

The Circle



Rutland Town's Link between School and Community

February 2020

TOWN NEWS

By Carol Bam

Chairman Josh Terenzini reports that the Select Board in partnership with the Board of Civil Authority are working together to ensure that Town Meeting and VT Presidential Primary elections are appropriately staffed and equipped to handle an expected high voter turnout. Being a primary year and with four contestants for the Clerk/Treasurer position, extra ballots have been ordered. In the absence of an officiating town clerk, the BCA has appointed Terenzini the Election Clerk.

Municipal budgets are up 3.5% overall. "The continued climb in health insurance costs is behind most of the increase," said Terenzini. All residents are encouraged to attend the informational meeting Monday at 7 pm at Rutland Town School cafeteria. School and Town officials will highlight and explain their budgets and answer questions.

Renovation of the Town Clerk and Treasurer's office was completed in January and the office is up and running and awaiting the election of a new Town Clerk and Treasurer. Susan McGee continues in the Assistant position and Mary Dahlin, former town clerk of Proctor, has also helped keep the office running smoothly since the Clerk Kirsten Hathaway took another job in mid January. The chairman invites town residents to stop by and see the attractive and functional upgrades that they paid for.

With the modernization of the inside of Town

(Continued on Page 9)

RTS UPDATE From Co-Principals

Deborah Rodolfy and Sarah Tetzlaff

We would like to thank the entire Rutland Town community for continuing to support our amazing school. Unlike other area schools, our enrollment continues to remain strong with 360 students Pre-K through 8th grade. We pride ourselves in offering a top notch education to all of our students. Our students continue to perform above state and regional averages on assessments and standardized testing. We are especially proud of the work that our teachers and interventionists have done to help our students achieve in reading and math. We are now in the 5th year of implementing the Orton Gillingham approach to teach reading and are seeing amazing results. We invite you to attend ABC Night (All our Best Curriculum) on February 27 from 6-7 P.M. and our 4th grade Science Fair on Tuesday, March 3 at 5:00 P.M. to see what wonderful things are happening at RTS.

Through your support, our students are able to take advantage of many unique learning opportunities within the classroom and throughout our community. Students have participated in Stuff-a-Bus, performed at local nursing homes, experienced a variety of field trips and provided community service.

(Continued on Page 3)

From Rutland Town School Board

By Matthew Branchaud, Esq., RTS Board Chair

Rutland Town School is marching forward with a new generation of children in its wings. For one of the only times in the last two decades, we exceeded 360 children in grades Pre-K to 8. RTS is growing and the preschool is pushing the building to its limits. Counting staff, over 400 people call the school home for the better part of a week. Every square inch of space is utilized, with some closets now serving as offices. At some point in the future, voters of Rutland Town will need to address the lack of space and consider an expansion to the unfinished second floor. Unfortunately that project, nor any others, are in the budget this year.

The only upgrade planned is \$8,000 in playground equipment for the Pre-K students. Due to a 13% increase in health-care this year, after last year's 12% hike, along with normal increases in salaries, the budget is now \$8,424,741. That amount represents a 6% increase from last year, but with State of Vermont adjustments the result is an estimated 4.8% increase on property tax bills. If voters don't approve the budget in March, the only areas to cut costs are in building

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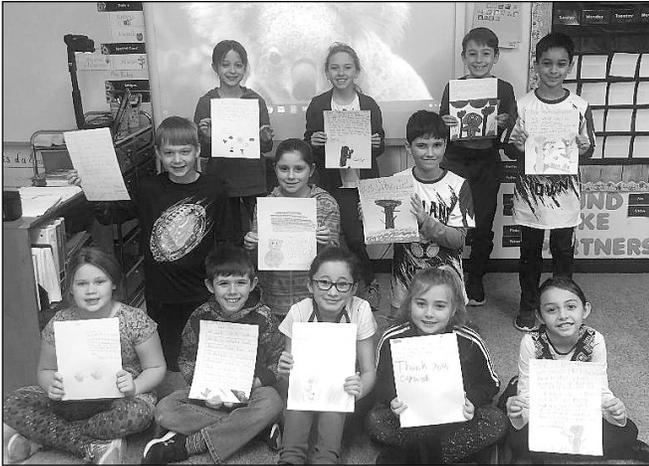
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**Transfer Station Reminder
Next Hazardous Waste Collection
Saturday, May 16 8:30 – 12:30**



Road Notes

from Byron Hathaway,
Road Commissioner



**Third Grade to the Rescue
By Tegan Waite, Grade 3 Teacher**

Miss Waite's third grade class saw a problem, and reacted by collaborating, researching, writing, and presenting their findings to the RTS administration. These third grade students who embody empathy, passion, and perseverance came back from December break very upset about the fires in Australia. They wanted to adopt a Koala that had been injured in the fires and asked their teacher if this was possible.

