

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

February 15, 2013
issue #31

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Sue Clark 889-3733

As you read this Quarterly, the public hearing for the draft of the most recent edition of the Tunbridge Town Plan will have taken place. You still have the opportunity to read the draft and if you have concerns please contact a member of the Planning Commission. You may also convey your questions to the Select Board as they will have a little more time to put their final approval on the plan. The areas of greatest change are in Agriculture, energy, and the updates to the statistics. Copies of the draft plan may be obtained at the Town Office.

The Commission continues to work with Peg Elmer on Hazard Mitigation planning. Although not a required plan, it does mean that Tunbridge would benefit from FEMA programs after experiencing an event such as Tropical Storm Irene. These programs include the Buy-out program and funding to rebuild infrastructure with improved designs to reduce the effect of future storms. Please refer to the entry on Hazard Mitigation planning for more information.

The Planning Commission currently has an opening. If you are interested, please contact any member.

Tunbridge Board of Auditors

Elizabeth Bicknell, Maxine Young, Becky Hoyt

The Board of Auditors has been very busy putting together the information for the town report. This involves obtaining reports, budgets, orders, auditing of same, and putting the information in formats for the printing of the town report. This is a very time consuming process and this year, in particular, has been a challenge with the change in treasurers. We are grateful for our new auditor, Rebecca Hoyt, who comes to us with a wealth of knowledge of QuickBooks.

We are sorry to say that Beth Bicknell will not be running for auditor when her term expires, creating an opening on the Board of Auditors. This can be an interesting and challenging position. This auditor has found the position very much a learning curve.

Thank you to all who submitted photos for the town report. We would have liked more but have been taking some pictures ourselves, and we sincerely hope you enjoy them.

We hope to see you all at town meeting.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 janet@zugglass.com

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

In order to make the longer entries fit in I've scaled down the size of the type on some pages. My apologies for the need to grab the reading glasses!

Calendar of Events See individual entries for more events.

- Mar. 1 - The Center for Cartoon Studies Director James Sturm - "A Cartoonist's Course" about his work as a cartoonist and educator. A Tunbridge Public Library Winter Evenings program, 7 p.m. Free.
- Mar. 2- Shindig with "Blue Fox and the Rockin' Daddys". Town Hall, 8-11pm Cover charge \$8. www.shindigsvt.com
- Mar. 2- Indoor Tag Sale - sponsored by the 8th grade class 9am-3pm, Contact Eleni Howe ehowe@newton.k12.vt.us or Lois Gross mikelois@gmail.com to reserve a table now!
- Mar. 8 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 Always on the 2nd Fridays.
- Mar. 9 - Wellspring Waldorf School Live Auction, Saturday, March 9th, 6-10 pm, Tunbridge Town Hall, call 889-3777 or email info@wellspringwaldorfschool.org for more information.
- Mar. 10 - Mountain Folk presents "The Steel Wheels" goto mtnfolk.org or emal <folkbloke@mtnfolk.org>
- Mar. 10 - Rec Committee Breakfast. Town Hall, 8am-12pm All-you-can-eat for only \$8.00
- Mar. 15 - "History of American Landscape Painting" illustrated talk by oil painter Joan Hoffma. A Winter Evenings program, 7 p.m. Free.
- Mar. 15 - Wellspring Waldorf School Morning Garden parent child classes, Seven Fridays 10am-12pm starting March 15th. Call 889-3777
- Mar. 16 - Community Spaghetti Supper Tunbridge Central School hosted by the 8th grade class. All proceeds will help with the class trip to Washington, DC. Times to be announced.
- Apr. 5 - Talk on "Renewable energy is ready, here and now" by Steven Strong, President of Solar Design Associates, A Tunbridge Public Library Winter Evenings program, 7 p.m. Free.
- Apr. 6 - Shindig with "The Chad Hollister Band" Town Hall, 8-11pm
- Apr. 13 - Wellspring Waldorf School Spring Family Open House, 10-12
- Apr. 14 - Rec. Committee Breakfast, Town Hall 8am - 12pm. All you can eat for only \$8.00.
- Apr. 17 - Free Spring Chamber Music concert, April 17th, 1 pm Wellspring Waldorf School, call 889-3777 or email info@wellspringwaldorfschool.org for more information.
- May 12 - 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 annual show dates are Friday and Saturday, March 22nd and 23rd. Again this year, we are planning a fun-filled evening of entertainment. New energy is always welcome. The first rehearsal is Thursday, February 14th, 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. Rehearsals thereafter are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00, at the town hall. We have added a couple of extra dates to cover for bad weather cancellations. It is expected that participants try to make at least half of the practices, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Proceeds from the show, after expenses, are distributed to various Tunbridge organizations. So join us-have fun and in the process, help to benefit civic causes.

