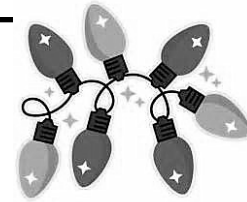


The Circle



Rutland Town's Link between School and Community

December 2017

TOWN NEWS

By Carol Bam

The Select Board will soon hire a new full time Town Administrative Assistant. Applications for the position were due by November 30. Select Board Chairman Josh Terenzini said, "The current system of local government serves the residents of Rutland Town very well, which is a good reason to stick with the town administrator position." The Select Board will narrow down the applicant pool in the first part of December, conduct interviews and hope to seat a new administrator by January 1.

The major responsibility of the town administrator office, staffed currently by Assistant Administrator Patty Carbine, is to carry out the directives of the Select Board. In addition to helping prepare budgets and financial reports, the job focus is on grant writing, website management and design, and developing economic opportunities within the town. Some oversight such as town water and sewer lines has been shifted from the Administrator's Office to the Highway Department under Byron Hathaway.

Here is how the ad on the town website describes Rutland Town:

"The Town of Rutland is Rutland County's third largest municipality. To the south, Rutland Town is home to General Electric, Isovolt Inc., the Diamond Run Mall, Green Mountain Plaza and numerous automotive dealerships. To the north, there are picturesque farmlands,

(Continued on Page 7)

FROM PRINCIAL AARON BOYNTON

We are well into the 2017-2018 school year and so many wonderful and new experiences for children are happening within the walls of Rutland Town School. This fall we welcomed 21 pre-kindergarten children to our full day pre-k program. This is a new initiative for RTS and we appreciate everyone's support as we transition to this new program. Students in the pre-k program are a regular part of the school community which includes attending "specials" - art, library, music and physical education classes, assemblies, performances, and other school - wide integrated initiatives. We thank the community for supporting the program and we are confident more students will be kindergarten ready by the end of their experience.

Our transition to proficiency based grading and a learner centered model has been ever growing in our Middle School. Students team in Teacher Advisory groups that allow for team building among grade levels and an iLearn class allows students choice in their learning. This cultivates self-direction by allowing students to make choices based on their learning needs. In the classroom, teachers are designing approaches to learning where students reflect on where they are and what

(Continued on Page 4)

MY VIEW FROM HOUSE SEAT 101

By Thomas Terenzini, State Representative

I recently was invited to attend a naturalization ceremony for new United States citizens at the Christ the King School in Rutland City. I was deeply moved by the invitation as I graduated from this Catholic grade school in 1963. The interaction between the 35 new citizens and the students of CKS was particularly moving.

Each year about one million immigrants arrive in America legally. Their reasons for coming to the greatest country in the world are to work, marry, to avoid persecution, natural disaster and war in their former homeland. As more Americans retire at a rate of ten thousand per day, these new citizens will be filling niches within the US economy in both high and low wage jobs.

As I addressed these new citizens who arrived here from 13 different nations, I challenged them, once they got settled into their new communities, to become actively involved in their surroundings. I encouraged them to volunteer at the local hospital or nursing homes, places of worship, our library, a food shelf or homeless shelter. Most importantly, I encouraged them to vote! I told our new citizens that it was their right to be

(Continued on Page 5)

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From left to right: Bayley Sanders, Sean Hirten, Megan O'Brien and Jacquelin Bendick

RTS Welcomes New Middle School Staff

In the October issue we introduced you to eight new staff members in the primary grades. Please meet our four new Middle School teachers.

Bayley Sanders - Long Term Substitute Science

This is my first year teaching and I am excited to be here at Rutland Town School! I recently moved from Texas to Vermont and really enjoy the new scenery especially the leaves changing colors. I live in Rutland City, and I love reading, cooking, and running. I'm looking forward to snow and hopefully getting to experience some winter activities.

Sean Hirten - Grade 7-8 Language Arts

I am coming to RTS from Brighton Elementary in Island Pond, Vermont, where I was teaching middle school Humanities. I grew up in Southern Chittenden Co. and enjoy being outdoors. When outside my favorite things to do are fish, bike, and snowboard. I also enjoy reading, music, basketball, hockey, and soccer.

Megan O'Brien - Special Educator

I am excited to embark on my fifth year in education and to join the Rutland Town School community! I am a Special Educator and this year I will be working primarily with students in middle school. For the past four years, I was a Special Educator at Castleton Elementary School in third, fourth, and fifth grade. When I am not in the classroom I enjoy being active and being outdoors... especially snowboarding and hiking.

