

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

May 15, 2015
issue # 40

Tunbridge Select Board

Erin Gooch 889-5612, Gary Mullen 889-3242, John O'Brien 889-3474

With this edition of the TQ, Gary and I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new selectboard member, John O'Brien, and a fond farewell and thank you to our outgoing board member, Ingrid Van Steamburg.

In regards to Town Meeting, we'd like to speak to questions that were raised about the Planning Commission's recent survey. Several years ago, the Planning Commission undertook significant work in preparing the town plan. This included polling residents about their values and desires in regards to our town: present and future. The work that the Commission is now doing is a result of residents' responses to the Commission's original survey and research. Here is some of the language from the town plan: The citizens of Tunbridge enjoy the way their town is right now. It is the small, dense villages and the open, working landscapes that define Tunbridge[...]

Tunbridge residents have a strong "land ethic," a need to protect and work the land. This is embodied in the deep agricultural history, tying rural character to agriculture[...] Working farms are part of Tunbridge's cultural and physical landscape, and citizens feel that these farms are our future and need to be supported and given opportunities to thrive.

The Planning Commission is doing exactly what we, residents, taxpayers, and voters, asked it to do: explore what it means for Tunbridge to continue to be an agricultural community. The current focus on agriculture in no way means that other industries will be neglected or shortchanged: this is the first step in the Commission's work. Please also be reminded that no changes to tax policy can occur without a town-wide vote. The Commission is conducting research and will present that research to the town: any action on their ideas must come from the voters. If you would like to join the Planning Commission, please let us know.

As a corollary, we would like say how impressed we were with the interest in all manner of public service at this year's Town Meeting. If there is any town group or issue that catches your attention, please talk with a board member. We'd be happy to brainstorm with you about how to be involved in town affairs.

In March the board accepted the resignation of town treasurer Ann Fragnella. Ann has done tremendous work in recent years and was truly an asset to us all in untangling some difficult financial issues, as well as being a baker of wonderful cookies, a devoted dog owner, and a great friend. We would like to thank Ann for her service and wish her well.

We have appointed Becky Hoyt, former town auditor, to the role of treasurer. We are confident that Becky will bring the same competence, enthusiasm, and professionalism to the treasurer's post as she did to her role as auditor. Please stop by the town offices to welcome Becky.

Calendar of Events

Go to www.tunbridgefair.com for summer event info.

May

- 20 - Chelsea Courthouse informational meeting. 7pm. See page 7.
- 25 - Memorial Day: Library plant, book & bake sales, 9-2. Town Hall memorial service, 11am. Parade and cemetery program, following the service. TVFD chicken on the fairgrounds, see page 5.
- 31 - Solarize Tunbridge/Chelsea brunch at TCS 11-2pm See pg 15
- 31 - Mountain Folk concert, Town Hall See pg 13 for details.

June

- 6 - Explore our Town Forest 10am. More info on pg 12.
- 10 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - 7:30pm , Town Hall. \$8.00
- 14 - Rec. Committee Breakfast, Town Hall 8am - 12pm. \$8.00
- 14 - Historical Society/Library History Mystery Walk, 3 p.m. Meet in front of the library.
- 24-28 Jenny Brook Bluegrass Festival, on the fairgrounds.

July

- 11 - Community Yard Sale on Parish House Lawn, see pg 11
- 12 - Rec. Committee Breakfast, Town Hall 8am - 12pm. \$8.00
- 14 - Ice Cream Social on the Parish House Lawn - 6:30pm "Tunbridge Speaks," 7:30 p.m. Historical Society program at The Tunbridge Church
- 18 - WVFR Fundraiser event on Antique Hill. 2nd Annual Pedal Power to the People Bike Ride will tour backroads & bridges of Tunbridge. Details of this event will be posted soon at www.wfvr.org.
- 26 - Duck Race on the Fairgrounds, See pg 7

August

- 9 - Rec. Committee Breakfast, Town Hall 8am - 12pm. \$8.00
- 14 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - 7:30pm , Town Hall. \$8.00

Tunbridge Listers

Dan Ruddell, Helen O'Donnell, Betsy Sponable - 889-3571
listers@tunbridgevt.com Office hours: 9-3 Tuesday and Friday

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Filing Homestead Declarations annually became mandatory in 2013. If you are a Vermont resident and own and occupy a Vermont dwelling as your principle residence on April 1, 2015, you must file a Homestead Declaration, form HS-122. The Homestead Declaration must be filed even after the due date (April 15 each year). The declaration is necessary so that your property is charged the residential tax rate, and is a prerequisite to a property tax adjustment.