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.

Friends of the Tunbridge Library

Kay Jorgenson - 889-5528

Construction of the community meeting room at the library and connector with entryway and a handicapped accessible bathroom is nearly complete.

With the help of volunteer painters and others the final jobs, except for landscaping, are being done this winter. The Friends will host an open house celebration this spring.

Once state inspection is completed, local groups will be able to sign up to use the room for meetings at any time since it has a separate entrance and is independent of the main library.

The addition was built entirely with citizen support. No taxpayer funds were used. More than 80 people gave contributions for the connector, basement and porch work related to the meeting room that was funded by Dr. Michael Sporn's \$100,000 donation in honor of his late wife, Kitte.

The Tunbridge Historical Society will pay for costs in the basement related to housing the society's collection of town photos, letters and documents.

Donations are still welcome. Checks may be mailed to Euclid Farnham, 24 The Crossroad, or left at the library.

Tunbridge Hazard Mitigation Plan

Peg Elmer- 802-522-3844

More than a dozen people braved poor driving conditions to attend the planning commission's public meeting to discuss the history of past hazard events in Tunbridge and concerns about how to be prepared for future disasters. Peg Elmer, who is working with the planning commission on a federal grant utilizing Tunbridge and Hartford to create stronger versions of the required hazard mitigation plans, was joined by Theo Fetter, a VT Law School graduate helping collect historical disaster event data, and Sharon Murray, a planning consultant assisting on the plan update for the town.

Peg had requested feedback on how to improve the surveys she'd distributed. She received plenty of response, mainly to simplify the questions as well as to provide more background to use the surveys as a teaching tool and to focus questions on households and neighborhoods rather than the entire town. Great ideas were gained, such as doing a community or neighborhood mapping exercise rather than a survey, and beefing up the emergency information in the town report, local phone book, website and in the Quarterly.

Every natural hazard listed on the survey has happened in the last 30-35 years – that was surprising to hear in a town that seems less vulnerable than many. Some houses have earthquake damage to point to, and there's a couple of dammed ponds in high locations. We placed sticky notes on an aerial photo/map of the town to identify the type and locations of major damage. There wasn't as much concern expressed about possible man-made disasters of a transportation, nuclear, chemical or hazardous waste incident. The major events to plan for focused in on damage from flooding, wind, heavy snow or ice, and fire. It also seems that the location of potential flood and erosion damage is hard to predict, especially on steeper feeder streams to the First Branch.

The Tunbridge Fairgrounds, North Tunbridge and Mill Cottage area were among locations described as vulnerable to flooding. The discussion on possible extended power outages led to wondering where generators are located, and an idea for a generator inventory. There were ideas generated to hold an annual neighborhood meeting dedicated to checking on emergency preparations and adaptation, cleaning up your own culverts and making sure all have information on how to communicate and find shelter if the need arises.

The Planning Commission then met with Rodney Hoyt and John Durkee in January, to get into more detail about town road roads and culverts subject to washout and landslides, communication strategies and emergency equipment. More time was spent honing in on vulnerable locations on the map. Tunbridge lists then moved into their phase of work, required by FEMA as part of the plan, to add up the value of identified vulnerable structures as a percentage of the whole grand list. Peg met with the Selectboard and First Branch Ambulance in January to gain their feedback. The top three hazards to plan for (we've cheated by combining two) were settled as heavy snow or ice, wind, and flood. A chief concern is how to cope with extended power outages, although David Bradshaw also noted that Irene made them realize that Tunbridge – if it suffered extensive road damage where the flooding occurs – could be cut off from road transportation to hospitals.

Another public meeting is planned for early spring to discuss ideas on how to avoid or lessen losses from future extreme events. The draft plan should be available for review and response in early summer. If you have questions or ideas you'd like to pass along, please let a planning commissioner know, or Peg Elmer at 802-522-3844.

