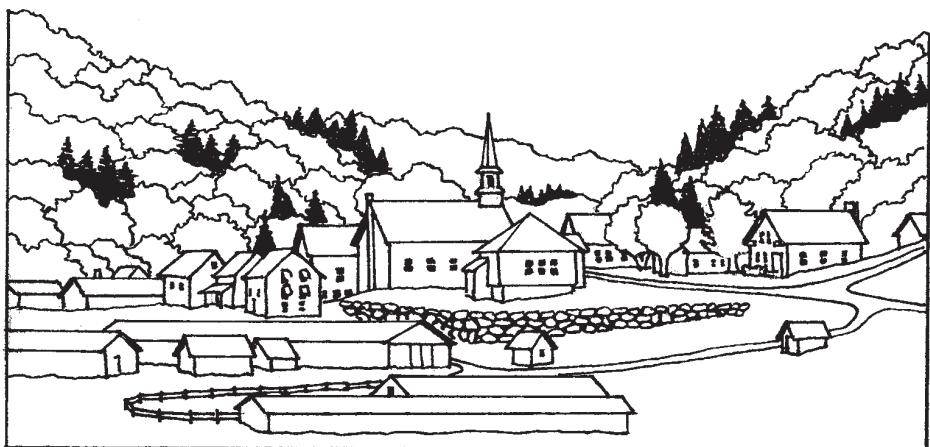


The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



**August 15, 2016
issue #45**

Tunbridge Select Board

Gary Mullen 889-3242, John O'Brien 889-3474,

Mike McPhetres 802-272-6108,

With this edition of the TQ, Gary, Mike and I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Administrative Assistant, Jacqueline Higgins. Jackie has spent most of her adult life in municipal government. At 24, she was elected to the Chelsea Selectboard. She is currently Town Manager for Williamstown. Possessing enormous energy and seasoned with experience, Jackie will need no training—she held the position of Administrative Assistant for the Town of Tunbridge back in '94-'01. F. Scott Fitzgerald famously remarked, “There are no second acts in American lives,” but he didn’t know Jackie.

We would also like to bid a fond farewell and a heartfelt thank you to the outgoing Administrative Assistant, Cynthia Masterman. Hired at 20 hours a week, Cynthia—who works full time at Sharon Academy—found that she had to put in 30 or more hours a week to do the work required, and it was just too much. Regretfully, Selectboard meetings will now return to a cheese and crackers menu: Cynthia, who loves to cook and has the talent to be a professional chef, would often bring something delectable to the meetings. The entire Selectboard is of the opinion that proofreading minutes and double-checking invoices is a not unpleasant task when paired with Cynthia’s lasagna.

The Road Crew is on schedule and on budget for its summer maintenance. A section of the Strafford Road—approximately from Baptist Hill Road to Orchard Road—is due to be paved this month. The violent wind-storm on July 23rd that toppled hundreds of trees in the area and knocked out power for days for some residents was proof that Tunbridge can take a licking and keep on ticking. Road Foreman, Rodney Hoyt, reported that he drove up the Spring Road the following day and knew that the power was still out—every house on the road had a generator going.

With summer sliding into fall, the Selectboard hopes to get the bid process moving on the exterior work that needs to be done on the Town Hall. Money was budgeted for repairs and painting. At the request of the Selectboard, an informal committee has gotten together and is going to tackle the interior, starting with the kitchen. A taking of inventory and a deep cleaning is first on the list. With the passing of the long-time Town Hall Supervisor, the venerable and affable Arlene Stockwell, Judy Howe was appointed to the vacancy. The Town Hall key no longer hangs in Arlene’s doorway! For access or rental inquiries, please contact Judy (889-3487) or Town Clerk, Betsy Sponable (889-5521 or tctunbridge@live.com).

