

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
P.O. Box 68
Tunbridge, VT 05077

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage PAID
Tunbridge, VT
Permit No. 3

Postal Patron
Tunbridge, VT
05077

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

February 15, 2014
issue #35

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 janet@zugglass.com

The first TQ was mailed in 2005 with the goal of providing a venue for our town officers and local volunteers to inform the townspeople about what's going on in Tunbridge. Entries are mostly printed as received. It is my hope that readers are finding the TQ to offer interesting and useful information.

I'd like to encourage all Tunbridge voters to attend the upcoming annual school and town meetings. Let's create a record turn out this year!

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

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521 <tctunbridge@live.com>

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

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

Pre-Town Meeting: Tuesday February 25, at 7:30pm.

Annual School Meeting: Monday March 3, at 7:30pm.

Annual Town Meeting: Tuesday March 4, at 10:00am.

All meetings 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 for the Annual Meetings is February 26th, by 5:00pm.

A Rabies Clinic is scheduled for March 22, from 9:00am-12pm at the Chelsea Town Hall. Vaccines are given by a Licensed Veterinarian from the Chelsea Animal Hospital, 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 per animal.

Dog licenses are due April 1st. If your dog(s) is due for a rabies vaccine prior to April 01, a license cannot be issued. Cost per license is \$8.00 spayed/neutered; \$12.00 for non-spayed/neutered. You may get dog licenses at the Town Clerks Office, or by mail. I will also be available at the rabies Clinic to issue dog licenses.

Soup and Stories

Bunchie Angell 889-3711

Announcing a new community opportunity in Tunbridge. You are invited to share Soup and Stories on the third Wednesday of the month from 12.30 to 2.30pm.

The first gathering will be held on Wednesday, February 19, at the Parish House on Rte 110 opposite the church. Donations of bread, cookies, crackers and beverages are welcome. Any questions, please call Bunchie Angell at the number above.

Calendar of Events

 See individual entries for more events.

- Feb 19 - Soup and Stories, Parish House, 13:30-2:30pm
Continuing on the third Wednesdays each month.
- Feb. 22 - Community Winter Carnival at TCS
- Feb. 25 - Pre-Town Meeting, 7:30pm at TCS
- Mar. 1 - Shindig with "The John Lackard Blues Band" Town Hall, 8-11pm \$8. at the door. More info at shindigsvt.com
- Mar. 3 - Annual School Meeting, 7:30pm at TCS
- Mar. 4 - Annual Town Meeting, 10am at TCS
- Mar. 8 Rec. Committee Breakfast, Town Hall, 8am-12pm. \$8.
- Mar. 9 - Mountain Folk presents Richard Shindell, Town Hall 7:30pm. www.mtnfolk.org
- Mar. 14 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - 7:30pm , Town Hall, \$8.
- Mar. 17 - Civic Club Show rehearsals begin- Town Hall, 7pm
- Apr. 5- Shindig - "Jeanne and the HiTops" Town Hall, 8-11pm
- Apr. 11 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - 7:30pm , Town Hall, \$8.
- Apr. 11 - Community Talent Show at TCS, 7-8:30pm
- Apr. 12 - Rec. Committee Breakfast, Town Hall, 8am-12pm. \$8.
- Apr. 12 - Mountain Folk presents "Haywire", Town Hall 7:30pm.
- May 9 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - 7:30pm , Town Hall, \$8.
- May 10 - Rec. Committee Breakfast, Town Hall, 8am-12pm. \$8.
- Freedom & Unity: The Vermont Movie - at the Library**
- Part 1 - Sunday, Feb 2 @ 4pm
- Part 2 - Sunday, Feb 16 @ 4pm
- Part 3 - Sunday, Feb 23 @ 4pm
- Part 4 - Friday, Mar 7 @ 7pm
- Part 5 - Sunday, Mar 16 @ 4pm
- Part 6 - Sunday, Mar 23 @ 4pm

Tunbridge Church

Deadra Ashton, Pastor - 889-9828

Spring is a busy time in the life of The Tunbridge Church. Lent begins on March 5 and we will observe this six-week-long season every Sunday through creative presentations and music that tell the Gospel stories. On Palm Sunday (April 13) both the Youth and Adult Choirs will offer special music. Later that week, on Good Friday (April 18) we will hold a special communion and candlelight service at 7:30 pm.

Easter Sunday (April 20) celebrations begin at dawn with the Sunrise Service (exact time to be determined) on Strafford Hill. All are invited to breakfast hosted by the Church in the Town Hall after the Sunrise Service. The morning's festivities culminate with the 10 am worship service in the church, featuring special music by both choirs and instrumentalists.

