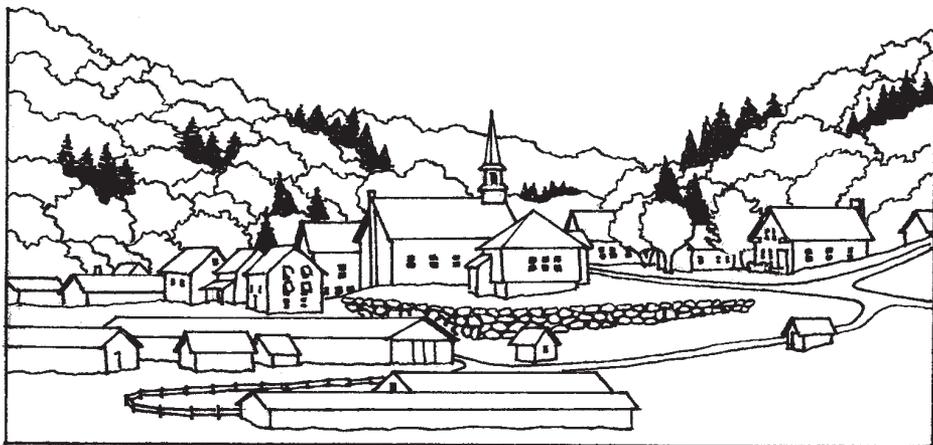


The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



May 15, 2017
issue #48

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.

I was recently looking at a book, *THE NEW DICTIONARY OF THOUGHTS* (printed in 1966!), and fell upon a page of “familiar phrases by Shakespeare.” I’ve never been much of a Shakespearian, but it is remarkable how much Shakespeare we use daily without necessarily knowing it. If you’ve ever said, “at one fell swoop,” or “the milk of human kindness,” or “I have not slept one wink,” than you’ve quoted the bard himself. It might be highly unlikely for Rodney Hoyt, our Road Foreman, to announce at the next Selectboard meeting, “Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,” but you can be quite certain that he has observed that very phenomenon this spring. Mud Season was extraordinarily long this year, but thanks to the Road Crew’s prep and persistence, Tunbridge weathered it better than most neighboring towns.

It might not fit in a stocking or under the tree, but come Christmas 2017, the Road Crew will be in possession of a new six-wheel Freightliner dump truck. There was some debate over the merits of a ten-wheeler (it can haul more) versus a six-wheeler (more economical to run), but everybody agreed that a dump truck that consistently works is better than one that randomly breaks down. As for the lame duck Truck #5, I’m sure that Rodney has employed Shakespearean phraseology to describe it—perhaps “seen better days” or maybe “good riddance.”

The heart of metropolitan Tunbridge—by which I mean the Town Office building, the Church, and the Town Hall—is due for a freshening up this summer. During the upcoming warm months, a lot of white paint will be transferred from can to clapboard, and it should be fun to watch the progress as we travel back and forth on Vermont Route 110.

There have been some questions about the new Tunbridge website, tunbridgevt.org. If you wish to add anything to the website (say minutes from a committee meeting), it is best to get in touch with Jackie and she'll help you out. We hope to transfer archival material from the old website to the new website (say old TQs), but this process may take a while due to time and budget limitations.

The end of the Fiscal Year is not far off (June 30th), and it looks like both the General Fund and the Highway Fund will have surpluses. The Select-board has plenty of challenges ahead, but as our Chair said this morning, reached on the telephone in his barn, "things are going well." I couldn't say whether that's a direct quote from Shakespeare or not, but according to the UK's TELEGRAPH in 2010: "Performing William Shakespeare's plays to cows can help them produce more milk, farmers claim. Renditions of works by the 16th century playwright were found to "relax" a dairy herd and help boost production...Liam Batt, a farm worker, added, 'Perhaps there is something in the language of Shakespeare—we don't know, but it seems to work and milk production has gone up four percent.'"

