

The Circle

Rutland Town's Link between School and Community



October 2022

TOWN NEWS

By Don Cioffi

Select Board Chair

THE HOMELESS SAGA

For two and a half years now our town has been struggling with the state imposed homeless problem given to our town by the transformation of the former Holiday Inn, now called Cortina, into a homeless shelter and the law enforcement burden placed on our police department has mushroomed to proportions that simply could not be sustained with your tax dollars. Enforcement calls at the plaza and Cortina have risen to as great as 50% of our total calls and officers are on the brink of burnout.

Recognizing all of this, I asked our board if it was not appropriate to challenge the original Act 250 permit since Cortina was NOT operating as a hotel, but rather transitional housing. Our board agreed and our challenge was made to the District 1 commission, which ruled in our favor that Cortina needed an amended permit. That issue is now on appeal in front of the Environmental Court Judge.

Immediately following that, it was the board's unanimous decision to try and mediate this dispute with the following goals in mind:

1. Compensate the town for two years of police call outs.

Continued on pg. 3

RTS UPDATE

From Principal Sarah Tetzlaff

We are happy to welcome 363 students to the 2022-2023 school year at Rutland Town School! Along with our students, we are excited to welcome new teachers and staff to our team.

Alison McNamara- 7th and 8th grade Math teacher
Ashley Arnold- Paraeducator
Erica Washburn- Paraeducator
Georgia Keeley- Custodian
James Willis- Custodian

The school year is off to a great start. Teachers and students are getting to know each other and establishing routines that will be used throughout the year.

Continued on pg. 5

News from the Rutland Town Planning Commission

By Barbara Noyes Pulling

Over the past few months, the Rutland Town Planning Commission has been working with the Selectboard's energy committee on ways to help residents save money on energy and become more energy efficient. We decided we needed more information from homeowners and came up with a survey to hear directly from you about energy conservation and the future of renewable energy in Town.

Our current town plan includes an energy section that includes a list of 53 actions the town can take to meet the state's goal of becoming 90% renewable by 2050. By filling out the survey you can help us prioritize that list by telling us which energy measures you have already taken and which topics you would like to hear more about.

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**From Kari Clark
Town Clerk & Treasurer**

Susan and I hope you had a great summer!

As we move into Fall we wanted to give our residents some important information. We are weeks away from the November General Election. All active voters in our system will be receiving an absentee ballot sent to them from the State of Vermont. The Election Division already has our Town's mailing addresses.

This is important to know because if you log in to the State of Vermont's My Voter Page you will see an absentee ballot request on September 9, 2022. Just know all active voters have this date in their profile.

Additionally, this information becomes important for anyone moving or transferring in or out of Rutland Town during this time. The address on file as of September 9th will be the address your ballot is mailed to. If you no longer live at the address the state had on file, then you have 2 options: call our office at (802) 773-2528 to request another one providing us with a new address OR you can vote in person at either one of our polling places.

Either way, you will need to sign an affidavit acknowledging you never received the ballot sent out by the state. Remember to follow all instructions on the ballot so we can assure you that your vote counts.

Additionally, there has been an update to the timeline to get a marriage license. Normally, we would process your application same day but to provide you with the best possible service we are asking applicants to allow 24 hours for processing. The application fee is \$60.00. Each additional copy is only \$10. We can accept check or cash.

Susan and I always look forward to seeing you in the office, at the polls and around Town!



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**From Assistant Principal
Eric R. Gross**

Thank you for generously supporting our first assembly of the year with two incredibly successful showings of Ted Lawrence's Dr. Quinton Quark, Slapstick Science presentation for our K-4 and fifth through eighth-grade students. The shows were massive hits with students and staff alike! With smiles abound, kids of all ages were captivated by Ted's humor, science knowledge, and pedagogical showmanship. The PTO's gift to our Rutland Town Chargers—big and small—was a real treat. Thank you!



