

# The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly



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

Nov. 15,  
2007  
Issue #10

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly  
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## **Tunbridge Grange #384**

Mert Vesper 889-5595

The Grangers welcome anyone who would like to join us for Bingo on Friday nights at the Hall in No. Tunbridge. Please call Mert Vesper to confirm the date we'll be starting up.

At the Oct. 17th meeting, the Grangers mourned the unexpected death of Lester Corwin III, who had held the office of Secretary. He will be sadly missed. The black cloth draped over the framed copy of the Granges charter signifies that a member has died.

Annually, the Grangers supply the 3rd graders at the Tunbridge Central School with new dictionaries for each child. These were delivered in October to many happy children.

Volunteers patched an area of the roof in need of re-painting this month. The plans for the Handicap Access Ramp are still being discussed, with hopes of receiving grant funding next fall to also make improvements to the front entrance area, bathrooms and parking. We would appreciate donations of white exterior paint for maintenance of the building. Folks interested in the planning, fund-raising or working on this project can contact Robin Russell at (802) 889-3246.

The Grangers are eager to utilize the building, which is centrally located in No. Tunbridge's village next to the historic church and across from the No. Tunbridge General Store, for community building gatherings. We welcome anyone to our meetings, held on the first Wed. of each month at 7pm. Membership fees are \$18 and do not obligate you to attend meetings, but offer several member benefits locally and nationally. Watch for our upcoming Open House.

## **Orange County Domestic & Sexual Violence Taskforce**

Laura Davidson- 685-7900

Do something to end bullying in your local school, help prevent violence in your neighbor's home, or learn more about the causes of relationship and family violence. Please join the Tunbridge Cluster of the Orange County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force.

Meetings are held on the **third Tuesday** of the month at the Tunbridge Parish House from **7:00 - 8:30 pm.**

## **Tunbridge Select Board**

Administrative Assistant

Wendy McCullough - 889-5521

Some minor construction is being done at the Town Hall and Town Office Buildings. To comply with fire regulations the furnace rooms have been completed, the painting in the Town Hall kitchen will be done this month. Also the Handicap door at the Town Hall will be replaced with a metal door and rain gutters will be placed to help aid in the water runoff.

The Select Board will be working on the budget for the 2008-2009 year; areas that need addressing this year will be the winter sand budget and equipment budget.

Please call Wendy at the Town Office with any questions or concerns.

Select Board Members:

Michael O'Donnell, James Spaulding and Timothy Wolfe

## **The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly**

Janet Zug 889-9602

The TQ will now be printed on a different color paper for each of the four issues of the year. This one is Salmon, an orangy color for fall. The February issue will be sky blue, the May issue will be flower yellow and then it's back to the green of summer in August. This way, when you see your TQ, you'll know right away which one it is.

The original goal in creating the TQ was to give our town officers an opportunity to inform our community about what is going on in Tunbridge. If you would you like to hear more from a certain town office please encourage that person to write about your interest.

Just for Fun: There will be a New Year's Eve Shindig with The Shugarmakers at the Tunbridge Town Hall; Dec. 31st from 9pm to after midnight. Cover charge for the band is \$6. Please come and celebrate with us. Bring a munchie dish to share if you can(not required).

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the TQ please call, write or email me at [janet@zugglass.com](mailto:janet@zugglass.com).

## **Transfer Station & Recycling**

Mary-Alice Leonard-Heath- 685-3035

**Saturdays from 9:00 - 3:00.**

Questions or concerns may be directed to the number above.

## Tunbridge Planning Commission

Michael Sacca- 889-3210

After months of work and a July public hearing, the Planning Commission submitted the re-written Town Plan to the Selectboard. They held another public hearing and approved the re-written town plan on October 17th. Copies are available from the Town Clerk's Office and on-line at <<http://www.trorc.org/towns.html>> then click on Tunbridge. Maps are also viewable on the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission site.

