

The Circle

Rutland Town's Link between School and Community



October/November 2021

TOWN NEWS

By Mary Ashcroft
Select Board Chair

Lately, I've been looking back at Rutland Town's accomplishments as well as forward to our future goals and needs. This was prompted by the recent announcement by Town Road Commissioner Byron Hathaway that he will be retiring effective January 1, 2022.

Byron has accomplished much during his 22 years of service to the town. On Byron's watch, we built a much-needed highway garage. Our vehicles and equipment are carefully maintained and on a replacement schedule. Our Highway employees Walter Tripp and Jason Bathalon are trained and qualified to care for our roads, and we have a cadre of snow-plowing contractors lined up for winter road maintenance. Our repaving schedule is up to date, our highway budget has a comfortable carryover, and we have several project grants coming our way.

But Byron will leave big workboots to fill. He is a master grant writer who has pulled hundreds of thousands of dollars into town coffers. He is creative: thanks to Byron, we have a heating system in the highway garage which runs almost entirely on recycled waste oil, and a Town Road Book outlining deeds and dates of all streets and road acquired the Town.

Continued on pg. 3

RTS UPDATE

From Assistant Principal Eric Gross

My teacher friends often ask me, "What's it feel like to be an administrator?" This year, of course, is my first year as an assistant principal at Rutland Town School. Before answering this question, I usually have to pause and evaluate two things: First, how much time do I have to talk? And second, how much patience do I think my listener has for me to tell the tale? Most of the time, I'll answer: "It's complicated," and simply smile.

Every teacher I know has smiled, shaken their head back and forth, and acquiesced. They are teachers; they get it. Working in the educational field is complicated. There are seldom short answers to seemingly simple questions.

Continued on pg. 10

News from the Rutland Town Planning Commission

By Barbara Noyes Pulling

Work on designing a pocket park at Center Rutland Falls is now happening thanks to a grant from the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Since the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) is responsible for administering the grant for the Town, it is part of my day job to carry out that administration.

Stakeholders with recreational expertise and interests started meeting last May to figure out what should be included in the proposed park. Building on earlier work of the Rutland Town Planning Commission, 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 came up with an expanded list.

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From Kari Clark Town Clerk / Treasurer

Greetings from the Town Hall Clerk/Treasurer's office. Over the past year or so Rutland Town has had so much property activity with people moving into town, out of town, or just to a new location within town. Since we have so many new people in town, I thought I would briefly give an overview of our office here at Town Hall and the services that we can provide to our residents. Besides assisting in setting the tax rate and collecting the money for property taxes, we also can offer to help our residents in many other ways.

Did you know that we can provide copies of vital records? We can create certified copies of your birth certificate if you were born in the State of Vermont. Many people are still under the impression that you have to go to the Town Office of the town in which you were born to get a copy. This is no longer true. You may go to any town hall office to obtain a copy as long as you were born in Vermont. The fee for a certified copy is \$10. A person can also request a copy of his or her marriage license IF and only IF they filed the application in Rutland Town Hall. Those copies are also \$10.

Requests for certificates of death resemble that of the birth certificates. It is important to note for new residents that have moved here from out of state, your birth certificate does not follow you from state to state. If an out of state resident needs a birth certificate, he or she will need to contact the state/town in which they were born.

Did you also know that whenever a Rutland Town property is bought or sold, or a property has an attachment on it such as a lien, those documents live here at Town Hall? We have a ton of history living right here in our vault! If you are looking for background on your property, then most likely the answers are right here in our office. We get a lot of requests for deeds on properties. If you are looking for this, then when you arrive, you sign in to our vault and research your property at your leisure. Some searches for this may take time, so just reserve enough time to locate it. Just know that deeds are not always easily located. The retrieval of them often takes time and effort but we are here to help when questions arise.

RTS Preschool Classroom

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

We are having such a great start to our preschool year! We have been super busy in preschool taking nature hikes, making applesauce and learning about what it means to be a friend! This is what we know about friends:

They help others; You play with them; They give hugs; They play together; They can swim, hike or play with a slinky dog; They are caring; They share; They play in the sand; They eat food and They grow!

Have a HAPPY FALL! Please be kind, safe, have FUN and remember to wash your hands!