Photo credit: Video MD Productions
Patrons and town officers enjoying the Townwide Celebration held in August at Northwood Park.



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,

Welcome to fall, just an update on things happening at the rec over the summer and this season.

The weather was great and that meant lots of people at the pool. We had over 7,000 swimmers this past summer enjoy the friendly confines of Northwood Pool. We hosted a couple of events from dive-in movies, to senior luncheons, to the very successful townwide celebration.

We also started working on our MT biking trails as well as our back nine for disc golf. We hope to have these finished in the late spring of '23. We also added 2 pickleball courts next to the basketball court, so get out and give it a go. I would like to thank the lifeguards and the highway crew for making the summer a huge success.

Well it is fall and that means soccer and flag football, this season we have had a huge turnout for our programs for grades K-6. You can find a game schedule on the town's website under recreation, so get out and check one out. Also this fall we will be continuing with our Halloween Party **"Trick or Treat on the Trail."** This event will happen for town residents on October 28 from 5:00 to 6:30 right behind the school. This year's 8th grade will be creating games you can play as you walk the trail. Make sure to bring a bag to collect your haul of candy on your journey around the festive trail.

Winter will be here soon and that means basketball, sign up will start the first week of November so check out the town's website for your sign-up form.

As always if you have any questions please contact me at 779-2518. Enjoy the beautiful fall weather.

(Town News Continued from pg. 1)

2. Establish an ongoing police presence in the southern enforcement area separate and distinct from our other residential policing needs and provided by Cortina.
3. Provide a strong barrier against foot traffic between the rear of Cortina and the plaza.
And most importantly-
4. Negotiate a firm end date to the voucher program at Cortina and see its return to a hotel status.

Our litigation team consisted of me as Chair, Sharon Garafano Russell because of her 35+ years of experience with the homeless, and Mary Ashcroft as an alternate on the litigation team to work with our town attorney, Kevin Brown. We prepared a negotiation strategy and platform and held many meetings with the Cortina, its principals, and its attorney. Every step along the way our proposals were brought before the full board in executive sessions, fully discussed and modified in some cases, and ultimately agreed upon unanimously. I give great credit to my fellow board members for all of our ability to coalesce in this matter.

Because we have reached a binding settlement agreement officially signed by both parties, I am proud to be able to tell you all that this agreement calls for payment of \$75,000 up front money (already received) as reparation for two years of policing documented in the Cortina and vicinity, payment of \$22,500 on the first of each month from October through March for the provision of directed and/or special officer patrols in and around the plaza and Cortina (which have already started), the construction of a 9 foot anchor fence along the entire rear boundary of the Cortina property to impede foot traffic there, and a firm end date of March 31 to the voucher program and an end to the status of homeless shelter.

This has not been easy and the entire board deserves your thanks. It was a challenging atmosphere of drugs, prostitution, robbery and trafficking that a small town police department and limited governance has to deal with and I think, with this settlement agreement, we all have served our public well. Please pray for our officers' safety.

Rutland Free Library Update

From Director Randal Smathers

Thanks to Rutland Town Selectboard for inviting us to join the end-of-summer celebration at Northwood Pool, and particular thanks to the Roads Department for giving our book bike a lift up and down Post Road! The bike – purchased with ARPA funds distributed by the State Department of Libraries – is designed to let us get out of the building more, so we were glad to be at the town's celebration. Thanks also to everybody who stopped by to chat.

We have a busy fall schedule. Our First Wednesdays speaker series returns live through December, then goes virtual until spring. The series, presented by Vermont Humanities, brings world-class speakers to Rutland for free. Talks begin at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month from October through May, in the Fox Room.

Kellie Ettori leads a series of free, six-week yoga programs in the Fox Room, from 4-5 p.m. on Thursdays through mid-December.