With spring finally underway, we are entering our busiest time of the year. We will be lodging the 2015 Grand List soon, which means looking at any new properties and/or additions or outbuildings that we see as we drive around town. With no zoning or permit system in place, it's the only way for us to spot new construction.

The Listers have set grievance day for Thursday, June 18, 2015. If your property value has changed from the previous 2014 Grand List you will be sent a Change of Appraisal Notice. If your property value has not changed, you will not receive a formal notice, unless you requested one. However, any property owner may grieve the value that the Listers have given their property.

Following the notices we send, we encourage you to come in before the official grievance day to discuss your value. On the actual grievance day we are a listening body only. You will need to present evidence to show why the property is not listed at a probable selling price. We would be happy to show you the information we have available to help you in preparing a case. The first step in grieving is coming to us, the Listers, to make your case. If you are not satisfied with the results you may go before the BCA, which is the Board of Civil Authority, and consists of a quorum of the following people: the three selectboard members, the town clerk, and the seven Justices of the Peace. Following their decision on the matter, you may continue (if still not satisfied) to the State Appraiser or to Superior Court.

As always, we thank you for your patience and support as we take on the delicate task of assessing the properties in town at their fair market value. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to call, email or stop by the office. We are generally in the Town Office on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am-3pm., or you may schedule an appointment to meet with us by calling the number above.

Tunbridge Select Board, Con't.

There are two productive changes on the horizon for all town committees/groups. The first of which is that the selectboard has set an annual calendar for all groups to meet with the board at regular intervals, as befits their activities. We are looking forward to getting more time to chat with these groups and learn how we can better support their work. The second is that, by the time this TQ reaches you, committees will be responsible for posting their meeting minutes to the town website. This very simple process not only aids in compliance with Vermont law but will also make it easier for residents to keep abreast of town activities, business, and accomplishments.

Replacement of the bridge on Recreation Road will commence early in the summer. This bridge replacement – funded largely by a state grant – will bring the span up to “100 year flood” standards. A temporary bridge will be installed upstream of the current structure for the duration of this work. It is probable that this will constrict traffic flow around the ball field. We ask that everyone be especially patient as transfer station traffic, ball players and spectators, and town trucks share this space over the summer.

As discussed in our last report, we have accepted a bid from Casella for trash and recycling removal and the trial rental of a recycling compactor. We are pleased with the terms of our contract and are looking forward to trialing the compactor.

Please be sure to see the Emergency Services Committee's write-up for news about the three-town ambulance study group's progress. Public meetings about this proposal will begin in the late spring. This is a very important conversation for our town, and we encourage you to attend as best as you are able. We are also pleased to share with you that the ESC has worked with local residents to define the parameters for a First Responders group.

As always, selectboard meetings are open to the public. Our standing meeting schedule is now every Monday at 6:00pm in the town offices. We are trying to hold every other Monday for working meetings, so please contact Wendy if you would like to be on the agenda. Selectboard notes are available at the Town Clerk's office and on the town website, www.tunbridgevt.com.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough 889-5521 tctunbridge@live.com
Hours: Monday- Thursday 7:30am -3pm

Tunbridge Fire Warden BURN PERMITS REQUIRED

Brenda Field 889-5548

Remember: you need a burn permit to burn all natural wood debris like branches and leaves when there is no snow surrounding your burn pile or area.

For building debris over one cubic yard call the state Air Pollution office in the phone book or call the Fire Warden to ask for more information.