She responded by encouraging them to work together to come up with a proposal to fundraise the money as a class. Learners spent weeks researching about the fires, and writing letters to the administration outlining their plans. On January 31, two brave learners stood up and presented their findings. Their proposal was approved and now they are working to fundraise money to adopt their koala.

If you are interested in supporting our student-driven civic project, please email Miss Waite at tegan.waite@grcsu.org to see how you can help.

It's that time of year leading up to March Town Meeting when we think about and review budgets presented by the Select Board. The Highway budget is up about 4.9%. Some of the increase is due to rising costs of equipment and materials. About 2.8% of the increase is due to the two following important projects: Extra money was put in the budget this year to match grant money for a sidewalk extension from the City line north along US 7 to connect to the Post Road sidewalk. An engineering/construction grant has been applied for through the State's Transportation Alternatives program.

Storm water continues to increase our costs. A town wide "Road Erosion Inventory" (REI) was completed in 2018. The inventory identified erosion areas that will have to be stabilized over the next few years. Grant opportunities will help pay for some of this work. We continue to move forward with the Flow Restoration Plan for the storm water impaired Moon and Mussey Brooks. This is a State mandated plan that we are required to make continued progress on. Partial grant funding, up to 50% of the project cost, is available for some of these projects. We pursue these opportunities when they are available.

Take the time to vote on Town Meeting day or by absentee ballot available from the Town Office. I encourage you to support the highway budget as you have in the past. Thank you for your support.

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 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 more 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**



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ATTENTION, HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

The Rutland Town Select Board is now receiving scholarship applications from graduating high school students who wish to pursue higher education. Applicants must have resided in town for at least two years prior to the date of graduation.

Awards will be based on scholastic achievement, family and community service, leadership, extra-curricular activities, and financial need. Applications are in two parts and are available on the town's website.

Completed applications must be received in the Rutland Town Office, 181 Business Route 4, Center Rutland Vermont by noon on Friday, April 24, 2020.

The award of scholarships is contingent on voter approval of the \$15,000 scholarship funding request at Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Mike Rowe

Our winter sports season is wrapping up with our basketball programs having another great year. Our 5/6 teams will play in a couple end of season tournaments. So if you get the chance, check them out. I would like to thank all those who have made this season successful, they have given so much time to work with our kids. They are as follows: Greg Fuller, Dennis Moser, Pat Whalen, Nathan Bellomo, Tina Keshava, Tom Velde and Alex Grimes.

This December we held our annual senior holiday luncheon. We had a strong turnout and extend a huge thank you to Jim Hall and his crew for a great time. The RTS jazz band with Mr. Audet and Mr. Whitman played an awesome performance for an enthusiastic crowd.

Spring will be here soon. Baseball forms are ready to be filled out. You can find all Rec info on the town website at www.rutlandtown.com. **The final day for baseball sign ups for grades 3-6 will be April 3.** T-ball and Mighty Mites (1-2) will start the first week of May.

If you have any program ideas please let me know at 779-2518. Thank you and have a great end to winter. Remember To Get Up and Get Out.

(Principals' Report Continued from Page

We would like to thank the Friends of Music, the Friends of Theater and the PTO for their support. Through their efforts, our students are able to access a variety of experiences from field trips and concerts to a new musical. We would also like to thank Korrine Rodrigue and the multitude of volunteers who have been helping to bring our skating rink to life! This will obviously enhance our winter PE classes as well as the entire community.

Thanks to your support we have been working on

our HVAC system and would like to report that our air exchange has been greatly improved throughout the school. We also have completed installation of school-guard glass through our safety grant funding.

Through the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, volunteers and the support of the Rutland Town community, Rutland Town School continues to provide a learning environment that is developing independent, well-rounded learners, citizens and individuals. We appreciate your continuous support and encouragement of our school community.

Photos (left to right): 4th grade students dissecting owl pellets, 4 graders displaying their positive attitudes, and 8th grade students participating in Stuff a Bus community service





Kirsten Hathaway Says Farewell

Hello Rutland Town:

Thank you everyone for giving me the opportunity to be your Clerk and Treasurer these past three and a half years. This upcoming election is a historic event. We have four great candidates running for the opportunity to take up the mantle of Clerk and Treasurer. Please get out and vote this March. Your vote counts!

Kirsten in the Clerk's temporary quarters in the Select Board room during office renovations

Annual Tree Sale - Order Until April 8

**By Nanci McGuire,
RNRCD District Manager**

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 its annual spring planting program.

All stock is **bare root and 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 20 years and has sold thousands of plants.

Some of what is available are: balsam fir, Fraser fir, Colorado blue spruce, white spruce, sugar maple, American cranberry, hazelnut, butterfly bush, spice-bush, lilac, elderberry, and apple, pear, and peach trees.

Strawberry, blueberry and raspberry plants are also available.

This sale helps to generate funds to support the District's many programs. You can download the form at www.vacd.org/conservation-districts/rutland/.

