

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly



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

August 15,
2008
Issue #13

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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Orange County Domestic & Sexual Violence Taskforce

Connie Button 728-3336

Meetings of the Tunbridge Cluster of the Orange County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force are held on the third Tuesday, bi-monthly at the Tunbridge Parish House from 7:00 - 8:30pm. Our next meeting will be August 19th.

We will be looking for booth-sitters for the Tunbridge Fair and help with planning our community wide dinner and meeting and assistance planning a three-part community forum focused around the recent tragedy in Randolph.

The greater number of community members who lend their voice to this issue, the easier the message will be spread that we don't condone violence in Tunbridge! Show your support for victims of violence and join us at one of our upcoming meetings.

Transfer Station & Recycling

Mary-Alice Leonard-Heath- 685-3035

Saturdays from 9:00 - 3:00.

Tunbridge has reached a nineteen-year mark for its multi-item recycling program. Prior to having the bins available, volunteers collected and transported newspapers to the Barre depot for several years. Special magazine collections used to be held on Green Up Day. Many of you may remember the town of Tunbridge dump trucks filled to the brim on this annual collection. Residents have been receptive to utilizing the facility as it has expanded, which has saved the town of Tunbridge significant money.

Tunbridge Residents can take advantage of another innovative program from the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District. On August 23, there will be a "Green Cone" sales event in Tunbridge. Green Cones are in-ground digesters that can break down food scraps, including meat and bones. This is not a composter, rather it will allow you to dispose of food items not welcome in the compost bin.

For more information about this product, please call the CVSWMD (800-730-9475), or email: info@zwinc.org. You can find more information, pictures and an order form at: www.CVSWMD.org. The event is being held at the Tunbridge School from 10:00 - 1:00 Check it out!

Tunbridge Treasurer

Anne Mallary- 889-5521

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

Tax bills are being printed the first of August and will be mailed the middle of August. The town tax rate has been set at \$.813. This is up \$.224 from last year. The highway and select board rate are both up \$.059, and the appropriations rate stayed the same. There is also an additional tax rate of \$.106, which was set to cover the deficit for the last fiscal year.

The increase in the highway budget is mainly due to the price of diesel fuel and oil, the price of sand and gravel and the purchase of a new truck. The selectmen's budget is up mostly because of an increase in the county tax and insurance rates. Plus there was an additional \$6000 added for the recreation department.

The deficit tax has to be set by the select board to cover any deficit according to V.S.A. 1523. This statute states that "when a town at the end of the fiscal year ... has a deficit... the select board, when making up the next annual tax bill, shall add thereto a tax of five percent or such multiple of five in addition to the tax vote already authorized by law, to be levied upon the grand list of such town as will provide sufficient revenue to liquidate such deficit." The deficit totaled \$88,649.70.

The selectmen's fund had a deficit of \$40,867.33. This was mainly due to an increase in the county tax and insurance rates (\$14500), paving the town office parking lot (\$12500) and the new compactor (\$15500).

The deficit in the highway fund is \$16,854.53. This is due to an increase in the price and need for material (\$10500) the garage addition and heating oil (\$15500), and a decrease in the income from the highway trust fund. This was partially made up for by under spending in special projects. The equipment fund had a deficit of \$30,927.84. This was due to the purchase of a new truck body (\$25000) that wasn't in the budget and the price of diesel fuel (\$25000). The equipment fund is a reserve fund, so there was a balance of \$21,838.72 at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The 08/09 fiscal has just started and already we know that the budget amount for diesel fuel isn't sufficient, so we are looking at ways to save money.

First Branch Sustainability Project

Henry Swayze 889-5556

The First branch Sustainability project has been percolating quietly since our big sustainability fair effort in April.

We are working to put in place the TRANSITION TOWN model. This is a very well worked out strategy for getting the creative juices of the community working together to be free of the impacts of fossil fuel shortages. You can download a primer for free at <http://transitiontowns.org/TransitionNetwork/Primer> or if you go to the book store you can get a more extensive hand book imported by Chelsea Green press. If your group would like to be included please ask Henry Swayze and I will work to make it happen. If you have "open space" meeting skills please contact me. Thanks to Todd Tyson and Jim Wick who have focused on this work.

