

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

August 15, 2015
issue # 41

Tunbridge Select Board

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

As will likely come as no surprise, given our recent informational meeting, the board has spent a significant amount of time over the past several months working with the Emergency Services Committee (ESC). On July 29th, the selectboard and the ESC convened a public informational meeting to present the results of several years worth of conversations, meetings, and planning sessions related to the possibility of forming an ambulance service jointly owned by Royalton, Sharon, and Tunbridge. It would take more space than we have available in this venue to do this question justice. If you were unable to attend the informational meeting please refer to the town website to view the presentation, notes, and additional information. The Special Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26th at 7:00pm in the school gymnasium.

We would like to extend our thanks to the residents who attended the informational meeting with their thoughts, concerns, and incisive questions. Considering changing a long-standing business model (bought service) for a different business model (owned service) requires looking hard at numbers, projections, and demographics. It also requires being willing to weigh the costs and benefits of a very different future from the costs and benefits of a familiar present; this is neither an easy nor a comfortable conversation. The board recognizes that whatever decision the voters make will reverberate with other towns in ways that are positive and negative: again, this is hard, hard work and it is not comfortable. Thank you again to everyone who has participated in these ongoing conversations – and sometimes debates – at every step along the way.

We were pleased to see that the repair of the front steps of the Town Hall was substantially complete for the recent meeting. In inspecting the Town Hall and the Town Offices with a local contractor in the process of developing a request for proposal document (RFP) for repairs to both buildings, we noticed that the handrails were in terrible shape and needed emergent repair. We would like to encourage anyone who encounters a need for repair or a safety issue to please be in touch with the Town Clerk so that the issue can be addressed before it becomes a risk. We expect to publish the RFP for both buildings soon. It is our plan to stage this work over a few years to help ease the financial burden. ⇨

Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more event info.

August

20 - SolarInfoSocial hosted by Solarize Chelsea/Tunbridge, 6:30pm
See page 16

26 - Special Town Meeting, 7pm at TCS

September

17-20 144th Tunbridge World's Fair

20 - Festival of Worship Service, Village Church, 9:30am

26 - High Country Cloggers 4th Annual Benefit Variety Show
7:00, Town Hall, 7pm. See page 12

October

2 - 4 VT Sheep & Wool Festival on the Fairgrounds
<http://vtsheepandwoolfest.com>

5 - Civic Club annual meeting - Town Hall, 7pm.

9 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - 7:30pm, Town Hall. \$8.00

10 - Anything Apple fundraiser from 12-4 p.m. at Town Hall.

10 - Food Shelf 5K Run/Walk – Volunteers needed - See pg 11

11 - Ghost Walk. Annual Tunbridge Historical Society living history program at Spring Road Cemetery, 2 p.m. Rain date Oct. 18.

17 - Harvest Supper, N. Tunbridge Grange 5pm.

22 - Planning Commission special meeting, Town Hall - See pg 12-13

November

13 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - 7:30pm, Town Hall. \$8.00

14 - Hunters Breakfast, N. Tunbridge Grange, 4 - 9am.

15 - 18th annual Orange County 4-H Foundation Holiday Bazaar -
Town Hall -9 am -2 pm.

Tunbridge Listers

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

The listers have wrapped up the grievance process for this year and are currently compiling and reviewing information for the annual statewide sales study. A statistical sales study is used to help equalize assessed values across towns and thereby more equitably allocate education taxes, which are pooled and assessed at a statewide level (based on a complex formula) If interested in this see <http://www.state.vt.us>.

We review all sales in the town over the last year and assure that sales accounted in the statewide study are "arms-length", with no qualifying factors such as tax sales or sales without market exposure (e.g., to family members or neighbors). As challenging as it is, the goal is always to set a fair market value for each property in town and ensure that the costs of living and working here are borne as equitably as possible across the town and across the state. A good starting point is to ask yourself, "what do I think I could sell my property for on the open market?"

For quarterly rotation this year we are focusing on the southeast corner of town and have sent out notices that we hope to be doing brief exterior inspections and updating our photos of properties in that portion of town. Since Tunbridge doesn't have a permitting process, this is our primary option for tracking changes to properties.

Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair

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

The FTWF recently purchased eight, eight-foot picnic tables in memory of Dana Goodnow and are in the process of making new benches to be placed at various destinations throughout the fairgrounds also in memory of Dana Goodnow.

Visitors to the fair will notice the new pump log cover on Antique Hill-another project the FTWF has funded.

The FTWF will kick off its fundraising for the new horse barn that will be built this year following the close of this year's fair. The present barn will be taken down and a new one built using the same footprint as the old one. Tax deductible donations can be made to the Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair, P.O. Box 159, Tunbridge, VT 05077.

The FTWF meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., downstairs in the Town Hall. Please feel free to attend any of our meetings. Visit the FTWF website at www.friendsoftunbridgefair.org.

Tunbridge Select Board, Con't.

Despite a several-week delay due to rainy conditions, work has commenced on the repair of the Recreation Road bridge. This project entails replacing the existing span with one that meets "100 year flood" standards. The replacement is funded almost entirely by a state grant. We would like to thank the abutting landowners for their forbearance in allowing the temporary bridge and construction machinery on their land. We would also like to remind resident to take care when traveling Recreation Rd. on the weekends, as transfer station traffic, ball players and spectators, and town trucks will all be negotiating the same limited space.

The Road Crew foreman has ordered our new ton truck (a fleet replacement purchase) and we expect this vehicle to be in service by our next correspondence. We are pleased that the town's foresight in maintaining its equipment replacement funds allow for making this replacement without incurring debt service. Unfortunately, we do need to report that several town road signs were stolen this spring. While this may seem like a trivial matter, please be aware that each sign costs \$200, not including the pole, brackets, cement, and road crew time. Please help the road crew and one another by reporting suspicious behavior.

With the preparations for the August Special Town Meeting soon to be behind us, the board is looking forward to having time to recommence or begin work on a number of outstanding items, including: the town's personnel policy for annual reviews and merit-based pay increases; benchmarking town salaries with like towns around the state; reviewing the state of the Town Hall basement and making recommendations to enhance the space; reviewing our Class IV road policy in light of recent requests from property owners; getting to know the new Tunbridge Central School principal; and reviewing the possibility of conducting a "tabletop" emergency response exercise for town leaders and emergency volunteers. Please be in touch if there is other work you'd like to see the board add to its docket.

As always, selectboard meetings are open to the public. Our standing meeting schedule is now every Monday at 6:00pm in the town offices. 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 Board of Auditors

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

REMINDER: For the Town Report, the following deadlines will apply for financial and narrative reports. For groups following a July-June fiscal year, all reports are due by December 1, 2015. For those organizations following a calendar year, the reports are due January 8, 2016. If we do not receive the reports by the deadlines, we cannot guarantee that we can include them in the Town Report. Submit to auditors at above email. The Board of Auditors welcomes questions and we are happy to set up a meeting with any organization requiring our assistance with reporting.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

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

Voter registration: There is a Special Town Meeting scheduled for August 26, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Tunbridge Central School. If you are a resident of Tunbridge and you are not on the voter checklist the deadline to register to vote for this meeting is August 19, 2015 by 5:00pm. The town clerk's office will be open until 5:00pm on that day. If you would like a registration form mailed to you please call or e-mail me with your request.

New Parents: The Tunbridge quilters make baby quilts for new babies in Tunbridge. The quilts are at the town clerk's office. If you have not received one for your new baby please stop by and pick one out.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

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

The Civic Club annual meeting will be held Monday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs Town Hall. Discussion for an upcoming show, election of officers and other business will be on the agenda. Current officers are President - Elaine Howe; Vice-President - Butch Howe; Treasurer - Jory Innes; Secretary - Maxine Young; Directors - Jory Innes and Butch Howe. New faces are always welcome; and of course, we always enjoy seeing people come back to participate whom we have not seen in a while. Each year, proceeds of the show, after expenses, are distributed to various Tunbridge organizations. We are very proud of this tradition and are grateful that we have helped so many for so many years. What could be more worthwhile than putting your talent towards helping civic causes and having a great time in the bargain!! Hope to see you at the annual meeting.

