

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly



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

2

October 15, 2005

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
P.O. Box 86
Tunbridge, VT 05077

Postal Patron
Tunbridge, VT
05077

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tunbridge, VT
Permit No. 3

Vermont Telecommunications Relay Service

Deaf and hard-of-hearing Vermonters often find that people they try to reach by phone hang up on their calls made through the Vermont Telecommunications Relay Service (VTRS). Callers often think they are being telemarketed when they receive a relay call. A new public awareness campaign being conducted by VTRS is sending a message to businesses and others, "Don't hang up; it may be the most important call you'll get all day."

VTRS is a service offered free of charge to users by the State of Vermont to connect deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech-disabled individuals with users of regular telephones. In a typical relay call, a trained operator reads the text message being typed on a special telephone keyboard by the deaf caller to the person of the other end of the call. In turn, the operator types the words of the person using the regular phone back to the deaf caller.

A call through relay usually begins with the operator announcing "This is a relay call." Recipients of these calls who are unfamiliar with relay often hang up thinking they have been reached by a telemarketer.

These hang-ups are frustrating for deaf and hard of hearing callers. But just as significant, they mean a loss of business and bad customer relations for the business or organization being called. People with hearing disabilities use the phone like everyone else, to find out about a product, make an appointment, reach a teacher, call a parent with a birthday party invitation or simply to be neighborly.

To educate the general public about Relay and reduce hang ups, Vermont residents, who experience hang-ups are encouraged to report such occurrences. Residents can send an email or submit a complaint online by visiting the VTRS website at www.vermontrelay.com. VTRS will follow up with either a brochure, a letter, or a telephone call to the resident or business to better inform them about Relay. VTRS is asking for your assistance in getting this message out to the businesses and residents in your town. Next time you hear "Vermont Telecommunication Relay Service" or "VTRS", - Don't Hang up, it may be the most important call you will get all day!

To find out more about VTRS, get the "Don't Hang Up" poster for your business or request a training/presentation, visit the website or call 802-879-4787 (866-879-6942 Toll Free TTY)

Administrative Assistant

Wendy McCullough 889-5521

News from your Selectboard and Road crew

Late this summer we began work on the water systems for the Town Office, Town Hall and the Library. Digging the Library well was a success. We reached water in 150 feet, producing 30 gallons per minute. Obtaining a well for the Town Office and Town Hall has not been successful to date; hopefully we will strike water within the next couple weeks. If not, in the spring we will begin work to pipe the water from the Library well to the Town Office and Town Hall.

Our paved roads were failing badly. For the last three years we have had hopes of receiving a paving grant from the State, but each year we have been denied. We received estimates from Blaktop and Pike Paving Companies but we were not able to raise these funds from our regular budgets. This spring we had voted to accept the estimate from Blaktop for resurfacing Spring Road and extending the pavement 100 feet, patching sections of Strafford Road and repaving the section of Bicknell Hill from Route 110 to the Flint Covered Bridge. At the end of the last fiscal year we had \$39,000 left over in the Special Projects Budget for Highways. This money was sent to Blaktop to put on account. Despite the fact that oil prices are rising at a drastic rate, we were able to get Blaktop to agree to do the paving for the price quoted, which was \$2.00 per ton below their current rate. Paving was started on September 12th and completed on September 14th. The balance owed to Blaktop is \$13,776. This money will come from the current Special Projects Budget.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602

Thank you to everyone who contacted me with encouraging words for the TQ! I made a few mistakes last time, but as always, it will continue to get better. I would like to thank everyone who wrote reports, the Quarterly would be nothing without you!

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

Tunbridge Recreation

Thornton Hayslett- 889-9479

Summer Report/ Pool

This summer the Tunbridge Recreation Program provided one two-week session of swim lessons at the Bethel Pool. Twenty kids, with parents and chaperones, rode the school bus to Bethel for morning lessons. Every other day we stayed at the Bethel Recreation area for lunch, and went back in the pool for free swim in the afternoon. During the “between time” on those days we played whiffle ball, kickball, and card games, and experimented with juggling and playing tennis. Many thanks to the volunteer chaperones and to Jim Kinnarney for fitting the bus-driving duties into his schedule. It couldn't have happened without all of you.

