

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

November 15, 2013
issue #34

Tunbridge Board of Auditors

Maxine Young - 763-8274 auditors@tunbridgevt.com
Betsy Race, Becky Hoyt

The auditors are busy working on the 2013 Town Report. Please note the deadlines for submissions. For groups following a July-June fiscal year, all financial and narrative reports are due December 1, 2013. For those organizations following a calendar year, the reports are due January 6, 2014. If we do not receive reports by the deadlines, we cannot guarantee that we can include them in the Town Report. However, as soon as the information is available, we would appreciate receiving it, which helps avoid that last minute "crunch". Submit to: auditors@tunbridgevt.com. The Board of Auditors welcomes questions and we are happy to set up a meeting with any organization requiring our assistance with reporting.

Royalton Community Radio

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

Royalton Community Radio (RCR) is an independent, community-based, all volunteer, non-profit station which intends to educate and entertain our audience with diverse, thought-provoking local programming that has been neglected or underrepresented by other media. In particular, RCR's programming reflects the values of environmental/agricultural sustainability, freedom of expression, grassroots democracy and the uniqueness of our creative, cultural community.

Currently RCR is only available on the Internet at www.royaltonradio.org, but we submitted our application to the FCC for a low-power FM license in October, and hope to be broadcasting over the airwaves by 2014. RCR's board, and programming staff, is made up of a number of Tunbridge residents. RCR's studio is based in Royalton, but it is your community radio station!

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 janet@zugglass.com

Entries are usually printed as received but may be edited for typos or cut to fit a space. Pertinent news and information is not cut. Entries are always due on the first day of November, February, May and August.

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

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Liz York - 889-3211

Chairs: Nancy Chapman and Ingrid Van Steamburg
Secretaries: Ben Wolfe and Liz York

The Planning Commission has been busy finalizing its complete overhaul of the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan with the indispensable help of Peg Elmer, who has been working through a FEMA grant. Tunbridge's revision, including the process used, will serve as a template for other smaller towns in Vermont (Peg has worked with Hartford in a similar capacity to develop a template for larger municipalities). The Selectboard has formally adopted the plan and forwarded it to both FEMA and Vermont Emergency Management as required by state and federal law. This will ensure the Town's eligibility for various disaster relief and mitigation programs. Thank you to all the many people who participated in the process and showed up to our potlucks lo' these many months!

The Planning Commission is also in the process of finalizing a long overdue update of the Floodplain Ordinance, which is required if townspeople are to remain eligible for federal flood insurance. Please be on the lookout for announcements of public meetings and delicious potlucks as we conclude this process. The Planning Commission is required by state law to have finished the update by July 1, 2014. Tempus fugit!

Finally, the Planning Commission announces the official establishment of both the Town Forest Committee and the Town Agriculture Committee. Numerous individuals have shown interest in serving on these committees, and we encourage you to step forward now. Those interested should contact Gary Mullen by phone at 889-3323.

If there are other land use matters that you think the Planning Commission should address, please contact any member with your concerns!

Calendar of Events See individual entries for more events.

- Nov. 16 - North Tunbridge Grange Hunters Breakfast - 4-9am
All you can eat for only \$7.00.
- Nov. 16 - Mountain Folk presents "Bob Amos & Catamount Crossing"
Town Hall 7:30pm. Check out the band at bobamos.com.
Purchase advance tickets for \$15. at the Tunbridge Store,
SoRo Mkt, or mtntfolk.org. Or at the door for \$20.
- Dec. 7 - Shindig with "The Party Crashers" Town Hall, 8-11pm \$8.
more info at shindigsvt.com
- Dec. 8 - Rec. Committee Breakfast, Town Hall 8am - 12pm.
All you can eat for only \$8.00.
- Dec. 31 - Shindig with "The Gully Boys". Town Hall 9-12:30pm
\$15. Advance tickets are required for this dance only.
goto shindigsvt.com or call 889-9602
- Jan. 10 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - 7:30pm , Town Hall. Live music and
refreshments at intermission. All dance taught. \$8.00, for more
info contact 802-436-1152 or clydo46@gmail.com.
- Jan. 12 - Rec. Committee Breakfast, Town Hall 8am - 12pm.
All you can eat for only \$8.00.
- Feb. 1 - Shindig with "The Shugarmakers" Town Hall 8-11pm \$8.
more info at shindigsvt.com
- Feb. 9 - Rec. Committee Breakfast, Town Hall 8am - 12pm.
All you can eat for only \$8.00.
- Feb. 14 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - 7:30pm , Town Hall. Live music and
refreshments at intermission. All dance taught. \$8.00

Tunbridge Select Board

Bob Dunkle, (889-3740) Gary Mullen (889-3242)
Ingrid Van Steamburg (889-3459)

The select board has been busy finishing up working with the outside auditors, the Emergency Services Committee, the Planning Commission, and working on the budget.