Making Change

Lisa Kippen 889-9822

Making Change is 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

Solarize Chelsea/Tunbridge

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

Solarize Chelsea/Tunbridge will hold a special SolarInfoSocial on Thursday, August 20th at 6:30PM to discuss the progress of this local cost-saving initiative with a panel of solar folks who have extensive experience with renewable energy.

To learn more details about this event, call or email Todd at the contact info above.

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami 889-5575 schoolclub@tunbridgeschool.org

Last Day of School Picnic: School Club hosted a barbecue on June 12 to celebrate the end of the school year with over 150 students, faculty, staff, families and community members. The weather cooperated, and we had a fantastic turnout. Thanks to all who contributed food and volunteered their time to make the event go smoothly!

Back-to-School Potluck: School Club is hosting a back-to-school potluck on Wednesday, September 2. Watch for details at the beginning of the school year.

What is School Club? School Club is an organization dedicated to providing enrichment activities and services to students, families, staff and teachers at TCS. Anyone can participate and there are no membership dues.

How can you participate? School Club provides many opportunities for parents, teachers and community members to connect with one another, share ideas, plan activities and more. We welcome volunteers of all interests and abilities. Skills such as organization management, bookkeeping, fundraising, event planning, public relations, cooking/baking, etc. are helpful.

What are School Club funds used for? Last year, School Club supported the Back-to-School potluck; a movie site license for the school; the Vermont Symphony Orchestra brass trio; PuppeTree The Swimmer; field trips to the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium and the Montshire Museum of Science; gifts for children at the holiday concert; the Holiday Breakfast for teachers and staff; classroom supplies for teachers; Girls on the Run; the Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon; transportation to the O'Brien Farm to observe sheep shearing, go on a hike and study pond insects; the Camp In at the Montshire Museum of Science for the 3rd grade class; flowers and cake for the 8th grade graduation ceremony and the end-of-the-year picnic.

Getting the Word Out: Stay informed about School Club happenings by watching for information sent home with students, the TCS email list, articles on the Tunbridge page in The Herald, the news section of www.tunbridgevt.com and the School Club section inside the Tunbridge Quarterly. Interested individuals can write to schoolclub[at]tunbridgeschool.org to sign up for the email list and receive event details, meeting agendas and more.

Upcoming Meetings: Parents, school personnel and community members regularly 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 September 14, October 5 and November 2.

First Branch Ambulance

Judy Tucker 889-3305

The Tunbridge ESC received the FBA 5 year plan last August stating their fee would not exceed \$28.00 per capita.

The Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of every month. Any one interested can attend. The meetings start at 7pm.

FBA is initiating Fallscape evaluations at the homes of those interested in being assessed for in home safety measures. To set up an appointment call 685-3112. Leave your name, number and interest in participating.

Anyone needing home health visits or wellness checks please call 685-3112. Skilled visits will require a doctor's order..such as blood tests.

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

ECFiber is a consortium of 24 towns in East-Central Vermont. We are building a community-owned, fiber-optic network to deliver high-speed Internet to every home, business, and civic institution in our territory. Our top priority is reaching as many unserved locations as possible, with a focus on back roads and outlying neighborhoods. For an overview of the routes we've built since starting construction in 2011, go to www.ecfiber.net and click on the Interactive Service Area Map.

Please consider joining with us, whether as a subscriber, an investor, or both, in this effort to help build a sustainable Vermont economy. To learn more about our mission you may contact Janet or Henry or go to www.ecfiber.net.

Tunbridge School Board

Kathy Galluzzo 565-0695 kgalluzzo@tunbridgeschool.org

Maryann Caron 889-5694 mcaron@tunbridgeschool.org

Liz York 889-3211 lyork@tunbridgeschool.org

As you all know, Scott Farnsworth was hired to be the new principal of Tunbridge Central School. Mr. Farnsworth started in July and has been overseeing all the summer work that goes into getting the school ready for the return of students at the end of August. On-going work includes improving the exterior look of the building as well as internal maintenance items like painting and waxing. There have also been some very big changes at the school this summer: first, the purchase and installation of a new stove and refrigerator, both of which were grant funded; second, the Library has been automated, and we now have an electronic card catalog and barcode scanning system. This Library automation work included culling a variety of books from circulation, and they were donated to More Than Words in Waltham, MA.

