

The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



November 15, 2017
issue #50

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.

The Town of Tunbridge is looking for a couple of nice antiques to go in the Town Offices and the Town Garage, vintage pieces from yesteryear, the sort of thing seen in the pages of REMINISCE magazine: rotary telephones. In the aftermath of the October 29th and 30th wind storm, when most of Tunbridge was without power, John Durkee (our emergency point person) tried to call the Town Clerk's and Town Garage. Without electricity, the office phones didn't work and the answering machines didn't work either. If only Betsy or Rodney had a baby blue Ma Bell rotary telephone to plug in during these emergency situations! As John reflected, "Every time we have one of these storms, we learn what we need, and, hopefully, we can be better prepared next time."

Anybody driving or roller skating on our Class 2 roads (the roads that are classified between the Class 1 VT Rte. 110 and the Class 3 dirt roads) will have noticed, lately, a smoother ride. Paving—or resurfacing—of the Strafford Rd., the Spring Rd., Potash, Town Farm Rd., as well as in front of the Library, and from the Town Offices to the Town Hall, was done just in time for our long winter slog.

While we're talking about "spruced up," the Town Hall and the Town Offices (and the Tunbridge Church, too!) are looking fine with their new coats of white paint. At the Town Hall, it's also worth noticing the rebuilt emergency exit (the work of Randy Hoyt & Co.) and, on the stairs out front, the new caps on the newel posts (thanks to Janet Zug for this recapitation).

At the Transfer Station, the State has ordered Tunbridge to stop collecting electronic waste (TVs, computers, appliances, Furbies, etc.). From now on, if you have something electronic that dies, take it to the Bethel/Royalton dump or ARCC in Barre (that's Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District's "Additional Recyclables Collection Center," 540 No. Main St.—behind the Dollar General, across the street from Salvation Army). In the needs-to-be-spruced-up department, our Transfer Station is now at the top of the list;

anybody who would like to join the unofficial “Friends of the Dump” committee, please contact John O’Brien.

The Selectboard is beavering away at the FY ‘18/’19 budget. This budget is an estimate of what we expect to spend in one year, starting July 1st, 2018. As we munch crackers and cheese, and look at budgets past, we get to be Nostradamus-by-committee and try to predict the price of sand or diesel or hones in the future. Remarkably, most budgeting is right on the money; it’s the unpredictability of the weather and machines that monkeys with accurate estimates. The July 1st storm hit us with as much flooding as Irene. This late October storm lashed us with hurricane-force winds. We know these types of storms are coming with more frequency, we just don’t know what fiscal year they’ll fall in. Imagine trying to predict this: On a 90 degree day, in late September (30 degrees above normal), the parked John Deere grader’s cab got so hot it blew the door off! Where does the \$800 line item for that go in the budget? On the Highway Budget spreadsheet, in between “Chloride” and “Culverts,” maybe we should sneak in “Climate Change what the dickens.”

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.

Tunbridge Board of Auditors

Maxine Young (763-8274), Betsy Race, Linda Hoyt

Maxine is busy working on the Town Report. This involves sending reminders of due dates for all those who submit financial and narrative reports, compiling this information into the town report, proofreading, and juggling page and index changes. It has been fun this year going through archives of old pictures with Euclid and scanning these into what will eventually be the Town Report.

Betsy and Linda are reviewing and reconciling (like checkbooks are done) all town accounts in preparation for the town report. Any discrepancies are discussed with the town treasurer and adjustments are reported in town report. This year has been wonderful with very few adjustments. It is our last year with reports from the QuickBooks. We have started reconciling monthly bank statements with the new accounting program called NEMRC.

Unfortunately, our auditors e-mail address is not working, therefore, if there are questions or comments for the auditors, please contact us at Maxine.young976@gmail.com. Your question will be forwarded to the appropriate person(s).

