

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

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The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

February 15, 2015
issue #39

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521 tctunbridge@live.com

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

Pre-Town Meeting: Tuesday February 24, at 7:30pm.

Annual School Meeting: Monday March 02, at 7:30pm.

Annual Town Meeting: Tuesday March 03, at 10:00am.

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

The deadline to register to vote at the Annual Meetings is Wednesday February 25, 2015 by 5:00pm. The TCS 8th grade class will provide free child care at the school during the school and town meetings.

A Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats will be held Saturday March 21, 2015 9:00am-12noon at the Chelsea Town Hall. Vaccines are provided and administered by a Licensed Veterinarian from the Chelsea Animal Hospital 685-3232. Dog(s) must be leashed and cats must be in a carrier. Cost per vaccine is \$15.00.

Dog licenses are due April 1, 2015. If you dog(s) is due for a rabies vaccine prior to April 1st a license cannot be issued. Cost per license is \$8.00 for spayed/neutered; \$12.00 for non-spayed/neutered. You may obtain dog licenses at the Town Clerk's Office, or by mail.

I will also be available at the rabies clinic to issue dog licenses.

Tunbridge Board of Auditors

Maxine Young - 763-8274 auditors@tunbridgev.com

Betsy Race, Becky Hoyt

Once again, the Board of Auditors have been 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 to everyone who contributed to those efforts, including the town clerk and administrative assistant, town treasurer, and representatives from outside organizations. 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, especially this year with the consolidation of printers, and an earlier submission. By law, the town report, if mailed, must be received not less than ten days prior to Town Meeting. However, it is the auditors and town clerks hope that the townspeople receive the report at least one week prior to pre-town meeting, which is the end of February. Having said that, the auditors double efforts to obtain and input all reports by published deadlines. We are looking forward to town meeting. **1**

Calendar of Events See individual entries for more info.

February

- 20 - Winter Evenings talk , 7pm, at the Library with VT Archaeologist Giovanna Peebles, "Adventures in Archaeology: Looking Back Through a 40-Year Window."
- 21 - Community Winter Carnival at TCS- see page 13.
- 24 - Pre-Town Meeting, 7:30 at TCS

March

- 2 - Annual School Meeting, 7:30pm at TCS
- 3 - Annual Town Meeting , 10am at TCS
- 6 - Winter Evenings talk, 7pm, at the Library with Michael B. Sporn, M.D. "A Heretic in the Lab - Preventing Cancer"
- 7 - Shindig with "Stovepipe Mountain Band" 8-11pm at the Town Hall. \$8. cover charge. www.shindigsvt.com
- 12 - Mountain Folk presents "Yarn" 7:30pm, Town Hall
- 13 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - 7:30pm , Town Hall. Live music and refreshments at intermission. All dances taught. \$8.00
- 20 - Winter Evenings talk, 7pm, at the Library presents "An Evening with Ken Squier" WDEV radio station owner.
- 27&28- 63rd Annual Civic Club Show, 7pm at the Town Hall

April

- 3 - "The Holmes Brothers" 7:30pm, Town Hall mtnfolk.org
- 4 - Shindig with "Timothy James - Blues and Beyond" 8-11pm at the Town Hall. \$8. cover charge. www.shindigsvt.com
- 10 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - 7:30pm , Town Hall. Live music and refreshments at intermission. All dances taught. \$8.00

May

- 8 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - 7:30pm , Town Hall. Live music and refreshments at intermission. All dances taught. \$8.00
- 9 - Mountain Folk presents "The Cousins Project" 7:30pm, Town Hall goto mtnfolk.org for more info.

Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair

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

As the FTWF takes a three-month break, we are still busy thinking about the project(s) for this coming year.

We are pleased that we continue to receive new and renewed memberships. We recently received a sizable donation from an anonymous donor as well as donations in memory of Dana Goodnow.

Anyone wishing to become a friend of the FTWF may do so by mailing their check to Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair, P.O. Box 159, Tunbridge, VT 05077. Annual Memberships are as follows: Single - \$25; Couple - \$50; Family - \$100; and Heritage - \$1000 which may be paid off in installments over three years.)

