

The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

**News and information
from your town offices and
local volunteer efforts.**



February 15, 2017
issue #47

Tunbridge Select Board

Gary Mullen, Chair

889-3323, barn or 889-3242, house; theflyingfarmer29@gmail.com

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

802-272-6108, cell or 802-728-3390, shop; farmallfix@yahoo.com

John O'Brien, Clerk

889-3474; bellwetherfilms@yahoo.com

Jackie Higgins, Administrative Assistant

802-505-1232 or 889-5510; tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com

Selectboard meetings are open to the public. Our standing meeting schedule is now the first and third Mondays of every month, at 6:00 pm, in the town offices. If you would like to be on the agenda, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Jackie Higgins.

With the arrival of the town report imminent, the selectboard encourages Tunbridgians to read the individual reports and study the proposed budgets. Not only will all those eyes on all those numbers root out mistakes, but the subsequent discussions at Town Meeting will be informed and substantive.

Reportedly, Eskimos have something like 50 different words for snow. One wonders if “snotballs” is one of them—an expression used by Road Crew chief, Rodney Hoyt, to describe what the Road Crew had to deal with one day. While January proved to be unusually warm, scarcely a day went by without some form of precipitation—or often three or four forms of precipitation within 24 hours. One also wonders if the Eskimos have 50 expressions for “Keep up the good work!”

If you find yourself on the world wide web, check out the redesigned, official Town of Tunbridge website: tunbridgevt.org. We are optimistic that residents, voters, and visitors will find the new and improved website to be accessible and useful. After launching, websites often seemed to be neglected by their administrators and out-of-date information remains front and center for years; the way the new “tunbridgevt.org” was put together—simple and flexible--we are confident that it will stay up-to-date and be an important go-to destination for all of us.

This year, 2017, could be dubbed, “The year of the Town Hall.” Our venerable hub is going to be the center of much-needed attention over the next 12 months. First, at the beginning of the winter, a new furnace was installed to replace the drooping old one that was threatening to die at a time

Tunbridge Select Board, Con't.

and date of its choosing. Second, come spring, exterior repairs will be done in anticipation of summer painting. Finally, we are in the process of updating and reworking the rental agreement so that the building is consistently left in the condition it was found: clean and safe.

We hope to see all of you on the first Tuesday in March, where “democracy in its purest form” will be sandwiched around a world-class selection of pies.

Tunbridge Board of Auditors

Maxine Young (763-8274), Betsy Race, Luke Jandreau
auditors@tunbridgevt.com

Once again, the Board of Auditors have been working a lot of hours, gathering information for the Town Report. This involves obtaining reports, budgets, orders, auditing of same, and putting the information together for the printing of the town report. This is a time consuming process and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed to those efforts, including the town clerk and administrative assistant, town treasurer, and representatives from outside organizations. The auditors greatly appreciate those who sent their reports on time, however, many reports were submitted late. This creates a burden getting the town report to the printer in a timely manner. By law, the town report, if mailed, must be received not less than ten days prior to Town Meeting. However, it is the auditors and town clerks hope that the townspeople receive the report at least one week prior to pre-town meeting, which is the end of February. Having said that, the auditors double efforts to obtain and input all reports by published deadlines. We are looking forward to town meeting.

You will note an article on the warning in the Town Report, which concerns the mailing of the town report. If the article is approved, this will result in a cost savings to the town. Tunbridge residents and voters will continue to receive the town report by mail, however, all property owners outside of Vermont zip code will receive a postcard advising them of the availability of the town report.

We will be looking for an auditor to replace Luke Jandreau, who is moving out of town and unable to continue in this position. His term expires 2019, therefore this would be a two-year position to fill. If you are interested or know of someone who may be, contact Betsy or Maxine at the above email.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Elizabeth (Betsy) Sponable 889-5521 tctunbridge@live.com

Hours: Mon-Thurs 7:30am-3:00 pm Closed Fridays

Pre-Town Meeting- Tuesday, February 28th at 7:30pm.

