

The Circle

Rutland Town's Link between School and Community



February 2014

TOWN NEWS

By Carol Bam

"Level fund budgets whenever possible," has been a consistent mantra from the Select Board. "This year was no different," said Chairman Stan Rhodes. "We level funded municipal budgets everywhere we could. Our aim was to help balance out the school side of the equation which must factor in a significant increase in the (state property tax) base rate."

This year taxpayers will for the first time be asked to approve a "stand alone" Police Dept. budget broken out of the General budget. (See Select Board Police Committee budget report on page 10.) The increase in the General budget includes \$35,000 to replace the slate roof on Town Hall. Plus there is a 2% salary increase for all municipal employees. Due to revenues from the local sales tax, of the \$831,000 General budget, only \$386,000 needs to be raised from property taxes.

The Highway budget is up a few hundred dollars, the extra for culvert replacement projects which will proceed if the Town receives state matching grants to leverage the town contribution. The Rec budget increased by \$2000 to allow for smaller purchases of pool area equipment. The idea is not to tap the Rec Depreciation Fund which the Select Board feels is best preserved for the type of major capital improvements undertaken a few years ago at Northwood Park.

The Fire budget is down from last year, since the new Center Rutland station will not require the

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NOTES ON THE BUDGET FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

School Board members and Administrators have listened to residents and been diligent in preparing budgets while maintaining and supporting the educational integrity of our curriculum. The School Board assures that our school offers educational opportunities that align with our community's values and that students are achieving the educational results the community expects while being fiscally responsible.

This year, Governor Shumlin blames the statewide tax increases on school spending this year. In his budget address, Shumlin said the tax hike was due to increased school spending, and he exhorted school boards to scrutinize budgets. He has stated that he is not happy that Vermonters will once again bear an increase of 5 to 7 cents in the statewide property tax rate based upon projections for local school spending, when his own recommendation for the state budget is going up 5 percent. The state's human services expenditures are up by 6 percent.

For Rutland Town taxpayers, this is nothing new. Taxpayers of the town have been in disagreement with Vermont's funding formula since 1997 when VT became the

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UNDER THE GOLDEN DOME Report from Senator Kevin Mullin

The legislature has been in session for just over a month. Major initiatives this year include addressing our growing opiate addiction problem, rising property taxes and economic stimulation. Despite the improving economy, Vermont is lagging behind as usual, and we are dealing with a \$70+ million dollar deficit. Largely, this can be attributed to no longer receiving federal ARRA funds. This would be hard enough alone to give legislators headaches, but couple that with property taxes rising another 7 cents statewide after last year's 5 cent increase and concern for the future of some large employers and our problems are compounded.

I have been working with a group of legislators to propose meaningful property tax relief. I am also cautiously optimistic that this is finally the year that we can make meaningful reform to our system of education governance. As a former School Board member I do not envy our Rutland Town board as they try to manage in a system where they cannot meaningfully control our property tax rates. Whether you support the budget or not, we owe them a

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My View from House Seat 101 From Tom Terenzini, STATE REPRESENTATIVE, RUTLAND TOWN

The Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee recently put together a bill that makes it illegal to litter the waters of the state of Vermont. I had the privilege of reading this potential bill on the house floor. The bill has passed the House at this time. During the week of Feb. 10 my committee will put together a new Fish and Game bill which I will again read on the House floor. The committee took testimony from the hunters and trappers' association that wanted to include snaring as part of the bill. Our committee voted against placing the act of snaring animals into this bill. We are now busy with several water quality bills that will take up the rest of the session.

The House needs to re-write the formula on property taxes. There is no reason why property taxes should be higher when student enrollment has declined over the years. Should Vermont go down the single-payer health care system it will cost over two billion dollars to implement. I do not favor single payer health. I believe an individual should be able to buy insurance across state lines.

In the days ahead we will be dealing with the fact that the teachers and state employees' fund has been underfunded. We will be dealing with the issue of GMO labeling in the state. Then there is the issue of sick days for employees. Everyday at the State House there is a flurry of groups who come to lobby on behalf of their causes. Vermont is a poor state. We can do just so much. Again it is an honor to represent Rutland Town in the Legislature. I have been humbled by this experience.



Collage by Hanna Colwell, Grade 5

PTO NEWS

By Samantha Racine, President

NEW MEETING TIME - Please note that we have changed our monthly meeting to 6:30 pm from 6:00.

SUPERMARKET BINGO is Coming - Mark your calendars. PTO will host supermarket bingo on Wed., March 19. Doors open at 5:45 and the games will begin at 6:30. We will have a concession stand and a bake sale, so come for dinner. This event is open to the community, so please consider joining us for a fun filled evening. Any questions, please contact Mary McGuiness Smith at mbismitty@comcast.net or 558-1133. Hope to see you there.

SCHOOL DIRECTORIES - We still have some left. The children did a great job with the art work that fills the directory pages. If you would like to become a member of the PTO and receive a directory, please contact us for your copy at rts.pto@aol.com.

PRICE CHOPPER TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS - The R.T.S. School code is 15334! Sign up today! Sign up today and purchases made from July 28th through March 29th, 2014, will earn points to help your school get needed equipment FREE. Make sure you're signed up! Check here! If you don't have a card, visit the Customer Service Desk at any Price Chopper location.

HANNAFORD HELPS SCHOOLS PROGRAM - Just imagine new computers, books, art supplies, musical instruments, athletic equipment, maybe even a new playground! We're proud to take an active role in our communities by helping schools. Since its inception 13 years ago, the Hanaford Helps Schools program has raised over \$8 million for nearly 2,830 schools.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION - We are still collecting Box Tops for Education in the gold box in the Main Lobby near the PTO bulletin board.