As the board ends its work with the outside auditing firm, Beesaw & Associates we begin preparing for the next audit. After the next audit we will then be on a scheduled cycle, not annual.

Bob Dunkle has been working on the concept of a "Farmer's Contract" for the dairy farmers in town and will be talking with the Planning Commission in November.

In addition we respect tax payer's concerns about how the town's money is spent, especially on the heels of a noticeable increase in our taxes. So we just want clarify, for those who had concerns and questions during the fair, that the time and materials used by the road crew to help the fair out during one of our many rainstorms of the season was paid in full by the Fair Association.

We thank all that helped with keeping the fair going during a very soggy year.

The road crew continues general maintenance on our roads, replacing signs, culverts, and final maintenance before winter sets in. We believe we have plenty of sand stockpiled. If you have any concerns about roads please contact Rodney Hoyt at the town garage at 889-3319.

As always if you have any concerns regarding our town and services provided to you please contact a member of the board or attend a meeting, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 6pm in the town office building.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Ann Fragnella - 889-3571 afragnella@earthlink.net

I have put in a lot of hours the last couple of weeks just receiving payments. I have just written the 783rd receipt for Tunbridge Town Taxes for 2013. I sent out 874 tax bills back in August. So that is a pretty close guess as to how many delinquent bills I will be turning over to Jackie in a few days. (Once I have everything posted and balanced.)

I have been coming in to work when the auditors are having their work sessions, it makes it easier for all of us to be there to answer questions as they arise. Next we will be finalizing the professional audit for the year ended June 30, 2012 (yes 2012). The preliminary report says all was good. We have lots of suggestions on how to do things better and most of them are already implemented. The Select Board has already requested information to work on the budget for 2014/15; so that awaits me. My best to all and enjoy the Holidays.

Tunbridge School Board

Lorinda Oliver – lorinda.oliver@gmail.com

Kathy Galluzzo - galluzk@nationwide.com - 802-565-0695

Amy Frost – asf802@gmail.com – 889-3739

School got off to a terrific start just before Labor Day this year with our annual back-to-school Potluck and Parent information evening. For the second year in a row, our entire school attended the Tunbridge World's Fair and supported our many students and families who are involved in it. There have been several changes to the school day including the introduction of a world language and an advanced math class. The students have been enjoying some exciting ECEs (Educational Classroom Experiences, formerly referred to as field trips) which our wonderful School Club has very generously helped to fund. These extras have included a middle school trip to the Shelburne Museum and an elementary school trip to Billings Farm. The Vermont Symphony Orchestra came to perform for the second year in a row and this year we hosted the first ever Farm to School potluck dinner. Our school garden produced over 134 pounds of potatoes (from the 30 pounds that were planted) which were used for this dinner and continue to be used in our school lunches.

The eighth grade class has decided to go to DC for their final class trip. They are hard at work on Fundraising and planning what sights they would like to see while they are there. They put on a wonderful Halloween party with a haunted stage that was a great success and a lot of fun for kids and adults of all ages. Soccer season has ended and we are now gearing up for basketball. Hope to see all of you there cheering on the kids.

As always, we invite you to contact us to share your ideas or concerns. Our regular meeting is held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6pm in the TCS library.

Tunbridge Emergency Services Committee

Dave Kimball- 889-3758

The Tunbridge Emergency Services Committee continues to work with First Branch Ambulance, South Royalton Rescue and the Select Board to develop a long term recommendation for ambulance services for Tunbridge.

Both ambulance services have been very cooperative with our requests, including completing a detailed questionnaire about their organizations. In addition, they plan to share work on their respective 5-year plans, including financial projections. The latter is a difficult task, as both agencies are in transition with funding, services and personnel. Our goal is to present our recommendations to the Select Board in January.