Other services that we offer include punch card sales for our Transfer Station, Green Mountain Passports for any resident over 62, and dog registrations. Punch cards for our town Transfer Station in Northwood Park are \$60 payable with cash or check. This office does not accept credit card payments for any transaction other than tax payments. Green Mountain passports are available for \$2. Dog registrations begin January 1. Your dog must be registered before April 1 of each year. Any dog registered after April 1 will be subject to a late fee. Registering your dog is a state law! Please note that this office DOES NOT offer renewals for car registrations as they have in the past. It has been close to 7 years since this office has offered that service. We know that the Rutland City Hall on Strongs Avenue in Rutland City does offer this service.

We hope that this information helps our residents both new and seasoned. As always, you may call our number if you have any questions. Our main line is, (802) 773-2528. You may also visit our website at www.rutlandtown.com to submit a question via email or email me, at kclark@rutlandtown.com. We look forward to helping you with your needs. Have a wonderful Fall season! Stay safe.



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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, call the RTS office at 775-0566 or mail items to: The Circle, c/o Rutland Town School, 1612 Post Road, Rutland, VT 05701

NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Michael Rowe

Hello All,

I want to thank all involved in a great summer at the Parks this year. The pool was back to somewhat normal with swim lessons and birthday parties. The lifeguards did a great job. Our senior lunch in July was a huge hit and a ton of Rutland Town seniors joined us for this annual event.

Soccer season has been a huge success this fall and that means that winter season is just around the corner. Basketball for grades K-6 will start in November, you can register on the town's website under recreation. Also this winter we will be hoping to have more hours at the skating rink at the school. Stay tuned for more info.

The Halloween Party will happen this year on October 29 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. out back behind the school, we are calling it "Trick or Treat on the Trail." If you have any program ideas or would like to coach some b-ball this winter please let me know.

Enjoy your holiday season and stay safe.

(Town News Continued from pg. 1)

Byron urged us to invest in line-stripping equipment so we can avoid contractor costs by painting our own crosswalks, center lines and fog lines. He helped design and oversee construction of our highway garage, our new cold storage building at Northwood, and our sidewalk at Cold River Road. He tapped—for free—the students in the UVM engineering department to make preliminary designs for the shared use path at Northwood Park.

Byron has been an institutional memory for the Town—who knew the Town owned so many manholes, water pipes and wastewater lines? He has used his skills in forestry, heavy equipment repair, surveying, and Yankee common sense to enhance town property at minimal expense.

Thank you, Byron, for all you have done for our Rutland Town.

Looking ahead, your Select Board will be weighing options for Byron's successor. As he is retiring mid-term, the Select Board can fill the vacancy by appointment, but for what period of time? Should the Town consider moving from an elected Road Commissioner to one appointed by the Select Board? Are there some hybrid models we should consider?

Byron Hathaway's departure is also a reminder that we have other town officials who may want to retire, too. We have been fortunate that some younger townspeople are moving into leadership in town government—but we need more to step forward.

Town Meeting elections for a number of positions are coming in March of 2022, just five months away. In November of next year, we will elect Justices of the Peace to help run our elections and hear tax appeals for the Town. There are other town officials appointed in March and sporadically through the year. For a roster of appointed and elected officials and their terms, see our Annual Town Report. It's available at the Town Clerk's office and online at our website www.rutlandtown.com.

Please start thinking about how you can help our town as we move into the future.



Blane J. Nasveschuk, D.M.D.

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Rutland Free Library Update

From Director Randal Smathers

RFL hosts wide range of programs

Programs are gradually returning to Rutland Free Library. We have added filters to the Fox Room, which combined with the size of the space and good air movement lets us open up as a low-risk environment for COVID, which is our target for determining whether to go ahead. Safety of staff and public remains paramount for RFL!

We have a host of **kids' programs** up and running, including Babies and Toddlers Rock on Mondays at 10 a.m. and Story Time on Thursdays, also at 10 a.m. New this year is Story Time designed for working families, from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday evenings.

Lunchtime yoga is also back. Kellie Ettori runs a program perfect for yogis of all ages and skill levels, including beginners. That runs in six-week increments at noon on Tuesdays, with short breaks between sessions. Check our online calendar for dates!

For kids and teens, we regularly have take & make craft kits and contests, so young people can take projects home to work on. Check the website or call the front desk at 773-1860 for the latest!

First Wednesdays, presented by Vermont Humanities Council, have returned on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. They will be a mix of in-person and via Zoom over the winter. November's is a special presentation of the board game "Refugee Journeys" by Sandglass Theater of Putney. There will also be a screening of a documentary. Please see www.vermonthumanities.org for details.