Jacquelin Bendick - Para Educator

I am so excited to work within Rutland Town School! I grew up in New York, but after attending UVM I could not go home and leave this beautiful state. Previously I taught at Mary Johnson Children's Center which is a preschool in Middlebury and am looking forward to getting to know the community here. I love being outdoors, especially taking walks with my dog around the area.

Did You Know? Opioid Prescription Limits By: Lisa Lones RN BSN

A new state law went into effect on July 1, 2017 that limits how physicians can prescribe opioid pain-killing pills. It also requires physicians to counsel their patients about the risks of addiction before they prescribe.

The new rules stipulate that prescribing clinicians will be allowed to prescribe no more than seven days' worth of opioids at a time for adult patients who do not take them on a regular basis. Specific dosages of drugs such as Oxycontin (oxycodone), Vicodin (hydrocodone) and Percocet (acetaminophen-oxycodone) are outlined for pain judged to be minor, moderate, severe and extreme. Prescribing opioids for minor pain such as ankle sprains, nonspecific low back pain, headaches, fibromyalgia, molar removal and undiagnosed dental pain is prohibited. The rules state not to prescribe opioid painkillers for minor pain in children and to prescribe up to three days' worth if they have moderate to severe pain.

The rules do not apply to patients in palliative care, those in nursing homes, patients with certain medical complications, people with significant or severe trauma, patients who had a complex surgical intervention, patients in medication-assisted substance abuse treatment, or those who are taking opioid painkillers for chronic pain.

According to Kaiser Health News, Vermont is one of 22 states to adopt or toughen prescribing rules for opioid painkillers in 2016.

(Primarily Vermont, Winter 2016 is a newsletter from the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine.)

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

The Circle staff includes Principal Aaron Boynton as Editor in Chief, Carol Bam, Theresa Kulig, and Marie Pennington. Five issues are published every other month from October through June. For information, mailing list changes, to advertise or to contribute, email carolbam@aol.com, call the RTS office at 775-0566. or mail to:

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



← Planning Commission member Fred Nicholson and the solar panels he installed at his home. He also put in an energy efficient heat pump.

(Photo - NeighborWorks of Western Vermont/Heat Squad)

Enhanced Energy Planning

By Barbara Noyes Pulling
Planning Commission Chair

Throughout 2017, the Rutland Town Planning Commission has been working on an enhanced energy plan for the town. What's an *enhanced* energy plan? In 2016, VT Legislature passed legislation to give municipalities more say in the process of approving alternative energy generation projects, such as solar farms. According to this new law, municipalities have the option of adopting complete detailed energy plans. In concept it's simple. If a town wants more say, called substantial deference in state statute, it must have an enhanced energy plan.

As you know, Rutland Town has had some issues with solar generation projects in recent years. The town's first solar farm at Stratton and Cold River Roads was contested because it was in a residential area of town. Even though the town filed suit and appealed the case all the way to the state Supreme Court, the town didn't prevail,

and the solar project was constructed.

Will having an enhanced energy plan make a difference if the town objects to a future alternative energy project – whether it's solar, wind, hydroelectric or biomass? It should. That's because the plan we're putting together is very specific in showing where and where not to site future energy projects in Rutland Town - and why. It also lays out how the town can meet the state's ambitious alternative energy goals in state law (10 VSA § 580a) that include having 90% of all energy used in the state come from renewables by 2050.

For several reasons it hasn't been easy for the Planning Commission to write this enhanced energy plan because, while the concept was simple, creating an enhanced energy plan that will be accepted by the state is much more complicated. For example, the Planning Commission had to strictly adhere to a required 14-page enhanced energy plan checklist developed by the Department of Public Service in drafting the plan. In addition, Rutland Town is one of the first towns in the state to create one of these plans so there aren't other examples to fall back on.

To be honest, the Planning Commission has had to make things up as we go, if you will. That's why we haven't made a big deal about what we've been doing so far. That's about to change. By early next year, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on how we came up with the draft plan which will be followed by two additional public hearings with the Select Board.

It's time to share with you what we've done and have you tell us what we did right and what we got wrong. Feel free to join our PC meetings if you're interested in learning more about the plan. We'll be back in touch when we have some dates for the public hearings

The Planning Commission meets every three weeks on Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Town Office. Due to changes near the holidays, please check with the Town Administrator's Office (772-7891) for the date of the next meeting.



