

The Circle



Rutland Town's Link between School and Community

February 2018

TOWN NEWS

By Carol Bam

Chairman of the Select Board Joshua Terenzini reports, "The Select Board and municipal department heads have worked for months to determine next year's financial needs. I'm excited to announce a \$68,000 reduction from last year in funds needing to be raised by taxes."

The 2.5 percent decrease from the current budget principally comes from two sources. First is the transfer of maintenance and upkeep of Cheney Hill to the School Board.

Second, the transfer of some managerial responsibilities to town departments during the period without a full time Administrative Assistant will become permanent. The Board felt once a fulltime Administrative Assistant was in place, there would not be enough work to warrant staffing the half time position that Patty Carbine has ably filled for the last 2.5 years, so that position will be eliminated in the next few weeks. The Select Board thanks her for her great work on behalf of the town, and especially for her flexibility during the search for a new full time Administrative Assistant. "Operations in the administrator's office ran remarkably smoothly, largely thanks to Patty," said Terenzini.

Bill Sweet, a town resident and member of the Fire Department, is the new town Administrative Assistant who assumed the full time position on January 30. (Read his

(Continued on Page 8)

SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET OVERVIEW

The proposed 2018-19 budget is: \$7,694,351, representing a decrease of 0.44%.

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. Some of the changes in the budget are: increased a math teaching position to full time; increased the amount paid for the School Resource Officer (grant funding expired); contractual wage and benefits estimate (in negotiations); a decrease of 2.2% in high school tuition costs and a reduction of \$30,000 in the maintenance budget.

Several unforeseen changes led to a large surplus in this year's budget. The Board decided to put \$250,000 in the proposed budget as Cash to Open to soften the impact of increases. After experiencing the disastrous heating problem this month, the Board decided to use \$100,000 to purchase two new boilers for the school. New measures and procedures are in place to minimize the chance of this type of incident occurring in the future. We appreciate the community's patience while we dealt with the thawing, drying and reheating

(Continued on Page 2)

FROM PRINCIAL AARON BOYNTON

As I reflect on the initiatives and accomplishments we at Rutland Town School have worked towards over the years, I am proud of how far we have come. As we approach Town Meeting and voting day, we have always been able to provide amazing experiences for kids within a responsible budget because of your support.

A number of accomplishments over the years include: implementing Professional Learning Community meetings and teams, aligning Common Core and Curriculum and Next Generation Science Standards, established Math intervention, a revised supervision and evaluation program, Vermont proficiency alignment and implementation. Implementation of the Bridges Math program and the Writing for Understanding program. Now, we are implementing a Learner-Centered Model focusing on student self direction.

We have engaged in school-wide professional development: writing, math, technology, and now literacy with the Orton-Gillingham approach to reading. We have established in-house coaching positions in math, literacy, technology, and science.

Over the years, with your support, we have developed a 1:1 Chromebook initiative for all students in grades 3 through 8,

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of the school.

Estimated Tax Rate: The estimated adjusted Tax Rate for the proposed budget is 3.01%. The main reason for the increase is the projected Property Yield (set by the State). The State lowered the property yield from 10,160 to 9,842 in order to cover the education fund deficit. The Board has no control of this figure. If the yield had stayed the same as last year, residents would have seen a small decrease in the tax rate.

Facts:

- Amount of funds sent to the State for non-residential education tax: In 2017 the amount was \$697,409.12 down from the 2016 amount of \$985,265.75.
- Rutland Town does not come near the per pupil threshold. (RTS 14,951 - threshold 17,816)
- How much has the overall budget increased over the course of the past 10 years? 2.62%
- RTS Enrollment: 2016-17 school year is 359 Grades PreK-8 and 148 Grades 9-12.

We know that without you, the voters, residents, parents and community members who have supported the School District we could not accomplish the tasks necessary to meet our student's needs. Please contact any of your Board members or Superintendent Dr. Debra Taylor if you have questions and/or concerns.

**Lynette Gallipo, Chairman
Rutland Town Board of Education**

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 items to:

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



Oliver Charron, Grade 3, with his sculpture constructed in Art class from recycled materials

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 6, 2018.

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.

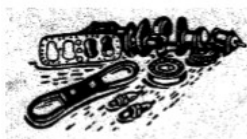
Applications are available on the town website. They are **due in the Town Office** at 181 Business Route 4, Center Rutland, VT 05736 on **Friday, April 20, 2018 at noon.**

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VOTER INFORMATION For March 6, 2018

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 6, 2018.