Tunbridge Select Board

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

At the writing of this quarterly the temperature is 45 degrees which is 67 degrees warmer than last week. What a winter this has been and in the Select Board meetings it has been just as crazy as the weather has been.

Your Select Board has been very busy working on getting various projects finished and other projects continue to occupy our time. For example, Strafford road is done and looks great. We have a new treasurer, Ann Fragnella, and she is working hard to get numbers finished and ready for the Town meeting just around the corner. The Select Board really appreciates Ann stepping up to the plate and bringing with her experience and knowledge from years of running books at Vermont Law School. We hope to see her around for the next several years. To help with the difficult Treasurers work we are looking at purchasing municipal software which is more advanced than our current software and compliant with what the Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns requires. This will simplify the accounting and help all of us better understand the numbers.

Another issue The Select Board is working with is how to provide the most efficient Emergency Services to the town as a whole. As many of you may already know the Rescue truck was sold and no longer serves Tunbridge in the same capacity. This leaves us with an inadequate coverage of services. For example, the Fire Dept depended on the mobile air supply that would recharge our air tanks after trainings or a fire. Tunbridge currently does not have first response rescue capabilities in case of an accident or 911 call for medical needs. The Select Board has received written and verbal concerns from residents on the South End of town about the time it takes to get help. For example it took 30 minutes on a recent call. As a result we have asked and received a cost from Royalton Ambulance for coverage of Tunbridge up to the Village. This makes sense as Royalton has 24/7 employees who can be in these parts of Tunbridge in minutes. We have also created a Tunbridge Emergency Service Committee that will be looking at how we as a community can be pro-active in providing our residence with the best emergency services possible.

Along the same topic South Royalton Select Board members made a recent visit to our meeting to discuss with us a more comprehensive cooperation between the two towns in Ambulance and Fire. We are exploring the development of the old Crawford property as a regional center for Ambulance and Rescue Services. In other news Tom is ending his term on the Select Board and will not be running again. Please contact Wendy or a member of the Select Board if you would like to run for the Select Board and have any questions.

Tunbridge Recreation Committee

Kevin Barnaby at 889-5671

The Tunbridge Rec would like to invite everyone to our breakfast on the 2nd Sunday of every month.

Not a lot has gone on as of yet but as we start thinking a little about spring I would like to let everyone know that we would like to start planning on a big work bee on the Rec field after the snow is off. I would like to get the area prepped so we could get a playground set in so the kids will have a nice place to go play there in the summer. We are still looking for donations to help with the playground set.

Any questions please contact Kevin Barnaby at the number above.

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. We have gotten some new clients recently, which we like. We could use some more volunteers who are willing to drive during the week. 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.

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.

We have been getting some calls from people who want emergency services or daily services. This is really not possible for us. We are able and willing to do a couple of calls per month for the same person - that's a practical limit. And usually we are unable to find a volunteer in time to handle an emergency situation.

Board Members: Brenda Field, Bill Gefell, Lee Banas, Felicity Swayze, Pam Dietz, Maxine Young, David Wolfe.

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami- 889-5575 schoolclub@tunbridge.k12.vt.us
Fair Supper a Success: Chef Chad Barnaby, along with a large group of dedicated parent volunteers, prepared a fabulous gourmet meal following the Tunbridge Fair Association's annual meeting on December 1st. More than 20 parent volunteers helped plan the menu and prepare the food, sought donated items, and decorated the TCS multipurpose room with this year's fair theme of poultry and rabbits for the event. TCS art students and local Girl Scouts created festive centerpieces and decorations. Several TCS students, led by Jonni Spaulding and Lori Elderd, eagerly served as wait staff for over 120 Fair Association members and their guests. All proceeds from the event will fund student enrichment activities and teacher appreciation at TCS. Many thanks to all parents, students, community members and businesses who helped make this event a success!

Holiday Breakfast & Gift Basket Enjoyed by Teachers and Staff:

As a thank you for all they do for our students, School Club organized a holiday breakfast for teachers and staff on December 17. Parent volunteers contributed delicious items that were served buffet-style in the library before the school day began. School Club also purchased classroom and office supplies (and chocolate!) as gifts waiting for teachers and staff when they returned to school in January.