Every year The Tunbridge Church hosts a Sugar on Snow Party when the conditions are right. Watch for more information once the date is set.

One of the highlights of the church year is the Mother's Day Service led by the Youth Choir. The service will be held on May 11.

The Food Shelf is open every Friday from 4 pm - 6 pm. Office hours are every Tuesday and Thursday from 1 pm - 3 pm.

Winter Movie Series on Vermont

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

A new movie on our brave (& beautiful) state is being screened at the Tunbridge Library over February & March. "Freedom & Unity: The Vermont Movie" (released last fall), uses cinema verite, personal stories, rare footage, compelling interviews and original re-enactments to create a fresh, living testament that explores the history and contemporary culture of the Green Mountain State.

This ground-breaking, six-part journey reveals the stories of Vermonters past and present — from Abenakis and early settlers, runaway slaves and farmers to historians, politicians, newcomers and activists moving "back to the land."

Local Norwich filmmaker Nora Jacobson will present Part 4 at the Library Winter Evening on Friday, March 7; other dates will include post-screening discussions led by filmmakers interested in Tunbridge's part in Vermont history.

Free-will donations will be accepted at the screenings towards purchase of this DVD for the library collection and to support filmmakers' travel to Tunbridge. See the next page for dates and times.

Tunbridge Select Board

Ingrid Van Steamburg, Bob Dunkle, Gary Mullen

In regards to our entry printed in the upcoming Town Report:

First, we thanked the Treasurer, Auditors and Listers for all of their work throughout the past year, but we neglected to include Wendy McCullough and we'd like to mention that we appreciate her work as well. Thank you to everyone in the Town Office.

Second, we forgot to thank the anonymous donor who has made several projects at the Town Hall possible this year - such as refinishing floors.

Our final omission was under the budget section of our report, in regards to a change we started last year by adding a line for ambulance services to our budget. This year that line includes the total cost for services provided, so you will not see a separate article on the warning for an appropriation for either ambulance service.

Lastly, we feel it necessary to mention a recent petition that was circulated in town by First Branch Ambulance. "To see if the Town will vote to allow FBA and South Royalton Rescue to work together to set areas of EMS coverage in the town of Tunbridge." The petition was not approved to have an article on the Town Meeting Warning, because what it was asking is not necessary for the town to vote on. At our January 7th Select Board meeting this was clearly explained to FBA and they were advised on how to proceed. We want you to know that if the petition had asked for the residents to have this discussion it would have been placed on the town warning.

Here we are three town meetings later, we have to take the emotions out of this process to be able to move forward. We recognize change is a hard thing but we can't imagine that any Tunbridge resident wouldn't want their fellow residents to receive the fastest possible response time for ambulance service.

Contact our Emergency Services Committee if you have questions or concerns about ambulance service, see pages 11-12.

As always if you have any concerns we welcome your calls or attend a meeting, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 6pm, Town Office.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Ann Fragnella - 889-3571 afragnella@earthlink.net

One year ago, I was saying hello to my neighbors as your new treasurer! My how quickly time goes by. I really like my job but have found that it is more full time than the part-time I had been led to believe. I got through my first year of collecting tax dollars and learned a lot in the process. Since then it has been year-end payroll forms and on to helping the town auditors sort things out, and the select board with budget projections. I hope to see all of you at Town Meeting on the 4th of March. I will try to be prepared to answer your questions. (A test of my memory, right?)

Tunbridge School Board

Lorinda Oliver – lorinda.oliver@gmail.com

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

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

The learning, excitement and fun continue at The Tunbridge Central School! After several enriching experiences this Fall (a visit from the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, a Middle School trip to the Shelburne Museum, and an elementary grades visit to the Billings Farm -- all made possible by our wonderful School Club), we are now proud to be offering two world languages at the Middle School level - French and Italian. In addition to our long-running and very popular Chess club, and our second year of Newspaper club, students now have the option to participate in Art Club, Science Club & Genealogy Club.

Tunbridge Central School has recently re-aligned with the Federal Nutrition Standards which allows us to continue to receive Federal funding for free and reduced lunch. And, thanks, to the successful Farm to School program, our lunches are now better than ever. We recently had three TCS student representatives attend Farm to School Awareness Day in Montpelier and speak before a group of legislators, parents, teachers and farmers about the program.

Our 8th grade class has been busy collecting information about local high schools and beginning the decision-making process about where to attend 9th grade. Because we are a “choice town,” our students can make informed decisions about the best school fit for their high school years. The majority of our students choose to stay in the district and attend South Royalton HS, Chelsea HS or The Sharon Academy but we have sent students to Randolph, Thetford, Hartford, Hanover and beyond. If you are a Tunbridge resident student but do not attend the Tunbridge Central School, we may not know about you and you may not know about all your choices. Please be in touch with any member of our School Board or our Principal, Rick Talbot to let us know you are out there!

