

The Circle



Rutland Town's Link between School and Community

December 2018

TOWN NEWS

By Carol Bam

Chairman Josh Terenzini reports that the main focus of the Select Board over the last two months has been to prepare budgets for 2019-2020. "Our objective is to continue the precedent of keeping budgets as close to the previous year's as we can. This 'steady as you go' approach has served the town taxpayers well and we adhere to it whenever possible."

New expenditures under discussion are an increase in staffing in the Police Department; and what renovations should be made, and at what cost, to the Town Clerk and Treasurer's Office to improve accessibility and security. Terenzini expects no major changes in Highway, Fire and Recreation budgets.

The sole agenda for the December 11 Select Board meeting will be to finalize municipal budgets. They will be presented as always at the Pre-Town Meeting at the end of January (date not set).

Looking ahead, the Board will implement upgrades to Dewey Field and Richard J. Del Bianco Memorial Park facilities in Center Rutland. The asphalt basketball and tennis courts will be renovated and the parking area expanded and paved. Having adequate space for cars within the park will eliminate parking along the road, keeping pedestrians and cars safer and improving through traffic on East Proctor Road.

The project cost estimate is \$40-50,000.

(Continued on Page 3)

RTS UPDATE FROM Co-Principals Deborah Rodolfo and Sarah Tetzlaff

At Rutland Town School we continue to have a lot to be thankful for. Our students and families donated 2,314 items for our "Stuff-a-Bus" food drive earlier this month. Thank you students and families!

Thank you also to Alderman's Chevrolet, who sponsored the assemblies by Sweethearts and Heroes for all of our students on November 14. Our students learned how to "jump into action" and be superheroes to each other when confronted by the actions of others. It was a great opportunity for our students to learn about hope and compassion for others.

Our middle school continues to work with the Tarrant Institute for Innovative Education. Earlier this year we were able to secure grants for flexible seating and an interactive whiteboard for one of our classrooms.

Our student enrollment continues to remain strong with 353 students in Pre-K through grade 8. Our school buses are close to capacity this year with more students riding the bus now than in the past 5 years. We thank the town for keeping our roads safe for our students and families. We would also like to remind others to please stop for school buses when

(Continued on Page 7)

FROM THE RUTLAND TOWN SCHOOL BOARD

This is the season of gratitude and giving. The Rutland Town School Board would like to extend our thanks to all members of the school community for your support of Rutland Town School. We are proud of our students and families and grateful for the hard work of our administrators, teachers and support staff each and every day.

We have begun to develop our school budget for the coming year. Our school budget is an investment in our students' learning now and into the future. In the coming weeks, we will focus our board meeting conversation on these investments and will continue to work with school administration to develop a budget which meets the needs of our students and our financial responsibility to the Rutland Town School community.

As always, please feel free to contact us regarding school board matters. Our Co-Principals Deborah Rodolfo and Sarah Tetzlaff and Superintendent Debra Taylor welcome your feedback and questions concerning school matters.

Your School Board,

Matt Branchaud, Chair

Lyn Gallipo, Vice Chair/Clerk

Nicole Peck McPhee, Member

Korrine Rodrique, Member

Sharon Russell, Member

CONTENTS

911 Address Information	Page	3
Recreation Dept.	Page	2
Town Clerk/Treasurer	Page	4
Highway Dept.	Page	6
Seniors	Page	4,6
Fire Dept.	Page	7
History of Town Cemeteries	Page	9
\$5 and Free Christmas Trees	Page	11
<i>(From Green Mountain Natl forest)</i>		

RTS MUSIC UPDATE

By Aaron Audet and
Marc Whitman

The Halloween Parade was a huge success. We received runner up for "Best Costumed Marching Band" with our "Star Wars" theme. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success.

On December 3, the Jazz Band performed at the Gables and Middle School Chorus performed at the Meadows. Music events coming up are as follows:

- K-4 winter concert is on Thursday Dec 6 6:30pm
- 5-8 Winter Concert is on Thursday Dec 13 6:30pm

Middle school band and chorus are planning a trip to NYC on May 1st to see the musical "Wicked". Friends of Music is accepting donations to help with the cost of the trip.



NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Mike Rowe

Winter is here and that means basketball. The season has started with a large number of kids in grades K-6 playing. Schedules will soon be posted on the town website if you would like to come see our children play. I would like to thank all the coaches who will be giving their time for the next couple of months. They put a lot of time and effort into making this a great season for the kids. The K-2 basketball program will start the week of Jan 7 with more information about the day and time for each grade to follow. The annual Snowball Jamboree for local 5/6 grade basketball teams will be held on Dec.19-20 right here at RTS.