Things you can do to cut down on your carbon footprint:

1. Get a home energy audit... especially a blower door test to locate air-heat leaks. Contact Efficiency Vermont for a list of providers and many other useful suggestions 1-888-921-5990.

2. Burn wood, not oil and propane. It is as little as half the price of gas and oil. In addition wood grows anew each year and reabsorbs the CO₂ that burning it produces. Fossil fuels are simply unlocking CO₂ that has been stored since before man came onto earth. Cord wood stoves require a safe chimney. Pellet stoves can be vented through the wall with out a chimney. Wood burning units with an efficiency of over 80% will not add more air pollution than an oil furnace. Wood should be out drying in the sun and wind now. Wood pellets are in short supply so do not purchase a pellet stove with out a pellet source. If you wish to become part of a purchasing coop for wood pellets contact me.

3. Car pool, combine trips, use public transportation.

4. Plan on converting to other fuels for driving.

a. Most existing cars can be made to run on other gaseous and liquid fuels. Are you interested in working out practical solutions with others?

Contact me for more info.

c. Plan ahead for driving on mostly electricity. 16 cent electricity = gas under \$1.00. We need to save for new vehicles and work together to develop cost effective sustainable electric production here so that our money is re-circulated locally instead of going out of the community.

We welcome Rebecca White of Chelsea who has volunteered to help with communications for First Branch. If you wish to be on our email list contact her at rww2334@hotmail.com

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

The Fire Department wishes to thank the community for your support at the Memorial Day Barbeque. With your help, we were able to net just over \$1,500 for the Department.

Since the special town meeting on June 23rd, we have had several meetings with a sales rep from a fire apparatus company called "KME". We have made several adjustments to the original proposed design and we signed the official contract on July 22nd. The final price after all of our adjustments came in at just under \$285K. The KME Company will now go ahead & order the chassis. Once that arrives, the truck will be built according to our final specifications. A pre-construction meeting is currently being scheduled and several members of the department will travel to the company up to 3 times for on-site meetings to go over the design and progress. Delivery of the truck is difficult to estimate depending on how long the delivery of the chassis takes. We are hoping for late winter or spring 2009. Stay tuned for updates in future TQ's. We appreciate the support from the town over the past several years, as well as your thoughtful feedback and questions as we were planning for this event.

Looking ahead, the Fair is just around the corner & we are seeking volunteers who are willing to take shifts at our annual coin drop fund raiser. Volunteers are needed for both the north & south end of the fair grounds for both Friday & Saturday. If you are able to sign up for a shift on either day, please contact Matt Loftus at 889-3274.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602

The TQ is now in it's fourth year! I'd like to thank all the folks who continue to put in the time to write reports. One of the "reporters" once said to me that "getting all these entries must be akin to herding kittens." Funny and true, they are a kind and playful group, but unlike my new kitten, they don't bite. Writing for the TQ is yet another task added to their list and I am grateful that they are so willing to continue to work on it. If you think of it when you see them, give them an extra smile and a thank you.

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the TUNBRIDGE Quarterly please call, write or email me at janet@zugglass.com.

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami, Parent Volunteer-889-5575

School Club is an organization dedicated to providing enrichment activities and services to students, families, staff and teachers at Tunbridge Central School (TCS). Anyone can participate and there are no membership dues. Interested parents, school personnel and community members meet on the first Monday of every month (or the following Monday if there is a holiday or inclement weather) to plan events, hear new ideas, review funding requests and manage the organization. School Club seeks many types of volunteers to help organize events, cook for community suppers, make phone calls, set up and clean up at events and raise funds for activities.

During the 2007-2008 school year, School Club hosted a Halloween Party, provided the annual supper for the Tunbridge World's Fair Association as a fundraiser, hosted a Circus Smirkus artist-in-residence, arranged holiday baskets for all teachers and staff, helped with the Winter Carnival, organized events during the National Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, funded the 3rd grade overnight at the Montshire Museum of Science and hosted the end-of-the-year barbecue. In addition, School Club purchased a movie site license for TCS. Please contact us for more information on how to access it to hold a movie night for local community groups. Groups also need to contact TCS to reserve the gym where the big screen is located.