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

Vote Tuesday, March 6, 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 with questions.
Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8 - 4:30pm
Tuesday 8 - 6pm, Friday 8 - 2pm.

Visit the 4th Grade Science Fair March 6 - Voting Day - 5-6 pm From Grade 4 Teachers. Amy Torrey and Stephanie Petrarca/Kathryn Duguay

Have you ever wondered what melts snow the fastest? Or what type of surface that balls bounce off of best? Can you ring a bell using static electricity? Come find out the answers to these questions and more at the 4th grade science fair! The Fourth Grade students at RTS have been hard at work preparing for the sixth annual Rutland Town School Science Fair. We hope that many community supporters will attend the event Tuesday, March 6 from 5:00-6:00pm in the Rutland Town Gym.

We are very pleased to announce our panel of judges: Aaron Boynton, Sarah Tetzlaff, Lori Patterson, Wendy Lozyniak, Mary Ashcroft, and eighth grade student Isabelle Ladabouche. Judges will score students based on their display, as well as their oral presentation. Four awards will be given to students in each fourth grade class.

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!



Meet Bill Sweet Town Administrative Assistant

I am honored and excited to be the new Rutland Town Administrative Assistant to the Select Board. I am a lifelong town resident and graduated from Rutland Town School and Rutland High School. I have also been a Rutland Town firefighter for the last 24 years. My roots are deep in Rutland Town and I am privileged to be raising a new generation in the same town where I was raised.

In working at Radio Shack and Stewart's Shops (as well as being a member of the Fire Department), I have gained skills in managing different teams, projects and duties simultaneously. However, the job which has taught me the most in multi-tasking is being a parent. My wife, Robyn, and I have a blended family, two sons and two daughters between us, as well as being foster parents, so the actual number of children in our home can be a moving target.

I am committed to providing the highest level of service and look forward to meeting the needs of the Select Board and the Town moving forward.

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Town Clerk and Treasurer Update

By Kirsten Hathaway

Mark your calendars for Town Meeting at the elementary school on Post Road Monday, March 5 at 7:00 pm. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6th at Town Hall for voters living on the west side of Route 7 and the Elementary School on Post Road for voters on the east side of Route 7.

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

Dog Licenses are due April 1. All dogs need a current rabies certificate signed by a veterinarian and proof of spay or neuter status. Please be aware that if your dog is found to be unlicensed there is a \$25 fine for the first offense. The maximum fee assessment for an unlicensed dog is \$100 per dog. All dogs must be registered annually per Vermont State law. Please make sure you're in compliance!

(Principal Boynton - Continued from Page 1)

with a new Chromebook each year for 6th graders. We have implemented Smart and Eno boards in classrooms and established on-line proficiency-based reporting program and student information system. We've established Google Classroom use and have recently created a Maker Space. Furthermore, we have worked to implement on-line/distance learning courses.

In Middle School we have worked to implement Personal Learning Plans, project based learning, student led conferences, Teacher Advisory, and a student choice "iLearn" block. School-Wide Program Initiatives include digital citizenship programs (Common Sense certified), Character Development programs, and the Changing Perspectives program.

We have worked to upgrade our school safety and security procedures. We've implemented the ALICE crisis protocols, supported a full time School Resource Officer, and redesigned physical changes to the main



Making Hats with Heart

By Janet Cassarino, RTS Spanish Teacher

A group of middle school students crocheted red baby hats over their winter break for the American Heart Association's Little Hats, Big Hearts program. Here is a quote from the program's site:

"Volunteers from around the country are joining the American Heart Association, in connection with The Children's Heart Foundation, to celebrate American Heart Month by knitting and crocheting red hats for babies born in February at participating hospitals. Little Hats, Big Hearts, honors babies, moms, and heart healthy lives in a very special way.

"Supporters are knitting and crocheting red hats to be given out to thousands of babies during American Heart Month in order to empower moms to live heart healthy lives and to help their children do the same. Together, we are working to raise awareness, provide resources and inspire moms to take their family's heart health to heart while also raising awareness about congenital heart defects."

Above is a photo of the RTS students holding the hats they made. They will be sent to hospitals in Vermont or New Hampshire for distribution to babies born during the month of February.

office for a secure check in process.

We are proud to have implemented a stronger Pre-Kindergarten program which includes a full day, two classroom program for children ages 3-5. We are also working to established Playgroup sessions within the school building.

