

The Circle

Rutland Town's Link between School and Community



December 2014

TOWN NEWS

By Carol Bam

Please note that Select Board meetings are alternate Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. Chairman Steve Hawley highlights three issues on the board agenda. First, budget preparation will be a major focus over the next month and a half before presentation to the public at the Pre-Town Meeting January 27. Board subcommittees have begun meeting with department heads to review proposed budgets for recreation, police, fire and highway services.

The proposed Cold River Road solar project being considered by the Vermont Public Service Board has moved closer to approval. The Town has intervened to raise concerns about aesthetics, preservation of agricultural lands and intrusion of an industrial use into a residential neighborhood. The Hearing Officer who heard the matter rejected the Town's Solar Siting Standards approved by the Select Board in October of 2013. Those standards would have required that the solar farm be set back 200 feet from Cold River Road, which was deemed too restrictive. The Hearing Officer's recommendation will be sent to the full Public Service Board for consideration, and the Town will continue to participate in the proceeding before the full Board. Should the permit be issued, the Select Board will need to consider whether to further appeal the matter to the Vermont Supreme Court.

The Town's Solar Siting Standards were amended earlier this year to reduce the setback

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FROM PRINCIPAL AARON BOYNTON

We are well into a productive year here at Rutland Town School. A lot continues to change throughout the state and within our supervisory union and we are working very hard to keep current with and meet the expectations set forth. As principal, I feel we are doing a thoughtful and thorough job of preparing for and meeting these expectations as they continue to develop in order to prepare students for college and careers.

As we prepare the FY16 school budget to be presented in March, we are making decisions based on all of the factors that go into determining a proposed budget. Our enrollment has increased not only at the building level but within our high school student population. Our educational programs are changing based on the changes in standards. Our responsibilities for technology integration are increasing. Additionally, our action plan goals and our requirements set forth by the State are areas that we also consider when creating a budget. We are being as careful as always to ensure we continue the high level of education and experiences Rutland Town School students have always had, all the while keeping education spending as low as possible.

(Continued on Page 4)

RUTLAND TOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

From Don Chioffi for the Police Committee

Just to bring you all up to date on recent activity of our Rutland Town Police Department, Joe Dicon and I would like to let you know that one of the new vehicles pictured here has been lettered and fully equipped for use and the other two are close behind with the lettering and also in use. Call volume has increased dramatically, with total calls to date in 2014 at 766, up from 377 to date in 2013.



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Motor vehicle stops are averaging around 22 per report period, or around 600 annually, but investigative cases have increased dramatically, requiring much more administrative time.

Captain Washburn completed a grant application for a license plate reader (LPR) which was approved, resulting in a \$26,000 saving to the Town and the addition of a very valuable piece of equipment to our department.

As the holiday season approaches, we caution all of you to secure your vehicles and your possessions, be extra vigilant, and do not invite easy pilferage of your property.

Press Release

From Chief of Police, Ed Dumas II

On November, 13th 2014 at approximately 11:30 a.m. the Rutland Town Police Department received a complaint of a possible phone scam. Upon investigation the Rutland Town Police Department found a male caller had called a female and identified himself as a worker for Green Mountain Power. The male caller demanded money in cash or threatened to have the female's power shut off.

Further investigation revealed this was a phone scam. The Rutland Town Police Department asks if you receive one of these calls do not give them any money or give out any personal, credit card or account information. The Rutland Town Police Department asks you to please call Green Mountain Power's Customer Service Line at 1-888-835-4672 and also call the Vermont Attorney General's Office at 1-800-649-2424.

From RTS Assistant Principal Sarah Tetzlaff

Part of my job as Assistant Principal is to coordinate bus transportation. Rutland Town School contracts with Betcha Transit and therefore we do not own the buses we use. Currently, we run a fleet of 5 buses with the average student count of 62 students per bus. Each bus holds a maximum capacity of 77 students, which includes some younger students sitting 3 per seat. We pay a yearly flat fee for bus transportation for students to ride to and from school. This year, Betcha replaced all Rutland Town School buses with new buses. This did not come out of our local budget, rather Betcha covers the cost of the bus replacement cycle.

Aside from transportation, part of my role as the Assistant Principal includes handling student discipline and truancy, serving as the Local Education Agent (LEA) in Special Education meetings, and chairing our Education Support Team. I also assist our principal in supervising and evaluating our faculty and staff and helping to oversee the budget.

This is my 3rd year as the Assistant Principal and I have enjoyed developing relationships with families and community members.

Please feel free to contact me at 775-0566 ext. 2004 or **Sarah.Tetzlaff@rcsu.org** if you have any questions or just stop by and say hello .



RTS MARCHING BAND WINS PARADE HONORS **From Glendon Ingalls, Band Director**

Congratulations to the RTS Grade 5-8 Marching Band on being awarded first place in the "Best Costumed Marching Band" category in the Rutland Recreation Department's Halloween Parade.

