

The Circle



Rutland Town's Link between School and Community

June 2022

TOWN NEWS

By Don Chioffi,
Select Board Chair

As we head into the summer season there are three very large and very important issues I wish to share with you.

First, it is my pleasure to introduce you to Dave Sears, our newly hired Road Commissioner. The board was unanimous in its decision that Dave was not only very well qualified, but exhibited those personal qualities of genuine concern for our town that should suit him to a very productive career here. Mr. Sears comes to us from Rutland City, where he was a long time employee rising to the level of Project Manager with multiple responsibilities. We encourage you to welcome him when you see him out and about in our town in his official capacity. We are sure you will find him responsive and affable and eager to serve our town.

We also want to thank our acting commissioners, Walt Tripp and Jason Bathalon for their superior service above and beyond the call of duty, filling in during this important job search. Well done, men!

Secondly, our town has been subject to a very great assault by our state with their decision to make our hotel facility, the Cortina Inn, the greatest numerical recipient of homeless residents in the entire state, and a very onerous burden on our services for a town of only 4200 residents.

Continued on pg. 10

RTS UPDATE

From Principal Sarah Tetzlaff

We held our first in-person Kindergarten registration in 3 years this May. Our 8th graders had a wonderful trip to Washington, DC and we welcomed the Rutland Town Seniors to the school last week for lunch and a performance by the RTS Jazz Band.

We are excited to end the school year with in-person concerts, field trips and graduation on Wednesday, June 15th at 6:00 P.M.

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,
Sarah Tetzlaff
Principal

From the Rutland Town Planning Commission By Barbara Noyes Pulling

Planning Commission Chair

Preliminary design work wrapped up on a grant for a pocket park at Center Rutland (Mead's) Falls.

The Planning Commission with the assistance of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission submitted a final report to the Select Board summarizing work done for the design grant including: consulting with local historians and local recreation groups; holding three meetings to solicit suggestions for the pocket – with recreational stakeholders, local historians, and townspeople; completing a professional boundary survey; updating rights of way with VTrans; and reviewing property lines and safety concerns with Clarendon & Pittsford Railway.

To keep the project moving, five recommendations were forwarded to the Select Board:

- Pursue a use agreement or land transfer with Green Mountain Power for use of its parcel for a park.
- Solicit a final design and cost estimates from a certified landscape architect or civil engineer.
- Research grant opportunities for design and/or construction funding.
- Use Rutland Town Planning Commission as needed to coordinate future work with the final design firm and the Select Board.
- Continue to involve the public and build interest in the park by reaching out to community groups and institutions to cultivate volunteer opportunities.

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RTS Preschool Classroom

Here comes summer! From Mrs. DuBois, Mrs. Bridgmon and our preschool classroom!

This last month of school we have been busy talking about planting and growing.

We have been working in our garden. We planted bean seeds and pulled lots of weeds.

Our favorite part of gardening has to be watering. We water everything!

We learned about the life cycle of frogs and toads. A momma frog can lay a lot of eggs! We learned about the life cycle of a butterfly.

Miss Kathy from West Rutland came in to read stories to us this spring. She is amazing! We enjoy listening to her stories!

Here are some messages from our preschoolers to you:

Paisley *I can count to 59*

Mason H. *I learned how to make a bird's nest.*

Mason M. *I can count to 1000*

Matthew *I live in America*

Tucker *My favorite character is Thor*

Amelia *My favorite character is Ghost Spider*

Taylor *My favorite character is Sven*

Emma *We are learning about flowers*

Evelyn *I like to play with my sissy*

Lilly *I planted beans and I know the 8 planets*

Liberty *I like Elsa*

Mica *I have a horse named Sassy*

Have a safe and happy summer!
Please be kind to yourself and to one another!



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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

From Director, Mike Rowe

NORTHWOOD POOL SUMMER 2022 SCHEDULE/FEEES POOL PASS AND SWIMMING LESSON SIGN-UPS

TOOK PLACE JUNE 1ST AND 2ND

THE POOL OPENS JUNE 4TH AT 11:00 FOR
WEEKENDS ONLY, WEATHER PERMITTING
AND JUNE 18th FOR THE SEASON

FEEES

RESIDENT SINGLE \$35

RESIDENT FAMILY \$60

NON RESIDENT SINGLE \$65

NON RESIDENT FAMILY \$120

LESSONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE FAMILY PASS,
EACH LEVEL WILL BE CAPPED AT 10 SWIMMERS

POOL HOURS

10AM-12PM LESSONS (EVERY $\frac{1}{2}$ HR.)

