

The Circle

Rutland Town's Link between School and Community



October 2026



Photo courtesy Barbara Noyes Pulling

Above: Town Highway Crew breaking ground at the town's new park, formerly the "pocket park."

TOWN NEWS

By Mary Ashcroft
Select Board Chair

Welcome to fall, Rutland Townsfolk. A lot has happened over the summer. We celebrated our nation's 250th birthday with a Rutland Town/Rutland City party at Northwood Park on July 3. Residents enjoyed music, free swimming, a drone display, food trucks, and activities for all ages, including Hathaway Farm's popular tractor-train.

Thanks to the keen eye and steady hand of Select Board member Matt Getty, the town won a City-Town disc-golf tournament. On July 4, an outstanding fireworks display at the Rutland Fairgrounds lit up the skies over both of our communities. This was paid for by a private-public fundraising partnership, including donations from both town and city governments.

On August 16, Rutland Town celebrated Rutland Town Community Day at Northwood Park. Our town fire, police, highway, recreation and planning commission all had displays and activities, and Select Board chefs Sharon Russell, Matt Getty, and Mary Ashcroft, along with State Senator Brian Collamore, served free hamburgers, hotdogs and sausages hot off the grill. An estimated 400 townsfolk of all ages enjoyed this lively gathering.

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RTS UPDATE

From Principal Sarah Tetzlaff

As autumn arrives in Rutland Town, we are excited to welcome our students back to the classrooms and share a quick update on all the great work happening at Rutland Town School! We hope your summer offered plenty of time to rest and recharge with family. Launching a new school year is always an exciting milestone, and we remain deeply grateful for the strong partnership and support from our local community.

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From the Rutland Town Planning Commission

By Barbara Noyes Pulling

Recent Progress on Rutland Town's Newest Park
Work on the town's new park (formerly known as the pocket park) is underway with the Town Highway crew "breaking ground" at the site. At the entrance, a winding path bordered by grass will lead visitors from the Simons Avenue parking lot to an overlook of Otter Creek and Center Rutland Falls. When completed the site will feature two picnic tables, a park bench, a bike rack, a welcome kiosk, and several historical interpretive signs at the overlook.

Community enthusiasm for the project was on display at this year's Community Day in August at Northwood Park. We asked for suggestions for a name for the new park and received 55 responses. The Selectboard is currently going through the list and will be selecting the name.

The Planning Commission is creating the content for the various signs now and we could use your help. If you or someone you know have any photos of the falls (any season of the year) and you're willing to share them with us, we'd love to add them to the welcome kiosk. Please send digital copies to PlanningCommission@rutlandtown.com. The higher the resolution the better.

Continued on pg. 9

Facilities & Summer Upgrades

Our maintenance crew worked endlessly to ensure our building was safe, spotless, and fully prepared for our August 27th opening. Key updates across our building include:

- Gymnasium: Freshly painted walls and stage, with new bleacher installation scheduled for September 9th.
- Cafeteria & Restrooms: Bright new paint in the main cafeteria, cafeteria stage, and large middle school restrooms.
- Grounds & Paving: Resurfaced paving with re-engineered sloping between the buildings and playground to improve drainage.

We owe a huge thank you to our facilities team for their incredible care and dedication to keeping RTS looking its best!

Welcoming new staff

Please join us in giving a warm RTS welcome to our newest team members:

- Rob Bliss: Assistant Principal (long-term substitute for Colby Hescok)
- Kristina Doty: Pre-K Paraeducator
- Theresa (Teri) Hogan: 5th Grade Long-Term Substitute (for Megan Zaengle)
- Cal McCullough: GRCSU Paraeducator
- Jody McIntosh: School Nurse
- Hope Ralph: Administrative Assistant
- Heidi Shaughnessy: Planning Room Assistant

Teacher of the Year Honors

A major congratulations to middle school science teacher Katie McDougall, who was named GRCSU Teacher of the Year at our district in-service! Katie will be formally recognized alongside fellow Vermont educators at the University of Vermont this November. We are so proud of her and thankful for her dedication to our students.

Student Life & Community Connections

The school year is off to a fast and energetic start across all grade levels:

- Our 7th graders are heading to Camp Chingachgook this fall- a beloved tradition made possible by the ongoing support of the RTS Board and our community.

- The Boys & Girls Club after-school program officially started on August 31st, providing wonderful after-school care and activities for our families.