To celebrate the start of the school year, visit classrooms and give the community an opportunity to meet new Principal Kathie Ball, School Club and the School Board are co-hosting a potluck picnic on Wednesday, September 3 at 5:00pm. The first School Club meetings of the school year are at 6:30pm on Mondays, September 8, October 6 and November 3. These events are at TCS. Watch the Herald and see the School Club bulletin board outside the main office at TCS for updates. Also, interested individuals can write to schoolclub@tunbridge.k12.vt.us to sign up for the School Club email list and receive event details, meeting agendas and more. All are welcome to call, email or come to a meeting to get involved or share ideas!

Now begins the important task for the ECFiber towns: disclosure of the Project and the financing structure to potential purchasers of the certificates and "due diligence". Oppenheimer needs to be sure that the Project is on a solid financial and legal footing. To ensure that this information is thorough and complete, and that it complies with all legal requirements, ECFiber has retained Greenberg Traurig, LLP, a national law firm with an office in Boston, that is well-respected by the financial community, to help the 23 towns provide Oppenheimer with the information it requires.

The "working target date" for closing is currently Nov. 19, 2008 but Tim Nulty, Project Director, is cautious. "I've done a lot of complex financings and I know that there are always bumps in the road. Realistically, I will be delighted if the money is in the bank by the end of the year."

ECFiber has received a letter of intent from Atlantic Engineering Group (AEG) for a fixed price construction contract covering 75% of the projected capital expenditure. AEG has successfully built 65 Fiber-to-the-Premises networks including 16 that are municipally-owned. In the letter, AEG said that it "considers the ECFiber network design to be sound and has tested the ValleyNet cost figures using its own proprietary pricing models ... and has concluded that ValleyNet's figures ... are reasonable and achievable.

Once ECFiber obtains funding for the Project, work is expected to proceed at a fairly rapid pace. Engineers will determine the exact layout for the network itself, and will survey each utility pole in the entire region to create detailed plans for attaching the fiber. Once the layout of the network is in hand, the location of the remote fiber hubs can be determined. All of the network lines will run to the main hub expected to be located in White River Junction.

At the same time, other aspects of the Project will get underway -- implementation of a customer service operation center and software for a billing and collections system, hiring and training of customer service technicians, and connection of the fiber lines on the utility poles to boxes on the side of houses, shops, schools, and town offices to make the final connection to computers, telephones and televisions.

ECFiber currently expects the first connections to be made in the Fall of 2009, consistent with the Governor's goals for Vermont as an E-State. It is expected that the ECFiber service area will eventually cover one-sixth of the area of the state itself.

Tunbridge School Board

Lorinda Oliver-889-9462

Board Members: Jennifer Hayslett , Skip Distel, Lorinda Oliver

Each year the Tunbridge School Board establishes goals to help provide direction for the upcoming academic year, and at the end of the period reviews its progress towards meeting those goals. When the Board met prior to the start of the 2007-2008 school year, it set three goals:

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 the current bus routes. Have an open forum to discuss bus use;

3.Enter into negotiations with the Tunbridge teachers keeping in mind our appreciation for their important work as well as our fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers of Tunbridge to keep costs down; we seek a mutually respectful and beneficial process and outcome.

The Tunbridge Board has been actively working with the other schools in the Orange-Windsor District (Sharon, South Royalton, Chelsea, and Strafford) to begin to discuss ways to address the challenges of declining enrollment. To assist in this process a Tunbridge committee has been formed of interested community members and will be meeting in mid-August. At this point enrollment at TCS has stabilized and is not declining further. Despite this, work will continue on the topic as the school needs to be prepared for further fluctuations.

A second special committee was created to address the Board's goal to collect data on bus use. The committee has met twice and will make recommendations to the board regarding the bus route. Additional areas to be discussed include academic and non-academic use, ownership, maintenance and availability of substitute drivers. This committee will report back to the community on its findings at the school meeting in March.