The **Book Club** has returned to the Fox Room as well, on third Wednesdays at 1 p.m. "Caste" by Isabelle Wilkerson is the November title. The book club is generously supported by Friends of Rutland Free Library, funded primarily by their book sales.

Speaking of which, the Friends hope to be able to resume with basement sales soon, having had a very successful and widely appreciated sale on the lawn in August. They are always looking for new members as well. Please contact valnray@comcast.net for more information about joining. The Fox Room is also available for free public programming. Contact rutlandfree@rutlandfree.org to book your organization's event, or see the website at rutlandfree.org!

Planning Commission Con't from pg. 1

The group ended up with 15 recreational amenities for the park ranging from a trail system, picnic areas, additional parking, and a boat launch for non-motorized crafts.

Since the park site has many ties to Rutland's past, a history-related group of stakeholders was assembled as well. Local historians, Abenaki Nulhegan and Munsee Mohican Tribes, Rutland Historical Society, Crown Point Road Association, Center Rutland Railroad Museum, VT State Historic Preservation, Vermont Marble, Green Mountain Power, and neighbors are all part of this group. So far nine historical periods of note have been identified with the following points of interest:

Indigenous camps/gardens/fishing spots. The trail and road crossroads that pre-date early settlement and include military uses during America's battles and wars for Independence. Fort Ranger: headquarters for troops and supply depot for other regional forts. DAR watering trough.

Early mills and commercial activities. Evergreen and Old Center Rutland Cemeteries. Center Rutland Railroad Depot Museum. Vermont Marble Company Complex and other marble businesses.

Rail lines needed for the marble industry and that spanned the falls.

GMP and earlier hydroelectric facilities. The scenic falls and mills also attracted famous landscape artists such as Frederick Edwin Church.

The group is now working on how best to bring this history alive to future park visitors since many of the historical structures are now gone. We've taken to heart the comments of Elaine Purdy, local historian (past President of Rutland Historical Society and Crown Point Road Assn): that Center Rutland (Mead's) Falls is where Rutland started and because history is being lost elsewhere in the Rutland area, "it makes this project that much more important."

Following these stakeholder meetings there will be public meetings in late 2021 and early 2022. We'll review the recommendations of the stakeholders, look at preliminary designs and maps, and come up with a set of suggestions to present to the Select Board. We'll make sure those meetings are well publicized so we can get as much of your input as possible.



Road Notes

**from Byron Hathaway
Road Commissioner**

The highway department is wrapping up some last-minute small projects this fall. Equipment will be readied for the winter season and our new truck should arrive by the end of October or early November just in time for the snow season.

Projects completed this summer include the replacement of the Gleason Road culvert. Mendon Trucking and Excavating was the contractor hired to do the work. This project came in \$13,000 under the budgeted amount. Half of the cost of the project will be paid for by a Better Back Roads grant.

The cold storage barn was completed this summer giving the Police, Recreation, and Highway departments a place to store seasonally-used equipment under cover. The Highway and Recreation Departments jointly built the barn. Hemlock logs were harvested from the Northwood Park to use as an inexpensive source for framing lumber.

Police Chief Ed Dumas, his wife, and father took a weekend of their time to saw the logs into lumber. Thank you, Ed and your family, for your help. I appreciate it very much. Permits are in place now for a bicycle/pedestrian path to be constructed in the spring. This path will connect the lower ball fields at Northwood Park to Chasanna Drive.

Another grant was obtained to construct a sidewalk along Post Road connecting the existing sidewalk to Chasanna Drive. Next year will certainly be a busy year for the Highway Department.

This will be my last article for The Circle. I have announced to the Select Board that I will retire from my position as Road Commissioner effective January 1, 2022.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to have served the residents and businesses of Rutland Town for the last 21½ years. I look forward to spending more time with my family on my farm taking care of my cows and crops. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

From the Rutland Town Police Department

By Chief Ed Dumas II

The Rutland Town Police Department is happy to announce the hiring of Officer Antje Schermerhorn to the position of School Resource Officer (SRO) at the Rutland Town Elementary School.

Officer Schermerhorn brings with her 15 years of experience from the Department of Child and Family Services as a Welfare Fraud Investigator from both the state of New York and Vermont. Officer Schermerhorn has worked as a part time officer for the Town of Pittsford as a level II Officer and now for the Town of Rutland.

