

The Circle



Rutland Town's Link between School and Community

October 2016

TOWN NEWS

By Carol Bam

Select Board Chairman Josh Terenzini reports that the municipal tax rate which was set in July went down for 2016-2017 from last year. "The Board is extremely proud of that fact. Not many Vermont municipalities have seen their tax rates decrease. It's a testament to the resolve of the governing boards of our school and town that they are only spending what they need to."

Kirsten Hathaway began work as interim Town Clerk and Treasurer in August. Hathaway was appointed by the Board to succeed Donna Zeller who resigned in July. Terenzini said, "her energy and customer service experience will be assets in her new position. Since Town Clerk and Treasurer are elected position, she will run for both offices in the Town Meeting election next March. (See her introduction on Page 3.)"

The new Highway Garage at Northwood Park is open and in use! On the drawing board for years, it was built following voter approval in



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SCHOOL BOARD THANKS RTS STAFF AND COMMUNITY

Thanks to the support of our community, Rutland Town School's summer remodeling project has enhanced the learning environment for our students and staff. Highlights include: security entrance; ceiling tiles; cooler/freezer; flooring/ carpeting; and bathroom repairs.

We continue to support our students' learning. Using our school's technology fund, wireless was upgraded, electronic devices updated, and the school's internet/bandwidth was increased by 300%!

The Act 46 path for Rutland Town School is a self-study to propose a stand-alone district within the supervisory union. The committee will complete the study by November. For more information on the Act 46 Study Committee, please visit our school's website.

PRINCIPAL BOYNTON WELCOMES STUDENTS AND STAFF

A new and exciting school year is underway and we are ready for many student successes. Our new character education program, "Take Charge of Your Character", introduces positive character traits to kids, recognizing when students put them into action. (Read more on Page 11). Responsibility, fairness, generosity, and citizenship will be the focus this year. Monthly assemblies will celebrate student success.

In Middle School, we are implementing a learner-centered model where students are more responsible for their learning.

(Continued on Page 2)

TOWN CELEBRATES NEW HIGHWAY GARAGE By Mary Ashcroft, Select Board

It's hard to miss. With its barn red exterior and neat white trim, the new town highway garage claims a strong presence at Northwood Park. The long contemplated project is open for business, and town residents celebrated at an open house on Saturday, September 24.

The highway garage had been in planning stages since 2003, when town voters approved spending to permit the project. Preliminary engineering and site design work resulted in sketch plans and some approvals. But the real opportunity came in 2014, when Rutland Town's auditors confirmed a \$3.2 million dollar budget surplus. Voters twice agreed - at Town Meetings in March and August of 2015 - to use \$700,000 of that surplus to build the garage. Josselyn Brothers Construction, Inc., was the successful bidder for the design/build structure at just over \$600,000. Paving, retention pond construction, engineering costs, contingencies and cost to tap the City of Rutland water main brought the budget in at just \$700,000. The town saved money by using the design build approach, which eliminated separate architectural costs. Highway Commissioner

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Photo from Left to right:
 Marc Whitman Music Teacher, Middle School Chorus
 Hannah Thorpe 4th grade teacher
 Lori Elliott Special Education
 Jill Alderman First Grade Teacher
 Colby Hescocck Fifth Grade Teacher

RTS WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Marc Whitman: I have been teaching music for 19 years in the Rutland City Public Schools. I started as the high school band director for ten years and then worked with younger students from grades 3 - 7 at the Rutland Intermediate School and Middle School teaching classroom music and chorus. I am excited to start a different chapter in my teaching career at Rutland Town School.

I am a native Vermonter, born and raised in Brattleboro. I attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst for my Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Ithaca College for my Master of Music in Percussion Performance. I have performed as a percussionist and drummer for a variety of ensembles in Vermont including the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, the Vermont Jazz Ensemble, the Rutland Area Chorus and Orchestra, the East Bay Jazz Ensemble, Marble City Swing Band, and many others. A highlight of my performing career was performing with the Canadian Brass at Lincoln Center in New York City.

My musical tastes are varied, but I prefer classical and jazz and have a growing appreciation for opera. I admit to dancing in the kitchen with my children to Kidz Bop. Non musical interests include being active in my church, reading, golfing, traveling, and politics. I live with my two children and dog in Rutland.

Jill Alderman: I am a first grade teacher at Rutland Town School. I enjoy working with children and helping them succeed and reach for their dreams and goals through education. I believe that education should empower a child and help him or her to make a positive contribution to our world.

I am currently working on my Masters in Special Education. My husband and I reside in Rutland Town with our two children and dog. I have lived in Rutland Town most of my life and even graduated from Rutland Town School.

I am thrilled to be back at RTS and excited to be part of this community.

Colby Hescocck: I am a 5th grade teacher at Rutland Town School. I grew up in Brattleboro, VT and am new to the Rutland community. I received my Bachelor's degree from Castleton University in May 2016. During my time at Castleton I studied education K-6 while specializing in mathematics. I was fortunate enough to mentor and student teach at RTS last year so my transition into my first year teaching has gone well! Outside of school, I also have a strong interest in sports, both playing and watching. My favorite teams are those from the Boston area, the Patriots, Red Sox, Celtics, and Bruins. My 5th grade class and I are off to a great start so far this year and I hope this continues!

Hannah Thorpe: I am Rutland Town School's new fourth grade teacher. Before RTS I worked as a 2nd and 3rd grade teacher at Sudbury Elementary School and before that I worked at a school in New Hampshire. I got my college degree from Southern New Hampshire University. I am so excited to be here at RTS and couldn't have asked for a better class this year!