The building and maintenance committee, a third community committee has also been meeting to offer expertise and support in building decisions. This committee will be acting as a support for the necessary drainage work to take place this fall and will assist in upcoming discussions about window replacement and other maintenance tasks.

Tunbridge Historical Society

Kay Jorgenson- 889-5528

The Tunbridge Historical Society annual Ghost Walk will be Sunday, Oct. 26, at Meeting House Cemetery, the cemetery beyond the transfer station. Tunbridge's first state representative, a minister, and veterans of the Revolutionary War and Civil War will be among the "ghosts." The walk will begin at 1:30 p.m. Rain date is Nov. 2.

The society's show & tell and dessert social with annual meeting, selection of raffle winners & election of officers, will be Sunday, Oct. 12, at 2 p.m. at the Parsonage.

Tickets for the raffle of a catered dinner for four, an antique quilt and a gallon of maple syrup can be bought at the Historical Society table at the fair or from T Swayze at 889-3234.

JP and Judi Debeuf, owners of the Tunbridge Village Store, will cater the dinner within 20 miles of Tunbridge. They have been in the restaurant business for over 20 years and their restaurant was - voted the best restaurant in Southern New Hampshire.

Ella Pappius, a prize-winning quilt maker, donated a vintage Depression-era "Posey Quilt" made from a pattern published by the Kansas City Star in 1929. It measures 76x92 inches. The syrup is from the award-winning sugarhouse of Bill and Marine Danforth.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Linda Lazaroff- 889-9421

The Tunbridge Civic Club is pleased to report that the sales of "The Tunbridge Civic Club Presents..." has been a profitable endeavor for the club and to date, the club has made just over \$3,700 from the sale of these books. For those who may not be familiar with the book, it commemorates 55 years of Civic Club shows from 1952 to 2007. The book is 174 pages of color photos, history and personal interviews. You can purchase one at the Tunbridge Village Store or the library at a cost of \$20. At the Civic Club's last meeting, it was voted that the proceeds from the sale of said book would go toward items needed in the town hall such as sound equipment, lighting and looking into the reopening and use of the balcony. The town hall is used quite frequently and by doing some upgrading, we hope to bring more events to the town hall and provide many more years of use for the community. Also available for sale is a DVD from the March 29, 2008 show and these can be purchased at the Tunbridge Village Store at a cost of \$10 each. We wish to thank our audience who attend our annual shows, the people who sponsored the printing of the book and those who purchased books.

M/Tu/ Th- 8am-12pm & 1pm-4pm
1st & 3rd Wednesdays- 8am-4pm
2nd & 4th Wednesdays- 9am-6pm
Friday - 9am-12pm

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

The Town Clerk is preparing for the Primary and General Elections. If you are a resident of Tunbridge but are not on the checklist and would like to vote, the deadlines to register are: for Primary Election- September 03, 2008 by 5:00pm; General Election- October 29, 2008 by 5:00pm. If you would like to vote Absentee Ballot for either election please contact Wendy. Voting at the polls will be at the Town Hall; 8:00am-7:00pm. Call Wendy at the Town Office with any questions.

Tunbridge Select Board

Administrative Assistant, Wendy McCullough - 889-5521
Timothy Wolfe, 889-3730; Michael O'Donnell, 763-8985;
Shane Young, 889-2804

A special Town Meeting was held on June 23, 2008 to vote to authorize the Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department to purchase a new pumper fire truck and to appropriate \$20,000 to the First Branch Ambulance. After much discussion both Articles passed by voice vote.

The Select Board is seeking a volunteer(s) to serve as a Representative for the Town of Tunbridge on the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Board; please contact Wendy for more information.

A contract with the Orange County Sheriff was signed for coverage to begin July 01, 2008. The Select Board will meet with Orange County Sheriff in September/October to discuss the issues that have or need to be addressed to better serve Tunbridge residents.

New bleachers for the Recreation Field have been purchased with "In Memory of" donations from the Recreation fund.

The Select Board would like to thank the Road Crew; for doing a great job on our roads, with the rains of summer the loss of Tunbridge Roads has been minimal in comparison to other areas in Vermont.