On October 12th, we hosted a potluck and informational public meeting called "River Night". Invited guests from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission and White River Partnership and our own Euclid Farnham shared their perspectives from the history along the First Branch in Tunbridge, to river dynamics, floodplain regulations and community projects concerning the river. Look for more public meetings/potlucks after the holidays. If you have suggestions for a meeting, please contact us at the number below.

The Planning Commission meets on the **second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm** in the town offices. The meetings are open to the public. Call 889-3210 for information.

## State Representative

David Ainsworth-763-8017

As we begin the '08 session I look back with mixed feelings. It's quite a challenge to learn the mechanics of Government, computer workmanship, and all the public and private organizations we have an effect upon as legislators. There are several things I hope we will be able to address this upcoming session- the first being fossil fuel conservation. I'm on the Agricultural Committee and thus was quite busy during the last session. Networking with the other legislators I hope to do a better job of keeping abreast of the upcoming bills. You may contact me by computer at my e-mail address: [DAinsworth@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:DAinsworth@leg.state.vt.us) or leave a message at my home phone: 763-8017. If you have any problems with any State agency please give me a call and I'll see if there is anything I can do. We start the session on Jan. 8th.

## ECFiberNet- continued

The ECFiberNet volunteer committee will be seeking approval at next year's town meetings for as many towns as possible to join this regional effort. Leading up to this, local meetings are being held to give community members an opportunity to get more information and to get involved. For meeting dates and further information, and to pre-subscribe to the service, check out the following websites:

[www.ecfiber.net](http://www.ecfiber.net) and [www.valleyfiber.net](http://www.valleyfiber.net).

ECFiber would be financed using the same mechanism used by Burlington Telecom, a "non-recourse" capital lease that requires no financial outlays by the towns involved - subscriber fees would pay interest, principal and operation expenses. Participating communities would jointly own the network at the conclusion of the lease. Once the lease is paid the towns would share the revenue.

### Show your support:

ECFiberNet, with the help of ValleyFiber, is running a no obligation pre-registration campaign. This will help to show select boards the level of interest in the towns and will also help us obtain the necessary funding for the project. The towns with the highest percentage of pre-registered customers will most likely see the crews in their town first. You can show your support for this project by pre-registering at <http://www.ecfiber.net> You may also help by spreading the word in your towns and neighborhoods.

Please feel free to call or email to discuss the details.

Tunbridge contacts are

Henry Swayze at 889-5556 ([swayze@pngusa.net](mailto:swayze@pngusa.net))

Janet Zug at 889-9602 ([janet@zugglass.com](mailto:janet@zugglass.com))

## Tunbridge School Board

Jen Hayslett- 889-9479

Board Members: Fred Welch, Jennifer Hayslett , Skip Distel

The TSB has set the following goals to work on for the 2007/2008 school year in addition to regular business:

1. Continue to address the challenges of declining enrollment while exploring and promoting the strengths of a smaller school.
2. Solicit and collect feedback from parents on current bus routes. Have an open forum to discuss bus routes.

## Tunbridge Recreation Department

Thornton Hayslett- 889-9479

**Soccer:** It's appropriate to begin with a big THANK YOU to Roger, Hazel, and Tony Welch for the use of their field again this year. The 7th and 8th grade school team, the 5th and 6th grade Recreation team, and the 3rd and 4th grade Recreation team benefited greatly from having a larger field available for practices and games. Michael Gross and Dan (Rudy) Ruddell did a great job coaching the 5th and 6th grade team; their efforts were much appreciated by the athletes and their parents. Thanks also to everyone who helped by refereeing games. The Kindergarten through second grade group met again on Saturday mornings; special thanks to the parents who helped with this group, including Hannah Warner and Anthony Brock, for leading this crew on several Saturdays.

**Skating:** We're looking forward to our third year with a town rink; hopefully the weather will cooperate and allow an earlier start this year. Weather permitting, we will make repairs to the liner and repair and repaint the kick boards on Saturday, Nov. 17 starting at 10:00 a.m. Rain date is Sunday Nov. 18 at the same time. We will assemble the rink the following weekend, same times. Please come to help! Skating will be part of another WINTER CARNIVAL this year, in cooperation with Tunbridge Central School and the Tunbridge One Planet (TOP) After School Program. Date TBA, probably early February as weather permits.

