

The
TUNBRIDGE
Quarterly

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

February 15, 2016
issue #43

Tunbridge Select Board

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

It is with no small amount of frustration tempered by optimism that we offer an update on the state of the transfer station. As previously reported, in the spring of 2015 the board made the decision to return the town's business to Casella Waste Systems. As part of this transition the town is renting a recycling compactor to test. Unfortunately, we experienced a number of problems with the installation, including instances in which the problems appeared to be fixed only to reappear at later date. We are confident that the compactor and the contract with Casella will provide a higher quality of service over time. We would again like to apologize for the inconvenience that many experienced during this time.

With Special Town Meeting behind us, the board turned its attention back to other business, which in short order became the preparation of annual budgets and the board's submission to the town report. Much as we did last year, the board did its best to take into account the current economic climate, expectations for future economic developments, changes in the costs of materials, and other factors in attempting to be realistic, not aspirational, in its budgets. The town report will contain greater detail about changes to each significant budget category. We encourage residents to review these budgets - and the narrative - carefully and be prepared to suggest alterations from the floor. These budgets are ultimately the voters', and we look forward to discussing them with you at Town Meeting.

We continued our new-to-this-year set calendar of meeting with town committees at regular intervals. This has allowed our new administrative assistant, Cynthia Masterman, to get to know many of you personally. As the same person had filled the roles of town clerk and administrative assistant for a number of years, the board and Cynthia have been learning together exactly how comprehensive the role of the administrative assistant is. We feel that we are developing a good working relationship and are happy to have Cynthia on working with us.

It is with great regret that I, Erin, notify you that I resigned from the positions of selectperson and Cemetery Commissioner at the end of January. I am no longer living fulltime in town, and I feel strongly that the town deserves a board comprised of residents, not interested parties. It was important to me that my resignation was filed so that voters could select my replacement at town meeting; this seems like the most democratic way to affect a transition. I am happy to discuss the role with anyone who thinks s/he might be interested in running for the board.

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 Cynthia (889-5510) 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

Elizabeth Sponable 889-5521 tctunbridge@live.com

Hours: Mon-Thurs 7:30am-3:30pm Closed Fridays

Pre-Town Meeting- Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:30pm.

Annual School Meeting- Monday, February 29th at 7:30pm.

Town Meeting - March 1, 2016 10:00am.

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

If you are a resident in Tunbridge and are not on the voter checklist, the deadline to register to vote in the Presidential Primary is 5pm, February 24th.

Rabies Clinic will be held on March 19, 2016, 9:00am -12Noon at the Chelsea Town Hall. This clinic will be combined with Chelsea, and Vershire; the cost of the Vaccine is \$15.00. Vaccine and inoculations are provided by a licensed Veterinarian from the Chelsea Animal Hospital, Chelsea VT 685-3232. This Clinic is for Dogs and Cats; Dogs must be leashed; Cats must be in a carrier. Licensing for dog(s) will be available; Deadline for Licensing is April 1, 2016. Please call Betsy at the Clerk's Office with any questions or concerns.

Office Changes: You may or may not be aware that the Town Clerk/ Administrative Assistant position(s) that have been combined in the past, have now been split into two separate positions. The Town Clerk's position is now held by Elizabeth (Betsy) Sponable, and the Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard position is now held by Cynthia Masterman.

For inquiries, as a simple rule of thumb:

For Property recording, Licenses, Certificates, and Voter Registration, please contact The Town Clerk at 889-5521 or tctunbridge@live.com . Trash tickets are also available in the Clerk's office.

For all Selectboard matters, Town highway/garage and transfer station matters, please contact the Administrative Assistant at 889-5510, or Tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com .

Tunbridge School Board

Kathy Galluzzo 565-0695 kgalluzzo@tunbridgeschool.org

Maryann Caron 889-5694 mcaron@tunbridgeschool.org

Liz York 889-3211 lyork@tunbridgeschool.org

WANTED: Act 46 Advisory Committee Members

It is a busy time of year, but much more so this year as you have probably guessed from the papers. Because you can read our report on this past year in the Town Report and can hear about the details of this year's school budget in our budget mailer, we would like to focus on one particular issue here -- Act 46 compliance.