The Select Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Please call Wendy at the Town Office or one of your Select Board members with any questions or concerns.

Happenings in Tunbridge

All events are at the Town Hall unless otherwise noted.

Aug. 24 - 7pm, Tom Russell, A Mountain Folk Concert

Aug. 29 - 8-11pm, Contradance with Nightingale and Steve Zakon-Anderson calling. New Acadia Farm on Whitney Hill, outdoor pavilion \$15/pp

Aug. 30 - 7-10pm, Contradance with Tidal Wave

Sept. 13 - 3-5pm Adrienne Young
7-9pm Ollabelle
Tunbridge Fair Grounds

Sept. 19 - 7:30pm, Cara, A Mountain Folk Concert

Sept. 27 - 7:30-10:30pm, Animal Phat with Dick McCormack playing a Shindig. This one will be at the Royalton Academy. Shindigs are made for dancing!

Oct. 11 - 7:30pm Doug Macleod, A Mountain Folk Concert

Nov. 8 - 7:30-10:30pm, Hillary and the Party Crashers play a Shindig.

Nov. 14 - 7:30pm- Mary McCaslin, A Mountain Folk Concert

Dec. 13 - 7:30pm- The Strangelings, A Mountain Folk Concert

Mountain Folk Concerts: Advance tickets/information at www.mtnfolk.org and available at the Tunbridge Village Store, the South Royalton Market, Randolph's Three Bean Cafe and Rochester's Seasoned Books and Bakery. Folk Hotline: 802-431-3433 and e-mail to folkbloke@hotmail.com.

Shindigs: The Shindigs are monthly dances organized by two Tunbridge women. Most gigs will be held at the Tunbridge Town Hall, unless a specific band has another preference. The cover charge of \$6./adults and \$3./children 12 and under, pays for the hall and the band.

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The Board of Listers has begun work on its town-wide reappraisal set to take effect for the for the 2010-2011 tax year. The reappraisal involves a number of steps including updating the mass appraisal computer program, establishing a new land schedule, researching the real estate market, viewing properties, and spending a lot of time comparing values to ensure equitability.

State law requires that the town's appraised value be reflective of what the property would bring in the real estate market. To help us get to this value we use a computer program that for a dwelling value determines the cost of construction less depreciation. This program uses cost tables of building materials in New England. The cost tables used for the 2002 appraisal reflected costs in the last quarter of 1997. The data base we are using for the 2010 reappraisal has cost tables from the last quarter of 2007. As you can imagine, this change substantially increases dwelling values.

Ben Wolfe and Anne Mallary have been working on establishing a land schedule. This is a time-consuming process that requires a thorough analysis of land sales. The 2002 land schedule set the value of an average site at \$24,100, with additional acreage valued at \$1,345 per acre. The 2010 land schedule is not complete, but at this writing it appears the average site value will be in the neighborhood of \$37,000 and additional acreage will be valued at around \$2,000 per acre.

One of the trickier processes is to determine changes in the market and to correctly recognize trends in purchasing preferences. Since 2002 it appears that the lower end of the housing market has increased at a faster pace than the upper end. This is probably due to the lack of availability of lower-priced housing. Houses that are in move-in condition seem to sell disproportionately higher than similar houses that has not been well-maintained. (Hint: If you are selling a house, make sure your lawn is mowed and your house is sparkling. If you are simply waiting for the listers, let the burdocks thrive and forget about the peeling paint.)

We will be asking to view the interior of more dwellings than we have in the past few years. Often there has been no change, but viewing interiors allows us to make a better judgment call when determining the quality and condition of all dwellings, two factors that can make a big difference in the probable selling price and, therefore, the assessed value. The most important part of our job is that we treat each property as nearly the same as we can. The more information that we can gather concerning the property, the better we can equitably assess that property.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jim Wick 889-3437

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors has been started to help provide services to local residents through volunteer action. We have been getting a steady stream of calls, and have been able to help quite a few people with all kinds of things. If you would like help with something, the number to call is:

889-3437

One of us will take your request and try to line up a volunteer. 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 will be 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, Rick Scully, Bill Chester, Felicity Swayze, Frank LePore, Jim Wick, David Wolfe.