The FTWF resumes their regularly scheduled meetings on April 1st (and that's no joke) at 7 p.m. upstairs in the Town Hall. Meetings will resume monthly thereafter. Please feel free to attend any of our meetings. Visit the FTWF website at www.friendsoftunbridgefair.org.

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 Listers

Dan Ruddell, Helen O'Donnell, Betsy Sponable - 889-3571

email: listers@tunbridgevt.com

Office hours: 9-3 Tuesday and Friday

Tunbridge Select Board

Erin Gooch, (889-5612) Gary Mullen (889-3242)

Ingrid Van Steamburg (889-3459)

The greatest accomplishment of the last quarter is doubtless the completion of the town general fund and highway budget proposals. Working through these documents, consulting with the Treasurer, the Town Clerk, the Road Foreman, various committees, and the Auditors consumed a significant chunk of the board's time. We kept notes as we worked explaining how we came to our decision for each line item with a notable increase or decrease. The highlights for each major budget category will be reported to you in the Town Report and we will have these notes with us at Town Meeting to better answer your questions from the floor.

The board's goal in its budget proposals was to put forward budgets that reflect our best estimates for coming fiscal year. We tried to be as "reality-based" as we could, but we are not professional financial forecasters. The budgets, when passed, are truly a collaboration between the town government and the voters; we look forward to hearing your thoughts and suggestions at Town Meeting.

We are pleased to report the repair work on Mill bridge is complete; reinforcing rods have rectified structural weaknesses. With input from the VTrans bridge engineering group we felt comfortable in moving forward with the most cost-effective bid. Work on Flint bridge will commence in the summer.

Many of you have undoubtedly noticed that the upgrade to the Town Hall kitchen has been achingly slow. It is our understanding at time of writing that the state fire marshal has issued the variance the town needs to properly exhaust the stove hood without infringing on the abutting property owner or making any more than the necessary modifications to the building itself. We expect this work to be complete by the end of February. In addition to the upgrades to this municipal resource, the building's wiring was also upgraded and a safety railing added to the balcony. As this work wraps up the board would like to review the policies and procedures for space rental, including expectations for cleanliness and consideration for other users, as well as stewardship of communal property. Please be in touch with us if you have any thoughts in regards to this space. ⇨

Tunbridge Select Board, Con't

If there's one issue upon which we can all agree, it's that the recycling bins at the transfer station are routinely insufficient to meet our needs. We have heard from many of you about this ongoing frustration and we are currently reviewing our options for future contracts with two vendors. We are leaning towards a trial rental of refurbished recycling compactor in addition to some minor improvements to the physical plant at the transfer station. We will have a final decision to report in the next TQ.

After Town Meeting all town committees will be asked to select an individual who will be responsible for creating digital copies of meeting minutes and posting them to the town website. This is a requirement of the revised Open Meeting Law and, as we reported last quarter, we have a very simple and painless solution to this new provision. We will be working with our webmaster, Rick Scully, to train a member of each group on the notes submission process. Please confer amongst your committee members as to whom might best do this work – we'll be in touch soon with further details. (Did we mention it was easy? Do not worry about this!)

We are pleased to announce that the roles of representative to the South Royalton Rescue board and the First Branch Ambulance board have both been filled! Thomas Hoyt is representing the town in its business with South Royalton and Judy Tucker is doing the same for First Branch. Thank you Thomas and Judy! We anticipate openings with the Recreation Committee and Town Agent at Town Meeting, as well as the usual turnover in elected roles. Please give some thought to where your interests and needs align with town activities.

As always, selectboard meetings are open to the public. Our standing meeting schedule is now the first and third Thursdays of the month at 6:00 pm in the town offices. Selectboard notes are available at the Town Clerk's office and on the town website, www.tunbridgevt.com. We look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting!