Lori Elliott: I am new to RTS this year as the new 5th and 6th grade Special Education Teacher. I live in Pittsford with my husband and four children. They range in age from 24 to 6. I have my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education with an endorsement in Special Education. I have my Master's degree in General Education, and am certified by the State of Vermont in Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Education. I have been teaching for over 20 years. I enjoy spending time with my family and watching my children in sports and their activities.

(Principal Boynton~ Continued from Page 1)

Guided by teachers, students will be creating Personalized Learning Plans for goal-setting and reflection. Teachers are implementing proficiency based grading as students progress towards a learning standard. Finally, we will be addressing school climate/culture with middle school team building, class projects and "town meetings."

Thanks to faculty and students for starting on the right foot with these initiatives. We are fortunate to have the assistance of the Tarrant Institute for Innovative Education. We also appreciate our wonderful parents, working with us to provide a positive educational experience for kids. We appreciate their patience, communication, and teamwork and look forward to continued success this year.

THE CIRCLE is a publication of Rutland Town and Rutland Town School, informing the community about issues of local interest. *The Circle* is not a public forum. The school administration has the right to exercise editorial control over style and content in keeping with a proper educational environment.

The Circle staff includes Principal Aaron Boynton as Editor in Chief, Carol Bam, Theresa Kulig, and Marie Pennington. Five issues are published every other month from October to June.

For more information, mailing list changes, to advertise or contribute articles, email carolbam@aol.com or call the RTS office (775-0566)

**The Circle, c/o Rutland Town School,
 1612 Post Road, Rutland, VT 05701**

VOCA LINKS WITH COMCAST VOLUNTEERS TO REFURBISH TOWN CEMETERY

By Mary Ashcroft

Employees at our Town Office in Center Rutland knew something was afoot when a convoy of Comcast trucks pulled into the Town Hall parking lot earlier this month. Truck doors opened and men in dark shirts and ties emerged. But instead of approaching the town office, they walked to the cemetery next door and huddled with representatives of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association. Then the ties came off, chains saws roared, and Comcast volunteers and friends went to work. Three hours later, Rutland Town's venerable Center Rutland Cemetery had a much needed facelift.

The idea for the project came from Town Administrator Joe Zingale, who had researched some of the old graves in the cemetery, including one belonging to Rutland Town's First Selectman. Joe told the Select Board of the state of disrepair--broken and tilting headstones, and overgrown shrubs and trees marred this old burial ground. Board members Chris Kiefer-Cioffi and Mary Ashcroft were intrigued. Mary contacted Tom Giffin of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association. Fortunately, Tom lives in Rutland City, and knew the area well. Yes, VOCA was willing to help. Chris Kiefer-Cioffi set up work sessions, provided refreshments, tackled the paperwork and moved the project along. And the Comcast volunteers signed up to help their community.

There is an art to rescuing an old cemetery. Fragile stones need to be carefully handled to prevent further damage. Tom Giffin coached a group of volunteers on methods to straighten leaning headstones with pry bars and shovels. He then moved over to mend a broken headstone. As a Comcast worker scrubbed the stone's broken edge to prepare it for gluing, Tom mixed up a special strong stone epoxy. The broken off stone half was fitted on its mate, and the whole braced with stout boards to hold the mended tone together while the glue dried.

Comcast workers sawed down much overgrown shrubbery near the west side of the burial ground, discovering two old headstones which were sunken into the ground. Toward the south edge of the cemetery where the land slopes down to the railroad tracks below, another crew cleared small trees and vines, unearthing yet another headstone nearly lost to the overgrowth. All shrubs and trees were chipped and loaded into the Town truck for use as landscaping mulch at the new Town Highway Garage.

On behalf of the citizens of Rutland Town, the Select Board thanks the following workers who helped bring our old town cemetery back to life:

From Comcast: Russ Schoengarth, Jason Crain, Simon Turgeon, Nick Brooks, Jason Bates, Kris Young, Patrick Gilligan, Chad Hicks, William Mills, Tyler Martin, James Coombs, Stephen McGee and PJ Mallon.

From Rutland Town: Road Commissioner Byron Hathaway and State Senator Brian Collamore.

From VOCA: Tom Giffin and all of the folks at Vermont Old Cemetery Association who care about our past.



Our New Town Clerk and Treasurer Kirsten Hathaway

Hello to all Rutland Town Residents! I am very excited to have the opportunity to serve as your new Clerk and Treasurer and I hope you are just as excited to have me here. I want to give those of you who do not know me, the opportunity to learn a little about me. Here are some fun facts:

- I grew up in the suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio.
- I have gained a variety of skills by working for a few different companies including the Ritz Carlton, Gamestop, and most recently Killington Resort.
- After graduating from Paul Smith's College, I worked in Rutland for a bit and met my husband Sawyer Hathaway at the Rutland Summer Farmers' market. Best Purchase Ever!
- Though I was born and raised in Cleveland, I do have New Englander blood because my father was born in Simsbury, Connecticut.
- My Grandfather served on the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department for 14 years.
- I am an active member of the Rutland Young Professionals.

Rutland Town is a wonderful home for my family, and I look forward to helping take care of our town's history and future.



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(Highway Garage ~ Continued from Page 1)

Byron Hathaway acted as Clerk of the Works, another cost savings.