Annual School Meeting- Monday, March 6th at 7:30pm.

Town Meeting - March 7th, 2017 10:00am.

All meetings will be held at the Tunbridge Central School Auditorium.

RABIES CLINIC will be held on March 25, 2017, 9:00am -12 Noon at the Chelsea Town Hall. This clinic will be combined with Chelsea; the cost of the Vaccine is \$15.00. Vaccine and inoculations are provided by a licensed Veterinarian from the Chelsea Animal Hospital, Chelsea VT, (802) 685-3232. This Clinic is for Dogs and Cats; Dogs must be leashed; Cats must be in a carrier.

Deadline for Licensing is April 1, 2017. If your dog(s) is/are due for a rabies vaccine prior to April 1, a license cannot be issued until an updated rabies certificate has been received by the Clerk. Cost per license is \$9.00 spayed/neutered; \$13.00 for non-spayed/neutered. You may get dog licenses at the Town Clerks Office, or by mail. I will also be available at the rabies clinic to issue dog licenses. Please call the office if you have any questions.

Just as a reminder- if you would like to reserve Town Hall for an event, please call Judy Howe at (802) 889-3487. She maintains the reservation book, reservation contracts, and any other particulars that you may need to know.

The following are Tunbridge birth/marriage/death records that have been recorded since the prior issue of the Quarterly:

Births: * Auden Wells Minnucci- born November 24, 2016, to
parents- Eliza Evelyn Minnucci & Keith Joseph Minnucci
Kach Larson Madrazo- born December 28, 2016, to
Parents- Alison Lily Barnaby & Corey Ryan Madrazo

*A reminder to new parents- if you have a new Tunbridge baby, please stop in to the Clerk's Office to pick up a baby quilt. The Saturday Sewing Circle has been busy quilting and they have supplied us with some lovely quilts for our brand new tiny Tunbridge residents!

Marriages: Elizabeth Grace Roberts to Devon Joseph Lloyd- Nov. 21, 2016
Amy L. Chiriatti to George White- December 26, 2016
Erica Shannon Golden to Evan Whelan Schleif- Dec. 31, 2016

Deaths: Philip Funk, Sr., November 8, 2016.

Tunbridge Town Treasurer

Becky Hoyt - 889-3571 treasurer@tunbridge.biz

Happy New Year!!! I hope that everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. In November I was busy finishing up with taxes and missed the deadline for the November TQ, so I thought I would give you a breakdown of how our tax season went. We needed to raise \$3,376,977.91 of which the state paid \$480,230.36, and the Town was responsible for funding \$2,896,747.55. Of that \$2,896,747.55 the town raised \$2,742,740.19, which means that 154,007.36 is delinquent. This delinquent number may change a little due to changes in current use, late homestead filings, notifications from the state, etc. that necessitate a revised bill from the town. The amount that went delinquent is slightly lower this year than last year.

I want to remind everyone to make sure they file their Vermont Homestead declarations and Property Tax adjustment forms with their income taxes. If you have someone else file for you, always double check that they are filing these forms, especially if it is with a company outside of VT. This will save you from having to pay penalties later if you're filing late..

I also want to remind everyone that you can pay your taxes for 2017 early if you want to spread the payments out over the year. All you have to do is send me a check with a note that the payment is for 2017 taxes. In August I will send you a letter with your tax bill letting you know how much I have received and what is still owed, or a reimbursement check if you have over paid.

In the coming months I will be working on changing our accounting software over to NEMRC. Payroll has already been changed over and the rest will be changed over in July. I hope that this change goes smoothly and without too many bumps.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the info above. My office is usually open Monday through Friday 8am to 12pm. I hope everyone has a wonderful winter, stay warm, and I will see you in March at Town Meeting.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

For TNHN services, call: ***889-3437***

Pam Dietz, President – 889-3315

Maxine Young, Secretary – 763-8274 youngvt@myfairpoint.net

TNHN provides needed services to residents through volunteer actions and acts as a coordinator for volunteer efforts.