The Tunbridge Fire Warden can give you permission to burn over the phone. A written state permit is recorded for each burn. You are required to stay and control your burn until it is extinguished.

Call Brenda Field(number above) or John Durkee at 889-3408. If no answer, leave a message with your name, telephone number, address and when you would like to burn. One of us will get back to you.

We are even faster returning your calls if you invite us to enjoy hot dogs around your fire. I am not partial to hot dogs roasted over burning leaves though.

Tunbridge Board of Auditors

Maxine Young 763-8274 Betsy Race, Luke Jandreau
auditors@tunbridgevt.com

We are sorry to lose a really great member of our team, Becky Hoyt, who has been appointed to fill the Town Treasurer position. Luke Jandreau was appointed by the Selectboard to fill the vacant auditor position, so we welcome Luke with his wealth of auditing procedure knowledge. Our first public meeting was held on April 28th, and with election of officers for auditors for the upcoming year, Maxine Young was re-elected as Chair of Auditors, Luke as Clerk, and Betsy as Lead Reconciler. Audit and cash control procedures were discussed. Work meeting dates were set and discussion of timeliness for reports were brought up. The meeting minutes will be posted on the Tunbridge website. If anyone has questions for the auditors, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

Maxine Young, Secretary 763-8274 youngvt@myfairpoint.net

Again, with the cast and entertainers feeling nostalgic, another great Civic Club show has come to an end, the 63rd annual. This year's show was dedicated to Merle Howe; chorus numbers performed were his favorites, and the entertainers performed numbers that Merle especially liked. We were fortunate to have video excerpts (from Michael Sacca Productions DVD) of Merle telling jokes and crooning songs.

We welcomed some new faces and were happy to see younger people join us. We are very fortunate to have such talent in our local area, allowing for a quality show. Again, we received many positive comments from attendees.

At the family's request, monies from Merle's memorial will go towards updating lighting over the stage, a better grid to hang things from over the stage and upgrading footlights to something more beautiful in keeping with the time of the building.

We had a great increase in attendance, which allowed us to give away more money. After expenses, we gave monies to the Ski Runners program, the Public Library in honor of Valerie Ferris, the School Library, North Tunbridge Grange, Tunbridge Food Shelf, Library Archive Room, Recreation Committee (to support One Planet swim lessons), Royalton Radio, Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department and we put monies aside for a balcony fund. We are fortunate to be able to generously donate to these wonderful organizations. Everyone in the audience helps these causes by their attendance.

Sooo, be thinking about next year's show-we encourage your participation. Check out our new Facebook page!!

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 School Club

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

Teacher Appreciation Week: Every spring, the first full week of May is National Teacher Appreciation Week. School Club organized a special luncheon on May 5 that gave teachers and staff a rare chance to enjoy a meal together.

Last Day of School Picnic: School ends with a half-day on June 12. School Club will host the annual last-day-of-school picnic from 11am - Noon for all students, staff, teachers, parents and volunteers. Community members are welcome to join us in celebrating the end of the school year. Please email schoolclub@tunbridgeschool.org if you would like to volunteer your time or contribute food items to this event.

Finances in Good Standing: School Club currently has over \$4,000 its bank account. So far this year, School Club has provided support for the Back-to-School potluck; movie site license; Vermont Symphony Orchestra Fanfare brass trio; PuppeTree the Swimmer; class trips to Billings Farm, the Fairbanks Museum and the Montshire Museum; the Holiday Breakfast for teachers and staff, classroom supplies for teachers, Girls on the Run and the Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon. Upcoming support will include the a visit to the O'Brien Farm to observe sheep shearing, go on a hike and study pond insects; the overnight Camp In at the Montshire Museum of Science for the 3rd grade class; flowers and cake for the graduation ceremony and last day of school picnic.