Tunbridge Town Clerk

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

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

If you haven't yet noticed, the Town Offices, Town Hall, and Tunbridge Church have all had a number of repairs done to each structure, as well as a new coat of paint. Travelers through town have noticed and remarked how nice everything looks! Tunbridge is a beautiful place, and it's nice to see our Town buildings sparkling.

The following are Tunbridge birth/marriage/death records that have been recorded since the last issue of the Quarterly: Please note that these are recorded in this office. If someone should marry or pass away out of state, I most likely will not have that record here.

Births: * Sabrina Pearl Ingham- born August 27, to parents- Honour Lindsey Noelle Ingham & Thomas Michael Ingham.
Allison Marie Gokey- born September 12, to parents- Jessica Marie Gokey & Aaron Frank Gokey.
Bryson Paul Campbell- born October 5, to parents- Jenni Marie Campbell & Paul Jason Campbell.
Garth Robert Smith- born October 19, to parents- Mary Margaret Lake & Paul Robert Smith.

Marriages: Heaven Claire Pauline Bouchard to Cole Robert Harrington, August 12
Sonja Marie Stover to Mark Russell Barter, August 19
Theodora Hamm Dollenmaier Mix to James Terrance Ryan, September 9
Margaret Leslie Manning to Craig Orrin Frye, October 14

Deaths: Levi F. Barnaby, July 30
Kerry LeBlanc, August 2
James A. Padula, September 13
Elaine S. Anthony, October 8

*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 new brand new tiny Tunbridge residents!

2018 Dog Licensing will commence on January 1, 2018. Fees are as follows: Spayed or Neutered dogs- \$9.00, unsprayed or unneutered dogs- \$13.00. Dogs cannot be licensed without proof of current rabies vaccinations.

TOWN HALL RESERVATIONS- Judy Howe is our Town Hall Supervisor. To reserve Town Hall, please contact Judy at (802) 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 889-3459

The Planning Commission continues to work on its 5 year rewrite of the town plan in a two part process. The first phase was officially completed on October 24th with the Select Board officially adopting the edits to the following chapters: Land Use, Transportation, & Natural Resources. The commission continues to meet with our regional planning commission representative to review and make edits to the remaining chapters of the plan. The entire plan is up for review by April 2018. The commission has assigned subcommittees to look at different chapters and with those assignments we have asked those committees to reach out to individuals or groups in our community that may have feedback on the particular chapter, such as connecting with the School Board & Principal about the Education Chapter. Until we are done with our town plan rewrite we will continue to meet on the First and Third Tuesdays of each month @ 6:30pm in the Town Office, unless otherwise posted.

Vital Communities Listserv

Michael Sacca 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

Fellow Tunbridge-ites many of the towns in our immediate area have a "ListServ" in place which is hosted by Vital Communities* to foster increased communication among residents from offering items for sale, to services wanted and offered, announcements of coming events, lost and found, and to discussions of community wide interest. I have heard from people who use it that it has been an asset to their town. Though Tunbridge is presently served by "Front Porch Forum", those who have access to both say the Vital Communities Listserv is far more comprehensive and useful. Some people subscribe to both.

Now that it is in place, it needs to be populated by your postings of the above mentioned announcements and other news. To sign up, go to: <https://lists.vitalcommunities.org/lists/info/tunbridge> then select "subscribe" on the left hand side and type in your email address. You can always select "unsubscribe" to opt out.

The fine print of using the listserv is also to be found on that page. Please read it and if you decide to sign up, please comply to the guidelines. If you have any questions, send me an email.

* Vital Communities is a nonprofit organization based in White River Junction, Vermont, that brings together citizens, organizations, and municipalities in the Upper Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire to take on issues where an independent voice and regional approach are essential. Working together, we make our region a better place to live, work, and play every day. 4

Tunbridge Conservation Commission

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

Over the past few months commission members have engaged with local committees and other groups and individuals to continue developing ideas for projects and partnerships to fulfill our mission: 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

Since the commission newly formed this past summer much of our recent activity continues to involve compiling information and meeting with appropriate groups to define priorities over the short and long term. Our recent meetings have covered topics ranging from compiling information and usage rights of local trails and class 4 roads, identifying gaps in natural resource information that will help in town planning efforts, and compiling information related to the current status and extent of priority areas such as vernal pools and wildlife habitat in the town. Over the next few months the TCC will meet with other town CCs, begin drafting bylaws, and developing projects in concert with local committees that address our mutual needs.