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Upcoming PTO Dates

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Sat. Dec. 9 | Breakfast with Santa
9:30am – 11:00am in RTS Cafeteria |
| Tues. Jan. 9 | PTO meeting 6pm – 7pm
RTS Library |
| Tues. Feb. 6 | PTO meeting 6pm – 7pm
RTS Library |
| Tues. Mar. 6 | PTO meeting 6pm – 7pm
RTS Library |



RTS MUSIC UPDATE

From Aaron Audet and Marc Whitman

The Middle School band had huge success with the Halloween Parade this year. Our theme was "Octopus's Garden" by The Beatles, which took home first place for "Best Costumed Marching Band." Our sincere thanks to all the parents who helped with the costumes, and for marching with the band. A few days before the parade Mr. Whitman had put together a short and very successful concert with his Middle School Chorus including a few solo performers. The cafeteria was packed full with family and friends.

On December 5, the chorus and the "T" Jazz Band will perform at the Loretto Home, Gables and Meadows Senior Living. The K-4 concert will be on Dec 7. The RTS 5-8 Winter Concert, featuring the 5th Grade band, Middle School Band, Middle School Chorus, M-Jazz and T-Jazz will be on December 14 at 6:30 pm. Please join us!

Thanks to those who have donated to our "Friends of Music" this year. Please contact President Juli Jakubowski if you'd like to make a donation. Thanks for your ongoing support!

My Job as a Proficiency - Based Learning Coach

By Brian Crane

For the last four years I have had the privilege of teaching Middle School Science at Rutland Town School. During those four years I have worked with wonderful teachers and ambitious students. It also gave me an opportunity to further my own practice. Starting two years ago the proficiency-based learning movement began in our district and I was excited to make a change.

Moving to proficiency-based learning was not an easy shift. However, certain elements such as a skilled-based curriculum modeled on clear expectations and mastery over averages really attracted me. I was also interested in developing models that make students more self-directed.

I worked hard and had success in my model for proficiency-based learning. When the position of Proficiency-Based Learning Coach came up for our district I was very interested. It is not that I was unhappy in the classroom but I was more interested in a new challenge. I also wish that I had a coach when I started my journey to help me avoid some pitfalls along the way.

Now, I am working hard with the four schools in our district. For example, at West Rutland School I am providing personalized professional development for high school teachers. At Proctor Elementary and soon RTS I am helping facilitate project based learning based on proficiencies. Overall, I am helping our teachers transition to proficiency-based learning in new and innovative ways.

Am I out of the classroom for good? Only time will tell. All I know is that I miss it dearly!

(Principal Boynton - Continued from Page 1)

they have to do to get to where they need to be.

Teachers track student progress through the Vermont Proficiencies and students are able to see their progress in real time through a web based reporting program.

As we enter into the school budget building season, we will continue to be fiscally responsible while planning to provide students the best educational experience possible. We'll communicate through mail, school webpage, school newsletter, and social media any upcoming relevant budget information. Please keep informed as we prepare the future of Rutland Town School.

It continues to be my pleasure to work for the children of Rutland Town. Have a wonderful holiday season.

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From Town Clerk/Treasurer Kirsten Hathaway

Happy Holidays Town Residents! I hope everyone is having a safe and happy end of the year so far. We have been working hard to reorganize and update our town website, www.rutlandtown.com, so please take a look when you have a moment. We are always open to suggestions!

Just a reminder, as of January 2 dog license renewals will be available for purchase. Also, the second installment of property taxes is due on or before January 10, 2018. Tax payments stamped with a valid U.S. Postal Service postmark of January 10 will be considered on time.

Office Closure dates are:

December 25 and 26 (Christmas)

January 1 (New Year's)

January 15 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

February 19 (Presidents Day)

As always, please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance to you. The Town Office phone is 773-2528.



Zach Nelson and Jack Coughlin

Stafford Tech Field Trip

By Melissa Theis,
RTS Guidance Counselor

Every year, our eighth grade students have the opportunity to visit Stafford Technical Center located in Rutland. Stafford Technical Center provides career and technical education to high school students in Rutland County. We offer this opportunity to our eighth graders to help them make the best decisions about their education after they leave Rutland Town.