The band played the theme from "Ghostbusters" under the direction of 8th grade drum major Lilly Krupp (in photo). Band costumes were designed and assembled by a dedicated parade committee comprised of parents and students who met Tuesday evenings during October. Financial support of costuming efforts was provided by the RTS Friends of Music. Congratulations and thanks to all who participated and contributed.

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 during the school year from October through June.

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

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

News from the Town Clerk, Donna Zeller

Happy Holidays to all Town Residents! You may have noticed that Town Hall has recently installed a locking mailbox near the front of the building. This will save time and money for the Town by eliminating the Center Rutland Post Office box. Mail will be forwarded from the post office box for a time as we transition to the new address on all correspondence.

The new mailing address for all Rutland Town departments is: Town of Rutland
181 Business Route 4
Center Rutland, VT 05736



Also, the second Property Tax installment is due on or before January 10, 2015. Because the due date falls on a weekend, the Town Treasurer will accept taxes brought to the Town Clerk's office on Monday, January 12 as on time. Tax payments with a valid U.S. Postal Service postmark of January 10 will also be considered on time.

Please do NOT drop your tax payment in the outside mailbox after hours; doing so is illegal by federal law! The Town Clerk and Treasurer's Office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please include the payment stub from your tax bill with your payment! The bar code is needed to enter your payment into the computer. Thank you!

We look forward to meeting and helping all Town residents whenever you stop in at Town Hall!

From the School Board

**By Joshua Terenzini,
School Board Member**

Greetings and a happy holiday season to all! It seems like just yesterday the school buses were pulling into school for the first day of the new school year!

The School Board has been very busy as usual. We are always working to find ways to improve the quality of education and safety that we can provide to your children. And as the new year is soon to arrive, we are working to create the new budget to be voted on in March.

We are very excited about the opportunity we have had recently to collaborate with the Rutland Town Select Board. Late last winter, the two boards developed a partnership which has opened the lines of communication, collaboration and shown a "one town" spirit!

Every few months, one board member will visit the other board to give a short report of what his/her board has been working on. We are also looking for areas or even projects possibly we can collaborate on. Through these efforts, we have investigated, with the help of Road Commissioner Byron Hathaway potential savings to our future paving project at the town school. We have also discussed the traffic problem caused by the student pick-up on Post Road each afternoon, along with other topics.

However, these topics of conversation aren't nearly as exciting as the later collaborative effort. Last month, Selectman Joe Dicton came to one of our School Board meetings with some very important news. He told us that through the efforts of the Rutland Town Police Department, they have submitted for a grant, which would give us a full time School Resource Officer! This grant is good for three years of full time coverage. Both boards feel that the safety of our children is priority number one. We as a community need to constantly maintain the safest school we can. By having a full time resource officer, this would greatly improve our school's ability to protect our children.

As always, we invite everyone to attend School Board meetings. We wish all of you a safe holiday season.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS CHRISTMAS WEEK

Tues. 12/23 from 4 -7 open
(Closed Wed. 12/24)

Wed. 12/31 from 4 -7 open as usual

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For each Circle issue, 12-15 RSVP Volunteers fold 1100 copies in Select Board seats at Town Hall

VT Health Connect Sign Up Local, In-person Help is Available

Open Enrollment for VT Health Connect is when you can enroll in a health insurance plan for the first time or make changes to your existing plan. If you're happy with your current plan and don't have any changes to report, **you do not need to contact Vermont Health Connect to stay covered.** The deadline for first time sign up for coverage to start Jan. 1 is Dec. 15, but if you miss that deadline, Open Enrollment continues until Feb. 15.

Do you have questions and are not sure what to do next? Have you already reported changes and still need assistance? Contact town resident Mary Schindler, a trained health "navigator", for local, in-person support. She is located at the hospital and can be reached by phone at 776-2708 or by email at mschindler@rrmc.org.

If your insurance is Medicaid, Mary can assist you as those applications are also done through the Vermont Health Connect website. A letter will be mailed from the state when those renewals are due.

Kids ' XC Ski Program at Mountain Top

Children ages 5 - 14 (K-8) interested in learning how to cross-country ski are invited to join the **Mountain Top Youth BKL Cross Country Ski League.** This ski group meets every Wed. afternoon and Sat. morning from mid December to March at Mountain Top Resort in Chittenden.

Rental or lease equipment is available. Cross-country ("nordic") skiing is a great, healthy way for families to enjoy Vermont winters at a reasonable cost.

Club fees are \$60 for the season. For more information and to sign up, contact Amanda Harding at a_harding@comcast.net or Michele and Tom Geisler at mitch2vt@comcast.net.

From the Rutland Town Fire Department By BJ Hathaway



Hello again from the Rutland Town Fire Department! The membership has been at work this fall performing many tasks readying the department for the winter months. All of our hose has been tested during its annual inspection and failed lengths of hose are being replaced. All of our department ladders were inspected and passed with some minor updates to bring them into safety compliance.

