

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

August 15, 2010
issue #21

Special Town Meeting - August 30th at 7:30pm

See Treasurer's report for details.

Tunbridge Select Board

Ingrid Van Steamburg, Chair (889-3459)

Shane Young (889-2804); Tom Mullen(889-9499)

So far the summer has treated us equally as well as the winter, in regards to our roads. We completed paving on the Strafford Road. The Foundry Bridge Project is nearing completion. We will be holding a special town meeting on Monday, August 30th at 7:30 pm at The Tunbridge Central School in regards to surplus monies, & the solar project for the town buildings. Please look for warnings in The Herald of Randolph, the town stores, post office, and town office. FYI, the Transfer Station has additional summer hours on Wednesday nights, from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions to contact a member of the board.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

Vermonters ages 62 years or over or Certified by the Vermont Veterans Administration to be totally disabled as the result of disease or injury suffered while serving in the Armed Forces, or a Resident of the Vermont Veterans Home and a Resident of Vermont; you are entitled to a Green Mountain Passport which gives you free access to state-sponsored events, museums, state parks, historical sites and lands. Overnight camping and other park fees are excluded. You must be a resident of Vermont and apply in the Town in which you claim residence, a simple form and a \$2.00 fee is all that is needed. Call Wendy with any questions or concerns. Office hours:
Mon-Thur 8am-noon & 1-4pm, 1st-3rd Tues 8am-6pm

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Sue Clark 889-3733

The PC went on hiatus in July. There were pressing Town issues and events making it difficult to plan a meeting. We will continue to meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm, although the August 10th meeting will begin earlier, at 6pm in the Town Office Bldg.

First Branch Sustainability Project

Henry Swayze - 889-5556

Tunbridge has won a grant of approximately \$51,000 towards a \$150,000 demonstration project to put 24 kilowatts of photovoltaic solar panels on the roofs of various town buildings. If installed these panels are likely to offset the usage of the town offices, the library and the town garage but are not large enough to offset the school's usage. In order to move ahead with this project the balance of the funds will have to be raised by a town bond.

The payback on this investment should be way shorter than the life of the installation there by giving ongoing electricity for free. This effort is the work of the Tunbridge energy committee headed up by Todd Tyson. Thanks also to Wendy and the select board who were also instrumental in obtaining this grant. Several new people are now joining the committee. We will be considering other ways for the community to save power and generate power from local and sustainable sources.

Please join us. Todd's cell is 802-431-3433

Other activity: The Chelsea energy committee has also raised grants. They have focused on weather tightening the Town hall and offices. The food group has revitalized the Chelsea farmer's market and is planning a harvest festival event for the fall.

Work is ongoing for the Transition Town model where we focus on making our communities more resilient and a place that delivers us a higher quality of life in spite of the likely hood of higher priced-shorter supplied oil and other economic anomalies that could lie ahead. Many other organizations are engaged with building community which is adding to this effort even though we are not formally tied together. Thanks to everyone. This blooming of activity is the model for the Transition Town initiative. Watch for an event on 10/10 to bring awareness to reducing global CO2 down to 350 PPM or even to the standard of new science of 290PPM.

Union Agricultural Society

Rebecca Beguin 889-5555

Premium books and brochures will be in the Village store or folks can go to the website www.tunbridgefair.com. We look forward to seeing all those who help out and help make the fair great.

Tunbridge One Planet Afterschool Program

Carrie McDonnell 889-3310

Over 30 kids participated in our four week summer program. They explored various themes in depth through hands-on activities and fieldtrips, including the theme "Circus Fun". During this week, national and international jump rope champion, Meredith Crafton introduced our kids to the art of jump roping. In addition, a troop of five professional circus performers put on a fabulous show for our kids, which included some amazing juggling and hula hoop acts. Inspired by the professionals, our kids put on a performance of their own, complete with juggling and acrobatics.

As we have in the past, One Planet partnered with the Tunbridge Recreation Committee to offer swimming lessons to our participants at Vermont Technical College. As always, this was a fun and rewarding activity, as kids strengthened swimming skills and learned new ones. One Planet will begin the afterschool program on September 13th. Enrollment packets will be coming home with students during the first week of school.

