

The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



August 15, 2017
issue #49

Tunbridge Select Board

John O'Brien, Clerk

889-3474; bellwetherfilms@yahoo.com

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

Jackie Higgins, Administrative Assistant

802-505-1232 or 802-433-6671; tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com

Selectboard meetings are open to the public. Our standing meeting schedule is now the second and fourth Tuesday 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.

Without a parade of vintage tractors or a stump speech or a blast of trumpets, July 1st quietly kicked off the beginning of our new fiscal year. We are now in the '17/'18 FY, which was budgeted back in the Fall of 2016 and approved at Town Meeting last March. The good news is that FY '16/'17 closed with modest surpluses in both the General Fund and Highway Fund.

With a combination of Highway Fund surplus, grant reimbursements, and budgeted funding, Tunbridge will get tarred (hold the feathers) in September. Pike Industries will be paving parts of the Strafford Road, Potash, the Spring Road, alongside the Town Hall and Town Offices, and in front of the Town Garage. Our Class 2 roads—Town roads that are paved, and not counting Route 110, which the State of Vermont maintains—are important for the volume of traffic they carry on steep grades, but they are also extremely expensive to maintain. The Selectboard decided that, given the budget being in the black and the cost of oil still low, this would be a good time to invest in some resurfacing.

This summer, Road Foreman, Rodney Hoyt, and the Road Crew—Larry Wight, Thomas Hoyt, Jim Ware, Sonny Moses—have had their share of challenges. The new normal is too much water going where it shouldn't. The flooding that occurred in town on Saturday, July 1st (a much more dramatic event than the start of a new fiscal year), hit the Kibling Hill to Button Hill section of town especially hard, turning Class 3 roads into raging torrents. It was all-hands-on-deck for Rodney & Co. to keep the roads travelable. Fortunately, the rains came after the Road Crew was getting back to full strength. In spring, Larry severed 99% of his pinky finger while splitting wood (it got reunited with his hand and now has feeling again).

Thomas developed a pain in the neck (herniated disc) that required surgery and rest (and Thomas doesn't like to rest). Sonny joined the crew to fill in for those on the DL, and stayed on until things were back on schedule.

In an ideal world, roads are not just kept open, but actually improved. At the end of July—with the help of grant—such a transformation happened on Monarch Hill Road, where a week of ditching and culverting turned a hot mess into a pinup for water run-off.

Speaking of transformation, the painting of the Town Hall is advancing, giving the historic meeting place a gleam it hasn't had for a while. And thanks to the hard work of the “unofficial and volunteer” Friends of the Town Hall, the rental agreement was updated and streamlined, making the responsibilities and expectations between “lessee” and “lessor” contractual and straightforward.

Lastly, at the Transfer Station, there are now bins available for compostable food scraps. According to state law, in a couple of years nothing that can be composted will be allowed to enter the trash compactor. These bins are the harbinger of this legal (and worthwhile) transition. It is not a law that you have to bring your food scraps to the transfer station; composting at home is encouraged. Our Administrative Assistant, Jackie Higgins, estimates that “99% of my food scraps go to the dog or the chickens.” These are tough times for our raccoon friends.

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.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

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

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

As you know, the original Chelsea/Tunbridge School Merger vote took place on April 11th and passed, 151 YES, to 109 NO, with 260 voters in attendance. The Clerk's office received a petition for a revote, which took place on June 29th. The Merger was voted down this time, 160 YES, to 164 NO, with 2 blank ballots, for a total of 326 voters at the polls. South Royalton also had a revote, which reversed their original NO to a YES result, and Rochester's revote reversed their original YES to a NO result. In all likelihood, there may still be yet another revote in the months ahead for Tunbridge. I would encourage all residents to attend School Board meetings, Act 46 info sessions, acquaint yourselves with the issues involved, and if there is a revote, to come to the polls and vote. In the meantime, the Tunbridge School Board will once again keep us apprised of what the Town's options are moving forward.