And be sure to check out our TCS website which is being regularly updated now. It is still a work-in-progress but you can find current information on basketball schedules and other TCS happenings as well as links to other information in the district. <http://www.tunbridge.owsu.org/>

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 and we welcome you!

Kidlinks Tumble Time for Tots

Amy Bogardus - 889-3306

Supervised activities for your tot's (birth – 5) energetic, large muscles! Activities involve balls, ride-on toys, tunnels, and more! An interactive social setting for both parents and their children!

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Feb. 1 – Tunbridge Central School gym

Feb. 8 – Tunbridge Central School gym

Feb. 22 – Chelsea Public School gym

Mar. 8 – Strafford's Rosa B. Tyson Gym

Mar. 15 – Sharon Elementary gym

Mar. 22 - S. Royalton Middle School gym

Mar. 29 – S. Royalton Middle School gym

Hope to see you there!!!!

Any questions contact Julz Robinson at julzballgirl25@aol.com.

High Country Cloggers

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

High Country Cloggers will be hosting its 3rd Annual Benefit Variety Show on Saturday, September 27th at 7:00 PM at the Tunbridge Town Hall. The variety show is a fundraiser for the Tunbridge Church Parish House to help with the restoration of this frequently used building.

Proceeds from the 2012 show went to help with additional expenses in connection with the new community meeting room at the Tunbridge Public Library and the 2013 show proceeds went to help complete the new Historical Society archival storage space in the Community Meeting Room basement at the Tunbridge Public Library.

It's not too early to mark your calendars for September 27th. The shows have been a huge success as we strive to make each year better while bringing in new talent.

If you are interested in donating an item to our raffle table, we would appreciate items from our local businesses or crafts people. Also be sure to check out the Tunbridge website at <http://www.tunbridgevt.com/>

Tunbridge One-Planet Afterschool Program

Phil Dimond - 889-3310

The New Year has arrived once again (it always does!), and we here at Tunbridge One Planet have been undergoing many different changes. For one, our staff has been completely revamped. Melissa Haffner and Ashlie Ferro have been wonderful additions, as has Loretta Cragin, a highly decorated educator who seeks to help transform our program into a bonafide academic enrichment powerhouse.

Our Session III has just begun. We look forward to cross country skiing with Bonna, to learning about Pointillism (the art of using dots in patterns to form larger images) with Karleigh, and to refining our writing and reading skills with Loretta.

But now to introduce the real pièce de résistance...

From the end of March to the end of May Tunbridge One Planet will finally be hosting “Girls on the Run”, the successful, nationwide, physical training program with the mission to help girls become more confident in themselves and to learn how to interact positively with one another. Pam Fitzgerald, assisted by Allison Ericson, will be training our girls, grades 3-6, for a 5K scheduled in Essex at the end of May. We will be holding a registration/information session immediately after school at TCS on Monday, March 10th.

As is One Planet’s mission statement, no one will be denied access to programming for financial reasons. There are, however, certain fees associated with this particular curriculum. If you would be interested in becoming a sponsor for one of our girls, please don’t hesitate to contact One Planet through the contact information below. For additional information please visit www.girlsontherun.org.

DivorceCare 2013 Winter Seminar

Robert Brinkley- 717-903-4663

DivorceCare spring/summer recovery support group seminar will run from 5/6/14- -7/29. Meetings will be held from 6:30-8:30pm at the Journey Church Fellowship Hall in South Royalton.

The only cost is \$15. for the workbook. Scholarships are available. Confidential Registration.

DivorceCare is a divorce recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of separation and divorce. Everyone is accepted with compassion and love regardless of their beliefs.

DivorceCare is looking for Facilitators to volunteer their time group meetings. If you are interested in becoming a Facilitator, contact Robert Brinkley at 802-889-3761, call or text 717-903-4663, or email rbrinkle@gmail.com. Or contact Pastor Brad Keller at brad@journeychurchvt.com, call or text 802-281-2317.

For more info goto: <http://www.divorcecare.org>
www.divorcecare.org/findagroup/groups/42414
<http://www.journeychurchvt.com/divorcecare/>

State Representative

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

The hottest political topic in Vermont this year is the affordability and sustainability of our education finance system (Act 60/68). My committee has spent considerable time reviewing factors that impact local school budgets and tax rates. Several statewide conditions are adding stress to property tax rates this year, including (1) housing prices that continue to lag, depressing the value of the statewide grand list, (2) federal funds that had helped “soften the blow” of the recession on property tax payers have expired, (3) our proportional general fund transfer amount continues to shrink because rising education spending is outpacing the statutorily set inflation amount, (4) sequestration has eliminated some specific sources of funding to help schools participate in federal and state programs, shifting the cost of those programs to local districts and increasing the education spending in certain districts. At the local level, schools are grappling with fewer students, increased need for support and services for children living in poverty, rising healthcare, fuel, and maintenance costs, and an aging workforce.