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue

Pam Caron- 889- 9595

We've had a busy year so far and have seen our call volume increase when compared to last year at this time. The squad and fund raisers are preparing for the Fair-be sure to stop at our booth and help support us. We are struggling with reimbursement for services as everyone else in health care is. We are looking at various options and changes to our billing practices for the future in order to remain viable. We hope to provide some information to the town's once we have some plans formulated.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Anne Mallary- 889-3571

Tax bills will be mailed in September. This is later than previous years because I just received the final education tax rates from the VT Dept of Taxes, a result of the delay in passing the school budget. Also the Selectmen are holding a special town meeting on August 30, 2010 to determine what to do with the surplus money. If the taxpayers vote to use some of this money to reduce their taxes, the bills will then reflect that.

The municipal tax rate has been set at \$0.497. This includes money raised for the highway, the selectboard, appropriations, the fire dept., the ambulance, and any local agreements. Last year the municipal rate was \$0.742. The decrease in the tax rate is a result of the reappraisal. The Homestead education tax rate is \$1.2780 (last year \$1.8051) and the non-residential education tax rate is \$1.3496 (last year \$1.972).

There were some pretty significant budget surpluses at the end of the fiscal year. The selectmen's fund has a surplus of approximately \$83,467.07. The primary reason for this is an increase in revenues over and above the budgeted amount. The highway fund has an estimated surplus of \$96,869.73. This is probably due to the relatively easy winter and mud season. Actual expenses were lower than the budgeted amounts. Surplus money (a total of \$180,336.80) cannot be spent without taxpayer approval. The highway surplus can only be used on highway expenditures, including reducing taxes. The selectmen's surplus could be used in many ways. Talk to the selectboard if you have any good ideas, and the motivation to back them up.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602

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

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The town-wide reappraisal is done, the grievance hearings have been heard, and all that is left are nine appeals to the Board of Civil Authority. (Two hearing dates will have passed prior to printing of this issue and the last is scheduled for Aug. 19.)

Now that the reappraisal is over and the new values lodged, our Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is at 100%. If we could just convince everyone to sell their property at no more than the listed value, we could keep that CLA at 100% and then we would never have to do another reappraisal. We say that with tongue in cheek as clearly we cannot control selling prices.

After the appeals are over, we will revert to the routine work of a town lister: Inspecting and valuing any new construction or substantial additions or renovations, updating and valuing any unfinished properties, maintaining the town parcel map, and fulfilling state requirements concerning current use, housesites, and homesteads.

Our hours will be substantially reduced; however, we do expect to have the office open and records available most mornings. Don't hesitate to call if need something from our office.

Tunbridge Town Website

Rick Scully - 763-7474

The Town website is visible online at www.tunbridgevt.com. The Official Tunbridge Website would like to remind everyone that when they submit anything to the Randolph Herald they should also send those items to rick@tunbridgevt.com so that they can be included on the web.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Linda Lazaroff at 889-9421.

The Civic Club members have been enjoying the summer and anxiously awaiting the October 4, 2010 annual meeting where plans are made for our 2011 show. There are only eight books remaining of "Tunbridge Civic Club Presents..." an historical book with 55 years of Civic Club Show memories from 1952-2007. The cost is still \$20 per book and the entire amount from the sale of these books goes directly toward Tunbridge community causes. Please contact Linda Lazaroff at 889-9421 if you wish to purchase a book.

Anyone with questions or suggestions regarding the Civic Club may call any of the officers, Merle Howe, President at 889-5574; Butch Howe, Vice President at 889-3716; Maxine Young, Secretary at 763-8274; or Jim Wick, Treasurer at 889-3524.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jim Wick 889-3437

We welcome two new members to our Board: Pam Dietz and Adam Smith. In addition to Pam and Adam, our Board members now include Felicity Swayze, Brenda Field, David Wolfe, Frank LePore, Rick Scully, and Jim Wick.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors continues to provide services to local residents through volunteer action. We most get requests for rides, but have done many other things, such as change a tire, stack wood, fix a door, help with a computer, and many other things. If you call us we will find a volunteer who can help you. We've been getting quite a few calls recently, and we are happy to help.

Help Line 889 - 3437

Our service is for anyone in the Tunbridge community; there is no membership and the service is free.

