

# The Circle

Rutland Town's Link between School and Community



March 2024

## TOWN NEWS

By Mary Ashcroft,  
Select Board Chair

The town budgets are built for fiscal year 2024-25, and are ready for voters' approval on Town Meeting Day – March 5, 2024.

Your Select Board is requesting a net increase in taxes of 5.57% to fund local government in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024. Overall, town spending is projected to increase by 15%, but we were able to apply increased revenues, grants, and special funding sources to keep tax increases at a minimum.

On the revenue side, our 1% local option tax (sales & use and rooms & meals) continues to perform well ahead of projections. We are comfortable estimating that this tax source will provide \$1.3 million in town revenue in 2024-25. We also anticipate increased revenues in delinquent tax collection receipts, and in interest paid by banks on our accounts.

We have won grants to pay for needed projects, such as an \$84,000 stormwater grant, and paving and road maintenance grants.

We will tap the motels fund, also known as the Cortina settlement fund, for \$150,000 to add a new officer to the town's police force, and to pay for directed patrols on the south end of town.

*Continued on pg. 10*

## RTS UPDATE

From Principal Sarah Tetzlaff

Dear Rutland Town,

This is my twelfth year as Rutland Town School principal and I am proud of the progress our students continue to make, year after year. They are well prepared for high school and beyond both academically and socially. We attribute their success to the support and dedication of our incredible teachers and staff, families, and the greater community.

Enrollment numbers remain consistent year after year. We currently have 352 Pre-K through grade 8 students and 176 students attending various high schools. Our class sizes average 18 students per class, and we welcomed 31 new Kindergarten students to our school this year!

We continue to have a strong, unified arts program: music, chorus, art, physical education, health, library, and Spanish. We also offer a variety of sports and clubs for our students. We have an active student council, and reinstated big buddies and little buddies this year. This is our second year of offering Spelling Bee club and, new this year, is Golf club!

We are looking forward to offering another school play this year, "The Jungle Book," stay tuned for a Spring performance (date TBD)!

*Continued on pg. 3*

## From the Rutland Town School Board

By Chair Tina Keshava

It is budget time again, and next year's budget is a tough one for our town. Due to increases in expenses outside of our control, a change in the pupil weighting formula, and another large decrease in the common level of appraisal (CLA), our taxes will be going up 17.6%. Thankfully there is a cap to ease into the new formula, because without that, it would have been closer to 37%! Unfortunately, we would need to cut \$1.6 million to make any difference, and taking that amount of money (or more) out of the budget would have significant ramifications for our students. We are hopeful that our representative and senators in Montpelier can help address the consequences of this new formula for us before the cap is gone in another four years.

*Continued on pg. 6*

## CONTENTS

Voter Information	Page 5
Town Clerk	Page 2
Planning Commission	Page 4
Recreation Dept.	Page 3
Listers Office	Page 8
Public Safety Building	Page 8

*Plus more inside...*

## From the Town Clerk and Treasurer By Kari Clark

### ONE-STOP SHOPPING!

The Clerk and Treasurer's office is excited to announce a new option for paying your taxes! ACH Debit is here and ready! Many of you have asked if we can automatically deduct your tax payment from your bank account each time that it's due. Now we can.

I'll be posting the form for this service online and I will also have several copies to fill out right here in the office. Take advantage of this, it's free! Fill out the form, bring it into the office along with a photo ID and a voided check. You'll be signed up for this until you tell us to cancel the service. Both Susan and I tested the service for our January payments, and it worked beautifully! I look forward to signing you up.

Town Meeting Election Day in March falls on Tuesday the 5th. This election will be the first of three for the year. We will begin by having our annual Town Meeting at Rutland Town School the night before at 7 p.m.

You will have the opportunity to listen and comment on each budget for the town. This also includes the school budget. You will be given an opportunity to vote on each of these items the following day beginning at 7 a.m. I encourage you to join the Town Meeting and vote the next day. Your opinion matters.

This year you will also be given an additional ballot on Election Day in March. The Presidential Primary ballots will list all the candidates running for president in each party. The results of this vote will determine which candidates will be on the November General Election ballot.