Committee Members: Brenda Field, John Durkee, Dave Kimball, Michael Sacca, Bob Sporable.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Maxine Young, Secretary 763-8274 myoung7202@aol.com

Merle Howe, President 889-5574

The Civic Club held its annual meeting on October 7, 2013. The slate of officers voted in are: Merle Howe, President; Butch Howe, Vice-President; Maxine Young, Secretary; and Jory Innes, Treasurer.

A unanimous decision was made to hold the Civic Club Annual Show on Friday and Saturday evenings, March 28th and 29th, 2014, which will be our 62nd show. Rehearsal dates are not established as of this date. Again, a fun filled evening of entertainment (with some surprises thrown in) is planned. We are encouraging new energy –and are recruiting for high school students from Tunbridge. Of course, we also welcome all residents of Tunbridge to participate (or lived in Tunbridge at one time). The expectation for practices is that one try to make at least four of the practices, the dress rehearsal being mandatory. We realize everyone has a full schedule and if there are extenuating circumstances why you cannot attend practices, but want to be in the show, please let us know. We also would like as many as possible to make the first practice, or express your interest in being in the show by contacting ; Merle Howe, Maxine Young or Butch Howe at 889-3716. This will give us an idea of how many slots we have to fill for specials.

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. More information to follow in the next TQ!!

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521 tctunbridge@live.com

Hour: Mon-Wed 7:30am-3:00pm

Thurs: 7:30am-11:45am & 1:30pm-3:00pm

If you are a Tunbridge resident and a new parent in 2013 and your child was born out of the State of Vermont: If you would like your child's birth announcement in the in the Town Report, you must forward the information to the town clerk. Out of State births are not forwarded to Vermont town clerks. Information to be included in the 2013 Tunbridge Town Report must be received by the town clerk by December 01, 2013. If your child is born in the month of December 2013 please forward the information as soon as possible before January 01, 2014.

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami- 889-5575 schoolclub@tunbridge.k12.vt.us

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 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 with any of these tasks, 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 2, January 6 and February 3. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved! Children may come along to do homework, read or play games in the library.

Tunbridge One-Planet Afterschool Program

Phil Dimond - 889-3310

First, we wish to extend our apologies for our absence in the August edition of the "TQ". The summer was coming to an end and perhaps, being too excited about our campout, we just plum forgot to write something. We did indeed end up having a marvelous summer. We're slowly establishing camp traditions like our One Planet Camp Carnival, our Field Games Competition, and our trip to Hampton Beach.

The school year is humming along quite nicely. Michael Zerphy has helped us with our clowning and miming skills. It's not as easy as it looks. Bonna Weiler has been stepping us through orienteering, how to work with fire, and some simple carpentry. And Martha Hafner has shown us where our energy comes from and how we harness it. On an unrelated Thursday activity, Martha brought the Art Bus to TCS to show us how cheese is made, supplying us with a whole array of different ingredients to create our own unique goat cheese flavors.

We'll be continuing with most of these activities during our next session allowing us to build upon our newly learned abilities. We'll also be preparing for our annual Lights On celebration (Wednesday, November 13th) which gives every student at Tunbridge Central School the opportunity to join One Planet for an afternoon of good food, good music, crafts, dancing, and our third annual school wide soccer match. Come help us celebrate what One Planet is all about. Take care and stay warm.

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 a telecommunications effort owned and governed by 24 central Vermont towns and operated by Valley Net. The ultimate goal is to provide high-speed Internet via fiber-optic cable to every home and business in all 24 towns. Funding for this project is being raised in the form of investments. Thus far, ECFiber has strung over 160 miles of cable passing 2100 potential customers. Currently there are 480 customers which means right now the fiber build is ahead of subscriptions.

In an effort to speed up the process of hooking up subscribers, volunteers will be going door to door on each route that has been built or is on the current list to be built. These volunteers will be talking to home and business owners about the options for service as well doing an initial survey of what it will take to bring the line to their premises. This is an actual fiber-optic cable that needs to be connected to the building for service, usually in the same fashion as an electric line.

A "standard drop" is an aerial line from the pole that is 400' or less. The installation charge for this is \$75. for homes and \$150. for businesses. The actual cost for the simplest installation is over \$2000. Please remember that ECFiber is not a big business like Fairpoint or Comcast. There are no deep coffers of funds to draw from, so offering free installation or low introductory offers is not an option. What ECFiber does offer is the best connection possible, often to folks who have no other viable options, and an opportunity to support your community by subscribing &/or investing.