I have been gathering information about the Tunbridge pool and possible repairs. The major problem with the pool is that it loses water faster than it can be recharged under certain conditions. A more detailed report will be available shortly, but in a nutshell: any comprehensive fix is likely to be expensive (\$20,000-\$50,000) but it may be possible to make some less expensive efforts that would improve the current situation. Special thanks to Blake Thomson for brush-hogging and rough grading the pool in late July, and to the Landry family for the use of their tractor.

K-4 Soccer

This fall there are about two dozen kids, K-4, playing soccer on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. They are being led by Dan(Rudy) Ruddell with the help of parent volunteers. The focus is on basic skills including warm-ups, stretching, and field positions. The group splits evenly into K-2 and 3-4 levels. Each age group scrimmages for part of most sessions. The 3-4 level group will play at least two games with the South Royalton 3-4 Rec team, and we are trying to schedule a similar opportunity for the K-2 level.

The sign-up sheet for the program included a check-off box for a voluntary contribution at a level determined by the family. Almost every family has contributed to date, many quite generously. Any child who did not have a soccer ball has received one. The balls are theirs to keep, to encourage them to keep practicing throughout the year. Dominic and Lisa Amodeo have offered to buy uniform shirts for the program, and they will be arriving shortly. Many thanks to all who have supported the soccer program.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Trombly- 889-2804

For this edition of the TQ, the Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department would like to fill you in on what we've been up to for the past year. To start, we are happy to report that we have several new volunteers helping out at the station, participating in trainings, and responding to calls. During the past year Trip Edwards, Corey Chapman, Matt Loftus, John Welch Jr., Jean Palthy, and Vern Maxham Jr. have begun assisting the department.

One of the largest projects the department has been working on is developing an all-incident emergency plan for the town. This nine-month project culminated in August by bringing together first responders from multiple departments and organizations for a table-top exercise. This exercise gave the group an opportunity to plan for and practice responding to disasters in the town.

Finally, an update on the grant from the Department of Homeland Security, which you may have read about in the Herald. We have recently learned the TVFD and the town will not be receiving the grant. Some of you may recall that the town received a large grant from FEMA three years ago. Due to a recent Federal-guideline change, we are not eligible to receive a second “apparatus grant” at this time. The grant application, which was written by Jackie Higgins and Brenda Field, had been approved but was rescinded in early October. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Brenda and Jackie for their work. Without their efforts, we would not have had the opportunity to be eligible for grants. The TVFD will continue to work with the town during the coming years to build a truck fund for the eventual replacement of Engine 2.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the TVFD is encouraged to speak with us. We always have room for more volunteers and welcome new participation.

Tunbridge Community Food Shelf

Sue Barnaby- 889-3736

David Wolfe- 889-5577

Tuesdays and Fridays from 4-6pm

The Food Shelf was very fortunate to receive 375 pounds of food in honor of Gert Sherlock's 80th birthday. Thank you, Gert for thinking of our community food shelf! Please keep the food shelf in mind this winter. With the ever-rising fuel prices, both for our cars and our homes, we expect more visitors than ever this winter.

We are also planning Holiday boxes for families for Christmas and need squash, potatoes, stuffing mix, cranberry, vegetables-canned or fresh, baked goodies or dessert mixes, and other holiday foods. We'll buy turkeys from the Food Bank for these boxes and would be glad to accept monetary donations toward the turkeys. Please contact Sue Barnaby (889-3736) or send money donations to Euclid Farnham, Treasurer at: 24 The Crossroad in Tunbridge. Thank You, in advance for supporting our Tunbridge Community Food Shelf!

