

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly  
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Tunbridge, VT 05077

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# The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

November 15, 2012  
issue #30

## Tunbridge Planning Commission

Sue Clark 889-3733

Work on the Town Plan rewrite has been completed with the assistance of Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission. The current plan expired in October after its five year life. Due to Irene last fall, work on the new edition was delayed and therefore the rewrite is just now wrapping up. It will soon be available for public comment. Please watch for notification. There were no major changes to the work done five years ago, a testament to the work done by the Planning Commission of that time. We have, however, added much to the section on Agriculture as a result of our efforts over the last two years looking at the history of development in Tunbridge and the changes over time to our farms and the lands they utilize.

Looking to the future, our tasks involve participating in Hazard Mitigation planning, working with Peg Elmer.

The time is ripe to be sure we are well prepared for events that could potentially change the face of Tunbridge if we do not give this serious consideration. Please take note of activities involving Peg and/or Hazard Mitigation planning. It is essential we hear from the community.

We will also be following up on two of our projects by recommending creation of committees that will each concentrate on one of two Tunbridge priorities: the Town Forest, and Agriculture. We have been so busy with the Town Plan that we have not had time to devote to initiating these groups. If you have an interest in learning more, please contact a member of the planning commission.

## The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 [janet@zugglass.com](mailto:janet@zugglass.com)

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

## Calendar of Events See individual entries for more events.

- Nov. 17 - Wellspring Waldorf School Holiday Fair, 9-3, [info@wellspringwaldorfschool.org](mailto:info@wellspringwaldorfschool.org), 889-3777
- Nov. 18 - Community Waste Vegetable Oil Filtration/Transportation Workshop. 2pm. 25 Clarksville Rd. 802-431-3433
- Nov. 29 - Public meeting on Tunbridge's Hazard Mitigation Plan Town Hall 6:30pm. Free dessert! More info: Peg Elmer 802-522-3844. [www.tunbridgev.com](http://www.tunbridgev.com)
- Dec. 1 - Shindig with "Sensible Shoes". Town Hall, 8-11pm Cover charge \$8. [www.shindigsvt.com](http://www.shindigsvt.com)
- Dec. 9- Rec Committee Breakfast. Town Hall, 8am-12pm All-you-can-eat for only \$8.00
- Dec. 31 - Shindig with "The Starline Rhythm Boys". Town Hall 9pm-12:30am. Cover charge \$15. Advance tickets are required for this Shindig only. call 889-9602 or purchase online at [www.shindigsvt.com](http://www.shindigsvt.com)
- Jan. 11 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 donation
- Jan. 13 - Rec Committee Breakfast. Town Hall, 8am-12pm All-you-can-eat for only \$8.00
- Jan. 19 - Mountain Folk presents "Andrew and Noah Band" in concert . Town Hall, 7:30pm. Tickets \$15./advance, \$20./door. [www.andrewandnoah.com](http://www.andrewandnoah.com) or [www.mtnfolk.org](http://www.mtnfolk.org)
- Jan. 23- Wellspring Waldorf School Open Classroom 8:30-10:30, RSVP at 889-3777 or [info@wellspringwaldorfschool.org](mailto:info@wellspringwaldorfschool.org)
- Jan. 26 - Wellspring Waldorf School; Open House. 10am-12pm
- Feb. 2 - Shindig with "Don't Tell Mutha" featuring Bill Temple and Pete Meijer. Town Hall, 8-11pm [www.shindigsvt.com](http://www.shindigsvt.com)
- Feb. 8 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 donation
- Feb. 10 - Rec. Committee Breakfast. Town Hall, 8am-12pm All-you-can-eat for only \$8.00.

## **Tunbridge Civic Club**

Maxine Young, Secretary - 763-8274

Merle Howe, President – 889-5574

The Civic Club held its annual meeting on October 1, 2012. The rules of the show were discussed and tabled for a larger group discussion. General feeling is that the rules are not flexible enough. The motion was made, seconded and passed to have a show in March 2013. The date will be set after discussion with music director. Maxine will be responsible for advertising and assisting music director; Butch for overall director; decorating by everyone who is interested. The motion was made, seconded and passed to set admission at \$8.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 12 and under.