- Fall middle school sports teams are already underway and filling our fields with school spirit!

Get Involved at RTS

As routines settle and learning gets into full swing, we are actively looking for community volunteers and substitute teachers. Even a couple of hours a week can make a massive difference for our kids! If you are interested in joining us, please reach out to Cindy Ondria, GRCSU Substitute Coordinator, at cindy.ondria@grcsu.org or (802) 775-0566 ext. 2126. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to the main office, (802) 775-0566.

Thank you to everyone in Rutland Town for your continued encouragement and partnership. For regular updates, photo highlights, and event reminders, please follow us on Facebook (Rutland Town School) or visit us online at rts.grcsu.org.

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

From The Listers Chair By Marie Faignant

I stated in my very first Circle article that our job as Listers was to treat every taxpayer fairly and equitably. Similarly, every taxpayer has the responsibility of following procedures for grieving decisions or tax bills. Neither the Listers nor other members of the town's governance can ignore a taxpayer's failure to timely grieve, nor can they bend the rules in favor of any one taxpayer. The rules and procedures must be applied equally upon all.

This summer, there has been a lot of discussion in our Selectboard meetings, on social media and in the Rutland Herald on the tax exempt status for Habitat for Humanity. As listers, our job is to determine whether an entity seeking tax exemption meets the legal requirements for exemption. And again, we must do so without favoritism or bias as to the entity seeking such exemption.

Vermont law and the Department of Taxes place the burden for proving entitlement for an exemption upon the party seeking exemption, and charge the Listers with the presumption of denial and the default position that they are subject to tax. That presumption is only overridden when the law explicitly exempts an entity (i.e., churches, hospitals) or the party seeking exemption can show unequivocally the law intended to excuse that specific property and its uses from exemption. That is because the cost of a determined (or voted) exemption is borne entirely by the town taxpayers. Although a determined or town voted-agreement reduces the education and municipal property tax liability of the exempted taxpayer, it does not reduce the education property tax liability of the town. Rather, the rest of the property owners in the town fund the loss in revenue through the local agreement rate (this rate can be found on your most recent tax bill).

In January of 2026, we interviewed Habitat's executive director to determine if it met the legal grounds for exemption. Upon learning of the property's restricted public access and the strict criteria for qualifying homeowners, its petition was denied pending a town-wide vote per state statute at our annual meeting in March of 2027. This provision in the law, permitting a town-wide vote, exists precisely to let the voters be the exemptor of non-profit or charitable

property that fails the initial test for exemption when it's found to restrict access to the public or it serves a restricted class rather than an indefinite public. This way, the voters all have a say in their own tax burden. Of course, this also means the voters are to be given opportunity and notice to vote on their future burden, not retroactively. This truly provides for fair and equitable treatment of all taxpayers.

With receipt of your most recent tax bill, we have begun the process of creating the 2027-2028 grand list. Hence, we again are out and about inspecting properties, processing the transfers of property, and generally updating the information that forms the basis of the grand list. Amongst those responsibilities noted above is that which requires you, the taxpayer, to keep us informed as to any changes concerning your property, including contact information. Every year we are met with a lot of returned mail and tax bills, and while we make every effort to locate you, we are only required to mail your bill to your last known address as of April 1. Being surprised is fun, but being surprised because we adjusted your property assessment may not be. Don't be surprised. Rather, keep us apprised. We will continue to provide you information as we move forward this year. But as always, feel free to stop in and talk about these or any other Lister issue. You are always welcome, and we look forward to it.

Listers: Marcia Chioffi, Marie Faignant, and Cathy Kapitanski

NEW RTS STAFF BIOS



Heidi Shaughnessy, PFS Assistant

Heidi is joining us as our new PFS Assistant, and she brings a wonderful background in supporting local families. She graduated from Castleton with a degree in developmental psychology and has spent years working in our community—including roles as a service coordinator and family engagement specialist in various social work roles. She also has experience right inside the classroom as a building sub! Heidi lives right here in Rutland Town with her husband and their three kiddos. We are so excited to have her joining our school family. Welcome, Heidi!



Hope Ralph, Administrative Assistant

We are so excited to share that Hope Ralph is officially stepping into the role of Administrative Assistant!

Many of you already know Hope from her time supporting our students and teachers as a paraeducator. She is also an RTS mom through and through. All three of her kids went to school right here, with her youngest just graduating 8th grade!