WHAT'S THE CIRCLE ?

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 during the school year from October through June.

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

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

FROM PRINCIPAL AARON BOYNTON School Budget as RTS Action Plan

Rutland Town School recently celebrated its 100th day of school. It is not only a fun milestone to celebrate with students, it is a reminder of how fast the school year goes by. It causes us to reflect on the progress we have made as a school and the accomplishments of students. Annual events and celebrations take careful and thoughtful planning.

As a school, our school Action Plan is an important annual document to work from throughout the entire year but is also a tool in how our system operates. In my opinion an action plan is built from the school's vision; what it hopes to become. The action plan documents initiatives, reforms, and procedures that will ultimately help us reach our vision. Action plans are also based on data from school wide sources. We work from our action plan throughout the year but yearly we look at what we might need to revise. These revisions help us move even closer to what we hope to become. The second step is how we make our action steps become a reality. Sometimes it is with the resources we already have and other times

supported by the changes in the yearly school budget proposal. In essence our budget is a reflection of our action planning and our action planning is a reflection of our vision.

My work with the Superintendent, Central Office staff, and Rutland Town School Board in this FY 15 proposed school budget is a reflection of very careful planning. I have been extremely cautious in balancing what is a reasonable budget for community members, yet one that supports our students, our planning, and your expectations for a progressive community school. In my second year as your school principal, I continue to be dedicated to the children of Rutland Town. I understand that times are challenging for many families across our community, state and country. I believe your expectations of me will be that of ensuring that your school has a strong leader that considers its positive progression, reputation of excellence, and unwavering support of educating students in the 21st century. I strongly encourage you to exercise your right to vote on this budget.

IT'S WINTER !

By Mrs. Mullin's Kindergarten

Aleya, Carmen, Ryan, Annaika, Amelia, Mattie,
Anna, Ethan, Brandon, Griffin, Troy,
Julie, Logan, Taylor, and Carson

There are four seasons: winter, spring, summer, and fall. Winter is a cold season. Things are covered with snow. Some animals hibernate and people can have fun in the winter.

Chapter I: Animals in the Winter

In the winter, the animals find ways to survive. The rabbit's fur turns white to blend in with the snow. Woodpeckers peck a hole in the tree for a nest. Bees hibernate in the trees. Bats hibernate in caves. Chipmunks sleep, take a quick snack, and then go back to sleep. The worms hibernate in the dirt. Frogs hibernate in the mud. Fish swim under the ice.

Chapter II: People in the Winter

In the winter, it is dark when we start dinner and it lasts until we get up in the morning. But, we can have fun. When it snows, we can catch snowflakes on our tongues. We can make footprints in the snow. We can make a snow angel and a snowman, too. We can watch snowflakes fall down. We can see our breath because the air is so cold.

Winter is cool! Yippee! It's winter!

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP INFO FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

RUTLAND TOWN SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications will be considered if the \$10,000 funding request is approved by Rutland Town voters at Town Meeting, March 4, 2014.

Qualifications: The applicant must have resided in the Town of Rutland for at least two years prior to the date of graduation.

Scholarship Criteria: Awards will be made on the basis of scholastic, leadership, and financial need.

Instructions: The application is in two parts. Part 1 is to be completed by the applicant; Part 2 is to be completed by the school Guidance Dept.

Applications are due in the Town Office April 30.

RUTLAND TOWN

TEACHERS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Each year, four awards of \$250 or five awards of \$200 (to be determined by the Scholarship Committee) are presented to college bound seniors from the teachers of the Rutland Town Education Association. Applications are available at all local high schools through the Guidance Office as of March 1.

Applicants must have graduated from Rutland Town School. They must return a completed application (including an essay, course work completed, final grade point average, SAT/ACT scores, class rank, extracurricular activities and community service) to their high school Guidance Office by the deadline of **May 1, 2014.**

3040 Cans Equals a Nice Donation To the Open Door Mission By Theresa Czachor, Librarian

The "Can Man" bottle drive successfully raised \$152 for the Rutland Open Door Mission thanks to the contributions of many students and families in Rutland Town.

The Can Man written by Laura E. Williams was the inspiration for the drive. In this book, a homeless man is shown kindness by a young boy named Tim who donates his cans and bottles so that the "can man" can buy a winter coat. In turn, the "can man" makes a skateboard as a birthday present for Tim.

RTS Students were touched by the story and happy to be involved in a project to help those in need. Sharon Russell, Director of the Open Door Mission accepted the check from students with gratitude and shared some background with them about the work that is done at the Mission.

Did you know that 89% of the Mission's income comes from the Thrift Store that they operate? Other sources of income include an annual appeal, golf tournament in October, and donations from charitable organizations. We were amazed to learn that 37,000 meals have been served there. Each night that someone stays there is counted as a "bed night" and there have been 14,000 of those!

The goal of the Mission is to help develop a personal plan for each person who resides there. This plan gives individuals the opportunity to reenter society and the work force. Currently, there are 52 veterans of war residing at the Mission and the Veteran's Association is involved with the support of these individuals.

The Open Door Mission is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Pure dedication and hard work by its employees keeps the doors open for those in need of a "home". Thank you Rutland Town community for your support and a **special thank you to Kathy Olsen** who wholeheartedly supported our efforts!



A very big thank you to the hard working 5th graders in this photo who collected and counted cans each week! Pictured (back to front and left to right) are **Emma Notte, Kiana Martin, Sharon Russell, Tatyana Pratt and Devon Kibbey**

Fourth Grade Celebrates the Sciences!