First, thank you to all who came to our first Act 46 forum in December. It was very helpful to hear from so many Tunbridge residents in person. It was a great turnout! Thank you, too, to all of you who filled out the voter survey. We have had close to a 40% response rate so far -- phenomenal! It's still not too late to turn in your survey if it is sitting in a pile at home. It already has a stamp on it, so just take a few minutes to fill it out and throw it in the mailbox! We will go over the results of that survey at our next Act 46 forum, Sunday, February 21, at 3 pm. Please come!

Now the most important thing: the school board is forming an advisory committee that will focus exclusively on Act 46 options available to Tunbridge. So far, we as a school board have been part of discussions at the Supervisory Union (SU) level examining merger proposals that would satisfy Act 46 requirements, and they have been very productive. Another option that emerged at the last forum was applying to the Agency of Education and State Board of Education to remain a stand-alone district. Additionally, the neighboring towns of Strafford, Sharon, and Thetford have formed a formal study group to pursue a merger option outside of our SU. And Waits River, the union district for the towns of Corinth and Topsham, hosted a regional meeting of similar districts, including Tunbridge, from several different SUs in our part of the state. This is a lot of information to evaluate while also doing not only the usual business of a school board, but also continuing our work of merging with a neighboring SU per order of the State Board of Education. This is why we need YOU!

We are seeking applications to serve on the advisory committee. We hope to have the broadest range of perspectives that we can. It will be a nine-person committee made up as follows: five adult residents, one school board member, two students who reside in Tunbridge, and one teacher (ideally -- it will depend on the response we get). The work of the committee would be to analyze and evaluate the different options available to Tunbridge, drawing on information gathered through the voter survey and public forums, and then

come to the school board with a formal recommendation on what would best serve the interests and values of the Town of Tunbridge. This recommendation will inform what proposal we will ultimately pursue with the state. And it may take several tries, both with the state and with the voters! We must be clear on two points, however: first, that the committee is advisory, and the board may ultimately put a different proposal before the voters for approval, especially if we receive feedback from the state that a proposal is not likely to be approved at the state level; and second, that in fact it will ultimately be for the voters to approve any proposal, merger or otherwise, so everyone will have their say at the ballot box.

If this work interests you (and we hope that it does!), please mail or email a short personal statement to the Board. It would be helpful to note any relevant experience you may bring to the task, such as an accounting or financial background, a background in education, experience analyzing populations, or experience as a parent/grandparent of a Tunbridge child and/or an alumn of the Tunbridge school system. We plan to appoint the committee either before or shortly after Town Meeting day. Count on your work beginning in early March. Depending on the course Tunbridge takes under Act 46, your work could end as early as December of this year or as late as the first half of 2018. (Sorry, we didn't mean to scare you!)

In sum, please join our Act 46 Advisory Committee. Please also attend our next Act 46 forum, Sunday, February 21, at 3 pm. Thank you so much for your interest in the work of education!

Board mailing address:
Tunbridge Board of School Directors
% Tunbridge Central School
523 Route 110
Tunbridge, VT 05077

State Representative

Sarah Buxton 763-0777 phone/text

Tunbridge Emergency Services Committee

Brenda Field 889-5548

We are at the start of a new task for the Tunbridge Selectboard. The mission is to look into law enforcement for our town, identify issues if any, concerns and present possible solutions to the Selectboard.

The committee has added a few new members and we are grateful for the time that these townspeople are willing to set aside and dig down on these subjects.

Our new members are Anissa Morrison, Ingrid Van Steamburg and for the first time we are thrilled to have young student energy with the inclusion of Katherine Elderd and Sarah Dunkle.

John Durkee has retired off this committee. We can't thank him enough for all the knowledge, professionalism and volunteer time he has given to our town. John has been our "go to guy" for how the town addresses and manages emergencies. He has been truly generous.

We have just started to educate ourselves in the "workings" of all the different law enforcement options available to us, how 911 interacts within law enforcement and putting together a list of concerns.

Please contact one of us, come to meetings and present your input! We volunteer our time to concentrate on issues that demand that extra study time to come up with solutions, insight, changes, improvements for our town. Our regularly scheduled meetings are the first Wednesday of each month @ the town offices, 6:00.

Committee Members:

David Kimball - Chair, Robert Sponable, Michael Sacca, Anissa Morrison, Katherine Elderd, Sarah Dunkle, Ingrid Van Steamburg, Brenda Field

First Branch Ambulance

Judy Tucker 889-3305 judytucker1@myfairpoint.net

Through the generous donations to our fund raising effort, the FBA has been able to purchase two power-lift cots. Our long range endeavor is to replace our ambulance. Thank you all for your support!

