

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

August 15, 2011
issue #25

Tunbridge Treasurer

Anne Mallary- 889-3571

The tax rate has not been set as of this writing. The estimated rate is \$0.55. This is \$0.095 higher than last year. The education tax rates are \$1.335 for non-residential and \$1.2555 for homestead properties. The education rates have dropped slightly from last year tax bills will be mailed sometime in August.

There were surpluses this year again in both the highway and selectmen budgets. The highway has about \$80,000 and the selectmen have about \$34,000. This cannot be spent without taxpayer approval. It can be used in the budget for the 12/13 fiscal year or there could be a special town meeting. The reason for the highway surplus is that there was \$11,000 more income than budgeted and \$22,000 less expended. State aid income was up and labor, material and equipment maintenance expenses were all less than budgeted.

The selectmen surplus was due to \$46,000 more income and \$34,000 less expenses. Current use, penalty and interest on delinquent taxes and clerk fees were all up and transfer station tickets income was down. On the expenses side insurance and dues were less than budgeted and \$16,000 of the money budgeted for efficiency improvements for the town buildings was not spent. Feel free to call if you have any questions.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Sue Clark 889-3733

We are making progress on our three major projects. First, Tunbridge received a Municipal Planning grant of \$10,000 with the assistance of Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission. This grant will be used to assist in the update of the Tunbridge Town Plan, and especially with the "Patterns of Settlement" project. Part of this project is public outreach. The date and manner is yet to be determined, so stay tuned.

On May 3 The PC presented the Town Forest Management Plan to the Select Board and it was approved. Contact Wendy or Rudi Ruddell if you are interested in reviewing the plans.

Finally, the Planning Commission heard from Preston Bristow who acts as zoning administrator for several area towns on his role as the Flood Plain Hazard Administrative Officer. The PC is working on updating the Flood Plain Hazard Ordinance and an Administrative Officer will need to be selected.

Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more events

- Aug 20:** White River Valley Historical Fair with speakers, exhibits, artisans, authors, performances and area historical societies, at the South Royalton School, 9-4.
- Aug 28:** 250th Exhibits: "Tunbridge - The Past" exhibit at the N. Tunbridge Baptist Church and Tunbridge Grange painted stage curtain open house, 12-2.
- Sept 1:** 250th Bell Ringing: Bells at the three Tunbridge churches will each be rung 250 times at 6 p.m. Potluck on Parsonage lawn, 6:30, Dessert at Library.
- Sept 4:** 250th Hike of the Month: Old Hurricane Hill, from Tunbridge Central School, 1 p.m.
- Sept 15 - 18:** Tunbridge World's Fair!
- Sept 23:** Spaghetti Supper - Tunbridge Grange - benefit to sponsor Jessica Chase running for Miss. Vermont
- Oct 2:** The Honey Dewdrops, Tunbridge Church, 7:30pm sponsored by Mountain Folk. www.mtnfolk.org
- Oct 2:** 250th Hike-of-the-Month to Brocklebank Hill from Tunbridge Central School, 1 p.m.
- Oct 8:** 250th Variety Show at Town Hall, 7 p.m. Hosted by the Tunbridge Civic Club.
- Oct 9:** Ghost Walk: Historical Society living history program, Hunt Cemetery, N. Tunbridge, 1:30. Rain date Oct. 16.
- Oct 14:** TVFD Ham & Bean Supper
- Oct 14 to 16:** "Christmas in October Shoppe" in downtown Tunbridge. Friday 5:30-8 p.m. Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-3 See Church entry on page 12 for more details.
- Oct 15:** Harvest Supper- Tunbridge Grange starting at 5pm
- Nov 5:** Shindig with "The Shugarmakers" 8-11pm, Town hall. www.shindigsvt.com Cover charge is \$8. each
- Nov 6:** 250th Hike-of-the-Month to Curtis Hill from Tunbridge Central School, 1 p.m.
- Nov 12:** Hunter's Breakfast- Tunbridge Grange, 4-9am

Tunbridge Town Website

Rick Scully- 763-7474 email: rick@tunbridgevt.com

Thanks to all who have been submitting items for the official townwebsite (www.tunbridgevt.com), especially for the many 250th Anniversary events. If you would like to add your event to the website, please email me at the address above.