Before working in the classroom, Hope spent years mastering customer service and office administration. Her background includes serving as an Executive Assistant at Thomas Dairy, where she handled complex payroll, billing, and office operations, as well as managing customer service and banking teams.

She brings the perfect mix of high-level organizational skills, a calm attitude, and a genuine love for our community. We are so lucky to keep her right here in our school family! Next time you call or walk into the main office, please join us in giving Hope a huge congratulations and a warm welcome to her new desk.



Rob Bliss, Assistant Principal (LTS for Colby Hescocock)

Rob is graciously "coming off the bench" of retirement to fill in for Colby for September and October, and he'll be joining us for our August in-service days, too. For the past two years, Rob has been traveling across 13

states as a coach and consultant for Franklin Covey's Leader in Me. This is actually a homecoming for Rob! He served as our very own Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at RTS from 1998-2000. After his time with us, he went on to be the Principal of Northwest Primary and Pierpoint Learning Center, and then spent nearly two decades as the Assistant Superintendent for Rutland City. Before his admin days, he was a PE/Health teacher and AD over in Proctor, as well as teaching in New Hampshire and New York. He is incredibly rooted in our local community, and we are so lucky he's willing to step back in and help us out for a few months. Welcome back, Rob!

More New RTS Staff Bios on page 11

News from the Rec

By Director Michael Rowe



Hello All,

We had a great summer at the pool/park with many events taking place such as Sunday night live music, the celebration with the city on July 3 (we are planning already for next year), over 9,000 visits to the pool and of course the Rutland Town Community Day which was the biggest one yet!

Thank you to those who helped make it a great summer at the park/pool. Well, fall is in the air and that means that our fall sports programming is in full swing from flag football, soccer and field hockey programs happening (schedule of games is on the town's website under recreation - check it out and catch a game).

The senior group has been busy as well, we are headed up to check out the foliage at Killington (date not confirmed yet, waiting for mother nature) and on October 27 we will have a Paint and Pizza at the Town Hall for our senior group. If you would like to join our Senior Group just send me an email at recreation@rutlandtown.com.

This fall we will be holding our town-wide "Trick or Treat on the Trail" at Rutland Town School on October 30 from 4 to 5:30 p.m., more info to follow.

If you have any questions about programming or events please contact me at recreation@rutlandtown.com.

Enjoy the nice fall weather!



Punctuation Saves Lives!

Submitted by Susan Quesnel

National Punctuation Day is September 24! RTS is getting ready to celebrate with some fun resources that show just how much punctuation matters. Consider the difference between “Let’s eat, kids!” and “Let’s eat kids!” One little comma completely changes the meaning! It’s a playful reminder that punctuation helps readers understand exactly what writers mean.

From the Rutland Town School Board

Submitted by Linda Mullin

A New School Year: Revisiting School District Board Goals

The Rutland Town School District Board met in August and revisited the RTS District Board Goals which are:

- Continuing to navigate Act 73 and Act 170 and ensuring that the public is aware of actions initiated by the State Legislature;
- Continuing to keep the budget in focus;
- Continuing to promote a positive climate and culture in the school and the community.

This article focuses on sharing the development of Acts 73 (signed as H.454 in 2025) and 170 (signed as H.955 in 2026).

At each Board Meeting, our School Superintendent, Chris Sell, reports on Acts 73 and 170. Act 73 is “an act relating to transforming Vermont’s education governance, quality, and finance systems” and Act 170 is “an act relating to next steps in transforming Vermont’s education system.” Specifically, Act 170 focuses on the details of a framework for regional collaboration and school district organization. The organization is being accomplished with the formation of Cooperative Educational Service areas (CESAs) across the state. Area School Superintendents are members of the CESAs. Our GRCSU School Superintendent, Chris Sell, is a member of the Southwest Vermont Cooperative Educational Service Area. Superintendent Sell shares that “the important work they are doing starts with planning regional collaboration and shared services. The group also reviewed funding and discussed the financial and organizational steps necessary to establish the CESA.” Shared services include regional transportation, special education,

technology, and business operations to reduce costs and eliminate duplicate efforts. How does our local School District Board become involved in the process? Act 170 establishes that districts must designate at least one board member to the assigned Merger Study Group. Right now each district is limited to designating one board member. Our Board confidently approves that the RTS District representative will be Collin Fingon. For more information, go to the State Agency of Education Official Government website. There are thousands of links to Act 73 and Act 170. Here is the link I used: <https://education.vermont.gov/schools/school-governance/education-transformation> or attend the Rutland Town School District Board meetings which are held the second Tuesday of the month in the Rutland Town School library starting at 6 pm. or the Greater Rutland County School Board meetings which are held the first Tuesday of the month at the Central Office in the Westway Plaza in West Rutland starting at 6 pm.