We are offering a Basic CPR course at the town hall on March 5th from 9am to 1pm. All members of Friends of The Fair and Fair employees are encouraged to attend. Any one else interested may join in as well. Please contact me at judytucker1@myfairpoint.net or home phone 889-3305 to sign up.

ECFiber

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglasstudio@gmail.com info@ecfiber.net
Henry Swayze 603-667-8932 henryswayze@gmail.com

Tunbridge is a founding member of ECFiber, a consortium of 24 municipalities in East-Central Vermont working to bring community-owned, high-speed Internet to every home, business, and civic institution in its territory. Its top priority is reaching as many unserved locations as possible, with a focus on back roads and outlying neighborhoods. At inception the organization opted to build a Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) network that has the ability to provide the highest possible bandwidth, without distance or other limitations, to all customer locations within its territory.

During FY 2015, ECFiber succeeded in achieving its goal of reaching 1200 active subscribers. It has added network in Tunbridge, Chelsea, Randolph and Norwich. In Tunbridge there has been service up RT 110 from SoRo to Button and then up Button to Potash and from there to Kibbling and through to Strafford. Also new lines have been added : 1)from Whitney Hill in North Tunbridge through to Dickerman and down Chelsea Line Rd. 2) several from the Randolph side in the area of Gage RD and Gifford with a third section under construction on the back side of the Spring Road. See the map on the ECF web page.

ECFiber has successfully lobbied the state legislature to pass legislation that allows for the creation of telecommunication utility districts. With the enabling law in effect, the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District (ECVTD) became the new governing body for ECFiber, with all of the 24 member towns of the former Inter-Local Contract (ILC) voting to join the ECVTD. This change removes a barrier to obtaining large investments by replacing the unfamiliar ILC structure with a more familiar Utility District structure. With the potential for greater investment in ECFiber there should be a much more rapid completion of the ECFiber network, including the possibility of all roads in Tubridge -- hopefully more to be announced on that subject soon. For more information about ECFiber please visit ecfiber.net, or contact one of your local ECFiber delegates.

Note from Janet Zug: After more than 10 years I am stepping down from the position as ECFiber delegate. We are looking for an individual interested in serving on the ECF Governing Board. Meetings are held at VLS on the 2nd Tuesdays of the month.

Tunbridge Library

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

Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404 tunbridgelibrary@yahoo.com

ArtSpace Co-ordinator: Betsy Gaiser 763-2288

Come take a look! We have new bestsellers, classic masterpieces, guides and references on many subjects, and an array of magazines. If you can't find an item in our collection, we will be happy to get it by Inter-Library Loan as quickly as possible. Our selection of quality videos include gripping dramas, entertaining comedies as well as probing documentaries. Recently we have expanded our offerings with a revolving collection of audiobooks and DVD from the Libraries of the Upper Valley (LUV) Coop. You'll see an entirely new array of videos and audiobooks every few months. We think you'll love what you see!

Our current ArtSpace exhibit features exquisite oil paintings by local artist Dian Parker through March 6. Look for information on a new art opening later in March.

The remaining Winter Evenings will take place at 7pm on Feb. 19, Mar. 4 (Animal tracks and signs with Ed Sharron) and Mar. 19 (An Evening with entertainer George Woodard). Don't miss the chance to hear from extraordinary presenters from across the region and within our own valley.

A new fiber arts group meets every other Thursday at 6:30pm (Feb. 11, Feb. 25, etc.). Everyone is welcome, regardless of your skill level. We share and learn from one another as we work on our respective crafts: knitting, tatting, crocheting, felting, rug hooking. If you're curious, come join us!

We continue to offer engaging Story Hours for families with children of all ages every other Tuesday in collaboration with TCS librarian and volunteer, Elaine Howe. We gather at 6:15 pm to enjoy fun activities together, enchanting stories, and a light snack. Our next Story Hour will be "Friends" (Feb.16); we skip a week for Town Meeting, getting together again on Mar. 8, Mar. 22, and the April 5. Our Young Writers' Group (9 and up) meets Fridays at 4pm for creative fun with the written word. For those who favor telling stories using visual arts, we have a Cartoon Workshop (all ages) second and fourth Saturdays. Besides learning basic cartoon technique we play drawing games, share graphic novels, and we'll even be collaborating on making illustrated stories for young children.