But as bid, the garage did not include a sprinkler system. Until that time, the state had routinely granted waivers to allow town highway buildings to be constructed without fire protection systems. A fire in a town garage in southern Vermont caused the state to re-evaluate that issue. Also, Fire Chief Frank Cioffi was holding firm against a local business operating without an approved sprinkler system. Prudence dictated that the town take a second look at installing a sprinkler system in the new garage to protect its investment in equipment and machinery to be stored in the garage.

Fortunately, there was money to install a system. Several years ago, timber cutting on town property generated revenues of just under \$100,000. That "forestry" money had been informally set aside for the town highway garage. The Select Board agreed to use \$75,000 from that fund to pay for the sprinkler system. With this addition, total budget for the garage rose to \$775,000.



Site work for the garage was well underway in the fall of 2015, and construction of the 3 bay, 80 X 72 foot pre-engineered building garage began this spring. The new building features a small office for the Road Commissioner, a break room, full bath with shower, and a mezzanine for storage. The garage is served with water from the City of Rutland and with on-site septic.

The building is energy efficient, with insulation of R-19 value in the walls and R-38 in the ceiling. The three 16' X16' foot overhead doors are also insulated, and the floor relies on radiant heat in two zones—one for the garage area and one for the office/break room/bathroom area. To defray a good portion of the building's heating costs, the furnace is designed to use waste oil collected at the town's transfer station as well as conventional #2 heating oil. The garage also features an alarm system and an exhaust system. It was accepted by the Select Board on August 2, 2016 following a site inspection.

60 Plus: Medicare Open Enrollment From Heather Baker, SVCOA

It's that time again: Medicare Open Enrollment. Please note these important dates: **October 15 - December 7**. At this time, everyone enrolled in Medicare should check how their plan coverage works. As a beneficiary, this responsibility is yours.

Open Enrollment is your opportunity to change your Drug Plan (Medicare Part D) or compare Health Care Plans. You may stay with your current plans if you are happy with them, or look for a new one with better coverage, higher quality, and lower cost. If your plan is being discontinued you must have a new plan in place for January 1, 2017.

Watch your mail. Your current drug plan, if you have one, will send you information this fall about any changes they are making. For example, they may change the cost of the premium, deductible and co-pays, or the list of drugs included in the formulary. You can compare your current plan to other plans and choose the one that's best for you. You can go to **Medicare.gov** or call 1-800-Medicare.

We recommend that you consider these questions during Open Enrollment:

- Is the cost (premium) of my plan changing?
- Will my plan still cover the drugs I need?
- Are there any drug restrictions?
- How does my plan coordinate with any state or federal

benefits, if I receive these? (Examples: V-Pharm, Extra Help-Low Income Subsidy, or Medicaid)

- Is there a plan that fits my needs better than my current one?

Medicare has strict deadlines, so don't wait! If you are confused about the options and how to compare them, you're not alone. It can be challenging, and that's why Vermont's Area Agencies on Aging provide free unbiased information to help Vermonters learn everything they need to know about Medicare. Offerings include free classes, information by internet and telephone, and in some cases one-on-one meetings.

For personalized assistance with your Medicare questions, **call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-642-5119**.



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Get HELP in an EMERGENCY

By Martin Wasserman,
Town Emergency Management Director

If you are someone (or know of someone) who may require help in an emergency, please contact me. In the interest of keeping all town residents safe, knowing in advance who might need assistance in a weather emergency or extended power outage is crucial. The Town will coordinate with first responders to help you leave your home for a designated shelter site such as Rutland Town School or the Jos. Denardo Fire Station in Center Rutland.

If you would like to participate in this advance emergency planning, we will need your name, address, home and cell phone contacts, and basic health information (medical conditions, medications and physician contact) and contact information for a relative or other designee.

Your information will be secured on a designated computer at the Town Office, password protected and accessible only by town officials in an emergency.

If you would like to register for assistance or have questions or concerns about this program, please contact me at emergencymanagement@rutlandtown.com, or call the Town Office at 773-2528.

You may also send this information directly to the Town Office address.

Emergency Management Director
Town of Rutland
181 Business Route 4
Center Rutland, VT 05736

NEWS FROM THE REC

By Director Mike Rowe

The Rec would like to thank all who enjoyed Northwood Pool this summer. We had close to 10,000 visitors including the local swim team, competitors in two major swim meets, all our Tapestry groups, swim lessons and of course our pass holders. I would like to thank the lifeguards for a great summer keeping the pool safe.

We have just received a grant to build a playground at Northwood park. More info to follow.

Soccer season is in full swing thanks to our coaches: K-2 program Rob Labate, U10 girls Kate Moser and Dr. Marsh, U12 girls Sue Cooley and Rob Labate, U10 boys Brendan Chamberlain and Pat Whalen and U12 boys Pat Cooley, Fabio Rosi and Brent Gile. The schedule for games is on the town website www.rutlandtown.com under Recreation. All Recreation info is located on the website.

And the Halloween Party....yes, fall is in the air. The Party will be on Friday, Oct. 28 in the school gym from 6:00 to 8:00. Join us for food, fun, games and of course candy.

Just as in the past few years, the Book Fair will also be open on the stage during the party. One change to the Halloween Party, this year instead of the costume contest we will be raffling off prizes.

If you have ideas for programming or just general questions, please contact director Michael Rowe at 779-2518.

VOTER INFORMATION

For Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Last day to register to vote is Wednesday, November 2 until 5 pm at Town Hall

New voters are required by the "Help America Vote Act" to show a driver's license or provide the last four digits of their social security number.

Voters must be 18 years old on or before Election Day, Nov 8, 2016 to vote in the presidential election.