In addition to its usual Saturday hours, the Transfer station continues to be open Wednesdays through September 30th from 4:00 -7:00 pm. Tickets are available at the Town Clerk's office, the Library, and the Tunbridge Store.

Births: * Levi King Iderbei Howe- born June 16, 2017 to parents-
Benazir Iderbei Jose & Robert Michael Howe.

*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 Sewing Circle has been busy quilting and they have supplied us with some lovely quilts for our new brand new tiny Tunbridge residents!

Marriages: Cheryl Ann McCarty to Benjamin Colburn Metcalf, June 9
Dana Lynn Seidler to Michael John Huston, July 1
Cathy Jo Sample to Eli Browning Childs, July 22
Robyn Gale Rogers to Frederick Charles Peyton, July 22
Donna L. Bradley to Kerry Francis LeBlanc, July 25
Lynne Cuyler Hadley to Michael Millard, July 28

Deaths: Richard Rogers, February 14
Winifred J. Morine, February 22
Emily Alice Howe, February 28
Edna E. Coutermarsh, March 17
Armenthia Joyce Paul, March 19
Dale A. Stender, April 10
Ryan A. Pettit, July 16

GREEN MOUNTAIN PASSPORT- For Seniors and Veterans- If you are a legal resident of Vermont, are age 62 or older, or a veteran of the uniformed services, you are eligible for a Green Mountain Passport which entitles you to free admission to Vermont State Parks (overnight camping and other park fees are excluded), Vermont State Historic sites, and Events that are fully State sponsored. You simply need to fill out an application at the Town Clerk's office, submit the \$2.00 fee, and the clerk will issue your card.

For Town Hall reservations, please contact Judy Howe at 889-3487. If there are any other suggestions as to what you could like to see included in my Quarterly Reports, please feel free to give me a call.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Ingrid Van Steamburg 889-3495

The Planning Commission has been busy the last few months working on revisions to our Town Plan, that are due for an update in spring of 2018. We have taken a two part approach to this revision process. The first part is nearing completion with a public hearing on August 21st @ 7pm. This hearing will take place at the Town Hall and is a chance for the public to give comment on our work in Part I of our rewrites. Part I includes revisions to the following chapters: Transportation, Land Use, and Natural Resources. After hearing any public contact we will finalize our edits and submit them to the Select Board for approval. We are just beginning the work on Part II of our rewrites with the remaining chapters to be covered. If you are interested in our revisions of Part I please view them on the town website or contact a member of the Planning Commission. If you are interested in Part II please view a copy of our current town plan on the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission website under Member Towns tab, top right and then click on Tunbridge (<http://www.trorc.org/towns/tunbridge>).

As a reminder if you live in, own property, or are considering a purchase in the flood plain remember to consult our town Flood Ordinance before you think of buying, selling, or building to be sure you are in compliance. Our Flood Ordinance can be found on the town website.

If you have any questions please contact the Planning Commission. Our next official meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd @ 6:30pm. We typically meet the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 6:30pm at the Town Offices.

Tunbridge School Board

Kathy Galluzzo 565-0695 kgalluzzo@wrvsu.org

Maryann Caron 889-5694 mcaron@wrvsu.org

Joe Paquin 417-9849 jpaquin@wrvsu.org

Despite being the heart of summer, a lot has been happening with the Tunbridge School and the school board.

First thing to note is that after the 164- 160 No vote on the Chelsea-Tunbridge merger, the school board has requested a revote. We continue to feel that this proposed merger is the best educational and financial option for our community to comply with Act 46. In the last week leading up to the June 29 vote there was confusing information out in the community. The board will work very hard between now and the revote date to ensure community members are provided with accurate, factual information on which to form their own opinions and to determine how they will cast their vote. The revote date has not been set yet but will be communicated broadly once coordinated thru the town clerk's office. We encourage you to contact a school board member if you have questions or suggestions. We are interested to hear from you on how we can do a better job of providing information, answering questions, and gathering input.