Using standardized tests as a measure, Vermont students perform at exceedingly high levels in the country—and the world. But advances in technology are rapidly making our current schooling structure obsolete. By combining modern organizational design principles with personalized learning plans, we can leverage innovation to ensure that every Vermont child graduates with the core competency required for 21st century civic and workforce participation. My committee expects that changes in how we deliver education will support greater efficiencies, quality & opportunity for students, and taxpayer savings.

Sign-up for bi-weekly electronic updates at sbuxton@leg.state.vt.us.

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 Grange #384

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

This summer we had new water lines put in. Our Harvest Supper and Hunters Breakfast went well. We have started bingo every Friday night thru April at 7pm at the Tunbridge Town Hall, come and join us. Our meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month, everyone is welcome.

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 7. 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 pigs for the event. TCS art students and local Girl Scouts created festive centerpieces and decorations. Several TCS students, led by Emily Ferro and Lori Elder, eagerly served as wait staff for over 100 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 16. 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 21 is the School Winter Carnival for students, staff and teachers. Saturday, February 22 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 10, April 7, May 5 and June 2. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

Tunbridge Community Talent Show

Amy Bogardus - 889-3306

The Tunbridge Central School Student Council hosting their first ever "Community Talent Show". The fundraiser is an effort to raise money to help support the cost of playground equipment, Winter Carnival, end of the year Field Days, gifts for Teacher Appreciation week, as well as an Annual Semi-Formal for the middle school students. We are excited to see what talents are around us that go unnoticed!! Don't miss out!! Please register (for FREE) if you would like to share your talent in front of a live audience. ALL ages are welcome!

DATE: Friday April 11, 2014

LOCATION: Tunbridge Central School Gymnasium

TIME: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 5, 2014

REGISTRATION CONTACT: Student Council Representative
Jackson Jenkins 889-9591 jacksonjenkins6@gmail.com

ADMISSION: \$3.00/Adult \$1.00/Student

5 and under are FREE

There will be cash prizes for the top 3 winners.

Refreshments will be on sale! Hope to see you there!!

Veterans' Drive at TCS

Elaine Howe - 889-5560

The Sticky Buns (teacher advisory group of grades 5 - 8 at Tunbridge School) need to do some community service for the school year. We decided to collect items for the Veterans' Homeless Homes in White River, Northfield, Bradford, Williston and the Veterans' Home in Bennington. We hope you will bring an item to us here at school or to the School Meeting on March 3 at 7:30 p.m. or to the Town Meeting on March 4 at 10 a.m.

Items needed are:

toothbrushes

hair brushes

chapped lip ointment

shampoo

liquid soap

socks

shawls

lap robes

toothpaste

combs

deodorant

lotion

playing cards

slippers

slipper socks

cardigan sweaters L or XL

bibs to cover lap (towel size)

search a word

jigsaw puzzles

dental paste for dentures

bathrobes

Tunbridge Farm-to-School Program

Kate Reimanis - 765-4114 kreimanis@gmail.com

Taste Tests: Students recently sampled “roasted roots”, containing beets, carrots and potatoes tossed with olive oil and salt, and roasted in a hot oven. 72 kids liked it, 23 didn’t, and 6 didn’t try it. Some kids loved the sweet beets, while others did not care for them at all. It is interesting that most of the kindergarteners did not like the dish. Our taste buds seem to change as we grow...I remember hating things as a kid that I came to enjoy as a teen and an adult.

Thanks and congratulations to Keenan Thygesen, and Addison and Shannon Hadlock! On January 16, these three TCS students spoke in front of a group of legislators, parents, teachers, and farmers at Farm to School Awareness Day in Montpelier. The kids spoke slowly and clearly about our Farm to School program. The Hadlock girls shared that they have enjoyed bringing their classmates to their farm to learn about cows and manure, making butter and drawing the landscape. Keenan also shared his enjoyment of the “Taste of Tunbridge” local foods potluck.

In the cafeteria: Gary Mullen’s local organic beef has arrived and is being served in stew and shepherd’s pie. We continue to enjoy real maple syrup from the Bogardus family sugar shack, and Vermont Farmstead Cheese from South Woodstock.

