

# The Circle



Rutland Town's Link between School and Community

June 2024

## TOWN NEWS

By Mary Ashcroft,  
Select Board Chair

This will be our last article until the Circle resumes publication in the fall. Here's a quick recap of what to expect during the summer in Rutland Town.

Paving will start soon, as we improve several local streets and roads. Contractor Fuller Sand and Gravel, the low bidder on these projects, will also pave the Post Road sidewalk in front of Rutland Town School to Chasanna Drive. The town highway crew will continue work on the connector trail from the Main Loop in Northwood Park to the top of Chasanna Drive. These two paths will eventually provide a nice walkway from the school to our Park.

The back 9 holes of disc golf are completed at Northwood Park, giving us a full 18 holes. The nets are up for tennis and pickle ball, and mountain biking trails are ready for action. The town pool will be open by the time you read this article, offering swimming through the summer months.

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## RTS UPDATE

From Principal Sarah Tetzlaff

Unfortunately, the second Rutland Town School budget proposal did not pass in the recent vote. While this outcome is disappointing, I want to thank everyone that came out to vote and am hopeful for our next vote on Thursday, May 30. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Our 8th graders had a wonderful trip to Washington, D.C. the week of May 13th! This trip was possible thanks to parent contributions, donations and fundraising. Our 7th grade class fundraising has already begun in preparation for next year's trip.

*Continued on pg. 2*

## From the Rutland Town Planning Commission

By Barbara Noyes Pulling  
Planning Commission Chair

Housing in Rutland Town has been the focus of the Planning Commission's recent work. By most accounts, there is a severe housing shortage throughout Vermont that is hindering efforts to attract new people and fix our labor shortage. The Planning Commission has been working to figure out what the actual housing shortage is in our town. We knew that house sale prices are going up, rents are on the increase, and mortgage rates are high.

From there we reviewed the results of a housing survey conducted by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. It was a small survey: there were just 77 total responses with 65 from town residents equating to just 1.7% of the population. The survey found that 74% of housing in the town were detached, single family homes.

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We are looking forward to another fun summer program of Boys and Girls Club, Summer School (pending), and Extended School Year (ESY).

We are looking forward to our yearly spring events: Memorial Day ceremony, concerts, school play, and 8th grade graduation (see list of dates below). These are open to the public and we encourage families to attend.

**Upcoming dates:**

**Kindergarten Screening for students not attending RTS Pre-K:**

**May 31, 8:30–10:30 a.m.**

**Middle School concert, RTS gym:**

**Thursday, May 23, 6 p.m.**

**Memorial Day ceremony, RTS gym:**

**Friday, May 24, 9–10 a.m.**

**Kindergarten–4th grade concert, RTS gym:**

**Wednesday, May 29, 6 p.m.**

**5th grade trout release to East Creek:**

**June 4, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.**

**Jazz Band to Burlington Jazz Festival:**

**June 7, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**

**Our school drama club has been practicing for the play, *The Jungle Book*. Shows will be on Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8, 6–8 p.m. in the RTS gym.**

**8th grade graduation in the RTS gym:**

**Wednesday, June 12, 6 p.m.**

Thank you again for supporting our amazing school! I encourage everyone to check out our website, <http://rts.grcsu.org/>, and follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/rtsvt>, to see what is happening at Rutland Town School!

**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.

## From the Town Clerk and Treasurer

By Kari Clark

The summer months are upon us. As we move toward warmer weather, I wanted to make certain that you have a reference until our next publication in the fall.

At the point of writing this, we are heading into the second revote for our school budget. May 30 will be voting day for the revote. By the time you get this article and read it, it may have already come and gone. If the budget fails, we will be looking into having another revote during the summer. Please be on the lookout for the posting of results and any new budget elections. We try to make results and warnings available online, and around our town, especially at the Transfer Station and Town Hall.

What I know for certain is that there will be an August Primary vote scheduled for August 13, 2024. Results from the March and August Primary Elections determine the candidates for the ballot in November when we vote in the Presidential General Election. This year is full of elections!

As far as your tax bills are concerned for the upcoming Fiscal Year, which begins July 1, the town is prepared for extenuating circumstances. As many should be aware, the money that you pay the town three times a year funds the school around 85-90%, with only a small portion of it used to run the town's departments.