Ms Currier and Mrs. Furman's 4th graders have worked hard to prepare for the second annual RTS Science Fair! We hope that many community supporters will attend the event scheduled for **Tuesday, March 4 from 5 - 6:00 pm in the gym.**

Our young scientists have investigated topics outlined in the 4th grade science standards (energy, waves, structure and function of living things, information processing, and earth's structure). We are very pleased to have a panel of judges known for their advocacy of the sciences. They include our own Aaron Boynton, Sarah Tetzlaff, Marnie Rousel, Lori Patterson, Wendy Lozyniak, and even an eighth grade student (TBA)! These judges will use the scientific process as their main criteria to evaluate the projects. We extend a special thank you to parents for all their support from home.

Where we put our attention and energy sends a strong message to students about what we value as a learning community. We'll see you at the Fair!

(Sen. Kevin Mullin ~ Continued from Page 1)

debt of gratitude for their service to our community.

As chair of the Economic Development committee I am focused on writing and passing a comprehensive economic development plan for job retention and creation. The Shumlin administration has agreed to partner with us on this effort. I have been working behind the scenes to bring state attention to two Rutland County projects that would create good jobs but are stumbling in the permit process. The first is a local issue in Clarendon and I hope it is resolved quickly to bring a couple dozen jobs to the former Pepsi distributing plant. The second is the Killington village proposal that is currently hung up in the permit process. These are challenging times and I hope that my colleagues realize that business needs certainty and now is not the time to pass any legislation that makes it harder for businesses to succeed in our state.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve as your senator in Montpelier. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at kjmbjm@aol.com.

First Graders' Hopes for the World

From Paula Townsend

Here are some of my students' dreams and hopes for the world. They were inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King.

Here's the prompt: Martin Luther King was a great man. He had a dream that all of us would live in peace and grow to be the best we can become.

I am in first grade at Rutland Town School and I have a dream.

My dream is:

To make the world a better place.

White and black people should be together and no wars.

Help the U.S.A. Help the poor.

No wars and no hurting people.

To help the poor and no wars.

For all the poor people to have money.

People will get treated how they treat others.

That there should be no robbing.

For everybody to be good and step up.

That there are no more wars.

That everyone will get along.

No wars and no bullying.

Stubbins

Rutland Free Library Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13

From Director Paula Baker and the RFL Board

With a robust strategic plan to guide trustees and staff, the year ended with fresh initiatives, upgrades and partnerships, all aimed at supporting community information needs. Nearly all these efforts were possible because of increased support from Rutland City, Rutland Town, Mendon, Ira and Tinmouth, as well as federal stimulus money, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a Google grant, state Department of Libraries grants and local support from the Friends of the Library, as well as many local businesses.

For the improvement of digital and internet services:

- ◆ High-speed fiber optic cable was installed throughout the building
- ◆ Free videoconferencing in high definition via Google Hangout is ready to book
- ◆ Migration from a costly bibliographic ILS (integrated library system) to an open source system within a new consortium which directly links other library catalogs
- ◆ Green Mountain Power helped troubleshoot computer issues

For the expansion of services, new partnerships:

- ◆ On-the-spot tech training through a joint effort with CCV/ Rutland and the Department of Libraries to work with adult students, new eBook owners, people puzzled by USB ports and job applicants struggling with pages of online-only applications.
- ◆ Expanded work in early childhood literacy with *Head Start*, local daycares, the *Wonderfeet Museum*, and *Building Bright Futures*,
- ◆ Rutland City Schools yearbooks were digitized with links on school, library and historical society websites

To add to a rich roster of programs which already include a 1st Wednesdays lecture series, the Community Cinema series and events for children:

- ◆ Collaboration with the Castleton Free Library Friends to provide Science Pub series
- ◆ Story hours were expanded to 11 months of the year, along with *Tales to Tails* (reading to dogs) *Babies & Toddlers Rock*, summer reading program and special events during all school vacations

And for the building:

- ◆ Students planted a Rutland Blooms garden, the result of a GMP partnership initiative
- ◆ Heat tapes were installed on downspouts to prevent further building damage

For added financial stability, in addition to grants and partnerships:

- ◆ The Library sponsored Mini-Golf in the library, a successful fundraiser, and *Tables of Content*, which returns May 2, 2014
- ◆ The board's annual appeal exceeded \$25,500
- ◆ The Friends raised over \$18,000 from book sales, double 2012 sales

Last, the adult services librarian position was restored to full-time. Randal Smathers became the new assistant director and library hours were revised to open Monday through Saturday at 10 am.

In 2014 we will look hard at the physical plant. Providence Associates will analyze the library's interior to assess visitor flow, library layout, and workspace efficiency all of which impact public services in the 21st century.

(School Board ~ Continued from Page 1)

first in the nation to equalize spending from town to town through a statewide property tax. Your elected officials have been fighting this formula since then to no avail. This does not mean the fight has stopped. We continue to urge residents to contact their state representatives.

Despite an education spending decrease of \$242,244 from 2014 (or 3.49%) **the tax rate is estimated to increase primarily due to the effect of the base rate set by the Legislature.**

Important facts about the proposed School budget:

- ♦ **The proposed 2015 budget is \$7,647,712 (minus 2.52% - a \$197,588 decrease.)**
- ♦ **This budget is \$25,000 LESS THAN the 2013 budget.**

The Supervisory Union budget was approved by the RCSU Board at their regularly scheduled meeting on November 21. The RCSU budget includes a modest 1.78% increase in assessment and no staffing changes. **The RCSU per student expense is less than all other area supervisory unions.** The RCSU is meeting with area supervisory unions to explore options for cost savings.