October was also Fire Prevention Month. Members of the town fire department went to the Rutland Town School and spoke with students in grades K-2 about fire safety and fire prevention. The students were then allowed the opportunity to look at some of the fire trucks that were on hand at the school. The fire department looks forward to speaking with the students each year and would like to pass along a thank you to the school administration and staff for allowing this opportunity.

On the note of fire safety and prevention and as we move into colder weather and snow, the department once again reminds everyone to check their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, as well as to keep outside vents clear of snow and other debris. Also, chimneys and flues should be inspected by a professional to ensure safe operation. These simple tasks can go a long way to preventing an emergency in the future.

In closing, we would remind everyone that the department is always accepting applications for new members and has memberships for those as young as 14 years old. Please contact a member of the fire department for more information or stop by on a Wednesday evening during our work nights from 7-9 pm. Have a happy holiday season!

(Principal Boynton~ Continued from Page 1)

Not only will the School Board and I be presenting the proposed budget to the community in January, I will be holding an additional informational session at the school in February. We hope you can attend one of these informational forums. More details to come.

I am incredibly proud of our students and staff at Rutland Town School. Each day I recognize the hard work of students; focused work ethic, good manners, and dedication to learning. I congratulate them on their success so far this year.

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Rutland Town School, I wish you and your family all the best this holiday season and a wonderful new year.

MUNICIPAL NEWS & VIEWS

By: Joseph Zingale Jr.
Rutland Town Administrator

The Town of Rutland may soon be the home of a 72,000 square foot national wholesale club store. The Saxon Group has an agreement to purchase the Rutland Commons Act 250 permit provided the development group receives all other required permits. The store would be constructed south of the Holiday Inn, close to the US RT 7 / US RT 4 intersection. Access will be from Holiday Drive.

A Saxon Group official has told the Town Planning Commission that his company has made a commitment to break ground in April 2015 and to have their new store open for business in October 2015.

The Saxon Group is presently in discussions with the District # 1 Environmental Commission regarding whether the proposed development is a strip development or not. Should a determination be made that the proposed development is a strip development, it most likely will be denied.

Specifically, Criterion 9(L) supports Vermont's historic settlement patterns of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside, by encouraging development in existing settlements and setting requirements to guide and improve development in outlying areas. Under Criterion 9(L), the applicant must show that any project outside an existing settlement:

- i. Makes efficient use of land, energy, roads, utilities and other infrastructure, and either:
- ii. (I) Will not contribute to strip development, or
(II) If the project is "confined to" existing strip development, it incorporates infill and minimizes the characteristics of strip development.

Implications of the proposed change to the Act 250 Criterion 9(L): "The bill replaces the current 9(L) "rural growth areas" with a criterion called "settlement patterns." The new criterion requires that projects outside existing settlement areas be designed in a way that does not establish, extend, or contribute to a pattern of strip development. This criterion does not apply to residential development and any development, redevelopment or subdivision within existing settlement areas would automatically comply with Criterion 9(L).

The bill makes it easier and less expensive to develop in-state Designated Downtowns by creating a no-fee, expedited state review process for projects that demonstrate no adverse impact on relevant Act 250 criteria and it accelerates state water and sewer main connection permits that are municipally approved and certified by a licensed designer. Changes are also proposed to give all state designated areas priority consideration for state wastewater infrastructure funding.

The proposed definition of "strip development" only applies to larger scale "linear commercial development along a public highway" with broad road frontage and without shared road access." (Dept. of Housing & Community Dev.)

(Town News~ Continued from Page 1)

requirements but increase screening requirements. Those revised standards are now part of the Town Plan, and are expected to carry more weight in future solar development Section 248 proceedings before the Public Service Board.

Rutland Town has received a municipal planning grant of about \$6500 from the state Department of Housing and Community Development. These funds will allow the Planning Commission to pay for assistance from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to update land designation maps in the Town. The Town Future Land Use Map (FLUM), which is in the Town Plan, would be the basis for future zoning regulations in the Town. The FLUM presently is a factor when a developer applies for an ACT 250 permit or Section 248 permit for a project. The proposed project must comply with the appropriate land use designation.

The Select Board recently adopted an updated Town Plan in October. State law requires town plans to be revised and re-adopted every five years in order to be eligible for state grant programs. The newly adopted plan has updated data from the 2010 census, and sets out 10 land Use Districts, including residential designations as well as, Agriculture, Commercial, Conservation, Industrial/Commercial, and Municipal/Government. The Plan also contains inventories, information and goals for transportation, education, economic development, public utilities, emergency management, flood resilience, recreation, telecommunications, energy (including the new solar siting standards) natural resources, housing and child care. The Commission may change some districts and may create a Forest District as it works on the land use map. The Town Plan may be viewed on the Town's website at www.rutlandtown.com; or pick up a copy at Town Hall.