The grant saga of the OCPCC (Orange County Parent Child Center—the former Wellspring School) is nearing a successful conclusion after months of jumping through hoops for the federal government. In order for the OCPCC to buy the property with help of federal government funds, the Town of Tunbridge had to act as a flow-through for the grant. What we assumed would be the signing of a few documents turned into a considerable expenditure of time and money for the Town. While the OCPCC will reimburse the Town for most of the expenditures—for the legally-mandated shepherding done by Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission and our Town attorney, Tavian Mayer—the hours and hours Cynthia spent facilitating this process will never be remunerated by grantor or grantee.

As always, Selectboard meetings are open to the public. Our standing meeting schedule is now the first and third Mondays of every month, at 6pm, in the town offices. If you would like to be on the agenda, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Jackie Higgins (889-5510 or jackie46@yahoo.com)

As one would expect from the granddaughter of Euclid Farnham, Jackie has an encyclopedic memory of local deeds and phrases. Last Selectboard meeting, she remembered that George Button, when extracting gossip or rumor, would say, “Don’t care--just wanna know.” So for anyone who feels like George: Selectboard minutes 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, 2016. For those organizations following a calendar year, the reports are due January 6, 2017. 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.

State Representative

Sarah Buxton 763-0777 phone/text

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Elizabeth Sponable 889-5521 tctunbridge@live.com

Hours: Mon-Thurs 7:30am-3:00 pm Closed Fridays

General Election will be held on November 8th at Town Hall from 7:00 am -7:00 pm. If you are a resident of Tunbridge but are not on the voter checklist, the deadline to register is Wednesday, November 2nd, by 5pm.

A very good suggestion was made to include Tunbridge birth/marriage/death recordings in the Quarterly, so beginning with this issue, those that have occurred since the last issue will be included.

Births: *Alexis Paige Charette- born May 30, 2016 to parents- Darcy Loretta Charette & Joshua David Charette.

Claire Eloise Garrow- born June 2, 2016 to parents- Kierstan Cheri McConnell & Jordan David Garrow.

Marriages: Honour Lindsey Noelle Greene to Thomas Michael Ingham, June 4, 2016.

Krystal Anne Courcelle to Nathan Isaac Rood, July 24, 2016.

Deaths: Arlene Stockwell, June 8, 2016

*A reminder to new parents- if you have a new Tunbridge baby, please stop in to the Clerk's office to pick up a baby quilt. The Saturday Sewing Circle has been busy quilting and they have supplied us with some lovely quilts for our new brand new tiny Tunbridge residents!

In July we said goodbye to our Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard, Cynthia Masterman, as she submitted her resignation to the board. Many thanks to Cynthia for her service to Tunbridge. Jackie Higgins has been appointed to fill the position. For all Selectboard matters, Town highway/garage and transfer station matters, bid submissions, or to schedule a meeting with the board, please contact the Jackie at 889-5510, or tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com. 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.

As you know, Arlene Stockwell passed away on June 8th. Arlene graciously handled our Town Hall Reservations and access to the building for many years, and she will be deeply missed on several levels. Judy Howe is now in charge of Town Hall Reservations. You can reach Judy at (802) 889-3487. In the interest of creating easier accessibility, we have installed a keypad lockbox at Town Hall by the handicapped entrance. When the building is reserved, the code to the lockbox is given to the

group making the reservation, and they then access the lockbox to obtain the key. Tunbridge groups using the building on a regular basis will automatically be given the code. The Lockbox code will be changed periodically to insure that the building stays secure. We will be looking at any and all ways to improve the current system, and would welcome any suggestions from those using the Hall.

If there are any other suggestions as to what you could like to see included in my Quarterly Reports, please contact me.

First Branch Ambulance

Judy Tucker 889-3305 judytucker1@myfairpoint.net

The FBA is sponsoring a fund raiser by selling red 911 alert signs with your house number on it for \$20.00. I have the materials at my house to make one up or you can stop by the Chelsea station to make your purchase.