Winter Carnival: School Club is again partnering with Tunbridge Central School, the Tunbridge Recreation Committee, Tunbridge One Planet and the 8th Grade Class to host a two-day Winter Carnival at the school. Friday, February 22 is the School Winter Carnival for students, staff and teachers. Saturday, February 23 is the Community Winter Carnival for families and community members. Get ready for horse-drawn sleigh rides, ice skating, indoor games, movies and more! Watch for details on the town website, in the Herald and posters around town.

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 March 11, April 1, May 6 and June 3. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

Tunbridge Town Website

Rick Scully - 763-7474 rick@tunbridgvt.com.

Just a reminder that if you have something you want to promote www.tunbridgvt.com 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.

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

Although learning never really comes to an end and is often intermittent, formal education generally follows predictable patterns from month to month and year to year as lessons, school days and seasons start and end. Much of the school day is structured in advance to follow these patterns, but flexibility must be provided to allow for the ability to respond to local, regional and national influences, including the items we have seen in the news recently and experienced locally. Now that we are half way through the school year, it is a good time to review the impact our actions have had, and what adjustments we still need to make.

Principal Rick Talbot has been at the helm of TCS for about five months now. Arriving early to handle administrative tasks in advance of the start of the school day, most mornings he can be found at the front door personally greeting students, parents and guests with a warm welcome and friendly smile. This activity is one of the most visible changes that have been made that is helping promote a positive learning environment where everyone feels safe, accepted and respected.

Through this shift in culture, our PBiS (Positive Behavior intervention and Support) program, efficient use of professional development resources, and an increased focus on curriculum, the school is experiencing a reduction in inappropriate student behavior, an improvement in academic performance (including on standardized tests) and more positive attitudes in and about the school. We are consistently hearing how excited people are about the changes that have been made and the direction that we are headed as a school.

Active leadership and a renewed energy and enthusiasm of staff and faculty has allowed the Board to focus more on governance this year, which is important as much is occurring on the district and state levels is requiring our attention on a regular basis.

Please contact us or stop by to share your ideas and concerns. The regular monthly Board meeting is held on the third Monday of each month at 6 pm at the School Library.

Saturday Sewing Circle Nancy Howe - 889-3750

The Saturday Sewing Circle will be meeting March 2, April 6, and May 4th, at the TCS Library. We are working on various sewing projects, no experience required, material and guidance provided. Park in the rear, sessions are 8 am til noon.

Our fourth Annual Quilt and Needlework show will be held Sat. 8/10 and Sun 8/11, 9am til 1 pm both days in the Upper level of the Town Hall. Call Nancy Howe at 889-3750 for details.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

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

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

Pre-Town Meeting: Tuesday February 26, at 7:30pm.

Annual School Meeting: Monday March 04, at 7:30pm.

Annual Town Meeting: Tuesday March 05, at 10:00am.

All events will be held at the Tunbridge Central School Auditorium.

If you are a resident of Tunbridge and are not on the voter checklist the deadline to register to vote at the Annual Meetings is Wednesday February 27, 2012 by 5:00pm.

A Rabies Clinic will be held March 16, 2013 9:00am-12noon at the Chelsea Town Hall, Chelsea VT. Vaccines are provided by a Licensed Veterinarian from the Chelsea Animal Hospital, Chelsea VT 685-3232. This Clinic is for dogs and cats; Dogs must be leashed and cats must be in a carrier. Cost for the vaccine is \$12.00.

Dog licenses are due April 1, 2013. If your dog(s) is due for a rabies vaccine prior to April 1, a license cannot be issued. Cost per license is \$8.00 for spay/neutered; \$12.00 for non spayed/neutered. You may obtain dog licenses at the Town Clerks Office or by mail, I will also be at the rabies clinic to issue dog licenses. Please call Wendy at the Town Office with any questions or concerns.

DivorceCare 2013 Winter Seminar

1/8/2013 - 4/9/2013. Facilitator: Robert Brinkley

Sponsored by Tunbridge and Journey churches.

DivorceCare seminar has thirteen sessions. The seminar has Videos with 52 experts, stories and scenarios from divorced and separated people. Personal workbook. Confidential discussions. Meets Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Tunbridge Church Parish House 3 Potash Hill Road, off Route 110. A unique opportunity for people no matter how long they have been divorced or separated.

Fee \$15 total. No need to wait until May 14th, 2013. All newcomers welcome now. Most benefit is committing time to three or more sessions.

No meeting on Tuesday, February 26th, 2013.

More information: <http://www.divorcecare.org/> and

<http://www.tunbridgechurch.org>.