You may recall the community recently held two listening sessions in which about 50 people came out to express what they value in our school & community, what concerns them, what clarifications is still needed on Act 46 issues, and what the future may bring for each of our growing children's education. The notes can be found at www.tunbridgeschool.org. Please go to the "our community" tab and the "Rally For Tunbridge" notes are at the top. We want to express thanks to all who were able to join us and to Eliza Minnucci for planning the session and Jena Young for facilitating.

We are sad to note that Liz York has resigned from the school board. We appreciate all the hard work Liz did during her four years on the board and as the hours drag long at meetings we are reminded that we miss her wit and amazing breadth of knowledge. That being said, for every door that closes, another opens...and so we welcome a new school board member- Joe Paquin. Joe recently moved to Tunbridge and is the Manager at Welch's True Value Hardware store. Joe and his wife have two small children not yet in the school system and Joe feels strongly about offering outstanding public education.

In other news, the school is getting Fiber internet connectivity! We have had issues with our internet performance for many years. In the recent past, these performance issues have had a broader impact as various forms of standardized testing have gone online. This is a much needed improvement in

And we want you all to know that there will be a few new faces at the school this year when the children return on August 30.

Our new third grade teacher is Moriah Fahey of Bradford, Vermont. Moriah was an elementary teacher for many years at Thetford Elementary as well as a math coach for their district. A graduate of the Vermont Math Institute, Moriah comes to us with her master's degree and a love of classroom teaching.

Leading the fourth grade this year is John Payson of Thetford, Vermont. John's experience includes teaching elementary school in the UK and serving as a director at MTV both in NYC and abroad. John is thrilled to welcome students to his class and equally excited to become part of the Tunbridge Central School family.

We also welcome Michael Barnaby who will serve as our lead custodian and facilities director here at school. With many years' experience at DHMC as a crew leader and supervisor in housekeeping, we are confident that Mike will be a valuable member of our custodial staff and greater TCS family. A graduate of TCS himself, Mike is eager to join our staff and help create a clean and vibrant learning community for our children.

Other staff changes include a new special educator (whose hire is imminent at the time of this writing) and an athletic director who will work closely with the Chelsea AD.

Lastly, we know many of you have been asking about the school calendar. We apologize it was not available more timely. While the 10 towns in our Supervisory Union have made an effort to standardize the calendar, the Tunbridge calendar is actually different because of our unique treatment of Thursday and Friday of the week of The Tunbridge World's Fair. The calendar is now available and we commit to making it available earlier next year.

Tunbridge Women's Group

Pam Dietz 889-3315

The Tunbridge Women's Group started 14 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 inclement 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

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

As our schedules get ready to shift at the end of summer, there is still time to take another break or two—whether you are able to take a short trip, or just spending some time with a great. The Library offers passes here for destinations like VINS, Vermont State Parks and Historic Sites, Billings Farm Museum, the Precision Museum, the ECHO center, and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. We have thousands of books for all ages and interests, as well as audio books and video to transport you to other times and places-- and to help you explore new topics! Our offerings include new bestsellers, classic masterpieces, guides and references on many subjects, and an array of magazines. If you can't find an item in our collection, we will be happy to get it by Inter-Library Loan as quickly as possible. If you're exploring downloadable audio or E-books, borrowing great titles is free with ListenUpVermont through your Library. Now there are more audiobooks than ever with access to One Click Vermont. We'd be more than happy to walk you through how to use these services (as many times as you need!).

Thanks to the Flying Farmer, Gary Mullen, and the families of young readers, the Race to Read reached a successful conclusion this summer. We are looking forward to engaging young readers throughout the year going forward—whether it is in groups of young writers who make worlds out of words, or those who enjoy telling stories with cartoons. And for young book lovers (of all ages), Story Hour resumes at 9am on September 9 (“Going to the Fair!”). The next one will be 9 am on September 23, when “Dogs” will be our theme.