This past fall our soccer teams did a great job during the season. A special thanks to the coaches who helped along the way.

We had a great turnout for the town Halloween party. I would like to thank the 8th grade students who helped to run the event and make it a great time for the younger children.

Remember that Northwood Park is undergoing extensive tree cutting this winter and parts of the park will be closed until March 1. Please heed all warning signs when in the park. This cutting will allow for some great upgrades to our trail system and the addition of some new activities in the park. If you have any ideas on programming or questions please call Michael Rowe at 779-2518.



THE CIRCLE is a publication of Rutland Town and Rutland Town School. The newsletter informs the community about issues of local interest. Each year five issues are published every other month from October through June.

The Circle is not meant to be a public forum. The school principal and town Select Board have the authority to exercise editorial control over style and content of the newsletter.

Newsletter staff include Carol Bam, Theresa Kulig, and Marie Pennington. 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**



Rob Stubbins
Electrical & General Contractor
(802) 775-1484
Master Electrician

Rutland Economic Development Corporation member

Home Builders & Remodelers Association INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

- Home & Office
- Installations
- Maintenance
- Troubleshooting
- 24 Hr Service
- Entrance Upgrades
- Alternative Power
- Emerg Backup Power

"We Return Your Call"

911 EMERGENCIES DISPLAYING ADDRESS NUMBERS

When you call for help your address number is extremely important for Emergency Service Providers to locate you. The number at the street is what directs emergency vehicles to your location.

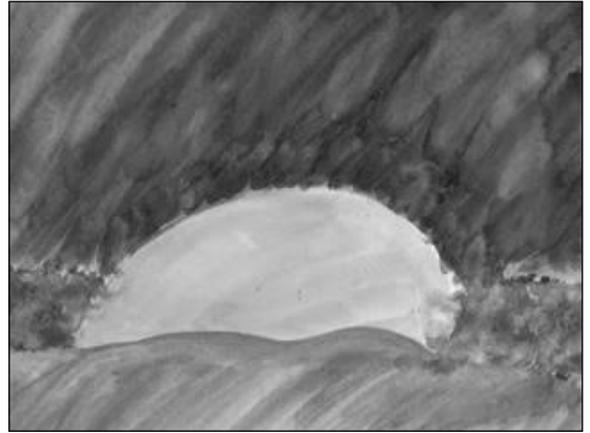
**DON'T RISK A DELAY
WHEN SECONDS COULD COUNT
ARE YOUR NUMBERS
POSTED & VISIBLE?**

Recommendations for DISPLAYING ADDRESS NUMBERS

- Place a number on the front of every addressed structure (preferably at least 3 inches high and reflective).
- Mailboxes at the roadside should be marked with the house number.
- If the structure is not visible (and no mailbox is beside the driveway leading to the structure), a sign or number post should be erected at the road to display the number.
- Mark shared driveways both at the beginning of the driveway and where the driveway splits to each specific structure.
- It is very important that the address number be placed high enough that it will not be obscured by snow during an average winter.
- If you have multiple units, please be sure the unit number or letter is displayed over the best door to access that unit.

Let us know if you have an address issue that we can help resolve.

**Contact: Howard J. Burgess
911 Coordinator
770-1898**



Artwork by Paige Fieldhouse, 7th Grade



**Veteran's Day Activity shared by
Kindergartner, Caleb Sinclair**

(Town News ~ Continued from Page 1)

This will be paid out of the Recreation Dept. depreciation account which taxpayers fund annually at $\frac{3}{4}$ cent on the dollar. The fund will total over \$64,700 at the end of this tax year. "We have the money in the account so we will not be asking for additional money from taxes," said Terenzini.

In other town news:

Northwood Park walking trails as well as the brush and yard waste drop-off site at the Transfer Station are closed until March 1 due to logging.

Barbara Noyes Pulling, Planning Commission Chair, says that 35 people responded to the query in the October **Circle** about what the best views are in Rutland Town. A Middlebury College class is using the results to assist the Planning Commission in mapping the so-called viewsheds. The commission anticipates sharing the results and map in early 2019.

From Town Clerk/Treasurer Kirsten Hathaway

Happy Holidays Town Residents! I hope everyone is having a safe and happy end of the year. 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.

Voter turnout was high for this November's election. We had 1963 ballots cast which is approximately 63% of our registered voters.