On November 9, 30 students from the eighth grade class spent the day at Stafford. Students had the opportunity to choose three programs that they would like to visit. While there, students engaged in a variety of hands-on learning. Some had the opportunity to watch welding and soldering, help with young children in the preschool, utilize the technology in the STEM lab, create their own designs in Digital Arts and visit the house that the Construction Technology and Electrical and Plumbing programs are building.



Still Life by Torin Kibbey, Grade 7

(Representative Terenzini - Continued from Page 1)

critical of their state and federal governments without fear of reprisal. These newest Americans studied hard and earned the right to be citizens of our great nation!

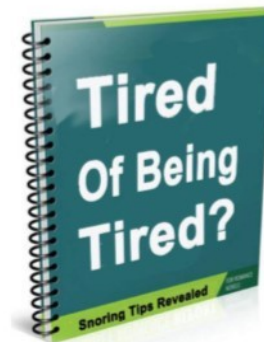
I will be returning to Montpelier to represent you, the people of Rutland Town, in the beginning of January. I wanted to let you know that my health has much improved from a year ago and I am ready and eager to do the work I was elected to do. As I write to you, the State of Vermont is approximately \$45,000,000 "in the red." As I have pledged to you for the past five years, I will not vote for a bill that will raise your property taxes.

In closing, let me say once again that it is an honor to represent you in the VT General Assembly. I wish you and your family a holy Merry Christmas Season and Happy Hanukkah.

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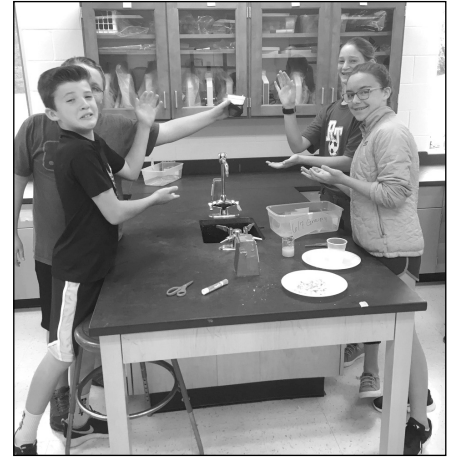
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Science Learning in the Classroom Bayley Sanders, Middle School Science

For Middle School Science, 6th and 7th grade are currently studying organ systems. For one of their investigations they explored the digestive system and made a model of how their organs work together to digest food and absorb nutrients. Students were given various materials such as orange juice, bread,



plastic cups, and tights and they showed how food traveled through each organ in their digestive system. Then, they showed how our system experiences different disturbances and how that would affect our body.

In 8th grade, we just finished our unit about Chemistry. The students completed different investigations that explored states of matter, boiling points, and how atoms and molecules interact. For one of our inquiries, students were given corn starch and water and combined the materials to create "oobleck" which was a substance that alternated between a solid and a liquid. The students shown below are experimenting with this substance to determine how it behaves with different amounts of cornstarch.



Road Notes from Byron Hathaway, Road Commissioner

As we approach our winter season, I would take this time to remind home owners of a few things.

Have your vehicle equipped with snow tires. Our town, as well as VTrans, does not have a bare roads policy. Roads may be covered with snow. Our plow routes take 2-3 hours to complete one go around. This means that if it is snowing only a half inch per hour there could be one to two inches of snow on the road or more before a snowplow arrives to clear the road. Reductions in salt use means the roads will take longer to clear. Main roads and bus routes, when school is in session, are priorities with lesser roads getting plowed as we get to them. My operators try to mix up the way they plow. This way everyone gets a chance to be plowed first sometimes and last other times.

Mailboxes are another topic. If one of the plows actually hits your mail box and damages or knocks it off its post, we will come and repair or replace it. Boxes mounted on a weak post or rotted board that gets knocked over by the snow coming off the plow will not be fixed. I recommend that the box be mounted on a sturdy wooden post with the front of the box no closer to the road way than 18" to 24". This should minimize or prevent damage to your box. The Highway Dept. is not responsible for keeping your mailbox accessible to the postman this is the responsibility of the home owner.

Significant lawn damage may occur. In cases where the truck went off the road and rutted a lawn or dug up a large amount of sod, the Highway Dept. will make repairs in the spring. It is my decision to determine what

significant damage is. A little bit of sod on the edge of the road doesn't constitute significant damage. In an effort to cut down on the damage to lawns the Highway Dept. has put out reflective fiberglass markers in those areas that are prone to damage. We will remove them in the spring.