We have been told that our new ambulance should be arriving by the first of October. Our old A2 ambulance is up for sale if there is anyone interested. We still have part time EMS positions available for trained professionals . Contact Linda Kuban at 685-3112

Better Bones

Shelia Mitchinson - 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 School Board

Kathy Galluzzo 565-0695 kgalluzzo@tunbridgeschool.org

Maryann Caron 889-5694 mcaron@tunbridgeschool.org

Liz York 889-3211 lyork@tunbridgeschool.org

Tunbridge Town Treasurer

Becky Hoyt - 889-3571

I have been busy closing out this past fiscal year, which ended June 30th, and getting ready for our new fiscal year. I want to give you a quick overview of how the town did in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. First I want everyone to know we ended on a good note. Both the Highway and the General Fund ended with a surplus at the end of the year. The Highway had a surplus of \$58,754.34, which will be rolled over into the next year's budget. The General fund ended with a surplus of \$68,823.57, which we will have to vote at Town meeting what we would like to do with this, one option might be to reduce next year's taxes. The cost of fuel decreased by 45.8% in 2015-16 compared to what we spent in 2014-15. This I think was a big factor in keeping us under budget.

My busiest time of the year is fast approaching, Tax Time. The select board has set the tax rates at 2.0963 for Residents of Tunbridge and 2.0478 for Non- Residents of Tunbridge. The municipal rate that is set by the town's budgets was 0.7122, the school rates that are set by the state came in at 1.3356 for Non Residential and 1.3841 for Homestead rate. This year the Non Resident rate is lower than the Homestead rate. The good news is that taxes are a penny lower than last year! Tax bills are going to be printed soon and will go out in the middle of August. If you have any questions regarding your bills please feel free to call me or the Listers when they are available. Also I just want everyone to know that you do not have to wait to have a tax bill to start paying your taxes. You can pay a small amount every month towards your property taxes. If you pay more than your tax bill it will be refunded to you when the tax bills go out.

Taxes are due on November 1, 2016, if you mail your taxes they must be postmarked on or before November 1st to avoid any penalties.

ECFiber

Henry Swayze 603-667-8932 henryswayze@gmail.com

We need more pre subscriptions and the sooner the better.

As you probably know ECF borrowed money from the Wall street bond market to build out 250 miles of road in the towns with the highest pre-subscription rates. The design and build work has begun and will build all roads in five towns but Tunbridge is not included. Here is where you come in. Tunbridge missed being included on the first round by 24 pre-subscriptions. This selection process is happening two more times this year. Towards the end of the year ECF will go back to the bond market for more build money to do whole towns. We will not be in the next build with out winning the pre-subscription race. With your help we have an excellent chance. To pre-subscribe goto:

www.ecfiber.net/member-towns/tunbridge-vt/

ECFiber is now in several new areas in town. You can see where service is now and where it is under construction by going to:

www.ecfiber.net/where-we-are-working/

We need another one or even two people to serve as town representatives to ECFiber. Are you willing to help? Contact the Select Board or Henry Swayze.

Tunbridge Women's Group

Pam Dietz 889-3315

The Tunbridge Women's Group started 12 years ago as a way for women to meet each other and share conversation and news about their interests. Monthly potluck suppers are held in homes or in Tunbridge Village during bad weather. Some suppers have suggested seasonal, holiday and ethnic themes.

This is an informal group without officers, committees and duties. Women who would like to be on the email list to receive notices of the suppers and local events can call Pam at the number above or email Elaine Howe at ehowe@tunbridgeschool.org

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

As younger readers get ready to go back to school, there is still time to take a break away-- in body or mind. You can borrow passes here for VINS, Vermont State Parks and Historic Sites, Billings Farm Museum, the Precision Museum, the ECHO center, and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. We have videos, audio books and many books to discover! Our offerings include 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 audio books and DVDs from the Libraries of the Upper Valley (LUV) Coop.

If you're exploring downloadable audio or E-books, we can help you borrow some great titles as always for free with ListenUpVermont. We now can acquire additional digital titles just for you Tunbridge patrons-- to give you more options and reduce long lines for popular titles. We'd be more than happy to walk you through how to use these services (as many times as you need!). On this and any other technical issues, let us know what your problem is and we help connect you with the solution.