Tunbridge Civic Club

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

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

The Civic Club annual show dates are Friday and Saturday, March 27th and 28th, 2015. This is our 63rd show and the show will be dedicated to Merle Howe. We encourage participants to perform numbers in Merle's memory. Rehearsal dates are Mondays and Thursdays at the Town Hall, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.; February 16, 19, 23, 26 and March 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23 and 26th. We have added a couple of extra dates to cover for bad weather cancellations. Here is your opportunity to do something for your community by participating in the show. Any current Tunbridge resident is welcome, or if you lived in Tunbridge at one time and are of high school age, we need you. Attendance at all rehearsals is not required, however, we would like as many as possible to attend the first rehearsal (February 16th) to give us an idea of participation. We encourage attendance to four rehearsals, which allows for the music and songs to be well rehearsed. The dress rehearsal is mandatory.

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.

8th Grade Fundraising for class trip to DC

Lori Elderd - 889-9447 Lorielder@yahoo.com

The fifth bridge is coming! The fifth bridge is coming! Talented illustrator Shawn Braley is putting the finishing touches on the design for a special mud season coffee mug, showing Tunbridge's Flint Bridge. It is part of the successful Washington DC fundraiser by the Tunbridge Central School eighth-grade class. Parent Lori Elderd is taking pre-orders until March 15. The mud season mug is \$12, or get the full set of five bridges for \$50. See above for contact info.

Future 8th grade fund raising plans include; a spring time Yankee Candle sale- the catalog will be at Town Meeting, a BYOB dance with a live band and a spaghetti supper, Dates to be advertised on posters, facebook and in The Herald.

Tunbridge School Club

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

Fair Supper a Success: A large group of dedicated volunteers, led by Jen Thygesen, prepared a fabulous gourmet meal following the Tunbridge Fair Association's annual meeting on December 6. Volunteers helped plan the menu and prepare the food, sought donated items, and decorated the TCS multipurpose room with this year's theme of maple syrup for the event. TCS art students created festive centerpieces and decorations. Several TCS students 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 15. 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 TCS, the Tunbridge Recreation Committee, Tunbridge One Planet and the 8th Grade Class to host a two-day Winter Carnival at the school. Friday, February 20 is the School Winter Carnival for students, staff and teachers. Saturday, February 21 is the Community Winter Carnival for families and community members. Get ready for ice skating, indoor games, movies and more! Watch for details on the town website, in the Herald, the Tunbridge Facebook group 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 9, April 6, May 4 and June 1. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

Tunbridge School Board

Kathy Galluzzo - kgalluzzo@tunbridge.k12.vt.us -565-0695

Amy Frost – afrost@tunbridge.k12.vt.us – 889-3739

Liz York - lyork@tunbridge.k12.vt.us- 889-3516

On January 20th, after OWSU and WNWSU voted to integrate both SUs into one, the Vermont School Board approved this plan. A transition board composed of board members from the 10 individual districts will work through the details of this merger. This work began on January 21 and will last until June 30, 2016, when Windsor Northwest SU will officially be dissolved and become part of OWSU.

Our district is nearing the end of the lengthy collaborative bargaining process in which the language from each of the five district agreements in OWSU is being folded into one. Keep your fingers crossed for resolution of this process!

As we mentioned in the the last TQ, we are again facing some tough budget decisions in order to keep costs at a reasonable level for Tunbridge taxpayers while at the same time providing our children with the education they need and deserve. You will see in the budget that is presented in the Town Report that we have tried to strike this balance. In response to townspeople's concerns voiced at our meetings that our children's access to a quality education was threatened, we are continuing to keep staffing levels and program offerings constant in the coming year.

This winter we have begun discussions with members of the Chelsea School Board about different ways to share and maximize our resources -- such as providing a foreign language for our students, expanding our sports programming, and maybe having our middle schoolers get together for a half-day of electives. We also plan to have these conversations with the other schools in our area. Each of the small, rural schools in the SU has its own character, as well as different strengths. We hope to begin collaborating in earnest to maximize our resources and provide all students within our communities with the best education we can. These conversations are the beginning of that process, and we have found them very encouraging.