**Skiing:** By now, kids in grades 1-6 should have received Woodstock Ski Runner packets through the school; this learn-to-ski program happens on Friday afternoons, and is a fun and affordable way to introduce kids to skiing. Tunbridge shares a bus to the program with South Royalton, with supervision by parent volunteers. The program is taught by volunteer instructors who receive instruction weekly through optional clinics and ski for free on Friday mornings. You could be an instructor! For more information see the packet or call Thornton.

## Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

Greetings from your Volunteer Fire Department! As we head into the winter months, a quick reminder to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors & be sure your fire extinguishers are functioning and in good order. A few moments of attention to these matters now can mean a world of difference in the event of a fire in your home.

We are pleased to report that we were recently awarded a grant for just over \$2,000 for the installation of a new radio in Engine 1. The old 100 watt radio will be donated to the Town for use by the Highway Department which will enable them to communicate with the Fire Department when needed in response situations. The grant award will allow us to install a V-COM radio in Engine 1 which will enhance our communication abilities. Thanks goes out to Chief Durkee for his pursuit of this grant & the successful application he submitted on behalf of the Department. We still have not had a response to the other two outstanding grant requests; one for the replacement of Engine 2 and one for an exhaust system for the fire house. You may recall that these grants were submitted back in the spring - we are hoping to receive the results of these grant applications soon.

We are still in search of old buildings, barns and / or sheds to use for practice burns. If you have such a structure that our department could use for training purposes, please contact John Durkee at 889-3408. In lieu of buildings, the Department did have a demonstration recently on the benefits of Compressed Air Foam as a valuable and effective fire suppression tool. This important technology is being researched & reviewed for inclusion into future equipment & truck purchases.

Speaking of training, our Department also has solid representation at the Fire Fighters Essentials course, which is a weekly training course running through April 2008. TVFD members attending the Essentials Class include Mike Morrison, Tripp Edwards, Vern Maxham, John Welch and our two newest members Todd Sedlak & Bob Dunkle. This course provides basic core competencies for fire fighters. Participation in the Essentials course is a huge time commitment for our volunteers & it represents their level of dedication to our Department and Town.

## **Tunbridge Town Clerk**

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

**Mon 8-11:30 1-4,  
Tues & Thurs- 8-12 1-4,  
Wed. 9-6, Fri 8-12**

As most of you have noticed the new paving of the Town Office and Church parking area was completed in October; the paving was done by Green Mountain Paving. The completion of the water system allowed the Select Board to move ahead with the paving.

Also the water at the Town Office and Town Hall are safe for consumption therefore there will no longer be bottled water at either building; the Road Crew will continue to use bottled water at the Town Garage.

Please call Wendy at the Town Office with any questions or concerns 889-5521.

## **Tunbridge Board of Listers**

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

This week the town received official notification that we must conduct a town-wide reappraisal because our Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) has fallen below 80%.

The CLA is the relationship between the selling price and the listed value. The town's CLA is 78.11%, which means that the listed values are at 78.11% of the selling price according to an annual study by the Department of Taxes' Division of Property Valuation and Review.

The town has 150 days to prepare a compliance plan which must include a detailed budget, a list of individuals responsible for performing the work and their qualifications, and a detailed schedule showing the completion dates of various appraisal activities.

The town presently has \$25,000 in its reappraisal fund. To offset the cost of a reappraisal, the state each year grants the towns an amount of money based on the number of taxable parcels. Last year the town received \$8,179.50 and anticipates receiving approximately the same amount for this fiscal year.

The board is completing this year's exterior inspections for its annual rotation review of a quarter of the town. This is the fifth year of these rotational inspections. We do appreciate the cooperation we have received from property owners.