Important Last Meeting of the School Year: School Club's last meeting of the year is on Monday, June 1 in the TCS Library at 6:30pm. We will review this year and look ahead to next year: creating a budget, establishing planning committees for fundraisers and setting dates for events. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

Solarize Chelsea/Tunbridge

Todd Tyson 802-431-3433 folkbloke@gmail.com

Solarize Chelsea/Tunbridge will host a launch brunch event on Sunday, May 31st from 11AM-2PM at the Tunbridge Central School. All interested residents of Tunbridge and Chelsea are invited to attend this social and educational gathering that will present an attractive, cost-effective program on how to incorporate residential and small business solar power systems on a wider scale throughout the two participating towns. In addition to discussions of the advantages of solar and reduced bulk pricing, there will be financial/bank consultants on-hand to explain various funding options. Both individuals and families are encouraged to attend this delicious meal at no charge and learn about the positive savings potential of solar power. Contact Todd for more information.

Tunbridge School Board

Kathy Galluzzo 565-0695 kgalluzzo@tunbridgeschool.org

Maryann Caron 889-5694 mcaron@tunbridgeschool.org

Liz York 889-3211 lyork@tunbridgeschool.org

If you read the papers, you know that Tunbridge Central School is going through a very difficult spring. The Board is grateful to the many professionals -- administrators, faculty, and staff -- in our school community and the broader community who are supporting our students as we navigate these troubled waters. If you have specific comments or concerns, please contact any one of the Board members, or our Superintendent. We are limited in the details that we can discuss, but we will do our best to respond.

As a result of events at the school, we are now in the midst of a search for a new principal. The search committee is comprised of board members, faculty and staff, and community members. We will endeavor to choose an administrator who can lead our school into brighter days. Please feel free to share your thoughts on the qualities you would most like to see in a candidate with any of the Board members.

As we have noted in many earlier communications, our Supervisory Union is in the process of absorbing the majority of districts from one of our neighboring SUs. With money made available by the state to aid in a smooth transition, our SUs will be sending out a survey in the near future to solicit community input regarding the current state of education in our area, both its strengths and weaknesses, as well as input on what the future of education should look like in our area. Please look for this in your mailbox or email inbox, and please take the time to fill it out. If we are to have a say at the local level, we have to take every opportunity to make our voices heard! Thank you in advance for your time.

The School Board meets the third Monday of each month in the Tunbridge Central School library at 6:30 pm. We are also looking forward to celebrating our eighth graders at Eighth Grade Graduation on June 10th at the school. As always, we look forward to hearing great things as our eighth graders go on to pursue their futures at schools beyond our borders.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young 889-2804

It's BBQ time! If you would like to eat our barbecued chicken on Memorial Day, you must call ahead & reserve your chicken. Remember, you can purchase just a half chicken, or you can make it a meal for a few bucks more which includes macaroni and potato salad, a roll, butter and your choice of beverage. Please e-mail your chicken barbeque reservations to TVFDBBQ@gmail.com or call Matt Loftus at 889-3274 or Simon Bradford at 889-5518 to place your reservation. Thank you for your continued support as this fund raiser proves to be a great success every year.

At our annual meeting in March, Vern Maxham Jr. and Matt Loftus were recognized for 10 years of service in the Department. Bob Dunkle was re-elected to another 2 year term on the Board of Trustees, while Vern Maxham Sr. and Shane Young were each elected to their first 2 year term on the board. John Durkee was re-elected as Chief; Jena Young was elected to a first term as Clerk and Luke Jandreau was voted in as our auditor. Appreciation and thanks were given to Erin Gooch and Jena Young for their service on our Board of Trustees.

Our 7th annual Easter egg hunt was held on April 4th at the School. The cool, damp weather and remaining patches of snow on the playground kept some of our usual egg hunters away, which meant that the kids who did brave the elements collected more eggs than most of their buckets and baskets could hold. Kids young & old scoured the playground and surrounding area until they felt certain that every last egg must have been found. After the egg search ended, future TVFD members posed for photos with the fire & rescue trucks.

Want to burn? Remember to contact our Fire Warden, Brenda Field at 889 5548 for a fire permit if you want to burn brush. A permit is required to burn brush at your home.

Don't forget to sign up for VT Alert. This service will send you e-mails or phone messages from the national weather service to alert you of local disasters or weather events that could cause flooding, high winds, road closings or power outages. To sign up, go to www.vtalert.gov, click on the "Sign up for VT-Alerts", and follow the prompts to enter your contact information.

