

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly



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

July 15, 2005
First Edition

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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First Branch Rescue

Pam Howe Caron- 763-8756

My name is Pam Howe Caron and I live in South Tunbridge on Jigger Hill with my family. I have a degree in Medical Technology and after 20 years of specializing in Hematology at DHMC I became the laboratory supervisor at Gifford Medical Center.

I have been on the First Branch Ambulance & Rescue Board of Director's as a community representative since my youngest daughter was just a few weeks old. She's now 17 1/2 and will be entering her senior year at SRHS! I have been the president of the board for several years and I am very proud of this group of townspeople and squad members that work so well together.

With the services in our communities continuing to grow and expand some towns are having a difficult time getting funding. I am happy to say that that hasn't been the case in our requests of money to the two towns that so willingly and enthusiastically support us. This is a very committed group of volunteers that make the job of the board an easier one and we are always looking for more good people to join us.

Tunbridge Community Food Shelf

Sue Barnaby- 889-3736

David Wolfe- 889-5577

The Tunbridge Community Food Shelf is located in the Parish House across from the Tunbridge Church. They are open **Tuesdays and Fridays** from **4-6pm**. For more information call Sue Barnaby or David Wolfe at the phone numbers above. Donations of money or food are always welcomed.

Chelsea Senior Center

Susan E. Huff-685-2290

Chelsea Senior Center activities are held at the Chelsea Church and serve the towns of Chelsea, Tunbridge and Vershire, and whoever would like to come.

We are open on **Mondays** and **Fridays**. Entertainment starts at **11:30am**. Dinner is served at 12:00pm.

We also go on field trips.
Come and Enjoy!

Tunbridge Treasurer

Anne Mallary- 889-5521

The estimated tax rate for 2005 will be \$1.7909 for the Homestead properties and \$2.106 for Non-residential properties. The State education Homestead tax rate is \$1.2809, and the State Non-residential education tax rate is \$1.596, and the municipal portion is \$.51. The C.L.A.(common level of appraisal) accounts for about \$.10 of the increase, while capital improvements and other appropriations account for about \$.04. The town ended the fiscal year with less of a surplus than in the past few years, which also contributed to the increase.

The tax bills will be sent out mid to late August, and taxes will be due (as usual) on November 1st.

Office hours are: Tues & Wed 9-12 1-4, Fri 9-11:30

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602

The Tunbridge Quarterly (TQ) is a new venture meant to bring the citizens of Tunbridge information about what's going on in our town government. I was inspired by the school budget and planning commission meetings during the Spring. One issue I heard was that it is difficult for the offices of Tunbridge to get information out to the community. There is a community bulletin board in the works, but only those who stop will see the news. The only way to reach everyone is to do a mailing. With the town's bulk stamp, the cost is minimal.

I haven't been active in my town government in the past, but I am realizing that I do want to know what's going on and I can help. National news leaves me feeling powerless, but I see that I can make a difference here in my own town.

This first issue is filled with background information that will not be included in the following issues. Beyond this, you will only hear from offices that have something to report. I am sure the TQ will continue to evolve into something better.

I will also include updates from volunteer committees and services. The mailing dates are the 15th of July, October, January, and April. It will be mailed to all taxpayers and voters in Tunbridge.

If you have questions or comments about The TQ- call, write or email me at janet@zugglass.com

Town Hall Renovation Project

Nancy Howe- 889-3750

Just a quick update on the lift project: With all permits in place, the select board advertised the construction portion of the project. Unfortunately due to the heavy volume of construction in our area, no responses were received. The decision was made to resume the process in the fall; our hopes are that we can schedule this indoor project during the winter months, preferably after the first of the year. The Savaria Lift is in storage at the Weber Company and has been paid for with our matching funds. Grant funds remain available for the construction and installation phase.

For those who wondered why we haven't had our second Annual Dessert Night to benefit the town hall, have no fear, we will be doing one in the fall. I felt that with the project at a standstill I couldn't forecast what our additional funding needs might be next winter. Therefore it seemed prudent to let other groups carry on with their fund raising events for on going projects that are more time sensitive.