Absentee Ballots are available. Voters may request an absentee ballot for several elections by filling out an official "REQUEST FOR EARLY ABSENTEE VOTER BALLOT (FOR ONE YEAR ONLY)" form available at the Town Office. Ballots can be picked up in person (by the voter only) or mailed to you. To be counted, completed ballots must be dropped off at the Town Office by the close of the office **Monday, Nov. 7**, or they can be delivered to the poll site on Election Day by 7 pm closing.

Vote Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7 am - 7 pm

Residents living on the east side of Route 7 vote at Rutland Town School; west side residents vote at the Town Office.

Call the Town Office at 773-2528 if you need more information.

NEW VOTER TOOLS

Register to Vote online
Request Absentee Ballots

Secretary of State Jim Condos has announced the roll-out of the new Elections Management Platform. One part aids town and city clerks in managing elections. Two parts pertain to individual voters and provide tools that make it easier for all eligible Vermonters to vote.

Vermonters can now submit a voter registration application online. The online voter registration page can be found at <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>.

In addition, the new "My Voter Page" is an "online resource that allows every registered voter to login and have access to a unique, voter-specific web page where they can request an absentee ballot, track its status, update their voter registration record, find their polling place, view a sample ballot and much more. The My Voter Page login can be found at <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us>.

Race for State Senator from Rutland County

Voters can vote for 3 of 7 candidates. Incumbents are Kevin Mullin, Peg Flory and Brian Collamore. Korrine Rodrigue, Scott Garren, Cheryl Hooker and Richard Lenchus are also running. We have statements from five candidates.

Korrine Rodrigue

My name is Korrine Rodrigue and I am running for Rutland County State Senate. As a long-term resident of Rutland County, I have witnessed first-hand the problems that we are facing that are not being addressed. There have been incredible initiatives over the last few years with many people working tirelessly to change the negative perception about Rutland, but more work needs to be done.

I grew up in Glens Falls, N.Y. where my parents raised me to have a strong work ethic, be involved in your community, and look for ways to bring solutions to problems. My husband, Rich Rodrigue was born and raised in Rutland. We are proud to be raising our family in Rutland Town.

My campaign is focused on providing research-based solutions to the current opiate epidemic, focusing on the children that are on the front lines of this national problem, high taxes that are making Vermont unaffordable, and helping to create a vision for our economy that brings about new opportunities and productive jobs. Rutland County is an unbelievable place with a great sense of community, but our economy is stagnant and many of our resources are tapped. I have been engaged and committed to this community as a public health researcher to establish Project VISION and to build a public health and crime-based strategy that works. Project VISION is now a state-wide model that others are looking to replicate in their communities.

In order to bring about change we must be willing to break down silos to improve communication and collaboration, have a clear strategy and vision, and be willing to do things that have been successful in other communities. I believe that my life's experiences, professional expertise, and understanding of the issues uniquely qualify me to be an authentic representative of Rutland County.

Kevin Mullin

As your senator, I will work with my legislative colleagues to improve our economic vitality. Good paying jobs with benefits are essential for our success. We cannot tax our way out of the state's current fiscal woes. As I have in the past, I will work against any attempts to raise taxes on home heating fuel and gasoline. I am committed to working to make permits more timely and predictable. The ability for one business to hold another hostage must be stopped. The recent decision by BJ's illustrates how broken the current system is. We must continue our work to provide entrepreneurs with access to capital to create jobs.

Education is the great equalizer. Our kids will be competing globally for jobs and we must provide them with educational opportunities that will prepare them for

Cheryl Hooker

I am Cheryl Mazzariello Hooker retired teacher, former legislator. My husband George and I are lifelong residents of Rutland having lived, worked and raised our four children in Rutland City. I am on the November ballot hoping to serve Rutland County once again in Montpelier.

Rutland County is a community of hard working Vermonters. In industry, agriculture, healthcare, education and tourism, our neighbors work hard to provide for their families and to make Rutland a desirable place to live. I want to work with the members of these varied communities to keep Rutland a sustainable and secure place to work, play and raise a family or to settle in retirement knowing that we can count on one another.

We have much we can build on in the County to ensure a safe and sustainable future. Our education system can provide a skilled and capable workforce for the large and small businesses. Our healthcare system provides quality care and good jobs. Our model farm to table industry works to protect our environmental brand and quality of life so important to our economy.

I want to use these assets to create more opportunities for young people to apprentice under professionals in business and the trades; to establish more accessible, affordable, quality childcare in our county so that mothers and fathers are able to pursue careers and know that their children are well cared for; to grow our communities with hardworking members who will help us maintain a vibrant Vermont values County.

As Rutland County residents, we want our home to be the best it can be. We have the resources; all we need is the will to work together and build a secure future for our selves, our children, and our children's children.

I'm asking for your vote on November 8.

success. While we continue to raise the bar in education, we must also seek efficiencies as our property tax burden is too high. I believe strongly that Vermonters cannot afford any new taxes and that we must live within our means.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve you in the capitol. I am, once again, asking my friends and neighbors in Rutland to allow me to serve you for another two years. It has been a pleasure working with Senators Collamore and Flory to make Rutland and Vermont an even better place to live, work and play. If you wish to discuss any issues, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 353-6770.

Scott Garren

I am running for State Senate because I want to fight for Rutland County. We need a strong voice in Montpelier with effective, affordable progressive solutions to our most pressing problems.

Business - Rutland needs growing businesses.