The current ArtSpace exhibit “Connecting Fibers” offers a wonderful array of artwork from fiber artists in our town and our area. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to this! You can still see this show through its conclusion on August 26.

After the Fair, we are looking forward to hosting events for some local writers- from authors of poetry to creative essay and fiction. You'll have a chance to learn about their experiences and hear them read from their latest work. Look for more details in the weeks to come.

We are looking forward to hosting groups of creative minds, as well. A gathering of local fiber artists meets first and third Wednesdays at 6pm. If you have enjoyed knitting, crocheting, hooking, --- or are just plain curious and would like to take a break with terrific company, mark your calendars for the evenings of August 16 and September 6.

Finally-- you are ALL invited to the annual Friends of the Library Volunteer Picnic on Sunday, August 27 to celebrate volunteer service of all kinds in our community. This potluck picnic begins at 12:30 at the Dodge-Gilman building on the Fairgrounds, with beverages and ice cream supplied by the Friends. You are the force that makes the Library and our community in Tunbridge a fun and dynamic place to live!

Do you have interest you would like to share with others? Do you want to know more about the library or are you interested in lending a hand? Just give stop in or give us a call.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young 889-2804

For the past year we have held Fire Fighter One and Fire Fighter Two training classes at our fire house. These are intense courses with classes being held 2 evenings per week and all day on Saturday for 8 months. Tunbridge is very lucky to have 6 people from town who completed both of these trainings. Mike Morrison, Camden Morrison, Shawn Young, Gary Wight, Vern Maxham Sr, and Mike Ware took these courses together and successfully completed them this spring. All 6 are active members of our Volunteer Fire Department and are putting their knowledge to use on calls in the Tunbridge area.

The TVFD recently donated both a cotton candy machine to the TCS Student Council, and also a fryolator to the Tunbridge Recreation Commission. Both groups plan to use these items in fund raisers for their respective groups.

We are pleased to report that we received a conditional approval from State of VT / FEMA for \$18,603.45 for a new dispatch repeater to improve communications. Additionally, our dispatch frequency was recently improved to 200 watts, which will also aid in a stronger signal and improve communications.

Fire Chief Simon Bradford made the following Officer announcements this spring: Mike Morrison – Deputy Chief, Shawn Young – C-3, Matt Loftus – C-4, Gary Wight – C-5. Congratulations to all of the new Officers as they step into their new roles.

Our annual coin drop fundraiser will be held on Friday September 15th and Saturday September 16th. Please contact Matt Loftus 889-3274 if you are able to help out. We need around 15 people for shifts each day to help us make this event successful & we greatly appreciate any time you may have to offer. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year and it provides much needed resources for the department.

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." The sales study includes valid sales from a moving window of the last 3 years.

We have just received the preliminary study for this year and are working to identify "valid" sales (no complicating factors such as family sales, estate sales between trustees, abutters with no market exposure) to derive statistics needed for tax equalization. Preliminary indications show 16 valid sales out of 71 total transfers in the 2017 grand list year (April 1-March 31).

The 2016 sales study 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 for the town is adjusted downward (as will happen again 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%). 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?" and take into account (divide by) the current CLA of 116.38%).

We have gone through the grievance process for 2017, and have no appeals pending. If you wish to grieve your assessment it must be done in June when we typically set the grievance day.

We are in the process of starting rotations in the northwest quarter. You should have received a postcard in the mail if you are in this section of the town. Please call us if you wish to be there during our exterior inspection of your property; if there appear to be substantive changes to the property we may follow up with a call to request an interior inspection. Since Tunbridge doesn't have a permitting process, this is our primary option for tracking changes to properties.

Feel free to stop by or give us a call.