Anyone needing help with something should call 889-3437. Someone will take your request and try to find a volunteer who can do it. The Neighbors Helping Neighbors phone line is not answered 24 hours a day; you should leave a message stating your request. One board member is responsible for taking the calls each month. When a message comes in, that board member will start calling volunteers until a volunteer can be found for that specific request. We do the best that we can to find a volunteer who is available for that specific request at that specific time and date, however, this is not always possible. Therefore, we need sufficient lead time to call around and if we cannot find a volunteer, this gives us enough time to notify the individual calling that we were unable to comply with that specific request.

If you want to volunteer, please contact any of the board members or call 889-3437 and we will put you on the list. You may then be called from time to time. No one is going to be asked to do something week after week. Let us know if there are particular things that you might be able to do

There is no charge for any service. We are supported so far entirely by donations.

Board members: David Wolfe, Pam Dietz, Michael O'Donnell, Patricia Howe, Jory Innes and Maxine Young.

Tunbridge Town Website

Don Angolano - dangolano1980@gmail.com

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Ingrid Van Steamburg 889-3495

State Representative

David Ainsworth - 763-8017

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young 889-2804

Our annual meeting will be held on Tuesday March 14th 2017 at the Town Hall. We will start the evening with a potluck dinner at 6:00pm followed by our business meeting, during which we will elect a Fire Chief, Clerk, Auditor and 3 Trustees. Our Fire Chief of the past 20 years, John Durkee, has let the Department know that he will be stepping down as Chief next month. While he may continue to be connected to the Fire Department, he feels that the time is right to pass the baton on for someone else to take on the lead role. This has been a slow process over the past couple of years with considerable planning and thought given to training the Officers and Trustees on the various responsibilities associated with the role of Fire Chief. We anticipate a seamless transition to a new Chief, and welcome your attendance and participation at this year's Annual Meeting to recognize John's years of service to the Town of Tunbridge.

You yourself could serve the fire department in many different ways including membership as a firefighter, a responder to rescue calls, a trustee, clerk, auditor, to offer station coverage during calls, help with cleaning the firehouse and / or fundraising. We have plenty of opportunities for everyone, and a strong fire department is something we all benefit from.

For the younger generation of Tunbridge citizens, our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held this year on Saturday April 15th at 10:00am sharp at the school playground. We invite local children to bring their collection baskets & sharp eyes to hunt down the elusive eggs. Fire trucks will be on display as well for kids to explore and learn more about.

Tunbridge School Board

Kathy Galluzzo 565-0695 kgalluzzo@tunbridgeschool.org

Maryann Caron 889-5694 mcaron@tunbridgeschool.org

Liz York 889-3211 lyork@tunbridgeschool.org

Tunbridge Library

Hours: Mon & Wed 3-8, Thur & Fri 3-6, Sat 9-3

Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404 tunbridgelibrary@yahoo.com

Fern Strong, ArtSpace Coordinator, 860-986-0507; redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com

We strive to make the library a place of entertainment, enlightenment, comfort, and good company. Now more than ever, our community needs useful information as well as perspective and relief in books and stories. If you can't find an item in our collection, we will be happy to hunt it down through Inter-Library Loan as quickly as possible.

Our selection of quality videos include gripping dramas, entertaining comedies as well as probing documentaries. Recently we have expanded our offerings with a revolving collection of audiobooks and DVDs from the Librarians of the Upper Valley (LUV) Coop.

If you are in the habit of using digital audiobooks or E-books, check out the titles you can borrow through ListenUpVermont-- free of charge. On this and any other technical issues, talk to us and we'll walk you through the steps and help connect you with the solution you need. Just like ordinary books, if you see a title that you think is worth adding, let us know, and we can add it to our downloadable library.

For the next couple of months, we will also be offering much-coveted tax booklets. Let us know how we can help you get forms or information.