Tunbridge Bone Builders

Shelia Mitchenson- 889-5547

Perhaps you have noticed some folks around Tunbridge looking and acting stronger, appearing more energized, walking with better posture, and exuding an overall vibrant appearance. Chances are these folks are some of the Tunbridge Bone Builders.

The Bone Builder's program is a series low-impact exercise classes that pack a big wallop toward healthy living. This summer 41 people participated in the program which began July 18. Eight classes were offered and each class met for two sessions a week. An additional 15 to 20 people are planning to join this fall.

Classes are offered free of charge. The only investment is attendance at two classes a week and the determination to become more physically fit. Call Sheilia for info on how to join in the fun.

A special thanks goes to our volunteer trainers for all the time and effort they have given to help people become strong, more energized, and well balanced. We also appreciate the support of the community and the Town Select Board in this effort.

Tunbridge Public Library

Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-940

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

Story hour for children resumes for the school year. A new topic is explored in stories and food every first and third Thursday at **6:30pm** For the next program on **October 20**, we will celebrate our firefighters with a visit from a real firefighter.

The Library continues to feature local artists, with watercolors by Julia Blackburn currently on display. Art note cards of these beautiful paintings are available for purchase in the library. The next opening will be **November 20** from **11:30am-1:30pm** with a display of photographs by Anne Aversa. The show continues through January 9.

"Winter Evenings" will be back starting on **January 12** with New England author and poet Donald Hall. Later programs include photographer Ethan Hubbard on **January 26** and environmentalist Bill McKibben, speaking on local economies on **February 9**. More sessions will be announced.

Santa will visit the library on **December 10**. Stories begin at **10:30am** after which Santa will arrive with all the trimmings.

The library continues to look for desk volunteers. Call Jean Wolfe at the library. Board members: T. Swayze, chairman; Liz Guth, Marsha Higgins, Jeffrey Lent, Donna Nelson.

First Branch Rescue

Pam Howe Caron- 763-8756

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue would like to take this time to thank the many people that helped us with our fund raiser at the Tunbridge World's Fair. This money goes into our Capital Fund and helps us with major purchases, including a New Rescue Truck or a new ambulance. The Fair Association generously gave us a great location and supplemented us with passes for our volunteers. Heather Mullen headed the booth and coordinated the volunteer's schedule. She is greatly appreciated by the Board of Directors for the time she puts in to this. Last but not least, Thank you to the many volunteers! I hear there are 40+ people that come every year and help us with smiles on their faces whether it's raining or the sun is shining. It's nice to live in a community that contains so many generous and dedicated people.

Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

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

The Town Clerk's Office has been busy with property sales this summer. There are quite a few properties listed for sale in Tunbridge but it seems that things have slowed down some what.

The Town Clerk's Office hours have changed on Mondays. Starting October 3, 2005 through the school year. I am participating as a mentor in the Everybody Wins Reading Program at the Tunbridge Central School. This is a rewarding program for the mentors and students. If you have thought about volunteering or haven't heard about the program, I encourage you to call or stop by the school for more information.

Please feel free to call or stop by the Town Offices with any questions or concerns or just to say hello.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Anne Mallary- 889-5521

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

Tax money is coming in slowly but steadily. As of Sept. 27, approximately 10% of the total taxes had been collected. That is in line with previous years. Every year about 8% of the taxes to be collected go delinquent. Remember the due date is Nov. 1st; postmarks are accepted. Any money paid after this date will be delinquent, and subject to penalty and interest.

If you would like to make payments toward next year's taxes, please feel free to do so.

In 2005 the town purchased a new grader, and the trucks needed more repairs than usual. This depleted the Equipment Account from a balance in 2004 of \$99,000 to \$75,000 in 2005. This balance carries the Selectmen and Highway accounts over until taxes come in. For the first time since 1997, when I was elected treasurer, the town had had to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

Transfer Station & Recycling

Mary-Alice Leonard-Heath- 889-3035

Hours- Saturdays - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

It is illegal to drop off ANY item, INCLUDING RECYCLABLES, when the Transfer Station is closed.