For premises that are further than 400' from the main line or that require underground cabling, the customer will be asked to pay the excess amount above the standard connection cost. The work can be performed by ECF, folks can do it themselves, or hire an outside contractor.

In Tunbridge service is currently available on Button Hill extending into Strafford via Potash and Kibling Hill Roads. Also on the the list to be built next is a run from Moxley Road on Rt110, up Chelsea Mtn Road, down Dickerman Hill to Whitney Hill. If you are on these routes, or think you may be, please goto www.ecfiber.net to subscribe or call the office at 763-2262. This will indicate that you want the service and start the process, someone from the ECFOffice will contact you about getting connected.

If you are just off of any of these routes, it may be simple to get it to you sooner than later. Contact your ECF delegates (info above) and see what can be done.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

For the 5th year in a row, Fire Department members went to the Tunbridge Central School in October to provide fire safety education to students in recognition of Fire Prevention month. The students viewed a fire safety video and learned about the importance of planning escape routes and designating 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.

Thank you to all who volunteered to help out at the coin drop fundraiser during the fair. The coin drop is our biggest fundraiser each year and it serves a critical role in the replacement and upkeep of various pieces of equipment. This year we ran into some new regulations that required us to spend \$2,500 on new signage for the coin drop. These signs can be used year after year, but the unexpected cost cut into the amount of funds we were able to put towards equipment replacement this year.

We have recently formed a subcommittee to look at the structural changes we will need to make as we expand our department to include rescue services. This will include updates to our operating guidelines, by laws and defining a specific training plan for rescue members. If you are interested in learning more about membership on either the fire or rescue squads, please feel free to stop by the firehouse at one of our business meetings on the second Thursday each month at 7:00pm.

There will be a first responder class starting in South Royalton in December. Watch for advertisements if you have an interest in enrolling. Also, be on the lookout for more information on VT Alert. This new program allows homeowners to go on line & register with VT Alert to receive information during disasters or other major events.

Visit us on Facebook under “Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department” for communication during disasters response. Don’t forget to contact our Fire Warden Brenda Field at 889-5548 for a fire permit if you plan to burn brush. A permit is required to burn brush at your home.

Daylight savings time has just past us by again. Remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and have your chimney cleaned. These regular maintenance activities can help to ensure you and yours have a safe holiday season and winter ahead.

State Representative

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

Although state legislators aren’t paid after the legislative session adjourns, many of us spend considerable time working on emerging, complex, or ongoing policy issues during the summer and fall. Like many of my colleagues, I’ve been spending a lot of time collaborating with department and agency leaders, non-profit partners, and private sector stakeholders about issues important to our state and region.

Earlier this fall, I was honored with a “Pacesetter Award” from a national women’s group in Washington, DC. Shortly after, an economic policy group invited me to Philadelphia to participate in a forum on funding for higher education. Finally, I’ve been deeply involved in examining Vermont’s early childhood support system by participating in a series of focus groups, task force meetings, and ultimately a statewide summit on October 29th.

Vermont Health Connect, our version of the federally mandated online marketplace for purchasing health care insurance (“the exchange”), is significantly more developed than exchange systems in other states. Still, it’s clear that the technological backbone that supports smooth functioning isn’t where the administration hoped it would be by now. The legislature included a provision in our enabling legislation that permits time extensions if certain benchmarks weren’t met. These include (1) defining essential health benefits, (2) designing the plans, (3) completing the rating process with insurance companies, and (4) ensuring that the IT system is up and running. Unlike New Hampshire, for example, we’ve progressed through most of the steps right on time. But since the IT system is not functioning satisfactorily, the Governor is invoking the power to delay so that no Vermonter experiences a lapse in coverage because of technical failures. In short, this means that Vermonters who would otherwise have had to begin purchasing health insurance through the exchange by January 1, 2014, may now continue to buy their insurance as they normally have until April 1, 2014. There is bipartisan approval for the Governor’s action. I’ll host a community information event on health care later this fall - with navigators on hand to answer your individual questions. Stay tuned for dates.

Tunbridge Library

Hours: Mon & Wed 3-8, Thur & Fri 3-6, S 10-4

Contact: Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404

ArtSpace Co-ordinator: Betsy Gaiser 763-2288

Special Holiday hours: Closes 6 pm Nov. 27; Closed Nov. 28 & 29

Closed Dec. 25 & 26; Closed January 1.