Your Rutland Town School District Board is working to communicate well with the public.

Subscribe to the GRCSU Monthly Message using the link

<https://mailchi.mp/56d1afebb912/grcsu-sign-up> .

Each month the Monthly Message will be sent to your email providing you with meeting dates, agendas, and previous minutes from the GRCSU Board including links to Rutland Town School District Board information and other School Boards in our Supervisory Union.

From the Town Clerk

By Kari Clark

A NEW FEATURE FOR ONLINE TAXPAYERS

I welcome you back to this year's issues of The Circle with good news! We've upgraded a feature of MuniPay that will allow for more accurate tax payments.

If you're someone who likes the convenience of paying bills online, you've probably looked at or used our payment option found on www.rutlandtown.com. Until now, that option was completely manual. Meaning, you needed to know every aspect of your account to make a payment. Not only was this inconvenient for users but it has been somewhat of a headache for us in the office. If you can imagine, we were seeing inconsistencies, mistakes and spending way too much time trying to rectify those issues. Now, with a few adjustments, we've made it so you can search for your property by name, address, or by parcel ID. The best part of this upgrade is the payment feature. You are now able to see your balance in real time! No more guessing about how much you owe, or whether you've already paid. Additionally, you now have the option to schedule payments and make reoccurring payments. Did someone say, welcome to the 21st Century? Finally, right?! I am so excited about this new feature and hope that many of you will take advantage of this, even if you don't plan on paying online. If you're still a check writer, no worries, just log on and check your balance before writing out that check. It's a "win, win." But I will say this, do not trust the timing of the mail these days. Give yourself enough time to send that check well in advance!

As a gentle reminder, when using the MuniPay service, there will be a fee added to your transaction. This fee stays with the company that allows us to use this feature. A small price to pay for convenience, in my opinion. When using a card to pay for taxes, whether that is a credit card or a debit card, a 2.65% fee is applied to the amount that you are charging. If you decide to pay by e-check, a standard \$1.50 is applied to those transactions.

Many of you have asked or commented on the fact that this town does not send out balance updates throughout the year. Without getting into the reasons why we don't do that, asking MuniPay to create a custom file for us was my next best option. I hope it helps you in the long run but remember that you can always call my office to speak with me or Deborah about your balance. Happy tax-paying!

RTS SNAPSHOTS



Photo courtesy Sheri Bathalon

Above: Mr. Audet and Caleb Sinclair in a drum lesson.

Below: Long-term Assistant Principal Mr. Bliss reading to Ms. Erin's Pre-K class.





Wonderful things are happening at Wonderfeet Kids' Museum! This summer we hosted 8 weeks of camp, were visited by a number of field trip groups, and were spotted at several community outreach events. We've launched new weekly programs in our Jr. Mint space, and you'll often find something new to explore in our gazebo exhibit. With schools back in session, we're booking field trips and birthday parties, and have some exciting programs and events on the horizon.

This fall, we're continuing our It Takes a Village Program for babies 0-12 months every Monday at 10:00. This program is free, and connects parents just starting the journey. We've also introduced a Toddlers and Tots group on Mondays to carry those connections forward beyond that first year.

Wednesdays are for STEAM learning, and we have special activities each week on Whiz Kid Wednesday. The popular Littles with Wiggles movement class is also back, every Thursday at 10:30.

Have you ever participated in Worldwide Day of Play? Join the movement, and come to Wonderfeet on September 26th as we join children's museums across the world to celebrate the importance of play – by playing and learning together. We're also excited to announce that Wonderfeet was selected to participate in the MEOWseum Photo Experience in partnership with the Association of Children's Museums and DreamWorks Animation. We will be hosting curated experiences inspired by Gabby's Dollhouse every day from September 25 – October 4. Planning ahead for all your favorite fall adventures? Join us on Sunday, October 18th from 12:00-4:00pm for the 4th Annual Wonderfeet Truck or Treat event on Center Street and Merchants Row in downtown Rutland. This family-focused event combines elements of a Touch-a-Truck with Trunk or Treat. Kids can check out all kinds of cool vehicles and collect Halloween treats from the trucks and downtown businesses. Food trucks will also be on hand to keep everyone fed and happy! If your business is interested in participating, please email WonderfeetEvents@gmail.com for more information. Truck or Treat is free to attend and we invite families to participate in a coin drop at the event. All of the change collected will be matched by our business partners, plus families who bring their change will receive a free raffle ticket. Additional tickets will be available for purchase. Follow the event on social media to see more details and all of the great prizes up for grabs!

