

# The Circle

Rutland Town's Link between School and Community



Apr/May 2021

## TOWN NEWS

**By Mary Ashcroft,**  
Select Board Chair

Thank you, voters! On Town Meeting Day, Rutland Town voters approved all town budgets for fiscal year 2021-22 and all of the requested appropriations for local non-profit organizations. Voters also approved a new depreciation account to provide money for maintenance and repair of equipment at our transfer station. Our town is in good shape and well-funded for the coming year.

Our generous voters also approved \$15,000 for scholarships for our graduating high school seniors who plan to pursue post-graduate education. We urge every senior who has resided in town for at least the last two years to apply. Forms and information can be found on the town's website. The deadline for applications is Friday, April 23 at noon, so get those applications in soon.

Each year following town meeting, the Select Board reorganizes itself. This year we welcomed Don Chioffi, newly elected Select Board member.

*Continued on pg. 4*

## RTS UPDATE FROM Co-Principals

**Deborah Rodolfy and Sarah Tetzlaff**

We are so fortunate to have been able to have our students attend school in person for the majority of the school year! Our students have been remarkably resilient. They have worn their masks and done their best to maintain their social distance. They really love being together, even with all of the restrictions. We are proud of their academic progress during this difficult time.

We would like to thank all of our families for their understanding in regard to our protocols and quarantine requirements. We hope you know that it is our utmost desire to keep your children and our staff safe and healthy.

*Continued on pg. 3*

## From Rutland Town Planning Commission

**By Barbara Noyes Pulling**

Rutland Town Planning Commission Chair

Work on designing a pocket park at Center Rutland Falls is happening thanks to a grant from the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The Town Planning Commission is working with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to determine what should go in the proposed park. To help generate ideas, stakeholder meetings are being scheduled in the coming weeks. That includes a recreation-related group which includes representatives from Green Mountain Power (which owns most of the land that is proposed for the park), Trout Unlimited, Rutland County Audubon, VT Fish & Wildlife and Forest, Parks & Recreation, local Boy Scouts, neighbors, and town department heads.

Since the park site has many ties to Rutland's past, we are also assembling a history-related group.

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## RTS Preschool Classroom

Greetings from Mrs. DuBois, Mrs. Garrow and our preschool classroom!

It is all about spring! We are watching our daffodil bulbs that we planted in September poke their little noses out of the ground. We can't wait until the flowers are out. The bulbs were a gift from the Rutland Area Master Gardeners Club.

We are learning about the ocean in our classroom. We have been learning about pink dolphins (otherwise known as the boto dolphin), the fiddler crab, whales and all sorts of cool sea creatures.

We have big plans to learn about outer space before the end of the year. It sounds so exciting. We might have some future astronauts or airplane pilots in our midst!

Have a great spring!

## Upcoming Dates for Town Hall

The dates for **Select Board** meetings are April 29, and May 11 & 25 at 6:00 p.m.

**Planning Commission** meetings are on April 22 and May 13 at 6:30 p.m.

## From Town Clerk/Treasurer Kari Clark

Happy Spring everyone! Just a quick reminder that the third and final installment for this tax year is due on **Monday, May 10, 2021**. The office will stay open until 4:30 p.m. that day. We will accept payment as on time with a valid USPS postmark on or before May 10th.

Please do not delay in sending this in or you will receive an 8% delinquency penalty on top of the standard 1% interest. If you have any questions please give us a call. We are always here to help!

The office will be closed on Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> in observance of Memorial Day.



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**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 principal and Select Board have the authority to exercise editorial control over style and content of the newsletter. Newsletter staff include Janelle Faignant. For more information, mailing list changes, to advertise or contribute, email [rutlandtowncircle@gmail.com](mailto:rutlandtowncircle@gmail.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

*(RTS Update Continued from pg. 1)*

We encourage everyone to check out our website, <http://rts.grcsu.org/> and follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/rtsvt> to see what is happening at Rutland Town School!

Most Sincerely,  
Deborah Rodolfo and Sarah Tetzlaff

P.S. I would like to thank the members of the Rutland Town community for their well wishes as I retire at the end of this year. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work at your school. I will miss your children every day! Debbie 💙

## Transfer Station Reminder

Household Hazardous Waste

Disposal Saturday, May 15

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Northwood Park Transfer Station

Household Batteries and waste oil are accepted year long at no additional charge.