12:00-1:00 ADULT SWIM (MON-FRI)

1PM-7PM OPEN SWIM

11AM-7PM SAT AND SUN

DAILY FEES

NON RESIDENT ADULT \$7.00

NON RESIDENT CHILD \$6.00

SWIM LESSONS

THERE WILL BE 2 TWO-WEEK SESSIONS MON-FRI

FIRST SESSION 6/20 - 7/1

SECOND SESSION 7/11- 7/22



Above, the 3rd and 4th grade baseball teams. Below, RTS Memorial Day ceremony.



Above, Mrs. Norton's 2nd grade class in their Author Study. Below, Senator Terenzini visiting the 4th grade.



Rutland Free Library
From Director Randal Smathers

Summer is for reading!

Rutland Free Library is inviting all kids to join our free Summer Reading Club!

Kids who read during the summer do better in school the next year; they retain more of their hard-earned knowledge over the break and need less review in the fall. In fact, there's no better way to help a child succeed at school than introducing them to reading. Summer Reading Club makes it a fun activity, and readers win prizes just for reading whatever interests them, at their own pace.

Every member is also invited to print their name on our octopus to show visitors!

The club is open to everyone, so if you have grandkids or other children visiting for the summer, they are welcome to join the fun.

The theme is under the sea, so look for special events with an ocean flair all summer.

Story times

In addition to our regular Thursday morning story times (10 AM most weeks; please see the calendar at rutlandfree.org or call 802-773-1860 to confirm), we're having special story times during the summer. The therapy dogs from Caring Canines are back for Tales to Tails at 10 AM on Saturdays June 25, July 23, and Aug. 27.



Keep an eye out for Rutland Free Library's Book Bike this summer!

Kids get to meet and read stories to the dogs, who are simply the best listeners for beginning readers!

We're also having Stuffed Turtle Story Time on July 26 from 6:30-7:15 PM. Kids will get to make their own stuffed toy and have a turtle-themed story to celebrate their new friend! Advance registration is required for this free event; please call or see the website.

Killington Music Festival

The region's premiere classic music event is returning to the library again this summer! The KMF Young Artist series is presenting free lunchtime concerts in the Fox Room, at noon on Wednesdays July 13 and 20.

Rutland Free Library is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization that serves Rutland Town, Rutland City, Mendon, Tinmouth, and Ira, whose taxpayers generously support our work. Residents of any of these communities are eligible to borrow materials at no charge from the library or download or stream audiobooks, ebooks, movies, music, or podcasts through the website at rutlandfree.org



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Rutland Town Seniors

From Secretary Nancy Burgess

The Rutland Town Seniors held the May 24th gathering at the Rutland Town School. Honor Society students met us at the door and escorted us to the cafeteria. Students also served our lunch. These students were most gracious, polite and friendly. We were treated with a delicious pasta dinner served with salad and bread along with a colossal chocolate chip cookie. Our hats off to the kitchen staff that prepared our lunch. We were also entertained by the awesome Rutland Town School Band for about an hour. They played songs that we were all familiar with. All I can say is they are all amazing. We should all be proud of these students; I know we were.

The following are dates and times for our next upcoming two luncheons.

1. The next Senior Luncheon Meeting will be held at Denny's on Tuesday, June 21st at 11:30 A.M. Reservations need to be into President Randy Roberts by Tuesday June 14th at rr1954@comcast.net so he may give the restaurant a count.
2. On Tuesday, July 26th, the meeting will be held at Rutland Town Northwood Pool at 11:00 A.M.
(Please Note date and time change).
Reservations need to be into Randy Roberts by Tuesday, July 19th at rr1954@comcast.net. This luncheon is sponsored by the Town Recreation Dept.
3. Tentatively we would like to schedule a bus trip for August and more information will follow later.
4. We welcome all Rutland Town Seniors to join in our luncheons and if you would like to join us,

please contact President Randy Roberts at rr1954@comcast.net.



Students in Katie McDougall's class, working on the Tomatosphere project, detailed on page 6.

News from the Rutland Town School Board

By Tina Keshava

We are happy to announce that the teachers union and GRCSU have come to an agreement on a contract through the 2024-2025 school year. Thank you to those on the negotiation teams for both sides.