There's also a full slate of children's programming. Mondays start at 10 a.m. with Baby and Toddler Rock: Music and movement for our youngest users! Wednesdays we are delighted to welcome back Rutland County Parent Child Center, who host our Early Literacy Playgroup, from 10-noon. Miss Allie, a certified teacher, hosts this group for 2-5 year olds. Thursday morning is Storytime with Children's Librarian Miss Amanda, with stories & a craft beginning at 10 a.m..

Check out the calendar at www.rutlandfree.org for an ongoing series of evening and Saturday events, including a visit to the Hathaway Farms Corn Maze for pumpkin-picking, storytime, and regularly scheduled after-school movies in the Fox Room.

Monthly book sales are back: Nov. 11 from 10-4, Nov. 12 from 10-2, then Dec. 9 from 1-4 and Dec. 10 from 10-2. Books, puzzles, comic books by donation, so please give generously to support our work!

New parents! We are proud partners of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which mails high-quality books to children for free, monthly, from birth through their fifth birthday. Drop by to sign up, or see the website at www.rutlandfree.org.

Planning Commission Con't from pg. 1

The survey will take about 10 minutes and there are several different ways to fill it out. You can go to the town website and look for the survey link in the yellow banner near the top of the home page.

You can point your smart phone at the QR code below to go directly to the online survey. Or if you happen to be in the Town Clerk's office, ask for a hard copy to fill out and then return to the town office.

Thank you in advance! We truly appreciate your help in this endeavor. And we hope to have the survey results in the next edition of The Circle.

Rutland Town Homeowners:

Please take our online survey about

- reducing energy costs
 - conserving energy
 - and using renewable energy
- by scanning the QR code.



Through a partnership with the state of Vermont Department of Libraries, we offer some 18,000 ebook and audiobook titles for free download to cardholders. Simply download the Libby app from the Apple or Google Play stores, find Rutland Free Library, verify your card number, and get started anytime, anywhere!

We also feature free movie and TV streaming through Kanopy and music streaming / downloads via Freegal. See the Borrow tab on our website to get started. Finally, welcome to our new cardholders from Rutland Town! We're at 1,438 members in the town, up from 1,419 last year. Cards are free if you live, own property or attend school in Rutland Town, City, Mendon, Tinmouth, or Ira. Just drop by 10 Court St. in Rutland City to sign up (photo ID and proof of residence required).

From the Fire Committee

By Sharon Garafano-Russell
Selectboard Chair

As the representative from the Selectboard to the town fire department I met with Chief Chris Clark and Assistant Chief Larry Delveneri to learn about our new truck and the future fire house on McKinley Ave. so as to better inform you, our community.

Why did we replace the 21 year old truck? The answer is: it would not pass inspection, the frame was rusted and not safe. As you might have read in an article in the Rutland Herald, Rutland City is facing a similar issue and just to rehab one of their trucks is going to cost an estimate of \$880,000 and still be an old truck.

Our new truck is a Rosenbauer with a projected life span of 30 years. The frame is galvanized hot dip with stainless steel straps to hold up the fuel tank, air tanks, battery box, and will not rust. The truck has new technology to increase its ability to better serve our firefighters and keep the businesses and homes in our town safe.

A committee of six were chosen to do the research and design for the new truck that took over two years to build. The following were the members who served us so well: Chief Chris Clark, Matt Voity, Bill Sweet, Dan McCarthy, Chris Henderson, Jared Rou.

As for our new firehouse I first must give a shout out to John P Faignant, clerk of the works, who has worked many hours with site engineer Patrick Griffen, architect Ed Clark, and Claus Bartenstein, all who have worked together to give the citizens of Rutland Town a building that will take our firefighters and our emergency management folks to many years of a safe and wonderful facility.

The testing on the grounds were done, core samples taken, water testing all with no issues.

The only thing found was debris from the original build many years ago, none of which was chemical, and was safe to build on. The building itself had no lead paint, no stored dangerous chemicals, so the demolition will be safe.