Whether you're looking for a change or just want to make sure your voice matters, VOTE! If you're not a voter in the town, think about becoming one. There are several ways you can sign up. One simple way is by registering at the polls on Election Day. But if you don't want to wait you can register at Town Hall, at the DMV when you renew your license, or by visiting [www.mvp.vermont.gov](http://www.mvp.vermont.gov).

If you decide to sign up at Town Hall, and you happen to own a dog, you can register your furry friend with us after you complete your voter's registration! Remember, all dogs in the Town of Rutland MUST be registered with the State of Vermont by April 1st. For a small fee, and five minutes of your time, knowing that your dog is registered is the peace of mind that you need. Pick up an ACH Debit form while you're there, too! One-stop shopping!

See you all soon!

## Snapshots from RTS Preschool

By Mrs. Dubois



*Photo credit: Shawn Dubois*

RTS preschool students having fun in the snow.  
More photos on pages 3 and 6.



**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 and Carol Bam. 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



Photo credit: Shawn Dubois

Above and below, snapshots from Mrs. Dubois preschool classroom. More photos on page 6.



*(RTS Update continued from pg 1)*

We were able to bring back Lifetime Sports this winter, thanks to ESSER funds and the help of many teachers, staff and parents. For five half-days this winter, students have the opportunity to participate in downhill skiing at Pico, cross-country skiing at Mountain Top, ice-skating, bowling and various activities at the school. We had 50+ students skiing, snowboarding and ice-skating for the first time! These opportunities will truly last a lifetime!

This year we welcomed the Boys and Girls Club of Rutland County to Rutland Town School. The Rutland Town School Boys and Girls Club offers after school programming to 25+ students every day.

Again, I am proud to be your principal and I appreciate your continuous support of our school. Our students have a reputation of being hard working, polite and respectful and our teachers and staff are second to none. 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!

## NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Michael Rowe



Hello All,

Well it looks like mother nature is going to be on our side as far as the outdoor skating rink we have set up at school. Many thanks to Mr. Trayah, Mr. Hood, Chief Clark and the Fire Dept. for helping to get the rink ready for the season. Please feel free to use it, but make sure the ice is solid before you step on it with your skates. If mother nature holds up her end we will be looking to have some night skating in the near future.

Basketball season for our 3/4 and 5/6 programs have entered the game part of their schedule so come out and support the kiddos. A list of games is posted under the Rec on the town's website.

It is not too late to sign up for our K-2 basketball camp which will be held over February vacation Monday through Thursday, 9-10:30 right here at school.

The senior Holiday Lunch at the school was a huge success this past December with a whole lot of people turning out to have a great meal and listen to Mr. Audet and the middle school band rock the cafeteria.

The Rec Department has submitted its budget for next year and will be at pre-town meeting to answer any questions you might have on next year's budget. Please remember to get out and vote.

As always if you have any questions or programming ideas please just give me a call at 779-2518. Enjoy the winter weather.



## Rutland Free Library

By Director Randal Smathers



Programs move indoor during the winter, but there's always something on at Rutland Free Library. We have afterschool crafts on Mondays, preschool-appropriate programs Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m., and there's always something special during school vacation weeks. Some of our most popular programs are by online registration (out of necessity). We also have regular yoga classes on Thursday afternoons and a wide variety of community programs for adults.

Check out the offerings on our calendar at [www.rutlandfree.org/calendar-events](http://www.rutlandfree.org/calendar-events)

Rutland Free Library's budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 is for a four percent increase. For the Town of Rutland, that amounts to an increase of \$4,111 to a total of \$106,889. We appreciate the support of Rutland Town voters every year at Town Meeting time. Please reach out to Director Randal Smathers at [randal@rutlandfree.org](mailto:randal@rutlandfree.org) if you have any questions about the budget or the library in general.

Fiscal Year 2023 was one of growth for the library. Rutland Town saw the most growth in cardholders, adding 136 residents to a total of 1,529. To put it another way, four out of every 10 town residents has a library card ... do you? Just bring ID and proof of residence to the library at 10 Court Street in Rutland City and we'll be happy to get you started.