Tunbridge Farm-to-School Program

Jennifer Thygesen 889-5628, jthygesen33@gmail.com

Now that spring had sprung, the TCS Farm to School program is back in full swing! Take a look at some of the exciting projects taking place this spring at TCS:

Maple Sugaring: Spread out over three days in April, all TCS students participated in maple sugaring with the Bogardus family. Students helped gather buckets of sap, and were engaged in various maple-themed workshops. In one station, students learned the process of making maple syrup, while sampling doughnuts and fresh syrup, in their tour of the farm's sugarhouse. Students used their creativity to make jewelry out of sap tubing. They used plastic syrup jugs, sap buckets, and sugar maple branches, amongst other everyday instruments, to play music in their "jug band". In their final station, each pair of students shared a camera and practiced various photography techniques - from portraits, to landscapes and nature photography.

Taste Tests On April 17, during snack time, all TCS students taste tested homemade salsa, made with Long Wind Farm organic tomatoes, and Castleton Crackers. An overwhelming majority (71%) of students liked the salsa and crackers, while only 19% did not like it, and 10% did not try it. Two taste tests are scheduled for May: The first on May 7, will be with Stonyfield Organic Greek yogurt, and the second (TBA) will be held on Friday, May 22.

Second Annual Garden Day Led by art teacher Stephanie Loeffler, teachers are planning the school's second annual Garden Day for Thursday, May 28. All students will participate in hands-on activities throughout the afternoon to help prepare and plant gardens around the school.

Incubating Eggs & Sheep Shearing Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Hook have started incubating chicken and duck eggs in their first and second grade classrooms for hatching in May. Grades 1 and 2 will join 3 and 4 on a visit to John O'Brien and Emily Howe's farm for a sheep shearing demonstration on May 18. On that same trip, Grades 1 and 2 also plan to hike and collect insects from the pond.

Farm to School Bulletin Board Thanks to community member Eliza Minnucci for designing the "Under the Snow" bulletin board in March. This creative display encouraged students to think about what seeds and animals live under the snow, eager for spring to arrive. Upcoming bulletin boards will feature the maple sugaring extended classroom experiences and Garden Day.

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

Todd Tyson 802-431-3433 folkbloke@gmail.com

WFVR-LP/Royalton Community Radio just celebrated its 2nd Birthday of programming via the web (www.wfvr.org) and now on FM at 96.5 to the many towns of our "listening" area including: Tunbridge, Royalton, Chelsea, Sharon, Bethel, E. Randolph, E. Barnard, W. Hartford and Norwich. This all-volunteer, non-profit community radio station (one of 14 in the US) is programmed by over 40 community members and is sustained by the generous support of members, business underwriters, grants and special events. Contact Todd for further information.

MountainFolk

Todd Tyson 802-431-3433 folkbloke@gmail.com

MountainFolk presents Jim Rooney, Pat Alger and Chris Brashear in concert at 7:30PM on Sunday, May 31st at the Tunbridge Town Hall. Grammy award-winning producer Rooney joins forces with superb songwriter Alger and stellar string player Brashear to present an evening of outstanding acoustic music. Tickets (\$15) are available at the South Royalton Market and on-line at www.mtnfolk.org. Door tickets will be priced at \$20. Doors open at 7PM.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Liz York 889-3211 Nancy Chapman and Ingrid VanSteamburg

First, thank you to all who took the time to fill out the Planning Commission's survey regarding agriculture in town. We were pleasantly overwhelmed by the volume of responses as well as the quality and variety of comments. It was clear that many members of our community think long and hard about these matters unprompted, and we were happy to be an outlet for these thoughts. Please look for an announcement of a potluck in the coming weeks and months where we will present and discuss the results. The Planning Commission's regular meeting is the second Tuesday of each month at the Town Offices at 6:30 pm.