Tunbridge Historical Society

Euclid Farnham 889-3458 Kay Jorgensen 889-5528

The Tunbridge Historical Society will take part in the Aug. 20 White River Valley Historical Fair at the S. Royalton School from 9-4. This event alternates with the Vermont Historical Society's Vermont History Expo. The society will exhibit enlargements of glass plate negative photographs taken by Carl King on Spring Road and around the area before 1904. Carl King's uncle was A.N. King, bank president and wealthy businessman who owned the village store and a lot of Tunbridge real estate. Brookie Ketchum, whose Monarch Hill home is owned by her grandson Todd Ketchum, was Carl's granddaughter. Brookie's son Karl recently gave the historical society a disk with the images.

Fair speakers will include Euclid Farnham on Vermont in the Civil War and Bill Johansen on Bethel's Italian community. The fair will feature the Rochester Valley Players, authors, exhibits and artisans.

The historical society will host the annual Ghost Walk living history program on Oct. 9 at Hunt Cemetery, North Tunbridge, at 1:30. Rain date is Oct. 16.

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 or come back for renewed strength, energy and balance.

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

Soon tax bills will go out and the lister phone will begin ringing. The conversation will go something like this:

Caller: Why did you raise my taxes! I can't afford to live here if this continues.

Lister: The tax rate went up. I don't think we increased your assessment. Let me check. No, your assessment is the same as last year. Your taxes are higher because the tax rate is higher.

Caller: Well, what are you going to do about it! It isn't fair. When I bought my house I only paid a few hundred dollars, now the bill is thousands.

Lister: We sure do wish we could reduce everyone's taxes including ours. But the lister board just doesn't have the power to determine how much the town spends. At town meeting we voted for lots of increased spending, new equipment and the like. We will be more than happy to discuss your assessment, but, unfortunately, there is nothing we can do about your taxes.

An increase in taxes is frustrating. We the citizens vote on whether to accept or reject the budgets prepared by the selectmen and the school board. If you are concerned about your tax burden, call a select board or a school board member and discuss with them the budget on which you will ultimately vote.

The only time the Listers can take an action that may result in a reduction of taxes is if the property depreciates in value, like you tear down part of your house or let it fall down from neglect, or you create a dump site next to your home. You get the idea. Note: We said "may" result, because if the tax rate increases substantially, your taxes could increase despite a reduction in property value.

Meanwhile, lister board members are here to serve, and if you have any questions about your assessed value, we are most pleased to answer them. We actually like talking about market values and other things that have to do with our job. Call any time. If we are not in the office, we'll get back to you. Or if the matter is pressing, give us a call at home.

In another matter, we are doing our rotational inspections in the southwest portion of town. This is NOT another reappraisal (thank heavens!). These inspections are drive-bys or quick walk-arounds to determine if there has been any changes in the property. Because our town has no notification process, this is the only way for us to keep up on any major changes that might alter the value of a property.

Tunbridge Select Board

Tom Mullen, Chair (889-9499)

Ingrid Van Steamburg (889-3459) Bob Dunkle (889-3740)

The town folk have been enjoying the summer. There have been some great turnouts for the 250th celebrations. We would like to say thank you to all the volunteers who have put forth a grand effort to make these celebrations a success. The weather has been quite cooperative for the majority of the season and we hope to have a wonderful Fall Season as well.

We have completed the purchase of the former Mark Green Property next to the Recreation field. This was done with the towns' approval at the Special Town Meeting held last summer. The purchase was funded 50% from the town and 50% from a grant. The Recreation Department went to work on the demolition almost immediately after the purchase was complete. Tom Wells donated his time and his excavator to demolish the old building. We would like to say thanks to him and our road crew who helped with the cleanup. The area looks much improved. We are looking forward to hearing from the Recreation Department in regards to future plans for this area.