We are currently recruiting new members so if you are interested in our mission and serving your town please either contact our current members Betsy Gaiser, Butch Howe, Isaac Sacca, and Aaron Weed for more information or stop by at a meeting. Watch the Tunbridge listserv for meeting dates and time.

8th Grade Fundraiser

Eleni Howe 802-505-1499

The Tunbridge Central School 8th grade students and their families have been hard at work raising funds for their year-end trip to Washington, D.C. We have some exciting opportunities coming up for our community to support these students:

Bake sales: We are offering a bake sale during the Tunbridge Recreation Breakfasts at the Town Hall on the second Sunday of each month, from 8am to noon. Stock up on your favorite baked goods and treats, and put some in the freezer to enjoy another day! Come see us on Nov. 12th, Dec. 10th & Jan. 14th.

Spaghetti Supper: On Saturday, January 20th, pack up your family and neighbors, brave the cold and come out to enjoy the 8th grade's Community Spaghetti Supper at TCS. We will have seatings at 5, 6 & 7pm. Reservations are encouraged: call 802-505-1499 with your name and the number in your party. \$10 per person; \$5 for Veterans and children under age 12. Vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available. Sonia Larocque will also be at TCS that evening with a wide selection of Lularoe clothing for sale! In the event of bad weather on the 20th, we will hold the dinner the following Saturday, on January 27th. More details will be shared as we get closer to the event. Hope to see you there!

Tunbridge Women's Group

Pam Dietz 889-3315

Local women are invited to send their email addresses to Elaine Howe at ehowe2@wrvsu.org to receive Tunbridge Women's Group (TWG) mailings.

In addition to sharing community news through occasional emails, the women's group hosts monthly potluck suppers in local homes. This is an informal group without officers, committees and duties that offers women a chance to meet each other and share conversation and information about their interests.

Tunbridge Town Forest

Brenda Field 889-5548

We have renewed our contract with Calvin Johnson to move forward on a timber harvest on the two pieces of town forest. Calvin has started on the "town garage lot" to clear the low grade pine he could tackle this past spring. The "Drew lot" requires a decent winter of frozen ground and snow cover to protect the steep terrain. The harvest is accomplished with oversight by our County Forester Dave Paganelli and the Tunbridge Forest Committee.

The Forest Committee and some towns folks has been thrilled to support two grades from both Tunbridge and Chelsea this fall with their week of classes in the town forest. 5 days of kids building trails, shelters, basket making, outdoor fire building and cooking. Special speakers hiked in to talk about what a forester considers regarding care and management of our forest. VINS and Vermont Fish and Game Warden were guest speakers talking about our wild-life, birds and insights into what kind of requirements are needed to pursue a career in these fields. The food (including wild goose) cooked over the fire was amazing! Special thanks to the school, Amy Bogardus, Elaine Howe, Stephanie Loeffler, stacy Lober, Erik Anderson and Scott Farnsworth for giving the kids a whole week to enjoy our town forest and thinking about our stewardship.

Tunbridge Walking Group

Maxine Young-802-763-8274

The Tunbridge Walking Group was loosely organized in November 2011. We have continued to walk three times a week since that time. We walk Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at various locations in Tunbridge, meeting at 9:30 for about an hour or sometimes a little more. Not everyone can make it every day, even once a week for some. We have logged many miles, some great hikes, and in the winter snowshoe or cross-country ski. The terrain varies, however, there is something for everyone. Anyone is welcome to join us. You do not have to live in Tunbridge. Contact Maxine Young, to be added to our e-mail list or *youngvt@myfairpoint.net. This is a great way to begin or maintain a healthy lifestyle, lower blood pressure, lose weight, lower cholesterol numbers, deal with stress, better breathing and the list goes on.