As a reminder, on January 2, dog license renewals will be available for purchase. The dog license deadline is April 1.

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 24 and 25 (Christmas)

December 31 Closed at 12pm (New Year's Eve)

January 1 (New Year's)

January 21 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

February 18 (Presidents Day)

As always, please feel free to contact us at 773-2528 if we can be of assistance to you.

Physical Rehabilitation & HEALTH CENTER

Dr. Maurice J. Cyr
Chiropractic Physician

Headaches: Yes!
Back Pain: Yes!
Neck Pain: Yes!

**But we do more.
Much more!**

Successful treatment every day for
**SHOULDERS, KNEES,
WRISTS AND ANKLES.**



*Call Now
for an
Appointment
Time*

**VOTED RUTLAND AREA'S
BEST CHIROPRACTOR
20 TIMES!**

Open 6:30 am - 6:00 pm

775-6961

245 Stratton Road

Rutland, VT

www.RutlandChiropractor.com

Rutland Town Senior Corner

By James B. Hall, VP and Treasurer

To Rutland Town Residents:

Good tidings are wished to all in Rutland Town having just finished the Thanksgiving holiday. Now we are heading into December and the usual festivities of the season are upon us. January and February are no meeting months for the group, and this will be the case this year as well.

As far as Seniors business goes, we are finishing up a calendar year but are only half way through the fiscal year which runs from July 1 - June 30, 2019. Budgets have been submitted along with an account of our operations ending June 30, 2018. This reporting went to the Select Board, as they are doing the total picture budget as this is written.

Our monthly lunches were at Seward's unless there was a special activity planned at a different location. This past spring and summer we tried some new approaches. In May, our lunch was at Rutland Town School, with a wonderful performance by the Jazz Band. The administration was very pleased to host the Senior Lunch and we all were very pleased to have been the guests. There will be discussions soon about continuing this practice for the coming spring.

In June there was an *Elders on The Go* trip to Woodstock; lunch at the Thompson Center and the afternoon at Marsh-Billings Rockefeller Estate which is now a National Park. A very nice trip and the weather was great. July was another great event held at Northwood Pool; the Seniors were guests of the Rec Dept. for the annual cookout put on by Mike Rowe and his staff. A great day for food and a look at the facility. Rutland Town is fortunate to have this available for the townspeople and guests. Thank you, Mike, for a very well done lunch as usual.

In October, the group went by bus (EOG) to Killington Mountain, and rode up to the summit on the gondola. We want to thank Randy Roberts for all of his help that day. He took care of the details in getting there, making sure everyone was in place and made it to the lodge with no problems. Everything went well, and the day was nice with a fair amount of foliage left to view. Lunch was arranged and enjoyed at the Summit, and the resort took great care of our folks. Again, thank you Randy for making a very enjoyable time this happen.

By the time the December newsletter comes out we will have had our holiday meal at the Center Rutland Fire Station on December 12. It is the second time this event has been held there. The holiday luncheon has grown from a few guests at Seward's to a much larger and very widely

(Continued on the Next Page)

RTS Guidance Department By Melissa Theis

The following is a student's account of the 8th Grade Career Fair and preceding class focus:

By Maria Hogenkamp, 8th Grade

The eighth grade has recently been working on a unit about careers. We started out looking and probing through different career choices. Later, we went deeper into what we wanted our futures to look like by talking about what education or training is needed, what values we hold, the lifestyle we want to live and how to discover a job that could support the things we wanted to do.

We were very fortunate to have the opportunity to listen to guest speakers come in and talk about what things and values people look for in their employees. After a field trip to Stafford and more research, students found the job that suited them. All students had a great time arguing about the pros and cons of jobs at our classroom debate. Each student then wrote an essay about their chosen career and how it would support them. Our final task of the unit was to create a table or booth of our job at a mock career fair in the school. This unit was a fun and educational way to get students to think about their future.



Box Tops for Education Supports RTS

By Melissa Knox

Program Update

Three cheers to the Rutland Town School supporters! Once again, RTS achieved a successful submission to the Box Tops For Education program. We have been awarded \$208.30 to be utilized for student activities!

Thank you for keeping RTS in mind as you give back to your community!



4 Scenes by Katelyn Velde, 8th Grade

(Seniors ~ Continued from Previous Page)

accepted event sponsored by Rutland Town Rec. Thank you again to Mike Rowe and the department. We also want to sincerely thank Randy Roberts for his help in arranging the details. Also, thanks to Chief Frank Cioffi and his staff. The folks enjoy seeing the station, equipment, and talking with the firemen. Thank you again, Chief, and to all who have bent over backwards to allow our holiday party to be there.