## **Localvore Alert**

Anne Leeds- 889-3350

Anyone interested in learning about and eating food grown or produced close to home is a "localvore". It can be more expensive to purchase food produced by your neighbors the benefits are many, including: great tasting food with high nutritional value; farming and transportation methods that have low environmental impact; and fair wages for farmers.

There are many good books and websites on the subject. I've compiled a list of our neighbors who are working hard to produce wholesome delicious food. Call these folks directly for specific product information and availability. Call Anne Leeds, to add your locally produced food products to the list.

Tunbridge Food Producers

- Bill and Marie Danforth: maple products, 5661.
- Tripp Edwards: produce, 3235.
- Rob Howe: raw milk (for pets only), 3704.
- Jean and Wendy Palthey: produce, 3565.
- Marion White: lamb, eggs, 3417.
- Ray Williams and Liz York: beef, pork and poultry, 3211.

## **First Branch Sustainability Project**

Henry Swayze 889-5556

Our goal is to make our valley energy independent by 2020. Last year's solar hot water challenge continue to bear fruit with over 50 units installed over the area.

Last year the legislatures climate bill never made it into law as a result of the governors veto. We are in hopes that people will work together this year to get even more comprehensive legislation through. You can participate by displaying one of our lawn signs reading "One Climate, One Future, One Chance... <http://www.1skycampaign.org/> " This organization is designed to raise awareness and to give our government officials the message that things need doing now.

The plan for this winter is to focus on the small things that individuals can do to move ahead in conserving and creating energy. There are many good books and DVDs in the library on climate change, sustainable living and energy efficiency. To request a sky campaign sign or be added to our email list just ask at [swayze@pngusa.net](mailto:swayze@pngusa.net).

## ECFiberNet

Janet Zug- 889-9602

The TQ entries about the broadband project in Tunbridge will now be written under the heading “The East Central Vermont Community Fiber Network”(ECFiberNet). The Tunbridge Broadband Project has combined forces with over 15 other towns in our region to create a Fiber-to-the-Home network in our area. Some of the same Tunbridge members are still involved with the regional project and we will certainly be working to put the interests of our town in the fore-front.

A fiber optic network brings telephone service, cable television, and the fastest, most reliable internet service possible. This “triple play” feature makes it a network that most everyone will want to use. The prices will be lower than currently available services. The project is one of running fiber optic cable past every home and business in the towns that approve the project, and then connecting up each subscriber if they want it.

Fiber optic service is the best available technology for all these services. Bandwidth is huge - many times higher than DSL or cable. The network uses existing poles or is laid underground as necessary. The cable itself is as durable as it gets, so the network will last a long, long time. The only upgrades that will be needed are updated equipment on each end of the line.

The proposed network is based on the successful municipally-owned model used in Burlington ([www.burlingtontelecom.net](http://www.burlingtontelecom.net)). It is a community-owned, subscriber-funded network. Originally, the plan was to connect to Burlington Telecom’s fiber hub, but a new and exciting development occurred in the middle of October. Tim Nulty, founder and CEO of Burlington Telecom, resigned his position there after launching their network. Tim is now working with ValleyNet. Their goal is to create more self-supporting fiber networks across the state - and they are starting with the ECFiberNet project. ValleyNet is working with ECFiber in the building of a hub in White River Junction and creating the support services needed to provide customer service.

## Tunbridge Church

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

Tunbridge church events for Thanksgiving and Christmas include:

**Nov. 21:** Thanksgiving eve communion service at **7:30pm**

**Dec. 7:** Church decoration at **6pm**;

Carol sing and refreshments at **7pm**

**Dec. 15:** Caroling of shut-ins. Gather at church at **6:30pm**

Refreshments at Parish House after caroling.

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Candle Services at **6pm** and **8pm**.

On-going activities include:

Sunday Worship Service is at **10am** (Children’s Sunday school meets during the last half of the service.)

Choirs rehearse on **Wednesday evenings**:

Early elementary at **5:45**,

Later elementary at **6:30**, and adult at **7:30**.

Pastor’s Bible Study meets at **8:45am on Sundays**.

Informal Bible study group meets at **6:15pm Wednesdays**.