Motion made to keep same slate of officers who are President-Merle Howe; Vice-President-Butch Howe; Treasurer-Jim Wick; and Secretary-Maxine Young; seconded and passed.

We are looking forward to another great show - this will be the 61st. What a wonderful tradition for our town. In spite of the amount of work that goes into having this show, the end result is so satisfying and worthwhile - and the benefit to civic causes so beneficial. More information to follow in the next TQ!!

## **Tunbridge Women's Group**

Pam Dietz 889-3315

Inviting women of all ages and walks of life to gather monthly to share a meal and to meet, converse and share common interests. For information call Pam Dietz

## **Tunbridge Better Bones**

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

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

Mon & Wed. - 8:30am

Classes at the Town Hall are free with weights provided. Come join us or come back for renewed strength, energy and balance.

## **Tunbridge Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Peg Elmer- 802-522-3844

Are You Prepared? Do you think Tunbridge is Well-Prepared?

The Tunbridge Planning Commission is drafting an update to the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan, required by FEMA in order for property owners to be able to buy flood insurance. Given what's happening with weather events nationally, federal legislation required this planning process 8 yrs ago, intending that community planning and preparation will lessen losses from future disaster events.

Under a special planning grant from FEMA, the Tunbridge planning process is a pilot, along with the town of Hartford, to establish a broader effort to gain public input into the plan, and to address issues related to social and business support that have been lacking in past plans nationally and here in Vermont.

We need two things from Tunbridge residents in November: your input before and your presence at a Public Meeting at the Town Hall on November 29 at 6:30 p.m.

1. The input: You don't have to respond individually. If you like, make it a family or a group exercise with friends. There are two surveys to fill out: a Hazards History Checklist and a Vulnerability Audit, both of which are available to pick up and drop off at the Town Clerk's Office or at the Tunbridge Library. They are also downloadable from [www.Tunbridgevt.com](http://www.Tunbridgevt.com)

2. Your presence: we'll have dessert waiting for you if you'll join us at the public meeting on November 29 at the Town Hall. We'll provide background, discuss the survey results and brainstorm options with you that we can take to be better prepared for future disasters. Please put the date on your calendar!

Please call Peg Elmer, who's working with the Planning Commission on this project, at 802-522-3844, with any questions.

## **Tunbridge Select Board**

Bob Dunkle, Chair (889-3740) Tom Mullen, (889-9499)  
Ingrid Van Steamburg (889-3459)

This past quarter has been relatively quiet for the Selectboard. We dodged a big bullet as a town with Hurricane Sandy going South. While we are grateful for the reprieve our hearts go out to those who did not fare as well in New York and New Jersey.

We are currently looking for a new member for the town Road Crew, because Sonny Moses is retiring and we would like to thank him for his years of service in keeping our roads passable and maintained.

We are working on the budgets and updating policies and ordinances. Currently under review are the town bid policy and dog ordinance.

## **Tunbridge Town Clerk**

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

Hours; Monday - Wednesday 7:30am-3:00pm

Thursday - 7:30am-11:30am-1:00pm-3:00pm

Results for Tunbridge for the Nov. 06, 2012 General Election: 995 registered voters with 776 voting; 617 voters voted at the polls; 159 absentee.

Justices of the Peace elected: Term to begin February 01, 2013: Euclid Farnham, Gordon Barnaby, Robert Howe, Marsha Higgins, Helen O'Donnell, Louise Barreda and John O'Brien.

A reminder to new parents; if you are a resident of Tunbridge and have a child born out of the State of Vermont in the year 2012. I do not receive out of state birth certificates. If you want your birth information included in the 2012 town report, please send me the information before December 01, 2012.

Please call with any questions or concerns that you may have.

## **Tunbridge Treasurer**

Lynn Laskowski 889-3571 treasurer@tunbridge.biz

## **The First Branch Sustainability Network**

Henry Swayze 889-5556

Oil, gas and electricity are becoming more and more expensive. Climate change is becoming more and more intrusive. Last year Vermont suffered two "100 year floods" in nine months. This year we have watched heat waves and wild fires to our west, Sandy to our south and the almost total loss of sea ice in the arctic. The legislative detailing is coming together for a concerted effort to reduce our carbon inputs at a local and state level. The time is right for Tunbridge to take action.