As of the release of this TQ, the current ArtSpace exhibit "Quartet" includes prints and collages by artists Kristen Johnson and Janet Cathey. The next art reception will open an exhibit of the work of Marianne McCann on Friday evening September 9, from 7 to 9 pm.

Now that the Summer Reading Program has concluded, the activities such as Story Hour will be meeting more regularly. Parents with young children are welcome to suggest times that work well for their schedules. Currently Thursday evenings (6pm) and Saturday mornings (9am) have been suggested.

The Young Writers' Group and Cartooning Workshop will be returning soon, as will the Fiber Arts group. Do you have interest you would like to share with others. Do you want to know more about the library or are you interested in lending a hand? Just give stop in or give us a call.

Don't miss the annual Friends of the Library Volunteer Picnic on Sunday, August 28 to celebrate volunteer service of all kinds in our community. The potluck picnic begins at 12:30 at the Dodge-Gilman building on the Fairgrounds, with beverages and ice cream supplied by the Friends. You are the force that makes the Library and our community in Tunbridge a fun and dynamic place to live!

Alliance for Vermont Communities

Michael Saccia - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

A group of concerned citizens from the towns of Tunbridge, Royalton, Strafford and Sharon have organized to form the Alliance for Vermont Communities, a non-profit corporation. The mission of Alliance for Vermont Communities is to protect working farms, forests and communities of central Vermont and to promote responsible development that will sustain the rural heritage and values for present and future generations.

We would like input from the residents of Tunbridge, Royalton, Strafford and Sharon on a variety of levels as we take steps to ensure that the vision for our communities as outlined in our town and regional plans is maintained. Please let the planning commission and selectboard know your thoughts on this issue.

An immediate goal is to discourage what we feel is inappropriate development being proposed by the NewVistas Corporation at the intersection of the four towns. The estimated 20,000 person development is based on a 180 year old design by Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon Church. David Hall, a wealthy tycoon from Provo, Utah is behind the project and has purchased roughly 1500 acres towards his goal of 5000 acres in the four town area. Mr. Hall's ultimate goal is to build facilities enough to house 20 million people in these closed communities in Vermont, and that the development will require natural gas pipelines and drilling for resources, clearly not a sustainable approach.

Another goal of the new organization is to encourage plans for maintaining the 4 corner area for agriculture, forestry and recreation purposes. We have offered two informational presentations in South Royalton and Sharon and another is planned at the Tunbridge Town Hall on August 18th at 6pm. More public forums are in the works including presentations on the following topics:

- Working Woodlands: Timber, Trails and Community
- Water: A Limited Resource in our Uncertain Future
- Farms, Food and Our Local Agricultural Economy
- Land Trusts; Your Land, Your Vision

Janet Zug has been printing bumper stickers and offering them for free at local stores and thru individual contacts. She is also making a few different designs of lawn signs which sell for \$8. each. If you are interested in getting stickers and/or signs contact Janet at IHeartGraphics@yahoo.com or talk/text 802-738-9602

For more information please contact Michael Saccia - contact info above, or Jane Huppee at 802-291-3932. or sign up to the mailing list at www.stopnewvistas.org

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Dan Ruddell, Helen O'Donnell, Jola Colson 889-3571

Office hours: 9-3 Tuesday and Friday (listers@tunbridgevt.com)

Grievances are done for this year and we are currently reviewing information for the annual statewide sales equalization study. We review all sales in 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?” Listed values often do not reflect fair market value. This is because real estate markets are always changing and because reappraisals are not conducted annually. In order to treat all municipalities fairly throughout the state, grand lists are evaluated and adjusted annually to bring each municipality’s grand list to fair market value. The adjustment is made through the equalization study.”

The equalization adjustment is based on the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) determined by the sales study. Our last town-wide reappraisal was in 2010, and our CLA has crept up each year since (101.79%, 102.75%, 106.04%, 111.95%, 114.93%). We are mandated to do a town-wide reappraisal if our CLA drops below 80% or our Coefficient of Dispersion (COD, a measure of equity within the town) exceeds 20%. Our COD last year was 13.03%, also determined on the basis of the sales study.

