

Skip to pages 9 & 18
for February events.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly



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

February 15,
2009
Issue #15

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

Last day to register to vote for School and Town Meetings is Wed. February 25, 2009 by 5:00pm.

Pre Town Meeting

February 24, 2009 at 7:30pm

Annual School Meeting

March 02, 2009 at 7:30pm

Annual Town Meeting

March 03, 2009 at 10:00am

Above events will take place at the Tunbridge Central School Auditorium.

Dog Licenses are due April 01, 2009; spayed/neutered \$7.00; non spayed/neutered \$11.00.

Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats March 21, 2009 9:00am-12pm at the Chelsea Town Hall.

Tunbridge Select Board

Tim Wolfe - 889-3730

The Selectboard has been working hard on the budget, and greatly appreciate the input from many others who have offered input, both town employees and town citizens. Now that these proposals are printed in the town report, we encourage everyone to look them over as well, and we welcome further feedback or questions about them. In the uncertain economic climate, we continue to track our present budget as well.

However, we are also looking forward to a new year, to the spring, and to town meeting. Hope to see you there!

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602

If you read this section in the last issue of the TQ, you'll remember that I spoke of supporting our town stores to help them stay in business. Well, since then we have lost one.

The operators of the store in Tunbridge Village decided to close after the first of this year. The owners of the building are anxious to find a new operator so the location can re-open. At this time they do have an interested party, but nothing is settled yet.

Please call, write or email me at janet@zugglass.com with questions, comments, or suggestions about the TQ.

Happenings in Tunbridge

Look under the Library Section(pages 9-10) for more events.

- Feb. 16- Rehearsals begin for the Tunbridge Variety Show. 7pm at the Town Hall
- Feb.17- Community Energy Meeting, 7pm, at the town hall. "40 Years is Enough - Close Vermont Yankee in 2012" Get informed about the VT Yankee issue, see page 10 for more information about this meeting.
- Feb. 19- The Tannahill Weavers, 7:30pm at the Tunbridge Church. A Mountain Folk production, Blending traditional Scottish melodies with the power of modern rhythms. \$20. in advance, \$25. at the door.
- Feb 20- First Branch Sustainability Network presentation and public forum. See page 15 for details.
- Feb. 21- Auction to benefit 8th grade trip to D.C. 10am in the School gym. Breakfast and lunch provided. (see pg. 7)
- Mar. 7- Shindig with Bow Thayer and Perfect Trainwreck at the town hall. 8-11pm, Playing greasy, soulful, roots rock. \$6./adults and \$3./seniors & kids 12 and under.
- Mar. 27 57th year of Tunbridge Variety Show! Performing at & 28- the Tunbridge Town Hall.
- Apr. 4- Shindig with Second Wind at the town hall. 8-11pm, Playing good 'ole dance-able rock n' roll. Cover charge \$6./adults and \$3./seniors and children 12 and under.
- May. 2- Shindig with The John Lackard Band at the town hall. 8-11pm, Rock n' roll Blues. Cover charge \$6./adults and \$3./seniors and children 12 and under.
- June 6- Dance with the Starline Rhythm Boys , 7:30 - 10pm at the Town Hall. A Mountain Folk Production. •For further updates on Mountain Folk concerts go to www.mtnfolk.org

Tunbridge Grange #384

Robin Russell- 889-3246

The White River Grange #54 and the Tunbridge Grange #384 are now planning monthly meetings together on the THIRD Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Refreshments are served. In January, Sylvie DeSautels gave an informative presentation about State Health Insurance. We hope to have more of these presentations on a variety of topics at our monthly meetings, and that more folks will come join us in becoming involved in the discussion and information that affects our local community. Meetings music, refreshments and a friendly social time – all are welcome. Membership is only required to vote. If you have an interest or speaker you would like to see, please contact Mary Roberts, Grange Master, at (802) 685 - 2143.

Friday is Bingo Night starting at 7pm through April. Coming to Bingo Night is a great way to get out and have some fun with your neighbors.