In circulation, we saw double-digit growth in FY23 and again so far in FY24. We are on target to loan some 140,000 items. We also set records in programs and attendees, including hugely successful visits to Hathaway Farm. Stuffed Animal Storytime – Pigs! was so popular we needed to schedule a second night.

The biggest area of growth in lending is for online items, particularly audiobooks via download. Just download the Libby app onto your phone or other device, connect your account number to RFL and get started listening. Libby also has a large selection of ebooks.

Our streaming offerings are Kanopy video and Freegal audio, both available under the "Borrow" tab of our website at [www.rutlandfree.org](http://www.rutlandfree.org).

## From the Rutland Town Planning Commission

By Barbara Noyes Pulling

I have said this before but it is worth repeating, it is a real pleasure to work with such a dedicated, diverse, and respectful group of people that make up the Rutland Town Planning Commission: Dana Peterson, Andy McKane, Jerry Stearns, Howard Burgess, Sherman Hunter, Mary Beth Poli, and alternates Norm Cohen, and Jim Hall. Our nine member group has developed a great working relationship and our members bring a wide variety of backgrounds to the table.

Looking ahead in 2024, it looks like there are two areas of planning that we will be spending most of our time on: river corridors and housing.

### River Corridors

The planning commission is looking into the possibility of adding river corridors to the town's special flood hazard areas. These corridors allow rivers to have more room to meander over time. This often results in slower flows and less erosion and flooding during high water events. There are a mix of government, commercial, industrial, and residential properties that fall in these proposed corridors. We will be reaching out to property owners about the potential ordinance in the coming weeks.

The commission has determined the main reasons to support river corridors:

- Affects new development only (structures, fill/grading)
- Severe weather (especially flooding) is becoming more frequent
- Benefits town budget and local taxpayers if any disaster is declared
- Reduces residents' potential damages
- Reduces potential damage downstream

### Housing

Like other municipalities, Rutland Town has a housing shortage. This year it has an opportunity to take part in a program funded by the state to identify potential housing sites, determine what type of housing is most appropriate for those sites, and find developers interested in building the housing. The town and the developers will also get help navigating the applicable financial and regulatory processes. The types of housing to be considered run the gamut from single-family housing to all forms of multi-family housing such as duplexes, townhouses, and apartment buildings. The program will launch with a survey to allow townspeople to weigh in on the types of housing needed and their ideas for sites.

# ~TOWN MEETING 2024~

## VOTER INFORMATION For Town Meeting Tuesday March 5, 2024

Informational Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 4 at 7 p.m. to review budgets and ballot items for election on March 5.

*Polls open at 7 a.m. Tuesday, March 5.*

If you live on the east side of town, your voting place is at Rutland Town School at 1612 Post Road. If you live on the west side of town, your voting place is at Town Hall at 181 Business Route 4 in Center Rutland. **Polls will close at 7 p.m. Tuesday evening March 5.**

For absentee ballots and other questions please call **Town Office at (802) 773-2528.**

### Marie Faignant Town Lister, 3 Year Term

Hi. I'm Marie Faignant, formerly known as Marie Fabian. Last March, 2023, I was appointed by the Select Board to fill a vacancy in the town's lister office, and was subsequently elected by the voters in May for a permanent position. Since then, I have immersed myself into learning all the varied computer programs and tasks required of a lister, and have taken every training opportunity provided to ensure a competent understanding of the job. As many of those who know me can attest, I simply love the job of lister, and I truly enjoy the mental challenges it entails. I strive to treat everyone with respect and sincerity, and I persevere to provide correct and proper information even if I have to take the time to educate myself on the issue before responding. I genuinely care about my responsibilities, and I promise to fulfill them with diligence and integrity. I would appreciate your support in March so that I may continue to serve the town for the next three years. Thank you.

### Donald J. Chioffi Delinquent Tax Collector, 3 Year Term

First of all, Happy New Year to you all, and I wish to thank the Select Board for appointing me to fill the vacancy created when Jim Scholtz retired, and also to you, the voters, for electing me in the special election.