Tunbridge Board of Auditors

Maxine Young (763-8274), Betsy Race, Linda Hoyt
auditors@tunbridgevt.com

Another town meeting has passed. A two year term was created due to Luke Jandreau's resignation and this position was filled by Maxine Young, whose term was up for re-election. The three year position was filled by Linda Hoyt. Our first public meeting was held on April 25 and Maxine was elected to serve as Chair and Clerk; Betsy as Lead Reconciler; and Linda as Assistant Reconciler. On the issue of town report mailings and considering the poll taken at town meeting by a show of hands, most people still preferred having the town report mailed as it is now done. At this time, this is considered a null and void issue by the auditors. Also, thank you to those of you made the favorable comments regarding the legibility and set-up of the town report. So, another year begins!! 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

The Tunbridge/Chelsea School Merger vote took place on April 11th. The merger passed, 151 to 109, with 260 voters participating out of 981 on the checklist. South Royalton, however, voted no to their merger, which puts ours temporarily on hold. There is a possibility of yet another vote this summer. The School Board will keep us apprised of any updates.

Dog licenses per State Statue 20 V.S.A. 3581 were due on April 1, 2017. Late notices have been sent and as of April 30 there are 54 known unlicensed dogs. You may license your dog in person at the Town Clerks office, via mail, or the drop box located at the front entrance of the Town Office Building. Fees: altered \$11.00; non altered \$17.00. These fees include a late fee. A valid certificate of rabies is needed to license. If you no longer have your dog(s) please contact the Town Clerk so that we can adjust our records.

The Transfer station will once again be open on Wednesdays, commencing May 10th from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. in addition to the usual Saturdays. Tickets are available at the Tunbridge Library and the Town Clerk's Office.

Births: * Tobias Lee Paquin- born January 27, 2017 to

Parents- Victoria Claire Paquin & Joseph Michael Paquin

*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: Mariah Stearns to Devin Pearl Cilley- January 7, 2017

Deaths: Joseph A. Henault, December 4, 2016

Peggy Cora O'Donnell, March 14, 2017

As there still seems to be a good bit of confusion as to the breakdown of Town Clerk duties and Administrative Assistant duties, the following is a good rule of thumb:

For Property recording, Dog Licenses, Birth, Marriage, Death Certificates, and Voter Registration, please contact The Town Clerk at 889-5521 or tctunbridge@live.com . Trash tickets are also available in the Clerk's office.

For all Selectboard matters, Road issues, Town highway/garage/transfer station matters, and Town website questions, please contact the Administrative Assistant, Jackie Higgins at 889- 3566, or jackieh46@yahoo.com

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Ingrid Van Steamburg 889-3495

Tunbridge Town Treasurer

Becky Hoyt - 889-3571 treasurer@tunbridge.biz

Happy Spring Tunbridge! I just want to remind every that if you have not filed your homestead declaration with your income taxes, do it soon. Also, remember to check your tax bill when you receive in Aug. to make sure you received a state payment if you think you are due one.

I want to give you a recap of Town Meeting and the budget that passed just in case you missed it. For the General Fund we passed a budget of \$357,772.25. This was amended slightly during the meeting to account for an increase in the First Branch Ambulance fees. The Highway budget we passed was \$730,500. The Volunteer Fire Department asked for \$31,300.00 and it passed. Lastly the appropriations budget passed with a budget of \$13,842.00, which was amended for an increase of \$250 for Safeline. These will be the figures for your municipal tax portion of your taxes. The tax rate should be set in mid to late July and tax bills should be out by mid to late Aug.

I also wanted to give you a quick update on the current Budget. This fiscal year is almost over. It looks like the highway is going to end with a substantial surplus due to a very late grant payment for the Recreation Road Bridge construction project. The general fund may also end the fiscal year with a small surplus.

With the close of the fiscal year my office will also be converting our accounting software from Quickbooks to NEMRC. I am very excited about this change, it will make my job a bit easier. There is however a great deal of work that goes into making this change. With this change, there will be a new system to collecting taxes this year. It should make things easier for everyone but please be patient as I figure it out. Also another change this year is that we will be able to accept debt card payment for taxes. This system should be up and running through the town website by September.

I hope everyone has a great summer! Feel free to contact us with any questions.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglassstudio@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.

On Page 18, a resolution presented to John Durkee is printed outlining many of the ways John has served our town thru the TVFD. I'd like to point out yet another thing John has done for us; due to his unrelenting persistence we now have three Verizon commercial network extenders providing cell coverage around the town office, the school and the library.