The monthly contra-dance series will take a winter hiatus. BUT you can still dance this month! The Ed Larkin Old Time Dancers are holding their 9th Annual Victorian Valentines Ball on February 13, 2009 at 7:30 PM at the Chelsea Grange Hall on RT 110 in Chelsea VT. Costumes are welcome but not required. An evening of contras, quadrilles and round dances will be offered. Donation \$5.00 at the door. Refreshments at intermission. All dances taught. Music by Harold Luce band. Contact Clyde Jenne at 802-436-2444 or 436-2104 clydo46@hotmail.com

For information about dances around the area, or to volunteer to the Dance Committee, please contact Robin Russell at (802) 889 - 3246.

Special thanks goes out to Jennifer Sensenich, a sophomore at The Sharon Academy, who has been helping with publicity for the Grange events as her Community Service Project.

Please join us for a Grange Meeting, held the first Wed. of each month at 7pm in North Tunbridge.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Anne Mallary- 889-5521

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

Town meeting looks to be an exciting day. I believe there will be questions on the deficit, hopefully on the current budget, and on new procedures. Each department's budget, not just the amount raised in taxes has to be voted on. The taxpayers must approve all spending. The selectmen and I are also working on an investment policy for the town's funds. Currently all the money is in a checking account with a sweep account attached. There is a target amount always kept in the checking account to pay for fees, and the rest is swept to or from a savings account after each transaction. The interest rate on the sweep account is similar to a 3 month CD. I believe this system works for the town, but can be fine-tuned.

Projections for the current (08/09) highway budget are looking good. Of course, a lot depends on the rest of the winter and spring weather. As of now a surplus of \$18,500 is anticipated. The selectmen's budget needs to be watched closely. There is the possibility of a deficit. The budgeted expenditures are not being over-spent; it is a decrease in budgeted revenue that is causing the problem.

The proposed (09/10) highway budget shows a \$21,250 increase in tax revenue and only a \$3,750 increase in the total budget. This is a 4% increase in property tax needed and less than 1% in the total spending. The increase in tax revenue is because there will be no income from the Public Funds money, and less state aid is being budgeted. The proposed selectmen budget has a \$7,963 (3.8%) increase in tax revenue and an increase of \$14,463 (4.1%) in the total budget. There is not one particular item causing the increase but small increases in health insurance, utilities, insurance, county tax, landfill fees, library, among others.

The estimated tax rate for the proposed budget is \$.677. This is the same rate as last year, not including the deficit tax rate. Even though spending has increased, the tax rate hasn't because of the increase in the grand list.

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

Work on our town-wide reappraisal is in full swing as we continue our efforts to gather accurate data about town properties. To do the best job possible we must view both the exterior and interior of as many properties as possible.

The most important task in a reappraisal is to be fair to each and every tax payer by assessing properties as equitably as possible which is why it is critical that we view interiors as well as exteriors. We must list each property in the appropriate relationship with other properties. Unless we view both the interior and exterior it is difficult at best to determine the overall quality and condition of a building and obtain an accurate accounting of such particulars as type of heat, insulation, plumbing and electrical fixtures, flooring and the like.

Since the last reappraisal we have conducted rotational inspections of a quarter of a town. These rotational inspections are not and cannot be in lieu of a reappraisal. They serve to keep the board alerted to major changes in properties, to keep the board familiar with all town properties, to remedy any mistakes in data, and to help us recognize any properties that upon review appear to have been inequitably assessed. We anticipate that this “keeping up with things” will keep down the cost associated with the reappraisal.

As we go about town to collect exterior data, we will knock on your door to ask if we can come inside. We thank residents who have kindly and with understanding let us into their homes unannounced. You have helped keep down the cost of the reappraisal by reducing the work involved in gathering accurate data. It would be nice to be able to set appointments for all interior inspections, but the truth is that to do so is both time consuming and costly. Of course, it is often necessary to call for an appointment, for example if you weren't home when we stopped by.

Remember, the Board of Listers is mandated by state law to assess a property within a range of its most likely selling price. If I have learned anything during my tenure as Lister, it is that no one can guess exactly what a person will sell or be willing to pay for a property. However, I do believe, that if we are thorough in gathering accurate data, it is within the realm of possibility to fairly and equitably assess a property. We are all anxious about changes in our assessed values and what that will mean when we are called upon to pay taxes. That is why this board is particularly grateful to you for your cooperation and understanding in helping us accomplish a fair and equitable reappraisal of all town properties.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jim Wick 889-3437

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors continues 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 need help with something, the number to call is:

889-3437

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.