As this school year comes to a close, the board would like to express its gratitude to our teachers and staff for all of their hard work and dedication to our Rutland Town students.

We would also like to show our appreciation to our students and families for being flexible and supportive with myriad changing covid protocols throughout the past two years.

Lastly, congratulations to our graduating 8th graders. Best of luck at high school next year and beyond. If any resident or community member would like to attend any of our meetings, they are held in-person and remotely on the second Monday of every month (usually) at the GRCSU central office on Evelyn St. Agendas and minutes are posted in the main office of the school, at the Town office, and online on the school website rts.grcsu.org. Everyone is welcome and we hope you all have a safe and fun summer!

Planning Commission Con't. from pg. 1

The Planning Commission looks forward to working with the Select Board to continue checking items off the pocket park list!

On another front, the Planning Commission is working with the Select Board on an upcoming energy survey. We want to hear what you think about the Town Plan's section on energy conservation, energy use and renewable energy and we hope you will tell us about the energy measures you have already taken for your household. Keep an eye out for the survey this fall. In the meantime, have a great summer!

Tomatosphere at Rutland Town School

By Katie McDougall

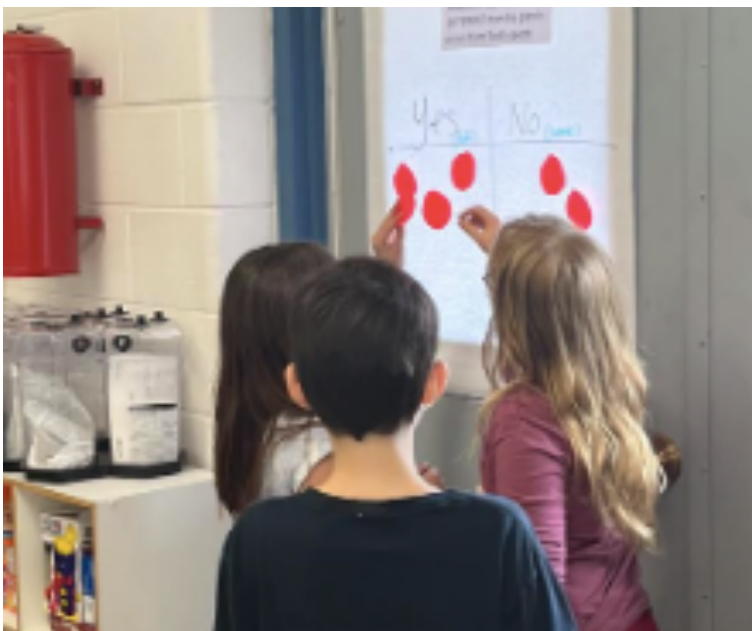
TomatoSphere investigates the effects of the space environment on the growth of food (in this case tomatoes) that will inevitably support long-term human space travel.

You can find more information about TomatoSphere on their website. Our specific seeds went to space from December 6, 2020 to January 14, 2021 on the SpaceX CRS-21 Dragon!

Mrs. McDougall's middle school science students collaborated with Mrs. Chapdelaine and Mrs. Duguay's fourth graders and Ms. Waite's first graders on this year's investigations!



In Week 1 of Tomatosphere, students collaborated to make predictions about their space and earth tomato seeds. After, they tried the astronaut exercises to see if they were fit for space travel.



In Week 2 of Tomatosphere, below, students practiced making observations about healthy and unhealthy tomato plants then planted the Tomatosphere seeds. They learned that a blind test means that they don't know which seeds were on the ISS for 6 weeks and which stayed on Earth! We are excited to see them germinate next week!



In Week 3 of Tomatosphere, below, students focused on collecting data about seed germination, sequencing then dancing the tomato plant life cycle, and finally designing their first meal on the ISS based on the constraints of space travel.



In Week 4 of Tomatosphere, students observed there were more "T" seeds sprouted than "U" seeds in all four classes! They brainstormed ways to farm on the moon or Mars then created a Mars Helicopter out of paper and a paperclip. Only two weeks left until they bring home their own tomato plant for the summer!

CONGRATULATIONS, RUTLAND TOWN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

The Rutland Town Select Board is proud to announce the award of 6 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. These students, all residents of Rutland Town, have excelled in academics, leadership, community and family service, and have demonstrated financial need and determination to succeed in their pursuit of higher education.

Scholarship Committee members Mary Ashcroft and Sharon Rus to the Select Board.