This summer Mr. Farnsworth and two other TCS teacher also attended the ICLE Model Schools Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, along with 20 other OWSU administrators, principals, and teachers. This conference is a continuation of the work that was started with the surveys we asked you all to fill out this spring. The next big event in this work will be a community meeting for everyone in the Orange-Winsor Supervisory Union as well as the Windsor Northwest Supervisory Union on October 4th at the Vermont Law School. Watch for more details on this event.

In our first couple months of working with Mr. Farnsworth, the School Board has been impressed with his focus on the community. Mr. Farnsworth has spent the summer getting to know our town, our families, and our culture. He will continue this work as the school year starts. He is also looking forward to spending time with our teachers and faculty on a daily basis to understand how best to support them and our students. Mr. Farnsworth is kicking around the idea of hosting a “TCS Homecoming” this fall for all alumni and former or retired faculty and staff. This is another exciting activity to look forward to hearing more about in the coming weeks.

We also wanted to give everyone an update on the athletic collaboration. As you are likely aware, the Tunbridge School Board and the Chelsea School Board both voted yes to a collaboration between the two towns for athletics with the general idea being to improve the options and opportunities for our students. ⇨

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young 889-2804

Greetings from your Volunteer Fire Department!

We are thrilled to announce that our application for a FEMA grant totaling \$68,010 was approved & awarded to the TVFD last month. This grant will go towards the purchase of 10 replacement air packs with pass alarms, a spare bottle, a rapid intervention team pack, 16 masks, 20 books for the Fire Fighter 1 & 2 classes and a master curriculum book to conduct the trainings. We plan to teach our own Firefighter 1 class using the curriculum provided. Our share toward the expenses listed under this grant is \$4,221.56 which will come out of our fundraising dollars. Assistant Chief Simon Bradford, along with TVFD members Mike Morrison, Shawn Young, Gary Farlow and Fire Warden Brenda Field worked together on the application for this grant & all of the supporting documents. When you see them around town, please be sure to thank them for their efforts. Anyone wishing to take the Fire Fighter 1 class should speak to a TVFD member for more information.

In addition to the above grant, we also received a second smaller grant which allowed us to purchase 6 five gallon buckets of foam to use for fighting fires on Engine 1. The approximate value of this grant is \$250.00.

Dave Palmer of the South Royalton Rescue squad is looking to run a first responder class this fall. If you have an interest in taking the class, please call Dave or stop by one of our business meetings to share your interest.

Our annual coin drop fundraiser will be held on Friday September 18th and Saturday September 19th. Please contact Matt Loftus 889-3274 if you are able to help out. We need around 15 people for shifts each day to help us make this event successful & we greatly appreciate any time you may have to offer. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year and it provides much needed resources for the department.

We are always looking for new members for fire and/or rescue services. We have many opportunities for volunteers including grant writing, maintenance, traffic duty, or helping out at the station during calls. If you have an interest, feel free to stop by the fire house during one of our business meetings which are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm.

Tunbridge Planning Commission, Con't.

To this end, the Planning Commission will be sponsoring two informational potluck meetings, the first October 22nd at the Town Hall, and a second one later in the fall or early winter. More information will be forthcoming. Please plan to attend and give us your thoughts.

A third recommendation in the Town Plan was for an Agricultural Advisory Committee, which has been established, with the survey netting additional respondents from the community to serve on the committee. A Farmers' Market has recently been created, thanks to the efforts of Lois Gross, and presently takes place every Saturday morning on the Parish House lawn. For further information, please plan to attend the fall meetings.

High Country Cloggers

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

On Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015 High Country Cloggers 4th Annual Benefit Variety Show will be held. The show will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Proceeds will be donated to The Tunbridge Church for capital projects. Come and support your community for this great cause.

The raffle table has been a huge success. Anyone interested in donating an item for the table, can contact Linda no later than September 1st. We look forward to another "sold out" crowd.

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.

Tunbridge School Board, Con't.

Due to timing issues and because of a desire to pilot the collaboration, we will be starting the collaboration with the winter sports season, specifically basketball. The Athletic Directors from both schools are working together on the details, and the principals from both towns are actively involved. The fall sports season, specifically soccer for the Tunbridge students, will not be impacted by the collaboration agreement this year.