Tunbridge Town Hall Committee

Jonni Spaulding- 763-2308

The Tunbridge Town Hall Committee was appointed by the 2008 Tunbridge Select Board to oversee the use and maintenance of the Town Hall building. Our goal is to support, maintain and promote the use of the space and it's contents so that it serves the community to it's fullest potential. Please share with us your thoughts, concerns, and hopes for it's current and future use.

We meet approximately every other month to review the conditions and ongoing punch list for the space. At this time we have taken an inventory and found that we are in need of replenishing supplies. Our wish list includes the following items to have on hand for rental use: tea spoons, measuring cups, measuring spoons, spatulas, various sized metal mixing bowls, small hand held electric beaters, a small coffee maker, large skillet, various sized saucepans, and any other pots and pans (no dinner plates please). If you have any of these items and are interested in donating them, please contact one of the committee members above. Thank you for your past and ongoing support of the Town Hall building.

Please consider it for your next event. You may contact Arlene Stockwell at 889-5534 for availability.

Tunbridge Town Hall Committee: Helen O'Donnell: 763-8985,

Mary Fisk: 889-5501, Pennie Chapman: 889-5539,

Jonni Spaulding: 763-2308

First Branch Sustainability Network

Henry Swayze 889-5556

We have three different projects in start up mode:

1) Town energy working groups: There is an active part of our core group who have taken on the project of making Chelsea town buildings far more energy efficient and saving money for the town as well. They have identified a lot of “low hanging fruit” already and the select board is committed to supporting their efforts. Once the worst offenders are taken care of they are hopeful for getting some form of community heat or electric generation up and going. A Tunbridge committee has worked on windows etc at the school. Would you like to do help to focus on other town buildings? These actions not only save energy and help with climate change but they serve as a demonstration project for others in town.

2) Valley wide Transition Town Initiative: This is a work in progress to make our community more resilient and to improve quality of life as we transition off fossil fuel. We will do a series of meetings to study the already successful world wide Transition Town model and adapt it to those things that we have energy for. Contact Dawn Hancy (Chelsea Librarian) home 685-7752 or Henry Swayze.

3) I will do two public meetings:

1st: A 25 minute presentation followed by generous time for discussion. We will be looking at how different the future will be compared to the past. The material is taken for Chris Martenson’s Crash Course. It takes a good and understandable look at how our economic system works and what will be different going down the road. We will meet February 20th @ 7PM at a sight to be announced.

2nd : A presentation of the concept and application of “Tera Pereta”<http://terapreta.bioenergylists.org/yarrowccchallenge> A solution to fix climate change, improve our land and grow the extra food the world needs. This will be in April some time. Please call and let me know that you want or attend. Henry Swayze 889-5556 swayze@pngusa.net

Just Announced: A Two Day BLAST. Music and activities for young people with an emphasis on making a sustainable future. Held in Tunbridge June 27-28. See www.shredfest2009.com

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

At the time of this writing we are still awaiting arrival of the chassis at the KME Truck plant before the actual building of the truck can begin. If it arrives by the end of January, the schedule for assembly will roughly be as follows: By Feb. 13 - Body Complete and mounted, by Feb. 27- Final Paint, then on to plumbing and final assembly. Next, an in process inspection will likely take place in early to mid March, with early April slated for a final inspection. Once approved the truck will move to KME-NY, with delivery in mid-late April. If the chassis is delayed beyond January then all dates move back based on it's arrival date.

Other highlights from 2008 are as follows:

- An above average call volume responding to 34 calls for 2008.
 - Six of our firefighters completed the firefighter I class which is 144 hours long.
 - Engine #4 (Mini-Pumper) has been sold.
 - Updated our Standard Operating Guidelines & defined the minimum standards for which members are required to maintain in order to be classified as “active” status.
 - Updated our mutual aid agreements with neighboring towns.
- A full summary report including the above highlights will be included in the 2008 Town Report.