There is a charge for metal items and for appliances. The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District provides us with the metal collection and the Town of Tunbridge pays the cost of the service through fees collected for the appliances and scrap. Please let the attendant see what you have before driving away. The price is fair and we want to continue to offer metal recycling, so please pay appropriately for these materials.

Once a year the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District runs a Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics disposal event at the Transfer Station. Generally this event is held in August. If you have items which you need to dispose of and can not wait until the event, please call the Central Vermont Solid Waste District at 800-730-9475. They can advise you on other disposal times and places.

The state of Vermont and the True Value Hardware stores (including Welch's True Value in South Royalton), are collaborating on a fluorescent bulb recycling collection. At this point folks may bring in up to six bulbs per household per visit. WARNING: fluorescent bulbs often contain mercury, and are not allowed in our compactor.

FYI, Television sets, computers, or any electronic that has a motherboard are NOT allowed in the compactor. Again, please contact the CVSWMD at 800-730-9475 for more info on disposal of these items.

Truckloads of garbage and lumber create a major source of problems at the Transfer Station. If you must dispose of a truckload or lumber, it is preferred that you use the Bethel/Royalton facility. Our compactor is aging and is having trouble keeping up with the task. Recycling can help cut down on the amount of trash you throw away and it is free (with the exception of metals and appliances).

Finally, your words and acts of kindness and thoughtfulness are always appreciated at the Transfer Station. We are indeed fortunate to have such wonderful staff. Evelyn and Bert are at the Transfer Station every Saturday, year round.

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The Tunbridge Listers are always interested in (more like obsessed with) property sales. Guessing what someone will pay for a property has proved to be a real challenge. This year there have been nine arms-length sales of residential properties. The average price is \$311,610 and the average listed value is \$176,189. The listed values, using the aggregate ratio, are 56.54% of the sales values.

Property owners frequently ask how often we reappraise, no doubt in hopes the answer will be something like every 20 or so years. But the answer is that we are required by the state to reappraise when our CLA (the ratio between sales and listed values) drops below 80%. The state tax department determines our CLA based on a study of the previous three years of sales. Our CLA for this year's Grand List is 94.61% and is based on study of sales from 4/1/01 to 4/1/04. We estimate that the CLA will drop to around 87% for the 2006 Grand List and then plummet to below 75% for the 2007 Grand List.

In the past, it was easy to decide whether to reappraise as it meant a drop in the tax rate and all things being equal, taxes would be about the same. This is no longer true. The education tax rate is set by the State and is directly affected by the CLA but not the Grand List. As a result the amount of taxes we pay to the State Education Fund would increase substantially.

A change in legislation appears to be the only way to bring our education taxes under control. We urge you to speak to your legislators: Sen. Mark MacDonald and Rep. Rozo McLaughlin

Tunbridge Church

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The Tunbridge Church meets **Sundays at 10 a.m.** for its worship service. The First Choir, for the youth, includes not only singing for worship services, but other activities including field trips. Contact Janet Zug (889-9602) for information. The Great Choir (aka the Big Choir) meets at **7:30 pm Wednesdays**. We have a great time preparing a full range of music from gospel to classical.

The church has a Thanksgiving Eve Service at **7:30 p.m. Nov. 23** and a Candlelight Christmas Eve service at **7:30 p.m. Dec. 24** (that's a Saturday). On **Dec. 2nd** there is a church decorating party at **6:30 p.m.** and a sing-a-long of Christmas Carols and other holiday songs at **7:30 p.m.** A date for caroling will be announced later.

K-4 Basketball/Other Indoor Winter Rec

Looking ahead to winter, the Recreation Program will be responsible for the basketball program for children below 5th grade. We will probably follow a schedule that is similar to soccer, although the K-2 program might be Saturdays only. Please let me know if you are interested in helping as a coach, assistant coach, or referee. In addition to basketball, there will be some type of indoor, non-competitive, physical movement activity for kids, maybe even for kids and parents together! If anyone has specific interests or a skill to share, please be in touch.