Pace should have its funding source lined up by the beginning of next year. It is a program to do energy improvements on your house that will actually earn you dollars year by year while paying for the improvements. Theodor Fetter is heading up the organization for this in Tunbridge.

tbfetter@gmail.com, 336-301-4010

Sustainable energy deployment for the community is now more than likely to be cost effective as well as green. We must consider a large photovoltaic panel farm, small and large wind projects and soon rule making on permitting hydro will all be done so it to can be considered. Each of these technologies can make us energy independent and give us the option to drive on electricity as well. These projects are likely to include involvement from adjoining towns. Watch for an upcoming meeting around December 4th or contact Henry Swayze 889-5556, henryswayze@gmail.com or Todd Tyson 802-431-3433, folkbloke@hotmail.com

There is lots of room for additional ideas and activities in moving us towards becoming a more resilient community taking a leadership position for others to follow. Please join in.

## **Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Jim Wick - 889-3437

For several years Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors has been providing services to local residents through volunteer action. If you need assistance please call: **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.

## **Tunbridge School Club**

Kathi Terami- 889-5575 schoolclub@tunbridge.k12.vt.us  
**Chicken Pie Supper:** On October 27, School Club hosted the Chicken Pie Supper as a fundraiser for the school. Nearly 200 diners enjoyed a meal of biscuit-topped chicken pie, vegetable potpie, mashed potatoes, squash, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, beverages and a slice of homemade pie. School Club raised over \$1,300 that will go towards enrichment activities for students. Several area farms, businesses and individuals contributed ingredients. Many volunteers, led by Amy Bogardus, Janet Kennedy and Lynn Tabor, worked together to plan and prepare the meal. Joanne Herrick organized the middle school students who expertly served the meal. As a bonus this year, 30 children who arrived in costume received a \$5 gift certificate from School Club to spend at the Scholastic Book Fair set up on site during the supper.

**Fair Supper Committee Needs Volunteers:** Planning for the biggest School Club fundraiser of the year is well underway. Each year on the first Saturday in December, School Club prepares a four-course meal for the Tunbridge Fair Association's annual meeting. To minimize expenses and maximize earnings, School Club will seek monetary and food donations from area businesses and donations of time and ingredients from parents. Volunteers Chad Barnaby, Eleni Howe and Jen Thygesen are planning the menu and will coordinate all volunteers including those who will solicit donations, set up and decorate tables, prepare and serve the meal and clean up the dining room and dishes. If you are interested in helping please email schoolclub@tunbridge.k12.vt.us to express your interest.

**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 December 3, January 7 and February 4. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved! Children may come along to do homework, read, play games or watch a family-friendly movie in the library.

## **Tunbridge School Board**

Lorinda Oliver – lorinda.oliver@gmail.com – 889-9462  
Kathy Galluzzo - galluzk@nationwide.com - 802-565-0695  
Amy Frost – asf802@gmail.com – 889-3739

Exciting things are happening in so many areas at the Tunbridge Central School that it is hard to know where to start. In the areas of leadership and governance we are focusing on the future and have created a mission statement that will ensure that we are all working towards the same goal. With this mission in mind, Principal Rick Talbot has created a detailed action plan for the year. The action plan focuses on five key areas: reading/writing, mathematics, classroom technology, quality of teaching staff and special education – each with specific, measurable goals and time-lines.

In direct connection to this long-term plan, the school is undertaking a significant review of its curriculum mapping and content (i.e. what we teach, and when we teach it.) The staff has willingly taken on this time consuming but important task, recognizing that proper curriculum and alignment could be what we need to achieve great things. As they proceed, they will be further assisted by the OWSU curriculum coordinator, district wide meetings and workshops.