Tunbridge Board of Auditors

Maxine Young - 763-8274 auditors@tunbridgevt.com

Betsy Race, Becky Hoyt

The Board of Auditors are again working a lot of hours, gathering information for the Town Report. This involves obtaining reports, budgets, orders, auditing of same, and putting the information together for the printing of the town report. This is a time consuming process and we are very grateful for our Treasurer, Ann Fragnella, and for her valuable assistance.

The auditors greatly appreciate those who sent their reports on time, however, there were many reports submitted late. This creates somewhat of a burden getting the town report to the printer in a timely manner. We hope to see you all at Town Meeting.

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue

Deb Mullen - 889-9406

Due to the large volume of calls, conversations, and emails we have received concerning changes in ambulance coverage a petition was started with the goal of placing an article on the warning for town meeting. There were sufficient signatures to bring the petition to the selectboard, however the board voted to deny it. As a result, for the first time in 28 years the ambulance service will have no article on the warning. Should you wish to see this decision addressed at town meeting the proper time to do so will be during the discussion of the selectboard budget or at the end of the meeting under other business.

There is still much discussion about response times for ambulance calls, whether from South Royalton or Chelsea. While response time is important we have to remember that we live in a rural area, and there are many factors that determine response times. We are still seeking a garage situation in Tunbridge, which would enable our response time to be much quicker. Please let us know if you have a building that would be appropriate.

In other news we have set our per capita rate for 2014 at \$28.00. This is up slightly but still well below other rates in our area. We are augmenting our income by doing non-emergency transports for Gifford Hospital, which helps to keep our rates low. Transports are done by squad members who are not on call, and only when we have the additional staff. We continue to provide home house calls through the Chelsea Health Center; if you know someone who could use help with putting up medicines, changing bandages, monitoring blood pressure or any other routine home health needs, please contact us.

We have 5 potential new squad members! They are taking the EMR course now and we look forward to welcoming them to our squad as soon as they are certified.

As we expand our services in new ways we are even more optimistic about our ability to serve our community and look forward to continuing to do so.

If you have any questions about our services please contact us at 889-9406 or 685-3112. Questions concerning prospective route changes and/or other services should be directed to the Emergency Services Committee.

Thank you for your support.

Tunbridge Listers

Helen O'donnell, Rudy Ruddell, Adam Smith 889-3571
<listers@tunbridgevt.com>

The Listers have been busy updating our Grand List in preparation for our April 1st deadline. Real estate sales and changes to property after that date will not affect the Grand List until 2015. If you have any questions about this process or anything else property tax related feel free to stop by the town office. Our office hours are Tuesdays and Fridays from 9-3.

As always, our goal is to keep property values fair and equitable across the town. We do this by assessing each property as close to the fair market value as we can. One way to determine how close we are to fair market values across the town is by looking at recent arms-length sales and comparing them to our listed values. This data is analyzed once a year as part of a state wide sales study. We received the most recent sales study on December 20th, and the numbers indicate our listed values are reasonably accurate (the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) shows our current listed values at 106.04% of sales study-derived "fair market value"). It also indicated that we have a high level of equity across taxpayers' assessments (Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) of 9.71%; less than 10% shows a high level of equity). If we are off by too far a margin (CLA<80% or COD>20%) it will trigger a town wide reappraisal. Thankfully there will be no need for a reappraisal this year.

You may see us driving around inspecting houses this winter. We are in the midst of our quarterly rotation for the year. Each year we try to do exterior inspections of a quarter of the town. This year we will be inspecting parcels in the northwest part of town. We use these visits to update our photos and check for any new construction or major depreciation that has occurred. Thank you all for your patience and hospitality as we visit each of your homes. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to give us a call.

Thank you all for your patience and hospitality as we visit each of your homes. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to give us a call.

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.

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 received confirmation that our application to the FCC for a low-power FM license has been granted! Eventually we will also be on 96.5 FM, but in the meantime we are fundraising to make that a reality.

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!

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.

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

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

The Library is a terrific place to find a great novel, talk with neighbors, use wifi, or learn about a new subject. We have new bestsellers, classic masterpieces, magazines, audiobooks, and videos.

If you can't find an item in our collection, we will be happy to get it by Inter-Library Loan as quickly as possible. Thank you to our team of volunteer couriers who can sometimes arrive faster than the postal service.

Jody Lowes continues to offer terrific Story Hours for families with children of all ages on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The themes coming up will be Brothers & Sisters (Feb 20); Math Night (March 6); Sweet Sugaring (March 20); and Stories around the World (April 3). Come at 6:15 pm and enjoy fun activities, enchanting stories, and a light snack.