Tunbridge Emergency Services Committee

Dave Kimball- 889-3758

Brenda Field, Bob Sponable, Michael Sacca, John Durkee

Our committee will be holding more public meetings in late spring to discuss the proposed new ambulance service that would be owned by the towns of Royalton, Sharon and Tunbridge. We encourage residents to come, make suggestions and ask questions. The meetings will be "warned" in several places.

The Tunbridge Select Board has given their support to the formation of a First Responder Squad. We are actively working with the South Royalton Rescue Squad (SRRS) on the development of a First Responder program. Trained and Certified First Responders will go to a patient with basic equipment to evaluate and treat the patient before the ambulance arrives. The plan is to train and help certify a number of First Responders who live in various parts of town for rapid response.

SRRS will provide training and supervision for the First Responders from Royalton, Sharon and Tunbridge so there will be uniform coverage in all three towns. The Royalton, Sharon and Tunbridge Ambulance Service would continue to provide First Responders under the new organization.

Our First Responder squad will fill a critical gap in our overall emergency response program.

Anyone who is interested in being a First Responder should contact David Palmer, SRRS Administrator, at 802-763-8974. We need to have First Responders in all parts of town. Please contact David Palmer or a member of the Emergency Services Committee for more information.

Tunbridge Grange #384

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

Well, the Grange made it through another winter. We had bingo at the town hall. We donated one bingo night to Mariland LaFranis, he got badley burned and was in the hospital for about month. We also sponsored one bingo night to the Prouty walk for cancer research. We will be selling raffle tickets on Memorial Day on a beautiful quilt in the village. We are having the grange hall painted this summer. Grange meetings are the first Wendsday of every month, please come and join us.

Assistant Judges of Orange County

Vicki Weiss 685-3112

The Assistant Judges of Orange County want to share an update with you regarding upcoming projects at the courthouse in Chelsea:

Early this summer (2015) a complete renovation of the historic bell tower will begin. It is an all encompassing project that includes interior and exterior repair/paint to the bell tower and a nearby brick chimney. This project will cost \$137,888 to complete, with the help of a small grant (in the amount of \$18,000) from the Division of Historic Preservation. This project has been in the works for three years. Norm Collette of Northeast Restorations provided the scope and details for this project. He and his wife, Connie, also spent time in the bell tower in 2012 preparing it for the work to be done that included catwalks, electricity and complete clean-up of years of debris and bird/bat dung. In the spring of 2014 Norm supervised the bid process and a contractor was picked. The contractor is Steve Quinn from Skyline Steeplejacks, Fitchburg, Ma. It is estimated that the project will take three months to complete. Our goal is to insure the bell tower is weather/critter proof and attractive for next 100 years.

We have also been informed that our current oil fired boiler will need replacement within the next two years. We are considering replacing the system with a wood pellet system. We are inviting the public to an information meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 7PM at the courthouse in Chelsea. We strongly urge people to attend this meeting to offer input, opinions and questions. Chris Hebb of Dynamic Integrations, LLC, of Post Mills who has assisted us with design and technical guidance, will be present to answer questions. Although the Assistant Judges have not reached a decision on this issue the cost of conversion to a pellet system would be in the range of \$100,000. This would be assessed on the grand list of each town in Orange County and be incorporated into the annual county budget during the year of installation. We also hope to have two estimates available for oil fired replacement as a comparison.

Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair

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

The FTWF kicks off 2015 with the Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 25th. Tickets for the 5th annual Duck Race go on sale this day. Tickets can be purchased the day of the parade up until the day of the actual race which is scheduled for Sunday, July 26th. Look for any member of the FTWF for tickets.

Monthly meetings are held at 7 p.m. The first Wednesday of each month upstairs in the Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Feel free to sit in on one our meetings to offer ideas and suggestions.

Tunbridge Town Forest Committee

Dave Kimball- 889-3758

All are invited to explore our Town Forest, and help committee members in finding the many springs and wells that used to serve village homes and businesses. We will be exploring the area on the hill behind the houses on the east side of Main Street.

Dowers and aspiring dowers are particularly invited to help. Identified water sources will be added to the developing map of the Town Forest.