Tunbridge School Board

Kathy Galluzzo 565-0695 kgalluzzo@tunbridgeschool.org

Maryann Caron 889-5694 mcaron@tunbridgeschool.org

Liz York 889-3211 lyork@tunbridgeschool.org

UPDATE ON EDUCATION DISTRICT UNIFICATIONS IN THE WHITE RIVER VALLEY

On April 11, seven town school districts in the White River Valley voted on proposals to create unified school districts. The process of developing these proposals grew from Act 46, a law passed in 2015 to address Vermont's shrinking enrollment, loss of student educational opportunities, and rising tax rates.

The proposals were created through committed, creative work by three committees over a period of 9 months. Proposals called for dramatic changes in education service delivery in many towns. Committee members negotiated with one another to find common ground and were willing to agree to significant changes in the interests of all students in the region. Three separate committees proposed the creation of three new unified school districts, effective July 1, 2018, as follows:

White River Unified District: Bethel, Rochester, Royalton-- grades PK-12

First Branch Unified District: Chelsea, Tunbridge--grades PK-8, tuition thereafter

Granville-Hancock Unified District: Granville, Hancock-- all students tuitioned

To qualify for incentives, at least two of these proposals needed to be approved by voters--one of which needed to operate PK-12. Under current law, these approvals must be completed by June 30, 2017.

On April 11, the proposed unifications passed in six of the seven districts. Only Royalton voted against the proposed changes. Because creation of the two smaller mergers is contingent on the creation of the larger district, none of the three can proceed immediately. However, at this time, they are all still in process. Below is a clarification of where these proposed unifications sit:

Granville-Hancock Unified District-- This unification was overwhelmingly approved by the school districts involved. Should a PK-12 district get approved prior to June 30, the Granville-Hancock District will come into being.

First Branch Unified District-- This unification was approved by both towns. The plan calls for a merger of Tunbridge and Chelsea, and the closure of Chelsea High School in 2018. As with the Granville-Hancock plan, should a PK-12 district get approved this unification will automatically be implemented.

White River Unified District - This proposal passed in both Rochester and Bethel. It was defeated soundly in Royalton. Given the magnitude of the Royalton defeat, the PK-12 Study Committee is moving in the direction of

a proposal that involves only Bethel and Rochester. Passage of such a plan by June 30 would allow all three new districts to be formed and for all participating members to receive incentives and benefits.

It is possible that implementation of the smaller mergers could be made easier by the passage of pending legislation. However, at this time, it is not a sure thing and we cannot count on it. The three study committees will continue to keep our communities informed as this process moves forward. We remain confident that the proposals put forward by your committees are good for students and our communities, and we remain hopeful that they will be able to be implemented.

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. 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 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 believe the library should offer entertainment, enlightenment, comfort, and good company-- each when you need them. Now more than ever, our community needs useful information, social connection, 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.

In the last few month we saw the loss of our beloved white birch. The vertical cracks had rendered it unstable and unsafe for the public. Some are using the wood to craft mementos; contact us if you are interested in a piece of wood from this historic tree. You can find the tree immortalized in the pewter medallions created by part-time Tunbridge resident, Bob McLean.

A lovely young tree will be planted to take its place and provide shade and comfort on the lawn. Indoors, the library has received brand new computers and a color laser printer made possible by an anonymous donation. We will also be expanding our wireless reach in the coming month, making it easier to access high-speed internet inside and outside the library.

Our library of videos include dramas, comedies, suspense, documentaries—and some popular favorites just for fun. Soon after this Quarterly arrives, we will be offering a new array of audiobooks and DVDs from the Librarians of the Upper Valley (LUV) Coop. In addition to watching at home, we have enjoyed some classic movie matinees together at the library. Interested in some midsummer movie fun at the library? Let us know as we plan for the months ahead.

Fern Strong, the new ArtSpace Coordinator, has undertaken the feat of managing two shows simultaneously at the Library. "Adventures in Weaving" shows fascinating and detailed textiles created by Sue Rockwell of Braintree. At the same time, Mitch Beck's One Planet art class (from Tunbridge School) is showing a delightful array of nearly 80 pieces of their artwork. These shows continue until May 19. Look for details about the next art show opening in June. If you are an artist (or you know of one) who is interested in showing at the please feel free to contact Fern through phone or email listed above.

Our next Story Hour will be May 20 at 9 am with Baby Animals. Once June starts we will be changing our schedule to accommodate summer schedules.