Many community members have seen a special trailer at the school for a few weeks this fall. Underwritten in part the Ronald McDonald House Foundation for aspects not covered by insurance, this dental trailer provides basic dental services (hygiene, fluoride and x-rays) twice a year for people through the age of 21. This program does not eliminate the need for a regular dentist as patients do need to see that provider every two years, but it supplements that care in a convenient and private setting. We are pleased to join the other schools in the area that share this trailer as it helps provide access to quality dental care at minimal cost to the community. ⇨

## **Tunbridge School Board, Con't.**

There are great things happening everywhere, even in the Food Service Program. Recently all OWSU schools developed and served the same menu for a single week in an exploration of sharing resources and increasing communication. It seemed like a simple task but organizers were quick to inform that it was more complex than originally anticipated, much like the Farm to School initiative. And bragging rights were earned recently by the Food Service Program as it had a perfect score of 100% during a state site health inspection. According to experts in the area this is extremely difficult to achieve. Congratulations, Abby!

We are proud and excited about the work that is occurring in the school this year and are looking forward to telling you more about it. As always, our meetings are on the third Monday of the month at the school and are open to the public.

## **Tunbridge Board of Auditors**

Elizabeth Bicknell, Maxine Young, Becky Hoyt

Rebecca (Becky) Hoyt was appointed to the vacant auditor position by the Selectboard. Welcome Becky!!

Photos for the Annual Report have been submitted, however, we would like more. The theme is "Farms of Tunbridge". The intention is to show the diversification of farming in Tunbridge. See previous TQ editions outlining our goal.

Just a reminder that the following deadlines will apply. For groups following a July-June fiscal year, all financial and narrative reports are due December 1, 2012. For those organizations following a calendar year, the reports are due January 7, 2013. If we do not receive reports by the deadlines, we cannot guarantee that we can include them in the Town Report. The auditors are working on the 2012 Town Report and have requested that if at all possible, as soon as the information is available, that it be submitted to the auditors at: [auditors@tunbridgevt.com](mailto:auditors@tunbridgevt.com). An early submission would be appreciated so that the auditors won't be working numerous hours in December and January.

## **Making Change**

Lisa Kippen- 889-9822

A substance abuse support group for young people fourteen to mid twenties who are considering or committed to getting clean and staying clean. Meetings are held on Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:30pm at the Parish House. [www.secondgrowth.org](http://www.secondgrowth.org)

## **Tunbridge One Planet Afterschool Program**

Phil Diamond - 889-3310

Here we are headed into the grip of winter, the days have shortened, our sunlight is farther and colder, and most importantly for us, the school year is in full swing. One Planet's first session turned out to be quite fun and enriching. The VT state "Learning Kitchen" program was a huge hit. Abby helped us prepare a meal in school and sent us home with the recipe and ingredients with the hopes that the same success could be had in our own kitchens. Phyllis supplied us with some very practical knowledge about money and how to use it. Under her supervision we were able to organize a popcorn and hot chocolate sale during a soccer game on an auspiciously cold afternoon. We were able to raise over \$90, an amount that took us completely by surprise! "Girls Group" was also a huge success. Peggy McKinley, a trained counselor, was able to work with our older girls and help them through some of the issues that a 21st century 'tween faces. And finally, Marion guided us through the world of "Needle Felting" where we all learned how to create imaginative figures using needles and wool.

Next Session is sure to be just as exciting. We will be offering activities such as Yoga, Self Reflective Art, Scrap Booking and Dance. On Fridays we'll be running the "Drumming for Success" program, a drumming class designed to improve our kids' confidence and self-esteem. We will be expanding our newfound Middle School Programming which will include "Art Club" and "Community Cooking" along with "Newspaper Club". Peggy's "Girls Group" will also remain, extended a full half hour because of its success. We're all very much looking forward to it. Stay warm.

## **Tunbridge Library**

Contact: Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404

Publicity, ArtSpace Co-ordinator: Marsha Higgins 889-5576

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

The library is always in need of volunteers; volunteers automatically become members of the Friends of the Tunbridge Public Library. The "Friends" is a group of people interested in helping the library meet its goals of service to the community. These volunteers assist with fundraising events, assist the librarian, plan community cultural events, provide refreshments for library activities, and help in many other ways to maintain our library as a strong community center. Come into the library, speak with Jean, and find out how your volunteer efforts can be matched with the needs of the library. The library is offering an ongoing book sale of brand new books on a variety of topics. All books are half the retail price and are suitable for gift giving. Sales benefit the library. ArtSpace at the library will feature the oils of local artist Myra Howe Hudson from 11/16/12-1/18/13. An opening public reception will be held on Friday, 11/16, 7-9 PM at the library. Sales of art benefit the library.