Tunbridge School District regular board meetings are held the third Monday of the month at 6 PM in the Tunbridge Central School library. Please feel free to email any one of us with questions or concerns, and we welcome the public to our meetings. As we approach Town Meeting, thank you to those members of the public who have already devoted time, energy, and thought over the past year both in service to Tunbridge Central School and in aid to the Board as we have worked our way through the year's business.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

In the last TQ we reported that TVFD had received a grant for just over \$13,000 from the State of Vermont, Dept. of Public Safety. The grant funds have been used to purchase a dozen portable radios and a radio for Engine 1. Additionally, we purchased the licensing frequency for our repeater & we are working on relocating that to a location that will allow a stronger signal.

We recently submitted another grant to FEMA for the replacement of our aging air packs. This is a sizable grant that would have a significant benefit to our equipment replacement schedule. Additionally, we have also just submitted a much smaller grant for training our members on required fire fighter classes. We recently received a generous donation from an anonymous donor and we are using the funds to repair Engine 2, which recently became disabled.

On March 28th at 10:30am we will be holding a fire extinguisher training class for the public. There will be a presentation and then a chance for the public to try to extinguish a fire with a fire extinguisher. We are working on securing a location to hold the training. Once we have determined the location, we will be putting up flyers around town & a notice in the Herald with all of the details.

If you have not yet signed up for “VT Alert” to let you know about local emergency situations, you can sign up at the Library, or visit the website: <https://users.vtalert.gov/NewAccount.aspx> to sign up. You can also visit us on Facebook under “Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department” for communication during disasters. If the 911 system goes down such as it did in November, contact the VT State Police directly at 234-9933 for assistance.

We are very happy to have 3 new community members join the department the last 3 months. 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. Or, come to our annual meeting which will be held on Thursday March 12th 2015 at the Town Hall. We will start the evening with a potluck dinner at 6:00pm 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. We have plenty of opportunities for everyone!

Tunbridge Farm-to-School Program

Jennifer Thygesen – 889-5628, jthygesen33@gmail.com

While winter months are pretty quiet on the Tunbridge Farm to School (FTS) scene, we are really looking forward to spring - how about you??

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Hook are beginning to plan activities around incubating, candling and hatching chicken and duck eggs in their first and second grade classrooms this spring. If anyone has an incubator with an egg turner they would be willing to loan one of their classrooms, please let us know.

Even though there's still plenty of snow on the ground, teachers are starting to plan for school gardens as well. Many classrooms with plenty of natural sunlight will be starting tomatoes and beans from seed for later planting in gardens outside. Ms. Howe will also be planting an asparagus bed with younger students.

On the FTS bulletin board this past month, students could check out an aerial view of Tunbridge that highlights just how much farmland we have in our small town, as well as where our waterways are all located. Many thanks to Ann Chapman for designing this month's board.

On the school breakfast and lunch menus, Mrs. Herrick continues to serve local meats from Back Beyond Farm and Lincoln Farm. Some highlights off the menu include Taco Tuesdays every other week, maple breakfast sausages, a baked potato bar and salad bar, as well as Mrs. Herrick's delicious Vermont maple french toast, among others.

We are looking for volunteers to help with student taste tests and creating content for new FTS bulletin boards! If you have an hour or two you would be willing to help make a simple local food item for student taste testing, or if you are the creative type who could help design and decorate a monthly bulletin board, please contact Jen Thygesen at the contact info above. We appreciate volunteers who can help our Farm to School program grow and thrive!

Tunbridge Town Website

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

Got an event you want to promote? The Tunbridge website (www.tunbridgevt.com) is a great way to reach your audience! Just email the details to Rick Scully with enough time before the event. If you, or your group, are posting things in The Herald you should also consider posting them on the official Tunbridge website. Many items are also cross-posted to the town's Facebook page, which has 169 participants at the time of this writing.