We hope to see you soon! Wonderfeet Kids' Museum is located at 66 Merchants Row in the GMP Energy Innovation Center. We are open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00-4:00. For more information, please visit our website or contact guestservices@wkmvt.org.



RTS 7th grade scientists had fun learning about ecosystems through Project WILD's "Oh Deer!" game! Students became deer and habitat resources, collecting their own data to see how changes in food, water, and shelter affect populations over time. It was a hands-on way to bring population dynamics to life!



RTS SNAPSHOTS



Photos courtesy Sheri Bathalon

Above: Mrs. Gardner teaching some 8th graders a math lesson. **Below:** Mrs. Neary teaching 5th graders.



From the RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY

By Director Randal Smathers



Rutland Free Library is starting a new book club to discuss books that are banned, challenged, and otherwise censored. Please join Rutland Town's own Bill Wiles (affectionately known to his Castleton students as "Mr. Bill") for a lively & informative series of discussions of banned and / or frequently challenged books. They'll be at the library monthly, beginning on Oct. 5 at 6 PM and continuing on First Mondays through May 2027.

For books that are not widely held by libraries (such as our first one), we'll be making them available to borrow at the library. Rutland Free Library has a long tradition of supporting our users' right to read what they want, starting in 1995. That's when a patron borrowed our copy of a children's book, *Daddy's Roommate* by Michael Willhoite, and then complained that it was inappropriate for her family. She requested that the book either be removed completely or stored where it could only be retrieved by asking a staff member for it.

The ensuing debate was fierce, culminating in a public hearing that filled the Fox Room to capacity with attendees spilling down the stairs and out the door. The eventual determination was that the book -- describing everyday events like going to the park or reading together for a boy whose father is gay -- belonged on the shelves in the children's room like all our other picture books.

The American Library Association eventually recognized Rutland Free Library for upholding the principles of the First Amendment with a national award. The entire sequence of events seemed to be fading into history until the culture wars thrust censorship (most often against materials with LGBTQIA themes) back into the daily lives of families, readers, and libraries nationwide.

The November title is *Fahrenheit 451*; other titles will be announced as they are chosen. Please see www.rutlandfree.org for details.

The Freedom to Read Book Club is sponsored by Phoenix Books Rutland, Meub Associates, Friends of Rutland Free Library, and Solsaa Building & Energy Solutions.



Photos courtesy Sheri Bathalon

Above: Ms. Caitlin's Pre-K Class.

Below: Mrs. Manning teaching a lesson.



The Act 250 process for the relocation of WalMart to the former Diamond Run Mall is underway. A site visit and prehearing conference were held on September 10, with the formal hearing expected to be scheduled for early December. The Rutland Town Select Board and Planning Commission are both statutory parties to these proceedings, and we will continue to participate to support the redevelopment of this blighted area in town.

Work has started on the pocket park near the falls in Center Rutland. Our town highway crew is reclaiming a strip of land running from the end of Simons Avenue to an overlook above the falls. Otter Creek Engineering has designed a walkway and viewing area (much of their work is donated—thank you OCE!). Green Mountain Power is donating an information kiosk, for which our Town Planning Commission is preparing panels explaining the pre-history, colonial, revolutionary, and early industrial history of the area. This fall, volunteers will begin to clear invasive plants and replant the area with native shrubs and trees.

Many town property taxpayers received tax bills in August that were uncomfortably higher than last year—by roughly 13%. Most of this increase was not due to local spending—although local school and municipal budgets were up somewhat—but from the town's share of the state education costs. Education in Vermont is paid for on a statewide basis; property tax contributions from each town are pooled and then redistributed. Rutland Town pays in more than we received from this pool. So, in addition to paying to educate Rutland Town students, we help pay for students in other towns, too.