We know that without you, the voters, residents, parents and community members who have supported the school district we could not accomplish the tasks necessary. The Board would like to thank each and every one of you for your time, talents and financial support.

Thank you for your support. Please contact any of us if you have questions and or concerns.

Rutland Town Board of School Directors:
Lynette Gallipo, Chair
William Franzoni, Clerk
Nicole Peck McPhee
Sharon Russell
Marnie Roussel

Collage By Lucienne Horrocks, Grade 5



VOTER INFORMATION From Marie Hyjek, Town Clerk

LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS WED., FEB. 26 until 4:30 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.

VOTER AGE REQUIREMENTS - voters must be 18 years old on or before March 4, 2013.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS - Voters must request an absentee ballot for each election. Ballots may be picked up in person (by the voter only) or one can be mailed to you. Ballots for March 4 are available now and can be completed at the Town Office or mailed back before election day. To be counted, all voted ballots must reach the polls by mail or delivery in person by the 7 pm closing of polls on March 4.

INFORMATIONAL TOWN MEETING - Monday, March 3, 7:00 pm at Rutland Town School cafeteria.

VOTE TUESDAY, MARCH 4 FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM - at the school for residents living east of Route 7, and at Town Hall for residents living on the west side.

CALL TOWN OFFICE AT 773-2528 for more information.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY IS APRIL 12 From Charley Shields

Start cleaning your garage and basement, as the spring Household Hazardous Waste collection is coming up, April 12, 8 - 11:30 at the Transfer Station. Local newspapers will have articles to alert residents explaining what is and what is not accepted.

You can hold on to your unused paint (including latex), as a new collection program will take place with a timeline of mid summer. Labeled cans will be accepted at the Gleason Road facility and small local hardware stores at no cost. This is a state program, in conjunction with manufacturers who sell in Vermont. As a plus, towns will no longer need to spend money to have paint items recycled.

On a personal note, very shortly, Carole and I will be relocating from Vermont. It has been an honor to be "Volunteered" by the Town Board, to represent Rutland Town on the Solid Waste Committee, Rutland Transportation Council and recently the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. The many friends and groups we both have been associated with these past 24 years, has been an enjoyment and we will miss them all.

This has been a great "adopted" Town, having a well-run government, progressive departments and school system. Rutland Town residents should be proud to be part of a very fortunate group of citizens.

SELECT BOARD CANDIDATES:

Incumbent **Stan Rhodes** is running against **Mary Ashcroft** for the 3 year seat.

Incumbent **John Paul Fagnant** is running unopposed for a 2 year term.

MARY ASHCROFT 3 Year Term

Rutland Town is a good town. I'm running for Select Board to help make it a better town.

We are a collection of scattered neighborhoods needing to communicate better and reduce the us-against-them attitude that creeps into local debates. I'll continue to support **The Circle** and promote the use of Front Porch Forum as ways of staying in touch. I'll ask volunteers to help update and improve our town's webpage. Our town Select Board and School Board should meet together regularly to work on common issues, and I'll encourage all boards to reach out for citizen comments and ideas.

As we communicate better, we can focus on our town's positives. We have young families bringing new ideas, while long time residents give us stability and history. We have an excellent school, a great recreation program and a well-trained fire department-- all supported by volunteers. We have good roads, a solid industrial and commercial base, and revenue from our 1% local tax. Our farmers provide quality food and open vistas, while city amenities are just minutes away.

Sometimes we forget our positives. We vote against school budgets to "send a message to Montpelier" while crimping our children's education. We react rather than plan ahead when large developments are proposed. We are now watching our Select Board and Planning Commission scramble to deal with a solar farm proposal: before that it was a bypass, a gas power plant, a rail yard, even a rock concert. As a town we haven't even begun to discuss the impacts and opportunities flowing from the proposed natural gas pipeline headed our way. As a Select Board member, I'll move planning for our future to the top of our to do list. We should revitalize and support our Planning Commission, and revisit a reasonable zoning bylaw.

We are a good town. With your help we can be a better town. I would appreciate your vote on Town Meeting Day. Thank you.

TOWN MODERATOR

Leigh Adams, long time incumbent, faces **Norm Cohen**, who is a former Select Board member and Moderator. Each declined to post a statement.

STAN RHODES 3 Year Term

As a member of the Rutland Town Select Board for 15 years, I have worked hard to keep our municipal taxes low. My philosophy has been to fund municipal budgets to best meet our needs, not our wants so that our town remains affordable for all those desiring to enjoy the Rutland Town lifestyle.

Rutland Town has been my home for over 40 years. I have served the town as a volunteer firefighter, Health Officer, Clerk of the Works on two major projects; and have been Chairman of the Select Board for 13 years. Some of you have been residents for even longer than I and some of you are just starting your futures here. Please help me continue to keep Rutland Town affordable for all of us and our children by re-electing me to the Select Board on March 4th.

JOHN PAUL FAIGNANT 2 Year Term

I Look forward to another term as Selectman. During the last two years, the Board has maintained the town's number 1 ranking of low cost of service vs other similar town populations. Like most towns our size, and some even smaller, we have recognized our need for our own Police Department. The reasons are not that different than those that led to our own Fire Department half a century ago. It's the best way to provide the best service at the lowest cost. Thank you for your continued input and support.



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SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES:

Incumbent **Lynette Gallipo** is running unopposed for the 3 year seat.

Josh Terenzini is running as a write in candidate for the 2 year seat being vacated by Nicole McPhee.