Building and Grounds updates have included replacing the school sign to a modern digital design, improved efficient lighting, replaced flooring, ceiling tiles, bathroom renovations, science lab renovations, and grounds/landscape improvements.

We couldn't have made such great progress without the continued support of the community. Please feel free to call anytime, I would be happy to give you a personal tour of Rutland Town School!



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From the Rutland Town Fire Department By BJ Hathaway



Greetings all from the Rutland Town Fire Department! Hopefully this finds everyone well after the holiday season. It would appear that any "January thaw" we may have been having is now safely over and now in February we are back into winter.

In January the membership held its annual meeting which included its election of officers for the 2018 calendar year. Officers were elected as follows:

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

As Town Meeting day approaches, the Fire Department would like to ask for your support for a special ballot item request. In September 2018 our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) or air packs will be 15 years old. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA)'s current recommended service life of SCBA is 15 years. Also, many of the air bottles will reach the end of their service life and can no longer be used. As a result, the Fire Department asked for and the Select Board approved a special ballot item of \$125,000 to use towards the replacement purchase of new air packs. The department has made two unsuccessful applications for grant funding to help offset the cost of the packs. With this money we will purchase 24 SCBA with and 2 Rapid intervention (RIT) packs as well as an additional set of spare bottles for each of the 24 packs. The RIT Packs are used for providing emergency breathing air to down firefighters that are unable to get out on their own.

These new packs will be current to today's standards with air tanks that last 45 minutes, and the bottles will have an indefinite life span as long as they pass regular testing. SCBA are essential safety equipment for all firefighters. They provide safe breathing air for not only fires but in other hazardous environments including carbon monoxide, confined spaces and chemical and biological hazards. With the approval of this ballot item the department will be able to put out bid specifications, award a bid according to the Town's purchasing policy and potentially be able to take delivery of its new packs by mid summer, giving us plenty of time to train with them and put them into service during the warmer months.

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 6!

2017 REPORT CHILD FIRST ADVOCACY CENTER

Wendy Loomis,
Executive Director



The Child First Advocacy Center (CFAC) of Rutland County is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe and supportive environment to assist victims and their families in the discovery, intervention, treatment and prevention of child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse and children affected by violence. We are grateful to the residents of Rutland Town for your continued support.


In calendar year 2017, The Child First Advocacy Center served 210 children and families in Rutland County. **We were able to provide wrap around services and support to at least 7 Rutland Town families as they began their recovery from the effects of abuse.** With your support, we were also able to bring Richard Guerry with The Institute for Responsible Online and Cell Phone Communication to Rutland County and provide internet safety education to parents, educators and students, grades 5-12. In addition, we continue to provide community awareness and education at no cost in an effort to provide adults with the ability to recognize, react and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse and increase every school district's ability to complete the legislatively mandated ACT 1 initiative also known as Child Sexual Abuse Awareness training for Educators, Community Members and Students grades K-12.

CFAC, a fully accredited member of the *National Children's Alliance*, serves victims and their non-offending family members with the structure of a central agency through which reports of suspected child abuse cases can be channeled for investigation and victim recovery. Our agency serves families of all socio-economic levels and is committed to providing quality services regardless of the ability to pay.

The Child First Advocacy Center is requesting funds in the amount of \$3000 to continue our efforts in supporting families in your community. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further information:

Wendy Loomis, Executive Director
802-747-0200

wendy@childfirstadvocacycenter.org



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CANDIDATES, TOWN MEETING 2018

Select Board - Incumbents **Josh Terenzini** and **John Paul Faignant** are running unopposed for three year and two year terms respectively. Josh Terenzini's statement appears next page.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes - Incumbent **Chris Howland** is opposed by **Jim Scholtz** for the three year seat. Their statements appear this page.

All other incumbent candidates in town positions are running unopposed.

School Board - Incumbent Matt Branchaud is running unopposed for the three year seat. No one is on the ballot for the two year school director position.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes Christopher K. Howland

I would like the opportunity to continue to serve as the Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

Over the past term I have worked with delinquent taxpayers, their lien holders and refinancers to reduce or make opportunities for the taxpayers to meet their obligations to satisfy their delinquent taxes.

Most delinquent taxpayers have completed paying off or reducing one or more past years. Taxpayers making payments have paid the accrued interest on the years for which they are now making monthly payments. I will continue to work with these homeowners to assist in keeping them in their homes. By making payments, homeowners avoid what could be substantial added collection costs.