WFVR-LP

Rick Scully - 763-7474 rickscully@royaltonradio.org

WFVR-LP (AKA Royalton Community Radio) is an independent, community-based, all volunteer, non-profit station which intends to educate and entertain its audience with diverse, thought-provoking, local programming that has been neglected or underrepresented by other media.

As of late January WFVR-LP is also available locally at 96.5 FM! Please tune in and then email us to let us know if you can get the signal, how strong it is, and from where you are listening so we can map the signal's strength. You can also tune in directly from the tunbridgevt.com homepage if you wish to listen online! WFVR-LP's board, and programming staff, is made up of a number of Tunbridge residents, so tune in and support YOUR community radio station.

Tunbridge Fuel Assistance

Ben Wolfe 889-9467 Besty Sponable 889-3534

The Fuel Assistance Committee offers heating assistance to town residents (in the form of non-interest loans) when all other options have not met your needs—there is no income restriction. Applications and folders regarding the committee will be available (by the end of February) at the Library, the Town Offices, and the Food Shelf, but you can reach us at the phone numbers above, email us at TunbridgeFuelAssistance@gmail.com. We also hold monthly meetings on the third Saturday of each month at the Library's Community Room. If you are interested in donating to the Fuel Assistance Fund this very cold winter, you may mail them to the Town Treasurer at P.O. Box 6, Tunbridge, VT with "Fuel Fund Donation" in the subject line—we appreciate your generosity!

Tunbridge Emergency Services Committee

Dave Kimball- 889-3758

Brenda Field, Bob Sponable, Michael Sacca, John Durkee

Our committee continues to work with First Branch Ambulance and South Royalton Rescue on financial, service and other topics.

We are spending a great deal of time working with the Tri-Town Ambulance Study Group, made up of a Select Board member from Sharon, Royalton and Tunbridge, and some members of our committee. As noted before, we are studying the concept of an ambulance service to be owned and operated by Royalton, Sharon and Tunbridge. The Study Group is working to update the Draft Inter-Local contract, building estimates and equipment transfer plans. You will find more detailed information in the Town Report. We will answer questions about the work of the ESC and the Study Group at Town Meeting. We will also have several public informational meetings for the residents of Royalton, Sharon and Tunbridge where we hope to hear your ideas, concerns and thoughts about the proposed new organization. The meetings will take place at the South Royalton School, beginning in early April. This concept is still in the feasibility stage, with many opportunities for residents to voice their opinions.

The ESC is now turning much of its attention to First Responder services, and our police services.

We welcome any questions or input at any time. We meet at the Town Office on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM, unless otherwise posted.

Tunbridge Library

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

Contact: Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404

The Library is here to offer you technical help and practical information, besides bringing you great books, audiobooks and films. We are currently displaying a gorgeous hooked rug art exhibit by Gisele MacHarg and Liz Guth through March 15, and we are proud to host this season of Winter Evenings (see calendar). For families with children we have Story Hours (1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:15 pm, omitting Town Meeting Day) and playgroups for the youngest (2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 6:15pm)—with a Young Writers' Workshop that meets every Friday at 3:30pm. For more information, just call us, email us (tunbridgelibrary@yahoo.com), or visit us on the web at TunbridgeLibrary.org.

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue

Linda Kuban - 685-3112

First Branch Ambulance welcomes Judy Tucker the new town representative from Tunbridge to our board. Judy is a retired nurse her background is emergency nursing which is a great perspective to bring to the board. Judy welcomes any questions or concerns you would like brought to the First Branch board.

We also want to make sure you are aware that two Tunbridge residents, Chase Ackerman and Adrian Lakin, have jump kits stocked by First Branch, so they can respond rapidly to emergencies in Tunbridge. Thank You for your continued support.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Liz York - 889-3211

Board Members :Ingrid VanStamburg, Nancy Chapman, Liz York, Gary Mullen, Dan Rudell, Brenda Field, Ted Hoyt, and Sue Clark.

By this reading, you have hopefully received the Planning Commission's survey regarding agriculture in town. Please return them ASAP, even if you miss the February 20th "deadline." With luck, we will have results to report at Town Meeting.