For further information on district activities or an order form, please contact Nanci McGuire at the Rutland District office 802-775-8034 ext. 117.

Orders will be taken until April 8 or until supplies last. Order early!



Students using PTO purchased Lego engineering kits

**Rutland Town PTO
By Jill Alderman, PTO Co-President
and First Grade Teacher**

The Rutland Town School PTO has sponsored several successful community events and fundraisers this year. Cocoa and Crafts with Santa was a family fun event. The Bookfair was enjoyed by everyone at RTS, and our first Calendar Raffle was a great success, raising over \$4,000! Thank you to everyone who supports these great events and helps to contribute to the RTS community. We have been able to support many programs and purchase enriching materials and school supplies that benefit all students at RTS.

Here are some examples of the PTO's recent contributions: Lego We-Do engineering and programming kits that will be used by all students; new flexible seating for middle school classrooms; school supplies for each classroom; a sewing machine for Tapestry; contributions to the RTS Girls on the Run program and the 8th Grade class trip to Washington, DC.

Thanks for your continued support. We hope to see everyone at Supermarket Bingo on March 13 in the school gym. Pizza Buffet is at 5:30 and Bingo is at 6:00.

Please Note our new address across the street!

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VOTER INFORMATION For TOWN MEETING March 3, 2020

This is a presidential primary. Voters participating in the primary will need to select either a Democratic or a Republican ballot to vote.

Same Day voter registration is 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 provide a driver's license or social security number. Voters must be 18 years old on or before March 3, 2020.

Absentee Ballots. If a resident has obtained an absentee ballot, it must be dropped off at the Town Office **by closing Monday March 2**, or it can be **delivered to the poll site on Election Day before it closes at 7:00 pm.**

Informational Town Meeting on Monday, March 2 at 7:00 to review budgets and ballot items for March 3. Meeting is in the school cafeteria.

Vote Tuesday, March 3, 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.

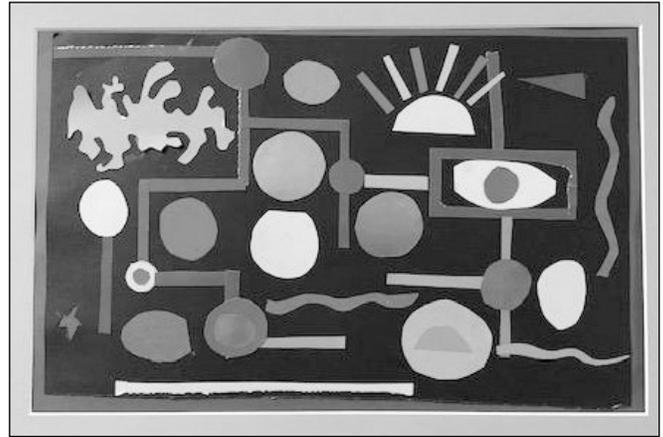
Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 - 4:30 pm;
Tuesday 8 - 6pm, Friday 8 - 2pm.

School Board ~ Continued from Page 1)

maintenance and staff. Let's hope that doesn't happen, so please vote in support of the school budget in March, or cast an early ballot at the Town Clerk's office.

Also on the ballot by separate line item is the purchase of 19.42 acres behind the school's field. The land abuts much of the northern boundary line and runs to Grover Drive-- and almost to Chasanna Drive and Northwood Park. The School Board voted unanimously to purchase the property and signed a contract with the Margaret Grover Estate for \$35,000 contingent on voter approval in March.

If approved, the purchase will allow for field expansion which is desperately needed, and provide for trails, classroom study in the wetlands and a deer wintering yard that will be preserved by the purchase. In addition, kids will be able to ride their bikes to school from Grover Drive, Countryside Estates, and East Pittsford Road. If future easements are granted by landowners, RTS could connect to Northwood Park and serve as a hub for a trail system connecting many neighborhoods together. Imagine more people getting outside and away from their screens, it's a wonderful thought! The School needs this property for our kids now, and for future generations, so we hope that everyone will support this once in a lifetime purchase.



Artwork by Lane Shelton, Grade 8

Come see us when you vote on March 3 **The Fourth Grade Science Fair** By Kathryn Duguay and Jenn Chapdelaine

The Fourth Grade students at RTS have been hard at work preparing for the eighth annual Rutland Town School Science Fair! We hope that many community supporters will attend the event scheduled for **Tuesday, March 3 from 5:00-6:00pm in the Rutland Town School Science Lab, Art Room, and Band Room.**

Our young scientists have investigated many interesting topics this year that tie in with our fourth grade science standards. We will have a panel of judges on the night of the science fair to score these amazing projects. Judges will use a rubric to score students based on their display, as well as their oral presentation.

Four awards will be given to students in each fourth grade class. The fourth grade teachers are extremely proud of all the scientific thinking and hard work students have put into their projects. We would like to 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 at the Science Fair!**

MARY ASHCROFT, Select Board member and candidate for re-election, urges everyone to **VOTE** on Town Meeting Day, March 3, 2020. Polls are open from 7am to 7pm at the school and town hall.