Remember that volunteers can make anything and everything possible at the Library, and it's rewarding fun! Whether you can assist us during library hours, or help us prepare for Town Meeting dinner and other fundraisers, we are glad to have the benefit of your abilities and good will. Feel free to get in touch with us with questions, ideas, or for more information. You can stop by, give us a call, or send us an email (TunbridgeLibrary@yahoo.com).

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Pam Dietz, President – 889-3315

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

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: David Wolfe, Lee Banas, Pam Dietz, Brenda Field, Bill Gefell, Michael O'Donnell, Patricia Howe and Maxine Young.

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Dan Ruddell, Helen O'Donnell, listers@tunbridgevt.com 889-3571

The Listers have seen some changes in our typical work flow this year as legislative changes extended the deadlines for filing late homesteads and changes in the Current Use program provided a one-time only option for landowners to withdraw land enrolled in that program ("Current Use 2015 Easy-Outs"). All of these changes have now been accounted and the grand list has been finalized for 2015.

We were sorry to lose our newest Lister, Betsy Sponable, but she only went as far as the other side of the hall, to fill the position left vacant when Wendy McCullough stepped down as our long-time Town Clerk (and everything else she covered!). We wish Betsy well in her new role in that position, welcome new selectboard Administrative Assistant Cynthia Masterman, and send best wishes to Wendy in her next adventures. These changes mean that we will elect a new Lister for a 3-year position at Town Meeting on March 1, 2016.

April 1st is our deadline for changes to property assessments to be accounted with this year's Grand List; real estate sales and changes to property after that date will not affect the Grand List until 2017. Although we may visit after April 1st, our aim is to assess the status of any changes as of that date. We thus continue our rotations in the southeast corner of town (we try to focus on one quarter of the town each year, plus any major changes that we are aware of - we do not have a permit system). The annual state wide sales study arrived in December, and our Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) shows our current assessed values at 114.93% of statistically-derived "fair market value". This indicates that valid sales in Tunbridge (those with no special considerations such as family relations or lack of market exposure) are running roughly 15% below the current assessed values that were largely developed through our last town-wide reappraisal in 2010. The sales market has unevenly sagged since then as we have seen a rise in our CLA each year since 2010 (101.79%, 102.75%, 106.04%, 111.95%, 114.93%). We are legally mandated to assess property at "fair market value".

We are also strongly committed (and legally mandated) to keep property values fair and equitable across the town. The Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) gives a measure of equity across the town, and a COD of less than 10% is considered to indicate a high level of equity. The 2015 Sales Study shows our COD at 13.03% (last 5 years: 5.46%, 6.93%, 9.71%, 10.03%, 13.03%).

Please understand that when we consider grievances and appeals we are trying to maintain as accurate an assessment of fair market value as possible as well as maintain equity, and the assessments we are considering have the 2010 town-wide reappraisal as the most recent baseline. The CLA is a useful measure for helping calibrate current assessments in that light (divide the current assessed value by the CLA to get an idea of current fair market value in equitable relation to that 2010 town-wide baseline).

With everyone in town assessed on the same basis (values developed in the town-wide reappraisal in 2010), the Grand List is then used as the basis on which everyone contributes their fair share of taxes. Taxes are raised as necessary to cover the expenditures we vote on at Town Meeting. State statutes require a town-wide reappraisal for a CLA <80% or a COD>20%; we have no statutory requirements for conducting such a reappraisal at this time.

As always, if you have questions or concerns feel free to give us a call. Our typical office hours are Tuesdays and Fridays from 9-3.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young 889-2804

The air packs from our FEMA grant have arrived and members have completed a training on how to use the new equipment and technology. The firefighter 1 training is being coordinated and we are attempting to gain access to a burn building for training purposes. Once the dates have been finalized we will be advertising it for community members who would like to participate.

We are continuing to look for ways to improve our signal strength so that all members can receive and respond to calls. We are discussing replacing equipment and the best locations in town for the strongest signal. We are also researching a new frequency that we could use and license which would improve reception at the south end of town.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 26th at 10:00am sharp at the school playground. We invite local children to bring their collection baskets & sharp eyes to hunt down the elusive eggs.

Our annual meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10th 2016 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!