Food Shelf is open **4-6pm Fridays**.

More information about church activities may be obtained from Pastor David Wolfe, 889-5577; Music Director Judie Lewis, 889-9490; Children’s Music Director Janet Zug, 889-9602; and Parish Council President Townsend Swayze, 889-3234.

There has been extraordinary and wonderful community support for saving our church steeple. The cost of the work on the steeple and supporting structure was \$44,616. There will be additional costs for work that still needs to be done inside the church from water damage to the entrance and upstairs room, which will amount to several thousand dollars. To date, in pledges promised and funds actually received, people have contributed \$44,952.09. This figure does not include the funds raised by Geoff Hansen’s amazing photographic event. These efforts to save our steeple are an incredible testimony to this very special community that we are all so fortunate to be part of.

### Two Christmas Eve Services

Make a note that this year you will have two options for candlelight Christmas eve services. The Children’s choirs will participate in the first service at 6pm, with music and worship for all ages. The adult choir with some children will provide music in the 8pm service. The two services will ensure that there will be a seat for everyone.

## **Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Jim Wick 889-3524

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors has been started to help provide services to local residents through volunteer action. We started providing services two years ago. We have about 90 volunteers who have agreed to help. We have helped many local residents in many ways, including: giving rides, changing a tire, fixing a lock, helping with a computer, and so on. If you need help with just about anything the number to call is:

\*889-3437\*

There is no charge for the service and you don't have to join anything. There are no dues or fees. We are being supported by generous donations from local residents and businesses.

This service is for anyone. \* Our emphasis is to provide services for seniors, but \*anyone\* is eligible. If the request is reasonable and we can find a volunteer, we will do it. Everyone needs help with something sometime, so please call. Board Members: Bunchie Angell, Bill Chester, Felicity Swayze, Frank LePore, Jim Wick, David Wolfe. Call any of us if you need more information about this.

TNHN Looks at Elder Housing in Tunbridge

TNHN has begun to explore the issue of elder housing. We recently sent out about 300 questionnaires, and have gotten 60 or so back. The basic purpose of the questionnaire was to assess the level of interest in elder housing of some kind in Tunbridge. Quite a wide variety of opinions have been expressed.

We will be tabulating the questionnaires soon and will make the information available.

## **Tunbridge Bone Builders**

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

**Mon&Wed at 8:30 am;**

**Tues and Thurs at 8:30 am & 5:30pm**

**Tues &Thurs - 6:15 am**

Classes are free with weights provided. You may attend two classes per week with at least a day of rest in between. Congratulations to those who have made a commitment to a stronger and healthier life. It's been two years and three months since we began. These classes are free and open to all ages. Come join us. Call TNHN if you need a ride! 889-3437

## **Tunbridge Recreation Department con't:**

Basketball: Based on current sign-up levels (sheets are on the gym wall at the school) recreation basketball for kids will include a 3rd and 4th grade boys team, a 4th, 5th, and 6th grade girls team, and a 5th and 6th grade boys team. We'll again run a Saturday morning program for K-2 boys and girls along with 3rd grade girls. Practices will start after Thanksgiving for the two older teams, and after New Year's for the younger groups. The practice times are designed to fit with the TOP After School program to encourage participation in both programs, and to help families with transportation. We're always looking for referees, so if you can help please call Thornton.

## **First Branch Ambulance & Rescue Co.**

Pam Howe Caron- 889-9595

The Board of Directors met recently and have decided we will proceed with changing our Volunteer Service to a partially paid coverage service. We are unable to cover the day shift during the week. At the present time we are researching how much this will cost us. When we get all the information we will update the two towns we serve. We also have been awarded an Americorp grant to allow us to hire a person to help us out with this process and also help cover some of our open coverage times. Thanks for all the support you've given our organization throughout this process.

## **Christmas Singers**

Janet Zug 889-9602

If you would like to have some extra fun singing Christmas carols this season, come to the Tunbridge Church on Wednesday nights and practice for the Christmas Eve services. Adults are encouraged too but I am especially looking for children who like to sing. We always have a great time practicing carols, come and join us during this festive time of year.