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

The Tunbridge Library is honored to serve the community. It's a place where you can talk to kind and supportive folks to help you find the information you need. It's a place where you can discover and borrow fascinating books, great films, and audiobooks on CD. The library offers engaging and entertaining events, and we provide an environment where you can find good company, meet new people, and get high-speed wifi 24/7. And when you can't visit—you can even download audio and E-books from ListenUpVermont and Recorded Books Digital service. Come find out how you can get started, or check out the library's website for more information.

Our next Story Hour celebrates "Stone Soup" Saturday, November 18 at 9 am. Story Hours will be offered every first and third Saturdays at 9 am, as follows: Dec. 2; Jan. 6, Jan. 20, Feb. 3, and Feb. 17. Note: No Story Hour on Dec. 16. Many thanks to Mariah, Miles, and Rowyn Lawrence for their enthusiasm and leadership! The morning of Dec. 9 will see our visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus--- more details to come.

While we offer thousands of volumes to borrow at the library, the Friends of the Library also are offering a terrific sale of used books as well as deeply discounted new books and gifts to purchase on Saturday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 am to 3pm. All proceeds support the library.

Fiber artists gather at the library on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6 pm-- your next opportunity is Nov. 15. Come in from the cold, have something hot to drink, and celebrate warm company as you share and practice fiber crafting!

The current exhibit at ArtSpace is entitled "Challenge and Happiness in Abstract Painting" featuring work by David Fisk of Post Mills. David's colorful work has covered a range of genres from impressionism to abstraction. Did you ever want to ask what is happening behind and within an abstract painting? Come join the artist at the reception -- Sunday, November 19 from 2 to 4 pm. This exhibit runs through January 19. Look for another show opening in February.

We're looking forward to special events in the coming months, including the upcoming season of Winter Evenings. This winter we'll hear from woodsmen, a basket weaver, and a wine connoisseur, just to name a few! You can find more details in the Herald, our website, or our Facebook page.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young 889-2804

We are still awaiting the final word on a dispatch frequency grant through FEMA. That should be coming by the end of the month & will greatly aid in our communications. The grant is funded at 90%, with the other 10% and labor needing to be paid for by the TVFD.

Our fundraising efforts have been strong with this year's coin drop raising just over \$11,000, and the recent Haunted Trail raising roughly \$7,000. As a volunteer department, we rely on fundraising to help cover expenses that are not covered by the town allocation. Both the coin drop and the haunted trail relied on many extra community members to help staff shifts, and set up and run the events. The Haunted Trail was new this year and was a huge success. It alone needed over 50 different volunteers to help out. Many thanks to John O'Brien and Emily Howe for letting us use their property for this event, and for the set up and coordination of the various "spook stations" along the path. People traveled from far and wide to walk the trail and test their own fear factor.

As part of our ongoing training efforts, Mike Ware, Camden Morrison, Mike Morrison and Shawn Young will be attending an upcoming 2-day Advanced Fire Behavior Class for newly constructed buildings. This class covers how fire behaves in buildings constructed by newer materials.

We are currently researching the possibility of a Cadet Program with our insurance company. If we are able to pursue this option, it could lead to a new path of young future fire department members. For anyone considering joining, the fire department responds to many different calls including assisting in auto accidents, traffic control, wildland fires, lift assists, CO2 detectors and more. There are many ways to get involved and help out.

With daylight savings time just passing by, remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and have your chimney cleaned. These regular maintenance activities can help to ensure you and yours have a safe holiday season and winter ahead.

Remember to contact our Fire Warden Brenda Field at 889 5548 for a fire permit if you plan to burn brush. If you are interested in learning more about membership on either the fire or rescue squads, please feel free to stop by the firehouse at one of our business meetings. Meetings are typically held on the second Thursday each month at 7:00pm.

Making Change

Lisa Kippen 889-9822 www.secondwindfound.org

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.