The Tunbridge Church

Kay Jorgensen, 889-9828, thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com.

Regular Events

- Sunday Services & Sunday School: 10 a.m., Village church.
- Food Shelf: Fridays, Parish House, 4-6 p.m.
- Soup and Stories: third Wednesdays, Parish House, 12:30 p.m.
- Making Change: Wednesdays, Parish House, 5:30 p.m.
- Adult Choir: Rehearsals Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m.

Special Events

March 20: Palm Sunday Service, 10 a.m.

March 27: Easter Sunrise Service, breakfast, 10 a.m. church service

By the time this TQ is read, The Tunbridge Church will have held its Feb. 7 Annual Meeting and hosted a new community event on Feb. 13 — Just Desserts, an evening of music, desserts and silent auction to raise funds to paint the Tunbridge Village church.

After three months with Sunday guest ministers, the church will have an Interim Pastor to lead services and perform other pastoral duties. The final phase of finding a permanent pastor will then begin. A Pastor Search Committee will lead the effort, which will include discussions within the church and community about the church and its services.

These services include the Tunbridge Food Shelf, which is open Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at the Parish House (corner of Potash Road and Route 110). The Food Shelf also prepared 30 Family Christmas Boxes. The Clever Clovers 4-H Club made and decorated 30 plates of Christmas cookies for the boxes. Unwrapped gifts for families to choose included items the church Youth Group purchased with craft sales earnings. The church's special December offering was given to the Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Fund.

Before Thanksgiving the Tunbridge Central School Student Council organized a drive and delivered 10 boxes filled with foods for the Food Shelf. Tunbridge Recreation's December breakfast was free, with donations to the Food Shelf requested. They donated \$900 and three boxes of food. The October 5K Fun Run/Walk also benefited the Food Shelf.

Thirty-two people were guests at a Parish House lunch for seniors who went home with Halloween treat bags filled by the Youth Group. This was the final 2015 Super Senior Luncheon sponsored by the Outreach Committee's Community Connections program. At Thanksgiving, 52 seniors received bags filled with baked goods, cheese, fruit and other treats.

In October the church hosted what will be an annual event — Anything Apple, an afternoon of foods, apple pressing, silent auction, pie contest, and vendors on the lawn. Proceeds went to the church painting fund. Everyone's support and patronage for these programs is greatly appreciated.

Tunbridge Farm to School Program

Jen Thygesen 889-5628 jthygesen33@gmail.com

With all the warm winter weather we've had so far, working in the school gardens is already on the minds of many teachers at TCS! We will begin planning our garden spaces and landscaping in February and March. Mrs. Brown, Dutton and Lober and their students are already experimenting with growing basil in window boxes in their classrooms.

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Hook are again planning to incubate, candle and hatch eggs in their first and second grade classrooms this spring. Mrs. Herrick will also be serving beef stew with local meat in the school cafeteria in February.

Contact Jen Thygesen with funding ideas or donations to help our Farm to School program grow and thrive!

Better Bones

Shelia Mitchenson 889-5547

Classes on Tuesdays & Thursdays

6:30am - Elaine Howe 889-5560

8:30am - Shelia & Gordon Mitchinson - 889-5547

5:30pm - Kay Jorgensen - 889-5528

Classes at the Town Hall are free with weights provided. You only need to bring yourself, a towel and a bottle of water!

You can pick up your liability and Medical Release Forms at the Town Clerk's office. These are required before you begin and can be turned in at your first class. Come join us or come back for renewed strength, energy and balance!

Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Committee

Ben Wolfe- 889-9467

Our Committee's mission is to steward the use of the Fuel Assistance Loan Fund for no-interest loans to Tunbridge residents, allowing them to get the fuel they need and to pay this large expense over a longer period of time.

This is a service offered to help residents of Tunbridge such as yourselves. The Committee considers loan applications when a resident has exhausted other available resources (including state fuel assistance). We ask that applications be submitted well in advance of using up the last of your fuel, since it takes several days to process a request.

If you are interested in applications, you can check out the Fuel Assistance Group on the Town Website, or you can feel free to contact any member of the Fuel Assistance Committee. Currently, the members include Sue Barnaby, Betsy Sponable, Helen O'Donnell, Anne Peters, Anne Mallary, David Wolfe, Joanne Goodnow, Ben Wolfe and our Town Treasurer, Rebecca Hoyt. Feel free to reach out to us with questions, or your interest to participate. Our next quarterly meeting will be the evening of Thursday, April 14 at the Library Community Room.