We presently have a volunteer who is willing to do small weatherization projects a peoples homes. Examples would be caulking, door sealing, minor insulation projects. There is the possibility of getting materials at no charge through the COVER program. Call us if you need some help of this kind.

We can always use more volunteers, especially people who are able to drive during the weekdays.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

In preparation for our driveway paving project we have repaired the culvert at the top of the entrance to our driveway and we have removed the top layer of driveway material to make room for the blacktop. We are currently seeking price quotes for the blacktop and hope to have the project completed by the fall. As a reminder, this project is being completed via our fundraising efforts and private donations and is at not cost to the taxpayers.

We are always seeking potential sites for future hydrant locations which can be funded by grants & we are always on the look out for old outbuildings or sheds that can be burned during one of our training events. For either, you may contact Chief Durkee for more information.

Finally, our annual coin drop fundraiser will be held on Friday September 17th and Saturday September 18th. Please contact Matt Loftus 889-3274 if you are able to help out. We need around 15 people for shifts each day to help us make this event successful & we greatly appreciate any time you may have to offer. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year and it provides much needed resources for the department.

Tunbridge Historical Society

Kay Jorgensen - 889-5528

Euclid Farnham and Mick Maguire will give a slide program about the mills that were at Tunbridge's seven dams along the First Branch of the White River on Tuesday, Aug. 10. It will include photographs that have never been shown before.

The 7:30 p.m. program at the Dodge-Gilman Building will follow a potluck supper, to which everyone is invited, at 6:30. Members of the Good Sam Club camping at the fairgrounds will also be attending.

The society's Sunday, Oct. 3, annual meeting will be in the Parsonage at 2 p.m. People are invited to bring show and tell items such as photos and artifacts. The meeting will include potluck deserts, drawing of raffle winners and election of officers.

The season will close with the annual Ghost Walk on Sunday, Oct. 24. This year's walk will be at Hunt Cemetery at 1:30 p.m. Past residents who are buried at the cemetery will appear in costume and tell about themselves. The rain date is Oct. 31.

Everyone is invited to attend these free Historical Society programs.

ECFiber.Net

Janet Zug 889-9602

From the latest ECFiber Press Release

With financing plans well underway, we have decided to proceed with a pilot project. At its regularly scheduled meeting, the EC Fiber Governing Board gave the go ahead to investigate the deployment of a pilot Fiber to the Home project within its territory. The Executive staff immediately set out to identify suitable target areas to begin deployment.

"We have identified several unserved areas that will help to prove our concept," said Project director Tim Nulty. "Engineering crews started the pre construction process the morning after the vote. We're very excited to get to work. This has been a long time coming."

The pilot project will provide a solid foundation for the capital lease used to build out the rest of the network, providing 100% coverage in 23 towns in East Central Vermont. While the intent of the project is to prove that the larger project is viable, according to Nulty, "it will be able to stand on its own if we don't raise another dime of capital." The pilot project will be financed with privately-raised funds.

The ECFiber home office and central hub will be located on Waterman Road in Royalton.

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.

Tunbridge Better Bones

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

Tues. & Thurs - 6:30am/ 8:30am/ 5:30pm

Mon & Wed. - 8:30am

Classes are free with weights provided. Come join us for come back fro renewed strength, energy and balance.

Tunbridge School Board

Lorinda Oliver 889-9462

The school board wishes to start with a thank you to all community members for their support of education in Tunbridge as evidenced by the passing of the FY10 school budget in July. Although it may seem that the acceptance of a budget is a destination, it is actually just a mark in the year round financial activity of this community owned business of educating our youth.

In our preparation for another school year, we all reflect back upon the previous year for indicators of success. But unlike many locally owned and operated businesses, we cannot judge this by simply looking at our current financials. Our success is often not realized until years later when today's children become young adults. This delay makes the governance and operations of this business even more challenging than most.

To makes things even more complicated, in response to the current economy the 2010 legislative session has passed three pieces of legislation that will have a dramatic impact on the business of education in Vermont. Board members of the Orange-Windsor Supervisory District schools have been holding additional meetings individually and collectively to determine how best to respond to this legislation. This legislation includes changes in the responsibilities for both the schools and the superintendent's office, guidelines for voluntary spending reductions and incentives for mergers/consolidations.