All Natural Beef

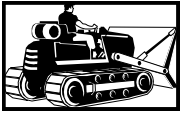
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Road Notes from Byron Hathaway, Road Commissioner

Late fall is budget preparation time for the Highway Dept. A proposed budget has been submitted to the highway committee for review and discussion. It is nearly level funded with less than a 1% increase. One of the items being looked at is the possible construction of a highway garage. One more minor permit is needed for this facility and could be obtained in time for the proposal to be on the March ballot. We have no such facility now. Equipment, tools, and materials are stored in various locations around town. Consolidation of tools and equipment into one location would help with efficiency. Our large pieces of equipment cannot be washed and maintained in between storm events thus constantly exposing this expensive equipment to the corrosive effects of salt dust. Let's try to make this happen for next year.

In response to an increase in salt prices of more than \$20 per ton and the possibility that salt could be in short supply, two prewet tanks have been installed on two of the winter plowing contractor trucks for this winter. Prewetting is the practice of adding a deicing liquid to rock salt at the spinner on the truck. Research in other areas of the country and our own experience have proven again and again that salt applications can be reduced by wetting the salt just before it hits the road. Wetting the salt helps the large salt crystals to stick to the road way and not bounce off to the edges where it becomes ineffective. More tracking and data collection will be done this winter to ensure success. I will report about this later in the winter.

Stubbins

SENIOR CORNER By Theresa Kulig

When Carol and I went to lunch with the senior group in October, we found a group of people who were very inviting and friendly. Mike Rowe, Director of the Rec. Dept. came to speak. He explained that he would like to expand what the Rec. Dept. currently does for town seniors, and wanted their input regarding helping with special programs or coordinating bus trips. The group will do some brainstorming and then let Mike know what they come up with.

One senior in attendance was Charles Sherman, who not only attends the Rutland Town lunch site, but most of the immediate areas sites as well. He shared that Ira's Meals on Wheels senior lunch is attended by about 30 people. He also attends Fair Haven which is held at the Fair Haven Inn. Any senior can attend any meal site as long as they make advanced reservations with the contact person. To get this info, call the Southwestern Vermont's Council on Aging which is in charge of the Meals on Wheels program.

Charles explained that he was the person who began the MOW program in Vermont back in 1975, a year after the Older Americans Act was created. This act had two components: Title 7/Nutrition and Title 3/Social Services. He was in charge of Title 7 whose mission was to provide low cost and delicious meals for seniors. The site locations began first and ran weekly on donations. The program now even includes home deliveries to people who have problems getting meals or who can't shop. Now that Charles is retired (and did I mention he was 96 years old??!!) he also coordinates bus trips for senior groups. He has no plans of slowing down just yet.

Former Selectman Jim Hall reports the group has decided to not hold lunches during the winter months so the December 16th lunch will be the last one until spring. The Rec. Department will pick up the tab that day, a nice treat for their last lunch of the year and also to celebrate the holiday. Seniors may resume lunch meetings in March, provided the weather cooperates, or in April for sure.

As we enjoyed food and fellowship, I picked their brains about how times were "back in the day". Many of the attendees are not native "Townies", but they all had something to contribute. I would like to end with a joke that Charles shared with the group: A cat dies and goes to heaven. He's met by St. Peter at the gates and is asked what he would like to have to be able to enjoy his afterlife. The cat says a pillow would be nice, as I didn't get a chance when I was alive to just lay around. A short while later 6 mice appeared at the pearly gates and they also were met by St. Peter. They were asked the same question, what would you like to have for enjoying your afterlife. They replied that roller skates would be nice so they could be fast, as they were caught by the cats which got them to heaven. So a little while later St. Peter checks in with the cat and asks him how he is getting along in heaven. He says that it's wonderful here, and he is particularly fond of the meals on wheels.

Front Porch Forum, a Town Asset

By Sandi Switzer

Rutland Town residents can now share information, news, recipes, current events and more on Front Porch Forum, a free community based-service that helps neighbors connect with one another.

Front Porch Forum members can share or read about all sorts of topics: lost dogs, car break ins, plumber recommendations, school budgets, block parties, helping neighbors in need, and much more.

Other towns with at least 200 households as members have very active Front Porch Forums. Wallingford, Danby, Proctor and Rutland Town are just a few of the hundreds of Vermont communities with Front Porch Forums. 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, just visit www.frontporchforum.com and sign up today and start sharing news with your neighbors.

PTO NEWS

By Paula Townsend and Jennifer Mc Neil

This fall, the PTO has had two outstanding fundraisers. In October, we had the Scholastic Book Fair. It was a big success through the efforts of Kathy Olsen and Lori Lyons. In November, we added a new fundraiser, Stuck for a Buck. We want to thank Steve Morneau, Roy Duclos and Melissa Sicard for organizing the event.

We also want to thank Samantha Racine for organizing the RTS staff dinner on Parent/Teacher Conference night and Ingrid Gallo and Jen McNeil for the Middle School dance.