Tunbridge Food Shelf

Sue Barnaby 889-3736

Notice to Tunbridge residents: There will be a summer Food Shelf pick-up on Saturday, August 26th. Leave items for the Food Shelf at your mailbox or bring them to the Post Office that day. Special thanks to Eileen for all efforts and for her idea! Another pick-up will occur in the spring, also.

The Food Shelf always has need for tomato products, soups, canned meat, peanut butter, canned fruit, cereal, and personal care items, especially. All food donations are welcome, but please check expiration dates on the products. Money donations are always appreciated also. Send check to:

Euclid Farnham, Treasurer , 24 The Crossroad , Tunbridge, VT 05077

The Food Shelf supports the Tunbridge Central School backpack program by providing food weekly for families in need. Additionally, at Thanksgiving and Christmas, holiday bags and boxes are packed for local families and seniors.

The Tunbridge Community Food Shelf is sponsored by the Tunbridge Church and is housed in the Parish House, at 3 Potash Road. It is open every Friday 4-6:00. However, it will be closed the Friday of Tunbridge Fair.

ECFiber

(East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network)

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

ECF office - 763-2262 info@ecfiber.net www.ecfiber.net

ECFiber is a town-owned Communications Union District consisting of 24 towns in East-Central Vermont. Step by step, we are building a community-owned fiber-optic network to deliver high-speed Internet to every home, business, or civic institution in our territory. ECFiber offers real broadband: symmetrical Internet access (same upload as download), no contracts, no data caps, and a choice of speeds from 17Mbps to 700 Mbps that do not vary by location, time of day, or according to the weather – as well as fully featured phone service with unlimited calling to USA and Canada.

Your participation by subscribing now at www.ecfiber.net/subscribe will help ECFiber know where to build and make the system operate efficiently. There is no money asked for until your service is ready to install. Issues of how service drops will be made can be sorted out in advance. Thanks to those of you who have subscribed already. Any neighbors you can encourage would be much appreciated.

If you are interested in representing Tunbridge on the ECF Governing Board please contact Henry at the info above.

Alliance for Vermont Communities

Michael Sacca - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

Less than a year since the inception of the Alliance for Vermont Communities. We are grateful to all of the support we have received from Tunbridge residents and others in the surrounding communities. Much work has been accomplished in a fairly short period of time! We have shown NewVistas and each other what we are capable of doing when we work together. Let's recap with a few of our most recent accomplishments:

Successful Town Meeting Day Votes - In March, voters opposed the New Vistas project by over 90% in the 4 affected towns of Tunbridge, Royalton, Sharon, and Strafford.

Successful Major Outreach Event - Following the success of the Town Meeting Day Votes, the Alliance board broadened our mission to not only fight NewVistas, but to protect, promote and energize this area we love so much. We put our focus into our first major event.

'The Ranger' bike ride and 'Together We Can' celebration was held at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds on June 18th. All together we had 98 cyclists and many other community members and visitors who rode up to 32 miles through the hills surrounding Tunbridge and Strafford. We raised money for some upcoming projects, had an incredibly fun day and showed folks from across the region what makes this area so special. There was live music thanks to local bands Haywire and Sensible Shoes, a variety of food and even Cow Pie Bingo. This event was also the site for a collaboration beer release with our two local Tunbridge breweries, Upper Pass Beer Co. and Brocklebank Craft Brewing. The beer, 'Together We Can' was a creative project designed to help draw awareness to our work and the threat of high density development to our rural areas. The next day 'Together We Can' left Tunbridge for its distribution throughout the state with this message on the side of the can:

"Together We Can is a collaboration between Brocklebank Craft Brewing and Upper Pass Beer Co. This gently hopped wheat ale contains Peterson Quality Malt (Monkton, VT) and hops from two continents. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this beer goes to support the Alliance for Vermont-Communities. Thank you for helping to protect our beautiful rural landscape, small farms, and local culture from unsustainable development. Together we can save our communities."