The Second Annual Holiday Sale of Books and Gifts will be November 16 and 17, at the Library from 10 am to 4 pm. Great new items of all kinds suitable for gift-giving will be on sale at half price or less. The library also offers an ongoing discount book sale of brand new books on a variety of topics.

Volunteers make the library as strong as it is—and we are always in need of your help! Any volunteers are included as Friends of the Tunbridge Public Library—a group of people interested in helping the library meet its goals of service to the community. These volunteers assist with fund-raising 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 to the library, and find out how your skills and efforts can make the library the best it can be!

ArtSpace is currently featuring a range of media by collaborative artists Jennie Harriman and Christopher Smith.

Children's story hours are regularly scheduled the first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:15 PM. The themes will be Nov. 21 (Corn!) and Dec. 5 (Sweet Dreams Tea Party).

Santa will be the featured guest on Saturday, December 7; holiday stories will begin at 10:30. Geoff Hansen will be available to catch the magical moments on camera.

The library will be offering another group of outstanding Winter Evenings presenters in the new year. Look for details about Winter Evenings 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. It's never too late to volunteer in helping out with these programs.

If you have new ideas for programming at the library -- whether speakers, crafts, or book discussions-- please contact us to find out how we can help! We are excited to keep the library a place for people of all interests to learn new skills and explore new ideas.

Come see our newest books, videos, and audiobooks. The library also offers information on VermontHealthConnect. The library offers transfer station tickets; free high-speed, wireless internet access; downloadable audio, E-books, and more. (Ask at the library for details or visit the tutorial on audiobooks on the Library's website: www.tunbridgeliibrary.org)

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue

Deb Mullen - 889-9406

First Branch has been busy since the last publication of the 1/4erly. As of July 1st our coverage area in Tunbridge has been reduced. There have been a few issues with dispatch but we are sure that with continued communication we can work through it.

Once again we provided EMS coverage during the fair. This is always a busy time for our crew as well as the volunteers that help us in our fundraising booth. Heather Mullen organizes this event annually and we thank her for all of her hard work.

There will be a Emergency Medical Responder course starting in December. It will be held at the Tunbridge Fire Station on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is the beginner level for ambulance and First Responders. This is a 84 hour (14 week) course. Contact Dave Palmer, 763-8133, Linda Kuban, 685-3112 or John Durkee 889-3408 for more information.

We are working with the Emergency Services Committee to provide them with our 5 year plan.

We are working with Gifford Hospital and South Royalton Rescue in the SAVE program. This is a program that will help cut costs for ambulance and rescue services with purchasing medical supplies and trainings among other things.

We are working on a new program with the Chelsea Health Center to provide home visits to citizens of Tunbridge and Chelsea. These visits can be to check vitals, dressings, medications and more. This is a new and exciting way to provide services to our elderly residents as well as other members of the community that are in the need of limited medical assistance in between doctors visits. We also attend senior dinners several times each month.

Please feel free to contact any member of our squad or board with any questions or concerns at 685-3112 or 889-9406. Thank you for your support.

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 Grange #384

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

Friday night bingo will begin on January 10th at 7pm and will continue every Friday thru April.

Regular meetings are held on the first Wednesday each month, come by and see what we're up to!

Tunbridge Cemetery Commission

Nancy Howe - 889-3750

The Tale of the Traveling Fence continues... the Button Hill Cemetery fence is still in storage. During the summer, the Tunbridge Cemetery Commissioners put the project out to bid again. New bids were received. All were higher than Bruce Cate's bid but they are in line with bids tendered in 2012. We now appreciate the special pricing that Bruce Cate offered. Sufficient funds were in place to cover Bruce's work but additional monies are needed. The successful bidders are ready to go to work this winter, provided we can raise the remaining funds.

Button Hill Cemetery families, neighbors and other interested folks were again asked to consider making a tax deductible donation to make up the difference. We are grateful to the all those who participated in either fund raising effort. We are now at over 80% of our goal: we need to raise only \$3350. additional dollars before work can commence..

We know everyone would like to see the fence back in place for Memorial Day. With year end approaching, this would be a great time to take advantage of the opportunity to help make this possible by contributing before Dec. 31, 2013. Tax deductible donations can be made to The Tunbridge Cemetery Commission, PO Box 6, Tunbridge, VT 05077. Please add "Button Hill Fence" to the memo line. Contact Euclid Farnham, Baxter Doty, or Erin Gooch for more details.