Lastly, Sarah Buxton attended our July meeting and gave us a primer on the requirements of Act 46, the new school governance and spending law. This new law has very serious tax and governance implications for our town. Among other things, the state is asking towns to look at getting rid of local school boards in favor of larger, regional boards, and there are tax consequences for a failure to do so. The law also requires towns to reconsider how they deliver education, i.e., whether to continue to tuition children, whether to continue to operate a school, whether to move to a consolidated school system that delivers the same education to all children in a multi-town region. Again, depending on a town's choice, there are serious tax implications. Additionally, under the new law state funding that supports small schools like TCS will be gradually withdrawn, forcing hard choices for towns such as ours. Maintaining the status quo is likely not an option financially. We need to hear from all townspeople about what our priorities are as a community and as a school district in this process of complying with Act 46. What are the aspects of our current model of education that we need to hold on to, and what aspects of how we deliver education are we willing to let go? Towns have a measure of flexibility and will vote on any changes to how we educate our children, but thanks to the tax implications, our choices are severely constrained. Choices that fail to move toward the preferred regional model of governance and schooling may be very expensive if we are not careful.

Periodic updates on these matters and initiatives are given at the monthly school board meetings. Please do join us for meetings if you can. Typically meetings are the third Monday of every month starting at 6 pm in the TCS Library. Please note, however, the August meeting needs to be rescheduled due to conflicts, so we will publish the new date.

State Representative

Sarah Buxton 763-0777 phone/text

This spring, Vermont passed an historic bill to reform governance and delivery of public education throughout the state. Referred to as Act 46, the bill is designed to support local decisions that will expand the size of school districts and ensure greater equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities for students.

Vermont's student population has declined from 103,000 to 78,300 since 1997, creating significant pressure on districts to eliminate personnel, student opportunities, and delay steps toward sustainability. Most of Vermont's school districts are not able to achieve economies of scale because they lack flexibility in how they manage, share, and transfer resources (including personnel) with other districts. By expanding our governance and delivery model to be more inclusive and collaborative, districts will be better positioned to continue operating schools and provide students with greater quality and variety of learning opportunities.

I've met with the Tunbridge School Board and other school officials in our supervisory union about the possibilities we might pursue in redesigning our educational partnerships and offerings. I've reassured many neighbors that this bill does NOT dissolve local school boards and explicitly states that it is not the legislature's intent to close schools OR force towns to stop tuitioning students. It does offer new ways to expand options for student opportunities throughout the state -- and encourages communities to "think out of the box." There is a lot of planning and work to be done in shaping what an innovative, 21st century education system will look like in our region. Feel free to brainstorm what students, parents, citizens, businesses, and taxpayers might consider as our overarching values and share your views with me and members of our school board. More info on the law can be found on my website: votebuxton.com

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Liz York 889-3211 Nancy Chapman and Ingrid VanSteamburg

The current Tunbridge Town Plan, adopted April 2013, began Section 11 on Agriculture with the statement that "The Tunbridge Community values its long agricultural heritage, and seeks to maintain this relationship with the land, not just by honoring the past, but by encouraging agriculture into the future." Various recommendations were made in support of this statement, and the Planning Commission has begun to address these concepts of the town plan. The first recommendation was the need for an agricultural survey to be conducted at least every ten years. With the help of Tunbridge Central School, an agricultural inventory was put together, and later an analysis of the evolution of some of the larger agricultural parcels in town was done. This past year, an early winter survey was sent out to garner information about actual support for several of the other recommendations, and how to go forward with them.

There were 249 surveys returned, with nearly an even split between male and female responses. The majority were from town residents, 69% were over 55 years of age, with over 60% having lived in town over 20 years. The commission felt information gained was thoughtful and valid, and reflected a real concern for agriculture in the town. We appreciate the time people took to take the survey, and are presently reviewing and considering some of the many suggestions given.

Several survey questions concerned the second recommendation from the 2013 Town Plan "consider municipal financial plans, such as tax abatements or low cost loans to support local agriculture." The survey suggested a positive response to this question of support, but overwhelmingly indicated that all agriculture should benefit from any possible program, not just dairy. The responses to the questions concerning an agricultural loan program and the possibility of a town loan fund, however, indicated much confusion on the part of the people responding to the survey. While it was very clear that the town is supportive of agriculture, the respondents appeared to need much more information, especially about what the possible initiatives would mean to the tax rate of the townspeople ⇨.