With that said, if the school budget does not pass in a sufficient amount of time to get tax bills out to residents in August, we are prepared, and will have an alternate plan to get the year started smoothly.

I advise you to please be on the lookout for any publications/updates on this as we move forward and know more information. Our first installment will still be September 10, 2024. As tax bills are created, and arrive at your home, they may look different, depending on the school budget situation. I just wanted to give you a heads up.

If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to call our office. We can only give out information as we know it.

Thank you for being patient as we look into the rest of this year. Your kindness is always appreciated.

# Wonderfeet Kids' Museum

By Danielle Monroe,  
Executive Director

Wonderfeet Kids' Museum is as excited for summer vacation as everyone else – but we have a busy May and June before then.

Wonderfeet is open and back to our regular schedule after a brief closure to install two large new exhibits, the GMP Giant Robot and Wonder in the Woods. We are open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every week. We are closed on Mondays, with the exception of our baby and toddler play group from 10–11:30 Monday mornings. We have a busy schedule of field trips and school groups through mid-June, so we will see many of you in the next few weeks!

Wonderfeet will once again be partnering with Jones' Donuts for our annual Purple Donut Days. Place an order to be delivered to your workplace on Friday, June 7 or for your family to pick-up at the Rutland Farmer's Market on Saturday, June 8. We will also be offering special edition Purple Donut Days shirts and a tie-dye activity at Wonderfeet on Saturday, June 8. Place your donut order and find more information at [wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/events](http://wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/events).

While Wonderfeet's Little Explorers preschool camps are full, we still have spots available in some of our one-day Big Explorers Camps for kids ages 7–11. Themes include "Under the Sea", "In the Mood for Food", "E.I.C.– Explore, Imagine, Create," and "Into the Woods."

Find more information at [wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/camps](http://wonderfeetkidsmuseum.org/camps)

## NEWS FROM THE REC

From Director Michael Rowe



Hello All,

Welcome to spring/summer. The baseball schedules for all town teams is on the website under recreation, so get out and check out a game. 'Tis the season that the pool will be opening before you know it, check page 11 for a full schedule of all things at the pool.

The parks are up and running with Tennis, Pickleball, Disc Golf, Hiking, MT bike trails and so much more please enjoy the parks and remember to **KEEP YOUR DOG ON LEASH AND PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER THEM.** Any questions please let me know at 779-2518. Enjoy the weather and the parks.



### RTS PRESCHOOL

Greetings from Mrs. DuBois, Mrs. Bridgmon, Mrs. Walker and our preschool classroom! So many exciting things have been happening in preschool. We planted some flowers in our preschool garden. We took a field trip to the Wonderfeet museum. We learned about forces in motion. We had such fun this year in music and movement sessions with Miss Tegan. One of our favorite songs is Rockin' Robin! Thank you to the Rutland Rotary Club and the Rutland Town School PTO for sponsoring this Artist in Residency Program.

In our 4-Winds program we have been learning about birds and white tailed deer. Did you know they can leap 8 feet high? We are learning so much thanks to Ms. Caouette and Mrs. Grote.

Here are some more things the children have been doing recently:

- Learning about door knobs
- Acting like dinosaurs
- Watching seeds grow
- Authoring books (Our favorite is If I were the Principal!)

We have had such an amazing preschool year! Our time together has been filled with so much fun, laughter and discoveries!

Have a Happy and Fun-filled Summer! Please Remember to have FUN and be kind to one another!

## Rutland Free Library

From Director Randal Smathers

### Programs for kids of all ages

Rutland Free Library has added programs for teens to our already-busy summer schedule.

Look for Dungeons & Dragons (including free pizza!) for teens / tweens on alternating weeks, a Titanic-themed escape room, silent book club for teens, adventures with The Mint makerspace, Teen Movie Nights, and much more this summer.

For a complete schedule, search Rutland Free Library Teens Facebook (yeah, we know, it's for grandmas ... we're working on it). 😊

Or find a full schedule on our website, [rutlandfree.org](http://rutlandfree.org)

### Kids programs

As always, we have a full summer of fun for the little ones, starting with our kick-off Block Party on June 8, then going all summer long! There are weekly programs four times a week and special events like Tales to Tails (kids reading to trained therapy dogs), stuffed animal storytime, Pokemon walks, VINS visit, and loads more. Find us @rflkids on Facebook & Instagram.