The good news on the cost is that we already have several sources of money to offset the cost as follows: 1.4 million in ARPA funds, \$800,000 in capitol improvement funds, \$190,000 in an emergency management grant that will be used for emergency management area that can also be used as a meetings area for the firehouse.



RTS students in 7th grade math using proportional relationships to estimate the height of a tower made of one million pennies.

RTS update con't.

We are always looking for substitutes and volunteers. If you are interested in being a substitute, please contact Ellen Coyle, GRCSU Substitute Coordinator, ellen.coyle@grcsu.org, (802) 775-0566 ext. 2126.

We would like to welcome any community member to come visit our school. We are happy to give you a tour so you can see the wonderful teaching and learning that is happening. Please call (802) 775-0566 to make an appointment. Please also check out our Facebook page, Rutland Town School - Facebook, and our website, <https://rts.grcsu.org>, for school-related updates, student events, and general school news.

We want to thank all of the community members for the continued support of our amazing school.

As you can see we all feel that this is the time to build, as our firetrucks are piggybacked to each other, space is tight and moving things around you might say just take minutes, but in a fire minutes can mean lives. If we put this off the cost will only rise. I hope I have answered your questions and if you have any that I have not, give me a call and I will try to get you the answers.

Welcome RTS New Teacher



Rutland Town School is pleased to welcome Alison McNamara as our new 7th and 8th grade math teacher. Mrs. McNamara is entering her 21st year of teaching mathematics. She started her career teaching high school math at Missisquoi Valley Union High School where she taught for seven years. Mrs. McNamara continued her teaching career at Middlebury Union Middle School, where she taught 7th and 8th grade math for thirteen years. Mrs. McNamara is a Nationally Board Certified math teacher and has been a wonderful addition to our school community.



On Dewey Field and Northwood Park

From Sharon Garafano-Russell
Recreation Committee Chair

As I walk most days at Northwood Park I often think of Robert Frost and his poem The Road Less Taken. The original members of the recreation board took that road and had a vision of what could be and how lucky this town is for that.

To Don Chioffi, Carol Denardo, Nancy Burgess, Tom Lord, Jesse Billings, Dave Seward, and Paul Horton thank you for that vision as you have made a difference for many now and into the future.

To the many recreation members I served with, job well done. Mike Rowe our recreation director who has taken it to another level by adding on pickleball courts, walking paths, disc golf, mountain bike paths, great job Mr. Rowe.

Mike has made it his dream to continue the growth of the park and maintain the beauty of Northwood, our pool and Dewey Field.

Most days in the summer and fall you will find Mike on the lawn mower or putting down chips checking the walking paths so we can enjoy what we have there and that has made a difference.

Folks who came to the townwide celebration raved as they traveled the ground on the train provided by Hathaway Farm and a celebration of our special place in the woods of Rutland Town.

For you folks who have not been there, take the time, it is a special place for adults and children to enjoy.

Thanks to all who have dreams and those who have ideas to add to what has been done. We welcome your suggestions.

From the Rutland Town School Board

By Tina Keshava

Happy October! School is back in session, footballs and soccer balls are in the air, and the Board is busy as usual. At our retreat this summer, we set our goals for the year. They are as follows:

- Increase culture and connection at Rutland Town School as evidenced by behavior decreases.
- Evaluate the Pre-K structure and decide if it meets the needs of the community.
- Take a proactive approach to building safety and maintenance— create a five-year plan.
- Upstairs planning and usage- involve the community.
- Continue increasing academic quality as evidenced by improvement in test scores and an increased usage of MTSS (multi-tiered system of supports).

In addition to striving to achieve the above, we are continuing work on creating a strategic plan for the Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union. In the words of our superintendent, Chris Sell, this plan will be “focused on reimagining instruction and learning while revising our systems and processes to best support students to realize the vision outlined in the Portrait of a Graduate.”