Early voting is available now at the Town Clerk's office. Call 773-2528 for an absentee ballot.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

CANDIDATES, TOWN MEETING 2020

Town Clerk and Treasurer - Four candidates are vying for the three year position: **Chris Kiefer-Cioffi, Kari Clark, Sawyer Hathaway** and **Gary Ladabouche**. See all four statements on this and the next page.

School Board - Incumbents **Lynette Gallipo** and **Korrine Roderigue** are running unopposed for their 3 year and 2 year seats. Lynette's statement is on page 8

Select Board - Incumbents **John Paul Faignant** and **Mary Ashcroft** are running unopposed for two and three year terms respectively.

In all other town races, incumbents are running unopposed.

Town Clerk and Treasurer, 3 Years Chris D. Kiefer-Cioffi

Hello, I have chosen *The Circle* to begin my campaign for the Rutland Town Clerk/Treasurer position.

My name is Chris Kiefer-Cioffi. I have lived in Rutland Town for over 20 years. I have held a few positions for the Town to include Board of Civil Authority, Justice of the Peace and Select Board member.

I am retiring from my law enforcement career this month. I will have full time hours available to devote to the Clerk/Treasurer position.

My entire working life has been in public service: Fireman, paramedic/EMT, and law enforcement. In between those services, I have held other jobs, waitressing, medical service and working for a funeral home. (Just to name a few!) I have been involved in volunteer work in the Rutland community. I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Credit Union of Vermont. I have held this position for 14 years. I have had the good fortune to work for some terrific employers.

The most important part of the Clerk/Treasurer position is working with our citizens, taxpayers, residents and businesses. Ms. Hathaway, our outgoing Clerk/Treasurer has set the bar pretty high. She has accomplished some great tasks for Rutland Town. I will strive to maintain that level of professionalism and trust.

I will not be posting any signs for this campaign. I will not pester the residents with phone calls or mailers. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Regardless of where you show your support, PLEASE vote on 3 March 2020. Thank you for your attention.

Town Clerk and Treasurer, 3 Years Sawyer Hathaway

I'm Sawyer Hathaway and I'm running for Town Clerk and Treasurer. As a long time town resident, I understand the importance of having an attentive and service minded Clerk. Working together with the other members of our town government, I want to continue to move the office forward.

My goal for the office is improve the ease of access to public information and create an atmosphere that's friendly and transparent for residents. Ideas like digitizing documents and updating how our records are stored could facilitate local realtors as well as businesses trying to move in by reducing property research time and difficulty. Complacency is the first step to going backwards, but small improvements over time lead to better communities.

I went to Rutland Town School from K-8, and was our class speaker at 8th grade graduation. While attending Rutland High I excelled in my Honors Math and AP Statistics classes before graduating in 2006. After meeting my wife, I followed her out to Cleveland, OH, where I went back to school and became a Paramedic.

I currently work as a Clerk/Phlebotomist for Rutland Regional Medical Center. I was the lead Clerk/Phlebotomist until I took over the satellite office at Community Health Castleton. I am responsible for delivering patient results to physicians, updating and maintaining patient records, ensuring proper insurance information for billing, following up with patients and physicians, performing blood draws, and a host of other duties.

While the name Hathaway might sound familiar to you, this would be my first time serving the town. My wife and I bought a house on Sugarwood Hill Rd., and our oldest will be going to kindergarten at Rutland Town School this fall. We have two boys ages two and four, and this is where we want to stay and raise our family. I want to do my part to make it the best community it can be.

Rutland Town PTO's Annual Supermarket Bingo is March 13

Join us for an evening of family and community fun as the adults play to win laundry baskets full of groceries and the kids battle it off for special prizes in the kids' only rounds.

A pizza and salad buffet starts at 5:30. Cost is \$6.00 per adult and \$4.00 per child, with extra pizza slices for \$1.00. The meal includes pizza, salad, and drink.

Bingo starts at 6:00. Bingo cards are \$1.00 each. Can't wait to see you there!

Town Clerk and Treasurer, 3 Years Gary Ladabouche

My name is Gary Ladabouche and it is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I present myself to the voters of Rutland Town as a candidate for Rutland Town Treasurer and Clerk. My wife Stacy and I have lived in Rutland Town since 2002 and our three children attended Rutland Town School. I am a lifelong resident of Rutland who attended local schools and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Castleton University with a major in management.

Shortly after college I led a successful career in the banking industry as loan officer and branch manager.

In 1997 I began a 16 year career in retail as owner and operator of Ladabouche Furniture. In 2013 I began a successful career as the Director of Corporate Giving and Major Gifts for Castleton University and then as Development Director and Major Gift Officer at the College of St. Joseph.