Many thanks to Betsy Gaiser for coordinating ArtSpace for many, many shows-- connecting artists young and old and making remarkable exhibits to our community. Betsy is stepping back for now to pursue other efforts, but she brought us one final art show, "Two Perspectives of Vermont," featuring the pen-and-ink work of Peter Neri alongside paintings and collage by Jeanne McMahan.

We would like to welcome Fern Strong as our new ArtSpace coordinator. Fern enjoys working in the medium of fiber arts, and she is interested artists and artwork in many media. Look for more news of the next Art Opening in April.

Our Story Hours are for families with children of all ages, and they are currently scheduled for first and third Saturdays at 9 am, with activities, stories, (and snacks) for book novices from toddlers through elementary school. The next Story Hour will be Feb. 16 when the theme will be "Friends." Let us know if there other times you would like to gather a group to enjoy reading, playing and socializing together.

For those of other ages and interests, there are lots of ways to participate in community events at the library. The Fiber Arts Meetup is the first Thursday of every month, at 6pm. (March 2, April 6, May 4.)

Tunbridge Library, Con't.

Whatever your level of experience, come and enjoy good company while you share new ideas and age-old techniques.

There are still three fascinating Winter Evenings remaining. Feb. 17 you can hear all about "Sugaring" as forester Paul Harwood is joined by sugarmakers Mike Bogardus, Ted Hoyt, and Calvin Hoyt. March 3 will feature NOFA-Vermont's Abbie Nelson on the effort to build connections with food, such as Farm to School. And our final evening (March 17) we'll hear Marc Gregoire speak on the centuries-old craft of violin-making; he'll even look at your violin to try to tell its story and pedigree. Many thanks to the Winter Evenings committee: Michael Sacca, Kay Jorgensen, Chuck Ashton, Elaine Howe, and Christina Marts.

Our library is as amazing as it is because YOU are part of it. We are looking for volunteers to help out during library hours, and to assist in the upcoming Town Meeting Dinner fundraiser. You may be looking for a way to share your knowledge or passion in a group-- what would you like to see happen? Call or stop by to let us know what fires you up, or what you're mind and heart are eager to pursue or share with others. Our library is as amazing as it is because YOU are part of it. In coming months we are looking at the possibilities of get-togethers to: practice mindfulness; to view films; to discuss books that changed our lives; and to discuss reflective writing about your own life. Let us know what fires you up, or what you're mind and heart are eager to pursue or share with others.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglasstudio@gmail.com

The deadlines for TQ entries are always on the 1st day of August, November, February and May. Every effort is made to include all entries as received. Submissions are edited only for typos and space constraints.

Questions, comments and suggestions about the TQ can be directed to me at the contact info above.

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Dan Ruddell, Helen O'Donnell, Jola Colson 889-3571

Office hours: 9-3 Tuesday and Friday (listers@tunbridgevt.com)

Each year Vermont conducts a statewide sales equalization study. “real estate markets are always changing and reappraisals are not conducted annually. In order to treat all municipalities fairly throughout the state, grand lists are evaluated and adjusted annually to bring each municipality’s grand list to fair market value. The adjustment is made through the equalization study.”

We received the results of the study in late December 2016, which for Tunbridge indicated a Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) of 116.38% and a Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) of 9.75%. The CLA helps equalize sales values across towns; the COD is a measure of equity within the town. A COD of less than 10% is considered indicative of a high degree of equity within town. We are mandated to do a town-wide reappraisal if our CLA drops below 80% or our COD exceeds 20%; neither of these thresholds applies in Tunbridge this year.

A CLA over 100% indicates that property in town is generally listed (assessed) over the statewide statistical estimation of fair market value. Education tax rates are divided by the CLA; if the CLA is over 100%, the education tax rate is adjusted downward (as will happen in Tunbridge this year). Our last town-wide reappraisal was in 2010, and our CLA has crept up each year since (101.79%, 102.75%, 106.04%, 111.95%, 114.93%, 116.38%). The sales study includes valid sales from a moving window of the last 3 years. In 2016 this window included 32 valid sales, a level of activity we have not seen since 2009 (sales activity started tapering significantly after 2007, when the study included 47 sales in Tunbridge). As challenging as it is, the goal is always to set a fair market value for each property in town and ensure that the costs of living and working here are borne as equitably as possible across the town and across the state. (Ask yourself, “what do I think I could sell my property for on the open market?”)