Auditors-

Jim Wick- 889-3524

Scott Terami

We are going to start the annual audit after the books close for the year on June 30.

We still have only two Auditors. If anyone would be interested in filling the vacancy it would be much appreciated. Please get in touch with Jim Wick.

Tunbridge Bone Builders

Shelia Mitchenson- 889-5547

Bone Builders is a strength-building program that came to Vermont through the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) Using weight training, weight bearing exercises and proper nutrition this program has been scientifically proven to replace fat with muscle, reverse bone loss, and improve energy and balance. Because of the generosity of local businesses to purchase supplies, classes are free. Bone Builders is open to adults of all ages. We have 82 students enrolled with 8 trainers. Classes will begin the week of July 18th. A signed waiver and medical release are necessary for enrollment. Call Shelia with any questions.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Larry Mengedoht- 889-3307

The Planning Commission (PC) has been busy gathering information to update the Town Plan. We applied for a year 2005 Municipal Planning Grant and were awarded \$12,000 to update our Town Plan. The grant is being used in part to conduct public planning meetings and do an agriculture and forest land survey. The public meetings allow the people of the town an opportunity to give their input into the updating of the plan. The agriculture and forest land survey will give the commission an opportunity to include baseline information of the town's working landscape. The survey is currently being conducted.

This Spring the PC held two public meetings and will conduct several more before the Town Plan re-write begins. The meetings will be dedicated to the issues that had the most interest at the April/May meetings and will have a different format than previous gatherings. We will invite a guest(s) who is knowledgeable about the topic of interest to give a short presentation, and then have an open forum to discuss the topic. The topics are: affordable housing, land use/zoning, communications (broadband internet and cell towers), recreation, fostering community connections and the future of agriculture in Tunbridge. Watch for a postcard in late August with the schedule.

At the PC meeting held on April 2nd, a number of people signed up to form committees to help with various projects and issues around town.

The following is a list of those topics- other than the ones mentioned above. If you are interested in participating, please call Janet Zug at 889-9602. The committees are just forming so it's a great time to get involved!

Historic buildings & resources	Town Bike Path
Small Business	Agriculture Survey
Education and teens	Town Forest
Elderly	Town bulletin board

The Tunbridge Planning Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm in the town offices. The meetings are open to the public.

Committee members: Michael Sacca- Chairman, Mimi Sinkler, Jessie Mundell, Ted Hoyt, Ben Wolfe, Dan Ruddell, and Larry Mengedoht

Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

Greetings from your Town Clerk, This newsletter is a new concept for Tunbridge; I would like to thank Janet Zug for presenting this idea and volunteering to run with it. We hope that the information is interesting, informative and makes the reader feel that they are being keep up to date.

The Town Clerk's Office handles a multitude of tasks including land recordings, vitals records, permits, posting of land, elections, dog licenses, dog complaints, loose cattle, directions- you name it I've probably been asked.

This is what keeps the job interesting, there is no other place in Tunbridge where one can find out what has, what is, or what's going to happen in our town. If you have not had the opportunity to stop by the Town Office's please do. Introduce yourself and meet your town's elected officers and employees. Also please feel free to contact me at the office with any questions or concerns.

Office hours: Mon,Tues & Thurs- 8-12 1-4, Wed. 9-6, Fri 8-12

Administrative Assistant

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

Greetings from your Administrative Assistant, with news from your Selectboard and Road Crew.

The Selectboard have been working on the new water system for the Town Office, Town Hall and Library. I am happy to report that it will be done this summer; a thank you to Arnold Clark for coordinating the timing of work to be done and Dana Goodnow for making the right connections for me.

The Selectboard also made a major purchase this year of a new 2005 grader, which was delivered in April. A new chloride system was purchased; we have changed from spreading chloride flakes to liquid chloride. Rodney Hoyt and I spoke with several surrounding towns that have switched to the liquid format and it has proven to provide better coverage, as well as being cost and time effective. Your road crew worked hard this spring on getting up sand for the winter. With trucking help from Thomas Hoyt, Dan Roberts, Kevin Rogers and Tim Higgins, the crew was able to stockpile 7,000 yards in four weeks. We were able to purchase sand again this year from Louise Barreda; we thank Louise and Mark for working with us. Again, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to call or stop by.