In the good news department: FEMA has finally approved our Hazard Mitigation Plan. Again, a very hearty thanks to Peg Elmer for her help on this. This means that Tunbridge is now one of the few towns in Vermont eligible for FEMA's hazard mitigation grants. The Planning Commission hopes to explore these opportunities in the coming months and years ahead. Feel free to let us know your priorities regarding natural and man-made disaster mitigation.

Finally, please look for a coming presentation -- hopefully in April -- on the Taylor Valley Project, a conservation effort targeting the beautiful Taylor Valley, which spans the towns of Tunbridge, Strafford, Vershire, and Chelsea. We are lucky to have this exceptional natural area right here in our backyard. Come out and learn more about it!

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglassstudio@gmail.com

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

State Representative

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

It's hard to believe it's February already! For this edition of the TUNBRIDGE Quarterly, I'll focus on one issue: water quality. Please drop me a note (318 Vt Route 110) or send me an email sbuxton@gmail.com if you want to receive my regular (full-length) legislative updates.

Three committees - Agriculture & Forest Products; Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources; and Transportation are jointly working on major legislation to reform laws related to water quality. In part, this work is driven by federal findings that our lakes and rivers are not in good health. The agricultural sections of the bill will require revisions to the current accepted agricultural practices (AAP's), small farm certifications, water quality training, custom applicator certification, and some livestock exclusions. Major revisions in enforcement and corrective action are proposed by the Agency of Agriculture. The Agency asserts that it needs more flexibility with emergency orders, fines for violators, and civil authority for the Attorney General. The Secretary is also seeking authority to remove persistent violators from the current use program or remove livestock from farms with substandard infrastructure. Vermont will be the recipient of millions of dollars (federal and private) to help fund these transitions.

More than 40% of the phosphorous running into our waterways comes from roads. The Transportation committee will also consider many sections related to storm water management. Proposed changes will impact development projects, towns and municipalities, and the state. New rules to manage regulated storm water runoff from municipal highways will be proposed - including general permits. There also may be more Residual Development Authority (authorized by the Clean Water Act) exercised related to non-permitted activities that have been identified as significant contributors to polluted runoff. In addition, the forestry community will be asked to review and update their Accepted Management Practices (AMP's). Municipalities with waste water facilities may be required to reduce their effluent phosphorus concentration as well.

The bill is likely to take shape in the next two weeks. Before the bill comes to the floor, I'll host either a conference call or town forum so that farmers and interested citizens can ask questions and share feedback. Stay tuned!

Tunbridge Church

Deadra Ashton, Pastor - 889-9828
tunbridgechurchpastor@gmail.com

Regular Events

Sunday Services and Sunday School: 10 a.m. at the church in the village. Pastor's office hours (in the Parish House): 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Wednesday and Thursdays.

Food Shelf: Every Friday at the Parish House from 4 – 6 p.m.

Making Change: every Wednesday 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Soup and Stories: third Wednesday of every month
from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Special March, April and May Events

March 29: Palm Sunday Service at 10 a.m. with the Adult and Youth Choirs.

April 3: Good Friday Candlelight Communion Service at 7:30 p.m.

April 5: Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. led by members of the Youth Group, at the top of the hill on Strafford Road.
Inclement weather location is the church sanctuary.

The Easter Breakfast will be held in the Town Hall following the Sunrise Service. The regular Easter Worship Service will be held at 10 a.m. with music provided by the combined Adult and Youth Choirs.

May 10: Family Day service led by the Youth Choir at 10 a.m.

Tunbridge Grange #384

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

The Grange had a very good harvest supper and hunters breakfast. We donated money to the mitten tree. We are now having bingo every Friday night at the Tunbridge Town Hall at 7pm. We go though April. Please come and join us, we have a good time. We have a food table to raffle off the food. Our grange meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of the month, everyone is welcome.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Ann Fragnella - 889-3571 treasurer@tunbridge.biz
The Budget's are done! The Town Report is pending. The W-2's & the 1099's are done, as are quarterly reports.