Tunbridge Board of Listers

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

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

Grievances are done for this year and we have reviewed and submitted information for the annual statewide sales equalization study. We review all sales in town over the last year and assure that sales accounted in the statewide study are “arms-length”, with no qualifying factors (such as tax sales, or sales without market exposure, e.g., to family members or neighbors). There were 16 of these “valid” sales in Tunbridge this year, out of 70 total transfers. 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?”

“...listed values often do not reflect fair market value. This is because real estate markets are always changing and because 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.”

<http://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/Intro%20to%20Vermont%27s%20Equalization%20Study.pdf>

The equalization adjustment is based on the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) determined by the sales study. 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%). We are mandated to do a town-wide reappraisal if our CLA drops below 80% or our Coefficient of Dispersion (COD, a measure of equity within the town) exceeds 20%. Our COD last year was 9.75%, also determined on the basis of the sales study. This year’s CLA will be announced near the end of January 2017.

We are still working on late Homestead Declarations and Property Tax Adjustment requests. Although the deadline for late filing has been extended by the legislature to October 15, late Property Tax Adjustments (credited as “STATE PAYMENT” on eligible tax bills) will not come in till November 1 - which is when taxes are due. After November 1, penalties and interest will be added. It is in your best interest to file your Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment by April 15 (the actual due date) so the town receives the state payment in a timely fashion.

For quarterly rotation this year we are focusing on the northwest corner of town and have sent out notices that we hope to be doing brief exterior inspections and updating our photos of properties in that portion of town. 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.

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

Thanks to all of you who have put in a subscription request. Some had service available but most do not yet. The requests do drive some early line extensions and going forward allow for logical planning.

Here is where we are at: ECFiber has won the respect of the bond market and is now able to borrow large sums from Wall Street. This has allow us to move forward rapidly. Our plan was to complete a full buildout in all 23 towns by the end of 2018 but this year we have found that neither the utility companies which must make space available for our fiber on their poles nor the contractors that hang the fiber can keep up with our demands for building so it looks as if we will not finish the job until the end of 2019. Nothing is definite about what areas will be built in 2018 or in 2019. Please keep the subscriptions coming as that may influence the 2018 build.

I continue to look for another one or two people to serve on the ECF as a representative from Tunbridge. There is work to be done now growing the network and fostering the advantages that truly high speed connections can deliver.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

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

The Civic Club held its annual meeting on October 2, 2017. All officers and directors were re-elected. The officers are President, Elaine Howe; Vice-President, Butch Howe; Secretary, Maxine Young; Treasurer, Jory Innes; Directors Martin Young, Jr., and Donna Alden Locke. A unanimous decision was made to hold the Civic Club Annual Show, date to be announced. The music committee is comprised of Martin, Jory, Dale, Butch and Elaine, who will be meeting in December.

We are happy to report that the Little League made a nice profit on the show programs, thanks to Krystal West for spearheading this effort.

There will only be eight rehearsals this year, with the expectation that cast attend most of them. If you want to be in the show and will have trouble making practices due to extenuating circumstances, you should contact Elaine Howe or Butch Howe at 889-3716. This will give us an idea of how many slots we have to fill for specials. So join us-have fun and in the process help to benefit civic causes. Watch for the advertising - 66th Comedy and Musical Showcase sponsored by Tunbridge Civic Club!!

Alliance for Vermont Communities

Michael Sacca - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

As you may know from reading the Valley News article on August 20th, David Hall has begun an attempt to “rebrand” the NewVistas development project. Windsorange, LLC and Hall Labs are now names synonymous with NewVistas Foundation and both are linked to recent approaches to landowners in the area. We are keeping a watchful eye on the dealings of these two new entities.

AVC is persisting with efforts to prevent the NewVistas threat from taking hold in the four corners area of Royalton, Sharon, Strafford and Tunbridge. One way AVC protects our rural communities is to assist landowners in finding solutions that enable them to remain on their land if they are struggling to do so. AVC also assists local landowners who are interested in or need to sell their property in the affected area. There are options with either selling or protecting your property so please contact us to learn how we can help.