The amount of \$15,000 was approved by voters at Town Meeting in March for these scholarship awards:

\$4,000 Katelynn D. Regula, Proctor High School
\$2,200 Maci J. Celentano, Rutland High School
\$2,200 Jack C. Coughlin, Rutland High School
\$2,200 Brady M. Geisler, Rutland High School
\$2,200 Isabelle D. Ladabouche, Rutland High School
\$2,200 Zachary C. Nelson, Rutland High School

Our Town Wide Celebration is Back! From Mary Ashcroft

Save the date of Saturday, August 27, for our Town Wide Celebration at Northwood Park!

The Celebration, started in 2018, was put on hold during the pandemic, but we are back with an array of fun family activities:

- FREE swimming all day at Northwood Pool
 - Swim up movie at dusk
 - Music by DJ Brett Myhre
 - FREE lunch featuring gourmet grilled hamburgers and hotdogs with all the fixings.
 - FREE Happy Cow Ice Cream.
 - Fire safety demos by our own RTFD.
 - RFPD Speed Cart Challenge—how fast can you run or bike?
 - Pickle Ball Tournament hosted by the RT Rec Department
 - Jump for Fun Bouncy House
 - Rutland Free Library Book Bike
 - Regional Ambulance Service display
 - RT Energy Committee Survey
 - ALL DAY PLAY on the Northwood hiking trails, playground, ballfields and disc golf course.
- More events and displays are being planned, so check out the latest additions on our town's website or Facebook page. Have an idea or activity we should include? Contact any member of the Town Wide Celebration Committee: Kurt Hathaway khathaway@rutlandtown.com; Mary Ashcroft mashcroft@rutlandtown.com or Bill Sweet bsweet@rutlandtown.com.

Come celebrate our Town on August 27 at Northwood Park. The Park is open from dawn to dusk; most Celebration activities are scheduled from 10AM to 2PM.



Above, 2nd grade students at Wonderfeet Museum study. Below, 5th grader Emma Harte on Cinco de Mayo.



Rutland Town School: How has it changed from 1967 to today?

Story created by 7th grade students—

Elizabeth Alexander, Lexus Blackburn, Zoie Harrington, Alanna McGrath, Kira Snow

Rutland Town School, at 1612 Post Road, was built during the year 1967. Before the construction, there were multiple schools in the town.

When the school was dedicated at a formal gathering, the program said, "This day will be remembered and recorded as one of the most important days in the history of Rutland Town because today we dedicate this new building and formally open it to the public." That was fifty-five years ago! There have been a lot of changes since then.

Did you know there was a hill where the oval parking lot in front of the school is now? It had to be dug up and moved in order to build the school. There are lots of other changes, too.

The original building was the entire center and the cafeteria of what you see today. The cafeteria was also used as the gymnasium for everyone. A big change was that two sections were added on either side of the original school building.

The first section was added in 1988 and now has the pre-k and kindergarten areas.

The second section was added in 1995 and now has the big gymnasium, the music room, and a few other classrooms.

Classrooms had only dividers, there were not walls. The classrooms were one big area and it was called The Open Wing.

Over the years, the dividers were taken out and the classrooms walls were put in.

More changes were made! This time it had to do with the new gymnasium. The floor used to be tiled just like in the cafeteria, but around the year 2006, the town decided to change the flooring system to wooden, shiny floorboards. The change was for children's safety as they were playing in the gymnasium. The wooden floors are much easier on their bodies.

Originally, the cafeteria was also used as the gymnasium for everyone. One change made to the cafeteria was the stairs leading up to the stage were removed.

Also, the curtain that covered the stage was consumed in floral print with a white background. The curtain now is dark blue with a velvety feel and look to it.

The library has changed, too. When the library was first built, there were light brown wooden tables and chairs to match. The tables were extremely sturdy and strong, but this year Mr. McGee, our librarian, switched the original tables out for medium blue wooden tables and chairs because the old tables that were breaking.

Comparing photos of the school from 1967 to today, you see the school roof has changed. The entire roof was flat, which caused water damage. Around the year 2000, the school decided to change the roof and make it pointed and slanted so the water was able to run off.

This also created a second floor since there was room in between the first floor and the slanted roof area. The school was also able to add solar panels to the roof to produce solar power. Soon an elevator will be installed to access the second floor.

The old photographs also show the clothing that people wore.

In all of the school pictures, girls wore their curly, long hair down, bland colored dresses, stockings, and dressy shoes. Boys wore short hair, dressy pants, and fancy, and bland colored shirts.