There are those who either refuse or do not respond to requests or have failed to keep up with the arrangements to which they have agreed. Those collections will continue according to law.

I wish to repeat my goal of keeping delinquent taxes due the town as low as possible and continuing to work with those taxpayers who continue their desire to complete their obligation to meet their assessed taxes.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes James W. Scholtz

I am running for the office of Collector of Delinquent Taxes. I was appointed by the Select Board in April 2014 to complete Dick Lloyd's term. He retired after 38 years in this position. I am grateful to Dick for having been a tremendous resource during that transition.

During my 11 months in this position I collected \$162,000 of the \$206,000 in delinquent taxes (and \$7,000 interest) owed to the town. Of the original 130 properties with delinquent taxes due at that time only 25 had balances remaining. Most of these taxpayers were making regular payments or had agreements to pay.

I enjoyed interacting with fellow residents of Rutland Town. I was able to balance the need for civility, and the requirement to collect revenue due the town, while treating all taxpayers equally and fairly. Understanding bad things happen to good people.

I migrated collection of delinquent taxes from a manual process to the town's computer based system where related functions (Grand List, Property Tax and Town Treasury) are administered. This gave the Town Clerk's office instant access to this information when assisting taxpayers.

My 11 months in the position and 36 years as an engineer have given me many of the skills needed to be your Collector of Delinquent Taxes. These include attention to detail, ability to organize and familiarity with computer applications, but most importantly communicating with people.

As an engineer, I traveled to many countries. I was responsible for automating mineral processing plants and teaching workers to operate them and maintain the automation systems. This developed my abilities to communicate with people of diverse cultures whose primary language was not English. I had to ensure that what I communicated was completely and correctly understood.

I have lived in Rutland Town for 17 years. I found it very gratifying to give back to the community as your Collector of Delinquent Taxes. It would be my pleasure, and I would feel privileged if you will help me again serve you in this position. I will truly appreciate your vote on Town Meeting Day, March 6, 2018.

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Box Tops for Education From Melissa Sicard

RTS has sent in its latest submission to Labels for Education **totaling 1203 points!** Our **grand tally** for the entire program is **33,333 points!** WOW. Nice job everyone who helped to support this fundraiser.

The Box Tops for Education program continues in full swing...For a list of participating products and our school's progress, visit www.BTFE.com.

Rutland Town Select Board

Joshua C. Terenzini

Besides being a husband to my wife Jessica, and a father to two exceptional daughters (soon to be three) I can't think of anything else that I've done in my 30 years that has meant more to me than serving all of you in the Town of Rutland. My life's passion largely has been giving back to the community that I love and call home. I have enjoyed being your chairman and hope to continue in this role after we have our annual re-organizational meeting after Town Meeting Day.

This is the first time I have run unopposed for office. It is humbling to think that so many of you believe enough in the job that I'm doing that I get to focus on working through current issues rather than having to run a competitive campaign. But I am not naive enough to believe that anyone of us on the board is irreplaceable. Each day that I walk through the doors of Town Hall, I am reminded of the awesome responsibility which falls on my shoulders, along with my four fellow board members. To serve is to love, and I love what I can offer all of you through my ideas and leadership abilities.

We have lofty goals in 2018 for our town. These include cleaning up blighted and abandoned properties, focusing on municipal infrastructure and continuing our dialogue with the ownership of the mall, Rutland Economic Development Corp, Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor's office.

It's time for action. It's time to be laser focused. Our board is ready for an action-packed 2018. God Bless!

NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Mike Rowe

We thank you for your support of the Rec budget over the years. This year we have created a budget that will provide the same services to the community as in years past.

The senior luncheon was a huge success on a very snowy day. We held it at the new fire station and had it catered. We had a large turnout for such a snowy day. Everyone had a great time and liked the new location. Many thanks to Jim Hall for putting it all together.

Spring is around the corner, meaning it is almost time for spring sports. Despite what you might have heard, just as in every year, we are offering baseball to kids in grades K-6. Sign ups have just begun and can be done in a couple of ways: in person at Town Hall; download the form off the town website www.rutlandtown.com; or just give me a call. The deadline for registration for our Minors (3rd and 4th grade) and Majors (5th and 6th grade) programs is March 30.

Our basketball teams have had a great season and will begin their tournament schedule during the February break. I would like to thank all of the parents who have stepped up this year to help coach our programs. Without them, it would not work.

At Northwood, tree cutting will take place in December 2018. We are looking to improve the trail system in the park this summer and also hope to be adding a disc golf course. If you have any questions, programming ideas or would like to coach please contact Michael Rowe at 779-2518.

RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY UPDATE

From Randal Smathers, Director

SNOW DAY SPECIALS

Rutland Free Library now has snowshoes to borrow! Thanks to a generous donation from the state Dept. of Health, RFL has 20 pairs of snowshoes that can be checked out with your library card. It's part of the state's effort to get Vermonters to be more active as a way to reduce chronic disease.

Just show your card and you can borrow a pair of snowshoes as easily as borrowing a book, DVD or museum pass. Library cards are free to residents of Rutland Town ... just stop by the big brick building at 10 Court St. in Rutland City with proof of residence (ID, mail, etc.) and sign up. Did you know one in four Rutland Town residents are active members of RFL? Join your neighbors ... join the library!

TOWN MEETING

The Library has requested a 3% increase for 2018/19, after a flat-lined budget for the current year. The overall increase is less than \$1,500 over the tax funding from Rutland Town for 2016/17. The zero increase budget forced us to close evenings.

The new budget will allow us to reopen two eve-

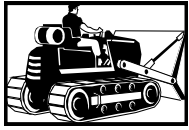
nings per week. That means the Fox Room will again be available for evening meetings. Please continue to support the Library by voting yes for our budget at Town Meeting.

FOX ROOM UPDATE

Repairs to the Fox Room are zooming along. The hole has been patched where the ceiling collapsed. Wooden strapping is up to stabilize the rest of the original, Civil War era plaster; new acoustic tile is going up and a new subfloor is down. High efficiency lights and a washable, soft surface floor are the final steps in the upgrade. Carpet squares that are in decent condition are being reused to replace worn out carpet elsewhere in the building.

The money to pay for the work is coming from a donation provided to Rutland Free Library by a bequest from the Sutnick family. Evelyn Sutnick was a long-time user of the library until her death in 2013. Friends of Rutland Free are also contributing.

Reservations for the space – available at no charge on a first come, first serve basis – are now being accepted beginning in mid April. The only restrictions on the use of the room are that any use during library hours must be free and open to the public and programs cannot sell products or services.



Road Notes

from Byron Hathaway,
Road Commissioner

The Highway budget as proposed this year is down slightly from last year. Most line items have been level or nearly level funded. The exceptions are as follows:

Labor has been increased for General Maintenance and Winter Maintenance. The current part time position will be increased to full time status. This is being done to allow me additional time to take on some water/sewer infrastructure duties without diminishing the current highway department level of service for general and winter maintenance. Insurance, social security, and retirement have been appropriately increased as well.

The salt line item is level funded even though the salt price this year is down. I anticipate it will go back up next year. To buffer any price increase this fall the salt shed will be filled in early April at the current low price and that will give us a head start for next winter.

The Signs and Barricades line item was reduced as we are up to date now with our regulatory and street name signs. The current quality of materials in our signs should give them an anticipated life of 12 to 14 years.

Large culvert replacements will continue this year with the replacement of a culvert near the Stratton Road/Cold River Road intersection. A \$90,000 VTrans structures grant will pay for most of the work.

I will continue to secure grants as they become available. Current grants that will be done this spring and summer include an ERP (Ecosystem Restoration Program) grant for green storm water infrastructure work at the school, an ERP grant for the storm water upgrade on Hitzel Terrace, and a Better Roads grant to pay for the required road erosion inventory. These current grants total \$150,000 of additional money to the town.

Two other line items that need to be mentioned

Rutland Town Senior Corner

By James B. Hall

Senior lunches will resume at Seward's Restaurant on March 27, gathering time at 11:30. Discussion hopefully will center on plans for the coming year, including getting consensus on 3rd or 4th Tues of month as lunch date preference, and election of officers. Elections will be held at the April meeting.

Currently the offices of President and Secretary are vacant. Vice President and Treasurer is Jim Hall. Mary Ashcroft is Assistant Treasurer. Duties of this office are to pay bills and handle money should the Treasurer be necessarily absent or incapacitated. This is documented with our bank. Hope to see everyone on March 27th.

involve engineering. One item is for engineering and permitting of a shared use path connecting the Northwood Park from the lower ballfield to Chasanna Drive. Once this is completed we will be able to show a connection from Northwood to the school. That will allow us to secure a VTrans grant to build a sidewalk from the existing Post Road side walk, which ends in front of the school, to Chasanna Drive.