Skiing/Snowshoeing

This year there will be an opportunity for kids to do some cross-country skiing or snow-shoeing through the Recreation Program. As in the past, the Rec Program will help support the transportation costs for the Ski-runners downhill lessons. Sign-up information for the Ski-runners Friday afternoon "Learn to Ski" program will be distributed through the school soon. Ski instructors, bus chaperones and lodge helpers are needed. So think ahead about whether you can be available on any Friday afternoons from early January to mid-March. Stephanie Loeffler recently passed on the information that Chelsea participates in a program that goes to Sugarbush on Saturdays; this may be a possibility for some of the older kids in town.

Skating Rink

There have been many informal discussions about how nice it would be to have a skating rink in town; this might be the year to give it a shot. If you would like to be on a committee which works to make a skating rink happen, please call or email me at haslett@sover.net

Tunbridge Historical Society

Kay Jorgenson- 889-5528

Everyone is invited to the annual Tunbridge Historical Society and Tunbridge Library Ghost Walk at **1 p.m. on Oct. 16** at Button Hill Cemetery (rain date Nov. 6). Peter Button, who was killed by Indians, and some of his cemetery neighbors will tell about their lives. Charles Cleaveland, who died at the Civil War battle of Fredericksburg, Va., and Abbie and Charles Howe, whose descendants still live in Tunbridge, will be there, as will blacksmith Andrew Nielson and farmers Emma and Jermon Rogers and Sarah and John Broughton. Someone will be at the library to give directions if needed.

Tunbridge School Board

Anissa Morrison- 889-3535

With the leadership of Jonni Spaulding, the Tunbridge School Board took a step toward reaching one of its goals on Sept. 30th. The board hosted a community forum with the topic of how TCS students will be distinguishable from their peers when they attend high school. Fred Welch gave an introduction and Amos Kornfeld updated those present on class configuration changes resulting from the budget passed in March. Approximately 25 community members then worked in small groups to create lists of: What do we want our students to know, be able to do, and what habits do we want them to demonstrate when they leave TCS? The information gathered by the board will be used in goal setting and budget planning. The board will discuss information gathered at the October board meeting at **5:30pm on October 17th** . Please plan to attend to learn more and watch for a compilation of the ideas generated in an upcoming edition of Tiger Tales. We thank the extended to community members who attended the forum and shared their ideas.

Tunbridge Playground Comittee

Jerilyn Mulvey- 889-9414

Greetings from the Tunbridge Playground Comittee. Many of you responded to our fundraising letter that was mailed out 12 months ago. Thanks to the overwhelming response, we were able to apply for a matching grant through the National Parks and Recreation Department. In August, we received confirmation that the Tunbridge Playground Project was awarded a \$16,375.00 grant. We also were given \$1,700. from Mascoma Savings Bank and \$1,400 for Ben & Jerry's.

We are pleased and very excited to report that structures for the playground have been ordered and are due to be delivered in 3-4 weeks. We are currently researching the various options available for ground cover under and around the structures. We are also researching and gathering information for the basketball court. The committee has little or no experience in the site preparation; therefore we are looking for a volunteer to guide us through. If you think you are this person, or would like to donate to the fund, please contact me.

Look for dates and times for upcoming work bees, tentatively scheduled for the latter part of October. Remember your volunteered time will be applied towards our matching grant!

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jim Wick 889-3524

What is TNHN?

TNHN is being started by local community members in order to improve lives of all residents of Tunbridge. We will provide needed services to residents through volunteer action; TNHN will act as a clearinghouse and coordinator for volunteer efforts. The emphasis will be to help seniors stay in their homes, but help will be available to anyone. TNHN will sponsor or help with events and programs of general interest to the community. The basic purpose will be to provide occasions where we can get together for something fun and/or helpful.