### Music Festival

Always a highlight of our summers, we're happy to see Killington Music Festival returning for two lunchtime concerts. That's in the Fox Room on Wednesdays July 10 and 17. All Fox Room programming is free and open to all. Come and enjoy high-quality classical concerts put on by the Killington Young Artist musicians.

### Building update

We're waiting to hear whether we have received federal grants for libraries; meanwhile, we're still delighted to hear from you about what you want to see in your library of the future. Log in to [rutlandfree.org/browse/google-form-survey](http://rutlandfree.org/browse/google-form-survey) and tell us why you use the library and what keeps you away. What is most important to you? Let us build the library of Rutland's dreams with you in mind.



### Color Run

By Marisa Neary

We are excited to announce that our recent fundraising Color Run was a huge success, raising over \$12,000 for our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)!

Participants of all ages came together for the run, getting doused with vibrant colors along the course through the woods behind Rutland Town School. The after-party featured music, refreshments, a food truck, a dunk tank, and family-friendly activities.

Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, the enthusiasm of our participants, and the support of our sponsors, we exceeded our fundraising goal. The funds raised will support PTO initiatives, including educational materials and activities. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this successful event! Your support makes a significant impact on our school community!

### RTS Snapshots



Photo credit: Sheri Bathalon

The RTS 7th & 8th Grade girls softball team closes in for a huddle.

## Highway Happenings

By Road Commissioner  
Dave Sears



Spring is finally here. We had a mild winter by most accounts. The Highway Department had 41 call-outs for winter conditions. Roughly 1000 tons of salt were applied throughout the town.

We had a much better winter season with the addition of the new-to-us trucks for winter maintenance this year. Thank you to the Select Board and the citizens of the town for giving us the tools we need to successfully handle the winter events.

I would also like to thank our contractors, and I feel, partners in winter maintenance, the Hubbard Brothers, Tim Sr., Tim Jr. and Tyler Hubbard for their continued dedication to the town for many years. It's not always easy and they are always there when we need them.

As we are now out of winter mode and into spring/summer mode things are getting rolling nicely.

We had a successful Green Up Day here. We collected over 80 Green Up bags along with several tires and other materials that had been deposited on the roadsides. Thank you to everyone that participated in Green Up Day/Week.

We are cleaning up plow damage. Paving has begun and will continue into late June. We have applied for a Class II Paving Grant from VTRANS. If successful there will be more paving into the late summer. Keep your fingers crossed!

The date for the Town Wide Celebration has been set for August 24. The Highway Department will be hosting the Name the Plow Truck event again this year. It was a lot of fun and we actually do call the trucks by their given name here in the department. Start thinking of some clever name entries and we look forward to seeing everyone then.

A final note, The Highway Department now has our own Facebook page. Look us up and follow us at Town of Rutland, Vermont Highway Department. We will post road closures and project progress.

Be Safe!

## From the Rutland Town School Board

By Chair Tina Keshava

If you asked me at the beginning of the school year if I thought I would be writing about passing the budget in the middle of May, my answer would have been no; however, here we are. My hope is that by the time you read this, our third attempt at getting the school budget passed on May 30 will have been a success. The RTS Board understands that this is a challenging time for us all, more so for some residents than others. That does not change the fact that we ALL want to continue having pride in our school, knowing that we are providing the children of Rutland Town with an excellent educational foundation, rich with experiences inside and outside the classroom to help them develop a greater understanding of the world around them, as well as how to operate within it. We want our students to be challenged and supported when difficulty arises, and for our town to provide the resources responsibly to do so. Our current budget does that. If you have any questions or concerns, please remember that everyone is welcome at our meetings held on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the school library or online (except July 9 which is our annual retreat and held in-person only offsite). You can also email me at [tina.keshava@grcsu.org](mailto:tina.keshava@grcsu.org) or call 802-459-1195. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

### *Planning Commission continued from pg. 1*

Respondents indicated that more diversity in housing prices was needed, and that they supported a mix of housing types: townhouses, duplexes, courtyard buildings and fourplexes in addition to detached single-family homes. When asked where respondents would like to see new housing, more than 20 parcels were identified. Most sites had just one or two mentions, except for the Diamond Run Mall. The former mall was listed as a preferred site by 41% of town residents and was far and away the most popular site suggested for new housing. Recognizing that the sample size was small for the survey, the Planning Commission concluded that we need more information and to ask more questions:

- *What property is available for housing?*
- *What is the need for new housing? What is the gap between supply and demand?*
- *What is the need for affordable housing?*

So, following up on a Short-Term Rentals ordinance which gives the town more data on that kind of housing, the Commission proposed to the Select Board that we seek funding for a complete housing needs assessment. This would give us a better inventory of housing, market values, and potential housing sites. The Planning Commission is hoping to pursue funding from the state for this assessment. In the interim, please feel free to let us know what you think about housing in Rutland Town.

# From the Rutland Town PTO

By Lillie Hughes

## Exciting Year for Rutland Town PTO: Celebrating Successes and Looking Forward!

As we wrap up the school year, the Rutland Town Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) is thrilled to share our progress and successes as we rebuild after the challenges of the pandemic. Thanks to the dedication and support of our members, teachers, and students, we have had a fantastic year filled with memorable events and achievements. A special shoutout goes to Ms. Hogan and Ms. Neary for their exceptional involvement and support throughout the year. Their enthusiasm and dedication have truly made a difference, and we are incredibly grateful for their support.

### Fundraising Highlights:

- **Book Fair & BOGO Book Fair:** Our love for reading shone brightly during these events, which were not only fun for the kids but also successful in raising funds for our school library and classrooms.
- **heART Fundraiser:** Creativity and generosity combined in this heartwarming fundraiser, showcasing our students' artistic talents while supporting school programs.
- **Color Run:** A burst of color and excitement brought our community together, promoting fitness, inclusivity, and fun, while raising funds for field trips and student enrichment. Special thanks to the Rainbow Club and Student Council for doing so much to make this event a success!

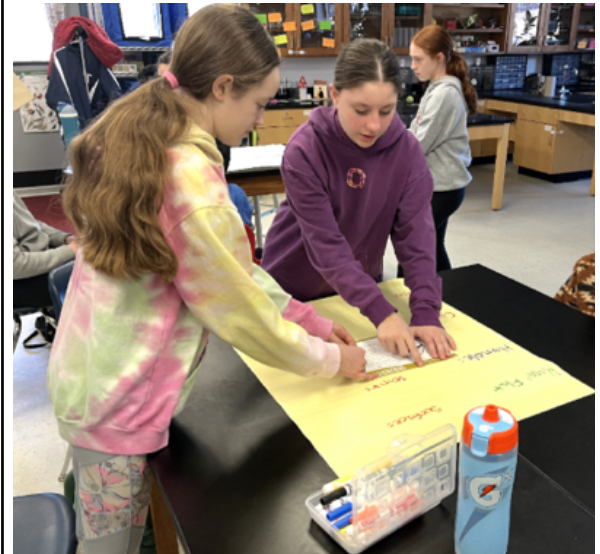
### Teacher Appreciation Week:

In recognition of the dedication and hard work of our amazing teachers, the PTO led the effort to stock the staffroom with treats and supplies during Teacher Appreciation Week. THANK YOU to all families who cooked, shopped, and made the extra effort to bring delicious treats!

### Looking Ahead & Volunteers:

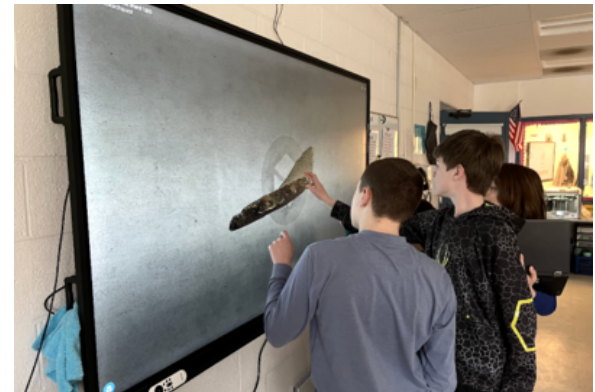
We are excited to spend the summer planning a fantastic 2024-2025 schedule. We aim to include events that will warmly welcome new RTS families and continue building our strong sense of community. As always, the PTO is on the lookout for volunteers. Whether you can help with a single event or provide ongoing support, your involvement is invaluable. Email [rts.pto@grcsu.org](mailto:rts.pto@grcsu.org) to be added to the email list. Together, we can make the upcoming school year even more remarkable. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our wonderful year. We can't wait to see what we achieve together next!