Officer Schermerhorn's main responsibility is the safety of our children and staff at the RTES, along with that duty, Officer Schermerhorn is tasked with many other things that come up during the day.

We have scheduled training for Officer Schermerhorn in the future so as to make the SRO position more useful to the school. Most of all Officer Schermerhorn brings with her a desire to serve our community as an SRO. She really enjoys what she is doing, and it shows.

Our legislature in the recent past had talk of getting rid of SROs in all of Vermont Schools, but thanks to our local senators, Josh Terenzini, Brian Collamore and five other Vermont Senators there was a strong push within Vermont to keep the choice of having an SRO in our school systems up to the local citizens.

The SRO position is not only for school security but was also designed to break down the barrier between police and youth of society. An SRO can bring a level of comfort and security to our schools so Staff and children can get on about the business of teaching and learning. SROs can bring reality to the text, answer questions about laws, how an officer uses basic math but mostly the SRO is just a person, just like them, just like their parents and other people in their lives.

The SRO can be a bridge for families and teachers as they can help facilitate what other agencies might be able to help in particular situations or start an investigation if the need should arise.

Our SRO helps in class, helps take care of truancy issues, helps out during lunch, monitors the school grounds, and participates in class trips, activities, student drop off and pickups and runs radar in the school zones on Post Road and other areas in the town.

The SRO is not just for security alone, but as you can see a wealth of information, of help and assistance to our teachers and our children.



Students from Mrs. Dubois' class



Town of Rutland
Office of Emergency Management
 By Director Martin Wasserman

With the seasons changing it is a good time to remind everyone about the Vermont Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management notification system. It is a FREE service that is offered to all Vermont residents. This service has customizable delivery methods ranging from voice calls, text message, email, a custom app and more.

You as the subscriber can customize what alerts you receive such as: Life-threatening Emergencies, Severe Weather, Missing Persons, Environmental Hazardous Materials, Transportation Interruptions, Scams, Public Health, Amber Alerts, Recalls.

Alerts are relevant, localized and can even be muted overnight. The information is reliable and is coming from local, state, and federal agencies.

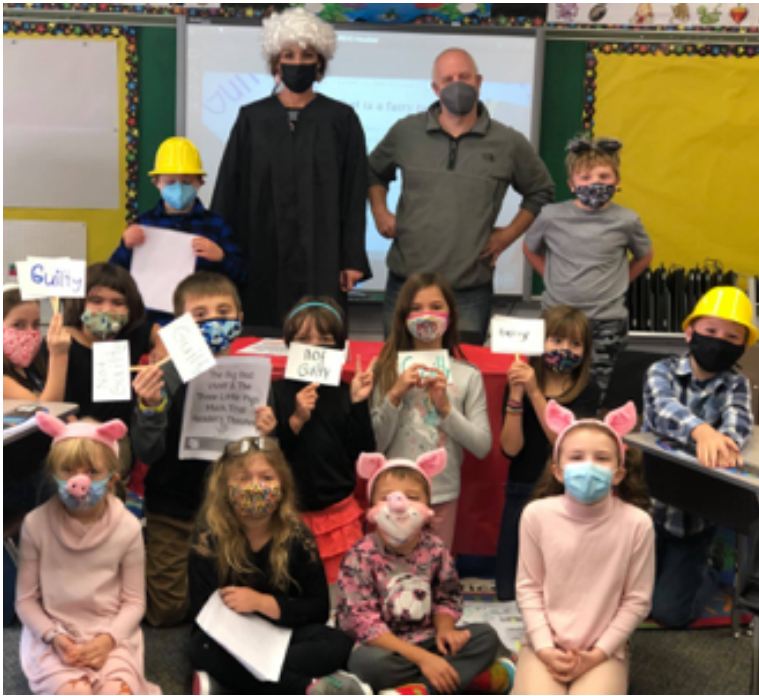
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RTS's Linda Ciufo Mullin
UVM Outstanding Teacher of the Year

By Eric Gross, Assistant Principal

Linda Mullin has been a public school teacher since 1981. Throughout her career, Linda's goal has been to stay current with best practices and continuously refine her teaching; she is the epitome of a lifelong learner. Linda has served as a PLC leader and has presented PLP's at VTFest on more than one occasion. She has taught multiple grades and subject areas over the years, ranging from Kindergarten to reading intervention, and this year she is serving as our middle school math interventionist. She pushes each of her students to be the best they can be each day because she believes in having a Growth Mindset for her students and herself. She likes to set goals and work to achieve them, with her newest goal to teach middle school mathematics. To reach this goal, she is receiving training in CPM, our middle school math program. She is the most positive individual you will ever meet, and it is an honor to work with her. This is why there is no one more deserving than Mrs. Linda Mullin as UVM Outstanding Teacher of the Year.