Many things have changed, but some things have stayed the same. The school is still mostly brick. Brick was a good choice because it is sturdy. It has lasted more than five decades. There is also marble everywhere. There are black marble baseboards in the hallway and black marble shelves in classrooms.

There are white marble walls in the hallways from outside of the cafeteria to the main office. And a big way Rutland Town School has stayed the same, is that teachers still expect a lot from students. They expect them to follow rules and do their best work.

Happy Summer Break!
The Circle will resume with the October issue

**From the Rutland Town
Fire Department
By Chief Chris Clark**

Happy Summer! We hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather we've been having. We want to remind everyone of a few safety tips with summer fast approaching. Our summer weather often contributes to some dry conditions that may spark brush and forest fires. We ask you to be extra cautious during these months of extreme temperatures. Make sure all campfires are extinguished completely before leaving the area. Be cautious when mowing your lawn as to not blow the grass clippings out into the road where it can make slippery conditions for motorcyclists. And, with Fourth of July being a time of gatherings and fireworks, we ask you all to practice safety around these explosives. This includes getting the necessary permit signed by the fire chief at least two weeks in advance of the day you wish to light off the fireworks.

We hope to have a beautiful day for our Town Wide celebration at Northwood Park on August 27th. The fire department will be there offering games and giving everyone a chance to see the new Engine 3. The department is scheduled to receive its new engine in the early part of the summer. Four members of the fire department had the opportunity in mid-May to travel to Minnesota for the final inspection of the truck. Rosenbauer treated our firefighters in style and proved to be a spectacular choice to build our new engine. The quality is beyond our expectations, and we can't wait to reveal it to you all soon. So, make sure to come by on August 27 to take a look!

As always, stay safe and don't ever hesitate to call us with any questions or concerns. Have a great summer!

From RTS Teacher Cristy Murphy



My sincere gratitude to this wonderful group of children and their families as we close out our kindergarten year together. I wish I could have shown you all of the amazing pictures that show the depth of our learning this year.

Among all of the academic growth we have seen in these brilliant friends, we have also watched them grow into even more kind, empathetic and inquisitive young people.

We learned life skills, we learned to pump on a swing, we learned to use our manners, we learned to communicate with words, we learned to stand up for others and to be kind to our environment.

We never gave up, always did our best and cared for one another like family. Best wishes to all of the Rutland Town community and thank you for this year!



Pictured left, some middle school students are working on improving the trail system surrounding the school during Independent Study. With Mrs. McDougall, students identified some plant and animal species, photographed the ABCs of nature, and are now creating fun activities for elementary students to engage with as they walk the nature trail. Come check out their work!

In Honor of Retired Teachers

Submitted by Linda Mullin



Retired RTS teachers Bev Browe, Marcia Barron, Stan Blicharz, and Randy Dewey still working hard.

Town News Con't. from pg. 1

With a total lack of transparency to our officials and a refusal to even respond to FOIA requests for public information regarding the contractual arrangements between the owner, the service provider (NGO) Life Intervention Team, and the state, the town has been left no option but to intervene and file a motion with the District Environmental Commission for a jurisdictional opinion that Cortina is in violation of their original 250 permit and is definitely NOT operating as a hotel.

Filed on the 25th of May, we are awaiting their decision. We will continue, on your behalf, to protect the town's position as our Police department has seen its workload increase from 150 calls for service in the southern sector in 2020 to over 500 in just the first 4 months of this year, putting us on a track of ten times the workload or 1500 calls for this year---and 90% of the total workload of our department.

This is not sustainable and close to a half a million of your tax dollars are being required just to meet the law enforcement needs placed upon us by residents forced upon us by the state, most of whom are not county residents and many not even be state residents.

This should not be the financial responsibility of the Rutland Town Police Department.

The third item is more pleasant for sure. Through the efforts at proper grant writing, the collaborative duo of Deputy Chief Ted Washburn and Administrative Assistant Bill Sweet responded to a grant proposal request by Congressman Peter Welch for Community Service Grants for Public Safety, Fire, and Emergency Management in the amount of 2.1 Million, or the balance of our estimate for our new facility for just those purposes.

Out of 100 proposals submitted throughout the state, Congressman Welch selected our proposal as one of only 15 that he would, and did, submit to the House Appropriations Committee for funding. If our grant is approved this would mean that the entire project would be totally funded by federal dollars, a combination of ARPA funds and this grant.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Congressman Welch for his kind consideration. I have invited him to our Community Wide Celebration in August. We hope he can join us.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer.