Transfer Station & Recycling

Mary-Alice Leonard-Heath- 889-9422

The Tunbridge Transfer Station is open **every Saturday** from **9am - 3pm**. Evelyn Sargent, Solid Waste attendant, is available to assist residents in disposal of their trash by answering questions about the proper disposal of a variety of items. Bert Tatro handles questions regarding the sorting and acceptability of recyclable items as well as assisting residents in sorting out those items. In the event that Bert can not answer your question you may contact me or the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District directly.

800-730-9475

As the cost of disposal rises, please do your part to: **REDUCE** the amount of waste you generate, **REUSE** or pass on items that can be used by others, and lastly, **RECYCLE** the following items (which are collected free of charge) at the Transfer Station:

newspaper
corrugated cardboard (empty and flat)
magazines
glass bottles/jars (clear, brown & green)
tin/aluminum cans (CLEAN)
box board
foil and pie plates
plastic #1
plastic#2 bottles(top must be narrower than bottom)
office paper: (white, colored, envelopes, fax paper)

Accepted weekly for a fee:

tire •Items must be empty. No item containing gasoline, oil or other liquid waste will be accepted.

bicycles

scrap metal

microwaves

air conditioners

appliances: **DOORS MUST BE REMOVED**

There will be a **household hazardous waste and electronics** (computers, etc.) **collection** on **August 27, 9-11am**.

Tunbridge Public Library-

Jean Wolfe- Librarian 889-9404

Keep your eyes open for the continuing celebrations of local artists. Presently showing is the marvelous art of the children of Tunbridge. The art work will be on display until August 20. Also keep on your calendar the Library Community Picnic on **August 7th at 12:30pm** on the Fairgrounds. The event is pot luck, ice cream and beverages will be provided.

“Surf Your Library” is the theme for the summer reading program which is held on **Wednesdays in July at 6:30pm**. The will be an ending with a party on **August 4th at 6:30pm** at the Fairgrounds. Prizes for readers and ice cream for all.

The library is looking for desk volunteers-call Jean Wolfe Board members- T. Swayze - chairman, Marsha Higgins, Jeffrey Lent, Donna Nelson & Liz Guth
Library hours: Sun 11:30-1:30, Mon 3-8, Wed 6-8, Fri 2-6, Sat 10-4

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

State law calls for every town property to be valued at its probable selling price. This value is used to determine the portion of the total tax burden each property owner must pay. The job of assessing properties falls to the Board of Listers. It is the job of Listers each year to create a list, called the Grand List, of all town properties, property owners, and property values as they existed as of April 1 of that year.

Each year the abstract of the Grand List must be finished by June 4th and notices of change in appraisals sent. Grievance hearings must open by June 18th.

This month the board will begin its third round of rotational maintenance inspections. The listers inspect a quarter of the developed properties each year to help preserve equitability and maintain accurate records. There is a no change in assessment unless there has been a substantial change or the information on file is incorrect. This year the listers will be reviewing properties on Ward Hill Road , Ordway Road, Russell Road, Howe Lane, O'Donnell Road, Clarksville Road, Gage Road, Gee Hill Road, Falls Hill Road, Johnson Circle, Young Drive, and on Route 110 from the southern border to just beyond the Tunbridge Village.

Board members: Judie Lewis, Ben Wolfe and Helen O'donnell

Tree Warden

Green Up Chairman

Jim Ludwig- 889-9422

Green Up Chairman-

I have been the Green Up Chairman for ten years. I urge all citizens to green up all times of the year, in addition to the official Green Up Day which is the first Saturday of May. Citizens can keep their roadways clean of litter by greening-up as much of the roadways near their homes. Any major off road dumpings should be reported to me. I have also orchestrated tree planting in both villages. Anyone interested in launching another tree planting project should contact me. I am also interested in hearing of other green up ideas.

Tree Warden-

The Tree Warden monitors the trees within the town right of way on roadways, 16 feet on either side of the center of roads. No trees, within good reason, are to be cut without the Tree Warden's permission. Any gross cuttings (such as the one done in Tunbridge West) should be reported to me. Concerns about the town forest and additional tree plantings in the villages should be directed to the Tree Warden.