Wonderfeet Museum By Danielle Monroe Executive Director

Wonderfeet is back to our regular open hours! We're open Tuesday, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. are reserved for birthday parties or private bookings. And Monday mornings 10 to 11:30 a.m. is our free playgroup, It Takes a Village, for parents and caregivers of babies and toddlers (a great way to help littles socialize and meet other parents!)

Wonderfeet kicked off the school year by joining Rutland Town teachers for a creativity and communication workshop with our Big Blue Blocks and Imagination Playground. We're looking forward to a year full of school programs and helping out with after-school enrichment too!

From October 15 through 22, you can see teachers and staff from around the region compete in Wonderfeet's Virtual Lip Sync Battle School Challenge. Watch all of the amazing music videos that schools created and vote for your favorites by making a donation! The school team that raises the most money for Wonderfeet will receive a package of FREE field trips.

Check it all out at

<https://lipsync.wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/>



Top left: The Mock Trial in Mrs. Norton's room.
Top right and bottom: RTS students inside and outside the classroom.





**From the Rutland Town
Fire Department
By BJ Hathaway**

Hello again from the Rutland Town Fire Department! Hopefully everyone had a safe and fun-filled summer!

October is Fire Prevention month and as always the department is looking forward to be able to return to our annual fire prevention presentation to the students at the town school. It's always a positive experience for both the students and firefighters!

As we approach the winter months, the Fire Department would like to pass along the following list of items to check to ensure that you will be ready once winter finally does arrive!

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. It is recommended to replace batteries when clocks are changed for daylight savings time.

Have heating equipment serviced by a qualified technician.

Make sure oil, gas, wood pellet stoves and other gas-fired appliances are properly vented with no restrictions.

Ensure that all chimneys servicing a wood-burning stove have been swept and inspected by a properly-trained individual. Also be sure to have the stove or furnace itself inspected for cracks or other defects that may result in improper venting or poor fire containment.

Please ensure that your street number is clearly visible on both your mailbox and your house. The numbers should be a minimum of 4 inches high and of contrasting color to the background on which they are placed. This helps to ensure all emergency responders, ambulance, police and fire, are able to quickly locate you in your time of need.

Here's to hoping everyone has a safe, healthy, and happy fall!

Cheney Hill Seniors

From James B. Hall
Vice President & Treasurer

The Cheney Hill Seniors has been in action this summer, after an extended period of COVID Concerns.

Our lunches resumed in June, which was a couple of months later than the usual time.

But our folks did what we had to do, have picked up some new attendees, and have been meeting each month since. Our lunches started meeting at Denny's in September and this appears to be a place we may be able to call Home Station. Our first lunch was great, we will be back there on Oct 19th.

Any who are interested in attending, please contact Jim Hall at jimhall1940@gmail.com. We are heading towards a delayed election of officers, because of the COVID situation. This election will be held November 16.

Please be in touch for any info you may be looking for that is not covered here.

From Mrs. Martelle's Kindergarten Class

By Cristy Murphy

I wanted to share with the community some quotes from my students. Everyday Mrs. Murphy's kindergarteners share what they are grateful for. We try to think of things that we could not live without and things that are meaningful and important. Here are some of their thoughts:

"I am thankful for vaccinations."

"I am grateful for the forest."

"I am thankful for our teachers."

"I am grateful for my family."

"I am thankful for my friends."

"I am grateful for Snoopy."

"I am thankful for good food."

"I am grateful for airplanes and cars."

"I am thankful for the universe."

We operate in a world of grey, a world of partial information, a world that choices and decisions affect entire classrooms and communities. It's complicated.