We hope that everyone who signed up as a PTO member received an RTS Directory. The eighth grade art work is terrific. Thank you to Samantha Racine and her committee for compiling and printing them.

Volunteers are so important for events to be successful. We'd love to have YOU help. Please contact us at rtsptovt@gmail.com.

Rutland Free Library, Your Holiday Resource

By Randal Smathers, Assistant Director

Holiday Help and FUN at RFL

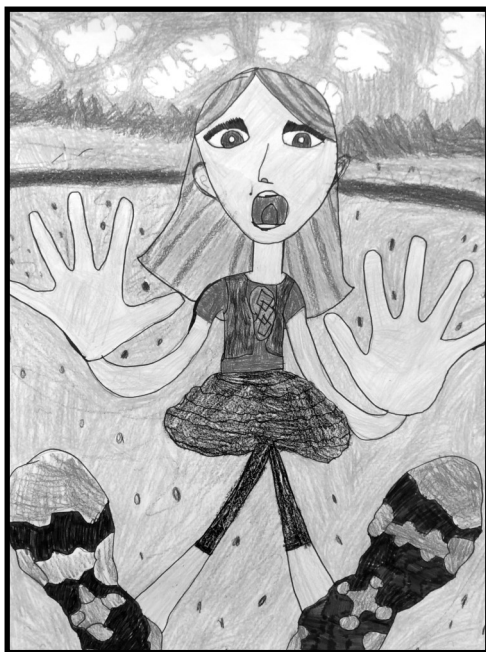
Rutland Free Library offers free tech tutoring with Scott McVeigh each Tuesday and Thursday, from 2 - 4 pm. Every year, we get a lot of requests for help with new tablets, e-readers or laptops people get as gifts, and Scott is ready and happy to help. Call ahead with a tricky problem or just drop in.

If you're looking for a gift for the reader in your life or just want a puzzle to work over the school break, the Friends of RFL are holding their monthly **book sale on Dec. 15, from 4 - 8 pm.**

Holiday Hours: We will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day and will close at 5 pm on New Year's Eve. **But drop in from 3 - 4 PM on New Year's Eve for a family New Year's party in the Fox Room:** Live music, local foods, family crafts, face painting!

More public meeting room

In January, we will open up more space to the public. In addition to the 180 - seat Fox Room, we will be offering a conference room that seats up to 10 with computer and videoconference access, at no charge during library hours. Booking can be done up to 90 days in advance; forms are available on the website at <http://rutlandfree.org/reserve-meeting-room/> or at the front desk. (Sorry, no phone bookings.)



Save the dates

Our **First Wednesday** speaker series resumes in January with Reeve Lindbergh discussing her mother, Anne Morrow Lindbergh: her letters and journals and her marriage to Charles Lindbergh. Jan. 7 at 7 pm. Get here early for good seats; it will be packed.

Our next **Science Pub** is at the Southside Steakhouse on Sunday, Jan. 4, at 4 pm. Professor Jennifer Sellers of Green Mountain College will talk about her fascinating research into how culture and testosterone control men's responses to threats.

Did you know?

Rutland Free Library has about 80,000 items in its collection, including books in print, e-books, audiobooks on CD and download, magazines and DVDs. It's all available to borrow with a library card **free to Rutland Town residents!**

We also offer computer access. We have over a dozen public access computers, fiber-optic WiFi, videoconferencing facilities and wireless printing. Log in to www.printeron.com/rfl/main, send your print job (color or b&w), then drop by the library within the next four hours to pick it up. If you're downtown and need a computer, just drop by 10 Court St.

◀ **Perspective Drawing by Olivia Williams, Grade 4**



Win the Quilt that Keeps on Giving By Mary Ashcroft-Billings and Theresa Czachor

When the Ashcroft-Billings family toured northern Vermont this past summer, they visited the Haskell Free Library in Derby Line. The library is unique—it straddles the US/Canada border, features bilingual books and staff, and boasts a black international boundary painted diagonally across its hardwood floors.

While Jamie, Gordon and Isaiah were posing in the International Room with a foot each in Vermont and Quebec, a beautiful quilt caught the eye of their mom Mary Ashcroft. The quilt had been made by Northeast Kingdom residents Noreen Hinton and Sherry Greenwood, and donated to the Haskell Library for a fundraising raffle. Mary wandered down the hall into Canada, bought a couple of raffle tickets from the friendly librarian, and four months later won the quilt!

The Ashcroft-Billings family promptly passed the quilt on to the RTS Library with the request that the quilt be raffled again, this time to raise money for our school library's needs. Librarian Theresa Czachor has been working hard to raise money to upgrade furnishings and electronics. The quilt raffle will move her and RT students closer to their goal.

Raffle tickets for this “starburst” quilt are on sale now. Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5 and 13 for \$10. All proceeds will go to the Rutland Town School Library renovation fund. For more information, or to purchase raffle tickets, contact Mrs. Czachor at RT School at 775-0566, or e-mail her at theresa.czachor@rcsu.org.