The Portrait of a Graduate for the GRCSU was developed last year by board members, teachers, and community members to set the core competencies we want all of our graduates to exemplify: adaptability, communication, critical thinking, empathy and responsibility.

All are invited to help shape this plan. Meetings will be held at West Rutland School from 5-7 p.m. on Oct. 3rd, Nov. 7th, and Feb. 6th. If you are interested in learning more and/or attending, please contact Kristine McGuiness at kristine.mcguiness@grcsu.org.

The next Rutland Town School Board meeting will be in the library at RTS on October 12th starting at 6 p.m. All are welcome!

From the Office of the Town Administrator

By Bill Sweet

We have been doing a lot of work at Town Hall making information and resources better and easier to access.

Recently we have made substantial improvements to our town website. The Town Clerk and Treasurer page has been updated and combines several individual pages into one. A new Frequently Asked Questions page has been added to the home page and the event calendar is a one-stop resource for meeting and event information.

There have been many questions lately on building rules in town. Our FAQ page should answer most questions, and we are currently reviewing Town Ordinances to help communicate the rules and regulations easier.

All the permits currently in effect in town are available on our website and can be found at <https://www.rutlandtown.com/rutland-town-permits-forms/>

A new town business directory is under development. We are building our database for this page. Please fill out our form if you would like your business included. The form is available here: <https://www.rutlandtown.com/business-info-request-form/>

We also use our Town Facebook page to send out notices of meetings, press releases, town news and more! Follow us here: <https://www.facebook.com/townofrutland>

Is there something you would like to see added to our site? Please reach out and let us know!



Photo credit: Video MD Productions
The ice cream truck at the Townwide Celebration in August.



From the Rutland Town Fire Department

By Chief Chris Clark

As quickly as summer arrived, it left us just as fast, which means the colder winter months are just ahead. The Fire Department would like to remind everyone to get all of your heating appliances serviced and get your chimneys cleaned for the upcoming heating season. Check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and replace the batteries if necessary. We'd be happy to help with any questions to make your winter a safe one.

The long wait finally came to an end when our new Engine #3 was delivered on August 9th to our Fire Department! Our members spent the month of August familiarizing themselves with the equipment and its capabilities. The truck was put into service in mid-September after making its first public appearance at the Townwide Celebration in late August.

Most recently, it was part of the Home Depot Safety Day where onlookers were given a chance to sit in it and test out the lights and sirens. If you haven't had the opportunity to see our truck, then be on the lookout for it around town.

We are always looking to expand our department and need committed members on our team. If you're interested in learning more about the department and becoming a member, then feel free to join us on a work night at any one of our two stations. We meet at 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday evening. Hope to see you there!

Stay Safe!



Hitchin' a ride at the Townwide Celebration in August.

RUTLAND TOWN SENIORS UPDATE

From Secretary Nancy Burgess

The Rutland Town Seniors' luncheon was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at Denny's Restaurant with 20 seniors attending. We always welcome new members so if you know of any senior in Rutland Town who would like to join us, please let Randy or I know so we can put you on our list. Welcome to all of you.

Randy also reminded everyone that elections for our seniors' meeting would be held in November, to nominate president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary.

For our next meeting in October, Randy asked for a show of hands of those who might be interested in going up on the Gondola, off the Killington Access Road, to the restaurant at the top. This seemed to get a favorable response.

Our next meeting will be in October with a date to be determined. Another email will be sent as soon as we have more information. Please let Randy or I know as soon as we have a date so we can plan on you. Emails are listed below.

Randy – rr1954@comcast.net

Nancy – hnburg738@gmail.com



Photo credit: Video MD Productions

And the Winners Are.... By Mary Ashcroft

Our Townwide Celebration at Northwood Park on August 27th was a great day—crammed with many displays and events, including raffles and a name-the-plow contest.