How It Works

Anyone needing help with something will call a central number (we don't have it yet.) One of us will take your request and find a volunteer who can do it. The volunteer will then call you back and agree on the time, what needs to be done, and so on.

What Services are Offered?

So far we have a list of about 40 volunteers who have said they would do many things, such as errands, transportation to appointments, small repairs, yard work, etc. If you have need of help please call; chances are we can find someone to do it.

Kickoff Potluck

Where: Tunbridge Central School

When: Friday, **October 21, 6:00 pm**

Come find out more about it, how it's going to work, who is eligible for services (anyone), how much it costs (nothing), how to join (you don't have to join), how you can volunteer (yes you can!) Bring a main dish, salad, or desert. Any questions, call Jim Wick or Bunchie Angell at 889-3711. Board Members: Bunchie Angell, Bill Chester, Frank Lepore, Felicity Swayze, Jim Wick, David Wolfe.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Michael Sacca- 889-3210

The Tunbridge Planning Commission will be holding a series of round-table public meetings to gather input for the Town Plan re-write. The meetings will include visits from people knowledgeable about the topics who will be there to answer questions as needed.

All meetings are at **6:30pm** at the town hall. Here is the schedule:

October 14

Telecommunications; Broadband Internet and Cellular Technology

Pete Fellows,
Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission
Al & Laura Duey,
Project Managers, Vermont Rural Broadband Project

October 28

Agriculture Enterprise in Tunbridge, present and future

David Lane, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture
Ed Delhagen, Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

November 4

Housing

Al Stevens, Housing Advocate, Newbury Vermont
Anne Duncan Cooley, Director, Upper Valley Housing Coalition

November 11

Land Use and Zoning

Chris Sargent,
Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission Prof.
Kinvin Wroth, Director, Land Use Institute, Vermont Law School

In addition, on **October 27** at **7:00pm** at the Town Hall, there will be a special public talk by Frank Bryan, UVM professor of Political Science, author and humorist. Mr. Bryan’s subject will be “Small Town Democracy.” The event is sponsored by Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission.

We would like to give a big thanks to Larry Mengedoht who has resigned from the Commission effective November 1st. The Tunbridge Planning Commission meets on the **first Tuesday at 7:00 PM** in the town offices. The meetings are open to the public. Members of the Commission are: Michael Sacca-Chairman, Mimi Sinker, Jesse Mundel, Ted Hoyt , Ben Wolfe and Dan Rudell.

Agricultural Survey

Dan Ruddell- 889-9822

The Tunbridge Planning Commission is working in conjunction with students at the Tunbridge Central School and a number of volunteers to conduct a survey of working lands in Tunbridge. Input is strictly voluntary and is collected for informational purposes only. We hope this information will increase the understanding of the current state of our working landscape and give information for the updating of the TunbridgeTown Plan.

The aim is to collect baseline information about working agricultural and forest lands in our town at the beginning of another century. Project materials including maps and photos may be used for display at the Tunbridge Fair, but the primary purpose is documentation of our relationship to the land and contributions to Tunbridge historical archives.

Auditors-

Jim Wick- 889-3524

We have started this year’s audit and have nearly finished the major accounts. There do not seem to be any major issues so far. We want to reiterate the very important item regarding deadline from last year’s Town Report. This applies alike to town departments and committees, and to outside organizations. *Town Report Deadlines*: Every year it is difficult to collect the information for the Town Report. Some groups have a December fiscal year and need time in January to prepare their reports, but this is not typical. Most groups and departments ought to be able to do the work earlier. The following deadlines will apply for information in *next* year’s report. Delinquent Tax Report - January 15. School Budgets - January 15. Any reports for January fiscal year groups - January 15. Vital Statistics - January 15. All other information, financial or written - January 1. If we do not receive reports by the above deadlines we do not guarantee that we can include them in the Town Report.