

# The Circle

Rutland Town's Link between School and Community



December 2022

## TOWN NEWS

By Don Chioffi  
Select Board Chair

Thank you Rutland Town voters for exercising your right to democracy. Our percent in the last election was 65 and we continue to be at or near the top of the county in these numbers. As our calendar year comes to a close there are many things we, as a town, have to be very proud of. We met many challenges, both internally and externally and all your departments and your board has negotiated them quite strategically to your benefit.

Our Highway Department has undergone a very successful transition with the retirement of our commissioner and a critical worker and we are happy to say that all aspects of that department are functioning very smoothly as we plan for even more progressive changes to benefit our taxpayers. The Town Line Road and Quarterline Road projects have been completed as well as a successful municipal water extension to Post Road.

Our Listers are also undergoing a transitional period with the retirement of Mr. Burgess as a full time Lister and the looming prospect of a townwide reappraisal in the foreseeable future. The listing department is the heart of the financial data gathering which drives the Grand List and the taxing and financial stability of our town.

Our Shared Use path project through Northwood Park has received its final Act 250 approval and preliminary work has already started.

*Continued on pg. 3*

## RTS UPDATE

From Principal Sarah Tetzlaff

I want to thank all of the community members for the continued support of our amazing school! We have had a great start to the school year and have enjoyed many of the things we have missed the last few years including, school dances, PTO events, field trips, Rutland Town Senior luncheon, concerts, and more!

We continue to have strong enrollment numbers year after year. Unlike other schools in Vermont, we are not seeing a decrease in student enrollment. We currently have 355 students, Pre-K through grade 8, and 157 students attending high school.

As the new year approaches, we will continue to work on our school budget with Superintendent Sell and the Rutland Town School Board. As always, our priority is to continue to maintain our high quality of education while being fiscally responsible.

*Continued on pg. 2*

## News from the Rutland Town

### Planning Commission

By Barbara Noyes Pulling

Last chance to take the Town Planning Commission and Selectboard's survey to help residents save money on energy and become more energy efficient! We are extending the deadline until January 1, 2024 to make sure we hear from as many of you as possible. We are getting some interesting responses, so if you haven't taken the survey yet, please consider doing so.

There are several ways to access the survey. You can go to the town website and look for the survey link in the yellow banner near the top of the home page. 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. Or you can point your smart phone at the QR code on page 4 of this issue of the Circle.

*Continued on pg. 4*

## CONTENTS

Recreation Dept.	Page 3
School Board	Page 6
Highway Happenings	Page 7
Wonderfeet Programs	Page 8
Fire Dept.	Page 9

## GREETINGS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND TREASURER

By Kari Clark

From our office to your home, we wish you all the best in the new year ahead. As we look to 2023, we wanted to remind you of important dates that you'll want to mark on your calendars.

For property owners in Rutland Town, the due date for the second property tax installment is January 10, 2023. Payment is due by 4:30 p.m. on that Wednesday. We will accept payment by check, cash or credit card, either in person or by mail. You may also put your payment in our secure drop box by our front door. If you have any questions about your balance, please don't hesitate to call us at (802)773-2528. As a reminder, if you choose to send us payment through the mail it is best to get a USPS postmark. We will only accept postmarks as such if your payment arrives later than the due date.

Also, please remember that this office charges a fee of \$25 for any returned checks or EFT funds, and your payment may be subject to late fees on all returned funds.

If you're a dog owner in the Town, you'll want to remember the date of April 1. Beginning in the first week of January we will open registration for dogs that live in Rutland Town. If you own a dog and live in our Town, by law, you must have your dog registered with us by April 1. To some this may not seem like a big deal, but for a small fee, you will have reassurance that your dog has another level of protection on them when you register. If your dog gets loose, gets lost or is involved with other dogs resulting in injuries, having him or her registered will make the process so much easier for everyone involved. If you care about your furry animals like we do, you'll make the time to come by and register them.

Looking forward, we will only have one election in 2023, in March. This will be our Annual Town Meeting election when the Town budgets will be voted on.