- Simplify state permitting
- Support REDC to attract new business and help existing ones
- Offer incentives to new and growing businesses that support clear and measurable outcomes.
- Reform our tax system to be fair to all

Affordability - The biggest driver of our cost crisis is sky-rocketing healthcare costs, especially for drugs.

- Explore forming a drug purchasing coop with other states
- Continue to build a universal cost-effective healthcare system

Safety - Among the most important jobs of government is to protect its citizens. I want to make law-abiding people safer. For serious felons, we should lock them up. For nonviolent and young offenders we need to do everything we can to divert them from crime help them become productive citizens.

- Expanding and supporting Project Vision.
- Ending private prisons

Vermont has a proud history of responsible gun use. We also have the 7th highest rate of domestic homicide and the 8th highest suicide rate. We need common sense gun control:

- Universal background checks and keeping guns away from people convicted of domestic violence

Environment and Green Jobs - Our health and quality of life depends on protecting the integrity of our environment.

- Increased participation in and control of our energy future so we all participate and benefit—not just out-of-state investors

Vibrancy - We must keep our young people and attract families. I propose:

- School debt tax credit for young people staying and working in Vermont after college
- A robust welcome for immigrants and refugees

Brian Collamore

I am Brian Collamore and am running for re-election to the Vermont Senate. I serve on the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, Senate Government Operations Committee and the Government Accountability Committee.

I helped draft Act 173 which addressed the opioid problem in Vermont. Vermont's progress on the drug issue was hailed by the National Safety Council's research. Released in a June 2016 white paper, it shows Vermont is one of only 4 states that is making progress on the opioid crisis. Further, the white paper states "Only Maine, New Mexico and Vermont have the resources needed to treat the number of residents suffering from opioid use disorders."

I also worked on Act 168 which expanded Vermont's successful medical marijuana system, giving doctors an alternative to highly addictive opiates when treating some conditions such as chronic pain.

I have worked in Rutland County radio for over 45 years, the last 20 years as host of the WSYB Morning Show with Jack Healey and Kenn Hayes. I also am the former General Sales Manager of the 5 Cata-mount Radio stations.

I moved to Rutland immediately after graduating from Middlebury College in 1972 and have lived here ever since. I coached high school ice hockey and officiated ice hockey for over 40 years and am currently USA Hockey's Supervisor of Officials in Vermont.

- I want to work to make Vermont more affordable for the average working Vermonter. I oppose any more taxes especially the "Carbon Tax."
- I want to make Vermont more business friendly so good paying jobs find their way here.
- I will not vote for a state budget that spends more than available revenues.
- I will continue to work for solutions to reduce drug addiction.
- I believe towns should have more say about where industrial solar and wind projects are located.

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Tony Flory Transfer Station Expanded Hours

An hour was added to
each operating shift.

New hours:
Wed. 3 pm - 7 pm
Sat. 7 am - 1 pm

RTS Music News

From Aaron Audet, Band Director

Band is off to another good year. There are 71 students participating in band from grades 4-8. The 4th grade has 29 new musicians this year. Both M Jazz and T Jazz are very strong groups as well. We have a lot of new music to learn, and we are also getting ready for the Halloween Parade. Our parade theme is the song "Whip It", by Devo. We are currently working out the costume ideas, and maybe a float as well. If anyone is interested in helping with costumes, or the float, please contact me at the school.

Please come and support us at our performances. All community members are welcome.

(Town News ~ Continued from Page 1)

March and August of 2015. (See page 1 for more.)

Several public hearings have been held on the Town Plan. The proposed document represents a year's work by the Planning Commission in concert with the Select Board. It can be accessed on the town website rutlandtown.com. The Town Plan serves as a guide to current land use and future growth and development. From the document's introduction, "The Plan addresses the need to balance growth in the Town of Rutland with neighborhood quality of life considerations."

The Select Board will begin formulating 2017 budgets in October. The Board hopes that an earlier start "will prevent the race to the finish that always seems to coincide with the holidays."

Rutland Town officials welcome new business Super Cuts to the Green Mountain Plaza and a big congratulations to the recently expanded Ann Clark Cookie Cutters. Ann Clark was recently awarded a small business grant secured by the Rutland Economic Development Corp, which allowed the company to purchase a new machine for making cookie cutter molds. The Town Select Board supported the Ann Clark grant application. Located on Quality Lane in the Town, Ann Clark Cookie Cutters employs up to 40 individuals during peak operations and 25 individuals the rest of the year.

BJ's Wholesale Club has notified Town officials that they have suspended their plan to bring their wholesale shopping store to the south end of town. The owners of the Diamond Run Mall opposed BJ's Act 250 application. The Mall owners first demanded a new Act 250 hearing and then opposed BJ's Act 250 permit request.

The owners of the Diamond Run mall raised questions regarding the safety of having a gas station at the proposed BJ's and whether individuals could have their new car batteries or new tires installed at the BJ's store. Select Board Chairman Terenzini said BJ's would have been a good fit for the town and would have expanded the tax base by approximately \$250,000 a year in 1% tax revenue.

The Select Board would like to hear from Town residents as to whether the Board should retain the historic Cheney Hill Community Center on Cedar Avenue or sell the building which is a

WHAT IS A MAKERSPACE? The Maker Movement at RTS

By Theresa Czachor, RTS Librarian

A Makerspace, sometimes referred to as a hackerspace or a fablab, is a creative do it yourself (DIY) space where students can gather to create, invent, design, and learn. These spaces often have 3D printers, software, electronics, craft and hardware supplies, tools, and even robots. The Makerspace movement has been gaining momentum nationally over the last few years in schools and libraries. Students who come together to design and build are able to follow their own interests and passions. Classroom Makerspaces incorporate STEM topics like Math and Science to build projects for the classroom. One school in Portland, OR made emergency shelters in a fifth grade Math class after Hurricane Katrina. They applied what they needed to learn about volume, fractions, measurement and averages to their project.