**Hours of operation:**

**Wednesday 3 - 7 p.m.**

**Saturday 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Tel: 747- 9013**



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## NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Mike Rowe

Hello All,

I hope you are enjoying the early spring weather and are safe. We will be offering baseball for the spring season. We have programs for the following age levels:

**T-Ball** - pre-K-Kindergarten (looking for a parent volunteer to help run this)

**Mighty Mites** - grades 1 and 2 parents pitch in this group during games

**Minors**- grades 3 and 4 play a schedule of games

**Majors** - grades 5 and 6 play a schedule of games

You may sign up in many different ways, either online ([rutlandtown.com](http://rutlandtown.com), under Rec) a form has been sent in the school weekly email or just email me and I will send a form. The form can either be sent to Town Hall or send it to school with your child and they will get it to me.

**We plan on starting on the following dates for the baseball programs:**

**T-Ball - week of May 10** running for 6 weeks, one day a week time and day TBD

**MM - week of May 3**, we will start as a large group and then form teams to play with Mendon

**Minors - week of April 26** with games starting week of May 10

**Majors - week of April 19** with games starting the week of May 3

If you would like to help with any of these programs please just email me and we will count you in. If you have any other questions please just let me know. Have a great spring! My email is [michael.rowe@grcsu.org](mailto:michael.rowe@grcsu.org) and phone number is 779-2518.

## **Rutland Free Library Update**

**From Randal Smathers, Director**

### **Reopening update from RFL**

When the Vermont Department of Libraries scheduled an all-libraries meeting for late March, many of us expected new guidance on how to reopen. Instead, with the growth of COVID-19 cases in Rutland County and statewide, the advice was to stay the course.

In the case of libraries, that means following guidance from the state to restrict access for library users, with curbside service strongly preferred. Libraries that do open are required to record every user's name, phone and email information. Rutland Free is leery of the privacy issues around that, and the building does not have state-of-the-art air handling or filtration, so in an abundance of caution, we're sticking with curbside and online use only, while working on step-by-step plans to reopen, as required by the state for libraries.

Curbside can be ordered by phone at 773-1860, by email to [rutlandfree@rutlandfree.org](mailto:rutlandfree@rutlandfree.org), or by placing holds via the online catalog at <https://catalog.rutlandfree.org>. Orders for in-stock items are ready no later than the next day. We'll call you when your items are ready to be picked up.

### **Online borrowing**

In the meantime, please check out our online offerings! Demand for downloadable ebooks and audiobooks continues to increase, so we are increasing the number of titles and copies of popular titles we have available. We've also added Kanopy video streaming and Freegal music streaming, which are getting increasing use as well.

*Continued on pg. 9*

*Town News Continued from pg. 1*

I was re-elected as chair and Joe Denardo was re-elected as clerk. We also re-established subcommittees of the Board so that we can meet in smaller groups to review in detail matters that arise in our departments. All subcommittee meetings as well as full Select Board meetings are open to the public. Notices of upcoming meetings and a list of subcommittee members are on the town's website.

March is the time when the Select Board makes appointments to various posts within local government. These appointed officials play an important role in shaping policy and meeting statutory requirements. Our special thanks go to all those individuals who have stepped up to be delegates to the Solid Waste District and Regional Planning Commission, to Town Planning Commission members, to Fire Warden, Fence Viewers, Town Grand Juror, Emergency Management Director and many others. We appreciate your service.

Work is underway on the construction of the Harbor Freight building in back of Aldi's on Route 7 south. The town has received the necessary permits to construct our equipment storage shed at Northwood Park. And we are moving ahead on paving projects to improve local streets and roads. We deferred paving last spring due to uncertainty over the effect of the pandemic on the town's income. But with revenues staying strong, we have accepted the \$571,603 bid of Fuller Sand and Gravel for road work this spring and summer.

The Select Board met virtually with the managers of the Diamond Run Mall to discuss redevelopment of that site, and also with the developer of a proposed 260-unit housing complex. Both projects have the potential for significant impacts on our tax base and on our town's services. We will continue to monitor progress of these developments.

Earlier this year, our town lost another good citizen. John Socinski was a successful businessman, a member of our Select Board and a generous contributor to many local causes. Our thoughts and good memories go to his wife Janet and to John's family.



# Spring 2021 at RTS Tapestry

By Lori Mcneil, Site Coordinator

This winter, although different in many ways, has been full of fun and exciting adventures. With all the snow our recess time has been filled with making snowmen, sledding, fort building and other outdoor winter activities. The students have been super busy with a variety of indoor activities this winter, too.