Future DivorceCare seminars:

* Spring/Summer DivorceCare from May 14 - August 6, 2013

* Fall DivorceCare from September 10, - December 3, 2013

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

Tunbridge One Planet Afterschool Program

Phil Diamond - 889-3310

Another quarter of a year has passed and we here at Tunbridge One Planet cannot believe it. But then we remembered how much fun we've been having.

Session II was packed with some terrifically engaging activities. During Scott's "Hands On Science" program, we constructed bridges out of balsa wood, made electromagnets from batteries and nails, and used blocks of wood and ribbon to put together our very own "Jacob's Ladder". Phyllis helped us create our own personal scrapbooks (they came out great!), and Abby taught us the fancy steps required for line and square dancing. Perhaps the most memorable activity this past session was the "Drumming for Success" program led by Ginger. Every Friday, our students had the opportunity to take part in a djembe drum circle where they learned the art of successful group dynamics. Keen eyes and ears were absolutely required, and by the end of the eight weeks, we had some terrifically synchronized sessions. Well done!

Let's also not forget the successes of our Middle School programming. The Art Club led by Mrs. Loeffler and Marion has been a great place for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to spend a part of their afternoon exploring their creative genius. They're currently working on Painted Floor Mats and Braided Rugs. Practicality and beauty!

Also making wonderful strides is our Newspaper Club. With the guidance of Nicola and Marion, the group has just put out their second edition, a four sided traditional format periodical that both informs and entertains. They've also just returned from a field trip to the Randolph Herald in Randolph, VT. Hopefully some of what they learned there will go into the next installment of the Tiger's Tango. Looking forward to it! Stay warm everybody.

Tunbridge Library

Contact: Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404

ArtSpace Co-ordinator: Betsy Gaiser 763-2288

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

Phone: 889- 9404 for holiday hours.

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Tunbridge Library is scheduled for Tuesday evening, February 19 at 7 PM. This public meeting is open to anyone who is interested in helping the library meet its goal of service to the community. The Friends 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.

The library is planning ahead for two major annual fund-raisers: Town Meeting dinner and the Memorial Day plant, book, and bake sale. Volunteers are needed as well as donations. Donated books are gratefully accepted as long as they are in good readable condition. Donated plant pots should be 7 inches or greater in diameter. Contact Jean in person, by phone, or by e-mail (tunbridgelibrary@yahoo.com).

ArtSpace at the library is featuring, through March 22, American Wilderness and Habitats: oils and watercolors by South Royalton artist, Joan Hoffmann. Proceeds from the sale of art benefit the library. The next show will feature the photography of Tunbridge resident, Fred Carty.

There are two remaining programs in the eleventh season of Winter Evenings at the library. March 1: James Sturm, whose work has appeared in everything from the New York Times to Marvel Comics, is director of the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction. He will discuss his work as a cartoonist and educator. On April 5th Steven Strong, who is building a home in Tunbridge, will weave technology, politics, and social policy with humor and compelling success stories to demonstrate that renewable energy is ready here and now. Steven is President of Solar Design Associates, a group of engineers and architects dedicated to designing environmentally responsible buildings and the engineering and integration of renewable energy systems to power them. Updated details about Winter Evenings speakers are available on the library's website.

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. Geoff Hansen took some wonderful photos of the children during the annual appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Claus, prints are on view in the library entry. Reprints can be purchased through Geoff's website: www.geoffhansen.com

The library offers discount prices on new 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)

ECFiber

East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network

Janet Zug 889-9602 <janet.zug@ecfiber.net>

Henry Swayze 889-5556 <henryswayze@gmail.com>

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's plans for building the first south east fiber route has been delayed due to the pole applications. (I should not have given a date in the last TQ because these things are always variable!) This route runs up Rt110 to Button Hill and into Strafford over Kibling Rd. Construction on this route is expected to begin in the second quarter of this year.

Go to www.myecfiber.net/index.php/map/ to see a map of the current and proposed service area. All routes can be extended depending on additional funds invested.

The next closing on ECFiber investments is planned for April. If you would like more information about investing please contact ECFiber's treasurer, John Roy at 685-3151 or <john@roy-vt.net>

Tunbridge Farm to School

Jennifer Thygesen - 889-5628. <jthygesen33@gmail.com>

Tunbridge Central School proudly announces that it applied for and recently received a Rozo McLaughlin Farm to School (FTS) Implementation Grant from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

This grant will enable TCS to successfully connect local foods, farms and people in numerous creative ways that will lead to a long-term sustainable Farm to School program for our students, teachers and community.