The Town will not be responsible for damage to obstructions placed in the right-of-way. Examples include but are not limited to fences, basketball hoops, or shrubbery. The edge of the Town right-of-way is typically 25 feet from the centerline of the road. There may be some exceptions to this in some areas. Check with me if you have a question about the width of the road.

Another issue that comes up are vehicles parking in the road. Vehicles parked on the side of the road make it difficult for plow operators to get by the vehicle without hitting the vehicle. Please make an effort to get vehicles off the road during storms even if you are hosting a gathering of family or friends. Slow down during storm events that affect road conditions, and have a safe holiday season.



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SCHOOL BOARD Thanks Citizens for Their Support

We are pleased to report that the vote to remain as a single district was successful. **Ninety-one percent of the voters were in favor of the proposal.** The Rutland Town School Board thanks our community for their support of this effort following two years of careful research and study. We believe that this is the best solution for our community.

Effective July 1, 2018, Rutland Town School District will become a part of the Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union. During this transition to the new supervisory union, we are working together with our expanded districts to continue to provide excellent oversight of our school districts.

During this holiday season we are thankful for our staff, students, families and communities who support our school!

NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Mike Rowe

Hello all and Happy Holidays to everyone from the Rec. December events are: First, the **Senior Luncheon is on Dec. 12** at 11:00 at the new fire station in Center Rutland. Please contact Jim Hall if you are going to attend. It will be a great chance to meet and celebrate before the holidays. Second, the annual **Snowball Jamboree** basketball event for 5/6 Grade boys and girls will be Dec. 21 and 22 with more info to follow.

Just a reminder that the K-2 basketball program will start in January and run for 6 weeks, most likely on Wednesdays. More info on times will follow.

If you have any ideas for programing just give me a call at the school at 775-0566 x 4060.

(Town News ~ Continued from Page 1)

mountain ranges and views. We are only minutes away from world-class skiing at Killington and 15 miles from VT's largest land locked lake, Bomoseen. Recreation is at the heart of who we are as a community. Over 4000 people are proud to call Rutland Town home."

Terenzini reports that Select Board committees are in the heart of the season for budget preparation for 2018-2019. Town residents will be pleased to hear that work to date indicates that there are only small increases proposed for all town budgets.

The plan for a proposed service road to run behind Green Mountain Plaza, across Randbury Road and north to Aldi's is being downsized. The engineering report on the original \$6 million project found that the impact on traffic congestion on the parallel section of Route 7 would be minimal. Deciding that the original project was too expensive for the expected return, the Select Board asked for an engineering report on a scaled down service road. That version costing \$2.5 million would benefit the town by providing access to landlocked properties west of Route 7 and enhancing development opportunities. The Select Board is still in discussion about whether to proceed with construction.

The Select Board has passed a "public nuisance ordinance" which may become a significant tool to remedy neglected eyesores in Rutland Town. Chairman Terenzini explained that the ruling will "give the Select Board authorization to work with landowners of blighted properties to clean up run down sites and abandoned buildings." Sections of Business Route 4 in Center Rutland are a prime example. Terenzini estimated that there were "less than a dozen" problem properties in the town. In addition to the health and safety menaces such properties impose, their gateway locations have an outsized negative impact on the town's image.

Along these lines, Rutland Town and West Rutland have been collaborating to improve the roadside appeal to all users of Route 4 between the two towns. "The need to beautify this thoroughfare connecting the towns and to create recreational and economic opportunities is clear to both municipalities," said Terenzini. Improving the corridor's access and attractiveness to a variety of users may spur interest in economic development of the area.

The towns disagree on a proposed reduction in traffic lanes to allow for wider shoulders for road bikes and pedestrians; the majority of the Select Board is not in favor of the idea. But there are plenty of other recreation development initiatives that garner mutual support. As part of the goal to create a park and trail system along Route 4, the town has allocated \$5000 to study how best to highlight and improve access to Mead's Falls on Otter Creek near the Joseph Denardo Fire Station in Center Rutland

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RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY UPDATE

Building Repairs and Program Schedule

From Randal Smathers, Director

There's good news and bad news on the Fox Room. The good news is that it appears we will be able to encapsulate the old ceiling instead of tearing it out and starting over. That's particularly welcome as when part of the ceiling collapsed we were told (repeatedly) that we would have to do what's called an abatement -- which involves safely removing and discarding all the old material.