Rutland Town Seniors wish everyone a very enjoyable and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!


DR. BLANE NASVESCHUK
IMPLANT & GENERAL DENTISTRY
of Vermont

Blane J. Nasveschuk, D.M.D.

www.vermontdentistry.com

Office (802) 747-4544 • (800) 870-4545 in Vermont
65 N. Main St. • Suite 2 • Rutland, VT 05701

Programs to help you Stay Warm this Winter

By Anna White, SVCOA

Vermonters are hardworking people, but the high cost of food, fuel and other necessities can make it tough to get by. Thanks to Seasonal Fuel Assistance, more Vermonters are able to have help this winter heating their homes. Everyone needs access to warmth and Fuel Assistance is here to help.

The Seasonal Fuel Assistance Program helps pay for a portion of the home heating bills. Assistance is for home owners or renters who pay for heat or who have heat included in the rent. There are no resource limits, your gross monthly income must be under \$1,870 for a single person household. For all eligible households, a single benefit is paid between November and April.

For questions or to request an application, please call the Vermont Senior HelpLine at 1-800-642-5119.

Have a fuel emergency? **Crisis Fuel** is for emergency fuel, metered utility disconnection, and furnace repairs or replacements. Crisis Fuel and After Hours Emergency Fuel Program for Families begins on the last Monday in November each year. Eligibility for assistance considers all income in the household and resources, and requires receipts for expenses paid in the last 30 days. Applicants are asked to come in before they run out of fuel, so **please make an appointment at ¼ of a tank** to ensure the best service and avoid special trip charges. Contact BROCC at 802-775-0878

Green Mountain Power's Energy Assistance Program helps low income Vermonters afford energy for their homes. If you are eligible you'll get a 25% discount off the monthly charge for the first 600 kilowatt hours of energy you use. To be eligible, you must be a residential customer of Green Mountain Power and have a gross monthly household income at or below \$1516.50. This could save you up to \$300 a year! Call 1-800-775-0516 to request an application.

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home." (Edith Sitwell)
Let your community help you stay warm this winter.



Road Notes

from Byron Hathaway,
Road Commissioner

It seems winter has arrived a little early this year. Good for skiers and tourism but not so good for municipal winter maintenance budgets. Let us hope for some moderation in the weather. In the meantime, make sure your vehicle is ready for winter with a good set of snow tires, a good strong battery to start your car on cold days, and remember to give yourself more time to get to where you are going.

The budget planning process is on-going now. The Select Board will be reviewing the budget proposals presented by department heads to their respective committees. Changes will be made at this time before formal presentation to taxpayers at the Pre-Town Meeting in January. My initial proposal to the Highway Committee is down from last year by a little more than 5%. Most of this decrease is due to lowered spending for engineering fees associated with the now cancelled new road in the Randbury Road area.

Another reminder to residents who have obstructions in the road right of way such as basketball hoops, flower plantings, etc., these need to be removed as they interfere with winter road maintenance. The Town will not be responsible for damages to these things.

Why Do We Celebrate Thanksgiving? Linda Mullin, Kindergarten Teacher

The Kindergarten students were asked why we celebrate Thanksgiving. Here are their responses:

- Madelyn--to be thankful
- Ryan--to be thankful
- Brodyn--to be thankful
- Bentley--to celebrate
- Olivia--to gather around
- Wesley--to be thankful
- Austin--to be nice to each other
- Delaney--it's a favorite holiday
- Paige--to give thanks
- Lucy--to do something this season
- William--to be thankful
- Zoey--to be thankful
- Porter--to give thanks for everything
- Bailey--cuz it's fun!
- Dante--to be thankful
- Mabel--to be thankful
- Lucas--to get love

DisasterRecoveryInc.com PITTSFORD, VERMONT

Water Wind Mold Fire

Flood Recovery • Smoke Odor Elimination

Duct Cleaning • Mold Remediation

Maid Cleaning Services • Total Restoration

24-Hour Service

Fully insured & certified Don't just restore...RECOVER!