As part of the grant, TCS is looking to hire a part-time FTS coordinator to work closely with TCS staff to build connections among classrooms, cafeteria and the community. This person will help integrate FTS into the culture and curriculum of TCS, expand local food selection in the cafeteria, enhance school/farm community relationships, and complete other tasks as needed. Interested applicants may submit a resume, cover letter and three references by February 13, 2013, to TCS Principal Rick Talbot, 523 VT Route 110, Tunbridge, VT

In other FTS news, the TCS fifth grade, coached by Amy Bogardus and Tracy Vesper, participated in a district-wide Junior Iron Chef Competition in November at the Sharon Elementary School, and took home the prize for "Most Local Foods Used" with their fabulous beef stew. A big thank you goes out to the local farmers, butchers and other folks who donated food for the event!

To learn more about FTS and become involved in this exciting initiative for our school, please contact Jennifer Thygesen.

State Representative

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

The Legislature is closing in on its first month of business. I'm pleased that I have been placed back on the House Education Committee this session, and continue to serve as Clerk of the committee.

Governor Shumlin, in his inaugural address, focused like a laser on the importance of a 21st century education system to the future financial stability of our state. I was thrilled to hear of his support for universal access to pre-k education, promoting flexible pathways and individual learning plans for Vermont's kids. We know that the quality of education is paramount, as we move away from old notions of "quantity." To some, any mention of our education system incites a fear of financing. The research and testimony we have reviewed shows that this doesn't have to be the case. Using an outcomes-based approach, we can maximize our education spending. More on this on my website:

www.votesarahbuxton.com

A few important issues are ahead. The Death with Dignity bill is gaining traction in the Senate. Marijuana decriminalization is likely to move quickly. A bill to limit large capacity ammunition feeding devices on guns is taking shape. While these issues are controversial, they received over 70% support from YOU, my constituents, in the survey I conducted last fall. I'm still open to feedback!

Finally, I am proud to report that I am taking the lead in sponsoring (with my republican colleagues) two "good governance" bills. One targets SuperPacs and the financing of campaigns. The other created a one-year waiting period for employment of an executive branch official who seeks employment with a company they previously regulated.

I'm producing electronic legislative updates biweekly. If you aren't receiving them, please send me an email at sbuxton@gmail.com. I'll be sure to include you! As always, I'm available to hear your concerns, to represent you, and help you access our state government as effectively as possible.

The Shindigs

Janet Zug - 889-9602

The Shindigs began in the fall of 2007 with the goal of creating an inviting atmosphere for musicians, dancers and music lovers to enjoy and share the amazing power of music. And - it's working!

The genre ranges within good ole' rock n' roll, rhythm and blues, honky-tonk and rock-a-billy. Some newer, some older, not too heavy, never real light, with plenty of good dancin' beats.

The bands play for the door so the more people that come the better it works out for the local musicians. Our capacity is 149 and we generally only sell out for New Years' Eve when all tickets are purchased ahead. All other Shindigs are pay-at-the-door for \$8.00. See the calendar listing on page 18 for upcoming events or goto www.shindigsvt.com.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

This past November members of the Fire Department approached members of First Branch Ambulance to discuss the possibility of taking over Rescue Services for our town. FBA expressed an interest in getting out of the Rescue service, so we continued discussions & made an offer to purchase the existing rescue truck and all of its equipment. FBA ended up selling the Rescue truck to the Chelsea Fire Department instead, which left us with no town based Rescue response & no ready access to an air filling station for our breathing apparatus air tanks, which was a resource we had access to via a cascade system that was on the Rescue truck. In the past month the Tunbridge Fire Department has been continuing to pursue a local Rescue service based here in Tunbridge as well as securing access to a portable air filling station for our breathing apparatus. We have met with the Selectboard members and have received their verbal support to continue pursuing this resource locally.