Santa will be the featured guest on Saturday, December 8; holiday stories will be read at 10:30. Children's story hours are regularly scheduled the first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:15 PM. Check the library website for themes and dates.

The library will be offering a lineup of outstanding Winter Evenings presenters. Updated details about Winter Evenings speakers will be available on the library's website and in the Herald. The programs are open to all; refreshments are served, and while the programs are free, a donation is welcomed.

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. Transfer station tickets are also on sale at the library. 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](http://www.tunbridgelibrary.org) )

## **ECFiber**

East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network

Henry Swayze 889-5556 Janet Zug 889-9602

ECFiber is working to build a fiber-optic network in their 23 member towns through private investments. Investments secured in earlier closings are being used to build the first line thru Tunbridge.

ECFiber is expecting to have the first south east route built by the end of February. This route runs up Rt 110 to Button Hill and into Strafford over Kibling Rd.

Another route is being considered through north west Tunbridge. Pole applications have been submitted which gets the process moving but ECFiber still needs 70-100K more in investments to build it. This route makes a loop, starting in Chelsea at Moxley Road, traveling on Rt 110 to Chelsea Mtn Road. From Chelsea Mtn Rd to the left onto Dickerman Hill, down to the right onto Whitney Hill. The route includes all of Whitney Hill then goes left back up Rt 110 to Moxley Rd to complete the loop.

The connection at Moxley Road is possible due to funding provided by the Vermont Telecommunications Authority in building a backbone fiber line starting there and going North into Chelsea and Vershire.

Please contact Henry or Janet if you are willing and able to invest in getting ECFiber's services built in Tunbridge. You may also contact the Treasurer directly; John Roy [john.roy@ecfiber.net](mailto:john.roy@ecfiber.net) 685-3151

It would be great to fund and build other routes but will take additional investment to make it happen soon. The next closing is December 3rd and is still scheduled to pay just over 6% interest. Future closings are likely to be at a lower interest rate as our business model is becoming well proven and successful.

If you would more information on the background or goals of ECFiber contact your Tunbridge delegates listed above or go to [www.ecfiber.net](http://www.ecfiber.net).

## **State Representative**

Sarah Buxton - (802) 233-0274 (cell) sbuxton@gmail.com

I am very grateful to the voters of Tunbridge for electing me to serve another term as your representative to the Vermont General Assembly. I am humbled by your support during the campaign, in the election, and as I prepare to start my second term. If you haven't returned the legislative survey that was distributed to your door during the campaign, please take a minute to complete it. If you need another one, you can find them at the town clerk's office or the Tunbridge library. I will be compiling your feedback and posting it on my website in late December. After Thanksgiving, I will also begin the process of requesting and drafting bills for introduction. Many of you spoke with me on the campaign trail about specific concerns or nuances in the law that you would like altered. I've kept a running list of your comments so I can research the best way to find a resolution. If you would like to touch base on the issues we've already discussed - or raise new ones - send me an email or give me a call so we can talk about it. Thanks again for your generous and continued support. It's my honor to serve you.

## **Tunbridge Grange #384**

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

The grange had a good summer. We put a room in upstairs for a bathroom. We had our harvest supper which turned out good . We sold tickets on six small pillows that featured the six Tunbridge covered bridges Baxter Doty won them. We will have our hunters breakfast in Nov. we will begin starting bingo Friday, Jan 4th and run thru April . Hope everyone will come and support us. You are welcome to come to our meetings , They are the first Wednesdays of the month.

## **Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department**

Jena Young- 889-2804

A warm thank you to all who volunteered to help out at the coin drop fundraiser during the fair this year. The coin drop is our biggest fund raiser each year and it serves a critical role in the replacement and upkeep of various pieces of equipment which help keep our members safe and aide in their ability to respond efficiently and effectively to emergency calls.