The other engineering project is for the proposed new town road on the south side of town in the Rand-bury Road area. Preliminary engineering will be completed this summer from money budgeted in the current fiscal year. That will allow us to secure easements for construction. This line item was reduced from the current spending level of \$125,000 to \$50,000 in the proposed budget. The additional budgeted money will be for permits such as Act 250, wetlands, and storm water.

Your support of the highway budget is appreciated. Please remember to vote on Town Meeting either before by absentee or at the polls on March 6.

(Town News ~ Continued from Page 1)

introduction on page 3.) Patty Carbine will assist in orientation over the next several weeks. One of his first charges is to assess the technology needs of the Town Office, and specifically to retool the town website using his expertise to modernize its look and improve its function.

On Town Meeting, Tuesday March 6, voters will be asked to approve funding for 26 complete air pack systems for use by the Fire Department (article 22 on the ballot). "The current units are at the end of their 15 year life. The initial purchase was grant funded, but there are no such funds currently available. So we are asking town residents to step up and secure the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters." The estimated equipment cost is \$200,000. If approved, \$125,000 will come from taxes and the \$75,000 balance from the Fire Dept.'s Capital Deprecation Fund which is funded through taxes at \$0.0175 on every \$100 on the grand list. The tax generated \$145,360 this tax year.

The 2018-19 budget also includes funding for a second town-wide celebration to be held the first weekend in July. Last year's party at Northwood was hampered by a daylong downpour. Terenzini said that despite the weather, those attending were enthusiastic. "We've learned from any mistakes and would like to establish an annual tradition and grow the event over time. We want this to be everyone's celebration." Public comments, suggestions and of course participation in organizing the event are welcome. Please direct input to any Select Board member, and look for more info in the April *Circle*.

Under the new Public Nuisance ordinance, the Select Board has identified a handful of properties to be evaluated by the town Health Officer John Sly, and Fire Chief Frank Cioffi. The inspections will focus on potential safety and health infractions. The Board will work with owners to develop a plan for remediation of any violations.

Town Hall is in the process of being painted. The Select Board room, the Listers' office and the front entry will be updated with brighter, more appealing colors.

LANGUAGE IN MOTION

By Theresa Czachor, RTS Librarian

RTS Middle School students met Shio Sakon, a Japanese student who is involved with the Language in Motion program through Middlebury College. According to the Middlebury College website, Language in Motion (LiM) is “an educational collaboration that connects Middlebury’s international, study abroad, and upper level language students with Addison County high school and middle school teachers, students, and classrooms.”

Approximately sixty RTS students are studying the art, literature, and food of other countries in a project based learning (PBL) format. With this learning approach, students are actively engaged in achieving a deeper knowledge of the subjects they study. Students work independently or with teams and are more self directed. They are instructed to reflect on a driving question for their PBL. For example, students in one PBL are studying multicultural literature. The driving question is: “What can you learn by reading multicultural literature and what problems might be avoided by having more knowledge about different cultures?”

Shio met twice with RTS students and shared a presentation based on her own educational experiences growing up in Tokyo, Japan. Her presentation included information on the topics students are studying. RTS students were also given the opportunity to ask questions about Shio’s experiences as an international student in Vermont.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WONDERFEET

Wonderfeet Funding on the Town Ballot

By Kheya Ganguly, Executive Director

Recently Wonderfeet Kids' Museum underwent a large change in leadership. Myra Pepper, one of the founders and the first Executive Director recently resigned. After an extensive search, the Board of the Museum appointed Kheya Ganguly to the position of executive director. Kheya has an extensive background in fundraising and grant writing, as well as training and education in child development. Her goal is to continue the growth of Wonderfeet and continue to support children and families.

In January, Wonderfeet held a fundraiser, at Stonehenge Indoor Golf. The event was a grownup's play date. Participants were able to use the simulators, get a lesson from a golf pro, participate in a silent auction, and have dinner from a buffet. The money raised from the event was earmarked to pay for a portion of Wonderfeet's operating expenses. Another January event, Animal Frenzy, was offered in the early evening for families and children age 3 and up. Held at the museum from 5:30 - 7:30, the focus was for children to learn, though the use of guided activities, about hibernation, migration, and adaptation. Another endeavor launched this month was the Tinker Club, an educational program for children who are homeschooled. The club meets once a month for 5 hours at the museum. During this time the children are taught about a specific topic, with January's topic being aerodynamics. These lessons are created to foster inquiry - based learning and serve a wide variety of ages.