Community Engagement

In our efforts to realize a positive and productive future for our region, we have most recently been in contact with Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC). VOREC is, a task force assigned by Governor Phil Scott, which is seeking input of ways to connect outdoor recreation to positive economic growth. VOREC has been hosting public forums throughout the state including one in White River Junction on October 23rd. We believe outdoor recreation can be part of a plan to support our local economy in many ways. If you or someone you know is a landowner in the area and has trails or would be interested in having a conversation with us about creating more public trail access please contact Alex Buskey at therangervt@gmail.com. Alongside outdoor recreation we are also looking to partner with state and local organizations who are working in the areas of agriculture, forestry and the creative arts.

Other important connections we have made include meeting with the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) and other state and community organizations. During our meeting with VCRD we proposed that a visit to our four towns at the same time would be possible due to the increased communication between them since the beginning of the grassroots effort to prevent NewVistas. They typically work with one town at a time, but the thought of helping our four communities create a brighter future for the region in the shadow of NewVistas was enough to spark their interest. We are excited about the prospect of such a successful organization leading our communities in a building process resulting in positive action. We will be putting forth an effort to inform all four towns to find out if this would be well received in the fall of

2018. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping us prepare for this exciting project please send an email to info@alliancevermont.org.

Some background about The Vermont Council on Rural Development Over its 18 year history, the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) has carried out intensive community organizing in 60 Vermont towns. In these “Community Visits” hundreds of residents come together to identify and advance key priorities. VCRD brings a team of state, federal, business, and nonprofit leaders to listen, facilitate discussion, and match resources with the town’s’ needs. Visited towns have built projects gaining millions of dollars in grants for community improvements. Even more important is the unity and momentum that these processes inspire, and the new leadership that develops. This year they are working intensively in Cambridge, Swanton, St. Johnsbury, and Craftsbury.

We will continue these conversations and update everyone on any upcoming projects or events focusing on this part of our work. Please consider a tax deductible donation to AVC in order that we can continue our work protecting our communities and creating opportunities for a prosperous future for our residents. Please contact Alex Busley at therangervt@gmail.com or Michael Sacca at mfsacca@sover.net and visit alliancevermont.org for more information about the Alliance for Vermont Communities.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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

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.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a non-profit organization with donations the only source of income. Our major expense is maintaining a telephone to receive and forward calls for help. Donations to help with telephone expenses would be gratefully accepted. Please mail to Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Box 2, Tunbridge, VT 05077.

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.

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

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 Mallery, David Wolfe, Joanne Goodnow, Ben Wolfe, Shari Murawski, and our Town Treasurer, Rebecca Hoyt. Our next quarterly meeting will be the evening of Thursday, November 16 (6pm) at the Library Community Room.

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.

First Branch Ambulance

Judy Tucker 889-3305 judytucker1@myfairpoint.net

The FBA is seeking recipes to collect and compile into a cookbook as a fundraising project for the coming year. All recipes can be sent to judytucker1@myfairpoint.net or to 256 Vermont Route 110. Tunbridge. We hope to have the cookbooks available early next spring. Please share your favorites in any category. The recipes will be a compilation from Washington, Chelsea and Tunbridge.

Currently FBA is assisting the Chelsea Senior Center by coordinating the volunteers who deliver the senior lunches and meals on wheels. Thank you to Kay Jorgensen for delivery on Fridays. Tunbridge now receives meals Mondays and Fridays. If anyone is interested in volunteering to deliver meals please contact Linda Kuban at 685-3112. You will be reimbursed for your mileage.

Tunbridge Grange # 384

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

This year's Harvest Dinner was held on Saturday, October 21 and we had a terrific turnout of folks seeking the typical New England boiled dinner; ending with a huge selection of homemade pies for dessert, as well as a carrot cake that was to die for! The first place winner of our annual raffle drawing was Kay Jorgensen who won a beautiful handmade quilt.