Finally, our annual meeting will be held in March & we hope many of you can attend. This is a great opportunity to obtain valuable feedback from the members of our community.

Additionally, we are actively seeking members of our community who are not members of the fire department to serve on the department’s Board of Trustees. A trustee typically attends one meeting per month on the second Thursday of each month, and may provide some minimal consultation between meetings as needed. We will be electing 3 Trustees to serve 2-year terms at our Annual Meeting in March.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Susan Clark 889-3733

Interested in starting your own kitchen garden? Curious about running a business in Tunbridge? Then the Tunbridge Planning Commission might have a potluck for you! The TPC would like to alert everyone to some upcoming potlucks that are still in the development stages. Right now, the TPC hopes to convene three potlucks, featuring several speakers at each one. They are tentatively slated for the end of April, the end of August, and early November. The potlucks will take place on Friday evenings. Topics currently under discussion include understanding the capital budgeting process for towns, maintaining thriving small businesses in town, and creating affordable and elderly housing in town. But the TPC welcomes any suggestions on additional topics.

At this point, the TPC has settled on the topic of creating a successful kitchen garden and tapping other local food resources for the end-of-April event. Look for signs and notices in the coming weeks for the details. We hope to see you there!

Tunbridge/Royalton Phone Book

Janet Zug 889-9602

The Tunbridge/Royalton Phonebook is a fund-raising effort for the Tunbridge Church Children's Choir.

Work on the TR Phonebook was to be in full swing in December after receiving the CD of Fairpoint's WRJ book to use for the basic information. Unfortunately after numerous calls to the phone book company we have yet to receive that CD. Once again, they have promised to deliver it within the week. Regardless of that, work has begun to set the layout of the book.

If you have a cell phone or home-based business phone number you would like to have included in the book, please call or email your name, number and address to trphonebook@aol.com. (email is best) The book will include a yellow pages section and we'll be asking local businesses to advertize to help to pay for printing. Once complete the book will be available for sale locally.

Also, did you know that you can call your cell phone company and request that your name be attached to your number so your name will appear on caller ID when you make calls? As much fun as it is to call these companies, this one may be worth it to you.

Tunbridge School Club Con't

Family Movie Night: On January 24, 33 people from 11 families watched WALL-E at TCS. Eighth grade students and parents ran the concessions as a fundraiser for their trip to Washington D.C. School Club awarded prizes for participating in games and gave away a special edition WALL-E DVD as a door prize. Watch the Herald, www.tunbridgevt.com and notices around town for upcoming movie nights. Teachers, athletic teams, clubs, the after school program and community organizations can show movies from most major studios at TCS using School Club's movie license. See www.movlic.com for a search engine of titles available for viewing. Groups wishing to host a movie night need to contact School Club for details and contact the school to reserve the gym.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Henry Swayze- 889-5566

The Civic Club will start it rehearsals at the Town Hall for the upcoming Variety show on February 16th at 7pm. Please come if your interested in having some fun with your neighbors! Performances of the Variety Show (in it's 57th year!) will be on March 27 & 28th.

Thanks to all of you who purchased the historical book of 55 years of Civic Club goings on and also to those who purchased the DVD of last years show. A few more copies of each are still available. The proceeds from these sales will purchase new sound and new lighting equipment to be used in the town hall. Additional donations are welcome. Contact Linda Lazaroff, Henry Swayze or Butch Howe.

Tunbridge Bone Builders

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

M/W-8:30am, Tu/Th 6:30am/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 life style. Make YOUR health YOUR number one priority.

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami, Parent Volunteer-889-5575

School Club Email List: 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.

Halloween Party: On October 25, 80 children and their families attended the annual Halloween Party at TCS. Robyn Rogers led a crew of volunteers in transforming the gym into a haunted backdrop for playing games, making crafts and eating ghoulish fare. In addition to a goody bag and prizes, every child received a \$5 certificate to spend at the Scholastic Book Fair thanks to donations from generous local businesses. See the gallery at www.vnews.com for photos of many costumed students taken by Geoff Hansen.