Tunbridge Fire Department

John Durkee- 889-3408

The fire department is always looking for new members, especially people who are home during the day.

Cemetery Commission

Euclid Farnham- 889-3458

The Cemetery commission is continuing the work to plan and build the new proposed Russell Road cemetery.

A Special Event

Henry Swayze 889-5556.

There will be a showing of the excellent documentary “The End Of Suburbia” followed by a group discussion dealing with how we can continue to live a quality life in spite of the upcoming dramatic reduction in the availability of oil. Come and bring others. It is free. **July 20 6:30-9pm, town hall. Pot luck desert.**

Tunbridge School Board

Anissa Morrison- 889-3535

Our regular monthly meeting is the third Monday at 5:30pm in the school library. Each month we discuss correspondence from and concerns of the community, and review board goals. The superintendent reports on educational and legislative issues, and guides the board in policy development. We also review the financial statement and discuss the principal's report. Listed below are additional agenda items.

August:

Board retreat to revisit and revise goals

September:

Report on opening of school

Community forum

October:

Preliminary discussion of next FY budget

November:

Review 1st draft of budget

Discuss support staff compensation

Consider staffing needs for next school year

Community members with concerns are encouraged to contact a board member or attend a regular meeting.

We invite all townspeople to the **community forum** on **September 30th** from **7-9pm** where we hope to gather input on the community's vision for Tunbridge Central School.

P.S. Students will return to class on Wednesday, August 31st. Projected enrollment for the fall is 119 students.

Board Members: Fred Welch, Jonni Spaulding, Anissa Morrison

Trustee of Public Funds-

T. Swayze- 889-3204

Marian White

In July the Trustees will meet to discuss a series of proposals for investments in the different public funds accounts. The design of these investment strategies is to provide important diversification and periodic rebalancing of the accounts. The investment profiles (e.g., the proposed choice of bonds and stocks) will be targeted to meet the financial objectives of the various benefiting organizations. After this preliminary July review, the Trustees plan to meet with each of the organizations to go over these proposals.

Tunbridge Recreation

Thornton Hayslett- 889-9479

Pool: On Memorial Day weekend, a small but spirited group of volunteers began the process of pulling weeds and cleaning up around the Tunbridge Pool. The pool has been left empty since it began to lose water several years ago.

I have been talking to contractors about repairing the existing pavement, and extending the paved area to include the drain at the bottom of the pool. Two paving contractors have told me that the asphalt is not ideal and that we should look into using a liner, we are exploring that option.

Despite some tractor help from Frank Bogardus and a fair amount of hand digging, the drain at the bottom of the pool has not been found. If anyone has a good sense of where it should be, please call me. There will be another **work bee** at the pool on **Saturday, July 23**, from **3-5pm**. Bring rakes, shovels, turning forks, and buckets. At 5:00 we'll stop for hotdogs. Bring a glove if you want to join in a pickup ball game.

Swimming Lessons: Since it is clear that the pool will not be repaired for swim lessons this summer, the select board has agreed to use recreation funds for **swim lessons** at the **Bethel Pool** during the third session, from **July 18 to July 29**. Bus transportation will be provided from Tunbridge Central School, leaving promptly at 8:45 a.m. Lessons begin at 9:30 and end at 11:30. There is a free swim period that begins at 12:00. Kids may bring a lunch and stay until 1:30 if we have enough chaperones. We would leave Bethel at 1:45 p.m. and arrive back at TCS at 2:15 p.m. One chaperone for every six kids would be good. Ideally, chaperones would be comfortable getting into the water themselves.

Recreation Field: please contact me to schedule use of the ball field. If you use the field, please pick up after yourself and remember to drag the field after you're done.

Watch the Herald and upcoming issues of the Tunbridge Quarterly for information on other Tunbridge recreation activities! Contact me at 889-9479 if you have questions, or if you'd like to suggest an activity for kids or adults.

Other town offices you may hear from in the future-
Truant Officer, Constable and Pound Keeper-Dan Mullen
Delinquent Tax Collector- Jackie Higgins