The acoustic tiles and the original plaster weren't concerns but because the glue holding the tile to the plaster contained 2.5 percent asbestos, we were going to have to treat each crumb coming off the ceiling as if it were asbestos and hazmat disposal alone was estimated as being in the \$30,000-\$35,000 range.



RUTLAND TOWN SENIORS

By Jim Hall, VP and Treasurer,

Cheney Hill Seniors had a busy year with lunches, trips to Woodstock on two occasions, and the July cookout at Northwood Recreation facility.

The Town of Rutland was saddened earlier this summer by the passing of longtime member and President, Ann Glagola. Ann was very active and offered her service to the Seniors, until just a few years ago. She and her wise counsel and guidance will be missed by all. May you rest in peace, Ann. Also, Royal Biathrow, member Norma Biathrow's husband, recently passed on. Condolences from the group to Norma and family and the Livak family.

The budget and report of finances have been submitted to the Select Board for inclusion in the coming year's business commencing July 1, 2018. We want to thank the Select Board and the voters of Rutland Town for the allocations for senior programs included in the Town budget. Without these considerations, the Cheney Hill Seniors would have a very difficult time functioning.

After the Holiday Luncheon at the Center Rutland Fire Station on December 12, our lunch program will be on vacation during January and February, with the expectation of resuming in March, weather permitting.

We want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and prosperous New Year. See you in the spring!

Then Elizabeth

Kulas from Housing

Trust of Rutland County suggested we consider encapsulating the asbestos -- sealing it in place instead of removing it, saving the disposal costs. Between Elizabeth, Ludy Biddle of NeighborWorks of Western Vermont and their respective architects, Las Scangas and Melanie Paskevich, we now have a request for bids going out for the work and hope to have the Fox Room back in operation in the first quarter of the new year.

Programs

In the meantime, we do have alternative homes for several of our programs:

Babies and Toddlers Rock is happening (and I do mean happening!) in the children's area on Monday mornings, from 9:30 - 10. It's designed to get little ones moving, so we are holding it before the library opens.

Our other programs are at their regular times, just different places:

Story Time & Craft is also in the children's area, from 10-10:45 on Thursdays.

Playgroup is 9:30-11 Fridays at Trinity Episcopal Church, 85 West St. in Rutland.

The Friday Noon Group is also at Trinity.

The Book Club is the third Wednesdays at 1 PM at Godnick Center.

We have a new program! We are hosting a parent-led **Baby Sign Language** meeting in the picture book room beginning on Tuesdays from 10-10:30 AM.

Kelly Chabros is the leader. She is a teacher who is currently at home with her toddler. We will be offering it until Dec. 12, then take a holiday break before resuming on Jan. 9.

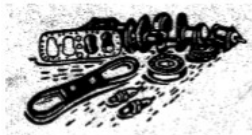
Holiday hours

We will be closed Christmas Day and Tuesday, Dec. 26 and Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. Happy holidays from the staff and trustees of Rutland Free Library.

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By Kheya Ganguly

Development & Communications Coordinator



A New Home for SVCOA

On November 16, 2017, the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) hosted an open house and their annual meeting to share their new location at 143 Maple Avenue, Rutland, VT, with the community. This move was the culmination of a long process and many hours of hard work. The location in the heart of Rutland gives SVCOA the ability to be more accessible to the community it serves. The new location is wholly owned by SVCOA and was paid for using a Community Block Grant and monies that were saved with the result being that the Council on Aging owns the building free and clear. Former executive director Sandra Conrad, the SVCOA board, and the senior management team spearheaded this endeavor.

During the open house, the Council invited the community to tour the new facility and interact with the employees. At this time a new, updated website was also revealed. The open house occurred from 11 –3 with food by Linley Food Services, and entertainment by Dave Burns, a classical guitarist. Beginning at 12:30 pm, SVCOA conducted ceremonies to dedicate the building. Former Rutland mayor Christopher Louras was given the first annual Recognition Award. This award acknowledges an individual or agency that significantly aided SVCOA in conducting its mission. Mr. Louras was an integral part in helping SVCOA secure funding to buy and renovate the new location. In addition, he was a Meals on Wheels volunteer who gave generously of his time and energy.