Next Steps - We are proud of what we have accomplished to date, but we know there is still work to be done. TheNewVistas Foundation has been less active recently, possibly because they think time will tire us out. What they may not understand is that AVC and our communities' plan to continue to gain in strength and accomplishments even during a period of relative inactivity. We look to promote, energize and protect the area we love through our partnerships

in outdoor recreation, agriculture, forestry and more. And most importantly we plan to do it together as part of community building.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of our work. We will continue to provide updates as we plan new projects to assist in building the prosperity for our communities as well as in the fight against the NewVistas high density development . -Together We Can! For more information, or to join AVC, please go to www.alliancevermont.org or call 802.889.3210

Tunbridge Civic Club

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

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

The Civic Club annual meeting will be held Monday, October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs Town Hall. All are welcome to attend. The agenda will include discussion for the upcoming show, election of officers and other business. Current officers are President - Elaine Howe; Vice-President - Butch Howe; Treasurer - Jory Innes; Secretary - Maxine Young; Directors - Martin Young, Jr. and Donna Alden Locke.

New faces are always welcome; and of course, we always enjoy seeing people come back to participate whom we have not seen in a while. Each year, proceeds of the show, after expenses, are distributed to various Tunbridge organizations. We are very proud of this tradition and are grateful that we have helped so many for so many years. What could be more worthwhile than putting your talent towards helping civic causes and having a great time in the bargain!! Hope to see you at the annual meeting.

Tunbridge Conservation Commission

Aaron Weed, Chair – aaron.weed@gmail.com

The newly formed TCC held it's first meeting in June, with the stated mission to:

“Advise the town and public on natural resource topics and issues, coordinate activities that promote natural resource education and stewardship, promote stewardship and outreach of local trail usage and maintenance.”

Commission members include Betsy Gaiser, Butch Howe, Issac Sacca, Michael Sacca, Peggy Sherlock, and Aaron Weed. The TCC will collaborate and as necessary advice other town committees on current and future initiatives. The TCC meets on a monthly basis and our next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 29th at 6:30 pm at the library. All are welcome to join. Feel free to contact any of the members of the Committee with comments or suggestions.

Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Committee

Ben Wolfe- 889-9467 Tunbridge.Fuel.Assistance@gmail.com

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. The goal is to keep our community strong and connected, and to make sure that everyone has the ability to stay warm.

This is a service offered to help residents of Tunbridge such as yourselves. The Committee can point you to resources, and will consider loan applications when a resident has exhausted other available resources (including state fuel assistance).

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, Shari Murawski, 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 quarterly meeting will be the evening of Thursday, October 12 (6pm) at the Library Community Room. There are lots for things we can do as a community to help one another through cold weather and tough economic times. Consider joining us at the meeting!

While few requests come during these milder months, donations of any size help a lot, and generous folks have helped bring relief to their neighbors through this Fund. 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.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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

Pam Dietz, President – 889-3315

Pat Howe, Vice President and Treasurer – 889-5512

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. The TNHN phone line is not answered 24 hours a day; you should leave a message stating your request. and someone will try to find a volunteer who can do it.

Tunbridge Grange # 384

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

The National Grange, founded in 1867, is the oldest agricultural organization which has advocated on behalf of agricultural communities and families; providing services to rural areas for economic development, education, and legislation to assure a strong and viable rural America.

The Tunbridge Grange is in desperate need for new members. We meet once a month and the meetings usually only last about an hour and then we have good conversation and snacks. Please consider joining the Tunbridge Grange so that we can continue to keep this worthy organization going.

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

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

Better Bones

Shelia Mitchinson - 889-5547

Classes on Tuesdays & Thursdays

6:30am - Elaine Howe 889-5560

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

6:00pm - 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!

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami 889-5575 tunbridgeschoolclub@wrvsu.org

Last Day of School Picnic: School Club hosted a barbecue on June 15 to celebrate the end of the school year with over 150 students, faculty, staff, families and community members. The weather cooperated, and we had a fantastic turnout. Thanks to all who contributed food and volunteered their time to make the event go smoothly!