June also marks the start of the Summer Library Program. The theme this summer will be "Build a Better World." We will be writing, drawing, doing origami, and even making a short film in our effort to make imagine new

worlds and make our own world more the way we want it to be. Fasten your seat-belt, since we will be also starting the Race-to-Read challenge once school is out. Sign up, read up a storm, and you can win a trophy and even put your name on a stock car when drivers from Thunder Road return to the Library. Look for more information coming soon.

For those of other ages and interests, there are lots of ways to participate in community events at the library. One is the Fiber Arts Group which meets the first and third Wednesday of every month, at 6pm (e.g. May 17, June 7, June 21, etc.) etc.)

In the coming weeks, the Friends will be preparing for their Book, Bake and Plant Sales on Memorial Day (Monday, May 29). Contact us if you would like to pitch in on one of these exciting efforts. At the end of the summer (August) we are looking forward to the annual Volunteer Potluck Picnic.

Tunbridge Town Forest

Fred Pond - 889-3758

Chair: Gary Mullen. Members: Brenda Field, Dave Kimball, Lee Lawrence, Larry Mengedoht, Fred Pond and Rudi Ruddell.

Join Your Town Forest Committee and Orange County Forester David Paganelli on a spring walk in the Tunbridge Town Forest on June 10th, meet at the Library at 11am. Learn current plans for forest management while exploring unique features of our forest.

Tunbridge Town Forest Mission:

The Tunbridge Town Forest is sustainably managed for multiple uses for the benefit of current and future generations of Tunbridge residents and visitors.

Management activities seek to enhance and protect various environmental and economic resources such as wildlife, water, educational and recreational experiences, cultural/historic sites, and wood products.

Through an adaptive and scientific management approach, the Town's stewardship of this property will serve as a demonstration model and inspiration for other landowners.

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

After a three-month hiatus over the winter, the FTWF commenced their monthly meetings on April 12th. Needless to say, many ideas for this year's project surfaced and the board is excited to get started. The board welcomes ideas and comments so feel free to contact any board member.

Tickets for the 7th Annual Duck Race will go on sale commencing Memorial Day and will continue to be available for purchase up until the day of the duck race. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. Prizes include three cash awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, plus many donations of goods and services from local businesses.

The annual meeting of the FTWF will be held on Sunday, July 30, 2017 in the Pavilion at the fairgrounds. The potluck takes place at 11:30 a.m., followed by the annual meeting at 12:30 p.m. and the duck race at approximately 1:30 p.m. The annual meeting is open to everyone and the board encourages those interested in seeing what we are all about to attend. Please consider becoming a board member as three positions will need to be filled--two who have reached their term limits and one vacancy.

The FTWF meets on the second Wednesday of each month 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

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 notices of the suppers and local events can call Pam at the number above or email Elaine Howe at ehowe2@wrvsu.org

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

ECF is borrowing another \$14.5M this year which will build almost another 500 miles of road in 2017-18. This is twice what we are building in 2016-17.

Your participation by subscribing now 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.

In Tunbridge, this state -of-the-art fiber-optic network is currently available on Rt110 from SoRo up to Button Hill, all of Button Hill, upper Potash Hill and Kibling Hill, the upper half of Dickerman Hill and all of Whitney Hill. If the service is available to you please subscribe now to receive the best possible Internet connection and support this locally owned network.

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

Tunbridge Fire Warden

Brenda Field 889-5548

I get a morning report of Wild land fire conditions from Vermont, Forest, Parks and Recreation each morning. They are quite involved but I have found are pretty darn close to what I find in the fields and woods.

There are some changes in the law involving the state and Wild land fires. I will meet with the town select board and let you know how our town will address these changes. Just so you know we do have a Burn Ordinance in our town and it will most likely be updated soon. As soon as our town web site is up and running I will attempt to get it on there for your reading pleasure.

Call Brenda Field at 889-5548 or John Durkee at 889-3408 for a burn permit, we can give them out over the phone. It is a state "Permit to Kindle" brief form. You don't need to pick it up as long as I have the copies. Reminder again it gives permission to burn natural wood products only. Leave your name, address, what you are burning and call back number when calling. We will make every attempt to get back to you in a reasonable amount of time.

PS: In an attempt to maintain transparency I want you to know I got a raise from the state of VT to do this. I now receive \$30. per year.

Alliance for Vermont Communities

Michael Sacca - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

The Alliance for Vermont Communities (AVC) was formed last fall in order to send a strong message to NewVistas Foundation: 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.