For quarterly rotation this year we are focusing on the southwest 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.

Feel free to stop by or give us a call.

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 Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young 889-2804

Our annual coin drop fundraiser will be held on Friday September 16th and Saturday September 17th. 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.

The Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department will be holding Fire Fighter One and Fire Fighter Two Trainings starting on August 29th through the spring. Classes will be held on Monday & Thursday evenings one week and Thursday and all day on Saturday the next week. There will be no classes on Thanksgiving weekend. All material must be covered and demonstrated, so any missed class or practicals needs to be made up. We have space for community members who have an interest in learning the required course material to participate as an active Fire Fighter. We are offering cash and equipment incentives to participants who satisfactorily complete the training and who are willing to join the TVFD for a period of time after the class. Members of other town and area fire departments who would like to participate in this training are welcome to attend and take the class. Contact any member of the Fire Department or Chief Durkee at 889-3408 for more information.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Pam Dietz, President – 889-3315

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

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. 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 attempt to make arrangements.

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. Board members: Pam Dietz, David Wolfe, Lee Banas, Bill Gefell, Michael O'Donnell, Patricia Howe, Maxine Young and Jory Innes.

The Tunbridge Church

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

The Tunbridge Church recently started the process that will lead to calling a permanent, or settled, pastor. The Pastor Search Committee hosted 60 people at a kickoff pizza party July 27 at the fairgrounds.

Members Lisa Amodeo, Connie Button, Euclid Farnham, Nan Frost, Amy Frost, Kay Jorgensen and Ben Wolfe were named to the search committee by the Parish Council in May. They represent demographic diversity and varied theological backgrounds and length of time associated with the church. Interim Pastor Jo Shelnutt is advising the committee.

In order to create a church profile, the committee is making a timeline of local and church history starting in 1760, long before the Baptist, Congregational and Methodist churches merged. Information will be added to the 15 timeline panels over the months as church members and friends add their histories and memories.

These could relate to family connections, church membership, ceremonies such as baptisms and weddings, and attendance at holiday services, Sunday school, social and other programs.

The history will be part of a larger profile that will describe the community and The Tunbridge Church, its past, the present, hopes for the future and the kind of minister who would best fit that vision.

During the next several months search committee members will be making connections with church members and friends in a variety of ways, including small gatherings, surveys, weekly questions and a monthly newsletter. The committee will want to know why people attend or formerly attended The Tunbridge Church, what they like and what changes they would like to see, how the church has touched their lives and community life, and their suggestions for the future.

The end result will be a church profile which will be shared with various denominations when the search committee is ready to seek applicants for the settled pastor position.

Sunday worship services begin at 10 a.m. — during August at North Tunbridge Baptist Church and at the Congregational Church in Tunbridge Village from September through June.

The Tunbridge Church's annual Festival of Worship is a come-as-you-are celebratory service held on the Sunday of the Tunbridge World's Fair. This year the service is at 9:30, Sept. 18 at the church, located on VT Rte. 110 above the fair grounds.

The service is primarily music and includes an expanded choir of singers from around the area, a local band, and soloists. There is always a variety of music, some for toe tapping and some for quiet reflection. The theme of the service is “Keep On Praying”.

The service is led by church interim pastor, Jo Shelnut. Choir Director is Judie Lewis and accompanist is Dale Post. Youth Choir director is Janet Zug. For more information, call the church at 889-9828.

The church will sponsor two community events on Saturday, Oct. 8. The fourth annual Tunbridge 5K Harvest Fun Run/Walk and Anything Apple. The 5K will benefit the Food Shelf which is open Fridays from 4 to 6 at the Parish House. Registration will begin in front of the house at 8:15. The fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children over age 5.

The second annual Anything Apple celebration of apples and autumn will be held at the Town Hall from 11-3. In addition to many apple foods for eating and take out, soups and lunch will be served. A silent auction of products and gift items will be held upstairs, while vendors and outdoor activities will happen on the lawn across the road.