Wonderfeet made the decision this year to seek town funding. We believe access for all is important; thus, we subsidize a large portion of the cost of opening and running the museum. In addition, we provide a safe space for therapists - including physical, occupational, and mental health - to provide services at no cost for the use of the space. We create educational programs for schools and often offer free programming (because of grants we received). So far this year, we have offered free programs to four different Rutland Town classes. Throughout the months of December and January, Board members, volunteers, and staff diligently worked to collect signatures of registered voters to petition for inclusion on the town ballots. We were overwhelmed by the positive support from the community and thankful for all who signed. Because of all the community support we received, Wonderfeet will be an item on the ballot. Please remember to vote for us on Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

The University of Everywhere: The Future of Education? By Travis (Dutch) Redman

On March 3, 2015, I was feeding my National Public Radio addiction with a dose of Fresh Air hosted by Terry Gross. Her guest was Kevin Carey, author of *The End of College: Creating the Future of Learning and the University of Everywhere*. I turned up the volume, opened up a can of cranberry seltzer, and prepared to spend another enjoyable hour listening to Terry put Mr. Carey through the wringer with her amazing ability to ask important and probing questions. I wasn't disappointed.

Mr. Carey's message is simple and becoming obvious: The internet is revolutionizing education. In the near future, he believes, it won't be necessary for students to pay tens of thousands of dollars a year and travel hundreds or thousands of miles from home to be in the presence of scholars and to learn from them. That method of transmitting knowledge has been necessary and effective for thousands of years but is now becoming too expensive, too inconvenient, and simply obsolete. Most knowledge, Mr. Carey argues, already exists on the internet and is available for free there at the University of Everywhere.

To prove his point, Mr. Carey enrolled in a genetics course taught by the man who was in charge of the Human Genome Project. The course was offered by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and delivered through EdX.com. And yes, it was absolutely free. He described his experience as one of the most difficult things he'd ever done and was more than satisfied that he passed the course with a B! To hear Mr. Carey's complete interview with Ms. Gross, just Google "The University of Everywhere Fresh Air".

Fast-forward to November, 2017. Thinking that some of the hundreds of courses offered through EdX might be suitable for middle school students at RTS, I decided to invite interested students to enroll in the course, "Introduction to Algebra." Six students took the bait and are working diligently at their own pace, lesson by lesson, to complete the course. We touch base once a week, but I am always available to



Wonderfeet Kids' Museum Visits RTS Kindergarten By Linda Mullin

The Rutland area is fortunate to have a wonderful children's museum, Wonderfeet. Housed on Center Street in Rutland, Wonderfeet received a grant for outreach that allows programs to go to Rutland County schools. Mrs. Paula Townsend, Education Coordinator at Wonderfeet, (and former RTS teacher for many years) was able to visit RTS Kindergarten students in December with the Motion Commotion lesson. Students were presented with science information about force and motion and then investigated the concept with the use of balls and ramps. The students had fun while learning.

help them when necessary. One student has already completed 60% of the lessons and should complete the course in early spring. Students are already thinking about what courses they'll enroll in after completing Introduction to Algebra.

Any EdX course can be audited at no cost. For \$50, which helps fund EdX, students can receive a verified certificate signed by their instructors, indicating that they successfully completed the course. For a bunch of money, students can receive actual college credit upon successful completion of certain courses.

To get a peek at the possible future of education, visit EdX.com to see the wide variety of courses they offer and the universities that offer them. Hey... while you're at it, why not enroll in one and give it a try. After all, it's free!

Travis (Dutch) Redman is a middle school math teacher at Rutland Town School. There, for 44 years, he has watched education transition slowly but steadily from chalkboards to Apple IIs, from whiteboards to PCs, and from ChromeBooks to whatever comes next. Stay tuned... (travis.redman@rcsu.org)



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PreSchool is Snow Much FUN!

By Mrs. DuBois' Preschool class

Everyone should be allowed to spend a day each week playing in preschool. We are having so much fun and learning so much about everything! Our most recent exploration has been about penguins. We have been sliding on the ice on our bellies, doing the penguin waddle and eating fish (goldfish that is). Some of the questions the children have asked and are working to find the answers to include: How long do they love each other? How do they talk to each other? Why do they waddle? Where do they live?

We have been helping to take care of our school and our local animals. We compost our snack and lunch foods daily. We made some bird feeders for the squirrels and birds. We recycle everything we can and always look for that little triangle on packaging.