The Foundry Bridge Project will soon be completed in its' entirety with the finish of pavement to both ends of the bridge. The pavement, previously scheduled for late last Fall, was postponed due to the encroachment of the winter season and cold weather. The addition of this pavement should prove quite helpful to our road crew in maintaining the bridge and the road abutting it.

The highway crew is working diligently through the summer to keep the roadsides trimmed back and to keep the road surfaces smooth. We welcomed our road Foreman, Rodney Hoyt, back to working status in May. His return has been greatly appreciated by the select board, as well as the rest of the road crew. Our sand stockpile is being replenished in anticipation of another winter season. Road re-surfacing is being completed on an "as needed" basis. Ditching and Culverts will be on the forefront of our concerns as we move into the coming season. If you have any concerns relating to the Highway Department, road conditions, etc... please call or come to one of our meeting. We welcome any/all to express their concerns and opinions. **3**

Farm to School

Mary Zentara - 889-5637

Farm to School is taking root at Tunbridge Central School and within the community. Exciting activities, programs, and learning opportunities have been cultivated and more are on deck for the upcoming school year.

F2S Happenings Over the Past School Year:

- TCS began a school wide composting program funded by the Central Vermont Solid Waste District. Several tons of food waste were diverted from the landfill, picked up by the Solid Waste District, and turned into garden compost.
- Students, led by Stephanie Loeffler during the After School Program, planted peas, carrots, potatoes, and beans in the School Garden. Over the summer, a group of children in the One Planet Program tended the garden, harvested vegetables, and enjoyed eating fresh peas right off the vine.
- Wendy Palthey from Tunbridge Hill Farm shared her knowledge about food and farming and provided fresh veggies for students to sample during the After School Program.
- Students participated in a year long Healthy Snacks Program.
- One Planet After School Program offered cooking classes taught by Abby Brabham.
- Elaine Howe read food and farm related books to multiple grades.

F2S Plans for the Upcoming 2011-12 Year:

- Carrots, potatoes, and beans will be harvested from the School Garden by students in TOP and served in the cafeteria.
- Elizabeth Dutton was awarded a science unit grant. This will provide an opportunity for students to study botany in the fall, food and where it comes from in the winter, and plan a class garden in the spring.
- Cooking classes using local food will be offered during the After School Program.
- "Taste of Tunbridge" for parents and students to sample local food from area farms and get to know local farmers.
- School wide taste testing of local food and recipes.
- Local food such as carrots and greens will be served in the cafeteria this fall.
- Farmer panel to talk with students.
- Building a bread oven at TCS. And more...

Community support will be a main ingredient in the recipe for long-term success of the program! If you are interested in being a part of this local farm and food endeavor, please join us at the next F2S meeting on Tuesday, September 20th, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. All are welcome!

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami- Parent Volunteer 889-5575

Back-to-School Potluck: All are invited to come celebrate the start of the school year on Wednesday, August 31 from 6:00-7:30pm at TCS. It is an opportunity to mingle with returning families and to meet new families while enjoying a meal together. In addition, each family in attendance will receive a complimentary Jump In! magazine and a Green Gift Pack courtesy of PTO Today. 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, bookkeeping, fundraising, event planning, public relations, cooking/baking, etc. are helpful.

What are School Club funds used for? School Club typically 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 back-to-school potluck, open house, staff holiday breakfast, winter carnival, spring concert, teacher appreciation week, graduation, the end-of-the-year picnic and more.

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. 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 regularly 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 9/12, 10/ 3 and 11/ 7. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

Tunbridge Select Board, Con't

The board watched the budget closely as the Fiscal Year End approached on June 30th. We had concern that the budget would be tight due to the harsh Winter and Spring seasons. But, with a watchful eye on the spending we were able to make it through, "in the black". We are pleased to inform you that there was, indeed, a surplus in both the Selectman's and the highway budgets.