Throughout my careers, I have been customer driven with a strong work ethic enabling me to achieve positive results. I am a results-driven worker with strong interpersonal and communication skills, both verbal and written. My strong leadership skills compliment my style of work that promotes collaboration with my peers to plan and achieve a common goal. I developed a positive reputation in the Rutland area for attention to detail, desire to help others and community engagement. As a volunteer I received the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship Award for public service through the Rutland Rotary Club.

I would be honored to serve the taxpayers of Rutland Town and would be truly grateful for your support. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call me at #802-236-3560. Finally, I would like to thank the staff of *The Circle* for giving me the opportunity to present myself to the Rutland Town community. Please exercise your right to **VOTE March 3, 2020**.

Town Clerk and Treasurer, 3 Years Kari Clark

I am excited to introduce myself to all of you! My name is Kari Clark and I am running for the two positions of Rutland Town Clerk and Treasurer. I am running for these positions for a number of reasons, but none more important than my desire to serve our special community.

Our family has a long history of serving Rutland Town. My husband Chris is the current fire chief and my father-in-law Bruce Egan served for many years as assistant fire chief. The decision to run for clerk and treasurer was a natural one for me to make.

Chris and I are the proud parents of Braden, age 15, and Matthew, age 11. We reside on Colonial Drive, along with our dog Barkley, our golden-doodle.

I graduated from Castleton University in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in education and in 2018, I received my master's degree in special education. I currently work for the Addison Central School District, where I travel between several different schools. Helping others has been part of the fabric of who I am.

In the roles of clerk and treasurer, I know that all of these factors above would help me excel in these essential roles of town government. If I am elected, I want to ensure that there are critical processes in place to guarantee that your tax dollars and vital records are always protected. I also believe that it's important to introduce a number of checks and balances in this office to protect your privacy and the town's future.

If I am fortunate enough to earn your vote on March 3rd, I will work tirelessly for all of you. I am committed to succeeding in this role and with my strong connections and roots in our community, I know I will exceed your expectations in the roles of clerk and treasurer.

Thank you.



From Mrs. Aurelie Swasey, School Counselor Recognizing Character

RTS students are superheroes at heart! In January, our Pre-K to 4th graders learned about Empathy. Each month students have a chance to be nominated for showing great character. This month students were nominated for showing empathy throughout the whole month. Mrs. Mullin's whole class was nominated for being a class that shows immense empathy.

Each student received a certificate of nomination. Mrs. Mullin's class shows empathy by including all their classmates and peers and helping each other. They truly embody teamwork and community. They couldn't do this without the loving care and cultivation from Mrs. Mullin and Erin Fortune, paraeducator.

Congratulations to Mrs. Mullin's kindergarten class: Lily, Sophia, Charlie, Flynn, Gwen, Olivia, Carson, Jaxon, Anisha, Aengus, Parker, Laura, Cooper, Violet, Olyvia, and Emma!

Rutland Free Library From Randal Smathers, Director

Thank you: The staff, volunteers, and trustees of Rutland Free Library thank the voters of Rutland Town for your ongoing support. Libraries are an essential part of a free and knowledgeable society, and we believe that Rutland Free Library presents an excellent value for Rutland Town, whose residents have access to a much larger, better stocked library with longer hours of operation, for far less money through the partnership of five supporting towns than would be possible with Rutland Town alone. Please contact Director Randal Smathers (randal@rutlandfree.org) if you have any questions or concerns. We hope you will support us on Town Meeting Day.

And if you're a new voter or new to Vermont, Rutland Free Library has all the materials you need to register to vote right at the front desk!

Check out these Library Offerings:

Library To Go As February is the snowiest month of the year – and 2020 is no exception – there's a great option for Rutland Town readers who don't want to drive into the city in a snowstorm, and it's the fastest-growing part of our circulation. That's downloadable audiobooks, which are available through our website.

Both Libby and RBDigital have free apps that can be downloaded through Google Play or the Apple Store, and they offer several thousand titles to Rutland Free Library card holders. The files are small so downloads are quick, and ebooks no longer require specialized readers. Combine that with the 24/7, go-anywhere nature of downloads and it's no wonder that electronic formats are taking off. Check out your favorite authors at rutlandfree.org/borrow.

Streaming TV In 2019, the Library debuted our first streaming video service, AcornTV also available through our website. Users set up a free account through RBDigital and get renewable weekly passes to enjoy as much high-quality video as they want. Acorn's biggest hits are British police and costume dramas such as Midsomer Murders, Doc Martin, and Agatha Christie's Marple.

We started small as a test to see if Rutland County residents wanted an option for quality, curated streaming content. Our users loved the offering, with over 3,300 movies streamed to date, so we're looking at adding more choices for high-quality TV programming **at no charge** to Rutland Free Library card holders. Look for details on the website in the next couple of months.