In an effort to make residents of the four affected towns of Royalton, Sharon, Strafford and Tunbridge aware of the NewVistas development threat, AVC coordinated placing a non-binding resolution on each of the Town Meeting agendas. The resolution read: “Shall the voters of the town of _____ oppose the NewVistas development?” The purpose of the resolution was three-fold: 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.

The combined result of the Town Meeting vote was overwhelmingly (90%+) in favor of the article. Here are the results:

Royalton	123 Yes	16 No
Sharon	100 Yes	16 No
Strafford	voice vote, overwhelmingly passed (186 voters present)	
Tunbridge	165 Yes	4 No

It is encouraging to have this strong, unified message of opposition coming from all of the towns most immediately affected. Below are just a few of the comments we have heard.

“My wife was teary-eyed watching it unfold, and I have to say my pride in our community reached a new level. A new sense of togetherness has emerged, which is a formidable fact for Hall and Ellis” – Tunbridge resident (Referring to David Hall, Utah developer and Kevin Ellis, hired Vermont lobbyist)

“Nice job to the Alliance with getting the resolution passed in all 4 towns. It definitely contributed to a very lively town meeting in Sharon - people care!” - Sharon resident

And this from Randy Leavitt, a member of AVC and resident of Royalton writing the day after Town Meeting.

“At the end of the day...we passed this resolution in every town. We got on the local and state news, people know about it now who did not know about it before...including, astonishingly enough, people in my own town. I was so surprised how little some people in Royalton knew about the truth. So, yesterday we told our story, and we told it really well. The best day since we heard this terrible news in my opinion. Onward!”

As expected, David Hall has said he plans to proceed and is not deterred by what the residents of the four towns think. The Valley News reported that David Hall said following Tuesday's vote that "his project remained far from realization and that he would continue to acquire the land needed regardless of current residents concerns." Valley News, March 8, 2017

Of course there is plenty of work to do as we use the momentum from this powerful victory to reach our dual goals of stopping this ill-conceived development as well as creating a vision for our communities that builds opportunities for the region. Coming up on June 18th is a benefit for AVC in the form of a mountain bike ride called "The Ranger". It's a day of riding, a day of community, of local food and beer to be held at the Fairgrounds and the surrounding hills. More info at www.therangervt.com/.

Thank you for your continued support. The power of many is working! If you would like to assist AVC in the areas of land conservation, legal assistance and getting the word out to even wider circles of Vermont residents, please contact Michael Sacca at the info above.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

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

The 65th annual Civic Club Show is now in the past. How the years do fly! Due to the icy roads and weather conditions, Friday night's attendance was poor, however, a good attendance on Saturday was enjoyed. The cast had a great time as well as the audience and there were many positive comments on the show and the music. After paying all show expenses, we were able to give monies to the following: the Tunbridge Public Library in honor of Arlene Stockwell; Tunbridge Central School library in Arlene's memory; Royalton Radio, Ski Runners program; Neighbors Helping Neighbors; Food shelf for backpack program; Makers Space and the Church Painting Fund.

As always, we encourage new participants to join in our madness!! Contact Elaine, Butch or Maxine or one of the other show members so we know you are interested. Our annual meeting will be held October 2, 2017 in the town hall downstairs at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Tunbridge Town Website

Don Angolano - dangolano1980@gmail.com

State Representative

David Ainsworth - 763-8017

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. While there are challenges to this, we are looking to streamline our process to find more ways to connect our neighbors to resources, so that everyone in our community can stay warm.

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).

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, May 25 (6pm) at the Library Community Room, for when the new committee will be electing officers. We will also be having a midsummer meeting on July 13 (at 6pm) to hear from a visiting speaker about how our committee can support the community. One topic we are looking into is the possibility of a wood bank to help folks heating with this fuel. With many \$100,000s spent on heating each year, this not only helps people make ends meet, but it keeps money in our local economy. We urge anyone interested to join us!

While few requests come during these 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 Board of Listers

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

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

South Royalton Rescue Squad (SRRS)

Rebecca Owens - 763-8133

SRRS is an Advanced Life Support (ALS) service that covers Sharon, Royalton and the southern part of Tunbridge. We are a 24 hour service 7 days a week. We serve as mutual aide to First Branch and White River Valley as well when needed.