Back-to-School Potluck: School Club is hosting a back-to-school potluck on the evening of Wednesday, September 6. Watch for details at the beginning of the school year.

Chicken Pie Supper: Mark your calendar for this community supper at TCS on Saturday, October 28. Details coming in fall!

What is School Club? School Club is an organization dedicated to providing enrichment activities and services to students, families, staff and teachers at TCS. Anyone can participate and there are no membership dues.

How can you participate? School Club provides many opportunities for parents, teachers and community members to connect with one another, share ideas, plan activities and more. We welcome volunteers of all interests and abilities. Skills such as organization management, bookkeeping, fundraising, event planning, public relations, cooking/baking, etc. are helpful.

What are School Club funds used for? Last year, School Club provided support for the Back-to-School potluck; movie site license; Chelsea/Tunbridge Exploratorium; K/1/2 field trip to Billings Farm; student gifts at the holiday concert; the holiday breakfast for teachers and staff; classroom supplies for teachers at the New Year; 4th grade field trip to Billings Farm; a dance team teacher for PE; a Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon; a sheep shearing field trip; the overnight Camp In at the Montshire Museum of Science for the 3rd grade class; flowers and cake for the graduation ceremony and the last day of school picnic.

Getting the Word Out: Stay informed about School Club happenings by watching for information sent home with students, the TCS email list, articles on the Tunbridge page in The Herald, the news section of www.tunbridgevt.com and the School Club section inside the Tunbridge Quarterly. Interested individuals can write to tunbridgeschoolclub@wrvsu.org to sign up for the email list and receive event details, meeting agendas and more.

Upcoming Meetings: Parents, school personnel and community members regularly meet in the TCS Library at 6:00pm on the first Monday every month (or a rescheduled date due to a school break, holiday or inclement weather) to plan events, hear new ideas, review funding requests and manage the organization. The first meetings of the new school year are on October 2 and November 6.

Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair (FTWF)

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

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

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

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

This is a landmark year for the FTWF as we embark on our tenth anniversary. Incorporated on May 22, 2017, the FTWF is happy to report it has been an extremely successful venture. In 2010 a \$14,010 contribution was made toward the replacement of the footbridge across from Sherlock field. In 2011, \$8,280 was given for the replacement of three sets of bleachers for various fair venues. In 2012, \$450 was donated toward the restoration of the historic hand-painted Union Agricultural Society banner and \$2,600 for the restoration of the vintage gas-powered ice cream maker from money received in memory of Merritt Comstock. This ice cream maker is in operation on Antique Hill during the fair time. In 2013, \$830 went toward the repair to the stone chimney and fireplace in the Antique Hill log cabin museum. In 2014, \$2,500 was contributed toward the cost of a new people mover and \$6,360 for the construction of the sugar house on Antique Hill. In 2015, \$1,101 went for the purchase of eight new picnic tables and construction, painting of new seating benches. Funds for both were purchased from money donated in memory of Dana Goodnow. In 2016, A \$10,000 contribution toward the construction of the new 16-stall horse barn, \$3,000 for a permanent roof over the pump log exhibit on Antique Hill and \$450 for the purchase of five, 10' x 10' pop-up canopies for the courtesy shuttle stops which have been in operation since 2008. Look for the blue canopies and blue benches located at the five shuttle stops. Each shuttle stop will showcase a banner identifying them as such.

The project for 2017, will again be a contribution toward the repair and replacement of the footbridge across from Sherlock Field that was damaged during a recent rain storm. Tax-deductible donations toward this project can be made by mailing your check to Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair, P.O. Box 159, Tunbridge, VT 05077.

The FTWF is happy to report another successful duck race. This marks the 7th year for the duck races and not only were there three cash prizes for the top three tops to cross the finish line, but there were over 30 additional prizes donated by local businesses and individuals.