The board completed the annual personnel evaluations during the month of June. This process gives the town employees the opportunity to consult with the Board about their job duties, responsibilities, and performance over the past year. We believe it to be a worthwhile process and look to continue with it on an annual basis.

We continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month and invite all interested folks to attend. If you have a specific concern or topic that you wish the board to address, please contact Wendy McCullough, our Administrative Assistant, to be put on the agenda. As a reminder, we will be working on the Fiscal Budget for 2012-13 during the upcoming months, primarily in November. If you would like to be involved or have any questions please call or come to a meeting.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

Mon.- Thurs: 7:30 - 3pm

The Board of Civil Authority will be meeting in August to work on purging of the checklist. By State Statue this needs to be done every odd year by a date set in September.

If you want to purchase a 250th T-Shirt they are available at the Town Clerk's Office, and the Library; \$10 each or 3 for \$20.

The Transfer Station Hours for Wednesdays are 4:30pm-7:30pm through September 28th. Saturdays remain the same 9:00am-3:00pm. The Transfer Station will be CLOSED on Saturday September 17th (Fair weekend).

Call Wendy at the clerk's office with any questions or concerns.

Tunbridge School Board

Lorinda Oliver – lorinda.oliver@gmail.com – 889-9462

Kathy Galluzzo - GALLUZZK@nationwide.com – 603-252-0352

Lois Gross - loisannegross@gmail.com – 889-5679

Walking through the halls of the school right now would lead a guest to believe that we will never be ready for the return of students in a few short weeks. It seems that every classroom is undergoing some sort of deep cleaning, a repair project, or is in use by our fantastic summer program – or a combination of all three! But this is a typical summer in the cycle of a school and we will soon be pulling everything back together in final preparation for the return of well rested students who are excited about spending their days inside learning (well, at least we will be ready!)

It has been a busy summer for us all, and we are all feeling very positive about the start of this year. For those that have students in the school please watch your mailbox for a separate mailer from the school with more logistical details about the start of the year, but here are a few important dates for everyone until then:

- Monday, August 15 – School Board Meeting – 6:30 PM
- Monday, August 29 – School starts at 8:30 AM
- Wednesday, August 31 – 6 to 7:30 PM – Back to School Pot-luck with the School Club providing beverages and supplies
- Friday, September 2 and Monday, September 5 – No school
- Monday, September 19 – School Board Meeting – 6:30 PM

For everyone else, stay tuned to learn more about the changes that have been made and why we are excited about them!

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 janet@zugglass.com

Questions, comments or suggestions about the TQ can be directed to me at the contact info above.

ECFiber

East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network

Janet Zug 889-9602

ECFiber is now providing high-speed Internet services! Our Phase 1 project of connecting folks on a 26mile loop from the home office in Royalton thru Bethel to Barnard and back is moving right along. The first “beta” customers, folks who are testing it out for us, were turned on this week (Aug 1st). Soon we will begin connecting customers all along this first route.

Plans for continuing to raise money locally to connect all 23 towns are underway. If you are interested in talking about investing in this project to build a fiber-optic network specifically in Tunbridge please contact me at the phone number above or send me an email to janet@zugglass.com.

ECFiber has a newly created and often updated website at www.ecfiber.net. Keep your eyes on the site for further information on the status of the project.