Unfortunately, we have decided not to host the annual Hunter's Breakfast this year as the turnout last year was not worth our members (and non-member volunteers) getting up at 3:30 AM to start cooking! We appreciate the volunteers who help us and it can be a fun time to work together on these old-time community dinners, but it's a lot of work, so "more hands, make for light work!" Plus, much of the fundraising that the Tunbridge Grange does during the year goes toward helping local needy families, organizations, and schools.

Please consider joining the Grange so we can continue to keep this worthy organization going. We try to meet the first Wednesday of the month and the meetings usually only last about an hour and then we have good conversation and snacks! You don't have to commit to every meeting or every fundraiser, but we've love to have you. The Grange is located on Rte 110 in the North Tunbridge village.

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

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!

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami 889-5575 tunbridgeschoolclub@wrvsu.org

Chicken Pie Supper: On October 28, School Club hosted the Chicken Pie Supper as a fundraiser for the school. Over 150 diners enjoyed a meal of biscuit-topped chicken pie, vegetable potpie, mashed potatoes, squash, coleslaw, cranberry sauce and a slice of homemade pie. School Club raised over \$1,500 that will go towards enrichment activities for students. Several area farms, businesses and individuals contributed ingredients. Many volunteers, led by Amy Bogardus, worked together to plan and prepare the supper. Costumed students expertly served the meal.

Fair Supper Committee Needs Volunteers: Planning for the biggest School Club fundraiser of the year is well underway. Each year on the first Saturday in December, School Club prepares a four-course meal for the Tunbridge Fair Association's annual meeting. To minimize expenses and maximize earnings, School Club will seek monetary and food donations from area businesses and donations of time and ingredients from parents. Lead organizer, Jen Thygesen, is planning the menu and will coordinate all volunteers including those who will solicit donations, set up and decorate tables, prepare and serve the meal and clean up the dining room and dishes. If you are interested in helping with any of these tasks, please call 889-5628 or email jthygesen33@gmail.com to express your interest.

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 December 4, January 8 and February 5. All are welcome to come share ideas or get involved! Children may come along to do homework, read or play games in the library.

MountainFolk

Todd Tyson 802-431-3433

A special concert is scheduled for 7:30pm on Friday, February 2nd, 2018 to celebrate Jim Rooney's 80th birthday. Jim has asked a number of musical colleagues to join him in this benefit concert for WFVR-LP/Free Vermont Radio...heard locally at 96.5FM and on-line at www.wfvr.org.

Local Tunbridge beers will be "on tap" for this event. Advance tickets available soon at www.mtnfolk.org.

Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair (FTWF)

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

Deb Mullen, Vice President - 889-9406 or damullen49@gmail.com

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

Sherri McPhetres, Treasurer - 272-6086 or sherri@vtheritagerealestate.com

In August, the FTW held its annual election of officers. Heather Mullen was elected to serve a one-year term as president, Deb Mullen a one-year term as vice president, Linda Lazaroff was re-elected to serve another one-year term as secretary and Sherri McPhetres was elected to serve a one-year term as treasurer.

The FTWF welcomed new board members, Lori Berger, Jim Welch and Lenora Kimball to the board, each being elected to serve a three-year term.

Staff greeted fairgoers to the FTWF booth in the Pavilion with visitors commenting and enjoying the display boards showing the projects done to date.

New this year were the banners displayed at the five courtesy shuttle stops. The five blue canopies were purchased last year and these have been a pleasant addition for people waiting for the shuttle providing them shelter from the rain or sun.

The two courtesy shuttles are sponsored each year by Co-operative Insurance and Gifford Medical Center and driven by members of the FTWF. The total number of people transported this year was 695. The courtesy shuttle provides a well-appreciated service for those needing a lift.

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.