At RTS, a newly formed "Maker Club" invites students in Grades 5-8 to come to the Library after school for a design challenge or to create a unique project of their own. Students can also work with simple robotics like Ozobot or coding and electronics kits such as Arduino.

The Tarrant Institute for Innovative Education invites schools to apply for an Innovation Grant. According to their website, "The Tarrant Institute provides a variety of services to help schools make the transition to engaging, technology-rich teaching and learning." Rutland Town School will apply for an Innovation Grant this year to create a Makerspace in our building. Written as part of the grant application, students will be invited to become involved in the design of the Makerspace. Erica Zimmer, Technology Integration teacher, is spearheading the grant application.

We will keep you informed of our progress and share new information regarding our grant application and Maker Club activities via upcoming editions of *The Circle*.

former town schoolhouse dating to circa 1900. The building has most recently been used by various groups as a meeting location for: town seniors' weekly Meals on Wheels luncheons, Boy and Cub Scout meetings, school groups and private functions. Recent use has dwindled and the Select Board would like input from town residents as to what to do with the building. Please contact Town administrator Joseph Zingale Jr. at 770-5072 or rutlandtown@comcast.net with your suggestions.

The Select Board encourages town residents who are elderly or disabled to contact the Town Emergency Manager, Marty Wasserman, to arrange for assistance in case of a townwide emergency such as weather disaster or prolonged power outage. The Emergency Manager will coordinate with first responders to transport residents to a designated shelter, such as Rutland Town School or the Joseph Denardo Fire Station in Center Rutland. See page 5 on how to include yourself or a loved one.

The Presidential election is Tuesday, November 8. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Office. See page 5 for pertinent voter information.

Exploring Identity in Poetry

By Erin Hanrahan, 7th Grade Teacher

When 7th graders entered my English Language Arts class this fall, I asked them to answer a simple question: "Where are you from?" Not surprisingly, I got many responses that said, simply, "Rutland, Vermont." But it turns out, that wasn't the whole story. This year, as students work to set and achieve their own learning goals in the individualized "Personal Learning Plans" mandated by Act 77, they are launching an investigation into identity, asking questions like, *How do my values and beliefs shape who I am?* And more importantly, *How do they shape who I want to become?*

In the context of this larger study of identity, students gathered ideas about family, values, phrases, and memories, adding sensory detail and figurative language. What they came up with were powerful poems that told stories of Rutland Town and its surroundings: "I'm from green mountains and cold winters. I'm from warm maple syrup on fluffy pancakes," wrote Tessa McLaughlin. "I am from my first deer, which dropped in its tracks," wrote Bryce Presseau. "I am from old winter boots. From sledding on Church Hill," wrote Savannah Corey. Students explored their roots and found that they are from much more than a geographical place.

Where I'm From By Jonah Neri

I'm from warm breezes and humid air.
I'm from the silent winds that breezed through your hair.
From dented in walls and the call of cicadas.
I'm from a dialect I never understood,
But frankly I still very much don't.
I'm from sneaked glances and barrels of laughs
That I once shared with people I never knew.

I'm from Melina and a name that's never spoken.
From the smell of the ocean
And a salty impression that tickles your nose.

I'm from Orion's Belt and Perseus, the Hero,
Who shimmered down on me in the cold winters To early spring.
I'm from a crowded house filled with to the brim
With unfamiliar faces, and voices were as loud as the beat
of a drum.

I'm from the spilled paint water on a red maple desk.
I'm from the late night talks with people I loved,
Not noting the fact that my open doorway would make it easy
For others to hear.

I'm from open hearted scolding,
the kind that would be for the better.
I'm from "Don't skip your meals." and "Watch what you say."
I'm from the soft glow of my phone,
Unaware of the fact the sun was already rising.

From tears never spent and words never said.
I'm from simple greetings to long lasting hugs.
From the enticing smell of shepard's pie
And loud barks of a playful black lab, Whose fur was soft as silk.

I'm from dirt driveways surrounded by forest shrub
And wildlife I've never seen.
I'm from the nostalgic sight of green leaves turning a dusty red,
That prompt me to recall
Where I'm really from.



Road Notes

from Byron Hathaway,
Road Commissioner

Clean up from this year's paving project has been completed. Thank you to the residents on the East Pittsford Road and West Proctor Road for your patience while this project was being completed.

We have moved into the new highway garage and are very satisfied with our new home. See page 1 for the story.

Fall work will consist of sign work, brush cutting, road sign inventory, culvert inventory, road erosion inventory, sidewalk inventory, and preparations for winter work.

The budget process will start soon. I will develop a new five year capitalization plan for the highway department. This plan will include projections for paving needs, engineering, large culvert replacements, new road construction, and upgrades to existing roads. The Select Board will review the plan and finalize the project list. The plan will be used to guide budget development in the future.

A short sidewalk project is being planned for next year connecting the sidewalk along US 7 by U-Haul to the Adele Stanley apartments. A 50% grant has been applied for to construct the sidewalk.

A 100% grant has been received by the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District on behalf of RTS and the Town for engineering of storm water upgrades at the town school. The engineering is out to bid at this time. Completion of the engineering will be done by late winter. Another grant will be applied for next year for the actual construction of these improvements. Paving of the school yard will be incorporated into the grant proposal.

RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY

From Abby Noland, Director

Fall is here and that means another season of Vermont Humanities Council *First Wednesday* programs. We kick off with a presentation about The Beatles, Oct. 5 at 7pm.

A big improvement to your library has been the new patron computers and software because of your support! Come in to see them as well as additional improvements such as the new microfilm reader, the color enhanced vision reader, special walkers and stools to help maneuver and retrieve materials, a new webpage and some fun things too.

We have been writing a lot of grants this year. We were very fortunate to receive a Cultural Facilities Grant from the State of Vermont and administered by the Arts Council to improve our lobby restrooms. We will be putting in floor drains and tankless toilets for a more sanitary experience. This means our lobby restrooms will be closed beginning the first week of October.

Summer is over, but children's programming continues with story times, tales to tales, Lego building and more.

If you are looking for adult reading recommendations, we love to help you find read-alikes of your favorite authors. Just call the Help Desk. Or check out Adult Librarian Janet Clapp's "Books Checked Out" by going to <http://www.rutlandreader.com/author/janet-clapp/>

You can also register to vote at the front desk!



Torvy Johnson Hurd

Gables Resident Writes a Children's Book

When Torvy Johnson Hurd sat on her porch years ago watching the antics of a family of squirrels in her peach tree, little did she know that it would result in a published story decades later. Already in its second printing, *The Adventures of Bushy: The Challenge* is an endearing story about four squirrels, each with a distinctive personality, who work together to overcome an obstacle. "It was the first story I ever wrote," recalls Torvy, a Radcliffe College graduate who studied romance languages and literature. "I'm a writer at heart, so I had decided to write about the squirrels in my garden."

Fast forward many years, and Torvy came across her long forgotten about story during her transition from her home in Massachusetts to The Gables at East Mountain. Sharing her story with The Gables memoir group, she was encouraged by fellow member and resident, Arthur Wolk, a former pediatrician, to have it published as a children's book. "He would say, 'How are the squirrels doing?' to keep me focused on moving forward on this project," says Torvy. "He had faith in me."

A GOOD DEED, INDEED

By Mary Ashcroft

Armed with shovels and rakes, and fortified with doughnuts and orange juice, 18 Boy Scouts, Scouters and friends descended on the new Rutland Town Highway Garage on September 17 to plant trees, shrubs and perennials. The Saturday morning landscaping project was organized by local Scout Gordon Ashcroft-Billings as his Eagle Project. The Scout had spent several months garnering donations, planning the layout, and gaining approvals, including from the Town Road Commissioner and Dig Safe. When he called on his friends from BSA Troops 105, 112 and 120, they responded with enthusiasm.

Visitors to the new highway garage at Northwood Park will enjoy the Scouts' work for many years to come. Planted along the north and south sides of the building are white flowering crab trees and hydrangeas. The office doorway is framed with two flowering shrubs, and west of the building there are forsythias. The planting area around the sign, which the Scouts shaped and mounded, contains juniper, spiraea, and a variety of perennials.

The Scouts learned and employed proper planting techniques. The mulch used for this project was harvested at another volunteer project—the Center Rutland Cemetery clean-up by VOCA and Comcast volunteers. (See page 3)

This is the second Eagle Scout project benefiting Rutland Town in recent years. Two years ago, the Scouts rebuilt bleachers and painted dugouts at Northwood Park under the direction of Eagle Scout Matt Burd. At least two more Eagle Scout candidates are planning projects to enhance Town facilities.

The Rutland Town Select Board is grateful for this good deed and thanks those who made it possible:

Scouts: Gordon Ashcroft-Billings, Ethan Courcelle, Tristan Stute, Alex Stute, Chris Wilk, Nick Martins, Sean Babb, Cameron Wilk, Ben Pencak, Luc Pencak, Jamie Ashcroft-Billings.

Scouters: Kendra Stute, Guy Babb, Frank Wilk, Fern Fryer and James Courcelle.

Rutland South Rotarians: Matt Getty and Mary Ashcroft.

Town Highway Commissioner Byron Hathaway who provided topsoil and advice.

Donations:

Design and planting advice: Mike Guay at Enchanted Flora Farm.
Free and reduced charge plantings from Andy Probst at Garden Time.
Free and reduced charge plantings from Paul Garland at Garlands Agway.
Donation of \$250 from Rutland South Rotary Club.
Quality manure from pygmy goats Bob, Bang, Boomer, Bert, Hornet, Hope and Happy.

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News from the Guidance Department

By Alexis Dyer, Guidance Counselor Intern

Rutland Town School has been working hard to put together a new character program **Take Charge of Your Character**. Students Kindergarten through fifth grade will be participating. Every month we will highlight a different character trait, which will help to teach and encourage students to be good neighbors and citizens. Adults in the building will be on the look-out for students demonstrating the monthly character trait and will be writing down student's names and how they demonstrated the character trait on a monthly shape (September's shape is an apple).

We will be holding monthly assemblies to talk and teach about that month's trait and will celebrate and recognize students who exemplified the previous month's trait. Additionally, two or three students from each classroom who go above and beyond in the character trait of the month will be recognized as "Student of the Month". These students will have the opportunity to eat lunch with the Principal and Assistant Principal as a reward for their exemplary behavior.