I am running for re-election to the 3 year term as your Delinquent Tax Collector and would greatly appreciate your support to continue to serve in this important position. Most people that find themselves in the position of delinquency have befallen on some situations over which they have little or no control. I have worked with these good citizens of Rutland Town to help them get back on good financial standing with regard to taxes. I have found, over this past tax year, that mostly due to the general economic conditions in our country many more people have found themselves in this position, which is shown by the delinquency list in our town report. There are, however, some 45 names on this list that owe less than \$10 due to mostly honest errors in math on either their or collector error.

I did call for a Board of Abatement meeting to ask that I be allowed to abate any and all accounts that were at or below \$10 but the board voted 6 to 6 with two abstentions and my request was denied. I intend to continue to pursue this as it is not a productive use of anyone's time to hound people for \$2.45.

From April 1 through December 31 of 2023 as your Delinquent Tax Collector, I turned over to the Town Treasurer \$360,309.61 collected from Property Tax and Personal and Inventory Taxes owed plus interest.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve in this position and I will appreciate your support on March 5 at Town Meeting. Thank you.

### *How do I register to vote?*

In Vermont there is no deadline to register to vote. You are allowed to register up to and including the day of the election. If you are registering to vote in Vermont for the first time, you must provide an acceptable form of ID, such as:

- Valid photo ID (driver's license or passport)
- Current utility bill
- Current bank statement
- Another government document containing your residential address.

To register, visit the Town Clerk's office for an application or visit our website to complete the online form.

**IMPORTANT:** If you register to vote online the day before an election or on Election Day, your application may not be processed and your name may not appear on the checklist. To be sure your name appears on the checklist, please register by the Friday before the election.

*School Board Continued from pg 1*

In addition to asking for approval for our budget, electing two board members, and moving some surplus into the capital improvement fund, we will be seeking your permission to finance a \$4 million dollar bond so that we can complete the second floor above the gym, as well as make other important upgrades to the building throughout the school. Our plan is to move most of the middle school to this new space, and since it will be air-conditioned, have our summer programming there as well.

Additionally, we are hopeful that it will allow us to expand our preschool program, which is important given how long the waiting list has been the past few years. We understand that this is an expensive endeavor, and it may not seem like the time to do it given the increase in taxes; however, we are at capacity in the building and unable to grow in any way. The outer walls and roof were completed 30 years ago. We do not see it getting easier or cheaper any time soon. Plus, over the next few years we have a little help with the pupil weighting cap, so now seems like the best opportunity to start this project. This bond will NOT affect our budget for next year. We hope we can count on your support for all of our ballot items this March.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any board member. Our next meeting is February 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the RTS library.

## RTS Students In & Outside the Classroom



**Never miss an issue!**  
Read The Circle online at  
[www.rutlandtown.com/the-circle](http://www.rutlandtown.com/the-circle)