Take a chance for a good cause and to win this quilt that keeps on giving--and warming. The quilt raffle drawing will take place on January 23rd during the Talent Show intermission.

From Mrs. Czachor, School Librarian

The subject of quilts has given many writers a worthy topic for their books. Here is a list of some outstanding titles that you may want to consider for your Holiday gift giving this year. Each heartwarming story takes a special approach to quilt making and touches on the themes of love, family, tradition, and neighborhood.

The Quiltmaker's Gift - Jeff Brumbeau

When a generous quiltmaker finally agrees to make a quilt for a greedy king but only under certain conditions, she causes him to undergo a change of heart.

The Quiltmaker's Journey - Jeff Brumbeau

The quiltmaker grows up wealthy and sheltered, but radically changes her life after she discovers the poverty and need outside her town

The Patchwork Quilt - Valerie Flourney

Using scraps cut from the family's old clothing, Tanya helps her grandmother and mother make a beautiful quilt that tells the story of her family's life.

The Canada Geese Quilt - Natalie Kinsey-Warnock

Worried that the coming of a new baby and her grandmother's serious illness will change the warm familiar life on her family's Vermont farm, ten-year-old Ariel combines her artistic talent with her grandmother's knowledge to make a very special quilt.

The Keeping Quilt - Patricia Polacco

A homemade quilt ties together the lives of four generations of an immigrant Jewish family, remaining a symbol of their enduring love and faith.

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt - Deborah Hopkinson

A young slave stitches a quilt with a map pattern which guides her to freedom in the North.

Cassie's Word Quilt - Faith Ringgold

Cassie's quilt names the people and objects that make a girl's New York City apartment, school, and neighborhood special.

NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Mike Rowe

Welcome to early winter and the time of year for basketball. But first, I would like to thank our fall soccer coaches for a great job this season: Rob Labate, Fabio Rosi, Beth Coughlin, Teddi Lovko, Sue Cooley, Paul Racine and Becky Regula. Thanks for all your time and effort for our young soccer players.

The Halloween party was a huge success with a large number turning out and with a fun time had by all. There were lots of great costumes! A big thank you to all the 7-8 grade helpers who help make this a great party. A special thanks to Mr. Schneider and Principal Boynton for their help judging costumes.

The Rec Dept. invites the seniors who enjoy meeting once a month for lunch to join us again on Dec. 16 for a luncheon at Seward's Family Restaurant. The meal will be free of charge to town seniors. If you have questions, please call Jim Hall at 345-1841 for more details.



Marie Hyjek (right) before she retired at the end of July, with Theresa Kulig

Hello from Marie Hyjek

What does one do when they retire and how long does it take to realize that your life has changed?

The first couple weeks were very confusing for both me and my husband. I woke up the normal time...ready to face whatever needed attention at the Town Office, while my husband "slowly" sipped his morning coffee...waiting for me to leave. For those of you who do not get the pleasure of a quiet morning together with their spouse, it is a totally new experience.

Okay. I got through that first change. Next question crosses my mind. How does an active person like me get through a day without driving her husband crazy? He is used to being alone and all of a sudden he has to share the house with his wife. I thought very hard on that change before realizing that I can now do whatever I want. No longer have any schedule, so get to it and make the most of this day.

Since those two changes, I have adapted quite well to retirement. It's amazing what you discover when you finally realize what's really happening in your life.

Unfortunately we had medical issues to face, but Bob and I have gotten through those tough times and we are now ready to move forward. Even though I truly miss each and every one of you people, I know that it was the perfect time for me to retire. I was there for my husband when he needed me the most. I always said that I had a guardian angel watching over me...getting through those tough times at work. Once again, that angel was there for me.

When the seasons changes, think of me and how happy I am experiencing each one. If you drive by our house and see me outside, beep the horn. Or better yet...stop and say hello. My best to all of you and I will always carry a special place in my heart for each and every one of you.

Are You Ready for Flu Season?

**By Heather L. Baker,
Development & Communications Coordinator at SVCOA**

Have you had your flu shot yet? Usually the flu peaks between December and February but it is difficult to predict when the first case will be reported and how long it will last. The CDC recommends that everyone, even children as young as six months, get a flu shot. It is especially important for anyone who is a caregiver for an infant or an elderly person to get the vaccination.

Flu shots are usually available starting in October. Once you get the vaccination it takes 2 weeks for the antibodies to build up in your body to start providing you protection. Not only are the shots available but now there is a Flu nasal spray that can be used on children as young as 2 and adults with no medical conditions.

In addition to getting your flu shot you can prevent getting the flu by staying away from people who are sick and washing your hands with soap and water frequently to avoid spreading germs. Also if you are sick yourself you should stay out of public places like schools or the work place. You should try to remember when you cough or sneeze to cover your nose and mouth with your arm not your hand so that you do not touch something and infect others.