Helen O'Donnell's 3-year term as a lister will be up for renewal in March. Helen has been a Lister for many years. She knows Tunbridge and the community very well. She is very knowledgeable, brings a wealth of experience and is a pleasure to work with!

Tunbridge Board of Listers, Con't.

We are in the process of finishing up our southwest corner rotation and hope to begin the next one this summer. Our summer rotation will be the Northwest corner of town and we will send out notices before we go out. Since Tunbridge doesn't have a permitting process, this is our primary option for tracking changes to properties.

Our deadline for assessing property for the 2017 Grand List is on or before April 1, 2017. Any transfers we receive on April 2nd go on the 2018 Grand List. We may continue to look at properties but consider what is there as of April 1.

ECFiber

(East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network)

Henry Swayze 603-667-8932 henryswayze@gmail.com

The mission of ECFiber is "To build and operate a universal, open access, fiber-to-the-premises network, bringing state-of-the art connectivity to every home, business and civic institution in all of our member towns."

ECFiber has 24 member towns. Installing fiber optic cable and hooking up all the customers who want this service takes time and money. Money is being borrowed through the bond market to fund the build out. The best way to get on the schedule to have your road connected is to go to www.ecfiber.net/ subscribe and sign up. Then, talk to your neighbors and get them to subscribe as well. The planners are using those statistics to decide where to build next.

Each town has two delegates on the board which meets once a month. Tunbridge needs another volunteer to step up and join this worth while effort. Please contact Henry if you are interested in learning more about being on the ECFiber Governing Board.

The Tunbridge Church

Kay Jorgensen, 889-9828, thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com.

The Tunbridge Church is advertising its part time pastor position with several denominations and media. If anyone knows someone who would like information, please refer them to www.ucc.org/ucc_ministry_opportunities.

The Pastor Search Committee began its work in June by creating church history timeline panels. The timeline and artifacts were shown at a July pizza party where the search process was discussed. Since then members sought information about the church's past, present and future from community and church members through meetings, questionnaires and surveys. Responses were included in a church profile that will be shared with pastor candidates.

If sugaring and snow cooperate the church will host a community Sugar on Snow party on a date to be announced. The April 14 Good Friday communion service will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the church in Tunbridge Village. The Easter sunrise service will be held at the top of Strafford Road, time to be determined. Everyone is invited for breakfast at the Town Hall after that service. The Easter worship service will begin at 10 a.m. in the church.

Super Seniors Luncheons for residents in their 80s and 90s begin April 29 and will be held the last Saturdays of June, August and October. Seniors and homebound were remembered with bags of baked treats, fruit and cheese for Thanksgiving and visits by Christmas carolers.

The Community Food Shelf provided 29 families with hams and all the fixings for Christmas dinner. The Tunbridge Central School community had a food drive and the Student Council wrapped the boxes that held the food packages. The Clever Clovers 4-H Club made decorated Christmas cookies for every box. Many other individuals gave food, monetary donations and gifts that people could choose from for their families.

The Tunbridge Recreation Committee gave all of the proceeds and food donations from its December breakfast and from a 50-50 raffle — well over \$1,000 — to the Food Shelf. This paid for much of the Christmas food that was purchased.