# 7th Grade Science

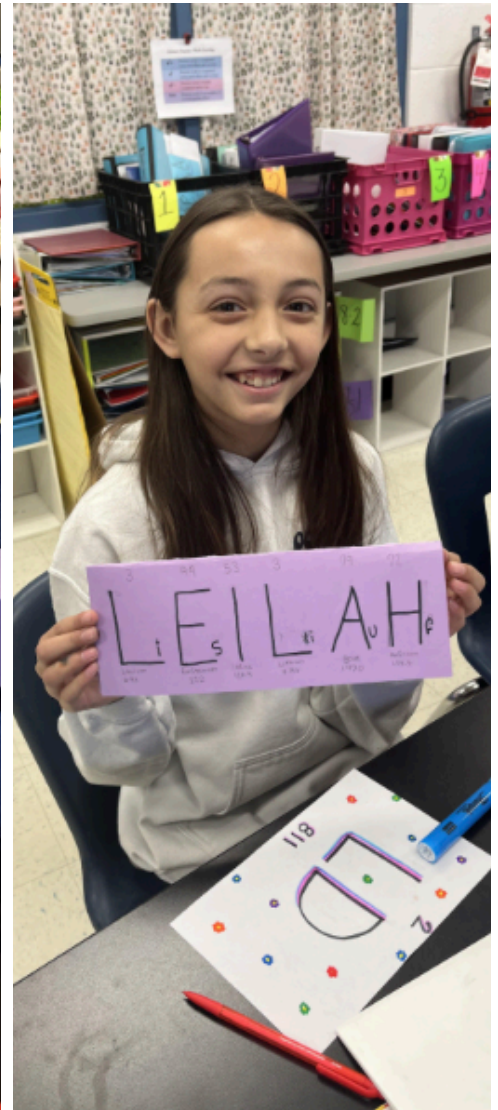
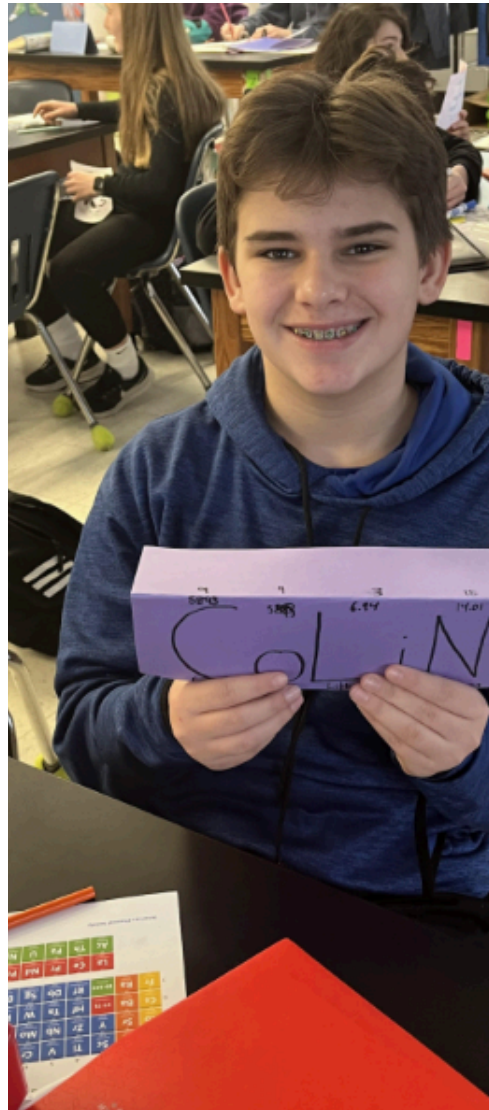
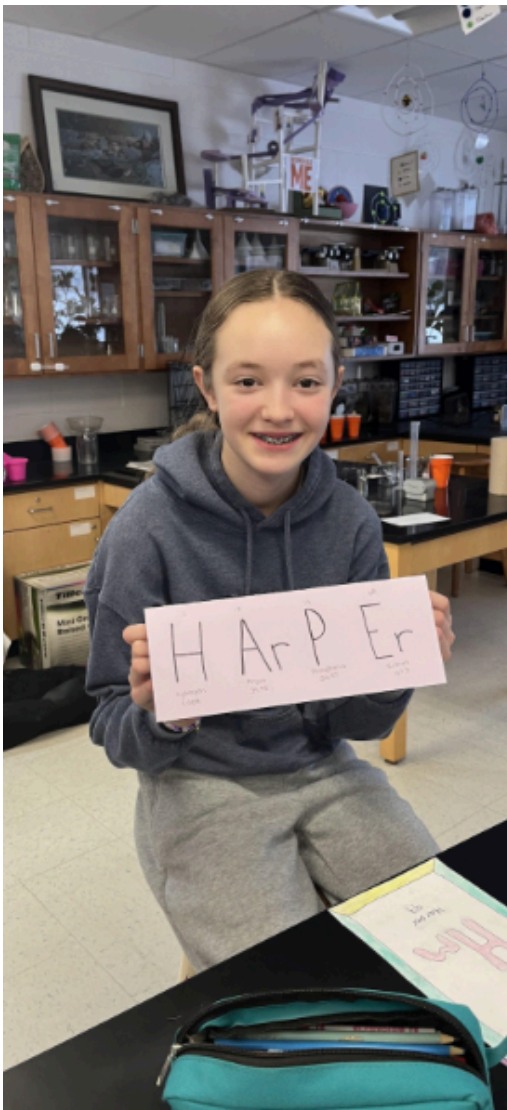
By RTS Teacher Katie McDougall

Mrs. McDougall's 7th graders are working on matter and scientific measurements. Students learned how to measure the volume and mass of liquids, regular solids, and irregular solids. Then they used their skills to accurately pipette volumes to make a rainbow.