The FTWF will be replacing two board members who have reached their six-year term limit. We thank Jena Young, president and David Smith for their dedication during this time. The FTWF liasion, Chris Howe, is regretably leaving the board as well. He has been a wealth of information and insight into the projects the FTWF does and he will be greatly missed. The FTWF will also be replacing two other vacancies

The FTWF meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., downstairs in the Town Hall. Meetings are always open to the public.

www.friendsoftunbridgefair.org

The Tunbridge Church

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

The Tunbridge Church will conclude its summer services in the North Tunbridge Baptist Church. The Rev. Claire Bamberg will be guest pastor Aug. 20. She is an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ and a licensed mental health practitioner and certified mediator. She formerly served at United Church of Bethel.

On Aug. 27, the Rev. Steve Winkler, who is retired, will lead the worship service. He was ordained at the United Church of South Royalton and served churches in Ohio, New Jersey and Vermont.

The July services were held at the South Tunbridge Church. A new bronze plaque notes that the 1833 South Tunbridge Methodist Episcopal Church is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Pastor Search Committee continues to accept queries about the part-time pastor position. Information is available at www.ucc.org/ucc_ministry_opportunities. The Tunbridge Church is interdenominational and welcomes pastoral candidates from any denomination.

Everyone who enjoys singing is invited to take part in the annual “fair service,” a special service the Sunday of the World’s Fair (Sept. 17). This year music is the message — “God Gives Us Music” — all kinds of music that will be easy and accessible for everyone and anyone who wants to participate.

Singers will prepare to sing as a group alone and to lead the congregation in several songs. A group of professional musicians will provide accompaniment. Rehearsals will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 6, and Monday, Sept. 11, at the Tunbridge Village Church. Contact Judie Lewis, 889-9490 or singjudie@gmail.com, for information.

Judie, who is the church organist and choir director, also welcomes singers to the regular choir. It will begin rehearsals on Thursday, Sept. 28. The choir sings for three Sundays a month from October-June. Participation can be on a full or limited basis.

Before services resume in the village church it will be painted and have some electrical work done. The Parish House across the road was recently painted and will get a paved front walk in September.

The church Outreach Committee will host Super Senior luncheons for the town’s older residents on Aug. 26 and Oct. 28. The 5K Fun Run/Walk on Oct. 7 to benefit the Community Food Shelf will be followed by the third annual Anything Apple lunch, apple food sales and silent auction.

The Food Shelf is open Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at the Parish House at the corner of Potash Road and Route 110. AA, Al-Anon and Making Change meetings are also held at the house. Their schedules are posted at the front door.

Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more events.

Aug.

- 21 - Planning Commission Public Hearing, Town Hall, 7pm
Transportation, Land Use, and Natural Resources.
- 26 - Food Shelf pick up day - see page 10

Sept.

- 6 & 11 Rehearsals for Fair Service Choir, 7pm, Village Church.
Like to sing and feel inspired? Join in on the fun, only two rehearsals.
- 14 -17 146th Tunbridge World's Fair !!
- 17 - Festival of Worship Service, Village Church, 9:30am
- 30 - 1 VT Sheep & Wool Festival on the Fairgrounds

Oct. www.sheepandwoolfest.com

- 7 - 5K Fun Run/Walk, 9:30, Spring Road, to benefit the Community Food Shelf
- 7- Anything Apple lunch, food sales, silent auction at Town Hall
- 8- Tunbridge Fairground Bridge Repair Bluegrass Fundraiser -
Organized by the Jenny Brook festival folks, Pavilion bldg,
fairgroundswww.jennybrooke.com
- 13 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers 7:30pm Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission

Nov.

- 4 - Shindig with "The Party Crashers" Town Hall. 7:30 - 10:30pm, \$10.
If you like to dance, you'll love the Shindigs!
- 10 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers 7:30pm Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission

Second Sundays: All-you-can-eat breakfast,
8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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