This spring we will participate in an exploration with the ECHO Center in Burlington. They will come to our classroom for a visit and we will also visit the ECHO Center. We will be borrowing some exploration kits. We will keep you posted on how this all works out!

New RTS Tuesday playgroup We have an exciting new playgroup for young children and their families sponsored by Rutland Town School on **Tuesdays in February and March** from 9 -11am. The play group welcomes families with young children from birth on. Our goal is to provide children with developmentally appropriate, interactive play in a safe, caring, and stimulating environment. Parents and other caregivers can make new friends, share joys, concerns, ideas, and experiences, and learn from other parents.



RTS Music Update

By Aaron Audet, Instrumental Music

We love to see community members at our events. Why not one of these?

Thursday, March 1 Spaghetti Dinner in the RTS Cafeteria

This is a fundraiser to help pay for the trip to NYC for Middle School Band and Chorus. Live music performed by Mr. Audet, along with Jordan Snow, and Adam Falco, will entertain diners. There will also be an appearance by Aqua Skunk, and a few RTS students.

Friday, March 23 is the annual Jazz Bistro 6:30pm at RTS.

This is also a fundraiser for our music program. The night will feature M Jazz, T Jazz and the Alumni Jazz ensembles. The ensembles are working very hard preparing a fun night of jazz and pop music. Please come out and support Rutland Town School Music.

We had a good number of students accepted into the District Music Festival this year. The students had to prepare a piece and audition for the ensembles back in November. The students will then practice and perform with other district students for a Festival concert at College of St Joseph.

RTS students Jarrett Kelley and Brady Geisler performed in the February 2 District Jazz Band concert. Savannah Corey. Makenna Hubert and Tessa McLaughlin performed in the February District Chorus concert.

Green Mountain District Wind Ensemble

Concert Date is March 2, at 7 pm at College of St Joseph

RTS Students accepted for the March 2 Festival:

Maria Hogenkamp - Trumpet
Brayden Shelton - French Horn
Abed Alawi - Flute
Brady Geisler - Trombone
Kirk Smith - Euphonium
Tristan Stute - Euphonium
Jacob Walker - Percussion

Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District

TREE SALE UNTIL APRIL 16

By Nanci McGuire

Trees beautify our surroundings, help save energy and protect our waterways. For these reasons and others, the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (a non-profit organization) is offering a spring planting program.

All stock is bare root and is being offered at a reasonable cost. It is necessary to plant bare root trees immediately in order to keep the roots from drying out. The Rutland Conservation District has been offering this program for over 15 years and has sold thousands of plants.

Some of what is available are: balsam fir, fraser fir, cannan fir, white spruce, and white pine, sugar maple, birch and red oak, lilac, elderberry, forsythia and apple, pear and peach.

Strawberry, blueberry and raspberry are also available.

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

Orders will be accepted until April 16, or as long as supplies last - order early!

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RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 FOM Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser with live music – 6 pm, RTS
- 2 Music District Festival at College of St. Joseph. Concert 7 pm (See Page 11)
- 5 **Informational Town Meeting 7pm, RTS cafeteria**
- 6 **VOTE - 7am - 7 pm, Town Hall and Rutland Town School Town Clerk's Office is closed**
PTO meets – 6 pm, RTS
- 6&20 Select Board meets – 6:30 pm
Town Hall
- 7 FOM Meets – 4 pm, Chorus Room
- 12 School Board meets – 5:30 pm, RTS
- 15 Planning Commission – 7 pm, Town Hall
PTO Supermarket Bingo – 6-9 pm, RTS
- 16 No School – In-Service
- 23 FOM Jazz Bistro Evening – 7-9:30 pm
RTS Gym



- 27 Senior luncheons resume - 11:30
Seward's Restaurant, lunch at noon

APRIL

- 1 Dog Registration Deadline
Due in Town Hall (see Page 4)
- 3 PTO meets – 6 pm, RTS
- 3&17 Select Board meets – 7 pm, Town Hall
- 4 FOM meets – 4 pm, Band Room
- 5&26 Planning Commission meets – 7 pm
Town Hall
- 5&6 Parent/Teacher Conferences
early release - 11:55 am
- 6 Article deadline for April **Circle** issue
- 9 School Board meets – 5:30 pm, RTS
- 14 **Household Hazardous Waste Collection 8:30 – 12:30, Transfer Station**
- 16 Conservation District Plant Sale
order deadline (see page 11)
- 16-20 Spring Break – no school
- 17 or 24 Senior Lunch TBD

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