This year we've hit a couple of road bumps during the first few weeks of school, such as staffing programs like Tapestry, to moving to remote learning, but we have handled these problems with grace as a team. It's always tempting to dwell on those things that aren't working at 100%—and we will continue to work to improve our systems—but if we step back for a moment and look at those things that went well, we can see that we have executed two successful crisis drills and one successful bus evacuation drill. Our bus releases and parent drop-off and pick-ups are running smoother and safer for our children. The Middle School and Specials' teachers are knocking it out of the park with a rebooted focus on student behavior. We are still smiling and laughing in the hallways. Encouraging words, notes, and compliments abound; everyone is reaching out and offering to help, even when no one can really spare the time.

Internally, we've created teams of teachers, staff, and administrators to address truancy and tardy issues, rebooted our focus on reaching our most needy students early through our Planning For Success (PFS) room. We continue to shape our curriculum to meet the needs of all children through differentiated instruction and universal design. Whether teachers differentiate content, process, products, or the learning environment, the use of ongoing assessment and flexible grouping makes this a successful approach to instruction, especially in combination with "Universal Design for Learning (UDL)...an approach to teaching and learning that gives all students equal opportunity to succeed."

We have also hired some amazing people!

Eric Gross – Assistant Principal. This is my first year as an administrator, but I come to RTS with seven years of experience teaching at the high school and college level and completing my student-teaching at the middle school level. My wife and I have been married for 17 years. We have two children: Simon, 13; Taylor, 14. We purchased our dream home three years ago: a house built in the mid-1880s surrounded by open farmland, where we own and operate a small horse farm, our second business.

Throughout the year, we enjoy horseback riding, kayaking, paddleboarding, hiking, cycling, and running together as a family. You can find me out on my days off with my family or wherever the tractor, lawnmower, bucket loader, chainsaw, or other power equipment is running.

Kate Daley – School Counselor. Kate comes to us as a third-year school counselor, but she has been in education for about six years as a PE teacher and Instructional Assistant. A mother of three boys, she loves sports and coaching youth soccer and basketball. She was also born and raised in Vermont.

Evan O'Rourke – 7th and 8th grade Math teacher. Evan graduated from Rutland Town School in 2011 and worked at RTS during summer Tapestry. He earned a finance degree in 2019 and was later accepted into the Champlain College Teacher Apprenticeship Program. He is super excited to be back!

Katie McDougall – 7th and 8th grade Science teacher. Before becoming a Charger, Katie has taught middle school science for the past eleven years. She is a new mom of nearly 1-year-old Eleanor "Nora." She loves coaching basketball and watching the Celtics and the Pats with her husband, Bo.

Patty Carpenter – Art teacher. Patty grew up in upstate New York and completed her Bachelor of Arts at SUNY Buffalo and her Masters at The College of Saint Rose. She spent many years living and working in Vermont before moving to Washington State in 2015. Patty returned to Vermont from White Salmon, Washington, where she taught 4th-8th grade art. She and her husband are thrilled to be closer to family and are excited to be a part of the community. Patty loves to paint and work with clay and is looking forward to encouraging and fostering the students' creative spirit at Rutland Town School.

Carrie Bishop – Paraeducator. Carrie is a married mother of five beautiful children. Her faith is a big part of who she is and shapes her values to love others wholeheartedly. She loves the outdoors, especially hiking, kayaking, reading, music, and traveling. She has a passion for helping people—especially children and seniors—and a desire to help them reach their fullest potential.

Sheri Trombley – Paraeducator. Sheri is an eighth-grade graduate of Rutland Town School. She and her husband moved back to Rutland Town a little over a year ago with their daughters and two grandchildren who live in Rutland Town. For the past several years, she has worked in the healthcare field, assisting behavioral health providers with their pediatric and adult patients. Sheri is looking forward to being a part of the education field, where she will teach and encourage kids to be proud of themselves and their accomplishments.

Wendy Trombetta – Special Educator. Wendy has been a special education teacher for 11 years, 7 of them in the GRCSU. She is pursuing a doctorate in Educational Leadership and Management with a concentration in special education at Drexel University. Her goal is to become a Special Ed Director and, eventually, advocate for education at the state level. This year, she accepted a position at our Central Office to be the LEA and Case Manager for our out-of-district and tutorial students but plans temporarily changed.