Don't miss the upcoming Winter Evenings with two different musical programs by Dick Ellis (Feb. 21 in Tunbridge and Feb. 28 in Royalton), a look at the Vermont Movie with Nora Jacobson (March 7), and a Vermonter's guide to the U.S. Supreme Court with professor Cheryl Hanna (March 21). The Vermont Movie, a six-part series made with the efforts of forty film-makers will be showing in upcoming weeks. Tune in for just one or all of these episodes: Part Two (4 pm on Feb. 16); Part Three (4pm on Feb. 23), Part Four (7pm on March 7); Part Five (4pm on March 16); and Part Six (March 23). Great Discussions and great snacks make this a fun and lively event.

ArtSpace is currently showing the photographs of Alec Frost, showcasing the historic homes, barns, and bridges of Tunbridge. This exhibit will be up through March 17. An Art Opening for Peter Flint will follow in late March.

For a full list of events call the library, visit the website <tunbridgeLibrary.org>; or email us for updates <tunbridgeLibrary@yahoo.com>.

The Friends of the Library is the volunteer group who supports the library's mission and does fund raising for the Library's operation. If you are helping out at the library's Town Meeting Dinner -- you are a Friend of the Library. Whether you are donating ingredients, time, or energy-- thanks for making this an enjoyable event and raising money for books and programs for the whole town! There are plenty of ways to help us out getting ready for the Plant, Book, and Bake sale at Memorial Day, too. If you are interested in volunteering, call the library (889-9404), President Euclid Farnham (889-3458), or Treasurer Donna Nelson (889-5642).

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 thru a contract with ValleyNet. The ultimate goal is to provide truly high-speed Internet and phone service via fiber-optic cable to every home and business in all 24 towns & most especially to unserved premises'. Funding for this project is being raised in the form of investments. There are typically 4 closings each year. Notes are offered in \$2,500. increments and yield approx. 6% interest over 15 years.

Currently service is available or is being built in areas where larger investments have been made, or along fiber lines that the VT Telecommunications Authority built and offered for our use.

In 2005, when Henry and I got involved in the effort to bring High-Speed Internet to the hills of Tunbridge, there were no other options. Comcast wasn't and still isn't even a possibility, except in very limited areas, and Fairpoint was telling us they had no plans to upgrade our service in the foreseeable future. We found there were many other folks in surrounding towns having the same problem. So, in keeping with the Vermont grass-roots way, we joined together and worked on plans to do it ourselves. After exhausting many less desirable options, ECFiber was formed in 2008.

Since then Fairpoint has upgraded service in Tunbridge, especially on routes that ECF has submitted applications to put our fiber on the poles. Because it takes longer to run cable on poles than it does to add a switch to an existing line, some of the customers that ECF is planning to serve now have DSL. I'd like to encourage those folks to make the switch to ECF when it becomes available. Yes, ECF service is higher quality but even more importantly, it is being built by a community effort for the viability and profit of the community, not a large corporation for the profit of the corporation. ECF needs your support to help continue it's goal. The success of this project depends on investments and subscribers.

We need investments to add to the roads we are servicing and subscribers to enjoy the service and pay them back.

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! Just email the details to me with enough lead time for me to post it before your event. If you or your group post things in The Herald you should consider also posting them on the official Tunbridge website!

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Liz York - 889-3211

Chairs: Nancy Chapman and Ingrid Van Steamburg

Secretaries: Ben Wolfe and Liz York

The Tunbridge Planning Commission hopes to see as many of you as possible at Town Meeting. We would especially like to draw every voter's attention to an article that can be found in the Town Report regarding a proposed tax abatement plan for dairy farms in town. We hope this article will generate discussion about concrete steps the town can take at the local level to help preserve what appears to be a vanishing way of life in Tunbridge.

Following numerous public meetings in which residents identified farming, and in particular some of the farms historically used as dairies in town, as valuable parts of the town's fabric, our last two Town Plans singled out agriculture as something the town should take steps to support. Some of the proposed steps included either local tax abatement or some sort of community loan fund. The Planning Commission just recently completed a study of agriculture in town that revealed that we have lost close to 70% of the dairies in town over the last 30 years.

In response to this startling fact, the article proposes adopting a local tax abatement program that would be limited to dairies at this time. This program would be modeled on the few other local programs throughout the state, known as "Farmers' Contracts," which offer farmers local tax abatement either on both the municipal and education portions of their property taxes or just on the municipal portion. The cost of this is borne by the rest of the residents of a town and depends in large part on just how much abatement is offered. Numbers will be available at Town Meeting as to just how much this program could cost the town and what it would likely add to a typical tax bill. In the meantime, we ask the voters to consider whether this is a program they would be willing to contribute to.