Tunbridge One Planet Afterschool Program

Cynthia Perry 889-3310

We had 36 Tunbridge children in kindergarten through sixth grade participate in this year’s Summer Program. Here are just a few things they did this summer:

- Learned basics of using GPS units (led by Upper Valley Trails Alliance). Students used their GPS units to navigate from one location to another, and collected ingredients for trail mix along the way.
- Learned how to get “unlost” in the woods and build a fire safely
- Hiked Mount Tom
- Went swimming at the Aquatic Center
- Took a drumming workshop and participated in a drum circle with students and parents from Tunbridge, South Royalton and Sharon
- Identified constellations in a blow-up planetarium during a workshop led by the Montshire Museum
- Went kayaking at Silver Lake in Barnard
- Did a historical scavenger hunt in Town of Tunbridge
- Curled up with a good book at the Tunbridge Library
- Participated in 2 weeks of swimming lessons at VTC
- Learned how to knit, make candles, and shoot a bow and arrow.

What a summer!

Tunbridge Library

Librarian_ Jean Wolfe 889-5577

Publicity, ArtSpace Coordinator: Marsha Higgins 889-5576

Hours: Mon and Wed 3-8, Thurs & Fri 3-6, Sat 10-4

The fall Children's Story Hour schedule is as follows: Sept. 8 & 20 - "Before and After the Fair" Story Walks, Oct. 6 & 20 - "Harvest: Apple & Pumpkins," Nov. 3 & 17 - "Stone Soup Making & Eating!," Dec. 8 only - "Giving."

On the 20th of September, Jennie and the Arts Bus will return to the Tunbridge Library for a special class designed for parents: Woodworking with Children. Jennie will demonstrate how the art of woodworking can be enjoyed by even the youngest of children. The projects she will present are suitable for preschoolers and up, and she provides tips on how to find low-cost and no-cost materials and tools. Jennie's class will be from 6 to 7:30pm. Please contact Jennie to pre-register for this parent workshop at: 802-236-9173, or artwithjennie@gmail.com. Be sure and visit the Arts Bus's new website: www.artsbus.or

ArtSpace at the library is currently featuring through September 23 a varied exhibit of over 25 area artists. The theme of the show is "Artists Envisioning Tunbridge: Celebrating 250 Years of History." The next show, October 7 - December 3, will feature the sculpture of Dr. Chris Wilson. A public opening reception is planned for Friday, October 7, 7-9PM.

This year's Ghost Walk, co-sponsored with the Historical Society, will be held on Sunday, October 24 at the Hunt Cemetery in North Tunbridge. Meet at the library at 1:15 to carpool. Rain date is Oct. 16. The annual meeting of the Friends of the Tunbridge Public Library is planned for Friday, Oct. 21, 6:30 PM 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.

Anyone of any age who is interested in forming a creative writing group at the library should contact Ben Wolfe; a sign-up sheet will be available at the desk.

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)

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue

Pam Caron- 889- 9595

First Branch Ambulance and Rescue is going to be replacing our ambulance in the near future. Our current one is over 10 years old and we have been experiencing an increase in repair costs. We have spent a great deal of time working on options and ways to finance this venture. After much research it was felt by the board that our best option was to purchase a new ambulance. We are currently getting bids and working on several grant applications to help offset this cost. We will then be doing a fund raising effort to build our capital fund toward this purchase. If anyone is interested in helping with this effort please contact me or anyone else on the board or squad.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Merle Howe 889-5574

The Civic Club is hosting a Variety Show to be held on Saturday, October 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall in celebration of the town's 250th. Admission is free, but donations will greatly be accepted.

The Civic Club will be celebrating its 60th year in March 2012 so you won't want to miss out on all the fun we have planned.

Tunbridge Recreation Committee

Carrie McDonnell 889-3463

We are happy to announce that the first phase of the Tunbridge Recreation Area Revitalization Project has been completed! In mid July, the Town of Tunbridge purchased the parcel of land adjacent to the town ball field. \$4500 of this purchase is reimbursable thanks to a Land and Water Conversation Grant the town received in 2010. In late July, Tom Wells took down and removed the dilapidated metal barn on this property. We would like to thank him for generously volunteering his equipment and time. We encourage you all to swing by the ballfield and admire the much improved recreation area!

The White River Partnership has been doing weekly bacterial testing on the Tunbridge Town Pool tributary to determine water quality. The weekly results have been within the safe "swimmable" standard, so we encourage you to take a dip!