Although indoor activities have been challenging at times the students have adjusted to the changes. Everyone has their own supply box filled with markers, crayons, colored pencils, glue, scissors and playdough, which are easily accessed for individual and group activities. Both groups have learned a lot about sewing this winter and have created items to bring home and to share with different organizations. Almost all students are able to hand sew, use a sewing machine (with assistance), to create items such as scarves, puppets, and blankets. Students have also participated in a variety of crafts and STEM projects as well as some science experiments.

Now with spring around the corner staff and students are looking forward to spending more time outside playing games and running around with their friends. Everyone is excited to build forts in the woods, play tag, kickball, baseball, or just swing. Students will continue to work on sewing projects, spring related crafts and activities, and STEM projects. We will explore various artists' work and try our own hand at some of their techniques. Who knows we might have the next "Picasso" in our program! We also will begin our VerMoney program. This activity-based curriculum will give students a little introduction to wants and needs, saving and spending, and other financial literacy skills.

Our Summer Tapestry plans are already well on the way. This year our theme will be Rutland Town Tapestry "Where The Wild Things Are!" This summer we will unleash your child's love of all animals large and small! We will enjoy the outdoors while learning about the creatures we share our world with. We will play games, make projects, and go on theme related excursions! We are also looking forward to possible field trips and time at Northwood pool!

The dates for our summer camp will be Monday June, 28th through Friday August, 13th. Enrollment forms will be sent home with students in grades K-6 in late March or early April. Sign up quickly to reserve your spot for the summer.

There is still time to sign your children up for the Tapestry Afterschool Program. The program runs Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from school dismissal until 5:30 each day. If you are interested in sending your child to the Afterschool program or Summer Camp and would like more information please contact Lori McNeil at 779-7429.





**From Mrs. Alderman,**  
First Grade Teacher, RTS

Cristy Murphy from Kids Together Yoga has been coming into my elementary classroom for three years now. She provides movement and educational support to students through yoga and breathing exercises. The yoga is themed to match what students are currently learning.

For example, if we are learning about space patterns, Cristy will align her yoga practice with the students to reflect that unit of study and incorporate important vocabulary and definitions, big picture concepts, and more.

Students love when we have yoga and it is a great movement break for them! This year Cristy has been joining the class online and sharing her love of yoga with them remotely.

## Road Notes

By Byron Hathaway,  
Road Commissioner

Thank you to the voters of Rutland Town for once again supporting the Highway Budget. I continue to search for new ways to be effective and efficient to keep costs under control.

I would remind everyone that Green-Up Day will be held this year on Saturday, May 1st. Green-Up is an outdoor activity that can be safely done by masking and distancing. In addition, you should wear sturdy shoes, brightly colored clothing, gloves, or a pick-up stick, and walk facing traffic.

Bags will be available at the transfer station during normal operating hours, at the Town Office outside by the front door, or by calling the Highway Department at 773-8128 and I will do my best to either leave them outside the garage for you to pick up or deliver them to you.

Filled, official Green-Up bags may be brought, at no charge, to the Transfer Station on Saturday May 1st, between the hours of 8 am and 12 pm only. If you cannot make it during that time, then you may leave them beside the road.

Please call the Highway Department at 773-8128 or email me at [rthighway@rutlandtown.com](mailto:rthighway@rutlandtown.com) and let me know where the bags may be found. This helps to speed the pick-up of bags on Monday following Green-Up Day.

Please participate this year if you can and help keep our town roads clean.

## ~ Letters from Students ~

Dear Mrs. Sweet,



I loved learning weird word facts in our Jeopardy game. It was fun. I DID NOT know there were such things as sugar FREE lollipops!! Also, I hope you like my picture. Anyways, have a GROOBA day!! (Grooba means good).

- Elsa M.

Dear Mrs Sweet

Thank  
You 😊

Thank you for talking about teeth. you taught us lots of things like to floss or brush your teeth. The game was so fun. Thank you for planning it for us and also thank you for the prizes. we all loved them. Thank you for coming to talk with us.  
By Leilah Daub

Christina Sweet is a parent of a student at Rutland Town School and the school's Tooth Tutor. Christina visits classrooms to teach students about dental health. She recently visited the 4th-grade classrooms where she played a Dental Health Jeopardy Game. The students earned prizes for answering questions. Here are some of the thank you notes students wrote to her.

Dear Mrs. Sweet



Thank you for coming!

You thought of really hard questions for Jeopardy.

Thank you again! Bye!