Seeking Land for Elderly Housing

A questionnaire we circulated last year indicated that there is a certain amount of interest in establishing elderly housing in Tunbridge.

We want to follow up on this by asking our community members whether anyone has any land that they could see donating or somehow making available for this purpose.

The property should be in Tunbridge Village, or in North Tunbridge, or at least along Route 110 so that it would be easily accessible. We would be interested in land of any reasonable size, because at present, no size for the project has been determined.

If we were able to realistically count on a specific property it is likely that planning for a project of this nature could move forward. Please get in touch with any member of our Board if you have or know of land that would be suitable for this purpose.

ECFiber.Net

Janet Zug 889-9602

(This report was taken from the August ECFiber newsletter)

ECFiber is a grassroots initiative to build a high-speed state-of-the-art fiber-optic network in over twenty Vermont towns, bringing cable television service, reliable telephone service, and high-speed Internet service directly to homes, schools, and businesses.

Pre-Registrations

As we have indicated, the more pre-registrations that we can process before we actually begin wiring houses, the more efficient our work will be and the less the delay will be in getting everyone connected once the fiber is on your road. Please let your neighbors know that they can pre-register on the ECFiber website at www.ecfiber.net/preregister; there's no obligation if their needs change before the service becomes available, but we assume that those pre-registering are serious about using our services as we work to make them available. There is also a pre-registration form that you can download and print at <http://www.ecfiber.net/documents/ECFiber-pre-registration.pdf>.

ECFiber Tshirts and hats (\$15. each) are now available. You may call or write Janet to purchase them. Soon they will be available thru the [ecfiber.net](http://www.ecfiber.net) website.

While the Governing Board has been working on the details of creating the organization, two sub-committees have been doing important work to secure funding for the Project and to finalize contracts for its operation. The Finance Committee received several proposals for the financing of the capital lease from potential underwriters, reviewed those proposals, and recommended an underwriting firm. At the June 10th meeting, the Governing Board authorized the Executive Committee to engage the chosen institution, Oppenheimer & Co., Inc., of New York City.

According to Kim Mooers of Sovereign Securities, who is acting as ECFiber's financial advisor in the deal, Oppenheimer is essentially breaking the lease into pieces and bringing them to market in a public offering. Each "piece" is called a "certificate of participation" (in the Lease) and the entire mechanism is called a "COPs" (or certificates of participation) financing. Apart from a nominal initial signing fee, Oppenheimer has agreed to make all fees and out-of-pocket costs contingent on the success of the financing. →

Tunbridge Bone Builders

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

M/W-8:30am, Tu/Th 6:15 am/8:30am/ 5:30pm

Classes are free with weights provided. Come join us or come back for renewed strength, energy and balance. Classes are designed for adults of all ages male or female. Exercises are designed by a study done at Tuff's University in Boston. A person can start with no weights adding up to as much as ten pounds depending on your level of fitness and lifestyle. Make YOUR health YOUR number one priority. Congratulations to all those who have stuck with the program we just passed our three year mark!

Tunbridge Grange #384

Robin Russell- 889-3246

Contradances continue at the Grange Hall on August 22 with Rumpledethumps (Susan Reid on fiddle, Steve Nasuta on accordion and Robin Russell on piano). Lousanne Allen will be calling. Newcomers are invited to arrive at 7pm for an introduction to the basics, with music beginning at 7:30. Please join us for this evening of fun and community building! Refreshments are available. Please bring a clean pair of shoes for dancing.

The series of 4th Friday Contradances began in May, and will continue on until at least December 2008. Many thanks to the Rumpledethumps, George and Shirley White, and the Traver/Clarks of Woodstock for their generous donation of their lively music to the Grange and helping to jumpstart this effort. Many thanks also to the Tunbridge Village Store for sponsoring the hall, and all the Grangers providing refreshments and help. If you would like to help with organizing, tickets or refreshments, photos, publicity or grant-writing - please contact Robin at 889-3246. Our aim is for this to become a broader community effort utilizing this historic landmark community center. Suggestions are always welcome for how we can serve the needs and interests of our own local region.