State Representative

Sarah Buxton - 802-828-2228 sbuxton@leg.state.vt.us

The recent debate in Washington surrounding our nation's fiscal health has highlighted the importance of balanced spending when revenue streams become unsteady. For decades, Vermont has demonstrated an arguably masterful proficiency in this area, leaving us in "good" shape relative to other states. The state's fiscal year ended on June 30th and reports show that we are starting to regain financial strength, demonstrated by an uptick in revenues. This is great news for Vermonters because it indicates stability, helping the legislature to better predict the availability of funds we manage.

While our state's financial health could easily be the envy of Washington lawmakers, Vermonters aren't feeling great relief yet. The two biggest cost complaints raised by constituents are related to health care or property tax. We spent a large part of the 2011 session devising a coherent system of health care administration that could lessen the cost for Vermonters. Ultimately, we authorized a pathway to a "fewer-payer" (as opposed to a single-payer) universal health care system. By October 1st, a handful of appointed officials will start working to design a structure, select a menu of services, and review funding options for the plan. The magnitude of the problem is enormous and consequences of "getting it wrong" could be severe. This is why we are taking the time to research, answer, and design a system that is right for Vermont.

Next session, I expect the House will focus on property tax reform. We passed a bill this spring that calls for a detailed study of Act 68 review will be submitted to the legislature in January and will likely be the basis for substantial property tax reform bills next spring.

The Vermont Department of Labor has announced temporary employment opportunities in the counties affected by May's devastating floods. Workers who have been temporarily dislocated as a result of the flooding, dislocated workers who are unemployed and not receiving government support, and workers who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or longer may qualify for these temporary jobs. Residency in an affected county is not required. Contact me at sbuxton@leg.state.vt.us or 763-0777 if you are interested in applying.

In other news, I was selected to join 50 other "Emerging Leaders" at a National Legislative Leaders Conference in Charlottesville, VA in July. I really enjoyed connecting with colleagues in other states and discussing ways to do our jobs better. In preparation for the conference we were required to read several books, including Tony Wagner's "The Global Achievement Gap." I highly recommend it.

I am delighted to report that Tunbridge is gaining another resident very soon. I am purchasing a home in town and look forward to the first time Speaker Smith refers to me as "The Member from Tunbridge." According to Euclid, it has been about 40 years since the House Chamber has heard those words uttered!

September 18: "Festival of Worship" at 9:30 a.m. in the Tunbridge Church.

October 14-16: "Christmas Shoppe in October"

Vendors from four states with a variety of wares will fill the Parsonage, a tent on the lawn and Town Hall for the second annual Christmas Shoppe to benefit Parsonage restoration.

The "Christmas Shoppe in October" will open Friday, Oct. 14, with a preview party featuring wine and hors d'oeuvres from 5:30-8 p.m. A silent auction will be held Friday night and during Saturday's 10-5 shoppe hours. High Tea will be served on Saturday.

Lunch will be available Sunday, with vendors selling from 10-3.

November 6: Annual Stewardship Potluck Luncheon in the Town Hall immediately following the worship service.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

The TVFD is running smoothly. We have strong leadership and a solid membership of dedicated community members who average roughly 10-12 volunteer hours per month each. The firehouse is in good order and the trucks are in good working condition. We have done some improvements to the facility in the past year including paving the driveway (via use of donation funds only) and replaced the hot water heater. In July a number of our volunteers participated in the Town's 250th celebration picnic/photo day with interactive activities for kids including a close up demo of the smoke trailer, Smokey the Bear, Sparky the Dog and free cotton candy for all.

On October 14th we will sponsor our 3rd Ham & Bean Supper followed by some fabulous country western entertainment of music & cowboy poetry. Be on the lookout for more information this fall regarding location and time.