We also have had one initial meeting to invite new prospective rescue members and we had a positive turnout for that event. We have developed a new membership application including a background check process and we are in the process of revising our Standard Operating Guidelines. The membership application can be found under the Fire Department tab on the Town Website for anyone interested in applying. For the initial start up of a local rescue service, we are seeking to provide basic rescue response including extrication of accident victims during motor vehicle accidents. To help get this new service off the ground we have added a \$20,000 line item to our budget to purchase some of the items necessary to start a rescue service. We are prioritizing our needs and will be replacing this equipment as soon as possible, though the total cost of the equipment will be considerably more than \$20,000.

Several members spent a cold day in mid January filling the ice rink behind the school with water. Due to the expansion of the rink this year, it took over 25 tanker loads to fill up the rink with enough water to provide a solid base for skating.

Our annual meeting will be held on Thursday March 14th at 6:00pm at the Town Hall. Please join us for a potluck dinner & dessert followed by our business meeting. We are actively seeking members of the community who are not members of the fire department to serve on the department's Board of Trustees. A Trustee typically attends one 1-hour meeting per month on the second Thursday of each month. Please consider serving the Department in one of these valuable roles.

Tunbridge Church

Judie Lewis - 889-9490

During the next couple of months the Tunbridge Church will be observing the Lenten season which begins February 14, culminating with the events of Palm Sunday, March 24, and Easter, March 31.

The church will celebrate Palm Sunday with special music by a brass quartet and lots of Hosannas sung by both choirs.

Good Friday, March 29, will be observed with a Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m. The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial.

Easter Sunday is to be celebrated with a sunrise service and a joyful 10 a.m. worship service. The sunrise service is generally held at the top of Strafford Road. A delicious breakfast is served at Town Hall after the service. The time of the sunrise service and any change in venue will be determined closer to the date and will be announced in newspapers.

The adult and children's choirs are preparing music for the Lenten and Easter season. We welcome any singers that care to join in. Rehearsals are Wednesdays: children from 6-7pm and adults from 7:15-8:30 pm

An active youth group meets at 2:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month. Some of the youth have begun peer leadership training to assist with Sunday School. The church offers Sunday school during the second half of the worship service.

The church membership recently held its annual meeting and reelected Ben Wolfe, Townsend Swayze, and Sue Barnaby to the Parish Council. Donna Neron was elected to the seat vacated by Elaine Cilley, who has given many years of service on the board.

The church is located next to the Town Office on VT Rte 110. The office is in the parish house across the street. Pastor is Deadra Ashton. Sunday services are at 10 a.m. The church telephone number is 889-9828. The pastor's office hours are 1-3 Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Tunbridge Grange #384

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

The Tunbridge Grange is still hanging in there, even though we have 20 plus members we still have a hard time getting enough people to come to our meetings so we can have a legal meeting. The cold weather has froze our water. We are having our Friday night bingo in the town hall. We are working to get money to put in our bathroom in upstairs, also we hope to earn enough to get our water fixed. we are having an open house with the church on July 27 & 28. We will be displaying our curtain. Also we are making a quilt to sell tickets to earn money.

Tunbridge Listers

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

<listers@tunbridgevt.com>

Most folks understand that the office of lister is not for the faint of heart, or those seeking to be well-liked. It is impossible to run a town without a well-maintained grand list, but few consider stepping up to take the job of lister. What is less well-known is that being a lister is a unique opportunity to get to know the town and its residents in remarkable ways that constantly surprise and challenge us. In truth, almost everyone treats the listers with respect, and even kindness. We are, after all, your neighbors and friends. Most every-day, we can say that it is an honor to serve in this capacity. It is therefore with bittersweet feelings that I (Ben) announce I will be stepping down after 12 years in this position. I could not ask for better colleagues or a more wonderful and diverse community to serve in, but my time has come to step aside from this post, and let someone else try their hand at the job.

The sales study that has just been delivered to us from the state shows the CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) of 102.75, indicating that our values are a little less than 3% higher than the average selling price of properties—or that sales are about 3% lower than the town's listed values. This higher CLA lowers the education tax rate for Tunbridge property owners by approximately the same amount. The COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) shows a low level of inequity, our record is good that sales of all kinds are very close to this "3% below" listed value.

So in the short term, the sales study indicates good equity in Tunbridge, and stable values. This being said, our board can see the markets starting to diverge in ways that the sales study doesn't indicate yet. Some properties have sold for a bit more than our listed values, and some substantially less. We have to do our best, to keep properties listed as consistently as possible according to our 2010 reappraisal criteria. Inequity is almost certain to increase, and eventually it can only be resolved by a future reappraisal.