DivorceCare 2013 Winter Seminar

Robert Brinkley- 717-903-4663

Folks are invited to begin the DivorceCare Fall Seminar sessions now, Tuesdays 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm through December 3rd, 2013. We meet at the Tunbridge Church Parish House (also known as the Parsonage) 3 Potash Hill Road, off Route 110 across from the Tunbridge Church.

The winter seminar starts January 7, 2014 ends April 1st. You can pick up the missed sessions then.

Each DivorceCare meeting has a 30 - 40 minute video with top experts on divorce and recovery subjects. You will receive a personal DivorceCare workbook. The group discussions are focused & confidential. It doesn't matter how long you have been divorced or separated. Fee \$15 to cover the workbook.

For confidential registration information, call DivorceCare Co-Facilitators Nancy Fullam 802-331-1059 or Robert Brinkley 717-903-4663.

DivorceCare Surviving the Holidays is a one time event, will be held again this year, and will meet in the living room of the Tunbridge Church Parish House from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thursday November 14 and will repeat at same time and location on Tuesday, December 10th. This event is free.

More info about Surviving the Holidays at the Tunbridge Church website. <http://www.tunbridgechurch.org/>

High Country Cloggers

Linda Lazaroff – 889-9421 or 2happyfeet@myfairpoint.net

High Country Cloggers wishes to thank those who attended the 2nd Annual Benefit Variety Show on Saturday, October 5th. The variety show was a fundraiser for the Tunbridge Historical Society to help with completing the archival storage room in the basement of the new Tunbridge Public Library community meeting room. It was another successful event enjoyed by many. Several new acts performed making for an interesting and fun evening.

Many donations for the raffle table were received from local businesses and individuals and we thank everyone for their kind and generous donations.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 27, 2014 for the 3rd Annual Variety Show to benefit the project of updating the kitchen in the Parish House.

Tunbridge Church

Judie Lewis - 889-9490

Deadra Ashton, Pastor - 889-9828

The Tunbridge Church community is preparing for the holiday season which includes a Thanksgiving Eve service, a carol sing and church decorating party, caroling, distribution of holiday baskets to local residents, special music at Advent worship services, and two Christmas Eve services.

The Youth Choir presents a Christmas Eve pageant at the 6 p.m. service for which preparations are underway. Children of all ages are invited to participate as singers or simply part of the cast. The theme of the Christmas pageant will be the longing for the peace of the Christ Child and will centered around the traditional biblical Christmas story. Co-director Liz Mulvey is organizing this year's pageant. More information may be obtained from Liz, from Janet Zug, or by calling the church office.

The adult choir provides music for the 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols and provides special music during the Advent season. The choir invites any area singers to join the choir for this special season.

The Neptunes, a four-member group featuring lush harmonies, will offer sacred seasonal music at the Dec. 22 service.

Information about dates for collection and distribution of Holiday baskets may be obtained from Sue Barnaby or by calling the church office.

Holiday events include:

Thanksgiving Eve service, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27.

Church Decorating Party at 6pm and Carol Sing at 7 Friday, Dec. 6.

Christmas Caroling, meet at 6 p.m. at the Parish House to caravan to houses. Refreshments after caroling at the home of Matt and Amy Frost, Falls Hill Road, Friday, December 20.

Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 6 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24.

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

Tunbridge Listers

Helen O'donnell, Rudy Ruddell, Adam Smith 889-3571

<listers@tunbridgevt.com>

It's hard to believe Fall is upon us again and colder weather is here. The listers recently sent out a mailing to the Northwest Corner of town for our quarterly rotation. This is an inspection of the outside of people's property. We would call and request an appointment should we see anything that triggers an inside inspection. We will basically be updating our pictures of the property and comparing to the current file. Thank you in advance for your kindness towards us as we strive to do this job.

A side note concerning the increase you saw in your tax bill. This was generated by what was voted at town meeting last March, and if you didn't come to town meeting, your voice wasn't heard! There was a \$0.26 increase in the rate, which for a lot of you meant a \$1,000 dollar increase in taxes. We mention this to say how important it is to be at town meeting each year or to begin attending the selectboard or schoolboard budget meetings that will soon be underway. Our participation may help us all better understand the budget lines when they are presented at town meeting.