Your local officials have been hearing about the strain these increased property taxes are having on family budgets. We sympathize—we're town taxpayers, too. And we'll listen to your concerns. But please also share those concerns with your elected state officials. They determine statewide education spending, and adopt the complicated formulas which have resulted in our higher local contribution and significantly higher taxes.

As we move into the fall, your Select Board will be working on crafting budgets to fund municipal services for fiscal year 2027-28. That seems a long time away, but the budgets need to be ready for voter scrutiny at pre-town meeting in January and for approval at Town Meeting in March of 2027.

Follow your Select Board's work on financial and many other matters by attending our regular meetings, which are held every other Tuesday evening at 6PM at Town Hall on 181 Business Route 4, Center Rutland. The meetings are open to the public and are also available via zoom, so you can watch us remotely. Meeting agendas with the Zoom link are posted on our website the Thursday before each meeting. You can contact us via email at <https://www.rutlandtown.com/contact-rutland-town/#email>. You can also get messages to us through our Town Administrator Bill Sweet at 802-773-2528, extension 106.

Let us hear from you.

Planning Commission con't. from pg. 1
And we'll be glad to acknowledge you in a caption. Thank you in advance!

Municipal Plan

During August's Community Day, the commission also surveyed residents on their priorities for the town's upcoming Municipal Plan. With assistance from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, responses are currently being analyzed to help shape the document, which serves as a comprehensive inventory of municipal services and sets local planning priorities for the next eight years.

Highway Happenings

By Dave Sears

I think I say it every year but, where did the summer go? It is September, the kids are back in school and the temperatures are cooling. As usual, we had a very busy summer. Several culverts were replaced. Paving is always a hot topic. By the time The Circle comes out, we should be almost done with paving for this season.

Next, we begin to look to winter. We have ordered five weather stations to be installed later this fall. Rutland Town is complex when it comes to winter weather. What happens on East Pittsford Rd. is not necessarily what happens on Creek Rd.

Therefore, we are going to install these weather stations to help us anticipate, predict, and proactively treat winter weather events.

I bring this up because of the recent interest in the Flock cameras that have been deployed in cities and towns around the country. The Frost Solutions weather stations we are installing are in no way associated with the Flock cameras.

The weather stations collect weather data like air temperature, road temperature, humidity readings etc. to help us to predict upcoming weather. The weather stations take periodic photos of the road surface and the road surface only. We will be viewing the photos on a phone or computer for the express reason of predicting and treating the roads. They will not be able to identify any person or vehicle. Basically, we don't care who you are. We are concerned with road maintenance period.

There will be signs on the weather station posts identifying them as weather stations, and weather stations alone.

The other aspect of winter maintenance that needs to be mentioned is our treatment of winter road conditions.

As mentioned in a previous Circle article, we are moving away from granular salt to magnesium chloride liquid. The last two years, the salt companies have shut us off from salt deliveries because of shortages in their systems. In 2025 we were shut off in February and this year it was January 19th. That is unacceptable as far as we are concerned.

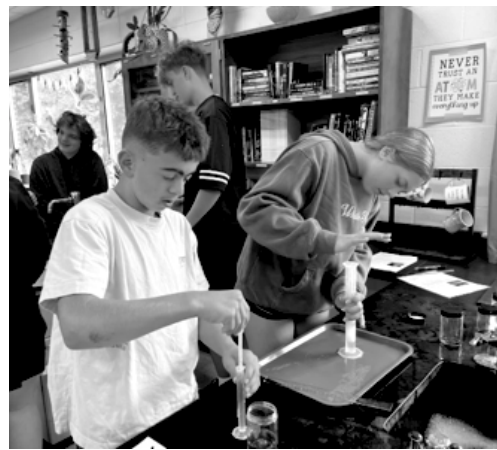
We piloted a program at the end of last winter season that showed promising results. We are going to take those results a step or two further this year.

I am out of space for this article, so more to come on this in a later issue.

Stay Safe.

7TH & 8TH GRADE SCIENCE

Photos & Text From Katie McDougall



RTS 8th grade scientists kicked off the year by reviewing variables and putting their skills to work! Students investigated how changing variables—like soap type, soap-to-water ratios, straw types, and surface textures—affected their results. They collected and analyzed data and completed their first lab report of the year!

New Thermal Imaging Cameras Available for Rutland Town Residents

From Bill Sweet

We are pleased to announce the purchase of two thermal imaging cameras through grant funding to help residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes. The cost of these cameras is fully funded by the grant.