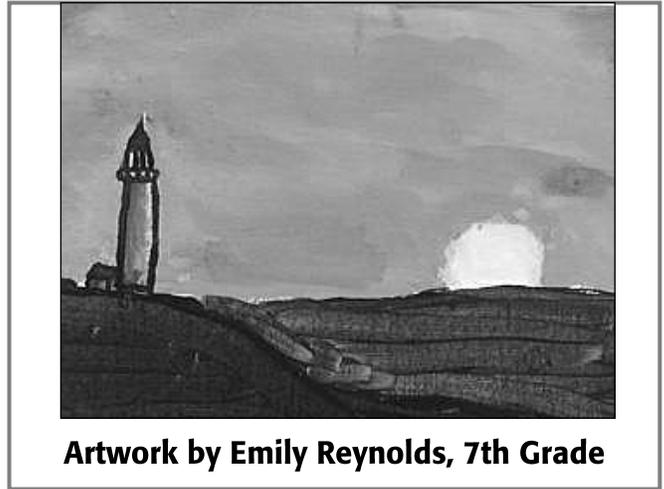
From the Rutland Town Fire Department By BJ Hathaway

Hello from the Rutland Town Fire Department! We hope this finds everyone well as we approach the busy holiday season. October was fire prevention month and we would like to extend a thank you to the Rutland Town School for once again allowing members of the department to speak to students about fire prevention and safety. It's an opportunity our members look forward to each year and it never ceases to impress us how much knowledge the students have in regards to the topics we speak about.

Traditionally we speak to the lower grades (K-4) during our visits. Last year we began a program for the 6-8th graders where 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. This year we expanded that to include grades 5-8. The presentation is 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 that they have been presented with over the years. It was a very positive experience for us fire fighters to see the students retain and expand their knowledge each year.

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 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



Artwork by Emily Reynolds, 7th Grade

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, direct 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.
- Remember to keep trees and other "live" holiday decorations well watered and inspect any lights or other electrical decorations for damage that could cause shorts and fires. DO NOT over load electrical sockets in your home!

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.

The members meet every Wednesday evening at both stations and we are always accepting applications. Ask us about our Junior member and Cadet programs!

Have a happy and safe holiday season!



PEZZETTI
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
+ CONSULTING
RUTLAND COUNTY, VT

Professional Homeowner Services with a Personal Touch

Taking care of your home, property or business like our own.

DAVID A. PEZZETTI
Owner

20+ Years Seasoned
VT State Class II Public Water System Operator
Call 802.779.4427
Pezproperty@comcast.net :: www.pezproperty.com

Lake Homes
Resort Homes
Private Homes
Condominium Units
Real Estate Properties
Rural Water Systems
Water Testing

(Principals' Report ~ Continued from Page 1)

their red lights are flashing.

As the new year approaches, we will continue to work on our school budget with our Superintendent and the Rutland Town School Board. Our priority is to continue to maintain our high quality education while being fiscally responsible.

We welcome others to come visit our school and meet with us, anytime. Feel free to stop by or make an appointment with the main office.

RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY UPDATE

From Randal Smathers, Director

Cards for kids

We are excited to announce a new outreach program between Rutland Free Library and the schools in our supporting towns, called **Cards for Kids**. We want our children to succeed, and the easiest way to boost a child's grades is through reading. The gap in grades between children who read year round and those who don't read over the summer is as large as the one between children from rich families and those below the poverty line.

So to do our part in helping Rutland kids succeed, we want to get library cards to every child possible and we're delighted that **Rutland Town School** agreed to send out enrollment forms to all their students. Just fill out the form and mail it in or drop it off at Rutland Free Library and we'll get you your free card. Didn't see the email? Call us at 773-1860 or drop in at 10 Court St. and we'll get you started today. Girls and boys are eligible for a card as soon as they can print their own name!

Don't forget to check our calendar for dates and times of children's programs, which run three times per week with special events during school

vacations. And beginning in the new year, we'll be starting our "Read 1,000 books before kindergarten" program, designed to get preschoolers off to a head start with their education.

Job Hunt Helper

Our **co-op program for job seekers** with Vermont Department of Libraries and CCV is returning. A student intern with special training is at the Library every week to help people with job searches, navigating online applications, or writing cover letters and resumes. Check with the Library for her regular hours, beginning in mid-January after the college semester break.

Adult programs

RFL is proud to continue our **First Wednesday** speaker series with Vermont Humanities Council, and look for more in-house programs in the New Year. We have had good response to lunchtime yoga (Tuesdays at noon) with Kellie Ettori and expect to have her back. Check our calendar at rutlandfree.org/events.

And the Fox Room (seats 140) and Small Meeting Room (with conference table for 8-10) are both available for public use at no charge. Need a downtown spot for a quick meeting? The Small Meeting Room can also be booked for private / business meetings during library hours. No charge ... donations always welcome!