We are still in the early formulation of a series of responses to the legislation, but know that by year end we will be conducting a community forum to discuss our plans and receive additional input. Until then, please attend our board meetings to learn about the most recent progress we are making. We meet on the third Monday of each month at 6 pm in the school library.

Tunbridge School Club, Con't

Interested individuals can write to schoolclub@tunbridge.k12.vt.us to sign up for the email list and receive event details, meeting agendas and more.

Upcoming Meetings: Parents, school personnel and community members typically meet in the TCS Library at 6:30pm on the first Monday every month (or the following Monday due to a school break, holiday or inclement weather) to plan events, hear new ideas, review funding requests and manage the organization. Upcoming meetings are on September 13, October 4 and November 1. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

Tunbridge Recreation Committee

Carrie McDonnell 889-3310

The Recreation Committee added some excitement to an already festive Memorial Day in Tunbridge this year by providing a bounce house for kids, free ice cream (250 served) and cow pie bingo. It was a fun day and we hope to do it again next year.

We have some exciting news...our committee submitted a grant proposal to the Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase a piece of land adjacent to the Tunbridge Ball Field and remove a dilapidated building located on the parcel. We recently found out that our proposal has been approved, which means LWCF will provide up to 50% matching funds for the land purchase and building removal. On Monday, August 30th at 7:30pm at the school, there will be a special town meeting to discuss using excess town funds to purchase the land. We hope the town of Tunbridge will support this effort, as it will make the ball field a safer and more beautiful place.

Our summer swimming program has been a big success. Our partnership with the One Planet Summer Program has provided over 30 kids with swimming lessons at Vermont Technical College. The kids are having fun while learning and improving swimming skills.

Thanks to George Elderd and Kevin Barnaby, revitalization of the pool has begun. We hope to have the pool filled and available for use sometime in the near future.

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami, Parent Volunteer 889-5575

Last Day of School Picnic: School Club hosted a barbecue on June 15 to celebrate the end of the school year. The weather cooperated, and we had a fantastic turnout. Thanks to all who contributed food and volunteered their time to make the event go smoothly!

Vermont History Expo Supper: On June 26 School Club raised over \$800 by hosting a community supper with a Vermont-inspired menu that featured local ingredients and historical recipes.

Approximately 150 diners enjoyed fresh salad, grilled flatbread pizzas and strawberry rhubarb crisp. Several area farms and businesses contributed ingredients and many volunteers worked together to plan, prepare and serve the meal.

Back-to-School Potluck: All are invited to come celebrate the start of the school year on Wednesday, September 1 from 6:00-7:30pm at TCS. Enjoy a meal and good conversations. Bring your favorite salad, main dish or dessert to share. School Club will provide beverages and potluck supplies.

What is School Club? School Club is an organization dedicated to providing enrichment activities and services to students, families, staff and teachers at TCS. Anyone can participate and there are no membership dues.

How can you participate? School Club provides many opportunities for parents, teachers and community members to connect with one another, share ideas, plan activities and more. We welcome volunteers of all interests and abilities. Skills such as organization management, fundraising, event planning, public relations, cooking/baking, etc. are helpful.

What are School Club funds used for? School Club spends the money it raises on a movie site license for the school, a leadership and team building experience for the 8th grade class, an overnight Camp In at the Montshire Museum of Science for the 3rd grade class, supplies for events such as the first day of school, back-to-school potluck, staff holiday gifts, teacher appreciation week, graduation, the end-of-the-year picnic and purchasing equipment for the school.

Getting the Word Out: Stay informed about School Club happenings by watching for information sent home with students, the TCS email list, articles on the Tunbridge page in The Herald, the news section of www.tunbridgevt.com, the School Club page on www.tunbridge.owsu.org and the School Club section inside the Tunbridge Quarterly. ➡

Tunbridge Library

Librarian_ Jean Wolfe 889-9404

Publicity, ArtSpace Coordinator: Marsha Higgins 889-5576

Hours: Sun 11:30-1:30 (May through October),

Mon and Wed 3-8, Fri 3-6, Sat 10-4

There is a change in the fall Children's Story Hour schedule; dates are September 9 and 23. After that the regular schedule will resume: first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:15 pm.