Sunday worship services begin at 10 a.m. The adult choir welcomes new members at rehearsals on Thursdays at 7 p.m. The Food Shelf is open Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at the Parish House which is across the road from the church.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

Maxine Young, Secretary 763-8274 - youngvt@myfairpoint.net

The Civic Club annual show dates are Friday and Saturday, March 24th and March 25, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Note that this is a change from prior announcement as the Town Hall had previously been booked. This is our 65th year. What a great tradition! Rehearsal dates are Mondays and Wednesdays at the Town Hall, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.- beginning on Monday, February 13, then Wednesday February 15, and Feb. 20, and 27; then March 1, 8, 13, 15, 20 and 22nd. No rehearsal on Monday March 6th (school meeting). We have added a couple of extra dates to cover for bad weather cancellations. Here is your opportunity to do something for your community by participating in the show. We welcome new people of high school age who are current or past Tunbridge residents. This is a special year and we invite all past performers to be in the show, even if you just sit in the chorus, please join us again. What a fun reunion we would have! Attendance at all rehearsals is not required, however, we would like as many as possible to attend the first rehearsal (February 13, 2017) to give us an idea of participation. If you are planning on being in the show, and not able to attend the first rehearsal, please let Elaine (889-5560) or Butch (889-3716) know. We encourage attendance to four rehearsals, which allows for the music and songs to be well rehearsed. The dress rehearsal is mandatory.

Proceeds from the show, after expenses, are distributed to various Tunbridge organizations. So join us-have fun and in the process, help to benefit civic causes.

Rural Vermont

Shelby Girard - 802-223-7222 shelby@ruralvermont.org

On Wednesday, February 22nd from 5:30-8:30pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, Rural Vermont launches its statewide Tour, "Groundswell: Community Conversations about land use, livelihood, food, and the future of Vermont". The community dialogue will be interspersed with a light dinner provided, live music, and social time. The local host is Lindsay Harris of Mountain Home Farm in Tunbridge, and the local sponsors are Building a Local Economy (BALE) and South Royalton Market.

This event is free and open to all. Farmer & childcare stipends are available on a limited, first-come, first-served basis. For more info or to RSVP, contact Shelby Girard, info above.

Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Committee

Ben Wolfe- 889-9467

Our Committee's mission is to steward the use of the Fuel Assistance Loan Fund for no-interest loans to Tunbridge residents, allowing them to get the fuel they need and to pay this large expense over a longer period of time.

This is a service offered to help residents of Tunbridge such as yourselves. The Committee considers loan applications when a resident has exhausted other available resources (including state fuel assistance). We ask that applications be submitted well in advance of using up the last of your fuel, since it takes several days to process a request.

If you are interested in applications, you can check out the Fuel Assistance Group on the Town Website, or you can feel free to contact any member of the Fuel Assistance Committee. Currently, the members include Sue Barnaby, Betsy Sponable, Helen O'Donnell, Anne Mallary, David Wolfe, Joanne Goodnow, Ben Wolfe and our Town Treasurer, Rebecca Hoyt. Feel free to reach out to any of us with questions, or your interest to apply or help us out. Our next meeting will be the evening of Thursday, November 15 (6pm) at the Library Community Room.

We are constantly learning how to make this Fund serve the entire community better. Fuel costs are a stress to most household budgets this time of year, and your input has helped us a lot in the past. Donations of any size help a lot, too, and many generous folks have made our work with this Fund possible. Donations can be given directly to the Town Treasurer, or mailed to Town Treasurer; PO Box 6; Tunbridge, VT 05077. Include "Fuel Assistance Donation" in the subject line.

Better Bones

Shelia Mitchinson - 889-5547

Classes on Tuesdays & Thursdays

6:30am - Elaine Howe 889-5560

8:30am - Shelia & Gordon Mitchinson - 889-5547

5:30pm - Kay Jorgensen - 889-5528

Classes at the Town Hall are free with weights provided. You only need to bring yourself, a towel and a bottle of water! You can pick up your liability and Medical Release Forms at the Town Clerk's office. These are required before you begin and can be turned in at your first class. Come join us or come back for renewed strength, energy and balance!

First Branch Ambulance

Judy Tucker 889-3305 judytucker1@myfairpoint.net

FBA would like to express our gratitude to everyone who donated so generously to our fundraising campaign. It is not too late for other donations. We have recently implemented on site staffing on Saturday. Our House Call program continues to grow. If anyone is interested in this program please contact Linda Kuban or Chase Ackerman at 685- 3112. The red 911 signs are still available for a \$20.00 donation call Judy for these.