The Grange Hall is used for multiple events throughout the year, and is moving forward in to install a handicap access ramp at the rear of the building. Work completed this summer includes the new back door, flooring (donated by Janet Cathy), and fresh paint on the front of the building.

Meetings are held on 1st Wednesdays of the month at 7pm. Anyone is welcome to join our meetings. Membership is \$18/year.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Michael Sacca 889-3210

On August 12th, the Planning Commission hosted a potluck and public meeting concerning transportation issues. The guests were Holly Brown from Stagecoach, Inc and Chuck Gallagher, Director of Public Transportation at VTrans. We would like to see a park'n ride area developed for Tunbridge residents. Our next potluck and public meeting is scheduled for late September or early October and the topic will be home weatherization and energy audits. Our guest will be Bob Walker from the Sustainable Energy Research Group in Thetford. Watch for postings.

The Planning Commission has installed a town bulletin board next to the post office. Many thanks to Betsy and Robert Sponable for graciously granting permission to put it on their land. We will be maintaining it but can use some help from all that use it. If you post anything, please adhere to these guidelines:

- post nothing larger than 11x17 inches
- take care that postings don't blow away
- be respectful of others postings- don't cover them up
- do not use staples
- date your posting- it will be removed after 30 days

We would like to welcome Ingrid Van Steamburg to the Planning Commission.

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

Tunbridge Town Website

Rick Scully- 763-7474

The Tunbridge Town Website will be discussed as part of the agenda at the September 9, 2008 Planning Commission Meeting at the Town Offices. Those interested in learning more about the town website and/or getting involved, please attend this meeting or contact Rick Scully (rick@tunbridgevt.com OR 763-7474). We are still looking for volunteers to provide content for the site, so if you are part of a civic group or club who would like to see relevant and timely information on your group presented on the site, contact Rick.

Tunbridge School Board con't

Another important community effort was successfully completed this spring thanks to the hard working search committee, we have hired a new principal, Kathie Ball of Barre. All community members are welcome to join us in welcoming Mrs. Ball to TCS at the back-to-school potluck on September 5th at 5:00 at the school. The teachers will have open classrooms from 5:00-5:45. Mrs. Ball will speak at 5:45 and the supper will be from 6:00-7:00.

At this time of writing, the negotiations with the teachers about their upcoming contract are nearly complete and the Board wishes to heartily thank the teachers and their representative for their hard work and spirit of compromise in working through the negotiation process. We also acknowledge the members of our community who have offered to serve on the adhoc TCS committees—your efforts are greatly appreciated.

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue Co.

Pam Howe Caron- 763-9595.

Thank you to everyone who came out to show your support at the special Town Meeting. We greatly appreciate this. Our new workers are keeping busy with paperwork, reorganizing and preparing for training and education sessions. We hope to have our new workers and the ambulance spend some time in Tunbridge, perhaps one day a week. This would be a great opportunity for community members to not only meet them and ask questions, but also they could provide services to area residents, such as blood pressure checks, etc. Our big fund raiser is coming up soon at the Fair. Thank you to Heather Mullen for setting up and running the booth. She puts a great deal of time and effort into this and it is a very successful fund raiser. Thank you to all who volunteer their time to sell tickets-without you we wouldn't be able to do this each year.

Tunbridge/Royalton Phone Book

Janet Zug 889-9602

I have decided to create a Tunbridge/Royalton phone book to sell as a fund-raiser for The Tunbridge Church Children's Choirs. This is a big undertaking which I expect will take months to complete. One thing I would like to include is cell phone numbers as many folks have given up their landline and are not in any phone book. If you would like your unpublished number to appear in the book, please call or email your name and number to trphonebook@aol.com. (email is best) Also, if you have a business that does not have a separately published phone number, send that info along to me as well. Watch for more information in future TQ's.

Tunbridge Public Library

Librarian: Jean Wolfe- 889-9404

Publicity, ArtSpace Coordinator: Marsha Higgins 889-5576

Hours: Sun 11:30-1:30, Mon, Wed, Fri 3-7, Sat 10-4

Please note that the library has changed the hours it is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The library will be closed the Sunday and Monday of Labor Day Weekend.