They are available at no cost for Town of Rutland residents to borrow and use for preliminary home energy loss reviews. Thermal imaging can help identify areas where heat may be escaping, such as around windows and doors, through poorly insulated walls, or in other locations where energy efficiency may be improved.

By making this technology available to our residents, we hope to assist residents in identifying opportunities to reduce energy costs, improve comfort, and make informed decisions about future energy-saving improvements.

Residents interested in learning more about the program or borrowing a thermal imaging camera can contact me during regular office hours at 802-773-2528 x 106.

This is another example of how we use grant funding to bring valuable resources and services directly to our community at little to no cost.

NEW RTS STAFF BIOS



Teri Hogan, 5th grade Math and Science Teacher (LTS for Megan Zaengle)

We are so excited to share that Teri will be joining us this fall as our Long-Term Substitute 5th-grade math and science teacher, covering for Megan Zaengle's maternity leave!

Many of our families and students already know Teri, she was Emily Quigley's 3rd-grade LTS this past fall and has been a fantastic building substitute for us. A graduate of Castleton State College, Teri brings great experience to the 5th grade, having previously taught 3rd, 5th, and 6th grade at Clarendon Elementary, and 6th grade at Killington Elementary.

When she's not in the classroom, Teri loves staying active in local sports. She has coached middle school field hockey at Otter Valley and helped out with our very own RTS field hockey club team this year alongside Theresa Sunderland. We are thrilled to officially welcome Teri back to the RTS family for the fall!



Jody McIntosh, School Nurse

We are excited to welcome RTS parent Jody McIntosh as our new school nurse!

Jody brings an incredible wealth of healthcare experience and leadership to our school. She has spent over two decades as a Registered Nurse at Rutland Regional Medical Center, serving in key roles including Nurse Manager of the Women's & Children's Unit, Director of Nursing Excellence, and Manager of Infection Prevention. Alongside her clinical work, she has taught pediatrics and health promotion as a nurse instructor for both VTC and Castleton. Jody

holds degrees in Sports Medicine and Nursing, as well as a Master's in Healthcare Quality from George Washington University. Her background in pediatric care and health safety makes her such a wonderful fit for our community. Welcome, Jody!



Kristina Doty, Pre-K Paraeducator

We are excited to welcome Kristina Doty to the RTS family as our new Pre-K Paraeducator in Erin Bourne's classroom!

Kristina comes to us with two years of special education paraeducator experience and holds a Bachelor's in Psychology. She is currently continuing her studies through Vermont State University and the Vermont Higher Education Collaborative toward a teaching endorsement in Early Childhood Education. Her nurturing approach, patience, and passion for early childhood development make her a fantastic fit for our youngest learners!

A native Vermonter, Kristina lives in Clarendon with her husband, daughter, and golden retriever. Outside of school, she enjoys yoga, paddle boarding, reading, horticulture, snowmobiling, traveling, and spending time outdoors with her family. Please join us in giving Kristina a warm Rutland Town welcome!



Carolyn "Cal" McCullough, Special Education Support Staff

We are thrilled to welcome Carolyn "Cal" McCullough to the RTS team as our new Special Education Support Staff! Cal brings 11 years of valuable experience in Rutland City education, where she has served as both a paraeducator and a special educator. She holds a Bachelor's degree in English from Franklin Pierce University. Originally from New Jersey, Cal has proudly called Vermont home for the past 21 years. Her collaborative spirit, deep background in student support, and dedication to helping children learn and grow make her a fantastic addition to our school community! Outside of school, Cal enjoys spending time with

her husband and family. You can often find her gardening, reading, enjoying the outdoors, or working on creative handcraft projects. Please join us in giving Cal a warm Rutland Town School welcome!



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

Rutland Town Community Calendar

OCT	8	Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m.
	9	RTS - No School/GRC SU In-Service
	12	Town Hall Closed
	12	RTS closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day
	18	Wonderfeet Truck or Treat - 12 p.m.
	20	Select Board meeting - 6 p.m.
	29	Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m.
NOV	30	Trick or Treat on the Trail at RTS - 4 p.m.
	3	Select Board meeting - 6 p.m.
	11	RTS closed for Veterans Day
	12,13	RTS Early Dismissal
	17	Select Board meeting - 6 p.m.
	19	Planning Commission meeting - 6:30 p.m.
	25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday



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