Please contact us if you know of any potential sites for future hydrant locations which can be funded by grants. We have installed many hydrants around town in, but there are still areas that need more water resources in the event of a fire. Also, we are always looking for old outbuildings or sheds that can be burned during one of our training events. If you know of either resource please contact Chief Durkee for more information.

Finally, our annual coin drop fund raiser will be held on Friday Sept.16th and Saturday Sept. 17th. 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 Church

Deadra Ashton - 685-3029

Sunday Worship services are held at 10am.

Our music department's next big event will be preparation for and presentation of our annual "Festival of Worship" service on Sept. 18. This service is a happy, mostly musical service always scheduled for the Sunday of the Tunbridge World's Fair. The theme this year is "Let It Shine" It promises to be an uplifting service about the light of love that comes from God and moves through all of us.

Traditionally our regular church choir is augmented with singers from around the area. We have always particularly enjoyed preparing for this service and encourage anyone who likes to sing to join in the fun. The service will include songs offered by area musicians, who usually spice up the service with styles of music not generally used in our regular worship services.

Rehearsals for the adult choir will begin on Aug. 10 at 7pm. Children's choir rehearsals will begin on Aug. 24 at 6pm. If you have questions, call music director Judie Lewis, 889-9490,

Calendar of Church Events

Every Friday: The Food Shelf, located in the Parish House, is open from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Every Wednesday: The Mid-Week Bible Study group meets at 5:30 in the Parish House.

Every Sunday morning, October-June: Bible Study at 8:45 a.m. in the Parish House.

August 7-28: Services will be held in the N.Tunbridge Baptist Church.

August 7: The Parish Council meets at 7:00 in the Parish House.

August 21, children and youth ages five and older are invited to come to the Parish House from 2:00pm-5:30pm for an afternoon of Bible stories, crafts, theater and music. Healthy snacks and drinks will be provided. People of all ages are invited to attend the family night immediately after from 5:30-7:00pm on the Parish House lawn. In addition to providing roasting hot dogs and marshmallows, we'll have a salad bar. Bring a prepared vegetable, topping, dressing, etc. to share, if you wish. Both events are rain or shine. In the event of wet weather, we will move activities indoors.

September 1: Bell Ringing for Tunbridge's 250th Anniversary Celebration; bells will be rung at all three churches at 6:00. Potluck picnic on the Parish House lawn at 6:30.

September 4: Services will, once again, be held in the Tunbridge Church through the month of June.

Tunbridge Grange #384

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

The National Grange is the nation's oldest national agricultural organization, with grassroots units established in 2,700 local communities in 37 states. The Grange provides opportunities for individuals and families to develop to their highest potential in order to build stronger communities and states, as well as a stronger nation.

The Grange works to accomplish this mission through:

Fellowship

- We give our members the opportunity to meet with and get to know their neighbors in a safe, family-friendly atmosphere
- We provide a place where children, youth, and adults can grow, develop their talents and social skills, and learn leadership techniques

Service

- We provide our members with the opportunity to discover and solve community needs
- We give assistance to individuals in crisis
- We provide a great place for community networking

Legislation

- We have a grassroots approach to local, state and federal legislative change
- We give our members a voice in state and federal government forums

The North Tunbridge Grange has been a vital asset to our community for 100 years. In an effort to keep the mission alive we are looking to recruit children and younger folks interested in learning the values of the Grange and helping to make our community a better place. Call Mert at the number above if interested.

Upcoming Grange events include; Open House days for the community on Aug. 13th from 10-12 and Aug. 28th from 12-2. The 250 quilt will be on display and raffle tickets will be on sale. On Sept. 23rd a Spaghetti Supper will be held to sponsor Jessica Chase who is running for the Miss Vermont title. The Harvest Supper will be held on October 15th starting at 5pm. The quilt will be raffled off on this evening. On November 12th the Hunter's Breakfast will be held from 4-9am.

Meetings of the Tunbridge Grange, located in North Tunbridge, are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm and last approximately an hour and a half.