JOSHUA TEREZINI **Write in Candidate for** **2 Year Term**

Town Meeting Day is almost upon us! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Joshua Terenzini and I am seeking a term on the Rutland Town School Board as a write-in candidate. I am a lifelong resident of Rutland Town. Any great community, like ours, is successful based upon its people. Rutland Town has some of the finest people around!

I have served our residents in many different fashions, including, two terms on the Rutland Town Select Board, nine years on the Rutland Town Fire Department, two years as a Recreation Commissioner and several years as a Justice of the Peace. My motivation for running is simple. I feel that I still have a lot to offer my community and that's what motivates me to run for this position. I have spelled out my Rutland Town resume not to impress anyone, but to show my commitment and passion for the Town of Rutland. I have spent a tremendous amount of time giving back to our community through my time and excitement for volunteering.

The School Board is a position that needs not to be taken lightly. Decisions made on the board have a direct effect on our community's most precious people, our children. As a board member, I would be committed to watching that your hard earned money isn't wasted. There is a fine line between the cost of education and our children's first class schooling. I feel that during my time on the Select Board, I was very responsible with your tax dollars. I am making that same commitment to you now.

My wife and I have a toddler now. Looking at our daughter's future is important to us. We couldn't imagine a better school system to send Grace to than our school. I, along with so many of my friends and family members, are alumni. I will commit myself to working diligently and serving you on the Board.

LYNETTE GALLIPO **3 Year Term**

My name is Lynette Gallipo and I am pleased to announce my candidacy for re-election to the Rutland Town School Board. I have lived in Rutland Town for 38 years and have been proud to be actively involved in the community. My children, and now, grandchildren, have and do attend RTES. They have directly benefitted from their exceptional teachers, previous school boards, and the continued support of the community.

My motivation to run for School Board comes directly from my children's education, my pride in the community and my continued concern over our property taxes and how that money is spent. In these still tough economic times, any proposed tax increases must be justified with concrete benefits or future cost savings. Our town is not immune to the current economic conditions.

I have served on the Rutland Town School Board for the past 26 years. I continue to be passionate about education and the children of our community. I believe my vision, experience and understanding is needed to ensure Rutland Town students in K through 12 are prepared to meet the challenges of higher education. My continued goal is to set policy that permanently establishes a productive continuum throughout each child's educational experience.

I respectfully request your support for School Board on Tuesday March 4th.

(Town News ~ Continued from Page 1)

maintenance allocation of the older facility. On that note, the station interior is done and a few items remain to complete the exterior, such as painting, paving and striping the parking area to be done in the spring. Soon after, the public will be invited to a ribbon cutting and open house to tour the station and learn how this community resource can be used by town residents.

According to Rhodes, accountants from A.M. Peisch, which audits Town books every year, pronounced the Town "in excellent financial shape." Frugal spending and budgeting practiced over many years, the establishment of depreciation funds for larger equipment/structure needs of the Fire and Rec Departments, plus revenue from the 1% sales tax have contributed to Rutland Town's sound financial footing.

Finally, the Board anticipates a vacancy in the 3 year Tax Collector term as of March 4. The Select Board will appoint a successor for the remaining two years of the term. Anyone interested in the position please send an introductory letter to the Board.

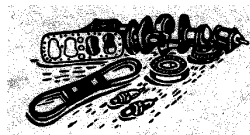
Please vote March 4 (Voter information on Page 6.)

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**FROM THE TOWN REC DEPT.
THE REC BUDGET / BASKETBALL
From Director Mike Rowe**

The Rec Dept. has level funded for many years and will continue to keep our budget as low as we can with still being able to offer the programming that we do. We did need to increase our budget by \$2,000 to cover the cost of fees that went up like chemicals for the pool and electricity. We also had an increase in the lifeguard budget. As always we will do our best to keep the costs down while continuing to offer quality programming to the Town.

Rec basketball is coming to an end. Our teams have had a great season and the 5/6 boys and girls teams will be entering post season tournaments. Sincere thanks to the coaches who gave their time during the past 3 months: Jamie Consolatti, Cory Pollack, Colin Greene, Dave DelBianco, Tom Hubbard, Paul Racine, Butch Goulette, Jeremy Baker, Theresa Sunderland, Mike Abatiell, and Eric Cavaleri. Without their help we would not be able to offer quality basketball programming. Thank you!

Spring is coming fast, and with it, baseball. Sign ups begin during the first week of March and go to the first week of April, so look for sign up dates in the school's weekly email. You can also download a form from the town's webpage, or go into Town Hall and register. If you are interested in coaching this spring please contact me at RTS at 802-775-0566 ext. 2040.

**RTS COAT DRIVE Update
From Deb Wright, Coordinator**

A huge thank you goes out to the Rutland Town School community for participating in the RTS 13th Annual Coat Drive. Over 100 warm coats and winter accessories were collected and donated to the Rutland County Women's Shelter and "Operation Bundle Up: Coats for Kids of Rutland County." Both drop-off locations provide local distribution. Much appreciation goes out to Jodi Manning, Sandra Billings, Jeff Colomb (for use of space), Lisa Lones (for providing school need connection), and RTS Student Council for help with signage. Thank you!

60 PLUS:

Outsmarting the Winter Blues

By Sandy Conrad, Exec. Director SVCOA

This time of winter, though the days are getting longer, sometimes it sure doesn't feel that way. For many people it's a prime time for depression to set in.

Short days, plus a tendency to stay indoors, may cause Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Often called the winter blues, this type of depression may be caused by the effects of reduced sunlight which changes your body chemistry and your internal clock. We recommend asking your doctor if vitamins, light supplementation, or another treatment is appropriate for you.