RTS Update Con't. from pg. 1

I welcome others to visit our school and meet with me, anytime. Feel free to call the office and make an appointment, (802) 775-0566. I also encourage everyone to check out our website and follow us on Facebook to see what is happening at Rutland Town School!

### Coffee Break



Some RTS students take a quick ~~coffee~~ hot chocolate break.

This includes the school budget. You won't want to miss it, so mark it down! This is NOT an election where all ballots will be sent to your home as in November. So, if you'd like an absentee ballot for this election, please let us know by calling our office. These are just a few dates to get your 2023 off to a good start.

Happy Holidays to all! May this season bring with it joy and laughter as you celebrate with friends and family.



**PEZZETTI**  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT  
+ CONSULTING  
RUTLAND COUNTY, VT

*Professional Homeowner Services with a Personal Touch*  
Taking care of your home, property or business like our own.

**DAVID A. PEZZETTI**  
Owner

23+ Years Seasoned  
VT State Class II Public Water System Operator  
Call **802.779.4427**  
Pezproperty@comcast.net : www.pezproperty.com

Lake Homes  
Resort Homes  
Private Homes  
Condominium Units  
Real Estate Properties  
Rural Water Systems  
Water Testing

THE CIRCLE is a publication of Rutland Town and Rutland Town School. The newsletter informs the community about issues of local interest. Each year five issues are published every other month from October through June. The Circle is not a public forum. The principal and Select Board have the authority to exercise editorial control over style and content of the newsletter. Newsletter staff include Janelle Faignant. For more information, mailing list changes, to advertise or contribute, email [rutlandtowncircle@gmail.com](mailto:rutlandtowncircle@gmail.com), call the RTS office at 775-0566 or mail items to: The Circle, c/o Rutland Town School, 1612 Post Road, Rutland, VT 05701

Additionally, a Pickleball Court has been added and other meaningful improvements have been made to our recreation facilities.

Our excellent police force and our constables have been under great stress and time management pressures with a tremendous increase in the retail sector thefts and other drug related cases, not only in the southern sector but also in all other areas of the town. Fortunately, we have been able to establish a special fund with \$210,000 we received in a settlement with the Cortina Inn, and that is being used to provide overtime patrols by all our own officers in targeted areas of town. Unfortunately, most of us have no idea just how much follow-up time is required just to complete the paperwork required on each arrest just to have the perpetrators released in hours to commit more crime. It is hard to put the frustration of our officers into words but they continue to - PROTECT AND SERVE.

Our Fire Department has placed in service our new truck and the Public Safety building approved by our voters to be constructed on the McKinley Avenue station site is very near ready to go out to competitive bid which should lead to a very early spring build.

A fortunate merger of state policy and great management by your elected officials at all levels was reflected in your most recent tax bills in a 5% reduction which translates to a \$100 drop for every \$100,000 of assessed value. I have to say in these economic times, and with a sheepish grin, that we are indeed proud to have provided this to our citizens.

This is the busiest time of year for your board and departments as we all prepare budgets for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. As you can see, we are working as wizards trying to project costs that go better than 18 months out and that is a tricky business to say the least. We are fortunate, indeed to have the 1% Option Tax revenue as an infusion to our budgeted income. Last year it yielded 1.5 million and paid the entire general budget and a portion of the police budget.

But in spite of the general economic conditions in the country, we are a growing town and the complexities of government and services are requiring us to try and plan, progressively, for not only present, but future personnel needs in an increasingly bureaucratic world. We have attempted to level fund as much as we can but inflation has thwarted us at every turn and in most areas. When we look at the detail on our tax bills we should notice that on the municipal side of the ledger we all pay a very small amount, in the hundreds, for all municipal services, indeed about one fifth or one sixth of our total bill.

We all, here at town hall, are truly trying our best to plan for needs rather than wants and we hope you support our efforts. Please feel free to contact me with concerns, critiques, or comments at (802) 236-2037 or at [DChioffi@rutlandtown.com](mailto:DChioffi@rutlandtown.com).

## NEWS FROM THE REC

**By Director Michael Rowe**

Hello all,

The Rec would like to wish you all a very happy holiday season. A huge thank you to the 8th grade class and Mr. Aaron Audet for a great Halloween party this year.