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 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs Town Hall. All are welcome to attend. The agenda will include discussion for the upcoming show, election of officers and other business. The 2017 show is our 65th annual show and we hope that anyone who has ever been in the show will make an appearance.

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.

Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Committee

Ben Wolfe- 889-9467

In the midst of warm weather heating indoors is not a top priority for many. What exactly does the Fuel Assistance Committee do, again?

The Fuel Assistance Committee is one effort to rally as a community to help ensure everyone is able to meet their fundamental needs. No-interest loans facilitated by our Committee allow Tunbridge residents to get necessary heating fuel, but without the interest from common loans which would further compound financial challenges.

We're here to answer questions too! 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 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 last quarterly meeting included a visit from Capstone--the regional nonprofit that coordinates fuel and utility grants in our area. Next, we will be looking for ways to supplement the loans with weatherization resources and a woodbank to strengthen us as a community even more. This is one of the ways it's possible for you to help Tunbridge stay vibrant and strong. We absolutely welcome your interest and support.

Our next quarterly meeting will include a potluck supper and will be held at 6 pm on Thursday, October 13 in the Library's Community Room. Following dinner and a brief meeting, we'll review edits to the by-laws, and look at progress on coordinating a wood bank in town. Everyone is invited to come join us for dinner followed by the meeting.

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.

Tunbridge Grange # 384

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

This year's Harvest Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 15 and that is when we will have our raffle drawing, so there is still time to buy raffle tickets! The Hunters Breakfast will be held bright and early on the first day of hunting, Saturday, November 12. We appreciate any volunteers to help us and it can be a fun time to work together on these old-time community dinners. Much of the fundraising that the Tunbridge Grange does during the year goes toward helping local needy families, organizations, and schools.

We need more people to join our Grange. We meet the first Wednesday of the month and the meetings usually only last about an hour and then we have good conversation and snacks! You don't have to commit to every meeting or every fundraiser, but we've love to have you. The Grange is located in North Tunbridge across from the North Tunbridge General Store. Please consider joining the Grange so we can continue to keep this worthy organization going.

For more information, contact either Rosemary at the number above or Marilyn (Mert) Vesper at 889-5595.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Ingrid Van Steamburg 889-3495

The Planning Commission meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Town Office. In September our meeting will be the third Tuesday of the month - 9/20. The Planning Commission has reached out to some interested individuals to re-start the Ag Committee - a subcommittee of the commission. If you are interested in attending a meeting for the Ag Committee please reach out to a member of the commission. We hope this group can be actively up and running again by the end of the year. The commission would like to welcome our most recent member, Mario Saccia. In other news the commission will begin to work on revising the town plan in the coming months.

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.

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami 889-5575 schoolclub@tunbridgeschool.org

Last Day of School Picnic: School Club hosted a barbecue on June 8 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 7. Watch for details at the beginning of the school year.

Chicken Pie Supper: Mark your calendar for this community supper at TCS on Saturday, October 22. Details coming in fall!

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; Chelsea/Tunbridge Exploratorium; field trip to the Montshire Museum; student gifts at the holiday concert; the holiday breakfast for teachers and staff; classroom supplies for teachers at the New Year, a Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon; the VAHPERD Fitness Competition; 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 6:00pm on the first Monday every month (or a rescheduled date 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 6 (Tuesday due to Labor Day), October 3 and November 7.

Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair (FTWF)

Jena Young, President - 889-2804, JTrombly@claramartin.org

David Smith, Vice President - 889-9416, dcs4363@gmail.com

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

Carmen Lafroimboise, Treasurer - 685-3184, cmlafroimboise@gmail.com

The FTWF have been discussing operation of the courtesy shuttles that the organization provides as a service to those needing a ride from the parking lots to the fairgrounds. This service is free of charge. Look for the blue benches for the shuttles stop. The shuttle stops are identified on the map in the fair pamphlet as well as the inside cover of the Premium Book.