## SCIENCE CLASS



### 7th Grade Science

Above and below, Mrs. McDougall's 7th graders finishing up a Synthetic Materials unit that focused on ceramics.



Additionally, they disassembled their EcoZone chambers to identify all biotic and abiotics materials remaining since closing the containers 7 months ago, pictured below.



# Thank You!: A Walk Through Rutland Town School History with Mrs. Mullin

by Mrs. Linda Mullin

“Mrs. Mullin, are you RETIRING?” one of my fifth grade students asked. Yes, I am retiring. I prefer to call it “having flexibility” to see my sons who live on the West Coast and to take on new projects that come my way. Here is a sentimental look back at my favorite projects and the people who helped make them happen. I hope the memories I share illustrate a culture that is student-centered, caring, and festive!

Meet my first Rutland Town School Principal, Mr. Bob Bell. He was tall and thin with big ears and glasses. He smiled a lot. Our custodian at the time, Mr. Al Delliveneri, resembled him and people sometimes mistook Al for Mr. Bell. Parents would approach Al with an issue. He would listen patiently and then direct them to the principal’s office. Mr. Bell allowed me to student teach at RTS with fourth grade teacher, Ms. Cindy Blickarz. Because students were taught Vermont history in fourth grade, she encouraged me to create a Vermont unit that ended with food and square dancing. We held the square dance in the OPEN WING when it was literally an OPEN WING, without walls. Mr. Randy Dewey, who also taught in the open wing, shook his head and smiled through the music and singing. I guess we forgot to inform him of our plans.

I graduated from college and was hired to teach at a small village school, but always wanted to return to RTS. Three years later, my dream came true. I was hired along with Mrs. Patti Swinyer Espositio and Mrs. Karen Prescott, who later became our principal. I was ready to get to work.

My first responsibility was always the students in my classroom, but I was also aware of building school pride. The first event I organized was the Young Author’s Conference. I approached Mr. Bell and broke the cost down to \$1.75 per pupil. He was on board. Internationally acclaimed children’s author Gail Gibbons was the featured speaker. A group of us took Gail out to dinner at 121 West, a favorite Rutland restaurant owned by our librarian, Theresa Czachor, and her husband, Frank. I adored Mr. Bell. I thank him for his innovation and trust in me as a new teacher.

My favorite all school event was the Volunteer Recognition Assembly. Each year, students wrote and read essays that honored over 100 adult volunteers. The assembly included guest speakers Joe Kraus and Sharon Russell. This event was a delicious mix of students, parents, volunteers, and teachers. The band played and the chorus sang!

Another opportunity to build school pride is the Annual Student Talent Show. In 2000, the dance was



Year 2000 Teacher Act in the Talent Show song New York, New York

my version of “New York, New York.” In 2017 we danced to “Uptown Funk” under the guidance of Mrs. Jennifer Senecal. In 2023 a group of us, including Principal Sarah Tetzlaff, were directed by Ms Tegan Lewis-Waite and presented Rick Astley’s “Never Gonna Give You Up”. We loved the applause!

Another teacher who promoted school pride was Mrs. Reeta Coughenour. She went from working in a 10’x10’ room with a handful of students and instruments to conducting in the huge band room we have today. The Bistro Concert continues today under the direction of our fantastic Mr. Aaron Audet. Reeta was always eager to promote music. She visited my class of second graders to demonstrate the science of sound. First thing that morning, a mischievous student of mine arrived with a mouse in a mayonnaise jar for show and tell. I reluctantly let him put it on the table in the back of the room. During Reeta’s presentation that mouse kept jumping up and down in the jar. When Reeta was finished, I thanked her and quickly called my student over. I told him that Mr. Kinsler, our science teacher, would like his middle school students to see the mouse and would he please bring it to him. When Reeta became ill and was at Dartmouth Medical Center, our reading teacher, Mrs. Cheryl McKane, and I visited her. Then, Mrs. Susan Audette organized a clean up party to ensure an immaculate house to which Reeta would return.