Raffle prizes included a Pico Ski Pass, two passes to Northwood Pool for the 2023 season, and two transfer station punch passes. The winners of the punch passes were Greg Thayer and Arlyn Hawley; pool passes went to Sarah Wentling and Kyle Wilson, and Brett Myhre won the Pico Ski Pass. Congratulations to all, and special thanks to our friends at Roadside Chapel who ran the raffle and helped with the kids games through the Celebration.

The impressive line-up of the winter plows attracted 31 creative entries in the name-the-plow contest sponsored by the Town's Highway Department. Winners were Abigail Sinclair with her entry of Snow Charger, Don Chioffi with Walt's Wing, and Louise Frazier with Snow Piercer. Watch for these names on our town highway plows when they are clearing local roads this winter—which we hope is a long way off.

Our Townwide Celebration, the first in 3 years, was a huge success. About 200 townspeople met and mingled at Northwood Park in perfect weather to enjoy displays, try a hand at activities and munch grilled goodies. We have many to thank for all of the work that went into the Celebration.

Our Fire Chief Chris Clark and several FD volunteers proudly displayed 3 fire trucks, while Police Chief Ed Dumas, department members and constables ran the speed cart challenge [won, we heard, by Deputy Chief Washburn.]

The Vermont Division of Fire Safety loaned their safe home trailer display. The local State Police barracks sent a cruiser and trooper, while the Regional Ambulance Service folks fielded questions and gave kids gurney rides.

Highway chief Dave Sears and his crew displayed a line up of winter plows.

Larry Dellveneri and Bill Bauer donated transfer station punch cards for the raffle, and kept the transfer station open for business.

Mike Rowe was everywhere—organizing events at the park, ordering in food and driving the tractor pulling the centipede ride. Our amazing lifeguards opened the pool for free swimming and a swim-in movie at dusk. Many thanks to Hathaway Farms for donating the use of their centipede ride.

Chair Barbara Noyes Pulling and members of the Town Planning Commission encouraged residents to enter the town's energy use survey while they answered questions about plans for the Mead Falls Pocket Park.

Bill Sweet, our Town Administrative Assistant, was the force in the background, arranging for publicity and lining up the Lifenet helicopter for an unforgettable visit to our event.

Our thanks go to the Lifenet crew who gave tours of their aircraft and answered questions from an admiring group of fans.

Local kids were delighted by the Bounce House donated for the day by Jump For Fun, our local Center Rutland Business.

Randall Smathers handed out free books for kids at the Rutland Free Library Book Bike.

The Roadside Chapel volunteers ran an obstacle course for young athletes and DJ Brett Myhre challenged young divers and swimmers to splash contests while airing dance music throughout the event.

Thank you all for making our Townwide Celebration a resounding success! See you next year.

Photos: Video MD Productions



~From Katie McDougall's Science Class~

Bird Watching at RTS

This year, our Ecology and Human Impact units will focus on our Vermont local environment and citizen science projects that allow students to explore their backyards (literally!) and collect real data that can spark meaningful connections.

I applied for and was awarded a grant to have access to Cornell Ornithology FeederWatch programming. "Project FeederWatch" is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in the US and Canada. FeederWatchers periodically count the birds they see at their feeders from November through early April and send their counts to Project FeederWatch."

If any interested Rutland Town community members are willing to donate birdfeeders, bird seed or Shepherd's hooks, we would greatly appreciate the support. As well as any bird enthusiast to join our class as we prepare for the project!



7th Grade Science
Above and below, students in 7th grade science have started the year learning about Ecology. They will be focusing on what makes Vermont unique from other places around the world.



8th Grade Science

At left, the 8th graders have started their year learning about photosynthesis and cellular respiration. In the photos, you can see students outside learning about transpiration, the process of water leaving plants through the stomata in their leaves. Students collected data on which types of tree lost the most water over the course of the week.