We had a large number of people make their way to Trick or Treat on the Trail with lots of candy, music and laughs.

Just a reminder that basketball season has started for grades 3-6 so check out a game this winter. Our K-2 basketball program will take place over February vacation.

The skating rink will be open when the weather allows, please check the ice to make sure it is safe.

Again enjoy winter weather at our parks and have happy and safe holiday season.



Lastly, it is the Christmas season and we wish you all the joys, the warmth, the blessings, and the spirit of love, family, and friendship embodied in each of our traditions in all of our homes. There will be a Christmas Truckers Parade sponsored by Casella on Friday, December 23 starting at Casella's in West Rutland at 5 p.m. and proceeding through Center Rutland and to Route 3 to Proctor, then back along Route 7 through Rutland Town, all the way to the Bypass and back to Casella's in West Rutland. You might even see our fire department and police department represented there. The trucks are wildly and festively decorated - it is truly a nice touch. Be well, my fellow townspeople.



# Rutland Free Library Update

## From Director Randal Smathers

### The Library is growing

Along with the recent spurt of people buying homes in Vermont, Rutland Free Library has enjoyed a spurt of new cardholders. In the first four months of our current fiscal year, we signed up some 500 new members, including 61 from Rutland Town. New residents often turn to libraries for information about their new home town, how to find specific businesses or resources they need, or simply a space to work while they are getting internet or other services connected.

### Digital offering

After going all-digital during COVID, Vermont Humanities heard from many users that they preferred not having to drive to talks in the winter months. So they have decided to resume online-only events from January-March. Brought to you in conjunction with local libraries, the full menu of choices can be found at [www.vermonthumanities.org](http://www.vermonthumanities.org). You can also find an archive of these excellent, educational and entertaining talks there. We look forward to hosting you in person again come April!

### Program notes

The Fox Room is freely available for public use anytime we're open, and we do have a variety of ongoing programs. For the kids, we have weekly Babies and Toddlers Rock, Early Literacy Playgroup - offered in conjunction with the Rutland County Parent-Child Center - and Story Time. We're also showing after-school kids' movies and hosting Tales to Tails regularly. Check the calendar at [www.rutlandfree.org](http://www.rutlandfree.org) for more. For adults, we have yoga, pregnancy and nursing support groups, a book club, and regularly host community groups offering public information programs. Look for swing dancing to return in February!

### State reads

RFL has a set of the statewide reading program books to loan for book clubs (formal or informal) or other reading groups. The title is *The Most Costly Journey*, and it is a collaborative graphic memoir telling the stories of migrant laborers living and working in Vermont. Several area schools are also reading the book, so it's a chance for parents to read along with their kids.

*Planning Commission Con't from pg. 1*

We truly appreciate your help in this endeavor. Please look for the results of the energy survey in the next edition of The Circle.

The Town Planning Commission is also working with the Selectboard on a pocket park at Center Rutland Mead Falls. With the assistance of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, the Town has been meeting with Green Mountain Power (GMP) to come up with a land use agreement for its property between Otter Creek and Simons Avenue just downstream of the hydroelectric dam. Fortunately, GMP has experience working with other municipalities in creating public parks. Over the next few months, we will work with GMP on an initial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for use of the property.

Also because of the rich cultural history at the site of the pocket park, GMP will arrange for an Archaeological Resources Assessment by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Planned for 2024, this assessment will identify anything of archaeological significance on site.

Next on our pocket park list: Once we have an agreement with GMP, we want to start lining up volunteers and groups interested in helping with some of the preliminary construction work. Look for more details on that in upcoming articles in The Circle.

Happy Holidays from the Rutland Town Planning Commission!

### Rutland Town Homeowners:

Please take our online survey about

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



### Welcoming library

We're also offering the Welcoming Library, a selection of picture books around the theme of new Vermonters. It includes a handful of Spanish-language titles in addition to English titles. It is provided by the state Department of Libraries and will be in Rutland for the next few months.



## A Quiet Act of Statesmanship

By Mary Ashcroft

The press is full of news about those who ran—and won—in the statewide and national November elections. They all deserve our congratulations.