The Tunbridge select board has signed a three year contract with First Branch Ambulance.

Any suggestions, comments or questions are welcomed by reaching out to Tim Wolfe @889-3730 or Judy Tucker at contact info above. Our Board meetings are the third Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at the Chelsea fire station and open to anyone.

Tunbridge Grange # 384

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

The Grange has started its 2017 Friday Night Bingo! So far, we've had a great turnout. It starts at 7 PM in the Tunbridge Town Hall (more parking space than at the Grange Hall). In addition to the usual Bingo money prizes, we also have door prizes and sell food. Come out on Friday nights, have fun, and support the Tunbridge Grange!

Watch the Randolph Herald for other future community events sponsored by the Tunbridge Grange. The Grange supports local community members in need. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7 PM and the meetings usually only last about an hour and then we have good conversation and snacks! Please consider joining the Grange so we can continue to keep this worthy organization going.

For more information, contact either Rosemary at the number above or Marilyn (Mert) Vesper at 889-5595.

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami 889-5575 schoolclub@tunbridgeschool.org

Fair Supper a Success: A large group of dedicated volunteers, led by Jen Thygesen, prepared a fabulous gourmet meal following the Tunbridge Fair Association's annual meeting on December 3. Volunteers helped plan the menu and prepare the food, sought donated items, and decorated the TCS multipurpose room for the event. Several TCS students and alumni eagerly served as waitstaff for over 120 Fair Association members and their guests. All proceeds from the event will fund student enrichment activities and teacher appreciation at TCS. Many thanks to all parents, students, community members and businesses who helped make this event a success!

Holiday Breakfast & Gift Basket Enjoyed by Teachers and Staff: As a thank you for all they do for our students, School Club organized a holiday breakfast for teachers and staff on December 19. Parent volunteers contributed delicious items that were served buffet-style in the library before the school day began. School Club also purchased classroom and office supplies (and chocolate!) as gifts waiting for teachers and staff when they returned to school in January.

Upcoming Meetings: Parents, school personnel and community members typically meet in the TCS Library at 6pm on the first Monday every month (or the following Monday due to a school break, holiday or inclement weather) to plan events, hear new ideas, review funding requests and manage the organization. Upcoming meetings are on March 13, April 3 and May 1. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved! Children may come along to do homework, read or play games in the library.

Tunbridge Women's Group

Pam Dietz 889-3315

The Tunbridge Women's Group started 12 years ago as a way for women to meet each other and share conversation and news about their interests. Monthly potluck suppers are held in homes or in Tunbridge Village during bad weather. Some suppers have suggested seasonal, holiday and ethnic themes.

This is an informal group without officers, committees and duties. Women who would like to be on the email list to receive notices of the suppers and local events can call Pam at the number above or email Elaine Howe at ehowe@tunbridgeschool.org

Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair (FTWF)

Jena Young, President - 889-2804 or JTrombly@claramartin.org

Heather Mullen, Vice President - 685-2269 or heather@bushwayinsurance.com

Linda Lazaroff, Secretary – 889-9421 or 2happyfeet@myfairpoint.net

Carmen Lafromboise, Treasurer - 685-3184 or cmlafromboise@gmail.com

The FTWF wishes to thank Lynne Hadley for her years of dedication in coordinating the courtesy shuttle as well as the time it took her to accomplish this. The courtesy shuttle remains a huge success transporting people from the gates to locations within the fairgrounds. The FTWF looks forward to continuing this service and is always looking for ways to improve it.

The FTWF projects result in the generous donations received by individuals as well as gifts given in memory of a loved one. The Annual Duck Race also raises funds as does the memberships. Your tax-deductible Memberships can be made by mailing your check to: Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair, P.O. Box 159, Tunbridge, VT 05077. These memberships offer a unique giving opportunity for fair enthusiasts:

Single Annual Membership - \$25

Couple Annual Membership - \$50

Family Annual Membership - \$100

Lifetime Membership - \$1,000

(may be paid in installments over three years)

The FTWF will be continuing its monthly meetings commencing on Wednesday, April 12th at 7:00 p.m., downstairs in the Town Hall. Please feel free to attend any of our meetings.