We will meet at the Town Forest Drew Lot, on Drew Road, at 10 AM on Saturday, June 6th. Please join us to explore part of Tunbridge history and our forest.

Please contact any committee member for more information. Brenda Field, Gary Mullen, Larry Menedoht, Lee Lawrence, Dave Kimball, Rudi Ruddell & Fred Pond.

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue

Justin Seguin 685-3112

First Branch Ambulance is continuing to grow and looking toward a very bright future. With the addition of a new Tunbridge volunteer, our roster now consists of over 20 Nationally & State licensed emergency medical providers. Our House Calls program has also expanded, nearly doubling in the community members who take advantage of our weekly scheduled visits. As always, First Branch Ambulance is accepting applications from perspective volunteers that would like to join our team and give back to the community. Visit us at www.FirstBranchAmbulance.com for more information. Don't forget to Like us on Facebook, and check in to see what we're up to!

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglasstudio@gmail.com

The TQ has been mailed to everyone who owns property &/or resides in Tunbridge since 2005. There are a few though, that get missed including folks who lives in Tunbridge but don't own the property and don't have a Tunbridge mailing address. If you know of someone who lives in Tunbridge and is not getting the TQ, please let me know so I can add them to the list.

All entries are printed as received unless edited for space or typos. Questions, comments and suggestions about the TQ can be directed to me at the contact info above.

Tunbridge Church

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

Regular Events

Sunday Services and Sunday School: 10 a.m. in the village church
July services are held in the South Tunbridge Church. August services are held in the North Tunbridge Church.

Pastor's office hours in the Parish House: 12 p.m.–1:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 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 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Special May and June Events

May 25: Youth Group Memorial Day craft sale.

June 7: Children's Day Service followed by annual potluck on Parish House lawn.

July 11: Annual Community Yard Sale, Parish House lawn across from The Tunbridge Church, 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The annual Community Yard Sale will be Saturday, July 11, on the Parish House lawn from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a high traffic day on Route 110. All vendors — pre-owned items, crafts, market gardeners — are invited. The 15'x15' spaces are \$20, payable that day. Bring your own tables & chairs. A portable restroom will be on site. Set-up begins at 6 a.m. Space rental proceeds will benefit Parish House restoration. Contact Nancy Howe to reserve a booth at nan5lee@yahoo.com or 889-3750.

Used and unwanted Christmas items and gently used general items may be donated to the "Christmas in July" tables. All proceeds will benefit the Church, as will food sales. Rob Howe and Kate Caldwell will serve homemade baked goods and beverages at the Coffee Crèche. Volunteers are needed to cook and serve hotdogs and lemonade later in the morning. Please contact Elaine Howe (889-5560) or Kay Jorgensen (889-5528) if you have donations to be picked up and if you can help at the Christmas tables or grill.

Tunbridge Better Bones

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

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

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

ECFiber

East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglassstudio@gmail.com • info@ecfiber.net
Henry Swayze (603) 667-8932 henryswayze@gmail.com

A little Tunbridge history: In 2005 our Planning Commission held a series of public forums, one was on communications in Tunbridge. After the meeting that night, Henry, myself, and three others met in the town office to form the Tunbridge Broadband Committee. Looking into wireless options at first, we joined forces with 4 neighboring towns with similar committees and started getting wireless providers interested in serving our towns. For the first couple years we thought that wireless was our best option. Then, in 2007, Valley Net's, Stan Williams, and Tim & Leslie Nulty entered the picture with their big ideas about building a community-owned fiber optic cable network. It seemed like a lofty dream at first but they made it sound attainable and have proven that it is!

Now ECFiber has 10 employees in Royalton and is serving over 1000 customers in more than half of the 24 member towns with plans to enter 7 more towns this coming year. All this has been done thru the tireless work of many volunteers and more than 4.5 million dollars in investments, mostly from local people. Talk about a grass roots effort!