Less is written about outcomes in those small local contests which are critical to the functioning of our towns—like races for Justice of the Peace.

In Rutland Town, we elect 12 JPs every even-numbered year. Justice of the Peace is not a grand office, but it is important. JPs, with our Select Board and Town Clerk, serve as the Board of Civil Authority to run our elections, hear requests for tax abatements and consider appraisal grievances on appeal from the Listers.

This year, 12 Republicans and 6 Democrats ran for JP in Rutland Town. Rutland Town voters elected 10 Republicans and 3 Democrats for a total of 13. No, that's not a typo—we elected 13 because there was a tie for 12th place between two Democratic candidates: Bethany Jones and Joe Bertelloni. But only one could serve.

Usually in the case of a tie there would be a runoff election. That would mean special all-day polling at Rutland Town School and at Town Hall, with the resulting cost to the town, added voter fatigue, and delay in certifying outcomes. But Bethany Jones did a remarkably statesmanlike thing—she dropped out to let Joe Bertelloni take the 12th and last JP slot. She put the best interest of her town ahead of her own personal interest. For this singular, selfless act, Bethany deserves our respect and thanks.

And our thanks also go to each candidate –win or lose-- who ran in the November elections. You have each given us an invaluable gift—a choice.



## From the Rutland Town School Music Department

By Aaron Audet and Marc Whitman

Rutland Town School Music is having a great year. The students have been working very hard preparing for their performances. The Halloween Parade was a huge success. This year the band dressed up in their favorite Boston sports team apparel. The band played the song "Shipping up to Boston," a song made popular by the Boston band The Dropkick Murphys.

We won "Best Costumed Marching Band." The jazz band has also had a performance at the fundraiser "The Galactic Toy Drop" in Brandon. We are looking forward to having our first Winter concerts since 2019.

***Dec. 2 at 4:30 p.m.*** Middle school choruses perform at the Vermont Holiday Festival at the Killington Grand.

***Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.*** K-4 Concert

***Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.*** 5-8 Concert including chorus, band, and jazz band.

***Dec. 20 at 11:30 a.m.*** Jazz lunch time performance for Rutland Town senior citizens in RTS cafeteria

***Jan. 20 at 6 p.m.*** Rutland Town Talent Show

We had the Green Mountain District Band and Chorus auditions at Otter Valley a few weeks ago. We are very proud of the students who put in the extra effort to prepare a very challenging audition piece and go through the audition process.

Bella Adamaitus, Faith Majka, Alice Charron, and Kelsey Gammons all made the chorus. Andrew Pankratz, Dj Tricarico, Luke Sunderland, Ronan Duffy, and Eliza Getty made the jazz band. Logan McKenna, Eliza Getty, Ronan Duffy, Elsa McCloy, Eleanor McGlaughlin, Luke Sunderland and Dj Tricarico made the wind band. Over 60 schools participate in sending students to audition for acceptance into the festivals.

## From the Rutland Town School Board

By Tina Keshava

During the past couple months, the Board has been working diligently on the budget for next school year. With inflation, an increase in health insurance premiums of 12.7%, higher fuel costs, contractual obligations, and a change to pupil weighting, it has been challenging to keep the budget increase as low as previous years. We are doing our best to keep costs contained and quality high as always. The budget will be presented in January at Pre-Town Meeting, the date and time of which is yet to be determined.

Besides budget discussions, the strategic plan work has been ongoing. There were even several Rutland Town students at our last meeting— what a treat! Currently, the administration and design team are taking the recommendations and ideas from the community and developing a 5-year roadmap for the supervisory union. This will be reviewed and tweaked by the community at the next meeting on February 6.

In addition to the above, the Board has been evaluating the current pre-K structure to see if it is meeting the needs of the community. After researching this matter, it appears that it is. Although there is a lengthy waitlist for our school's program, most, if not all, of the children on it are accessing local pre-K classes in the community. We are so fortunate to have other options nearby.