Our staff is composed of two Paramedics, five Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT) and ten Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). We presently have five of the EMT's in an Advanced class, to move into the advanced skill level in September. Our Administrator is Paramedic David Palmer, who has been a paramedic for 17 years and was the first paramedic in our area.

Our office is located at 186 South Windsor Street in South Royalton, which also is our sleeping quarters for the night shift. Our ambulance is housed in the South Royalton Fire Department. For NON emergency calls you may reach us at 802-763-8133. Please always call 911 for a possible emergency.

Your red 911 house number is our beacon to find you quicker. If you have one, it should be visible from the road. It will help us greatly especially in the evening hours. These numbers can make a difference in our response time to an emergency, when a few minutes can be valuable.

Spring is in the air, snow is almost gone. The White River is calling for many of us to come and play. Please know that the water is still very cold, and hypothermia can come quick. Dress appropriately and be safe. Turkey hunting is here be safe and have fun, wear the appropriate clothing. Warm weather also brings ticks. Check yourself, children and your pets regularly

If you live in our coverage area, we do provide a membership application. This is a yearly fee of \$95.00 for the household. Please call us to gain more information. We can mail to you all the information as well.

Please contact us about Lifeline, a medical alert service, as well. This can be a very valuable service to many.

We also distribute a small container called the Vial of Life. This is a small container that has all your vital medical information in it. Please call us and inquire. This is very helpful to EMS if you are unable to give this information.

Our mission is to serve the communities in our coverage area with a caring, certified staff to meet the emergency medical needs and to transport you as safely as possible to the appropriate hospital.

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami 889-5575 tunbridgeschoolclub@wrvsu.org

Teacher Appreciation Week: Every spring, the first full week of May is National Teacher Appreciation Week. School Club organized a special luncheon on May 3 that gave teachers and staff a rare chance to enjoy a meal together. Thank you to all who contributed items to the luncheon, volunteered to cover lunch/recess duty and recognized our special teachers and staff in other ways.

Last Day of School Picnic: School ends with a half-day on June 15. School

Club will host the annual last-day-of-school picnic from 11am - Noon for all students, staff, teachers, parents and volunteers. Community members are welcome to join us in celebrating the end of the school year. Please email tunbridgeschoolclub@wrvsu.org if you would like to volunteer your time or contribute food items to this event.

Finances in Good Standing: School Club currently has over \$8,000 its bank account. So far this year, School Club has 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; and a Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon. Upcoming support will include 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 last day of school picnic.

Important – Last Meeting of the School Year: School Club's last meeting of the year is on Monday, June 5 in the TCS Library at 6:00pm. Please mark your calendar for this important planning session. We will review this year and look ahead to next year: creating a budget, establishing planning committees for fundraisers and setting dates for events. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

Tunbridge Grange # 384

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

The Grange 2017 Friday Night Bingo went quite well this year. Thanks to all of you who attended; we hope you had fun, and congrats to the winners! By the time you read this TQ, we would have just had our spaghetti dinner on May 13th, so we hope you enjoyed the spring night out!

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 Distel or Marilyn (Mert) Vesper 889-5595.

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

First Branch Ambulance

Judy Tucker 889-3305 judytucker1@myfairpoint.net

You are probably seeing more red route number sign up now that the snow has gone. They are still available by contacting Judy and a \$20.00 donation.

FBA wishes to thank all those who so generously donated money to the House Call program in memory of Emily Howe. This program is available to anyone needing home care visits. If you are interested in learning about it please call the station and talk with Linda Kuban or Chase Ackerman @ 685-3112.

If you need information or want to make suggestions on how we can be more beneficial to your needs please contact town representatives Judy Tucker@ 889-3305 or Tim Wolfe @ 889-3730. Our board meetings continue on the third Tuesday @ 7 pm at the Chelsea fire station.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young 889-2804

Roughly 30 community members attended our annual meeting in March. Shawn Young was recognized for 15 years of service in the fire the Department. Shane Young and Bob Dunkle were re-elected to 2 year terms on the Board of Trustees, while Dominick Amodeo was elected to his first 2 year term as a Trustee; Simon Bradford was nominated and elected as the new Fire Chief; Jena Young was re-elected to a third term as Clerk. Fire Chief John Durkee was recognized for his 20 years in the role of Fire Chief and 36 years of service overall.