If you're not the kind of person who likes to get out and enjoy the snow, other factors may also be contributing to depression: reduced social connections, exercise, and enjoyable activities.

Other things that can trigger depression include losses and other major life changes, such as: moving to a new place, retirement from work, or the loss of a friend, relative, or pet.

So, there are plenty of reasons why we might be depressed... the question is, what are we going to do about it? Someone in a deep clinical depression rarely has the motivation to do anything about it. If you or someone you know is in this situation, it's very important to get help. You can start by contacting your primary care physician.

For seniors, other resources may be available through the SVCOA (Southern Vermont Council on Aging) Senior HelpLine at 1-800-642-5119. Depending on where you live, there may be free in-home screening for depression, coaching for depression, counseling for alcohol dependence, or other services to help you get back on track.

One easy way to start on your feel-good checklist is to visit a community center or senior center. Many people think senior centers are for "old people", but in reality the centers are eager to have younger seniors involved. Look for gentle yoga and other exercise programs, lunches, and game times. Another way to connect with others and feel good about life is to volunteer. If you feel too young to use the senior center, then volunteer to help them! Find other volunteer roles through RSVP (the Retired Senior Volunteer Program) or by contacting any organization that does something you're interested in.

If you can't get out of the house easily, then think of creative ways to bring enjoyment into your life. Invite a neighbor or grandchild to join you at home for a movie and popcorn. Exercise along with a video or an internet program. Have a friend come over and give each other facials and scalp massages.

The topics above pertain mainly to SAD and situational depression. Though some types of depression respond to lifestyle changes, remember that depression can be a serious medical condition. People with conditions such as clinical depression or bipolar disorder need ongoing care from a healthcare professional.

RUTLAND TOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT


Understanding the Police Budget

From Selectman Don Chioffi

Select Board members Joe Diction and I, as part of our Police Committee duties, have been working on the completion of a transition period in our Town from Constable policing with Sheriff contracts to a more transparent Town Police department model. In order to do this the Board felt that you should see the direct comparison from last year's to this year's budget. That is why all items are listed twice, the first listing being last year's figures, and the second listing being this year's budgeted amount. This will be the only year that this will be necessary. There are significant changes and we feel that they are all positive and in the taxpayers' best interests. Like the other town departments, we have held the line in our budgeting.

First, you will see that the Constables have been separated from the Police Department. That is because Constables are elected officials, while our Police Department consists of three employees of the Town who are hired and not elected. We are very fortunate to have highly qualified officers with many years of valuable experience across a wide range of police activities. Our Chief, Ed Dumas, is a lifetime Rutland Town resident nearing retirement from the Rutland PD. He is presently working about 20 hours for the Town, in addition to administrative duties and management of about 10 hours. Our first officer is Captain Ted Washburn, formerly an officer at the Rutland Police Department, and now a full time employee of the Town. Our second officer is Patrolman Jim Gamble, who is on a flexible shift of around 20 to 25 hours, as needed, mainly for neighborhood patrolling and speed control. The fact that Chief Dumas is First Constable is coincidental and not a requirement, though there are certain civil duties that only a Constable can perform.

Our second Constable is John Paul Faignant, who has acted mostly as a Fire Police Officer, and has volunteered that time at no cost to the town. We owe him our gratitude for that service and have provided a minimal budgeted amount in the event we encounter additional policing needs. We have also included a reasonable amount for the Sheriff's department, should



Read Across America

From Linda Mullin, Kindergarten Teacher

Reading to a child is a joyful and meaningful act. And the rewards are great:

- ◎ Children who are read to at home have a higher success rate in school.
- ◎ Children who read frequently develop stronger reading skills.

The National Education Association (NEA) launched the first *Read Across America* day in 1998 to get kids excited about reading. On March 3, *Read Across America* will mark 17 years of celebrating reading and the birthday of Dr. Seuss.

We have celebrated *Read Across America* each of the 17 years to promote the joy of reading. We thank PTO for supplying bookmarks as a memento of *Read Across America 2014*. For resources to get reading with children, go to: <http://www.nea.org/grants/resources-to-get-reading.htm>

that need arise, as Sheriff Steve Benard has always provided us quality service when our needs dictated.

The next major change you will notice is that we will no longer be paying for officer owned vehicles. The budget includes a fixed, three year lease payment which covers the lease/purchase of two cruisers, which, after the three year lease term will be the town's to sell, trade, or use. This decision reduces the budget considerably, and our cruisers will be standardized and identified (with pride) as Rutland Town Police vehicles and under full warranty for their full term of service.

At the bottom of the budget items you will see that the related costs associated with all employment have been broken out from where they appeared in other parts of the Town Report and assigned, as they should be, to the Police Budget. So those amounts are not increases but rather, consolidations from other areas of the town budget.

Lastly, at virtually no cost to the town, we have established an administrative office for our PD, using space available in the Town Hall for communications, administration, and secure storage for our department. Chief Dumas intends to apply, in the near future, for one of the many Community Policing Grants available to secure state and Federal funds.

Joe and I and the Select Board thank you for your continued support of our police department, which, like all our agencies of government, shows the pride that our citizens have in their community. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 775-2194, or Joe at 775-4446.



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STUDENT COUNCIL 2013-2014

By Kaylee Tavares,
Meghan Hamilton, and Callon Fish

RTS has organized a Student Council within the Middle School for many years. This year, students in sixth through eighth grade volunteered to meet one day a week to improve our school. Through this organization, we are able to express our ideas and opinions, in order to make our school the best that it can be. We have accomplished many tasks already in Student Council such as Spirit Week and hosted a dance. We have also given money to Rutland Town students in need by making donations towards field trips for those that cannot afford them and we are sponsoring a child from India.