Lastly, two of our members will not be seeking re-election when their term ends this March. Thank you Lynette and Billy for your service. If you are interested in joining the Board, please see Kari Clark at the Town Office to pick up a petition and a consent of candidate form. These will be due in late January.

The Board wishes everyone a warm and wonderful holiday season.

## ~National Hispanic Heritage Month~

Submitted by Theresa Sunderland  
Spanish Teacher

In September and October our Spanish classes celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month with Mrs. Sunderland. Our 2nd grade classes created a butterfly wing tessellation inspired by Frida Kahlo, a notable Mexican painter. More photos on page 9.





## Highway Happenings

By Road Commissioner Dave Sears

Hello. For those that have not met me yet, my name is Dave Sears. I was hired as your Road Commissioner near the end of June. I have met many of the Town's residents either through our regular work projects or at the Town Wide Celebration.

Just a quick background on me. After three years in the U.S. Army, I started working in construction in 1991. In 2004 I was hired by the City of Rutland. For most of that time I was Project Manager for the Department of Public Works.

In my short time at Rutland Town, I have felt very welcomed by everyone I have met and feel very "at home" here. I look forward to meeting more of you as time goes on.

We had a busy summer with all the projects the town had in progress when I started. Between the Townline Road culvert, Post Road water extension, paving projects, and the regular day-to-day maintenance tasks that it takes to keep things moving, our time was occupied.

On August 31 we said "farewell" to 32-year town employee Walter Tripp. We wish him the best in his retirement. We also welcomed our new employee Ben Crockett to the Highway Team.

We began gearing up in November for the upcoming winter season. We managed our first snow event on November 16 as a new team. We handled it very well and set the bar for future events.

As a reminder, the State of Vermont and Rutland Town have a "Safe Roads" policy. When snow or ice events are predicted please drive with caution and give yourself a little extra time to get to your destination safely. We will be out there trying to make your travel as safe as possible.

Happy Holidays.  
Stay Safe

## ~Holiday Happenings~



RTS students getting into the holiday spirit, including a visit with Santa himself!





## ***All Smiles in Science Class***

RTS 7th and 8th grade science students having fun *and* learning.



### **Wonderfeet Museum**

By Danielle Monroe  
Executive Director

2023 will be 10 years since Wonderfeet became an official non-profit children's museum. From our time as just a pop-up experience in a downtown storefront, to the last 7 years on Center Street, and now our expansion to over 8,000 square feet on Merchant's Row - Wonderfeet has been a reflection of the passion that Rutland County has to support families and grow our economy in creative ways. None of what we have accomplished would have been possible without the generosity and support of our community.

This is an exciting time for Wonderfeet as we close out a busy year that saw us back to our pre-pandemic schedule and operations. This year, we also got to announce our expansion into the Green Mountain Power Energy Innovation Center on Merchant's Row in Downtown Rutland. The new museum will open in Spring of 2023. The new Wonderfeet will be a one-of-a-kind children's museum experience that brings the charm of a Vermont town to life in a whimsical and engaging way. Families will be immersed in creative environments that reflect Vermont's landscape, history, and economy and inspire the imagination of visitors of every age.

From the sights and sounds of the farm to the peaceful nooks and crannies of the woods, from our town greens to the slopes of our outdoor resorts, from the history of our rail stations to the innovations of our green economy - Wonderfeet will have your family exploring their community and creating new memories together.

We look forward to celebrating with you and your families over holiday break and throughout the winter. Wonderfeet is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4p.m. During December and February school breaks, Wonderfeet will be open every day.





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

We hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. It's that time of year again--chimney fire season! We recommend getting your chimney cleaned and inspected. Never hesitate to call the fire department if you think you are having a chimney fire, or any other type of emergency.

Additionally, we ask that Town residents have visible house numbers so we can get to your emergency as quick as possible.

Please do your very best to keep your driveways and walkways clear and salted for a quick and safe response.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. Don't forget to keep your Christmas tree watered!