Symptoms often include a fever, cough, sore throat, stuffy or runny nose, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. These symptoms can vary from person to person and you should always contact your doctor if you are experiencing any of these symptoms.

Treatment for the flu usually depends on the severity of your illness. If you have a mild case of the flu you can treat it yourself by staying hydrated, getting plenty of rest, and practicing good hand washing. If you have a more severe case your doctor will probably prescribe antibiotic for you and recommend hydration, rest, and hand washing. In some cases your doctor may admit you to the hospital to evaluate and monitor your illness.

You can get your flu shot from your doctor, local home health clinics, and pharmacies. Let's make this a healthy year by protecting ourselves and loved ones and get our flu shots.



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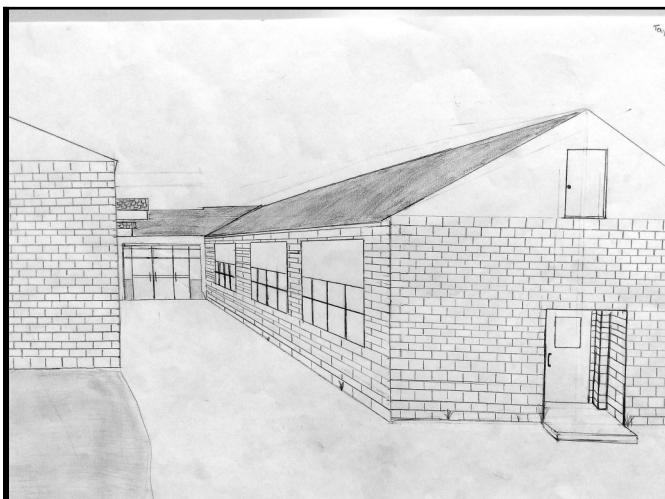
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Have a Great Spring & Enjoy Life!



Drawing above by Taylor Krupp, Grade 8
Drawing below by Taylor Sweet, Grade 1

These student drawings were mis-captioned in the last issue. They are observational drawings of the school surroundings



A clever Vermonter would...

- Have a \$100 Home Energy Check-up
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- Have a more comfortable home



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THE HEALTHY, HUNGER - FREE KIDS ACT OF 2010

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 represents a major step forward in our nation's effort to provide all children with healthy food in schools. Increasingly, schools are playing a central role in children's health. With over 17 million children living in food insecure households and one out of every three children in America now considered overweight or obese, schools often are on the front lines of our national challenge to combat childhood obesity and improve children's overall health. This legislation includes significant improvements that will help provide children with healthier and more nutritious food options, educate children about making healthy food choices, and teach children healthy habits for a lifetime.

The USDA recently published practical, science-based nutrition standards for snack foods and beverages sold to children at school during the school day. The standards, required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, will allow schools to offer healthier snack foods to children, while limiting junk food. To review the standards go to: http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/allfoods_flyer.pdf

Friends of Music Annual Appeal

The RTS Friends of Music provides financial and volunteer support to music programs and events, such as the Halloween Parade. (Congratulations on the band's first place win as the "Best Costumed Marching Band.") Music is offered to all students Kindergarten - grade 8, and programs are designed to encourage community outreach, by sharing what the students have learned with others. The Friends of Music is able to enrich the music programs, thanks to your generous contributions. Your contributions have helped with these items:

- Purchase of musical instruments including recorders, piccolos and drums for concerts and parades
- Purchase of computer software that provides tuning services to the 100+ instruments prior to performances
- Covering rental fees for sound equipment used for concerts at both the school and at outside venues
- Covering transportation expenses for parades, concerts and enrichment trips to events such as the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival (the band performed on Church Street last June as part of the Festival)
- Purchase and maintaining of Halloween Parade costumes, and uniforms used in Loyalty Day Parade

The IRS has accepted our application to change our tax status to a 501(c)(3) organization and is finalizing their review and approval. This will allow The Friends of Music to do more with the monetary donations that we receive from you, and will allow your donations to be tax deductible.

Join us this year on what will be another outstanding musical journey. Thanks to the 45+ member families for their support last year. Please make a first time contribution or renew your membership. For more info, contact FOM committee member Meg Horrocks at 773-1205.

You can mail a donation to:

Rutland Town School Friends of Music
 1612 Post Road, Rutland, VT 05701.

FOUR WINDS BLOWING

By Kirsten Marsh

We are getting our hands dirty as we continue our year long study of Ecosystems in the Four Winds program at Rutland Town School. It's fantastic!

In October we studied 'Life in the Dirt'. It's amazing how many living and non-living things you can find in one cubic foot of dirt. How fun for the students to literally dig in and see what they could find. They shared their finds and talked about all the ways these items are connected. We examined earthworms up close, and though not everyone was excited about handling a worm, they all did enjoy being scientists, using hand lenses, looking at diagrams and learning all the ways worms really are pretty cool.