Note Cards Feature TCS Student Artwork: Janet Kennedy has designed note cards using artwork provided by TCS art classes. School Club originally intended to use these cards to provide an extra special touch while thanking the many generous donors and volunteers who support School Club's efforts. However, the cards turned out so well, School Club has offered them for sale as a fundraiser. Some sets are still available at the TCS Library and at the Tunbridge Public Library.

Fair Association Supper a Success: Anissa Morrison and Sharon Welch coordinated the biggest School Club fundraiser of the year on December 6. They recruited volunteers, sought numerous donations and prepared a harvest-themed gourmet meal following the Tunbridge Fair Association's annual meeting. After deducting expenses, nearly \$2,000 were raised to support School Club's mission.

Holiday Gifts for Teachers and Staff: Many parent volunteers worked together to provide special holiday treats for all TCS teachers and staff over the last several days of school before December break, including: a homemade breakfast, baked goods, a fabulous fruit bouquet and movie-themed gift bags.

Upcoming Meetings: Meetings are held at 6:30pm on the first Monday every month (or the following Monday due to a holiday or inclement weather) to plan events, hear new ideas, review funding requests and manage the organization. The next meetings are at TCS on March 9, April 6 and May 4. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

Tunbridge School Board

Lorinda Oliver- 889-9462

The beginning of 2009 has been busy for many and the Board of School Directors is no exception. The budget for FY2010 has been reviewed and modified numerous times before submission to the printers in January. The resulting budget, which will appear in its entirety in the Town Report, is the result of many, many hours on the part of the faculty and staff of TCS, the OWSU superintendent and financial director, and the Board of Directors. Following up on the request for additional information at the annual meeting last year, the Board has researched window replacement costs and benefits and has warned a special article on this item for your consideration.

The last annual town meeting brought together a group of interested community members to explore issues related to school transportation. These individuals have met several times on various topics including how to minimize the schedule and financial impact of unexpected bussing problems on families, staff and taxpayers. As a result of these discussions and ongoing research, it was voted at the last meeting to seek bids on contracted bus services.

It is during this time of year that we traditionally focus on the student and how they benefit academically from our many efforts. For a moment we would like to highlight some other activities that are of a benefit to us as a community including the school-wide production of The Wizard of Oz, several fund-raising dinners, a school club sponsored movie night, and numerous basketball games. Others come to the school in the evenings for "pick up" and league basketball, soccer, volleyball, dodge ball and ice skating. This efficient use of facilities not only brings us together as a community during these colder months to show support for our youth, but also reminds us what is special about where we live.

During the second week in February the school grounds will come alive with many bundled students as they participate in the second annual Winter Carnival, which will end on Saturday, February 14 with a community event. Please watch your local newspapers, school handouts and stores for more information.

Our next board meeting will take place on Monday, February 16 at 5:30 in the Tunbridge School Library. We encourage all to attend!

Tunbridge 8th Grade class

Jackie Higgins- 889-3356

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Event on Feb. 21st.

The Tunbridge Eighth Grade Class needs to raise \$10,000 for its class trip to Washington, D.C. in June.

The 8th grade class will hold an auction on Saturday, February 21, at 10 a.m. in the Tunbridge Gym.

The class is looking for donations of items to be sold at the auction. All items must be in good condition new or used.

Please, no paint or hazardous materials.

Got cabin fever? Get out of the house and come enjoy a good old-fashioned auction.

Breakfast and Lunch will be served.

For questions or to have items picked up please contact:

Jackie Higgins at 889-3566 or Tracy Vesper at 889-3310

Tunbridge Town Website

Rick Scully- 763-7474

The town website is now visible online at <http://tunbridgevt.com> The site still needs people to provide content. If you are involved with an organization in town and want to post events, or other information, please consider becoming a content provider on behalf of your group.

For more info contact Rick Scully at rick@tunbridgevt.com.

State Representative

David Ainsworth- 763-8017

Farmers who loose power and need a generator contact the Agr. Agency at 828-3479 or call Vt. Emergency Management 347-0488 if after business hours; they will try to help you with the use of a generator.