Fire Department members were at the Tunbridge Central School in October providing fire safety education to students in recognition of Fire Prevention month. Each year the students enjoy this activity and learn the basic "stop, drop and roll" drill as well as the importance in planning escape routes and having safe meeting places outside of their house in the event of a fire. If you have not already done so, run through an evacuation drill at home and talk to your kids about alternate exits in the event of a fire at home. If you have not visited us on Facebook yet, you can view our page, called "Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department". We use our Facebook page to provide communication during disasters such as planning a response for the recent storm "Sandy" as well as to announce road or bridge closings & to communicate other information about the Fire Department to townspeople.

Daylight savings time has just past us by again. Remember that this is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and it is also a good idea to have your chimney cleaned, especially if you have not had it done since last winter. These regular maintenance activities can help to ensure you and yours have a safe holiday season and winter ahead.

Finally, we want to let folks know that one of our volunteer firemen, Chase Ackerman, has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma & just recently started undergoing chemotherapy. A benefit fundraiser including a Dinner, Silent Auction and Music is planned for Saturday, December 1, 2012 at the Elks Club in Barre, VT. Bidding on silent auction items, a cash bar and appetizers will start at 4:00 pm, while dinner will be at 6:00 pm. You may call Sue Wilmott at 685-7703 or email her at suewilmott@myfairpoint.net to reserve a ticket or to donate an item for the silent auction. Thank you in advance for any support you can provide to Chase and his family during this time.

## **Tunbridge Church**

Pastor Deadra Bachorik Ashton- 889-9828

The Tunbridge church has busy schedule for the upcoming holiday season which concludes Christmas Eve with two candle-light services. At 6 p.m. the children's choir will present a pageant, "What Child Was This." At 8 p.m. there will be a service of lessons and carols, which includes special choral and solo music. Candles will be distributed at both services.

The season begins with Thanksgiving Eve candlelight services at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21.

On Friday, Dec. 7, there will a Church decorating gathering at 6 p.m. and a carol sing at 7 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 21, all are invited to go Caroling. The group will meet between 5:30 & 6 p.m. at the Parish House to caravan to houses in the community. Refreshments will be served after caroling at the home of Amy and Matt Frost.

There will be special music event at the Dec. 23 worship service. Flutist Nan Frost and guitarist Randy Hough will play new and old Christmas music.

Both choirs have begun rehearsing Christmas music and anyone interested is encouraged to join in for the season. Choirs rehearse Wednesdays; the children ad 6:15 p.m. and the adults at 7:15 p.m.

10 a.m. Worship services are held every Sunday at the Tunbridge Village church. The children's Sunday School meets during the second half the service.

Regular events at the church Parish House include:

- Bible Study, Led by Rev. David Wolfe at 8:45 a.m. Sunday
- Mid-week Bible Study led by Ben Wolfe at 5 p.m. Tuesdays
- Youth Group of grades 4 and older meet from 2:30-4:30 on the third Sunday of the month.
- DivorceCare group, open to all, meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays . Special "Surviving the Holidays" session on Dec. 11.
- Food Shelf is open from 4-6 p.m. Fridays.

The church's annual meeting and potluck luncheon will be held Feb 3 at the Town Hall after worship service.

More information about the church and its activities may be obtained by calling the church office: 889-9828.

## **Tunbridge Listers**

Ben Wolfe, Helen O'donnell, Rudy Ruddell 889-3571

If there is less stressful time for the Board, it might be the last months of the year. We currently await the annual sales report from the state Division of Property Valuation and Review (PVR). This will provide us with the Common Level of Appraisal or CLA (how high or low our values are compared to the market) and the Coefficient of Dispersion or COD (how even or fair the values over the whole town). We have the opportunity to appeal a study that uses sales that are not "arm's length" between the seller and the buyer. If there are not enough sales to make a solid study, PVR will attempt to come up with other ways to measure Tunbridge's CLA and COD.

The Board is currently making an annual inspection of one quarter of the town. All property owners in the southwest corner were sent notices to explain our effort to visit this section of town. The goal is to familiarize ourselves with a part of the town each year, and improve the accuracy of our data. This will help us maintain equity for the whole town and to ensure any future reappraisal will be smoother and less expensive. No listed value for a property will be changed unless the facts on the ground are substantially different from the information we have on file now. As we approach spring, we expect to travel all the roads, gathering data on any significant changes that either add or detract from the value of a property, in preparation for. We encourage property owners to fill us in on improvements or depreciation on your property. Yes, many do this, and —our goal is not to be high, not to be low, but to be fair to all property owners without partiality or discrimination.