Candidate for School Board, 3 Years Lynette Gallipo

I am, once again, running for the School Board because I know our school system is second to none in the area and is a source of pride for Rutland Town. I have lived in Rutland Town since 1975 and been a member of the School Board for over 30 years. Both of my children have attended Rutland Town Elementary School from Kindergarten through Graduation, and I currently have two grandchildren in the school. Our school is one of the reasons people are willing to relocate to our town as they know their children will get a great public education. I wish to help maintain that quality which sets us apart and lends support to a thriving community.

Over the years I have found it's important to be a voice for the 'at risk' kids in the system. We need to ensure we have staff at the school who are tasked with identifying and assisting kids at risk academically, so they may be sent off to high school with an adequate foundation.

My philosophy is that all education is valuable, and anything that interferes or acts to block access to education needs to be resisted. Teaching our students to develop a love for self-education and critical thinking is vitally important to the health and safety of our society. I will continue to be guided by what, in the end, is the best for education in Rutland Town – strong teachers, supported students, and solid community engagement.

It is an honor to continue working to ensure the excellence of our children's education. Thank you for your present and past support, I look forward to continue serving our community.

We also offer Great Courses through the RBDigital platform. Familiar for presenting college-level seminars by world-class speakers, Great Courses has broadened its reach to include subjects like Food & Wine, Health, Fitness & Nutrition, Hobby & Leisure, and many more.

Tax season: As always, RFL is happy to provide help to residents with tax questions. The new 1040 forms are here from the IRS, and we print more specialized schedules and state forms on demand. We even print the more common state forms out in advance to have them on hand.

The Library has set aside a space for videoconferencing for taxpayers with tricky problems, available by appointment only. Call 1-844-545-5640 to set up a time and you can speak face-to-face with an IRS specialist in Philadelphia, even scan in forms and paperwork on the spot. This arrangement is by request of the federal government as a cost-saving measure since they closed the old office on Route 4 East in Mendon some years ago.

Programs: Check the online calendar at rutlandfree.org/ events for the latest offerings, including teen programs, swing dancing, noon yoga, and kids' programming three times a week. All Fox Room events are free and open to the public during library hours.

DisasterRecoveryInc.com

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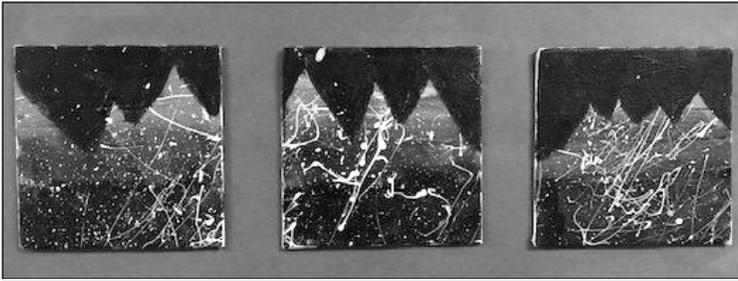


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Art work by Zieala Downs, Grade 7

Wonderfeet Kids' Museum **By Danelle Moore, Executive Director**

Wonderfeet Groups

Wonderfeet recognizes that one of the things our guests value most about the museum is the ability to meet and interact with other parents and children. To this end, Wonderfeet is excited to provide you with more opportunities to connect with your community of fellow parents. The first Tuesday of every month, join us for the **Working Families Playgroup**. All families are welcome at this free event from 5:30-7:00 with dinner, playtime in the museum, and even a story before we go!

Wednesday morning from 10:00-11:30, parents and babies join us for "**It Takes a Village**," a support/play group for new parents hosted in conjunction with Rutland Regional Medical Center and the Vermont Department of Health. This group is a chance for parents to share the

joys and struggles of having a new baby at home and to meet and connect with new friends over coffee and snacks. Babies and siblings welcome!

More information on these groups can be found on the calendar on our website, and on our Facebook events page.

Wonderfeet on Town Meeting Day

Wonderfeet exists to serve the families of Rutland County and provide a safe nurturing environment for families of all types to play and learn together. We provide free or reduced cost use of the museum to local agencies and professionals who work with children and offer low-cost memberships to families with limited income. We are constantly offering a variety of programs including summer camps, evening programs, field trips for schools and other groups. In addition, we provide some free programming to Rutland County schools both at the museum and on-site at the schools.

Wonderfeet is seeking town funding on Town Meeting Day from Pittsford, Mendon, Chittenden, West Rutland, Rutland Town, and Rutland City to help support our mission. We believe access for all is essential; thus, we subsidize a large portion of the cost of opening and running the museum.

It is time for us to ask for your help. Please go to the polls on March 3, 2020, Town Meeting Day, and vote. Say "yes" to funding for Wonderfeet Kids' Museum and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.

(Town News - Continued from Page 1)

Hall complete, the Board wants to focus on designing a fitting replacement for the crumbling memorial to war veterans outside the office. The Select Board will form a committee of volunteers to explore a new memorial, whether it be a series of panels or a garden, or another tribute that will stand the test of time. If you are interested in participating, please contact a Select Board member or Administrative Assistant Bill Sweet.