A visiting professor discusses decomposition

November had us studying *Snags and Rotting Logs*. (A 'snag' is a standing dead or dying tree.) We had some very animated visitors come to classrooms to put logs through a time machine to show the students what can happen to a decomposing log over about 12 years. Our volunteers are the best and embrace the silliness to make our lessons fun and engaging. Once Dr. D.K. Composition and his time machine bid farewell, we headed into the woods to explore. We rolled logs over, gently pulled away bark, and found some quite amazing examples of life in these little ecosystems. We made sure to be careful and tried to put everything back as we found it, perhaps for the next class to discover.

This type of investigation and pausing to really see and explore the natural world we walk by every day is what this program is all about.

We take a break for the month of December but we will be back in January to learn about Staying Warm strategies for all the warm-blooded critters out there. Fur, feathers.... snow?!?!

New volunteers are always welcome. No experience is necessary, as training is provided. Please join a workshop, or for more information, contact Kirsten Marsh at kirstenklett@hotmail.com or 773-5381.

1ST TRIMESTER HONOR ROLL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADES 6-8

HIGH HONORS

Grade 6

Joseph Anderson
Abigail Churchill
Isabella Decandio
Huntter Hathaway
Lucienne Horrocks
Jaden Kelley
Brady Kenosh
Devon Kibbey
Max Lovko
Samuel Macpherson
Kiana Martin
Olivia Merrill
Emma Notte
Gianna Pezzetti
Hannah Solimano
Mary Sutton

Grade 7

Ashleah Adams
Trey Alercio
Leah Allen
Miles Allen
Tommy Baker
Amy McGee
Dylan Roussel
Ethan Schmitt
Megan Smith
Alex Stute

Grade 8

Skyler Bird
Paige Bohlig
Aubryanna Bush
Lily Duboff
Vanessa Dumas
Jensen Kelley
Tara Kellogg
Lilly Krupp
Taylor Krupp
Conner Ladabouche
Rachel Lee
Emmie Lovko
Alexa McPhee
Ethan Notte
Maddie Thompson

HONORS

Grade 6

Alex Aiken
Sarah Chase
Mariah Crossman
Harmony Fortune
Matthew Goulette
Tatyana Pratt
Justine Peters
Izabella Racine
Jenna Sunderland

Grade 7

Madison Abatiell
Taqdees Ahmad
Ethan Coarse
Sean Olsen
Luke Ragosta
Tyler Regula
Katie Sunderland

Grade 8

Zach Aiken
Shanna Alexander
Zach Arsenault
Casey Coughlin
Willie Goulette
Connor Heaton
Lucas Hubbard
Gabriel Knapp
Kelsey McCullough
Mason Patten
Dakota Peters
Carl Pratt
Ian Smith
Jeremy Welch
Bailey Wilson

The following students earned honors for independent work in online classes offered through VTVLC (Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative)

HIGH HONORS

Emmie Lovko
Alex Stute

Honors

Taqdees Ahmad



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RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 8&22 School Board meets - 6:30 pm, RTS Library
16 Senior lunch - Noon, Seward's Restaurant
3-5 vocal concert run thru - 1:30 pm, RTS
3-5 vocal concert - 6:30 pm, RTS Gym
16&30 Select Board meets - 6:30 pm, Town Hall
18 Planning Commission - 7 pm, Town Hall
19 Early Dismissal - 11:55 am
22-1/2 RTS Holiday Break
23 **Transfer Station** open 4-7 pm
Closed Wed. 12/24
Open Wed. 12/31, 4-7 pm
25&26 **Town Hall Closed**



JANUARY

- 1 **Town Hall Closed**
6 FourWindsworkshop - 8:45 am, Cheney Hill
8 PTO meets - 6 pm, RTS
10 **2nd Tax payment due**
12&26 School Board meets - 6:30 pm, RTS Library
13 FOM meets - 4 pm, RTS Band Room
13&27 Select Board meets - 6:30 pm, Town Hall

- 15 Grades 6-8 Concert run thru -1:30 pm, RTS
Grades 6-8 Concert - 6:30 pm, RTS Gym
Planning Commission - 7 pm, Town Hall
19 **Town Hall Closed** - Martin Luther King Day
23 FOM Talent Show - 6:30 pm, RTS Gym
26 No School - In Service
27 **Pre-Town Meeting - 7pm, RTS Cafeteria**
29 Jazz Night - 7 pm, Rutland High School

FEBRUARY

- 3 FourWinds workshop - 8:45 am, Cheney Hill
5&19 Planning Commission - 7 pm, Town Hall
9&23 School Board meets - 6:30 pm, RTS Library
10 FOM meets - 4 pm, RTS Band Room
10&24 Select Board meets - 6:30 pm, Town Hall
12 PTO meets - 6 pm, RTS Library
16 **Town Hall Closed - President's Day**
16-29 Winter Break
25 **Voter Registration Deadline for March 3 General Election**

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