From the Lister's Office

By Howard Burgess

BUILDING PERMITS:

The Town of Rutland has Building Permits that are required for construction activities within the Town. Building permits are required for construction of new dwellings, expansion of existing buildings and addition of decks, porches, outbuildings, swimming pools etc. No fees are required for the permit, but there are penalties and fines that will result when permits are not obtained. While the Listers are receiving some permits, we realize that there are others who are not aware of the policy. Applications and important information can be found on the Town Webb site or by contacting the Town Administrator, Bill Sweet or the Listers Office.

E-911:

Towns in Vermont are responsible for administering and maintaining property addresses for the Vermont 911 Emergency System. Homeowners and Business' are responsible for the placing and maintenance of their 911 numbers.

911 EMERGENCIES

DISPLAYING ADDRESS NUMBERS

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

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

Recommendations for displaying address numbers. Place a number on the front of every addressed structure (preferably at least 3 inches high and reflective).

Mailboxes at the roadside should be marked with the house number.

If the structure is not visible (and no mailbox is beside the driveway leading to the structure), a sign or number post should be erected at the road to display the number.

Mark shared driveways both at the beginning of the driveway and where the driveway splits to each specific structure.

It is very important that the address number be placed high enough that it will not be obscured by snow during an average winter.

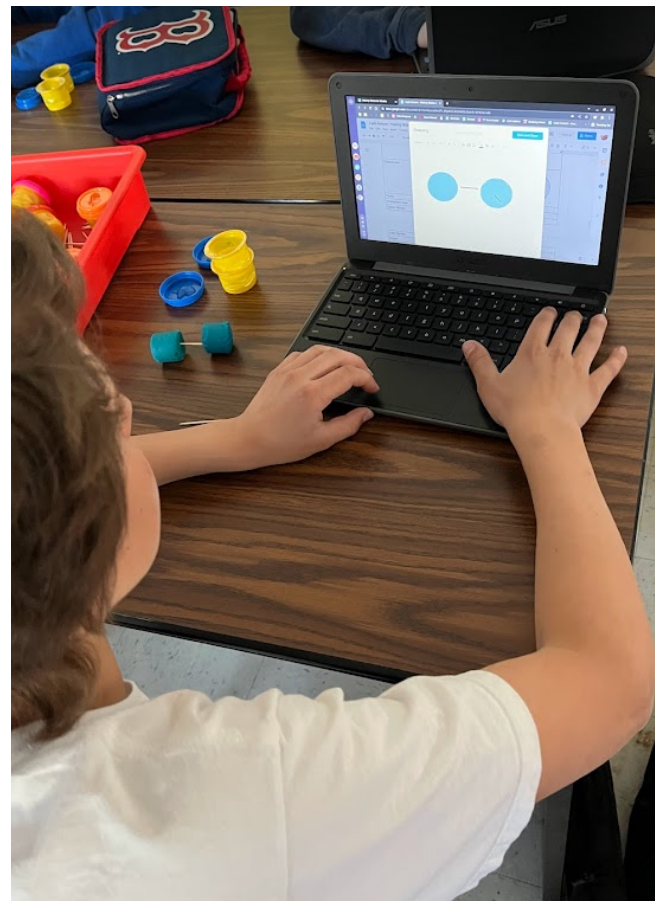
If you have multiple units, please be sure the unit number or letter is displayed over the best door to access that unit.

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

Contact: Howard J. Burgess, 911 Coordinator
770-1898 or email HBurgess@rutlandtown.com



Pictured above and below, Mrs. McDougall's seventh graders are using 3D printers to complete their standard on molecules. Students first created models using playdoh, then used Tinkercad to develop their molecule designs.



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Rutland Town School ... Where Futures Begin!

RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE	23	Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 pm
JULY	3	Fourth of July Fireworks at Northwood Pool - 8:30 pm
	5	Selectboard meeting - 6:00 pm
	19	Selectboard meeting - 6:00 pm
	26	Rutland Town Seniors Luncheon - 11:00 am
AUG	2	Selectboard meeting - 6:00 pm
	4	Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 pm
	16	Selectboard meeting - 6:00 pm
	25	Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 pm
	27	Town-wide celebration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
	31	1st day of school



Town & School websites: rutlandtown.com & rutlandtownschool.org