We are planning a Spring Fest and a fun activity for students based on the well-known series, The Hunger Games. The students in Student Council hope to have many goals this year, but the most important goal we have, is to give our students a voice. We think the students of Rutland Town School should be able to make suggestions about what they think Rutland Town should pursue. In all, the RTS 2013-2014 Student Council would love to leave a legacy, showing hard work, dedication, and the love for our school.



Road Notes

from Byron Hathaway,
Road Commissioner

This year's proposed highway budget is up 1% from last year. Most of that increase is due to the culvert replacement line item. Additional money was placed in this line item to pay for the replacement and upgrade of the culvert at the intersection of Prospect Hill and East Pittsford Road. The additional money along with a structures grant from VTTrans will pay for the project. All other items in the budget are the same as last year.

I have been able to secure enough salt so far to just get by. The weather patterns this year are similar to 2009 when salt was in even shorter supply. Continuing winter storms from the lower mid-West to the east coast and into New England have depleted salt stockpiles. Cargill seems to get just enough salt cars into Rutland to get by on. Reducing salt applications on flat roads and low volume roads has reduced the amount of salt needed per storm. Should an early spring arrive the winter budget will probably be ok. However, should winter continue into March then the winter maintenance portion of our budget will go over budget a little.

I appreciate your support of the highway budget and urge you to vote on March 4.

FOUR WINDS BLOWING

By Kirsten Marsh



What can't you live without? This is a question we asked the students at Rutland Town School to start our Four Winds unit in January. While we were expecting to hear answers ranging from a variety of electronics, the students actually gave us very thoughtful responses in line with what we were looking for: food, water, and AIR! The topic of study for January was 'Blanket of Air'. It was fascinating to learn all the different ways animals and plants 'breathe': a cricket takes in air through holes in its abdomen, a worm breathes through it's skin... We also got to play with air by popping tops of milk jugs, building mini parachutes for pinecones, submerging jars in water, upside down to keep the contents dry, and the crowd favorite, using warm and cold air to get a hard-boiled egg into a milk bottle.

In February we will study 'The Nature of Sound'. We have lots of wonderful experiments in store for the junior scientists at Rutland Town School. Through this experimenting we will learn answers to the questions What is sound? and How does an ear work? We may even tackle the age old question: If a tree falls in the forest....

Volunteers and students will continue to explore

'Earth and the Environment' in this hands on, classroom program for the remainder of the school year. Volunteers—parents and friends of learning—are trained each month by Four Winds Nature Institute staff. They then team teach an hour long program in the K-5 classrooms. Experiments, workstation projects, and outdoor scavenging are among the activities enjoyed by students.

New volunteers are always welcome, no experience necessary and most materials are provided. Join us for a training session on the first Tuesday of each month, our next session is scheduled for March 4 at Cheney Hill Community Building where we'll learn about 'Water Cycles'.

For more information, call or e-mail Kirsten Marsh (kirstenklett@hotmail.com, 773-5381).



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RTS CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

From Principal Aaron Boynton

Rutland Town School recently formed a Conservation Committee whose mission is to bring conservation and environmental awareness to staff, students, and the community. Our committee is made up of teachers, administrators, maintenance personnel, and food service personnel. This year we have explored initiatives that include composting and zero sort recycling. This year we will implement the zero sort initiative school wide. Students and staff have begun sorting material that of which is properly handled by our waste removal provider. This initiative has also included a school wide theme in waste reduction and recycling processes. We will soon implement this zero sort initiative with our school lunch program.

Next year our focus will be on a school wide composting project by researching schools that have had successful implementation of composting. We have a variety of other initiatives that we have implemented at RTS including the solar array, school garden, improved nature trail, lighting motion sensors, bottled water filtration fountains, and green cleaning products. We are proud of the fact that we are reducing our carbon footprint and educating students in being stewards of our wonderful planet earth.

From the Rutland Town Fire Department By BJ Hathaway



Greetings from the Rutland Town Fire Department! As winter continues to drag along, many changes have been taking place for the Fire Department. In late January we were granted approval to occupy the new fire station located in Center Rutland. Though there are still some items left to finish, the building is already proving to be a vast improvement over the old station that was replaced, with lots more working space in the truck bays and a much larger training room that includes a state of the art "Smartboard" for doing interactive presentations. Stay tuned for further updates! As always you can check on our progress at <https://www.facebook.com/RutlandTownFireDepartment/>

January also saw the Fire Dept. take delivery of a new fire truck for the Center Rutland Station. The new Engine 4 is a pumper/tanker and has already seen plenty of service, including hauling water to the Pratico fire at Route 7 and Lincoln Avenue and serving as an attack engine at a multiple car fire at the Rosen & Berger Auto Salvage yard in Center Rutland.

On the note of fires, it has been a busy winter for the Fire Department, responding to many calls both in our community as well as to assist our surrounding communities. The folks at the Rutland Town Fire Department extend our utmost gratitude to all those departments that have assisted us this winter.

The Fire Dept. would also like to take a moment to remind everyone to check their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Carbon Monoxide detectors should be replaced every 5 years and typically have a date of manufacture and/or an expiration date printed on the back. Batteries in all detectors should be replaced semiannually. A good time to do this is at the time change when setting our clocks forward or back. Also please remember to inspect and sweep your chimneys regularly and to clear snow from any direct vented heating appliances that you may have.

In closing the members of the Rutland Town Fire Department would like to thank Chief Joe De-nardo for his 11 years of service as Chief and for all of the positive changes that he implemented over the years. The Fire Department would also welcome its new Chief, Frank Cioffi, and looks forward to what the future brings!