Art by Karsyn Bellomo,
8th Grade



Tom Murphy with 'super-hero'
Autumn Lewis, Grade 4

Sweethearts and Heroes Group Brings Anti-Bullying Program to RTS

In November, sponsored by Alderman's Chevrolet, the "Sweethearts and Heroes" motivational speakers visited RTS to share their message of leadership, bystander empowerment and empathy activation. The primary focus of the group is to educate children and adults about the impact of bullying on our society. The presentation used fun interactive activities to train students to recognize bullying situations. Sweethearts and Heroes strives to empower all students to take action and help our school become a friendlier and safer place to learn. They learn how to be a "Sweetheart" (carrier of hope) and "Hero" (someone willing to jump into action and do what others are not willing to do.)

The organization's program was geared to multiple levels. Based in Fort Ann, NY, the Sweethearts and Heroes message has impacted more than 1 million young men and women over the last 10 years. Tom Murphy, an entrepreneur, executive, and former professional mixed martial arts champion, is the lead presenter along with retired Army Sergeant and Wounded Warrior, Rick Yarosh. Their message, aimed toward every member of the bullying cycle, offers each student a new appreciation for H.O.P.E. and a look at the endless possibilities that exist for themselves and others.

A parents' education session was offered the evening before the student presentations. The adult program presented new perspectives on many topics related to technology, cyber bullying, bullying vs. conflict, the adolescent brain science and best parenting practices.

Rutland Town's Cemeteries

By Carol Bam with help from Byron Hathaway

In August, Cemetery Commissioner Byron Hathaway related some of the history of Rutland Town's two cemeteries. The smaller one is unnamed and sits west of the Town Office right across the street from the large, private Evergreen Cemetery located in the city. The other is Cheney Hill Cemetery located on Pinnacle Ridge Ave. Enclosed by trees it is a peaceful oasis next to a farmed field halfway down the block from Velco.

"Graves in each date back to the Revolutionary War era at a time when there was no distinction between the city and the town," explained Hathaway. "As far as notable people, Joseph Bowker, a crafter of the VT state constitution in the late 1700's is buried in the Center Rutland Cemetery. His grave is just off the Town Office parking area. He served in the Revolutionary War in the Massachusetts regiment and his grave is marked with a veteran's flag."

The Center Rutland site is no longer active, unlike Cheney Hill which has up to half a dozen interments each year and plenty of room with 4-5 acres to expand. It is named for the Cheney family which owned the surrounding farmland including Cheney Hill east of Route 7 and the site of the old Cheney Hill School on Cedar Ave.

No one knows the Cheney Hill Cemetery better than Hathaway who was mowing the grass there at age 12 when his father Byron, Sr. was commissioner. Bob Pinney and Byron's son BJ currently serve as Rutland Town's two other commissioners. Besides maintenance of the grounds and vault, which stores tools and houses caskets in winter, "the job includes laying out lots and determining where headstones can be placed. That requires a good deal of precision measuring."

In the 1960's the Cemetery Commission included Walter Patch, Bob Davis, Sherwin Williams, George Livak and Byron Hathaway, Sr., most of whom also served as selectmen and other town officers. They proposed using some of the Nixon era Revenue Sharing money earmarked for the town to establish a Perpetual Fund. The fund principal would be conserved and the income used to cover cemetery costs.

The Perpetual Fund plus a large bequest from Raymond and Mary Sutton in the early 2000's created an endowment of just under \$100,000. Income from the fund, endowment, and lot sales make Cheney Hill Cemetery self-sufficient without need of property tax

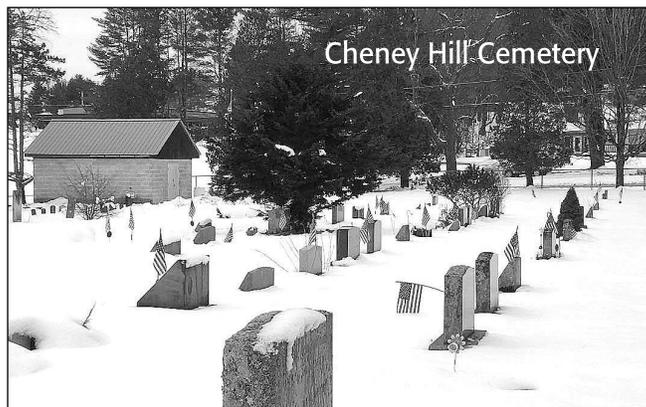
outlays for maintenance. The annual outlay is about \$1800 per year consisting of regular maintenance such as mowing and removal of seasonal plants and landscape trimmings. Another reason costs are minimal is because cemetery commissioners are not paid! A vast amount of volunteer time is now and has been dedicated to town cemeteries by commissioners throughout the years.