Rutland Town Police Department Announcement

From Chief Edward Dumas

Your police department has received two letters from the VT Department of Public Safety. The first letter is dated June 8, 2022 from Commissioner Michael Schirling and states in part: Staffing shortages at the Westminster Communication Center have reached a point that requires operational changes to maintain essential services. Require jurisdictions take all non-emergency/administrative calls, not forwarding those calls into an emergency communications center.

Business-related calls on administrative phone lines should be answered locally instead of being routed the PSAPs. Administrative calls will be routed back automatically to the local agency. We encourage agencies to create voice mail systems that advise callers to contact a state PSAP IF they require a first responder but do not direct callers to the PSAP for other calls such as seeking a call back from an employee, passing along a concern or complaint, or general inquiries not related to the need for an immediate response.

Request agencies explore alternate dispatching services when possible and accelerate work to move to a statewide system of regional communications as swiftly as possible.

The second letter is dated September 8, 2022 from Commissioner Jennifer Morrison and states in part: Please consider this email notification that all non-state agencies must take the actions listed in the attached memo under the section "Immediate Action Items for Departments."

Effective September 16th, all agencies dispatched by the Westminster PSAP must maximize the use of Valcour for routine queries, completion of fields of data, etc. We must reduce the volume of radio and phone traffic into the PSAP.

Dispatchers will continue to communicate as usual for officer safety-related inquiries and emergencies, but we must curtail the use of dispatchers for administrative matters.

Effective October 1st, all agencies dispatched by

We will drop all non-emergency calls into a voice mail box. Callers who do not have an emergency, seeking to reach a human at the PSAP will be immediately directed to the voice mail box. This is not the level of service we aspire to or that your community expects from all of us. Please find a way to divert callers away from the PSAP. No notification was ever made that the regular phone number of 802-773-9101, which has been in effect for over 50 years, is no longer answered by a person and is only a phone tree.

Thank you for your understanding as we adjust to the mandated changes.

Below is the Public Safety Notice from the Rutland Town Police.

DISPATCH EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2022

*RUTLAND TOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE PHONE – 1-802-772-4327*

*Rutland Town Hall – 1-802-773-2528
Ext. 505 for Police*

EMERGENCY - DIAL 911

Beginning OCTOBER 1st VSP Dispatch Westminster will no longer take non-emergency calls.

VSP Dispatch will no longer take any information or connect citizens directly to the officers.

All NON-EMERGENCY calls will be sent to Rutland Town Police's Office phone/Voice mail. Voice Mails will be checked daily. Cases will be generated and given to RTPD Officers. Depending on the day and schedule, Citizens may have to wait for two days before hearing from RTPD officers.

NO CALLS are to be made to officers' cell phones. **The quickest way to reach RTPD Officers is to call the office directly at 1-802-772-4327.** If someone is in the office they will answer. If no one answers, leave a message and someone will call you back as soon as possible.

The Rutland Town Police Department will continue to serve the citizens of Rutland Town to the best of their ability but, unfortunately, RTPD is NOT a 24/7 Agency. These changes have been made by Jennifer Morrison the Commissioner of VT Department of Public Safety.

**If you have an EMERGENCY - DIAL 911
POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE**

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Rutland Town School ... Where Futures Begin!

Rutland Town Community Calendar

- | | | |
|-----|-----|---|
| OCT | 25 | Select Board meeting - 6 p.m. |
| | 27 | Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m. |
| | 28 | Rutland Town Rec Halloween Party 5 p.m. |
| | 29 | RTS Halloween Parade 4 p.m. |
| NOV | 3 | Parent-Teacher Conference 12:30 p.m. |
| | 3,4 | RTS Early Dismissal - 11:45 a.m. |
| | 8 | General Election Day |
| | 8 | Selectboard meeting - 6 p.m. |
| | 17 | Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m. |
| | 22 | Select Board meeting - 6 p.m. |
| | 23 | RTS Thanksgiving Break begins |
| | 24 | Thanksgiving Holiday - Town Hall closed |