Please remember to get out and vote on Town Meeting day, March 4!

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- Find out how to save big money on home heating
- Have a more comfortable home



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NON-EMERGENCIES 775 - 0056

WINTER FUN AT TAPESTRY

From Director, Lori McNeil

It has been a very busy year for the Tapestry Afterschool program. We have worked on numerous projects through the course of the year. The students have worked on a variety of community service projects such as making baked goods for holiday baskets and delivering some holiday cheer to the residents of the Maples.



Maples Residents having fun with Tapestry kids

Students have enjoyed many field trips to various places like Bowlerama, Giorgetti Park skating, and the VAC swimming. Sgt. John Sly also came in to talk to the older students about cell phone and computer safety. It has also been a wonderful winter for outdoor fun. Students have been sledding and enjoying playing in the snow.

At the end of January students participated in a Tapestry wide Community Fair that was held at Proctor Elementary School. Students got to meet and talk with many of our community heroes. Everybody had a wonderful time. Rutland Town students provided fabric squares for other Tapestry students to design. Each student drew what community means to them. We will sew the squares together to make a community quilt. It should be amazing when it is finished.

Summer Tapestry plans are already being made. We are very excited that many of the same staff will be returning for another summer. Already the staff have been working hard to make this the best summer ever! Details and enrollment forms will be available sometime in March. Stay tuned!

There is still time to sign your children up for the Tapestry Afterschool Program. The program runs Monday - Friday from school dismissal until 5:30 each day. If you are interested in sending your child or would like more information please contact Lori McNeil at 779-6102.

1ST TRIMESTER HONOR ROLL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADES 6-8

HONOR ROLL

Madison Abatiell
Islam Abdraboh
Zachary Aiken
Shane Alercio
Michael Alexander
Zachary Arsenault
Gordon Ashcroft
Billings
Jamie Ashcroft Billings
Dylan Atlas
Jaycee Barlow
Robby Beattie
Colt Billings
Skyler Bird
Dylan Blanchard
Casey Coughlin
Eric Coughlin
Taylor Davis
Kyle DelBianco
Sophia Duffy
Vanessa Dumas
John Foley
Willie Goulette
Hunter Hubbard
Lucas Hubbard
Ean Kearney
Tara Kellogg
Gabe Knapp
Conner Ladabouche
Savannah Malosky
Ally Martin
Chris Martin
Owen Massie
Kayla McCoy
Kelsey McCullough
Will McCullough
Aiden McDonnell
Eric McDonnell
Makenzie McMullen
Ethan Notte
Sean Olsen
Dilan Patel
Mason Patten
Margot Pultar
Luke Ragosta
Josh Ray
Eileen Rounds



Hannah Schoengarth
Aris Sherwood

Katie Sunderland
Maddie Thompson
Bailey Wilson

H.883

HIGH HONORS

Ashleah Adams
Taqdees Ahmad

Trey Alercio
Leah Allen
Miles Allen
Tommy Baker
Kiernan Beattie
Paige Bohlig
Julia Celentano
Leah Chase Bigelow
Ethan Coarse
Lily Duboff
Callon Fish
Meghan Hamilton
Billy Hemenway
Jensen Kelley
Tommy Kenosh
Lilly Krupp
Taylor Krupp
Rachel Lee
Emmie Lovko
Laura Macpherson
Amy McGee
Megan McGee
Alexa McPhee
Dylan Moore
Carl Pratt
Megan Randall
Tyler Regula
Austin Roussel
Dylan Roussel
Kaitlin Rowe
Ethan Schmitt
Megan Smith
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Kaylee Tavares
Sydney Veilleux
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RUTLAND TOWN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 24 School Board meets - 6:30 pm RTS Library
- 26 **Voter Registration deadline – 4:30 pm**
Town Hall
- 28 Friends of Music Talent Show 7 pm
RTS Gym

MARCH

- 3 Town Meeting Information Presentation - 7:00 pm, RTS Cafeteria
PTO meets - 6:30 pm, RTS Library
- 4 **VOTE – 7 am-7pm, Town Hall and RTS**
Four Winds Training - 8:45 -11, Cheney Hill
Free Toddler Play Hour - 12:30-1:30
Grace Congregational Church
- 4&18 Select Board meets - 7 pm, Town Hall
- 10&24 School Board meets - 6:30 pm, RTS Library
Friends of Music meets - 4 pm,
RTS Band Room
- 12&13 Parent/Teacher Conferences
early dismissal 11:55 am
- 14 No School - RCSU In Service
- 28 Jazz Bistro - 7 pm, RTS Gym



APRIL

- 1,15,29 Select Board meets - 7pm, Town Hall
- 1,8,15,22,29 Senior lunch - noon, Cheney Hill
- 1 **Dog License due**
Four Winds training - 8:45 -11, Shrewsbury
Free Toddler Play Hour - 12:30-1:30
Grace Congregational Church
- 4 **Article deadline for April Circle Newsletter**
- 7 PTO Meeting 6:30, RTS Library
- 8 Friends of Music meets - 4 pm, Band Room
- 9 Music Awards - 6:30 pm, RTS Gym
- 12 **Hazardous Waste Collection**
8-11:30 am, Transfer Station
- 14-18 Spring Break at RTS
- 4&28 School Board meets - 6:30 pm
RTS Library
- 28 -5/2 PTO Book Fair
- 30 K-2 Concert rehearsal - 1:30 pm, RTS Gym
K-2 Concert - 6:30 pm, RTS Gym
- ** Senior lunches at Cheney Hill may resume
In March depending on the weather

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