Continued pg. 11

"Students in every grade practice writing skills to become proficient. One type of writing is an informative piece. At the middle school level, the student must include: an introduction, details, and conclusion; employ language & tone appropriate to the audience and purpose; use relevant text from resources; have a command of standard English and appropriate use of vocabulary. This middle school student, Autumn Lewis (grade 7), wrote an exemplary piece that I think will inform and entertain you. Please read "Extreme Ironing" by Autumn Lewis! -Linda Mullin

EXTREME IRONING

By Autumn Lewis

It is the thrill of being outside and the satisfaction of a well-pressed shirt." This is a quote from Phill Shaw, the father of extreme ironing. The fact it is a real sport that is played internationally is quite tongue-in-cheek, but, truth be told, it is a real sport with rules.

Extreme ironing is where you go to a remote location, and iron an item of clothing. The remote places can be as remote as you like - from a forest, underwater, while skydiving, and while hanging from a mountain. Most newbies at extreme ironing are advised to do it on their porch or in their yard so they can get used to the feeling of ironing outside.

One of the rules is the ironing board must be one meter in length and 30 centimeters in width. The board must have legs. Some things that are considered extreme ironing use something else as the ironing board such as a cow. Of course, when ironing on a cow, the iron is not turned on. Extreme ironing is a sport that is up for interpretation since you can do it anywhere you like, no matter how ridiculous. Wrinkles must be ironed out.

Not many people do extreme ironing, but you could try it out for yourself. The location does not have to be dangerous, you could just bring an iron and camp outside. The sport is so simple and it is a thrill. I encourage you to try it, and when you get better you could even try to do it on a mountain, or in the sky, or even on a cow.

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.

RTS Update Con't. from pg. 10

RTS had a special ed teacher shortage, and she was asked to fill in Ms. Beach's maternity leave. Wendy has two children: Mariana, 13, and Dominic, 7. She enjoys reading, hiking, and taking hot yoga; barre (ballet), and pilates classes. When not at work, you can find her at her children's sporting events, at the studio, or on top of a mountain!

Alena Wehof – GRCSU Instructional Coach.

Alena was a high school science teacher at Proctor HS for ten years. She has also been a mentor teacher for seven years and was a mentor program coordinator for the last four years. This is her first year joining the coaching team, and she is excited to be working in new schools this year (Rutland Town and Poultney HS). Alena has two Siberian huskies at home: Loki is five years old, and Kira is eight months old. For fun, Alena enjoys gaming (both computer games and in-person games) and crafting (primarily sewing and painting miniatures for D&D). Alena is also passionate and open about mental health, equity, and inclusivity.

Hannah Anderson – Pre-K Paraeducator.

Hannah is a recent graduate of Mill River Union High School. Before joining RTS, she has been babysitting for several years. Hannah is working with Ms. Spensley's students.

Cristy Murphy – Kindergarten teacher. Cristy is a Castleton University graduate who recently returned to the workforce after raising and homeschooling her two children. As a long-term Kindergarten substitute, Cristy is not new to teaching. For the past five years, she has taught at Barstow and Randolph Elementary, working with children and adults in schools and childcare centers.

Andrew McCarthy – Castleton University student teacher with Mike Rowe. Andrew is originally from Long Island New York. He is a recent graduate from Castleton University in the spring of 2021, where he was a member of both the Track and the Lacrosse teams. He will be earning his Master's in education this spring and using his 5th year of eligibility for lacrosse.

Caleb Giles – Custodian. Caleb is a recent Rutland High School graduate and has worked at several local businesses before accepting a position at Rutland Town School.

As the year progresses, we will continue to meet the needs of the students, staff, and faculty in the building while we continue to navigate the Covid pandemic.

As administrators, Principal Sarah Tetzlaff and I hope to spend more time in classrooms, seeing the wonderful work our team is doing and will continue to clarify, streamline, and create procedures and norms that will allow our teachers to do what they do best: help our children grow into capable, well-educated adults.

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Rutland Town Community Calendar

- | | | |
|------------|-------|---|
| OCT | 26 | Select Board meeting - 6 p.m. |
| | 27 | RTS Early Dismissal - 2 p.m. |
| | 28 | Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m. |
| | 29 | Halloween Party at RTS 5 p.m. |
| NOV | 3 | RTS Early Dismissal - 2 p.m. |
| | 9 | Select Board meeting - 6 p.m. |
| | 10 | RTS Early Dismissal - 2 p.m. |
| | 11 | Town Hall Closed |
| | 17 | RTS Early Dismissal - 2 p.m. |
| | 18 | Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m. |
| | 18-19 | Parent Teacher Conference |
| | 23 | Select Board meeting - 6 p.m. |
| | 24-26 | Thanksgiving Break |