You are invited to the Annual Community Potluck sponsored by the library to celebrate community and volunteers. This event will be held at the Dodge-Gilman building on the Fairgrounds, Sunday, August 17, 12:30. Beverages and ice cream will be provided. The library will close at 12:30 on this day.

ArtSpace at the Library will feature Women of Watercolors from August 22- September 26. This group show will feature the paintings of Laurel Tobiason, Betsy Gaiser, Deb Rice, Judy LaLiberte, Sheryl Trainor, Kate Reeves, Monique van de Ven, and Jen Dembinski. A public reception will open the exhibit Friday, August 22, 7-9 PM. Winners of the ArtSpace raffle which ended on Memorial Day were Sue Barnaby, Scott Beavers, Heidi Hood, Elaine Howe, Linda Lazaroff, Ruth Mengedoht, Howard Reed, Jeff Shields, Jim Sweeney, Jared Wellman, and Ben Wolfe. Thank you to the many people who bought tickets and to the artists who donated prizes.

When planning late summer family field trips, remember that reduced entrance fees are available by borrowing the library's pass to the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Up to two adults and three youths will be admitted for just two dollars each. Also available is a VINS membership pass which enables patrons to visit VINS and many other educational sights in Vermont and New York at discounted rates.

Upcoming Children's Story Hour themes are Fairs with ice cream on the Fairgrounds, (9/4), Farms (9/18), Apples and Pumpkins (10/2), Bear Stories (10/16), and Harvest (11/6). Story hours are usually held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 6:15 unless otherwise publicized.

The annual Ghost Walk, cosponsored by the Historical Society and the library, will be held at the Meeting House Cemetery on Sunday, October 26, 1:30.

If you are interested in downloading audio books please contact the librarian to receive a login number. This service is now available through the Green Mountain Library Consortium's program Listen Up! Vermont website.

Free, high speed, wireless internet service is available at the Tunbridge Public Library.

Tunbridge Church

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The Tunbridge Church's Festival of Worship service, arguably the church's best attended worship service, is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Sept. 14th, the Sunday of the World's Fair. The theme of this year's service is "Great and Wonderful." The service is primarily music, music of all kinds, offered by adult, youth, and children's choirs, and by area musicians and soloists.

The church will sponsor two Family Nights, evenings of fun for young and old alike. The first will be 6:30 p.m. August 17th on the Parish House lawn, across from the church, in Tunbridge Village. There will be pizza, songs, games and a campfire for roasting marshmallows. The second is a stargazing party on Sept. 28th to be held at the Jorgenson's on Monarch Hill. Call Pastor David Wolfe at 889-5577 for more info.

The August 17th worship service is at the brick church building in South Tunbridge. On August 24 will move back to the church building in Tunbridge Village and will continue there until next summer. Worship service is at 10 a.m.

An informal Bible study group meets at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Parish House. Call Ben Wolfe at 889-9467, for more information.

The pastor's Sunday morning Bible study group will resume in October. The group meets at 8:45 a.m. at the Parish House.

Regular Wednesday night choir rehearsals will begin in October. All who enjoy singing are invited to join the group. Call Judie Lewis at 889-9490 for more information on the Adult Choir.

The **Children's Choirs** will begin practicing for the Fair service, on Wed, August 20th; the "New Choir"(younger elementary) at 5:45; and the "First Choir" (older elementary and middle school) at 6:30.

There's been an important change for the First Choir: This year we will only practice to sing for 4 "event" services throughout the school season. The services the First Choir will sing for will be; The Fair service on Sept. 14th, The Christmas Eve service(s), Easter Sunday on April 12th, and the Family Day service on May 10th (Mother's Day). This means that after the Fair Service, the First Choir will not practice again until the middle of November. During the in-between months members of the First Choir may meet socially and practice to sing solo's or duets.

A committee of church members and interested parties has been formed to work on the idea of building a play structure on the parish house lawn. Work is being done to prepare the site and choose the structure. Donations can be given to the church with "Playground Fund" in the memo. We are excited about this idea and will continue to work on planning both the site and fund-raising efforts.