The horse barn located at the south end of the fairgrounds has been completed as many of you have probably noticed. The FTWF spearheaded the fundraising efforts for the barn and is happy to have made a sizable contribution toward this project.

The FTWF projects result in the generous donations received by individuals as well as gifts given in memory of a loved one. The Annual Duck Race also raises funds as does the memberships. Your tax-deductible Memberships can be made by mailing your check to: Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair, P.O. Box 159, Tunbridge, VT 05077. These memberships offer a unique giving opportunity for fair enthusiasts:

Single Annual Membership - \$25

Couple Annual Membership - \$50

Family Annual Membership - \$100

Lifetime Membership - \$1,000

(may be paid in installments over three years)

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.

If you have questions, please contact any of the board members listed above or by visiting our website at www.friendsoftunbridgefair.org

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

Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more events.

Sept,

15-18 - 145th Tunbridge World's Fair !!

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

Oct.

2-4 - VT Sheep & Wool Festival on the Fairgrounds
www.sheepandwoolfest.com

3 - Civic Club Annual Mtg, 7pm, Town Hall. See page 12.

7 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers 7:30pm Town Hall, \$8.00 Live Music

8 - Tunbridge 5K Harvest Fun Run/Walk. 9 a.m. Parish House. See pg 12

8 - Anything Apple foods, lunch, silent auction, vendors at Town Hall and lawn, 11-3. Also on pg 12.

9 - Ghost Walk hosted by Tunbridge Historical Society at Button Hill Cemetery, 1:30 p.m. Free. Rain date Oct. 16. 889-5528.

15 - Harvest Supper, N. Tunbridge Grange, 5pm. See pg 14.

Nov.

5 - Shindig with MoCombo, Town Hall. \$10. cover charge.

11 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers 7:30pm Town Hall, \$8.00 Live Music

12 - Hunter Breakfast, N. Tunbridge Grange, 5am. See pg 14.

The Shindigs

Janet Zug - 889-9602

The Shindigs will be in full swing for our 10th season! Jenn Hayslett is splitting the duties with me. She is organizing volunteers to help complete the tasks that make these fun dances successful. If you are interested, please contact her at www.jennhayslett.com.

The Shindigs are held on the first Saturdays from November thru April. Formed with the dances of yesteryear in mind and created with an inviting atmosphere for musicians, dancers and music lovers to enjoy the amazing power of music. Come and enjoy!

Tunbridge Emergency Services Committee

David Kimball 889-3758

Our committee spent the last months reviewing the status of Law Enforcement for our town. We met with Liz Tracy, a representative from E911, Vicki Weiss, our side judge, Royalton Barracks commander Lt. Jenkins and Sheriff Bohnyak of the Orange County Sheriff's Department. The meeting were all on separate nights.

As is our mode of operation, we compiled a list of questions that we had received from Select Board members, some town officials, and a few townspeople that came forward. This list of questions was sent to both Vermont State Police and Orange County Sheriff's Department before we met so they could prepare.

The meetings were insightful. We, as a committee, then combined our thoughts into recommendations, attended a Select board meeting and delivered those recommendations with our rationale. We recommended that the Town should continue the current coverage arrangements with the VSP and Sheriff.

This committee plans on following up with one of our recommendations of having a public community evening later this year with Vermont State Police's Lt. Jenkins. We felt he had great insights and tips on currant issues and how to best utilize the system. We also felt some of you may like to hear this information directly from him. The time and place will be publicized later this year.

One of Lt. Jenkins requests of us was to ask our Select board to fill the empty position of a community person on a citizen oversight committee the state police had formed in our area. This person should have knowledge of town policing issues at the select board level. That would be the place where most bring their concerns to work out. This oversight group doesn't meet often but could be helpful to address what our town sees as any shortfalls and concerns.

We informed the Select board that all of us on the Emergency Services Committee were active on various other groups and committees and were going to take a couple of months off at this time to catch up on our other obligations.

Committee Members: David Kimball, Robert Sponable, Michael Saccia, Anissa Morrison, Katherine Elderd, Sarah Dunkle

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