Losing coworkers was a difficult time in my career. They leave a hole in the fabric of the school. The passionate, creative Mrs. Iris Ferraro, who took every opportunity to dance at school concerts, is someone else I especially miss. A garden is dedicated to her under our flagpole. For many years, Mrs. Marcia Barron, organized a group of retired teachers to tend the garden. Working together as a team to accomplish a common goal was a fitting tribute to Iris.

There are so many memories after years of teaching.

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One involved super-parent and Parent Teacher Organization President, Mrs. Sharon Turner. She accompanied her daughter Marsha's class on our field trip to the Morgan Horse Farm. (Marsha is now a 6th grade teacher, Ms. Turner!) My second grade teaching partner, Mrs. Bev Browe, and I had planned to grill hot dogs for the students' lunch, but it began to rain. Undeterred, Sharon flipped those hot dogs with her right hand while holding an umbrella with her left. Disaster averted!

There were also wonderful milestones. My three sons, Michael, Matthew, and Luke, were born during my time at RTS. Mrs. Kathy Mello and Mrs. Marie Durfee hosted baby showers at their homes. There, Mrs. Jodi Manning and Mrs. Sue Roberts cradled my infants.

In closing, you could say that Rutland Town School has been my life. "What? You get paid for being here?" one of my kindergartners asked me. Really, teaching is rewarding and never dull. I am thankful for many things—for the knowledge I have gained and the relationships I have formed. Did you recognize some of the names? I have become lifelong friends with colleagues Paula Townsend, Marcia Barron, Carol Barbagallo, Bev Browe, Lynn Ryan, and Lynn Book. I see close relationships happening for the new RTS cohort, who I also treasure. Mostly I am thankful for the students and their families who let me into their lives. I invite them to stay in touch. And remember – do what you love and love what you do. I will, too!



Year 2015 Teacher Act in Talent Show Song Uptown Funk

## RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

<b>JUNE</b>	7,8	The Jungle Book School Play at RTS
	7	Jazz Festival
	11	School Board meeting 6 p.m.
	18	Select Board meeting 6 p.m.
	20	Planning Commission meeting 6:30 p.m.
<b>JULY</b>	2	Select Board meeting - 6 p.m.
	11	Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m.
	16	Select Board meeting - 6 p.m.
<b>AUG</b>	30	Select Board meeting - 6 p.m.
	1	Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m.
	13	Select Board meeting - 6 p.m.
	22	Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m.
	24	Town Wide Celebration



**For more events and updates please visit town & school websites:  
rutlandtown.com & rutlandtownschool.org**



## RTS MUSIC

By Music Teacher Aaron Audet



Plenty of Music Performance Opportunities at RTS!

This school year in music at Rutland Town has been very successful and fun. It all started out with the Halloween Parade in Rutland marching 80 students from grades 5-8 dressed up like wolves. Following the parade in December we had our K-4, 5-8 chorus, 5-8 band and jazz band concerts. They were very well-attended and the students had fantastic performances. Also in December the chorus performed at the Killington tree lighting ceremony and the jazz band performed for the Rutland Town Senior lunch and for the Vermont Country store workers in North Clarendon.



This year we also had students audition for the Green Mountain District V Music Festivals in jazz band, wind band, and chorus. Ten students were accepted and performed with students from many other schools in Vermont in two different festivals, one in February and one in March.

In January we had a well attended talent show which showcased many students of all ages in a wide variety of talents. Students sang, danced, performed on instruments, and did gymnastics.

The jazz band shared the RHS stage in March with the RHS jazz band. This is such a great night seeing both ensembles performing a wide variety of music at such high levels of performance. This happens every year. It's great seeing how many RTS students are still participating in music on the high school level. This is a wonderful tradition and will continue to happen in the future.

The jazz band traveled to UVM in March to participate in a statewide school jazz band clinic. RTS was one of two middle school jazz ensembles to perform. The rest were high school jazz ensembles. RTS jazz performed a 30 minute set on the UVM stage in front of an audience and a panel of clinicians and received many praises from the jazz clinicians - one of

them said he couldn't believe they were middle school kids performing at the level that they were.

In April the jazz band was asked to perform for the Rutland Chamber of Commerce event at the College of St. Joseph. We performed a 45-minute set and received a lot of great feedback and appreciation.