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 transition to a Municipal Utility District.

Beginning in 2008, our community-owned fiber-optic network (ECFiber) has been managed under what is called an "Inter-local Contract" (ILC) joining 24 Vermont towns and the city of Montpelier.

Since then, ECFiber has raised \$6.3million and used it to deploy 200 miles of fiber-optic cable, reaching over 1,000 subscribers with world-class broadband Internet. There are still hundreds of more miles and thousands of more subscribers before ECFiber's commitment to provide every resident and every business in its 24 member towns with fast, reliable, and affordable Internet service is complete.

With 1,000+ happy customers, ECFiber's technology and business model have been thoroughly tested. Now, in order to keep up with the demand for its service, ECFiber needs a fresh infusion of capital -- more than can reasonably be raised locally.

The problem is, potential investors (especially those outside Vermont) do not recognize an ILC as an investable entity. They do, however recognize something called a Municipal Utility District (MUD) as a special-purpose district or other governmental jurisdiction that provides public utilities (such as electricity, natural gas, sewage treatment, or waste collection/management). Many investors seek out MUDs for their special tax free income.

The framers of the legislation that created Vermont MUDs did not specifically provide for telecommunications networks within the framework of the MUD. ECFiber is currently working with the several legislators to expand the statutes authorizing the creation of a MUD to specifically include telecommunications services. If and when that legislation is passed by the General Assembly, ECFiber member towns will be able to join the East Central Vermont Telecommunications Utility District -- aka ECFiber.

It is important to note that the transition from ILC to MUD will not change the relationship between ECFiber and any member town. Taxpayer participation prohibited under the ILC will continue to be prohibited under the MUD. The MUD also prohibits any liability from being conveyed to the town.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Maxine Young - 889-8274

For TNHN services call: 889-3437

What is Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors?

TNHN has been started by local residents in order to improve the lives of residents of Tunbridge, Vermont and the immediate surrounding area.

TNHN provides needed services to residents through volunteer actions and acts as a clearinghouse and coordinator for volunteer efforts.

How it Works

Anyone needing help with something should call the hotline at 889-3437. Someone will take your request and try to find a volunteer who can do it. The volunteer will then call you back and agree on the time, what needs to be done, and so on. 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 will be no charge for any service. You don't have to be a member of anything to get help. There are no dues or fees. If you want to reimburse a volunteer for gas or such, that is OK.

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.

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors phone line is not answered 24 hours a day; you should leave a message stating your request. One board member is responsible for taking the calls each month. When a message comes in, that board member will start calling volunteers until a volunteer can be found for that specific request. We do the best that we can to find a volunteer who is available for that specific request at that specific time and date, however, this is not always possible. Therefore, we need sufficient lead time to call around and if we cannot find a volunteer, this gives us enough time to notify the individual calling that we were unable to comply with that specific request.

What Services are Offered?

You can ask for anything you need some help with; if the request makes sense and we have a volunteer who can do it, you can get the help. Examples are:

- Transportation to and from medical appointments, other local transportation and errands, rides to church or local events;
- Picking up prescriptions or other goods from stores;
- Doing errands for those unable to do so;
- Bringing someone back from the mechanic, if they have had to leave their car for service;
- Short-term loans of medical equipment, such as wheel chairs or crutches;
- Help lifting or moving large objects;
- Friendly visiting or reading to shut-ins or others;
- Helping people use their computer, or get on the Internet;
- Delivery of library books;
- Delivery of Food Shelf items;
- Referral for services from state, county, or federal agencies;
- Occasional help with gardening or lawn care.

How Do I Volunteer?

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.

Donations:

We are supported so far entirely by donations, and we welcome contributions from community members and others.

Board Members:

David Wolfe; Felicity Swayze; Pam Dietz; Brenda Field; Lee Banas; Bill Gefell; Maxine Young

Volunteers:

Currently, we have a list of over 80 people who have agreed to volunteer.