As the Planning Commission moves into spring, we will be finishing up our revision of the Floodplain Ordinance, hopefully in time for the State's July deadline. We ask anyone with thoughts, comments, or questions on either the proposed Farmers' Contract or the Floodplain Ordinance to contact members of the Planning Commission!

Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair

Jena Young- 889-2804

We had 57 members in 2013 including 2 new Heritage memberships. We staffed the handicap shuttle again during the fair and donated funds towards the repair of the stone fireplace in the log cabin. This winter the Friend's Board of Directors updated the organization's bylaws, logo and brochure. We have been discussing various ideas for projects this year including adding another large shuttle for the parking lots or assisting in the addition of a new building on antique hill next to the print shop.

We will be holding our annual meeting & duck race again this summer. Stay tuned for a date and time. Thank you to all who have been friends in the past - we look forward to your continued support.

Tunbridge Civic Club

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

Merle Howe, President 889-5574

The Civic Club annual show dates are Friday and Saturday, March 28th and 29th, 2014. Again this year, we are planning a fun-filled evening of entertainment. New energy is always welcome and we are hoping for interest from high school students. Any current Tunbridge resident is welcome (or if you lived in Tunbridge at one time and are of high school age -you meet the resident requirement). If you sing, dance, play an instrument or have a great talent, we need you. If you know of someone who has a special talent, pass the word.

Attendance at all rehearsals is not required. We would like as many as are able to attend the first rehearsal to give us an idea of participation, however, the dress rehearsal is mandatory. We encourage attendance to four rehearsals, which allows for the music and songs to be well rehearsed.

The first rehearsal is Monday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Rehearsals thereafter are Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00p.m., at the town hall. We have added a couple of extra dates to cover for bad weather cancellations.

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. Questions: Contact Maxine Young 763-8274 or Butch Howe 889-3716.

Tunbridge Historical Society

Euclid Farnham 889-3458

The Tunbridge Historical Society's new season will feature a History Mystery Walk in June, "Tunbridge Speaks" oral history presentations in July, a Euclid Farnham slide talk in August and an October Ghost Walk at the Hutchinson Cemetery. These events and the June Vermont History Expo at the fairgrounds will be publicized in area calendars and The Herald.

An Archive Project Committee has been meeting to prepare the library's Community Meeting Room basement as an archive. The historical society is paying all of the expenses to complete the room, which will provide fire protection and temperature and humidity controls for the collection.

The room will house thousands of Tunbridge photographs dating from the 1880s and paper items that include old death certificates, letters, brochures and documents that are in the historical society's care in a private home.

Archives committee members represent the historical society and Tunbridge Public Library trustees. Some members have visited libraries and museums to get ideas for the kind of storage shelves and units to build or buy and how best to store the paper. The committee will also develop long-range policies for the archive management.

Work scheduled this winter includes enclosing the furnace area, installing a storm door, sheetrocking the walls, painting, and putting in electrical outlets and lights.

Nan and Alec Frost donated office furniture including a blueprint file cabinet needed for posters and large sheets. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

The historical society plans to buy a software program for archiving and cataloging. Another goal is to get a scanner so that photos and documents can be digitized and shared online. Sales of quilt raffle tickets and donations from the community will help the society make these purchases.

Residents are reminded that before disposing of Tunbridge family items and papers please call Euclid at 889-3458 in case there's a piece of local history that should be saved.

Front Porch Forum

Michael Levine - 802 225-1320 www.FrontPorchForum.com

Our Tunbridge/Chelsea Front Porch Forum is now active with over 100 people signed on as local members.

This modern-day cross between community bulletin boards and virtual town greens is making it easy for neighbors to connect. It's free. It's local. And it's friendly.

Because the service is moderated and real names accompany postings, the discussions remain civil, engaging, and relevant. In times of need, such as during and following natural disasters, a Front Porch Forum becomes even more powerful.

More than 60,000 households across Vermont already use their neighborhood FPFs to find roofers, give away strollers, rally volunteers for pie suppers, trade equipment, and describe wildlife sightings. Common topics also include school budgets, town office candidates, local events or starting a food shelf.

FPF and the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Vermont Digital Economy Project are teaming up to bring this service to all Vermonters for free. Vermont's Congressional delegation played a crucial role in getting this project funded and off the ground in our state.

Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Committee

Ben Wolfe- 889-9467

Our Committee's mission is to steward the use of the Fuel Assistance Fund for no-interest loans to Tunbridge residents, allowing them to get the fuel they need and pay this large expense over a longer period of time. This fund is made up entirely of individual donations for this purpose. You can find applications for a Fuel Assistance Loan at the Town Office, the Library, the Food Shelf, or find more information on the Town Website (tunbridgevt.com/residents/groups/tfac/).