The Board of Listers does not have the power to determine tax rates. Period. However, we want to take this opportunity to remind folks that the state Department of Taxes requires all resident property owners to fill out the Homestead Declaration form (HS-122) each year by April 15th. This is different from last year, and a late filing of this form may have an effect on your tax rate.

We have generally been in the office Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Due to quarterly inspections, we may be out of the office in the coming weeks. If you have questions or needs about values or property records, please make an appointment with us to make sure we are there to meet your needs.

## **First Branch Ambulance & Rescue**

Linda Kuban - 685-3112

First Branch Ambulance has had a very busy fall. We purchased new shock pads and batteries for the AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator) in the Chelsea and Tunbridge Schools and set up an AED for the Wellspring School. If anyone is interested in a CPR and or First Aid class please call 685-3112.

Currently we have two people enrolled in the AEMT class in Bethel. We are working with So. Royalton planning a First Responder class in January. Anyone interested may contact First Branch at 685-3112. Watch for our posters soon. We will try to keep the class central to those who sign up, so location will be determined once folks have signed up to take the class.

The most exciting news is that First Branch expects delivery of our new ambulance November 13th. We will be setting up times and places to show our new ambulance to the community. We will be keeping our old ambulance for awhile to see if doing transfers would be beneficial to us, both as a community service and a financial boost for our budget. We will be working with Gifford on this project. Together with Chelsea and Tunbridge Fire we have completed the narrow banding of our communications equipment to meet the new FCC standards.

Thank you for your continued support and feel free to contact any board member with questions.

## **Tunbridge Town Website**

Rick Scully - 763-7474    [www.tunbridgevt.com](http://www.tunbridgevt.com)

Many thanks to all who have been sending items for inclusion on the official town website. Just a reminder that if you have something you want to promote -- school fundraisers, grange events, hikes, etc -- the website is a great place to post the event. Often items are cross-posted to Facebook where there is a growing number of people visiting the Unofficial group: [www.facebook.com/groups/149524471756558](http://www.facebook.com/groups/149524471756558). If you have any questions please contact Rick Scully at [rick@tunbridgevt.com](mailto:rick@tunbridgevt.com).

## **Friends of Tunbridge Public Library**

Euclid Farnham, President 889-3458

Everyone is invited to stop in the library and see the progress on the Community Meeting Room. Dr. Michael Sporn gave the Friends \$100,000 to construct the meeting room in memory of his late wife, Kitte.

The Friends of Tunbridge Public Library are still raising funds for the connector entryway, handicapped accessible bathroom, extended porch, and basement local history storage room.

The building committee launched the \$40,000 fundraising drive in late September with \$20,550 in leadership gifts. As of Oct. 31 the Friends had received \$8,209 from 52 donors and the High Country Cloggers' variety show. The sale of new books and gifts scheduled Nov. 10-11 in the meeting room will benefit the fundraising. The Friends hope to successfully raise the balance and will finish the project by the end of the year. Landscaping will follow in the spring.

If extra funds are received the building committee will do additional work in the basement to secure the historical records to be stored there. Donations of any amount are welcome. They may be sent to Euclid Farnham at 24 The Crossroad, Tunbridge VT 05077.

## **Tunbridge Grease Collective**

Todd Tyson - 431-3433

The Tunbridge Grease Collective will host a "Community Waste Vegetable Oil Filtration/Transportation Workshop" on Sunday, November 18th at 2PM at the Collective's GreaseShop located at 25 Clarksville Road in Tunbridge. If you are interested in learning more about converting a diesel vehicle to run on filtered waste vegetable oil while severely reducing greenhouse gases and saving money...this workshop is highly recommended. The workshop will be facilitated by Todd Tyson and is co-sponsored by Solarfest and the Tunbridge Grease Collective. More information via e-mail to [folkbloke@hotmail.com](mailto:folkbloke@hotmail.com) or by calling 802-431-3433.