The newest route now connected is in North Tunbridge. If you're on the line please do subscribe and enjoy state-of-the-art Internet service while supporting this important community effort. To see if you're on the current network go to www.ecfiber.net. Investment closings happen multiple times a year. If you are interested in being involved in ECFiber in any way call me or Henry or you can always call the ECFiber office at 763-2262.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Rebecca Hoyt 889-3571 treasurer@tunbridge.biz

This has been a very busy time in the Treasurer's Office. In March Ann Fragnella resigned as Treasurer. She was not getting better from her illness as she had hoped and was feeling very overwhelmed as Town Treasurer. She will be greatly missed in the office. She did an amazing job and I have some very big shoes to fill! I want to thank her for all the time and work that she put into this job.

The select board appointed me as the treasurer shortly after Ann's resignation. I have been working as an Auditor for the town for the past three years and have worked very closely with Ann during that time. I feel confident that I can continue the work that she was doing as Treasurer.

I would love to meet with the committees in town that worked with Ann to learn more about my role in each committee. Feel free to contact me if there is anything I can help with.

Tunbridge Library

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

Contact: Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404

ArtSpace at the library will be exhibiting work in many media by Pat Warren of Tunbridge and Laurel Tobiason of Barnard. This exhibit is extended through the end of the month. Look for a display of work by John O'Brien and Emily Howe later this summer.

Jody Lowes has returned to lead our Story Hours on first and third Tuesdays, at 6:15 pm. This event is for families with children of all ages-- with engaging activities, exciting stories, and a light snack. The next dates are May 19, June 2, and June 16. We also have a Birth to Three Playgroup that gets together every Saturday at 10 am; this is especially for families with infants and toddlers-- but older siblings can come as helpers.

Our finale for our Children's Literacy Grant concludes with an event featuring noted artist Jim Arnosky on Monday June 1st at the Tunbridge School. Look for more publicity about times to attend this special occasion.

Book discussions for adults will be starting this summer-- both fiction and nonfiction. Do you have books you would like to read or share? Let us know and we will support you any way we can!

The Tunbridge Library's annual Plant, Book, and Bake Sale will be held from 9 AM to 2PM on Monday, May 28. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Tunbridge Public Library. Several thousand books will be on sale in the lower level of the library. Book donations are still being accepted until May 24; however, books should be in good readable condition. There is a need for brown, grocery-size paper bags for book buyers to fill. Baked treats always sell out quickly from the lower level of the Town Hall. Contact Sue Barnaby (889-3736) if you can donate pies, cakes, cookies, or breads. Also popular is a wide range of reasonably priced, hardy perennials for sale on the parsonage lawn across from the Town Hall. If you can volunteer, Liz Guth (889-3746) still could make use of your help digging, potting, and transporting plants from local gardens. A few early spring bloomers are on sale at the library now. (Donated plant pots should be 7 inches or greater in diameter.)

A group of young writers (eight and up) meets every Fridays month, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm-- and anyone is allowed to join in! We have held our first evening of readings, and are looking forward to a summer of work getting a collection compiled. If you have questions about being a writing group of any age, contact Ben Wolfe at the library email address. tunbridge_library@yahoo.com

Tunbridge Library, Con't.

Our Summer Reading Program gets started on June 30 at 6 pm-- with stories and fun for readers through their teenage years. The programs will explore Heroes in their many forms. Story time for non-readers will happen at the same time. We will have meals available prior to programs thanks to Hunger Free Vermont and the One Planet program.

Come in and check out our newest books-- including a number of remarkable books on the Civil War. We have added a number of works from favorite fiction authors, audio books, and movies. We also have a collection of titles on homesteading, gardening, and ecological issues. What we don't have can be ordered for you through Inter Library Loan.

On sale at the library are reduced price books, calendars, stationery, seasonal greeting cards, gift wrap bags, and specialty gift items for children and adults. Free, highspeed, wireless internet access is available at the library. Audio books may also be downloaded to an MP3 player. Ask librarian Jean Wolfe for details or visit the tutorial on the library's website: www.tunbridgelibrary.org

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Maxine Young 889-8274

For TNH services call: 889-3437

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

Anyone needing help with something should call 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.

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. Everyone needs help with something sometime, so please call.

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