Photo credit: Katie McDougall

Also, 7th graders are learning about the periodic table. They used the periodic table to make the letters of their names, pictured below.



## Public Safety Building Update

By JP Fagnant,  
Clerk of the Works



*Photo credit: JP Fagnant*

Rutland Town's Public Safety Building taking shape on McKinley Avenue.



The Rutland Town Public Safety Building is starting to take shape. Facing a surprise increase in price from the original estimates due to Covid-related issues of personnel and cost of materials, the citizens of Rutland Town overwhelmingly approved a required second vote to get the project going.

As of this writing the foundation has been completed; the steel frame has been erected, and the panels are being placed. Expected completion is now targeted for September–October 2024. In the meantime, the Highway Department has graciously allowed the fire trucks to be stored inside the highway garage, as they need to be in a heated space for the cold weather.

Rutland Town Firefighters and Police Officers provide an invaluable service to all the town's residents. The members truly appreciate the support the townspeople have shown as we move forward with this last piece of major infrastructure for the town.

## From the Listers Office

Submitted by  
Marcia Chioffi, Marie Fagnant, & Jack McCamley

This past year has been very productive and educational. The listers attended webinars and in-person PVR, NEMRC & VT PIE training courses. The listers have closed out the as-billed 2023 Grand List with approval from State's District Advisor.

We continue to process property transfers, verifying Homestead Declarations, Veterans Exemptions, and Current Use.

This past legislative session H-480 now Act 68 identifies how the state will be proceeding with state-wide control of a municipality's grand list. The act requires towns to conduct reappraisals every six years. The CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) no longer triggers the need for a reappraisal. Rather, the Director of Property Valuation and Review (PVR) will send the town a notice for reappraisal if the COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) is 20 or above. Rutland Town's COD for 2024 is 18.56. Based upon the District Advisor's advice, the listers will start obtaining quotes to secure a reappraisal firm as the average time to complete is 3-6 years.

Business Personal Property schedules were sent out mid-February. The due date is April 20, 2024.

REMINDER: HS-122 Homestead Declarations need to be filed annually. April 15th is the due date for filing this form with your State of Vermont tax filings. An extension for filing income tax returns does not extend the Homestead Declaration Deadline of April 15. Should you miss this date, you will be penalized by the state, and you may not be eligible to receive the State Income Sensitivity payment. Veterans Exemptions must be filed with the Department of Veterans affairs before May 1st.

“INFORMATIONAL BUILDING PERMITS” are required for construction of dwellings, garages, outbuildings, adding or removing decks, pools, etc. There is no fee associated with the permit. The permit form can be found on the Town of Rutland's website. Property cards are also available on line at [www.rutlandtown.com](http://www.rutlandtown.com).





## From the RUTLAND TOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

By Edward E. Dumas II  
Chief of Police

Another year has gone by, and the Rutland Town Police Department has been busy for sure. In 2023 the Police Department handled 1994 calls for service ranging from simple citizen assists to major felonies. Again, a major issue in the town of Rutland was and is the south end business district where a large number of the homeless are housed at the Cortina Inn as well as the Quality Inn which is located in the City of Rutland near the town line.

Since 2019 there has been more than a 100% increase in calls for service in the south end. We believe it is a direct result of the homeless population being housed in this general location. Lyn Gallipo, our Office Administrator was able to pull together all the statistics over the last five years to present these facts to the Select Board who in turn went to act 250 permits for our local hotels permitting. Because of the impact on your police department and the citizens of Rutland Town our Select Board was able to go to our local hotels and negotiate an agreement that has and will supplement our police budget at no extra cost to the residence of the town.

The Select Board has heard my concerns about the increase in calls and have authorized the hiring of another police officer in the Town of Rutland. The town's police force will increase to a total of 5 officers, which will allow us to better serve the needs of the town as well as help with the safety of the officers working for you.