Also a note on maps. We can quickly provide you with a basic map of your property and abutters, either in print or as a pdf that can be emailed. If you have a high speed internet connection, we highly recommend the interactive Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Atlas: <http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra/> . This application allows viewing of parcel boundaries (within the 'ANR BaseMap Data' in the Map Layers) against a wealth of other information including aerial photography. If you don't have a high-speed connection we have bookmarked the Atlas on the internet browsers on the computers at the Library. Office hours remain on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am-3pm. If you have any questions please feel free to call us at 889-3571.

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 Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Maxine Young 889-8274 David Wolfe - president

For TNHN services call: 889-3437

TNHN has been started by local residents in order to improve the lives of residents of Tunbridge, Vermont and the immediate surrounding area. Our emphasis is to provide services for seniors, but ANYONE is eligible. If your request is reasonable and we can find a volunteer, we will do it. Everyone needs help with something sometime, so please call. 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.

We are not able to provide emergency or daily services. As a practical limit, we are able and willing to do a couple of calls per month for the same person.

If you want to volunteer, please contact any of the board members or call 889-3437 and we will put you on the list. You may then be called from time to time. No one is going to be asked to do something week after week. Let us know if there are particular things that you might be able to do.

At the meeting October 15, 2013, a speaker from SASH (Support and Services at Home) was present. This is a new program that offers coordinated supportive services where you live. Their purpose is a combination of what Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Visiting Nurse Association does. They are based out of Randolph and are in need of volunteers. For information, contact Bonnie Cooper 802-728-3310 or bonnie@racdc.com.

A motion was made and passed to keep the same slate of officers, who are President, David Wolfe; Vice-President, Felicity Swayze; Secretary, Maxine Young; Treasurers, Lee Banas and Bill Gefell. Board Members: Brenda Field, Bill Gefell, Lee Banas, Felicity Swayze, Pam Dietz, Maxine Young, David Wolfe.

Tunbridge Town Website

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

Got an event you want to promote? The Tunbridge website is a great way to reach your audience! Potlucks? Hikes? Concerts? Just email them to me with as much detail as you can with enough lead time for me to post it before your 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. If you or your group post things in The Herald you should consider also posting them on the official Tunbridge website!

Tunbridge Farm-to-School Program

Kate Reimanis, - 765-4114 kreimanis@gmail.com.

Tunbridge Central School teachers have done an incredible job incorporating agriculture into the curriculum this fall.

Here are some highlights from the classrooms:

- Each grade prepared a delicious, locally inspired dish for the Taste of Tunbridge potluck. Apple fritters, pickles, tomato sauce, quiche, salad with maple vinaigrette, vegetable soup, roasted potatoes, and more...
- 1st graders harvested many different vegetables from their new garden plot, outside the library.
- Middle school students harvested 120 pounds of potatoes from their new garden plot, also outside the library.
- Grades 2, 3, and 4 returned to the Chapman farm to harvest pumpkins planted in the fall and learn more about the affect of weather on crop production.
- Grade 4 harvested apples in the VTC orchard for the Tunbridge Fair cider pressing.
- Middle school students studied and sketched old-fashioned tools on Antique Hill at the Fair.
- 1st graders studied the life cycle of a pumpkin plant, illustrated their own pumpkin books, and celebrated by making pumpkin ice cream.
- Amy Bogardus took a team of students to the Jr. Iron Chef competition in Sharon. They made Loaded Garlic Potatoes and Spinach Feta Chicken Quesadillas. Congratulations!

Exciting things are happening in the cafeteria as well:

- Locally purchased ingredients for the Hot Lunch program include maple syrup from the Bogardus family, carrots and radishes from Wes Mattern, Vermont Farmstead cheese, pork from Back Beyond Farm, and salad greens and lettuce from Tunbridge Hill Farm.
- The monthly taste tests have been really fun! Students have enjoyed sampling different varieties of Vermont apples, Vermont Farmstead Cheddar Cheese, and pumpkin cookies. Past taste-tests of scalloped potatoes and broccoli cheddar soup will be on the November menu, along with homemade beef stew with local beef.
- Big thanks to Kevin Moran for purchasing and installing a new salad bar. Every day, students create their own tasty salads. As a result, there is less food waste and more salad eating at TCS.

As for the community...

- The Taste of Tunbridge potluck was attended by over 100 people. The food was absolutely delicious, and the decorations by Ann Chapman were fabulous! Thanks to everyone who came and brought such tasty, creative locally inspired dishes.
- The Farmer Photo project is underway, thanks to photographers Geoff Hansen and Laura Decapua. We will be contacting farmers in the upcoming months to arrange photo sessions and interviews. Stay tuned!