Town voters don't usually pay much attention to what city voters have to decide. But this year town residents living on Campbell Rd, one side of which is in the city and the other in the town, and town officials are fervently hoping City voters approve a five million dollar bond for road paving and repairs on March 3. If the bond passes, the badly deteriorated section of Campbell that the City is responsible for can finally be slated for repair.

A contract has been signed with Green Lantern Solar of Waterbury to build a one acre solar array at Northwood Park over the former landfill. Terenzini remarked that this would be an attractive project for the Town. "There is very little you can do with a capped landfill. With appropriate screening to minimize the aesthetic impact, the project will generate \$3500 in annual lease income for the first 10 years. Plus the town can buy net metering credits which will pay for electrical usage at all municipal buildings." The town would retain an option to buy the project after 7 years, but can also choose to renew the

lease agreement in 5 year increments after 10 years.

Town businesses on Randbury Road may soon be hooked up to city water. Project bids have gone out and are due mid February. They will be opened at an upcoming Board meeting and a contract awarded by the end of the month. The project cost of \$375,000 is a high estimate. The Board expects this infrastructure upgrade will attract further business development along Randbury Road and improve fire protection.

Terenzini also says the Board is confident that they will be able to announce some positive development news soon. Two national retailers are taking a close look at a couple of town properties (not at the Diamond Run Mall) to build a major retail establishment. One is very close to making a firm proposal. Stay tuned.



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RTS MUSIC UPDATE
Jazz Bistro March 27 at 6:30
From Marc Whitman and Aaron Audet

The annual Jazz Bistro at RTS will be on Friday, March 27 at 6:30pm in the gym. The Bistro is a celebration of our jazz program and will showcase our M Jazz band, T Jazz band, and the Alumni Jazz band which features alumni dating back to the early 90's to last year's class. A wide variety of jazz and pop tunes will be performed throughout the evening.

There will be a potluck dinner and desserts provided. Friends of Music will be contacting band participants to provide the food. Tickets are \$5 per student, \$10 per adult with a \$25 cap per family.

Please come and support our music program. Money raised so far this year has helped fix instruments and has purchased a new speaker and digital piano. We still need another new speaker and some lighting for the stage.

These students auditioned and were accepted to the Green Mount District 5 Music Festival to be held **March 6 at College of St. Joseph. The Concert begins at 7pm** if you're able to attend and support our RTS musicians.

<u>Middle School Band</u>		<u>Middle School Orchestra</u>	
Teegan Duffy	Saxophone	Lane Shelton	Cello
Caden Fredritz	Saxophone	<u>Middle School Jazz Band</u>	
Erin Geisler	Trumpet	Lane Shelton	Bass
Amelia Shelton	Flute	Nick Francis	Drums

Congratulations to the following students who were named to attend the District Music Festival in February in Fair Haven. Unfortunately the festival was cancelled due to bad weather, but the honor for these students remains

<u>Chorus</u>	<u>Jazz Ensemble</u>
Madeline Kleber-Rose	Nick Francis
Kolton Page	Lane Shelton
Amelia Shelton	

Thank you for supporting our Music program at RTS!



Southern VT Council on Aging
“Give a little, Get a lot”
By Anna White, SVCOA

Are you looking for a way to get more involved within your community? Are you interested in working with older adults? The Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA), needs volunteers in a few of our key programs: Friendly Visitor, Tai Chi, Nutrition Education and State Benefit Awareness (3Squares VT), and Money Management.

SVCOA is one of the state's five area agencies on aging, specifically serving Rutland and Bennington Counties. Our mission is to be a community force in creating and sustaining opportunities for elders and caregivers in our region to help assure that older adults are able to maintain maximum independence and quality of life.

Our volunteers are instrumental in helping us stay true to our mission. Without our volunteers, many of the above programs would not exist. We offer quarterly meet ups for our volunteers so that they may build connections and support among one another and we also offer ongoing education for our volunteers.

Additionally, we are looking for an individual who is interested in becoming a Master Trainer for an evidence-based wellness program around falls prevention, which would be new to our area. The Master Trainer would be required to attend a 2-day training, paid for by SVCOA. They would be responsible, with support from our agency, for recruiting, training and maintaining coaches for the program.

If you or someone you know is interested in any of the above opportunities, **please contact Ellen Green at 1-802-786-5990 or egreen@svcoa.net.**

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

By Cristy Murphy, RTS Coordinator

Thank you all for submitting your box top clippings to Mrs. Mock before the March deadline!

BFE will use receipt scanning to submit Box Tops in the future. We can still accept unexpired box top clippings but using the app for scanning your receipt is the direction the company is going in.



The new Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online. RTS earns 10 cents for each box top.

Go to **boxtopsforeducation.com** to find out more.