If you know you can use help, please apply far in advance to running out of fuel. As soon as you see the need will arise, contact Community Action (728-9506) to see if there is money available to pay for fuel. If your needs are not met there, include your Community Action application along with the short form for our Committee so we can consider your loan application. Keep your eyes open for posters around with a list of Committee members who can help you with any questions. We can assure you that your application will be kept confidential.

Donations of any size help a lot! Donations can be given to the Town Treasurer directly, or mailed to Town Treasurer, PO Box 6: Tunbridge, VT 05077. Include "Fuel Assistance Donation" in the subject line. Join us for our next meeting (Feb. 24 at 6 pm in the Library's Community Room) or look for our Annual Meeting in March after Town Meeting.

Tunbridge Emergency Services Committee

Dave Kimball- 889-3758

Committee Members: Michael Sacca, Bob Sponable, Brenda Field, John Durkee and David Kimball.

The Emergency Services Committee submitted its first 2014 recommendation to the Select Board. Our recommendation to continue having First Branch Ambulance (FBA) serve the northern part of town, and South Royalton Rescue Service (SRRS) serve the southern part of town, was unanimously approved. This is the best plan currently available for quick response times to all parts of town.

We reviewed national and regional information on ambulance service trends and challenges, our specific findings on the Town's ambulance services, and our recommendation at a public mtg on 1/29.

Based on our research and a great deal of input from SRRS and FBA, we believe there are four criteria that are key for Tunbridge's ambulance services:

- Financial viability•

Due to many external factors, it will be nearly impossible for small ambulance services to survive long-term without significant changes. Tunbridge must continue to plan in order to have services available in the future.

A Vermont EMS agency study shows that 1,000 annual calls are needed for an ambulance service to break even. Any deficit has to be made up by town support, donations and/or fund raising.

FBA and SRRS have a total of fewer than 500 annual calls for the two services, or 1.3 per average day in total. This leads to a substantial amount of downtime, and the inability to cover fixed costs. Studies done in North Dakota, Minnesota and elsewhere concur with the results of the Vermont study.

We believe that SRRS has taken concrete steps to ensure their long-term viability in the face of these challenges. We have limited information about FBA's plans.

- Staff expertise and training•

It appears that the training and expertise of the two services are roughly equal, although SRRS has a full-time paramedic, who also functions as the Administrator.

- Equipment•

It appears that the two services have roughly equivalent equipment for emergency response.

- Response times to the station, and to the scene of the call.•

Whether the responders are at the station, or "on call", and responder distance from the station largely determine on-scene response times, which are critical for successful patient outcomes. FBA has staff in their station Monday-Friday from 8AM to 5 PM.

SRRS always has staff in their station, or in a house about 200 feet away, 24/7/365.

...Continued...

Having staff in the station can significantly improve out-of-station response times. With staff in their station, ambulances from both services are out of the station in 1-8 minutes. In the case of FBA, when their station is not staffed, it can understandably take more time and "pages" to get the ambulance rolling, as responders must travel to the station. Dispatch will continue to page the ambulance service about every 3 minutes until they respond.

With all other factors being roughly equal, response time is the most important factor in choosing an ambulance service.

The committee will develop further short-term and long-term recommendations for public comment before the 2015 Town Meeting. We will continue exploring options, including consolidated services in our area. We will continue to consult with the state EMS department, and with surrounding services and towns.

We look forward to discussion with townspeople on the subject of not only ambulance service but also police and fire services to our town by holding regular public forums in the coming year.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

Several of our members are taking a first responder class this winter. We are currently considering how they might be able to assist with responding to calls based in town. We spent a significant amount of time this year researching the best options for equipping the rescue truck we purchased in early 2013. The equipment & tools that we purchased has been installed on the truck & it has been responding to calls with trained personnel. We have done numerous trainings with the truck & equipment and welcome people who are interested in becoming active in our rescue services to stop by & learn more. We hold regular business meetings every 2nd Thursday of the month at the firehouse. We will need to replace several air bottles and turn out gear over the next few years & we are looking at developing a long range replacement schedule for gear, equipment & apparatus.

We voted in three new members in November and welcome more. If you wish to learn more about your local fire & rescue department, our annual meeting will be held on Thursday March 13th at the Town Hall. We will start the evening at 6:00pm with a potluck dinner & dessert followed by our business meeting. You could serve the department in many different ways including membership as a firefighter, a responder to rescue calls, a trustee or to offer station coverage during calls, help with cleaning the firehouse and/or fundraising.

As spring approaches, don't forget to schedule your spring chimney cleaning. If you want to burn brush on bare ground you may contact our town Fire Warden at 889-5548.