If you have questions, please contact any of the board members listed above or by visiting our website at www.friendsoftunbridgefair.org

Making Change

Lisa Kippen 889-9822

Making Change is a support group for young people who are considering or committed to keeping it real when it comes to their substance misuse. Free and totally confidential. Meetings are held on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 at the Parish House. Supported by Second Wind Foundation, Wilder, VT www.secondwindfound.org

Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more events.

Feb.

- 17 - Sugaring Panel with residents Paul Harwood, Mike Bogardus and Ted and Calvin Hoyt, Tunbridge Library Winter Evenings program, 7pm
- 22 - Rural Vermont presents “Groundswell: Conversations about land use, livelihood, food and the future of Vermont” 5:30 - 8:30, Town Hall, see page 12 for details
- 28 - Pre-Town Meeting- at the school, 7:30pm

March

- 3 - Talk by Abbie Nelson, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Education Coordinator, a Tunbridge Library Winter Evenings program, 7pm
- 4 - Shindig with “Automatic Rooster” Town Hall. 7:30 - 10:30pm, \$10. If you like to dance, you’ll love the Shindigs!
- 6 - Annual School Meeting- at TCS, 7:30pm
- 7 - Town Meeting, at TCS, 10am
- 10 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers 7:30pm Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission
- 12 - All-you-can-eat breakfast, 8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.
Benefit for Tunbridge Recreation Committee
- 17 - Violin maker Marc Gregoire, Library Winter Evenings program, 7pm

April

- 1 - Shindig with “Toast”, Town Hall. 7:30 - 10:30pm
\$10. cover charge. www.shindigsvt.com”
- 9 - All-you-can-eat breakfast, 8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.
- 14 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers 7:30pm Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission

May

- 12 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers 7:30pm Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission
- 14 - All-you-can-eat breakfast, 8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.

Alliance for Vermont Communities

Michael Sacca - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

The Alliance for Vermont Communities was formed last fall in order to send a strong message to NewVistas Foundation that we do not want this out-of-scale, top-down project here, or anywhere in VT, and hope to discourage development plans and future land purchases.

Many thanks to all who responded to our town wide letter in December. The letters served to frame the issues before us, to point out the work that AVC is doing as well as what each and every resident could be doing and finally as a request to contribute to our organization. The effort raised \$2,300 from the town of Tunbridge alone. The donations help with operating expenses such as insurance, lawyers fees and outreach work. Thank you one and all for making it a success.

Our current efforts are focusing on a making voters from the 4 affected communities of Royalton, Sharon, Strafford and Tunbridge aware of a non-binding resolution on each of the Town Meeting agendas. The resolution reads: "Shall the voters of the town of _____ oppose the NewVistas development?" The purpose of the non-binding resolution is threefold: first to bring the issue to the attention of the residents of the four towns through a Town Meeting discussion; second to send a loud and clear message to the legislators and governor of Vermont; and third, to send a message to the NewVistas Foundation. Public forums are scheduled in South Royalton (February 15, 7:15pm at BALE) and in Tunbridge (February 21, 7pm at the Tunbridge Library Community Room). **Vote YES to oppose!**

In ongoing work, AVC has assisted communications between town planning commissions in an effort to create necessary language in the plans to preserve the character and vision for the region. We have attended and made presentations at meetings of public committees, such as the planning and conservation commissions of the four towns. And we have spent time engaging elected representatives and political leaders and are pleased with the strong support we have received from them.

Please join us for discussion at one of the two public forums to learn how you can help, and to answer your questions. For more information, contact Michael Sacca, president of AVC, at 802.889.3210, To join AVC, please go to www.alliancevermont.org.

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