From the Rutland Town Fire Department By BJ Hathaway

Greetings all from the Rutland Town Fire Department! It seems that any "January thaw" we may have had is over and now, in February, we are back to winter.

In January, the membership held its annual meeting which included the election of officers for the 2020 calendar year. Officers were elected as follows:

- Asst. Chief (Stn 1): Larry DellVeneri
- Asst. Chief (Stn 2): Mike Carlson
- Captain (Stn 1): Jared Rau
- Captain (Stn 2): Matt Voity
- Lieutenant (Stn 1): Chris Henderson
- Lieutenant (Stn 2): Aaron Bates

As we continue through the winter months, with our fingers crossed that the groundhog's prediction for an early spring was correct, we would like to remind residents of the following things:

- Remember to check vents and keep them clear of ice and snow to prevent CO from accumulating in your homes
- Keep walkways and driveways clear of ice and snow. This makes it not only safe for you and your guests but also makes it easier and quicker for first responders to reach you in case of an emergency

Ensure that your 911 street address is clearly displayed at the driveway and on your residence if you have a shared driveway or private road

We are also rapidly approaching Town Meeting Day. We'd like to thank the community in advance for their continued support. It is the Department's pleasure to serve you and we look forward to doing so for another year! Please remember to vote on **March 3.**



Seniors enjoying the RTS jazz band before lunch in December at the Joseph Denardo Fire Station

Rutland Town Senior Corner Monthly Lunches to Resume in March

The brief report from Jim Hall (Vice President and Treasurer) is that monthly lunches that were suspended for January and February will resume in March. Jim said, "I have not connected with Seward's yet, but hoping to have our first lunch there on the 17th, St Patrick's Day."

To double check, email Jim at jimhall1940@gmail.com.

Open Enrollment at Grace Preschool From Lauren Davis, Director

Grace Preschool is a play-based learning program located in Rutland that has been serving the greater Rutland area for over 40 years. We provide two separate age appropriate programs for children ages 2 ½ to 5 years. We offer 2, 3 and 5 day options. Monday through Friday from 8:30 -12:00.

Please call us at (802) 775-4301 to schedule a tour or contact us on Facebook for more information.

(Paid Advertisement)



News from The Gables By Randi Cohn, Associate Director

During this fall through the end of the year, The Gables residents had many opportunities to socialize and be entertained. From a Halloween party to music from guitarists, pianists, bands and singers, there was much to enjoy.

Of special note was Onion River Jazz Band's always outstanding visit to The Gables, our men's group trip to see the stunning Orozco Mural at Dartmouth, a Judy Garland retrospective by American music specialist Robert Wyatt, and a first-time visit by comedian Randy Riggle.

As the holidays arrived, a variety of musicians and carolers stopped by The Gables. Then on December 20, residents gathered for their annual holiday party. Music was provided by resident Betty Clark on piano.

On Christmas day, residents were treated to a delicious buffet featuring reverse-seared prime rib au jus, pumpkin ravioli with a hazelnut crème sauce, and many tasty sides. To wrap up 2019, resident Arlene Zivitz hosted her annual New Year's Eve party to celebrate the arrival of 2020!

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RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

- 2 Select Board meets – 5 pm, RTS
Informational Town Meeting RTS - 7 pm
- 3 **Town Meeting Day - Vote Town Hall
and Rutland Town School 7 am - 7 pm**
- 6 Green Mountain Music Festival
College of St. Joseph - Concert
7:00 pm. (See page 10)
- 9 School Board meets - 6 pm, RTS
- 12 Planning Commission meets
6:30 pm – Town Hall
- 13 Supermarket Bingo – 5:30 pm
RTS Gym (See page 6)
- 17 Tentative Date for Senior lunch
at Seward's (See Page 11)
- 17&31 Select Board meets – 6 pm
Town Hall
- 19&20 **No School – District In-Service**
- 27 Jazz Bistro – 6:30 pm, RTS Gym.



- 2 **Early release - Parent/Teacher conferences** - 1:55 am, RTS
- 2&23 Planning Commission meets – 6:30 pm
Town Hall
- 3 **No school/Parent-Teacher conferences**
Last Day for Rec Baseball sign ups
- 6 Deadline for April **Circle** articles
- 7 Friends of Music meets – 3:30 pm, RTS
- 8 Conservation District tree and shrub sale
order deadline (See page 4)
- 8&9 **The Lion King Jr** – RTS Theatre
production – 6 pm, RTS
- 13 School Board meets – 6 pm, RTS
- 14&28 Select Board meets – 6 pm, Town Hall

MAY

- 10 **3rd Tax payment due Town Office**
- 16 **Hazardous Waste Collection**
8:30 am – 12:30 pm, Transfer Station
- 25 **Memorial Day. Town Office and School
closed**

APRIL

- 1 Dog license deadline – Town Hall

Town and School Websites: rutlandtown.com and rutlandtownschool.org