## Tunbridge Public Library

Marsha Higgins- public relations

Librarian: Jean Wolfe- 889-9404

**Hours: Sun 11:30-1:30, Mon 3-8, Wed 6-8, Fri 2-6, Sat 10-4**

The library is about to mail its annual fund-raising letter to the community. A donation of \$10 will pay for a child's picture book; \$40 pays for one month of high-speed, wireless internet service (free public use); \$50 pays interlibrary loan postage for one month; and a gift of \$100 will add eight hardback books to the library's collection.

Upcoming Children's Story Hour themes are "Food" (11/15) and "Family" (12/6). Story Hour is usually held on the **first and third Thursdays** of each month, **6:15**, at the library. Changes in scheduling are announced in the Tunbridge Library News section of the Herald. Come to the library at **10:30 on Saturday, 12/8** for stories and the annual visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. There will be no Story Hour 12/20.

Gift shopping? On sale at the Library are reduced price books, lovely stationery and specialty items, unique jewelry, and framed photographs and a DVD of Tunbridge Memorial Day scenes.

If you are a creative Tunbridge resident (painter, sculptor, potter, photographer, illustrator, weaver, fabric artist, glassblower, jeweler, ...) and would like to be part of an ArtSpace group exhibit at the library near the end of January, contact Marsha Higgins for information at 889-5576 or mhiggins@moomail.net.

Recent non-fiction additions to the book collection are Eat, Pray, Love (Gilbert); Into the Wild (Krakauer); The Glass Castle (Walls); The Omnivore's Dilemma (Pollan); Thunderstruck (Larson); The Tipping Point (Gladwell); Blink (Gladwell); The Devil in the White City (Larson); Imperial Life in the Emerald City, Inside Iraq's Green Zone (Chandrasekaran); Animal, Vegetable, Miracle, A Year of Food Life (Kingsolver); and Deep Economy (McKibben).

Some best-selling fiction additions are A Thousand Splendid Suns (Hosseini), Bridge of Sighs (Russo), The Memory Keeper's Daughter (Edwards), and The Almost Moon (Sebold).

During the holiday season the library will be closed Wed. 11/21, Fri. 11/23, Sat. PM 11/24, Sun. 11/25; and the 24th, 26th, and 31st in December.

## Tunbridge Historical Society

Kay Jorgenson- 889-3500

Winter Evenings Program Resumes On January 10th

A prize-winning author, museum founder, historian and inventor are among the speakers scheduled for the fourth season of the Winter Evenings series at Tunbridge Public Library in January, February and March.

Five programs are scheduled, all to begin at **7 p.m.** with refreshments following. The evenings are free, with donations welcomed. The speakers are:

**Jan. 10:** Historian John Johnson with a slide talk about "The Granite Workers of Barre," including cultural, environmental and technological aspects and the workers' role in America's industrial heritage.

**Jan. 24:** Inventor Carl Bielenberg, founder of the Better World Workshop, who creates and modifies tools to promote economic development.

**Feb. 7:** to be announced

**Feb. 21:** Ernest Hebert, Dartmouth English professor, author of fiction set in New Hampshire and the New England Booksellers Association's 2006 Fiction Author of the Year.

**March 13:** David Fairbanks Ford, founder of the "delightfully eccentric" Main Street Museum in White River Junction. A newspaper said Ford "is placing the whole notion of curating under scrutiny, with two parts satire, three parts silliness."

## Central VT Community Land Trust

April Spinks 476-4493

HOMEOWNERS! Is your home in need of essential repairs? Affordable Loans for Home Repairs may be available to you from the Green Mountain Loan Fund.

Residents of Orange, Washington or Lamoille counties who meet income eligibility requirements and live in single family homes or owner-occupied properties of up to four units may qualify for affordable loans to address health and safety concerns, rehab to correct code violations or access modification for elderly or disabled. Call for more information.

This program generously funded by a VCDP grant of \$375,000 awarded by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.