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

Tunbridge Energy Committee

Todd Tyson 802-431-3433

After an extended “sabbatical”, the Tunbridge Energy Committee is planning to re-organize in the coming weeks. Bob Walker of Vital Communities is coordinating with the TEC to schedule a convenient gathering to assess the level of community interest in re-energizing the TEC.

If you would like to be involved in this 1st step, please post Todd at folkbloke@gmail.com.

The Tunbridge Church

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

As Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas approach The Tunbridge Church invites residents to join in sharing the meaning and bounty of the season with our neighbors.

On Nov. 18 volunteers will pack and deliver some 50 Thanksgiving Bags of treats (including sugar-free) and holiday cards. The church initiates this community wide time to remember older residents.

Contributions of baked goods and donations to buy fruit are welcomed. The festive bags will also include cheese, crackers and other treats. Come to the Parish House at 1 p.m. if you would like to help. For information call Sue Barnaby at 889-3736.

In December the Outreach Committee and Community Food Shelf will fill Christmas boxes with ham, all of the fixings for dinner and decorated cookies. Families will be invited to choose presents they would like to give from items on display. Donations of gifts and funds for food purchase are welcome. Items may be left at the Parish House Fridays from 4-6 p.m., the church on Sundays from 9-11, or Elaine Howe's porch at 97 Route 110. Monetary donations may be mailed to Food Shelf Treasurer Euclid Farnham, 24 The Crossroad, Tunbridge, VT 05077.

On Dec. 15, carolers will go out to sing at local seniors' homes and deliver poinsettia plants. Singers and non-singers are invited to meet at the Parish House at 5:45. Refreshments will follow the caroling.

The Rev. Jo Shelnett will lead December worship services and the Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. All are invited.

Thank you to participants and donors who raised \$537 for the Food Shelf at October's 5K Fun Run/Walk. The donations will help support the backpack project with the Tunbridge Central School. The Food Shelf is open on Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at the Parish House.

The church appreciates the community's support for the October Anything Apple lunch and silent auction and other events held over the past three years to raise funds for painting the 1839 Congregational Church building in Tunbridge Village. The painting was completed in October.

Christmas Pageant - a telling of the story of the birth of Jesus with songs and costumes.

We are seeking children to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant, directed by Janet Zug. The Pageant will be held during the 10am Sunday service on Christmas Eve morning. Rehearsals at the Village Church will be held on Thursdays from 6 - 6:45pm starting on Nov. 30th.

Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more events.

Nov.

- 18 - Community Senior Thanksgiving Bags packing & delivery, Parish House, 1 p.m.

Dec.

- 2 - Shindig with The Starline Rhythm Boys, Town Hall. 7:30-10:30 \$10.
Honky Tonk & Rockabilly fun!
- 24 - Tunbridge Church Christmas Pageant 10 am
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.

Jan.

- 5 - “Loggers and Their Contribution to a Healthy Forest,” Tunbridge Public Library Winter Evenings panel, 7 p.m.
- 6 - Shindig with T James Connection, Town Hall. 7:30-10:30 \$10.
High spirited groovy rock & pop featuring
Timothy James Howe and Connie Button
- 12 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers 7:30pm Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission
- 19 - Dona Nazarenko, “The Art of Basketry,” Tunbridge Public Library Winter Evenings speaker, 7 p.m.

Feb.

- 2 - Warren Johnston, food and wine writer, Tunbridge Public Library Winter Evenings speaker, 7 p.m.
- 2- Mountain Folk special concert to celebrate Jim Rooney’s 80th birthday. Town Hall, 7:30pm doors open at 7pm. WVFR benefit.
- 3 - Shindig with Sensible Shoes, Town Hall. 7:30-10:30 \$10.
Funky mix of original music and cover tunes.
If you like to dance, You’ll love the Shindigs!
- 17 - Just Desserts evening of music, dancing and desserts, silent auction, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

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

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
P.O. Box 68
Tunbridge, VT 05077

Electronic Service Requested

PRSRSTSD
U.S. Postage PAID
Tunbridge, VT
Permit No. 3

Postal Patron
Tunbridge, VT 05077