Tunbridge Church

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

Regular Events

- Sunday Services and Sunday School: 10 a.m., village church. Sunday School fall session begins Sept. 27.
- Pastor's Office Hours: Parish House: Tuesdays 12 -1:30 p.m., Wednesdays 10-11:30 a.m.
- Food Shelf: Fridays, Parish House, 4-6 p.m.
- Making Change: Wednesdays, Parish House, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Soup and Stories: third Wednesdays, Parish House, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- Adult Choir: Rehearsals resume Sept. 30, 7:15 p.m.

Special August and September Events

- Aug. 5: Festival of Worship (fair service) rehearsals begin 7 p.m.
- Sept. 20: Festival of Worship (fair service), 9:30 a.m.
- Oct. 10: Food Shelf 5K Run/Walk – start at Parish House (TBT)
- Oct. 10: Anything Apple fundraiser from 12-4 p.m. at Town Hall.

Food Shelf 5K Run/Walk Help Needed.

The Tunbridge Food Shelf's third annual 5K Fun Run/Walk will take place the morning of Oct. 10 if some walkers/runners and others can get involved to manage it.

Some of the groundwork was done in past years: the race started in Tunbridge Village at the Parish House (corner of Route 110 and Potash Road), where the Food Shelf is located; the course went from the village through the fairgrounds; entry fees were \$20 for adults and \$10 for ages 12-6; and registration forms were available online.

Starting at 12 p.m. that same day, Oct. 10, The Tunbridge Church will host "Anything Apple," a celebration of apples with a pie contest, food sampling, cider pressing, product and food sales and a silent auction at the Town Hall, plus farm and craft vendors across the street. Donations of food and auction items are welcomed.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Rebecca Hoyt 889-3571 treasurer@tunbridge.biz

August starts a busy time in the treasurer's office, with the beginning of tax season. The Select board has set the tax rate and the tax bills will go out soon. This year the residential rate is higher than the non-residential rate which is a switch from years past. This switch has happened due to our education tax rate which is set by the state through complex process. What I understand about it is that if the per pupil spending is above the state average then the non-resident rate may be lower than the resident rate, which is the case for this year. The state reports that the average per pupil spending is \$14,412 and Tunbridge's per pupil spending this year is \$15,216. The tax rates have been set as the following, the Resident tax rate is 2.1072 which is a 4.6% increase from last year and the Non-Resident rate has been set at 2.0558 which is a .4% increase.

I am hoping to have the tax bills go out before the end of August. The taxes are due on November 1, 2015. You can pay your bill at any time between now and November 1, 2015. Any taxes mailed should be post marked by the 1st of November to avoid any additional penalties. I hope that everyone is having a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks as you pay your taxes.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglassstudio@gmail.com

The deadlines for TQ entries are always on the 1st day of August, November, February and May. Every effort is made to include all entries received. Submissions are printed as received and only edited for typos and space constraints.

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

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 .. your friends and neighbors! Just email the details to Rick Scully (rick@tunbridgevt.com) 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 228 Tunbridge residents at the time of this writing. New to the site is the addition of minutes from town groups and committees. Over the last few months committees have been submitting the minutes from their groups to the town website!

Tunbridge Library

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

Contact: Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404

For information about what's happening at the Tunbridge Library you may call the Library, check the website at www.tunbridgelibrary.org or the Tunbridge page in The Herald.

Tunbridge Grange #384

Mert Vesper 889-5595

We had our Grange Building painted this summer and the windows fixed. We will be at the Tunbridge Fair, stop in and visit us. our Harvest Supper will be October 17th and will draw the ticket on our quilt. Our Hunters Breakfast will be Nov. 14 , 4 - 9a.m Our meetings are the first Wendsday of every month at 7p.m. All are welcome.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Maxine Young 889-8274

For TNHN 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 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.

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.

There is no charge for any service. We are supported so far entirely by donations.

Board members: Lee Banas, Pam Dietz, Brenda Field, Bill Gefell, Michael O'Donnell, David Wolfe, Maxine Young.

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.