***Rutland Town Seniors***

*From Secretary Nancy Burgess*

*Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 20 at 11:30 a.m. The meal will be a turkey dinner to include: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, hot veggie, dinner rolls, and pie. We plan on being served at 11:45 a.m.*

*Please use the main doors and a member from the student council will escort you down to the cafeteria.*

*Mr. Audet will have the Rutland Town School Band again entertain us with music during our luncheon.*

*There is no co-pay for this luncheon, but we do ask for your cooperation in making your reservation to Randy or myself by DECEMBER 13 as they definitely need a count by that time so they can prepare the luncheon accordingly.*

*Our November meeting was held at Denny's Restaurant with 22 members attending. The election of officers for the coming year were elected as follows:*

*President: Randy Roberts*

*Vice President: Mary Ashcroft*

*Treasurer: Marty Wasserman*

*Secretary: Nancy Burgess*

*Please Note: The Rutland Town Seniors will not meet during the months of January and February of 2023. Happy Holidays to all.*

**~Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month~**



RTS 2nd grade students celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month by creating a butterfly wing tessellation inspired by famous Mexican painter Frida Kahlo.



## From Your State Representatives

I would like to say thank you to the voters in District four Rutland Town for their support in the November election. While this is a new District shared with Rutland City I can assure you that I will do my best to represent the concerns of everyone. Please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you.

Paul Clifford

802-342-1950/ pgclifford44@gmail.com

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the Rutland-2 voters in Rutland Town. My name is Art Peterson, I am one of the two re-elected state representatives, Rep. Tom Burditt being the other, who will represent you in the newly realigned legislative district, which includes the towns of Clarendon, Wallingford, and West Rutland as well as Rutland Town.

This will be my second term as a state representative. My wife Barbara and I have lived in Clarendon since 1978 and have four grown children, three of whom live locally. We also have 12 grandchildren with a 13th on the way, nine of which live here. I'm a 71 year-old West Point graduate who has spent a career in the telecommunications industry in many technical and management positions. I may be better known in the area through my work with youth sports as a football organizer and coach. For hobbies I am an avid gardener and love to hunt during the annual deer season. Most of my free time, however, will find my wife and I at grandkid's events which we love more than anything else! I am a Catholic and a member of St. Patrick's parish in Wallingford.

In this year's election I finished 4th out of the four candidates for the House seats in Rutland Town, so I have a lot of work to do to gain your acceptance and trust. I think you will find me very honest about my position on issues. I value transparency and will share my last year's votes, both roll call and voice, on all bills with you at any time. During the legislative session, which begins January 4, I will be posting daily video updates of what happened that day in the Statehouse on my legislative page on Facebook. Go to "Arthur Peterson – Vermont State Representative – Rutland District 2" and you can follow along daily.

I hope to be at Rutland Town events when possible to meet as many of you as I can. If you want to contact me please use my legislative email address, [apeterson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:apeterson@leg.state.vt.us). Please have a happy and holy Christmas Season!

Art Peterson



Above, RTS chorus students performing at the Vermont Holiday Festival! Below, Santa! And students celebrating the Christmas season.







Katie McDougall's

# Middle School Science



## 7th Grade

Below, students in 7th grade science have started their Project FeederWatch investigation as well as their own investigations. The Rutland County Audubon has been instrumental in the implementation of our new curriculum on monitoring and minimizing our impact on the bird population in Vermont.



## 8th Grade

Below, the 8th graders finish up a unit on Light Waves where they explore the properties of waves and how changing a property can affect the projection. They are now beginning their units on Reproduction and Genetics.



Rutland Town School  
1612 Post Road  
Rutland, VT 05701

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 28  
Rutland, VT

Deliver to Addressee  
or Current Resident

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

### Rutland Town Community Calendar

DEC	20	Selectboard meeting - 6 p.m.
	23	Christmas Holiday - Town Hall Closed
	23	RTS Winter Holiday Break through Jan. 2
	29	Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m.
JAN	3	Selectboard meeting - 6 p.m.
	10	2nd Tax Installment Due
	13	RTS Early Dismissal
	19	Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m.
	22	RTS Early Dismissal
	31	Select Board meeting 6 p.m.



Town & School websites: [rutlandtown.com](http://rutlandtown.com) & [rutlandtownschool.org](http://rutlandtownschool.org)  
*Happy Holidays from The Circle!*