Definitely one of the highlights of the year was

the well-attended Jazz Bistro. Both RTS "M" and "T" jazz, along with the RTS Alumni jazz band performed. The bands all had fantastic performances. We had a huge range of ages still finding it important to come back and support RTS

music and put on a fantastic show. Thanks to the alumni and to all the parents for the support setting up, cleaning up, decorating, and bringing so much great food.

On May 1 the 7/8 band and chorus students along with 30 parents took a trip to NYC to see the Broadway Musical "Back to the Future." This trip was fundraised by RTS Friends of Music, and paid for by the parents who attended. It was a great experience for the students to see Times Square and the show.

Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate for the Rutland Loyalty Day Parade. We had to drop out due to all the rain. Rain is not good for the uniforms, and the expensive instruments. There is really no educational value in having kids march in the uncomfortable cold rain. It was really disappointing. It's a parade we look forward to and work hard to prepare for. We hope for better weather next year.

Several more performances took place over May and June including at the Vista Senior Living facility in Mendon, our Memorial Day Ceremony, and at the Burlington Jazz Festival. As you can see the music at RTS is going strong. The entire music calendar is always up to date on the school website if you are interested in seeing us perform.

Thanks for the support!

# D.A.R.E.

TO RESIST DRUGS  
AND VIOLENCE

## RTS Annual D.A.R.E. Graduation Ceremony



By Officer Antje Schermerhorn

On Friday, April 26, 2024 Rutland Town School had their annual D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony.

53 students from kindergarten and first grade graduated that day. Officer Antje Schermerhorn, who is the D.A.R.E. Officer for Rutland Town School presented all students with their D.A.R.E. certificate and a 'Darren the D.A.R.E. Lion.'

Several parents, grandparents and guardians were present for the graduation that took place in the cafeteria. WCAX was there and aired the segment on the evening news that day.

Officer Schermerhorn thanked Principal Tetzlaff for letting her teach D.A.R.E. at Rutland Town School. She also thanked the Masons from Lodge #34, OMYA and McDonald's for their donations to the D.A.R.E. program. Those donations make the D.A.R.E. program possible and provide the necessary supplies and graduation items.

After the students were handed their certificates, there were refreshments for all the guests and students.

**Happy Summer Break!**  
The Circle will resume in October.

## From the Town Administrator By Bill Sweet

Some of the most frequent questions I get are around permitting. With the absence of zoning in town, there are still activities which do require a permit. Some examples are constructing a new building larger than 100 square feet, adding a new deck, adding a swimming pool or home renovations which add a bedroom.

Our informational building permit covers these, has no cost, and does not require the owner to wait for approval. Section 4 of our Permit Tracking Ordinance, available on our town website, details the requirements for obtaining a permit. The form can be submitted either in person or through our online tool.

If you have any questions please call me at Town Hall.

After more than a year of work including meetings of both the Select Board and the Planning Commission a Short-Term Rental Ordinance is now in effect. The first registrations are due by January 1, 2025. There is a frequently asked questions document on the Town Ordinance website page.

A directory for town businesses is under development. We need information from town businesses to be able to populate it. Please fill out our form if you would like your business included, and feel free to share the link. The form is available at: <https://www.rutlandtown.com/business-info-request-form/>. We use our town Facebook page to send out notices of meetings, press releases, events, town news and more! Follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/townofrutland>. Is there something you would like to see added to our site? Please reach out using the contact page on our website and let us know!

**NORTHWOOD POOL  
SUMMER 2024 SCHEDULE/FEEES**

**POOL PASS AND SWIMMING LESSON  
SIGN-UPS WILL TAKE PLACE ON  
JUNE 5 AND 6 FROM 5-7 AT THE POOL**

**THE POOL WILL OPEN ON  
JUNE 8 AT 11 a.m. FOR WEEKENDS ONLY,  
WEATHER-PERMITTING  
THE POOL WILL OPEN JUNE 15  
FOR THE SEASON**

**FEEES**

**RESIDENT SINGLE \$35**

**RESIDENT FAMILY \$60**

**NON RESIDENT SINGLE \$65**

**NON RESIDENT FAMILY \$120**

**LESSONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE FAMILY  
PASS, IF THERE IS ROOM. EACH LEVEL  
WILL BE CAPPED AT 10 SWIMMERS**

