 pm
Town Hall
Supermarket Bingo - RTS, time tbd
- 17 No School – Teacher In-Service
- 21 Select Board meets 6:30 pm, Town Hall
- 22 Author Tanya Lee Stone visits RTS Library
Community welcome (page 10)
- 25&26 Rutland Free Library Mini Golf (page 8)
- 31 Jazz Bistro 7 pm, RTS Gym



APRIL

- 1 **Dog registration due, Town Hall**
- 4 Four Winds training workshop - 12:00
Cheney Hill Community Center
Friends of Music meets 4:30 pm – RTS
- 4&18 Select Board meets 6:30 pm – Town Hall
- 6 **The Circle article deadline April issue**
- 6&7 Early release days 11:55 am
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 8 **Household Hazardous Waste collection 8-11:30 am, Transfer Station**
- 10 School Board meets 6:30 pm, RTS
- 13 PTO meets 4 pm, RTS
- 17 RNRCD Plant sale orders are due (page 7)
- 17-21 Spring break RTS
- 20 Planning Commission meets 7 pm, Town Hall
- 21 **Town Scholarship applications due at noon at Town Hall**
- 22 **Rec. Dept. playground construction at Northwood Park (page 11)**
- 27 K-4 Vocal & Band concert 1:30pm rehearsal
6:30pm evening performance, RTS

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