Says Hathaway, "Lot costs are currently \$500 for a regular lot and \$150 for a cremation lot. Burial costs are charged at the time of burial and are usually part of the funeral home charges. Over the last 10 years with funeral costs getting up to \$8 - 9,000, there has been a steady increase in cremations which now represent 50% of our burials."

Fortunately vandalism has not been a burden at either site. In the fall of 2016, a crew of Comcast volunteers and representatives from the Vermont Old Cemetery Association worked with the Highway Dept. in the Center Rutland graveyard. They cut brush overgrowth and repaired headstones damaged by Vermont winters and time.

I walked around Cheney Hill Cemetery recently after a fresh snowfall. The oldest gravestones were no longer pristine with letters dulled by a century or more. There are many newer graves, with plumb headstones and names crisply etched, markers to families whose roots go back generations in Rutland Town with names any resident would know. Dozens of Veterans Day flags brightened the terrain and leftover perpetual flowers peeked from snow caps. One set of footprints tracked to a family stone which was now newly adorned with a holiday arrangement.

Our well attended cemeteries are certainly a time capsule of town history reminding us of lives lived long ago. But in the present they are also a place of reverence and remembrance, a more personal place of peace for those at rest and their loved ones who visit and honor them.



Cheney Hill Cemetery



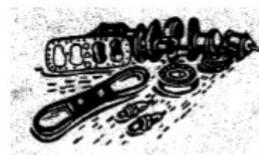
Center Rutland Cemetery

A & J AUTO PARTS

176 West Street
Rutland, VT 05701

PHONE: (802) 775-5585

Serving Rutland for
58 Years



Accessories - Speed and Performance
Auto Parts - Body Supplies & Equipment



Tapestry Winter News

By Lori Mcneil, Site Coordinator

Happy December! This fall has flown by so quickly and the snow came super early this year. 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. I think most of us even found our way out this year. In October we hosted our 19th Annual Lights On Afterschool Celebration. This is a national celebration to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families, and communities. We were so happy to have many of our teachers, dignitaries, and parents celebrate along with us



again this year! This year we were visited by Senator Brian Collamore, Peg TV, and our Superintendent Debra Taylor. They all came by to visit our program and decorate a light bulb which symbolizes the importance of afterschool. Everyone jumped right into the fun with the students.

The next few months we will have days filled with a variety of activities and projects. As always, each day time is set aside for recess, homework, and snack. Homework time students have the opportunity for assistance from our highly qualified staff. Activity time is filled with all sorts of indoor and outdoor fun. Indoors activities will include crafts, cooking, sewing, science experiments, and some long term community projects that will keep us all busy. With all the snow we have had recently we are already building snowmen, snow forts, and enjoying the activities that the winter months bring outside.

The younger Tapestry students in grades K-2 are beginning a special math day on Tuesdays beginning this month. They will be running the Crazy 8 Bedtime Math Club. Some of the math topics to be explored are geometry, adding, subtracting, skip counting, estimating, and bar graphs. There will be some really exciting activities that go along with these math concepts. This group will be filled with little mathematicians when we are finished!



Also, many of the students are learning to sew and make quilts, bake a variety of foods, and create marvelous things out of recyclables. Students are enjoying a variety of STEM activities. They have some exciting projects planned using math, science, and technology.

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

**Lori McNeil Site Coordinator
779-7429 or 779-6102.**



Green Mountain National Forest \$5.00 Christmas Trees! Fourth Graders Can Get a Free Tree

The US Forest Service officials invite Vermonters to purchase \$5.00 Christmas tree permits allowing them to cut a tree on National Forest land for the holidays. Get your permit at the Forest Service office at 231 N. Main St. in Rutland, tel. 747-6700 (or at the Vermont offices in Manchester or Rochester.)

This year **all fourth graders can get a voucher for a Free Tree** as part of the Forest Service "Every Kid in a Park" (EKIP) initiative. Fourth graders and their families can obtain a voucher from the website www.everykidinapark.gov. Print the voucher and take it to the Forest Service office for a free EKIP pass and Christmas tree removal permit. This is a

one-time opportunity to cut one Christmas tree for personal use on National Forest land during the 2018 holiday season. See all permit conditions at the EKIP website www.everykidinapark.gov or at a Forest Service office.