This time of year starts the busiest period of our work. We are in Tuesday and Friday mornings, but are often out on site visits most of the day. If you are interested in possibly serving as lister, and would like to learn about what the job of Lister includes, please call us for an appointment and we will make time for you. We will be happy to take some time to talk with you and show you around. Please do not hesitate to reach us at the office.

Tunbridge Remembers DVD

Fred Pond - 889-3251 <pondfc@yahoo.com>

Tunbridge Remembers:

Photos and Films of 20th Century Tunbridge, Vermont.

Editors: Euclid Farnham & Fred Pond.

Tunbridge Historical Society, 2012.

A production by the Tunbridge Historical Society shows early 20th century photos of the hills, mills and downtowns of the villages, discovered among papers of the King family and the Vermont Historical Society recently, accompanied by local fiddler music.

Conceived as part of the town's 2011 250th Celebration, the DVD relives 1960's Tunbridge, depicting the 200th Celebration on the Fair Grounds, a Memorial Day Parade, and a Tunbridge Swimming Hole diving competition, all narrated by Town Historian Euclid Farnham.

Another section features interviews with town residents revealing old times as well as thoughts about the future of Tunbridge in a late 1980's film.

The DVD also includes 1940's footage of the fair grounds being used for training purposes by the Vermont State Guard during World War II.

A selection of old scenes compared to current day scenes completes this compilation, offering a chance for younger residents to 'look back' at current homes in the town.

Available at Tunbridge Library (\$10) or by postal mail (\$15)

Tunbridge Treasurer

Ann Fragnella - 889-3571 treasurer@tunbridge.biz

I want to introduce myself; I am Ann (Frery) Fragnella, your new Town/School Treasurer. I was appointed by the Select Board to fill out Lynn Laskowski's term, which ends in March. Lynn has resigned but is staying on as Assistant and is being a big help to me as I learn 'the ropes'. I am busy just trying to grasp all there is to learn so that I can look out for our tax dollars. I am grateful for the confidence that the Select Board has shown to me and hope that all of you can do the same when election time comes around on March 5th. I look forward to serving you in a caring and professional manner. You can reach me by calling 889-3571.

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue

Deb Mullen - 889-9406

We are pleased to let everyone know that we took delivery of the new ambulance in November. We are keeping the old ambulance as a back up vehicle and to do transfers for Gifford Hospital.

While we were discussing the need for a new ambulance we also studied the cost and benefits of owning the rescue truck. The rescue truck has been used as a first response vehicle for ambulance calls but the main function of this truck is to assist at motor vehicle accidents. Among the tools on board are the Jaws of Life and other equipment to stabilize vehicles at the scene of an accident, etc. We found that the cost to maintain the vehicle and equipment far outweighs the billable hours for 1st Branch. After getting the truck and equipment appraised, we then decided to sell, but we felt it was important to keep it in our coverage area so we offered it to Tunbridge and Chelsea Fire Departments. Chelsea offered us the appraised value and it was decided to sell to them. Many members of Chelsea Fire Department are already trained in the use of the truck and equipment and have offered to provide rescue services to the Town of Tunbridge at no charge, so there will be no lapse in coverage.

We are pleased note that we are not requesting an increase in funds from the towns this year; what we are asking is that, for this year only, taxpayers approve an amount to cover 18 months instead of the usual 12, in order to facilitate a change from a calendar year to a fiscal year. This will mean that we will only have to operate for 5 months before receiving funding, not 11, as it stands now.

We have been asked by the select board to quote the cost of EMS coverage for approximately half the town. As of the time of this report the details of the later have yet to be worked out but I did want to omit this information from this edition of the Quarterly. Changing the coverage area will affect the community, although at this point we do not know how much, or to what extent. I urge members of the community to contact your representatives on the board of directors of First Branch if you have questions or concerns and we will address your concerns as best we can with the information we have. We hope to have more information available before town meeting.

We are always searching for new members for our squad. There are several EMS courses coming up in our area and if anyone is interested in taking a course please let us know. 1st Branch is no longer permitted to rent space from the TVFD, and are now searching for a heated garage/storage building along Rte. 110 in Tunbridge from which to operate. Please let us know if you have something available.

Please feel free to contact Bob Sponable, Dan Roberts, Adrian Lakin or myself if you ever have any questions or concerns.