The Council also recognized the dedication and hard work of Sandra Conrad, its former executive director. Through her tireless efforts, Sandra provided SVCOA a firm foundation to grow and move forward into the future. Mayor David Allaire conducted the official ribbon cutting ceremony and spoke about the importance of the Council on Aging to the community.

SVCOA looks forward to being accessible to the community and providing continuing service to older adults in the community. The new location is an opportunity for the Council to interact more closely with the people they serve. As always, SVCOA wishes to care for the older adult community and welcomes individuals who are in need of services or support.

For more information, please call the **Senior Help-Line** at 1-800-642-5119.



Preschoolers Thrive at RTS By Shawn DuBois, Teacher

Thank you to the Rutland Town School and the greater Rutland Town community for supporting a full day preschool program at our school. Sybren Spensley and I are the new preschool teachers at the Rutland Town School. We have been having a great time and we are all learning about lots of new things.

We have made some paper by recycling newspaper and are in the middle of a composting experiment. We have started a new garden on the east end of the school. If anyone would like to help out, we would love to have your help come springtime. We have big buddies that read to us and we just adore hanging out with the big kids!

We all feel so welcomed and love, love, love our school. Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



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The Rutland Town Volunteer Fire Department visited RTS this fall. Here is a photo of the Kindergarten students with a poster saying "Thank You for being our Heroes!" - Linda Mullin, Kindergarten Teacher

From the Rutland Town Fire Department By BJ Hathaway



Hello again from the Rutland Town Fire Department. We hope this finds everyone well as the busy holiday season approaches!

It's been a busy couple months since our last article. Most notably, October was Fire Prevention month and members of the Department attended the town's elementary school to provide some fire prevention instruction to students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade. We were well received and very impressed with how much information the students were able to recall from our previous visits. It's always a wonderfully rewarding experience for all involved.

Though typically we focus our efforts on the the younger grades, new this year a member prepared a program for the 6-8th graders. Instead of being more of a question answer interaction in small groups as we do with the younger grades, we presented a PowerPoint presentation with advanced topics explaining the basics of fire behavior and what it takes for firemen to respond to an incident. It was intended to bring together the concepts that we have presented to the younger grades and provide more of a "why" than a "what" type explanation of the importance of the fire prevention topics than they have been presented with over the years. Our presentation was well received and hopefully we will be invited next year to do something similar.

In closing the Rutland Town Fire Department would like to extend its thanks and gratitude to 25 year member Craig Robideau. Craig left the department in early November as he moved out of state to pursue new opportunities. Craig put in lots of hard work keeping equipment up to date and repair and will always be remembered for the wonderful holiday parties that he organized over the years. We wish him the best in his new adventures!

Fire Department members meet every Wednesday evenings at both stations and we are always accepting applications. Ask us about our Junior Member and Cadet programs.

Winter Fire Safety Tips

As always we ask you to please remember the following home fire prevention and safety tips:

- Check all batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. These should be installed wherever someone sleeps as well as near any potential source of fire or carbon monoxide.
- Make sure your carbon monoxide detector has not expired. Most are good for 5 years.
- Make sure oil, gas, wood pellet stoves and other gas fired appliances are properly vented with no restrictions and are serviced by a qualified technician.
- Ensure that all chimneys servicing a wood burning stove have been swept and inspected by a properly trained individual. Also be sure to have the stove or furnace itself inspected for cracks or other defects that may result in improper venting or poor fire containment.
- Remember periodically, **and after every heavy snowfall**, to check any wall vented appliances to ensure that vents have not been covered or blocked. This includes dryers, directed vented gas and wood pellet stoves and any other direct vented appliance.
- Be sure to keep driveways and sidewalks clear of snow and ice for your safety as well as that of any visitors or emergency service persons that you may need assistance from. If you have an elderly neighbor, be sure to check on them or clear a sidewalk for them as well.
- Finally you can help out the Fire Dept. by clearing snow from around a fire hydrant near your home and also remembering to keep your house number/ address clearly visible from the street.

Have a happy and safe holiday season!