A letter about the character program was sent home with the students earlier in the month to give more information about the program at home. RTS hopes that parents and guardians will take advantage of the character trait of the month and use it as an opportunity to talk about how their child(ren) can demonstrate those certain traits at home as well as in school. The goal of this program is to give the students a new opportunity to learn about their character and the character of others, get students excited about practicing good behavior and to build unity within the school.

From Melissa Theis, Guidance Director:

Alexis Dyer is an undergraduate student from SUNY Cobleskill currently working in the Guidance Office as an intern. She will be at RTS until December while finishing up her Bachelor's degree in Applied Psychology. She chose Rutland Town because of the great things she heard about the school and community as a whole. Alexis's enthusiasm for the field of school counseling made RTS her top choice when applying to internships in the Rutland area. She is excited and honored to be working at Rutland Town School and can't wait to see what opportunities and experiences this year will bring!

PTO EVENTS

Book Fair: Oct. 24-28

Harvest Dance: Nov. 18, 7-10pm (Grades 6-8)

Breakfast with Santa: Sat., Dec. 3

**PTO Meetings ~ October 6, November 10,
December 3 at 7:00pm in RTS Library**

RUTLAND TOWN SENIORS

By Theresa Kulig

As they say goodbye to summer and hello to fall, Rutland Town Seniors are grateful for the opportunity to again be a part of *The Circle*. Since June they have spent the summer on the go, traveling to the Woodstock Senior Center and Fair Haven Inn for lunch. They have gone as far as Lake George with the Proctor senior group in a Premier Bus, and to close-by Northwood Park for a picnic, and to Sugar & Spice. The group is thankful for the financial assistance from the Select Board and Rec. Department and also for the federal money they receive for the Elders on The Go program through the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging which provides Marble Valley Transit buses for transportation. Their financial support allows this group to stay on the go.

Monthly lunches until December will be enjoyed at Seward's Family Restaurant on the 3rd Tuesday of October - December. (Dates are on the Community Calendar on the back page of this newsletter). They welcome anyone to come and enjoy a tasty lunch along with fellowship. The meal cost is \$7 and reservations need to be made to Pat Tucker in advance. Call her at 776-1066 no later than the Sunday before the scheduled luncheon.

Attendance at the lunches has been holding steady with around 16 each month. Lunch allows time for a brief business meeting. On the agenda for October will be the business of looking for a replacement for Jim Hall, who is stepping down as Treasurer. They hope to have someone in place by December when they break for the winter months. The group would like to publicly thank Jim for his efforts as treasurer and to let him know he will be greatly missed.

Kindergarten Votes Too!

By Linda Mullin, Kindergarten Teacher

Sparkles is our blue Betta Fish. Sparkles was generously donated to the class by the Carrara Family. Now it is the Kindergartners' responsibility to care for Sparkles with the help of their teacher. Their first responsibility was to name the fish. Each child had his or her own idea. Here are some of their ideas:

Bluey	Nala	Sprinkles
Goldie	Teeth Sparkle	Cute Paw
Derek	Girly	Robin
Jr. Fish	Demo Fever	Pancakes
Lola	Green Elsa	Maci

After voting, the name Sparkles was decided upon. Everyone happily agreed to the name and now takes turns feeding the fish a sprinkle of food daily (no pancakes, please.) On Friday, he/she gets a fish treat for the weekend.

Through this scenario, I hope Kindergarten is seen as a place where responsibility, creativity, and happiness flourish. When you visit Rutland Town School, stop by the classroom to see Sparkles in action and say hi to the students and me!

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RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 6 PTO meets – 7 pm, RTS Library
- 10 **Town Hall Closed – Columbus Day**
- 18 Senior Lunch – Noon, Seward's
Select Board meets – 6:30 pm, Town Hall
- 20 Planning Commission meets – 7 pm, Town Hall
Chorus Recital Middle School – 6:30
RTS Cafeteria
- 21 No School – Teacher In-Service
- 24-28 Scholastic Book Fair – RTS
- 28 Rec. Department's Halloween Party
6-8 pm, RTS Gym
Book Fair open during the party
- 29 Halloween Parade – 6:30 pm
Rutland City
- 31 Rain date for Halloween Parade



NOVEMBER

- 1 Friends of Music meets - 4:30 pm, Band Room
- 1,15,29 Select Board meets – 6:30 pm, Town Hall
- 2 **Deadline to Register to vote in Presidential Election (Town Hall open until 5 pm)**
- 3&4 RTS Early release, Parent/Teacher Conferences

- 8 **VOTE - 7 am - 7 pm at RTS or Town Hall**
Town Clerk's office will be closed - all other offices will be open.
- 10 PTO meets – 7 pm, RTS Library
- 11 **Town Hall Closed Veteran's Day**
No school
- 14 School Board meets – 6:30, RTS Library
- 15 Senior Lunch – Noon, Seward's
- 17 Planning Commission meets - 7 pm, Town Hall
- 24 **Article deadline for December Circle issue**
- 24&25 **Town Hall Closed – Thanksgiving**
No School

DECEMBER

- 1 Vocal Concert rehearsal for grades K-4
1:30 pm – RTS Gym
Vocal Concert – 6:30 pm, RTS Gym
- 3 PTO meets – 7 pm, RTS Library
- 3 Breakfast With Santa - Time TBD
- 6 Friends of Music meets - 4:30pm, Band Room
- 12 School Board meets – 6:30, RTS Library
- 13&27 Select Board meets – 6:30 pm, Town Hall
- 15 Planning Commission meets - 7 pm, Town Hall

TOWN AND SCHOOL WEBSITES: rutlandtown.com and rutlandtownschool.org