I'm setting up an e-mail list to keep those of you who wish to be kept informed of the work going on in Montpelier. I will try to write a short letter each weekend. Let me know your e-mail address and I will include you on my mailing list. This will not be available for anyone else to use! My e-mail address is dainsworth@leg.state.vt.us

Tunbridge One Planet Afterschool Program

Carrie McDonnell- 889-3310

The annual Holiday Session ran from December 15th through December 23rd, and although we had a couple snow days thrown at us, it was a great success. Thanks to Mrs. Herrick in the Second Grade for her donation of the gingerbread houses, as well as the Wolfe family for their donation. Our classroom was decorated from ceiling to floor with Holiday spirit--paper chains, spray-on snow covering the windows, as well as decorations donated by Ms. Abby Brabham.

Although the weather outside is chilly, the kids at the Tunbridge One Planet Afterschool program are keeping warm and busy! The third session, which runs from January 25th until March 27th, has just begun, and the new activities are a hit, from skating, snowshoeing and winter exploration to knitting, scrapbooking and story hour, there are activities to educate and entertain all kids.

We recently had our first Creative Careers session for the 3rd-6th grade students, and Chef Peggy Sue Grote of South Royalton came to discuss how she started her career. After a brief talk and Q & A session, Chef Grote taught the kids how to make fresh and healthy homemade salsas. Thanks, Peggy!
Upcoming Events:

On Tuesday, February 10th, two Dartmouth Women's Hockey players, as well as their coach, will visit the TCS rink to skate with the K-2 group during their skating activity. Thanks go to Richard and Lorraine Barnaby for helping us arrange this special event!

Transfer Station & Recycling

Mary-Alice Leonard-Heath- 685-3035

Saturdays from 9:00 - 3:00.

The transfer station is no longer accepting cash, You need to have a pre-paid ticket to take your trash to the transfer station. Tickets are available at the town office and the library. Information on recycling can always be found at www.CVSMWD.org.

Tunbridge Church

David Wolfe: 889-5577

Worship Services on Sunday at 10am.

Sunday School for youth every Sunday during the service

Everyone is Welcome.

Call Neighbors Helping Neighbors if you need transportation.

Important dates to remember:

March 1 Communion Sunday

April 5 Palm Sunday

April 10 Good Friday Communion Service 7:30 pm

April 12 Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service time TBA

Easter Breakfast Town Hall

Worship Service 10 am

May 3 Communion Sunday

May 10 Mother's Day/Family Sunday--

Youth will conduct the service

•Don't forget the Sugar on Snow Party - date TBA

The Tunbridge Church choirs meet for practice on Wednesday nights.

6pm- Early elementary ages

Practices: Feb. 25

Mar. 4, 11, 25

Apr. 1, 8, 29

May 6, 13

Singing: Mar. 15

Apr 5, 12

May 10

6:30- Older elementary and middle school

Practices: Mar. 11, 25

Apr. 1, 8, 29

May 6

Singing: Apr 5, 12

May 10

Feel free to come to practice, see how you like it!

If it's a snow day at school, there is no practice that day.

Call Janet Zug (889-9602) for further information.

The Adult Choir practices every Wednesday at 7pm, and will sing on all Sundays except March 15, and May 10th.

For more info call Judie Lewis (889-9490)

ECFiber.Net

Janet Zug 889-9602

ECFiber is a grassroots initiative to build a state-of-the-art fiber-optic network in 22 towns, bringing digital television, reliable telephone, and high-speed Internet service directly to homes, schools, and businesses.

The ECFiber project was on the brink of putting our financing package out to bid in the public market when the financial meltdown occurred. Oppenheimer, our financial advisors, encouraged us to hold on to the package until the markets loosened up. Because unrated projects are not being funded at this time we are working with state and federal lawmakers on solutions that will allow us to go forward with the project. These will most likely come in the form of some sort of guarantee in the event of failure of the project. This kind of solution is expected to make the offering attractive to investors, even in these uncertain economic times.

To further influence the success of this project you can contact Senator Leahy, Senator Sanders, Representative Welch and our Local Representative Ainsworth and Senator McDonald. Let them know the success of the ECFiber is important to you.

While we are working to get our financing, other pieces of the project are getting further lined up. Design of the network and the satellite hub buildings is complete. We have a lease/purchase contract on the old post office building in downtown White River Junction for the central hub and offices, and design work is under way. We are, as the latest buzz word goes "Shovel Ready".