ArtSpace at the library is currently featuring through September 6 the photography of Henry Steiner. "Around the World in 80 Years" is an exhibit of Prof. Steiner's travels covering his human rights work. Prints are available for sale. The next show, September 24-November 19, will feature the paintings of local artist Joan Feierabend. A public opening reception is planned for Friday, September 24, 7-9pm.

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Tunbridge Public Library is planned for Friday, October 22, 7pm at the library. Anyone who wishes to be involved in the library as a "friend" is welcome to attend. The Friends are responsible for the library's major fundraisers: Town Meeting dinner and the Memorial Day plant, book, and bake sale. They also contribute food for library events and volunteer for many jobs and services at the library.

This year's Ghost Walk, co-sponsored with the Historical Society will be held on Sunday, October 24 (weather date October 31) Watch the sandwich board in front of the library and the Herald for time and cemetery location.

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. Free, highspeed, 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)

Tunbridge Church

Deadra Ashton - 685-3029

The summer months have been busy at the Tunbridge Church. During the month of July we gathered at the South Tunbridge Methodist Church for Sunday morning services. For the month of August we've moved to the North Tunbridge Baptist Church, returning to the Congregational Church next to the Town Hall and Town Offices in September.

Over the summer we held our annual Ice Cream Social, an outdoor Sunday morning service and picnic at the home of Pam Dietz, a "Friends of the Methodist Church" picnic on the lawn of the South Tunbridge Methodist Church, and two family nights on the Parish House lawn. Best of all, our new playground was installed! Stop by and play any time during the day.

Please join us at the following events:

Sunday Morning Services:

August 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 10:00 a.m.: Services are held in the North Tunbridge Baptist Church.

September 5 at 10:00 a.m.: Services held in the Village at the Tunbridge Congregational Church through next June.

September 19 at 9:30 a.m.: Festival of Worship (Fair Service) in the Tunbridge Congregational Church.

Education and Social Events:

Sunday School for Children is held every Sunday morning during the Service.

Saturdays, August 7 and 14 at 6:30 p.m.: Beginner's (or Review) Bible Study led by Rev. David Wolfe at the Parish House.

Sunday, August 22, beginning at 5:30 p.m.: Family Night on the Parish House lawn.

Tunbridge Church Community Playground

Janet Zug 889-9602

The Community Playground we've been working on for two years is in! It's playtime everyday on the Parish House lawn across from the church. If you are using the playground, please consider donating to the cause to help cover maintenance and future additions. Donations can be sent to T Swayze 58 Swayze Road, Tunbridge. Please specify that your donation is for the playground. Tunbridge/Royalton Phone books are still on sale locally to benefit the playground project.

Tunbridge Fair Service

Judie Lewis - 889-9490

Each year the Tunbridge Church plans a celebratory service for the Sunday of the World's Fair. The Festival of Worship service this year will revolve around Psalm 150, sometimes called "the musician's psalm." The psalm ends, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord," so you can expect a pretty upbeat service.

Anyone that enjoys singing is invited to join the chorus. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, Aug. 18. The adult choir will meet at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday until the fair. The Children's Choir will meet on Wednesdays at 6pm starting August 25th.

The service is almost all music. Local singers and instrumentalists will be join in the celebration. The service is at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 19, at the church above the fair grounds.

Happenings in Tunbridge - see library entry too. (pg 6)

Aug 24 - VT Primary Election. 8am - 7pm - Town Hall.

Help choose our candidates - vote on Aug. 24th!

Aug 30 - Special Town Meeting to discuss and vote on use of surplus funds. 7:30pm in the school gym.

Sept

16 - 19 - Tunbridge World's Fair, pick up a premium book or go to www.tunbridgefair.com for more information.

Sept. 19 - Festival of Worship Service 9:30 am, something for everyone! at the Tunbridge Church

Oct. 10 - Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion. (granddaughter of Woody, with her husband.) 7:30pm, sponsored by MountainFolk. A benefit concert for a renewable energy initiative in Tunbridge.

Oct. 30 - Red Molly, one of the hottest acoustic female trios touring the US today. 7:30pm, Town Hall. mtnfolk.org

Nov 6 - The Shindigs kick off with "About Gladys" 8-11pm at the Town Hall. www.shindigsvt.com