**POOL HOURS**

**10 a.m. -12 p.m. LESSONS (EVERY ½ HR.)**

**12-1 p.m. ADULT SWIM (MON-FRI)**

**1-7 p.m. OPEN SWIM**

**11 a.m. -7 p.m. SAT AND SUN**

**DAILY FEEES**

**RESIDENT ADULT \$2.00**

**RESIDENT CHILD \$1.00**

**NON RESIDENT ADULT \$7.00**

**NON RESIDENT CHILD \$6.00**

**SWIM LESSONS**

**WILL BE 2, 2-WEEK SESSIONS MON-FRI**

**FIRST SESSION 6/17 - 6/28**

**SECOND SESSION 7/8- 7/19**

*Town News continued from pg. 1*

Be sure to join us on Saturday, August 24 at Northwood Park for Town Wide Celebration. This traditional farewell to summer features free activities for all townfolk. Enjoy swimming, a cookout, DJ Brett Myhre's entertaining patter and music, exhibits, and access to the many outdoor activities at Northwood Park, capped by fireworks at dusk. August 24 is a day you won't want to miss.

Work on the new Public Safety Building on McKinley Avenue will progress steadily through the summer months, with a hoped-for completion by year's end. Your Select Board will continue meeting at Town Hall throughout the summer on alternate Tuesday evenings beginning at 6 p.m. Agendas for each meeting are posted on the website, as is the zoom link if you prefer to attend remotely. Have questions, concerns or thoughts about town matters? Contact us at <https://www.rutlandtown.com/contact-rutland-town/#email>. You can also call our Town Administrator Bill Sweet at 802-773-2528, extension 106.

To stay on top of town news, visit our website at <https://www.rutlandtown.com/> or check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/townofrutland/>

And consider this invitation to help our town: if you enjoy working with seniors and organizing fun events, the Rutland Town Seniors need you. Talk to Mike Rowe or any Select Board member if you can offer your talent in totally unpaid, very part-time, and richly rewarding work. We'll even give you a title! I end this article with a grateful shout-out to our town's hard-working election officials. We knew there would be three elections this calendar year—March Town Meeting, August primaries and the November general election. What we didn't expect were the extra elections on the school budget. Whatever your views on the issues being voted, please respect the dedication of our election officials. Town Clerk Kari Clark, Assistant Clerk Susan McGee, our Board of Civil Authority - Select Board members and Justices of the Peace - and ballot clerks and vote counters have given up their time to serve our town. Thank them when you see them.

Have a safe and relaxing summer.

Rutland Town School  
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Rutland, VT 05701

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

### **CONGRATULATIONS RTS CLASS OF 2024!**

*Bella Stasia Adamaitis*

*Logan Matthew Abbott*

*Daniella Valentine Bove*

*Keaton McGregor Branchaud*

*Carly Karyn Caouette*

*Owen Robert Carris*

*Jaiden Alexandra Conway*

*Chloe Abigail Courcy-*

*Latulippe*

*Laylah Mae Diaz*

*Ronan Leonard Duffy*

*Aiden Cole Fitzsimmons*

*Brooke Elizabeth Flewelling*

*Ella Louise Fredette*

*Gavin Thomas Fredritz*

*Finnian Gregory Fuller*

*Eliza Grace Getty*

*Jonathan Frank Gyduš*

*Kelsey Elizabeth Hayden*

*Owen Roger Johnson*

*Calvin Henry Kelley*

*Lilah Mae Piper Koloseus-*

*Gagnon*

*Trevor Michael Labate*

*Cameron James Lambert*

*Bryce Bence McKeighan*

*Jaydon Kende McKeighan*

*Tory Hayes Meigs*

*Paityn Elizabeth Mero*

*Kolton Joseph Merrill*

*Brogan Duffy Moran*

*Zachary Shea Moser*

*Katarina Rednour*

*Maeve Ann Saunders*

*Holden James Sehon*

*Savanna Marie Shelton*

*Lola Mary Sparks*

*Chase Richard Wardwell*

*Christopher Charles Watson*

*Anna Reagan Weideman*

*Ellie Grace Whalen*

*Sophia Wu*