Pre-registrations are still very important, Barnard has 80% of it's town pre-registered. I'd love to see Tunbridge beat that! This is a non-binding commitment, we will call you when the service is available to see if you are still interested in signing up. You may pre-register at www.ecfiber.net

Rest assured that we know you are waiting for this service to be available and work is happening every day to make it happen!

Tunbridge Library

Librarian_ Jean Wolfe 889-5577

Pulbicity, ArtSpace Coordinator: Marsha Higgins 889-5576

Hours: Mon and Wed 3-8, Fri 3-6, S 10-4

The next Children's Story Hour theme for February is "Stars" (2/19). 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. Santa and Mrs. Claus made their annual appearance on Saturday, December 13. Photographer Geoff Hansen took some wonderful shots of the children that day, and prints are on view in the library entry. Reprints can be purchased by going to www.tunbridgelibrary.org and accessing Geoff's website. Half of the proceeds will benefit the library.

Proceeds from the sale of art and other items benefit the library. On sale at the library are reduced price books, calendars, stationery, seasonal greeting cards, gift wrap bags, and specialty gift items for children and adults. ArtSpace at the library will feature the paintings of Ria Blaas and projects in progress by Lisa Kippen, February 22- April 11 with a public opening reception Sunday, February 22, 2-4 PM. The third annual "Art in our Schools" show will honor the art programs of seven of our local schools. Students in grades 6-12 and their teachers will exhibit from April 26- June 5; an opening reception will be held on April 26, 2-4 pm.

There are three programs left in the Winter Evenings series hosted by the Tunbridge Public Library . All programs begin at 7 pm, followed by refreshments and book signing. The evenings are free with donations welcomed.

Feb. 27: Henry Homeyer, "The Nuts and Bolts of Organic Gardening." Master gardener and author Henry Homeyer will talk about how to have great vegetables and flowers without using chemicals and will encourage people to start small vegetable gardens.

Mar. 6: Castle Freeman, "The Writing Life." Castle Freeman will read from his novel Go with Me, and his forthcoming novel, All That I Have, as well as talk about the writing life.

Mar. 13: Teresa Lust, "Pass the Polenta." Cook, gardener, and writer Teresa Lust will read from "Pass the Polenta: And Other Writings from the Kitchen" and demonstrate how to cook a proper risotto. Books by Winter Evening speakers are on loan at the library.

Tunbridge Library Con't

The library is planning ahead for two major annual fund-raisers: Town Meeting dinner and the Memorial Day plant, book, and plant sale. Volunteers are needed as well as donations. Donated books are gratefully accepted as long as they are in good readable condition. Donated plant pots should be 7 inches or greater in diameter.

You can now purchase at the library "trash cards" for the transfer station/recycling center. The library will gratefully accept donated, working laptops which can be used at the library. Free, high-speed, wireless internet access is available at the library. Audio books may also be downloaded to an MP3 player. (Ask librarian Jean Wolfe for details or visit the tutorial on the library's website: www.tunbridgelibrary.org)

Community Energy Meeting In Tunbridge

Todd Tyson- 802-431-3433

An open community energy meeting, "40 Years is Enough - Close Vermont Yankee in 2012", will be held in the Tunbridge Town Hall on Tuesday, February 17th at 7pm. Several central Vermont towns including Tunbridge, Vershire, Corinth, Topsham and Brookfield along with nearly 40 other towns throughout the state have successfully added warnings on this topic to their respective upcoming Town Meetings. Citizens in other VT towns are encouraged to bring up a similar resolution during the "other business" portion of their meetings. VT's legislature is scheduled to vote on the VT Yankee re-licensing issue this spring.

The 2/17 forum will feature a presentation by Chris Williams, a spokesperson for the Vermont Citizens Action network, along with a wealth of relevant printed materials about renewable energy economics, the New England power grid, community supported energy, distributive energy and energy efficiency. An extensive Q&A session will follow the Mr. Williams' presentation.

For further information, please contact Todd at 802-431-3433 or via e-mail to folkbloke@hotmail.com