We are constantly learning how to make this Fund serve the entire community better. Your input has helped us a lot in the past, and we hope to continue improving in order to meet the needs of our neighbors. Donations of any size help a lot, too! Donations can be given directly to the Town Treasurer, or mailed to Town Treasurer; PO Box 6; Tunbridge, VT 05077. Include "Fuel Assistance Donation" in the subject line.

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 as received. Submissions are edited only for typos and space constraints.

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

Tunbridge Board of Auditors

Maxine Young (763-8274), Betsy Race, Luke Jandreau

auditors@tunbridgevt.com

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, many reports were submitted late. This creates a burden getting the town report to the printer in a timely manner. 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.

Tunbridge Grange # 384

Mert Vesper 889-5595

Bingo night at the Tunbridge Town Hall continues every Friday night at 7pm thru April.

We are planning to work with the school to do something with the children like a coloring contest and writing projects.. We will welcome anyone to come to our meetings they are held on the first Wednesdays of the month at 7p.m.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

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

The Civic Club annual show dates are Friday and Saturday, April 8th and 9th, 2016. This is our 64th year. What a great tradition! Rehearsal dates are Mondays and Thursdays at the Town Hall, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.- beginning on Thursday, March 3; then March 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31; and April 4th and 7th. 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. We welcome new people of high school age who are current or past Tunbridge residents. Attendance at all rehearsals is not required, however, we would like as many as possible to attend the first rehearsal (March 3rd, 2016) to give us an idea of participation. If you are planning on being in the show, and not able to attend the first rehearsal, please let Elaine (889-5560) or Butch (889-3716) know. 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.

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

WFVR-LP

Todd Tyson 802-431-3433

WFVR-LP, Royalton Community Radio, Free Vermont Radio celebrates our listeners with its “3rd Annual Birthday Benefit” at the Royalton Academy Building on Saturday, March 26th from 6-10PM. Included in the \$20 ticket price will be dinner, drinks, live music/dancing with “Still More Cats” and plenty of door prizes. For an additional \$5, attendees will become part of the station’s annual membership. Tickets available soon at www.wfvr.org and at the South Royalton Market. The station can be heard/enjoyed in many towns throughout the Upper White River Watershed at 96.5FM or streaming at www.royaltonradio.org.

For more information on the party and the station: just post Todd at folkbloke@gmail.com .

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.

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami 889-5575 schoolclub@tunbridgeschool.org

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 Tunbridge Central School, the Tunbridge Recreation Committee, Tunbridge One Planet and the 8th Grade Class to host a two-day Winter Carnival at the school. Friday, February 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!

Calendar of Events

Feb.

- 19 - "From Flax to Linen" Tunbridge Library Winter Evenings program with linen spinster & weaver Sue Cain, 7 p.m.

March

- 3 - Civic Club Variety Show rehearsals begin, 7pm, town hall. See pg 15
- 4 - "Animal Track and Sign Investigation" Tunbridge Library Winter Evenings program with naturalist Ed Sharron, 7 p.m.
- 5 - Shindig with The Party Crashers 8-11pm, Town Hall, \$8.00 cover charge at the door. www.shindigsvt.com
- 11 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers 7:30pm Town Hall, \$8.00 Live Music
- 13 - All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast 8am - 12pm Town Hall. \$8.00
- 18 - "An Evening with George Woodard," dairy farmer, actor & musician, Tunbridge Library Winter Evenings program, 7 p.m.
- 19 - Mountain Folk presents Jim Rooney and the Starline Rhythm Boys 7:30pm, Town Hall. www.mtnfolk.org
- 26 - WVFR 3rd Annual Birthday Benefit 6-10pm, Royalton Academy see page 16 for details
- 26 - TVFD annual Easter egg hunt. 10am sharp at the School.

April

- 8&9 - 64th annual Civic Club Show, 7pm, Town Hall
- 10 - All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast , 8am - 12pm Town Hall. \$8.00
- 16 - Mountain Folk presents "Barika" 7:30pm, Town Hall. www.mtnfolk.org

May

- 13 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers 7:30pm Town Hall, \$8.00 Live Music
- 8 - All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast 8am - 12pm Town Hall. \$8.00

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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