Boy Scouts Tree Pick Up

After Christmas, Rutland Boy Scout Troops 105, 112 and 120 will pick up and properly disposed of your tree for a troop donation accepted at pick up.

Pickup dates are Saturday Jan. 5 or Jan. 12. To arrange for your pick up, call **802 438-8721** or email RutlandBSTreeCollection@gmail.com.

Recent Eagle Scout projects benefitting the local community are Bleachers at Northwood Park, the press box at Mill River UHS, and landscaping at the Rutland Town Highway Department garage.

SWEET POTATOES

By Lisa Lones RN BSN

Sweet Potatoes are plentiful and inexpensive this time of year. They make a great addition to a holiday table. Did you know that sweet potatoes are not related to potatoes but rather are a member of the morning glory family? They are regarded as one of the most nutrient dense vegetables, providing vitamins A and C, fiber and potassium. Try a new recipe using sweet potatoes.

Sweet Potato Turkey Taco

Total Time: 20 minute

Servings: 4

Ingredients:

- 2 medium sweet potatoes
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1 1/4 tsp ground cumin, divided
- 1/4 + 1/8 tsp salt
- 1/4 + 1/8 tsp ground pepper
- 3/4 lb lean ground turkey
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 1 1/4 cup canned crushed tomatoes
- 1/4 cup grated pepper jack cheese
- 2 tbsps minced flat-leaf parsley

Instructions:

1. Pierce the sweet potatoes all over with a fork. Cook in the microwave on HIGH until tender when pierced with a fork, 4 to 5 minutes per side. Let the potatoes rest until cool enough to handle.
2. Cut the potatoes in half lengthwise. Carefully scoop the flesh out of the potatoes and place in a medium-sized bowl. Reserve the skins. With the back of a fork, mash the potato flesh until most lumps are

gone. Stir in the olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon cumin, 1/4 teaspoons salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Divide the mashed sweet potato evenly between the potato skins. Place on a baking sheet.

3. Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Lightly coat with cooking spray. Add the ground turkey and cook, breaking up with a wooden spoon, until cooked through. Stir in the garlic, chili powder, remaining 3/4 teaspoon cumin, oregano, paprika, and remaining 1/8 teaspoon salt and pepper. Cook for 1 minute. Stir in the crushed tomatoes.
4. Preheat the broiler. Spoon the turkey mixture into each sweet potato skin. Top each with 1 tablespoon grated cheese. Broil until the cheese is melted, about 30 seconds. Garnish with parsley. Serve!

Source: Vermont Harvest of the Month





Excel
plumbing and heating

2080 U.S. Route 4, Mendon, Vermont 05701
802-775-7558
plumbing and heating "excellence"
www.excelplumbingandheating.com

Rutland Town School
1612 Post Road
Rutland, VT 05701

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 28
Rutland, VT

Rutland Town School . . . Where Futures Begin!

RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 13 Grade 5-8 Winter Concert - 6:30pm
- 19 Early Release at RTS – 11:55 am
- 20-1/2/19 RTS Holiday Break
- 24&25 Town Hall Closed**
- 27 Select Board meets at
Town Hall, 6 pm
- 31 Town Hall closes at noon**

JANUARY

- 1 Town Hall closed**
- 3&24 Planning Commission meets
Town Hall, 7 pm
- 8 Friends of Music meets
Band or chorus room, 3:30 pm
- 8&22 Select Board meets
Town Hall, 6 pm
- 10 2nd Property tax payment due**
- 14 School Board meets – RTS, 5:30 pm
- 17 Planning Commission meets
Town Hall, 7 pm
- 21 Town Hall closed – Martin Luther King Day**
- 25 F.O.M. Talent Show – RTS gym, 7 pm



- ? Pre-Town Meeting** budget presentations
At RTS, end of January. Call Town Hall for
Pre-Town Meeting info

FEBRUARY

- 1 & 2 Middle School Chorus & Jazz Band District
Music Festival at College of St. Joseph
- 5 Friends of Music meets – band or chorus
room, 3:30 pm
- 5&19 Select Board meets – Town Hall, 6 pm
- 8 F.O.M. Talent Show snow date
- February Circle article deadline**
- 11 School Board meets – RTS, 5:30 pm
- 14 Planning Commission meets
Town Hall – 7 pm
- 18 Town Hall closed - Presidents Day**
- 18-22 RTS Winter break

MARCH

- 4 Informational Town Meeting RTS**
- 5 Town Meeting Day – Vote Town Hall
and Rutland Town School 7am - 7pm**

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