More National Grange info can be found at www.nationalgrange.org

Tunbridge 250th Anniversary Committee

Kay Jorgensen - 889-5528 Euclid Farnham 889-3458

See the Calendar for times and places

Two major 250th events in July were publication of “Tunbridge Cooks,” a unique historical cookbook, and installation of “Welcome to Tunbridge” signs on Route 110.

Copies of the town photo Michael Sacca took at the picnic may be ordered at the library. A copy is on display at the library and can be seen in low resolution on the town Web site at <http://tunbridgevt.com>

Two big 250th events are coming up — the 250th Bell Ringing and 250th Variety Show.

Bells at the three Tunbridge churches will each be rung 250 times at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 1. The Tunbridge Church will host a potluck on the Parsonage lawn at 6:30, followed by a stroll to the library — reminiscent of the parade of people, wagons and carts that moved the library collection to the new building 10 years ago.

The library trustees and staff invite everyone to come for dessert, a look at the “Tunbridge - The Past” art exhibit and to choose a book to take home from a special selection. The exhibit will continue to Sept. 23.

The Tunbridge Civic Club will host a 250th Variety Show at the Town Hall on Oct. 8. The free (donations requested) show will feature the following groups, dancers and individuals:

Harold Luce and Bonnie Tucker, Butch Howe and Jim Wick, High Country Cloggers, The Woodshed Wailers, Paul Rivers and Rebecca Paige, B Flat and the Side Burns, Mountain House Swing Dancers, Charlie Boothroyd and John Nadeau, Troy Arnold, Step ‘n’ Time Line Dancers, Rev. Stovepipe, Gail Osha, Sweet Country, and Janice Covey.

The “Tunbridge - The Past” exhibit at the North Tunbridge Baptist Church and the Tunbridge Grange painted stage curtain open house will be open for the final time from 12-2 on Sunday, Aug. 28.

The last three 250th Hikes of the Month are: Sept. 4, Old Hurricane Hill; Oct. 2, Brocklebank Hill; and Nov. 6, Curtis Hill.

The library is selling “Tunbridge Cooks” and 250th logo T-shirts. The 250th Committee will also sell them at some 250th and historical society events and the fair as long as they last.

The 250th Committee also sells a reprinted 1877 town map showing property owners of the time and magnets, notecards and postcards featuring town photos. Free copies of “A Guide to Places of Interest in Tunbridge” and “The Early Years” booklet on the 1780 Tunbridge Indian Raid history are available at the 250 table, library and town offices.

Still to come are a Tunbridge 250th DVD featuring historical documents, movies and photos and a published collection of Euclid Farnham’s Behind the Times articles on Tunbridge history.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jim Wick- 889-889-3437

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 need 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: Brenda Field, Rick Scully, Felicity Swayze, Adam Smith, Pam Dietz, Jim Wick, David Wolfe.

Heating Fuel Assistance Fund

Ben Wolfe - 889-9467

The Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Committee is charged with administering no-interest loans to Tunbridge residents to buy necessary heating fuel. With fuel costs high and an economy that is less than vigorous, the need for the fund this winter will be greater than ever. This is a loan, not a grant program, and the fund is made up entirely of individual donations. To that end, half all proceeds from the Tunbridge 250 T-shirts goes to the Fuel Assistance Fund. We also look to those in the community that may be able to make donations to this fund. Checks may be made out to the “Town of Tunbridge,” with “Fuel Assistance” in the memo line, and donations may be sent to: Town Treasurer, P.O. Box 6; Tunbridge, VT 05077.

On Thursday, October 13th, at 6 pm, the Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Committee will hold its annual meeting at the Town Offices to discuss the state of this fund, and how best to administer the fund to meet the need of applicants for the upcoming year. Applications for these loans are available at the Town Clerk’s Office, the Food Shelf, and the Public Library, and can be obtained any time these facilities are open. Call Ben Wolfe with questions and ideas or email at: benjamin.m.wolfe@gmail.com