RTS TAPESTRY PROGRAM UPDATE

By Lori McNeil, Director

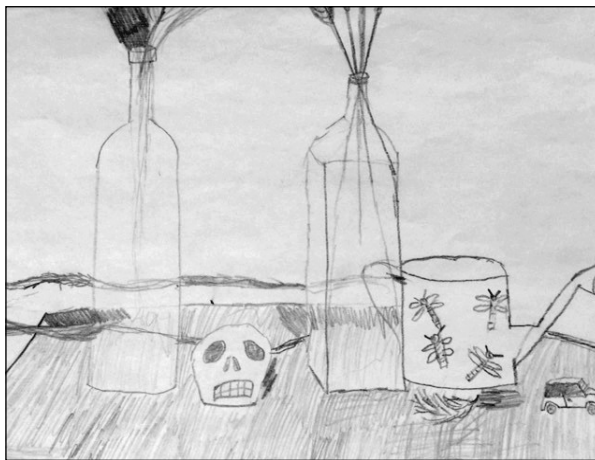
Happy December! This fall has flown by so quickly and soon the snow will be flying. We have had a ton of exciting things going on these last few months including a couple of field trips. We were lucky to go to the Hathaway Corn Maze! Everyone had a wonderful time and we were so lucky to have beautiful weather. Students also enjoyed a fun afternoon at Jump For Fun. They had an awesome time jumping and playing mini golf under the black lights.

We also hosted our 18th annual *Lights On Afterschool* celebration in October. We were so happy to have so many teachers, dignitaries, and parents celebrate along with us! This year we were visited by Representative Senator Brian Collamore, Peg TV, and the Rutland Herald. They all came

by to do a little spot featuring the kids and the importance of afterschool. Everyone jumped right into the fun with the students decorating light bulbs and playing games.

December will be a short month but it always is very busy. Tapestry students have plans for a community service project this month. They will make baked goods for the holiday gift baskets given out to families in the community. This activity has been a favorite for the past 4 or 5 years that we have done it.

The younger Tapestry groups are beginning a special math day on Thursdays starting this month. They will be running the Crazy 8 Bedtime Math Club. Some of the math topics that will be explored will be geometry, probability, measuring, and time. There will be some really exciting activities



Still Life by Brady Geisler, Grade 8



that go along with these math concepts. This group will be filled with little mathematicians when we are finished!

The older students are enjoying a variety of STEM activities. They have made catapults, bread, butter, and other exciting projects using math, science, and technology.

Please feel free to stop in and visit at any time or come share your talents with our children. Please call if you have any questions about our 5 Star program or if you would like to sign your child up.

Contact Lori McNeil, RTS Site Coordinator at 779-7429 or 779-6102.



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**From the School Nurse, Lisa Lones ...
 The Health Office Needs Clothing!**

We need the following sizes and items:
 3T and 4T clothes; winter clothing— mittens,
 hats, snow pants, and boots.

Please bring any donations to the Nurse's
 office. Thank you!

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RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 9 PTO Breakfast with Santa - 9:30-11:00 RTS
- 11 School Board meets - 5:30 pm, RTS
- 12 Town Seniors holiday party - 11:00 am
Center Rutland Fire Station (lunch at noon)
- 12&22 Select Board meets – Town Hall 7 pm
(note that 12/22 is a Friday)
- 14 Band & Chorus concert, grades
5-8 – RTS 1:30 run through
6:30 pm Concert
- 20 Early release at RTS - 11:55 am
- 21-1/1 Holiday Break – no school
- 25-26 Town Hall Closed**



- 22 Pre-Town Meeting – RTS 7 pm**
- 25 RHS/RTS Jazz Night - Rutland High School 7pm
- 26 FOM Talent Show – RTS Gym 7 pm
- 29 No school – RCSU In-Service

FEBRUARY

- 2 Music District Festival #1 – College of St. Joseph
- 3 Snow date for Music District Festival #1
- 6 PTO meets – RTS 6 pm
- 6&20 Select Board meets – Town Hall 7 pm
- 7 Friends of Music meets – RTS 4 pm
- 9 PTO Parent & Child dance 7 pm
FOM Talent Show snow date
- 12 School Board meets – RTS Library 5:30 pm
- 19 Town Hall closed for Presidents' Day**
- 19-23 Winter Break – no school

JANUARY

- 1 Town Hall Closed**
- 3 Friends of Music meets – RTS 4 pm
- 8 School Board meets – RTS Library 5:30 pm
- 9 PTO meets – RTS 6 pm
- 10 2nd Property Tax Payment is due**
- 9&23 Select Board meets – Town Hall 7 pm
- 15 Town Hall Closed**
No school – Martin Luther King Day

MARCH

- 5 Town Meeting**
- 6 VOTE – Town Hall and Rutland Town School 7 am - 7pm**

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