Our 9th annual Easter egg hunt was held on April 15th at the school. It was a beautiful sunny day and many of the kids enjoyed playing on the playground after hunting for eggs. Roughly 40 kids and their families participated in this annual event this year.

Want to burn? Remember to contact our Fire Warden, Brenda Field at 889-5548 for a fire permit if you want to burn brush. A permit is required to burn brush at your home.

It's BBQ time! If you would like to eat our barbecued chicken on Memorial Day, you must call ahead & reserve your chicken. Remember, you can purchase just a half chicken, or you can make it a meal for a few bucks more which includes macaroni and potato salad, a roll, butter and your choice of beverage. Please e-mail your chicken barbeque reservations to TVFDBBQ@gmail.com or call Matt Loftus at 889-3274 or Simon Bradford at 889- 5518 to place your reservation. Thank you for your continued support as this fund raiser proves to be a great success every year.

Representative David Ainsworth presented Chief Durkee with a resolution from the Vermont House of Representatives recognizing his years of service to the Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department. The Resolution, H.C.R. 64 read:

House concurrent resolution honoring Tunbridge Fire Chief John W. Durkee for 20 years of exemplary leadership.

Offered by Representative Ainsworth of Royalton.

Whereas, volunteer fire departments perform an essential public safety role in municipalities throughout Vermont, and

Whereas, the Vermonters serving as volunteer firefighters are dedicated citizens, making extraordinary personal sacrifices to protect their neighbors' lives and property, and

Whereas, 36 years ago, John Durkee joined the Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department (the department) and has been an active member ever since, and

Whereas, he mastered the technical and leadership skills necessary to perform his firefighting duties expertly and assist in guiding the department's administrative deliberations, and

Whereas, 20 years ago, John Durkee assumed the position of Tunbridge Fire Chief, and

Whereas, Chief Durkee's incredible dedication to ensuring the safety of Tunbridge's residents and visitors is widely admired, and

Whereas, he contributed to the development of a viable emergency management plan for Tunbridge, and

Whereas, similarly, Chief Durkee's foresight enabled the town to develop an effective emergency response protocol should a major accident or fire occur during the Tunbridge World's Fair or at another event held at the town's fairgrounds, and

Whereas, Chief Durkee is a conscientious steward of his town's financial resources, and he determined that Tunbridge could function with one fewer fire truck, and

Whereas, he spearheaded the development of a long range budgetary plan for replacing dated equipment, and

Whereas, under Chief Durkee's leadership, Tunbridge invested in a fire truck employing an innovative compressed air foam system that can combat fires more efficiently than other equipment, and

Whereas, after an outstanding 20 year tenure as the Tunbridge Fire Chief, John Durkee is concluding his leadership role but will remain a proud Tunbridge firefighter, now therefore be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives: That the General Assembly honors Tunbridge Fire Chief John W. Durkee for 20 years of exemplary leadership, and be it further Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to John Durkee.

If you see John around town, be sure to thank him for his many years of volunteer service to this town.

The Tunbridge Church

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

Interim Pastor Jo Shelnett will conclude her time at The Tunbridge Church at the end of May. She served as a pulpit supply pastor during December 2015 and became the interim pastor in February 2016. She will be the guest of honor at a Town Hall potluck lunch following the May 28 worship service.

The Pastor Search Committee continues to welcome queries about the part-time pastor position. Information about the church is available at www.ucc.org/ucc_ministry_opportunities. The Tunbridge Church is an interdenominational community church established in 1978 when the Congregational, Methodist and Baptist congregations merged. Pastoral candidates from other denominations are welcome.

The Youth Sunday worship service is held each year on Mother's Day. Young people conduct the entire service including music and readings. Services during July will be held at the South Tunbridge Methodist Church. The annual outdoor service and picnic will be Aug. 6 at Judie Lewis's pond. Remaining August services will be at North Tunbridge Baptist Church. All Sunday worship services begin at 10 a.m.

On Saturday, July 8, from 7 to 2 the annual Community Yard Sale will be held on the Parish House lawn and at the Town Hall. This is Chelsea Flea Market day which generates a lot of traffic. All vendors — pre-owned items, crafts, market gardeners — are invited. The 15'x15' spaces are \$20, payable that day. The church welcomes donations of Christmas and gently used items for its tables. Contact Nancy Howe to reserve a booth at 889-3750.