K-9 Rooster has attended drug school and is qualified and certified to locate drugs. This spring Rooster will attend Patrol School enabling Rooster to track not only those who choose to break the law but also our loved ones who are vulnerable who have become lost. I might add that Rooster is very good at his job, thanks to his handler, Officer Plakas who spends countless hours training and continuing to keep Rooster up to date. This is a tremendous demand on Officer Plakas time, not only on duty but off duty as well. Officer Plakas has also taken on the task of making sure any registered sex offenders in the Town of Rutland are compliant. If they are not, Officer Plakas has and will arrest them, ask for bail, and put them in jail if our present justice system allows it.

## From the Rutland Town Fire Department

By Chief Chris Clark



Happy New Year!

January has been a busy month for the Fire Department. In the first 15 days of the month, we've had 12 calls for service. We held our annual meeting and re-elected all of our current officers. We also presented years of service awards to Captain Jared Rau for 5 years and to Firefighter Bill Sweet for 30 years of service. Thank you both for your dedication.

Recently, we lost our longest serving active member, Tom Tumielewicz. Tommy T. joined our department in 1981. He spent the last 42 years serving the Town of Rutland. He will be greatly missed. The department won't be the same without his stories, great laugh, and his love and kindness for everyone. Please keep the Tumielewicz family in your thoughts.

Stay safe everyone.

I would like to thank Officer Plakas's family also for sharing a husband and a father to do this very important job.

Our SRO, Antje Schermerhorn last year helped raise several thousand dollars for the "Shop with a Cop" this Christmas. I would like to thank all the businesses who donated, and I apologize for not listing them but at the time of this writing I did not have the names of all the businesses and folks who donated. We appreciate Officer Schermerhorn and her dedication to the children of Rutland Town and all she does.

We all look forward to the day the Public Safety building is finished, and we can move into our new home to better serve the community of Rutland Town.

Thank you all for your support.

*RUTLAND TOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
181 Business Route 4  
Center Rutland, Vermont 05736*

## "Shop with a Cop" Success

Submitted by Officer Antje Schermerhorn

On December 13, 2023 Rutland Town Police Department's Officers Schermerhorn and Plakas and officers from Rutland City Police Department, Rutland County Sheriff's office, Vermont State Police and Army National Guard members participated in the yearly "Shop With A Cop" at Walmart.

The idea behind "Shop with a Cop" is to pair a child with a uniformed police officer to go shopping for Christmas. The officer interacts with the child and helps them select clothing items that they need. They also are allowed to pick out one or two toys.

This past December, "Shop with a Cop" was able to shop with approximately 70 children from Rutland City, 10 from Rutland Town and approximately 10 from West Rutland. Officer Schermerhorn, who is also Rutland Town School's School Resource Officer, collected \$3,800 dollars in donations from various businesses around the area, to contribute to the money needed, so every child had \$225 dollars to spend. All in all over \$10,000 dollars were donated to this good cause.

It was heartwarming to see the children in the Christmas spirit fulfilling their wish list. Not only did these students think about themselves, but also about their families and siblings who they purchased items for.

Rutland Town Police Department and Officer Schermerhorn appreciate all the support we have received this past year and look forward to a even bigger event next year. Special thank you goes out to: Rutland South Rotary Club, Carris Reels, MMA Guns, Eric Carrara, Coughlin Inc. (McDonalds), Key Honda of Rutland, Vermont Electric Power Company, GMP, John Manerie, Steve and Jamie Hawley & Hawley Electric.

*Town News Continued from pg 1*

The expense side was challenging as we tackled the same inflation pressures facing our townspeople. The Select Board agreed early in the budget process that town employees should receive a 4% pay increase beginning July 1, 2024. That is slightly more than the 3.2 % national cost of living increase. Employee costs in health insurance, workers compensation, social security, and municipal retirement all are increasing as a result. We want to keep our good, loyal employees with us and working hard for our town.

As we are under a continuing state mandate to reduce stormwater runoff, we have budgeted a significant increase for that work in 2024-25, mostly offset by the \$84,000 grant mentioned above. Computer services and software for town offices have increased, as have heating fuel, gas and diesel, and paving costs.

Costs for our police services are up, but significantly defrayed using motel settlement funds.

Increased expenditures in the Lister's Office will be money well spent. Listers are working more hours and will be using contract help to track and capture increased personal and real property values in town. A higher grand list aggregate value results in a lower tax rate.