Sebastian



## **Wonderfeet Museum**

**By Danielle Monroe**

**Executive Director**

Wonderfeet Kids' Museum is happy to be seeing signs of spring - and signs that life may be returning to normal sometime soon. Starting May 1, Wonderfeet will once again be offering public hours at our regular admission or membership rate! We will be open to the public Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10:00-4:00pm and Sundays 1:00-4:00pm. Masks will still be required and the museum will operate at a limited occupancy capacity or 25 people. Families may still book private use of the museum outside of these hours at \$75 for a two-hour block; email [info@wkmvt.org](mailto:info@wkmvt.org) to inquire about availability.

In addition, Wonderfeet will continue to host a number of weekly groups and programs.

Every Monday from 10:00-11:30, the museum hosts a play group and

support group for parents and caregivers with babies and toddlers called It Takes a Village. This group is free and open to all.

Alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Wonderfeet offers a Homeschool Club for both preschool and primary grade students.

Find schedules and sign-ups on our website, <https://wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/wonderfeet-homeschool-club/>

Starting June 21, Wonderfeet has summer camps for both preschoolers and elementary school students. Check out our packed schedule of fun and educational camps at <https://wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/summer-camps/>

This summer, Wonderfeet will be open on Saturdays and Sundays and closed Monday - Friday for day camps.

### **RUTLAND TOWN SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

*2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR*

Registration for Kindergarten children, age 5 before September 1st, for the 2021-2022 school year is open through May 11th, 2021. Please email Pam Mock at Rutland Town School, [pam.mock@grcsu.org](mailto:pam.mock@grcsu.org) for a registration form. Screenings will be held virtual on May 12th and May 19th. As per our School Board policy, all Kindergarten children must have reached their fifth (5th) birthday on or before August 31, 2021.



## **From the Rutland Town Fire Department**

**By BJ Hathaway**

Happy spring from the folks at the Rutland Town Fire Department! It would appear that spring has sprung! Given the early snow melt and significant lack of rain, combined with the overall dry conditions carried over from last fall, the risk of grass and brush fires remains quite high. The Fire Department would take this opportunity to remind everyone that there is no open burning allowed in Rutland Town without obtaining a burning permit.

Permits may be obtained by calling one of the following people:

Forest Fire Warden: Joe Denardo  
(802)-773-1542

Fire Chief: Chris Clark (802)-773-5098  
Assistant Fire Chief: Mike Carlson  
(802)-775-2686

### **As always to report a fire or any other emergency dial 911!**

The past couple of months have been busy ones for the fire department. We have had 2 major structure fires that we have been involved with. One was a mutual aid response to Pittsford and the second was a commercial building in Rutland Town. Unfortunately both fires ended in a total loss of the structures, despite the best efforts of all the departments involved.

The Town Fire Department would like to thank all of our neighboring community mutual aid departments that responded with us, assisted with fire suppression and assisted in getting water hauled to the scenes. Their support is paramount to our ability to provide good fire protection to all of our communities. We are looking forward to the summer months to be able to continue to train and improve with them.

With that, we hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer!

## **Cheney Hill Seniors**

**By James B. Hall, V/P**

There is no change in our status at this time... we have no meetings/lunches scheduled. There is some indication we may be able to do a lunch this summer. We will keep an eye to that of course, while looking for more permanent footing which will be in the hands of the State Health folks and the Select Board.

As always, any changes coming one way or another, will be announced through our normal channels; The Circle; and direct messaging to the membership.

Patience is indeed a virtue, and we thank all who have been so understanding.

Wishing everyone a great spring.

### *Library Continued from pg. 4*

Both downloads and streaming are available through the downloads page on our website, or for downloads, start with the Libby app available through the Apple or Google Play stores. You don't need a specific device to read or listen to a downloaded book. Libby works on computers, tablets, even phones!

### **Tax forms**

RFL has both IRS and state standard tax forms available. Call 773-1860 or email ahead of if you need a specific schedule or form and we can probably print one for you. We can also do small print jobs (we've been getting a lot of requests for temporary license plates); contact us via [rutlandfree@rutlandfree.org](mailto:rutlandfree@rutlandfree.org) and we'll walk you through it.

### *Planning Continued from pg. 1*

Our goal is to include a variety of local historians as well as the Rutland Historical Society, the Crown Point Road Association, the Center Rutland Railroad Museum, VT State Historic Preservation, Vermont Marble, and Green Mountain Power.

If you would like to be part of either of these groups, please let me know ([barbara@rutlandrpc.org](mailto:barbara@rutlandrpc.org)). Following the stakeholder meetings there will be a series of public meetings to review what the groups came up with for ideas. More on all that later!

## **Southern VT Council on Aging**

**By Ellen P. Green,  
Communications and Volunteer Coordinator**

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month!

Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) is grateful for all of its volunteers all of the time, but we celebrate them particularly during April, which is National Volunteer Appreciation Month.

During the pandemic, SVCOA's volunteer program has showcased just how caring, giving, and committed Vermont volunteers are. The demand for help from isolated older Vermonters rose quickly starting in March of 2020. At that time SVCOA began its volunteer grocery shopping program, a non-contact program that allows at-risk seniors to stay safely home while volunteers do their shopping for them. From its inception in March a year ago until today, there have been 90 grocery volunteers serving twice that many older Vermonters. Not only have the grocery shoppers faithfully shopped for their clients, many have sent cards or given special treats on birthdays or holidays because of the connection they made with their clients.

Another program that started with the pandemic was the phone check-in program. The weekly phone call helps to combat isolation for both the caller and the callee, allows a quick check to identify any client needs, and, in many cases, has produced warm friendships.

SVCOA volunteers follow the state's guidelines and are still not allowed to enter client's homes. However, with warmer weather on the way, it will be possible to meet in person outdoors – on a porch or in the driveway.

Masks must still be worn and social distancing observed, but this outdoor meeting opens the door, so to speak, for other types of volunteering. Clients who need a little help with balancing their checkbook or paying their bills may now request a money management volunteer. Friendly visitors may soon be able to meet outdoors with their clients rather than just phone them.

The need for volunteers will not pass with the passing of the pandemic restrictions! The grocery program is a service that was an undetected need before the pandemic and will continue to be a vital service in the future.

Phone check-in will continue as well as the opening up of friendly visitors, money management, a new push for computer help for older Vermonters, home modifications (ramps, grab bars), indoor chores, office help, tai chi instructors, and meal site coordinators.

We invite you to learn more and consider volunteering with SVCOA.

Contact Ellen Green at 802-786-5990 or email at [egreen@svcoa.net](mailto:egreen@svcoa.net).

### **Volunteers Wanted**

The Select Board seeks volunteers to serve on a committee to redesign the Veterans Memorial in front of Town Hall. Anyone interested should contact Mary Ashcroft, SB Chair at 775-5189, or Bill Sweet at the Town Office at 773-2528.



Students from RTS Tapestry program. See article pg. 5



## ***Imagination Library***

***From Joan Gamble***

Beginning in February 2021, children from birth to age five living in Rutland Town, Rutland City, Mendon, Tinmouth and Ira can receive a free specially chosen book monthly, thanks to a new collaboration between Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and the Rutland Free Library. Registered children will be mailed a free age-appropriate book addressed personally to them each month, at no cost to their family. (The costs are covered by generous local donations.)

Families can register using the form online at <https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability/>. We've found that the hard copy registration forms can work well, seizing the moment when families first learn about the program.

One question I often get is should I sign up my children to receive for books if I can afford to buy them books. My answer is yes!!! Parents whose children have participated have said how thrilled their children are to receive a book mailed to them in their name! Parents have also raved about the quality of the books, and that the section includes book they wouldn't have bought their child.

A \$30 donation covers all the costs of the program for a child for a year, including mailing new quality books directly to the child monthly for a year. A gift of \$150 will cover the program cost of providing 60 books to a child for the entire five years!

Donations can be made by sending a check made out to the Rutland Free Library (with a clear notation that its to support the Imagination Library) mailed to Imagination Library, c/o Rutland Free Library, 10 Court Street, Rutland VT 05701. To learn more, please visit [imaginationlibrary.com](https://imaginationlibrary.com).

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## **Rutland Town School ... Where Futures Begin!**

### **RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

- |              |    |  |
|--------------|----|--|
| <b>APRIL</b> | 22 | Planning Commission meets - 6:30 p.m.                                  |
|              | 29 | Select Board meets - 6 p.m.  |
| <b>MAY</b>   | 10 | 3rd Property Tax Installment Due -<br>Town Office open until 4:30 p.m. |
|              | 11 | Select Board meets - 6 p.m.  |
|              | 11 | RTS Kindergarten registration deadline                                 |
|              | 13 | Planning Commission meets - 6:30 p.m.                                  |
|              | 15 | Hazardous Waste Disposal at Northwood Park Transfer Station            |
|              | 25 | Select Board meets - 6 p.m.  |
|              | 31 | Memorial Day - Town Hall closed  |
| <b>JUNE</b>  | 7  | Article Deadline for June Circle issue                                 |



**Town & School websites: [rutlandtown.com](http://rutlandtown.com) & [rutlandtownschool.org](http://rutlandtownschool.org)**