Residents are invited to the annual Ice Cream Social July 11 at 6:30 p.m. on the Parish House lawn. Ice cream and various toppings will be served. Bring a chair.

The Community Food Shelf is open Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at the Parish House which is across from the church at the corner of Potash Road. Ramp access is off the parking area. Making Change meets there Wednesdays at 5:30.

New front steps were recently installed at the Parish House and the base was laid for a paved front walk. Grass was seeded where old concrete pavers along Route 110 were removed. A new sound system was installed in the church sanctuary and this summer the building will be painted. It was built in 1839 to replace the Congregational Church that was built the previous year and destroyed by fire before it was a year old.

“Maker Space” fundraising campaign

Elaine Howe - 889-3310

Tunbridge Central School has launched their Maker Space crowd-funding campaign. Maker Space is a combination of home ec and shop. Here at Tunbridge we have been primarily working with the middle school on challenge projects but are hoping to include the elementary grades in the near future. Our challenge fund includes equipment for electronics, woodworking, and manipulatives, among other things. Below you will find the link which tells much more about the project.

This initiative, which includes collaboration with the Montshire Museum and Google, will also bring materials and professional development to our entire k-8 staff and TCS community. One of ten schools in VT and NH that was awarded this opportunity, Tunbridge Central School hopes to continue our heritage of “making” and “creating” across the generations here in our valley.

Please donate generously to our effort. <https://igg.me/at/tcsmaker-space/x> Or search “indiegogo tunbridge” to find the information and donation page.

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!

Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more events.

May

- 20 - Work Bee on the Fairgrounds, 9am - 12pm. lunch provided after.
· Continued antique hill inventory, bring a flashlight, a tape measure, pencil, dress in layers
· Pulling up Grandstand walkway (to put down a new deck), bring crowbar, hammer and anything else for deconstruction
· Sorting out all out signs for inventory.
· Painting if weather is okay. Painting new hub rail. Fun in the sun.
- 29 - Memorial Day: Library plant, book & bake sales, 9-2.
Town Hall memorial service, 11am. Parade and cemetery program, following the service.
TVFD chicken on the fairgrounds, see page 17.

June

- 9-11 - Vermont 4H Horse clinic, south oval, on the fairgrounds
- 10 - Town Forest Walk, meet at the Library at 11am. See pg 8.
Learn current plans for forest management while exploring unique features of our forest.
- 11 - All-you-can-eat breakfast, 8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.
- 18 - “The Ranger” mountain bike ride, 11am on the fairgrounds. Benefit for the Alliance for Vermont Communities. After party starts at 1pm.
<https://www.therangervt.com>
- 21-25 - Jenny Brook Bluegrass Festival, on the fairgrounds.
<http://jennybrookbluegrass.com>

July

- 6/30 - Morgan Heritage Days, on the fairgrounds
7/2 - <http://www.vtmorganheritagedays.org>
- 8 - Community Yard Sale on Parish House Lawn, 7-2pm, see pg 19.
The 15’x15’ exhibitor spaces are \$20, payable that day.

July

- 9 - All-you-can-eat breakfast, 8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.
- 11 - Ice Cream Social, Parish House lawn. 6:30pm, BYO Chair
- 13-16 - Woodstock and Green Mountain Dog Shows, on the fairgrounds
www.woodstockdogclub.org, www.greenmountaindogclub.org
- 14 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission
- 30 - FTWF annual potluck - 11:30, Meeting - 12:30, Duck Race - 1:30
Pavilion building on the Fairgrounds, See pg 9

Aug.

- 11 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission
- 11-13 - Lippitt Morgan Show, on the fairgrounds lippittcountryshow.com
- 13 - All-you-can-eat breakfast, 8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.
Recreation Committee Benefit, always on the second Sundays

Homegrown and Handmade in Tunbridge

Janet Zug - 802-738-9602 talk/text zugglassstudio@gmail.com

I'd like to compile a list of folks that offer handmade and homegrown products created, grown and/or raised in Tunbridge. Please contact me at the info above to be added to the list. I'm looking for the following information:

Who - you are

What - products do you sell?

Where - you are located.

Are your products available for purchase in Tunbridge and/or elsewhere?

When - can your products be purchased?

If available in Tunbridge, are you open certain hours?

How & Why - any other info you think is pertinent.

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