Townsppeople will be receiving their town reports in the mail soon. The reports contain our proposed FY2024-25 budgets for voters' scrutiny. Questions and comments are welcome, and can be directed to the Select Board at <https://www.rutlandtown.com/contact-rutland-town/#email>

We will present the budgets at a public meeting on March 4, the evening before polls open for all day voting on March 5. Absentee ballots and early voting are available at the Rutland Town Clerk's office.

Thank you for your support of our town's government.

## Girls on the Run Needs Mentors

Support participants as they learn healthy habits, form meaningful friendships, and learn vital life skills. The 10-week season begins the week of March 18 and meets twice weekly for 90 minutes each session to connect, move, learn and have FUN! No running or coaching experience is required. Coaches are provided with comprehensive training, a curriculum that maps out each session, supplies and support from GOVT for an enriching season. Visit [gotrvt.org/coach](http://gotrvt.org/coach) to learn more or sign up to volunteer or call 802-871-5664.

### What to Expect:

In-person Coach Training Sunday, February 4 from 9-12:30 at Vermont State University Castleton.

Participant registration opens Wednesday, February 21.

End of season 5K Celebration on Saturday, June 8 in Manchester.



# Wonderfeet Kids' Museum

By Danielle Monroe  
Executive Director



*Photo credit: Danielle Monroe*

Some snapshots of the fun inside Wonderfeet Kids' Museum at 66 Merchants Row in Rutland.



**WHY VOTE TO SUPPORT WONDERFEET KIDS' MUSEUM?**

SUPPORTING WONDERFEET ON TOWN MEETING DAY KEEPS THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL FAMILIES AND SHOWS THAT RUTLAND COUNTY PUTS KIDS AND FAMILIES FIRST

**PLEASE VOTE TO SUPPORT WONDERFEET ON TOWN MEETING DAY MARCH 5**

Wonderfeet Kids' Museum is excited to unveil some newly expanded exhibits this winter - our Killington Mountain Playground and Wonder in the Woods. These exhibits and more are constantly undergoing upgrades and additions. Just like kids, Wonderfeet is always growing!

Wonderfeet is once again excited to be participating in Rutland Winterfest. In addition to many other activities that run from Feb. 17-24, Wonderfeet offers a FREE admission "Play Unplugged Day" thanks to BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont. We will also host our annual "Loved Ones and Little Ones Dance" on Saturday, February 24 at ONE Church Rutland.

Wonderfeet is partnering with 4-H of Rutland & Bennington Counties to bring some special enrichment programs to the museum. Saturday, Feb. 3 we celebrate Health Heroes Day with UVM STEM Ambassadors while kids learn skills to support their health and wellness.

Friday, Feb. 23 we learn about the 4-H Dog Program and bring your favorite stuffy to "train" on the obstacle course. Saturday, March 2, do some "Sensory Science" with UVM Extension Service and learn more about maple syrup production and tasting (this workshop will require registration, see Facebook for details).

Saturday, March 16 the "Performing Arts Project" participants will help kids put together small performances for a Mini Talent Show on stage at the Wonderfeet gazebo.

All activities are included with museum admission or membership.

Wonderfeet Kids' Museum  
**WINTER DANCE FOR LOVED ONES AND LITTLE ONES**  
Saturday, February 24  
from 4-6 p.m.  
ONE Church Rutland (Williams Ave)  
with DJ Brett Myhre  
Tickets \$15 per couple (one adult, one child)  
Part of Rutland Winterfest 2024

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**

<b>FEB</b>	13	Select Board meets - 6 p.m.
	15	Planning Commission meets - 6:30 p.m.
	19-23	RTS February Break
<b>MARCH</b>	27	Select Board meets - 6 p.m.
	4	Informational Town Meeting - 7 p.m.
	5	Town Meeting Day - Polls open 7 a.m.
	7	Planning Commission meets - 6:30 p.m.
	12	Select Board meets - 6 p.m.
	15	RTS Faculty Inservice - No School
	19	RHS-RTS Jazz Night at RHS - 7 p.m.
	26	Select Board meets - 6 p.m.
28	Planning Commission meets - 6:30 p.m.	



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