

The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



November 15, 2016
issue #46

Tunbridge Select Board

John O'Brien 889-3474

Gary Mullen 889-3242, Mike McPhetres 802-272-6108,

Selectboard meetings are open to the public. Our standing meeting schedule is now the first and third Mondays of every month, at 6:00 pm, 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)

Budgeting season is upon us. As we go over the numbers for the General Fund and Highway Fund, we aim for something close to a level-funded budget. Property taxes are high enough. That said, we must also do right by our town buildings, town roads, and town employees. If the 2017/'18 Selectboard budget exceeds last year's budget, it's because we must balance frugality with being good stewards of our municipal infrastructure and a fair employer of our hardworking employees. We encourage residents to comb through the Town Report. We invite Tunbridgians to attend Town Meeting and ask us questions about why we spent monies the way we did. We go over every line item in the budget. We should have a reasonable and transparent answer for every increase, every decrease or every level-funded expenditure. If we are found to be a tad extravagant or, detrimentally stingy, we should be shown the door by that boot of democracy: the ballot.

Speaking of our town buildings, Randall S. Hoyt was awarded the bid to do much-needed repair work to the outside of the Town Hall. When Randy is done with that phase, painting is next on the agenda (planned for next summer). But before any carpentry can commence, we learned that State regulations require us to do an asbestos test on affected areas. If asbestos is found, asbestos abatement must follow. Asbestos abatement is prohibitively expensive—let's keep our fingers crossed that the test comes up negative.

Before the snow flies, Black Ox Roofing is expected to install a new roof on the Town Garage (on the Transfer Station side only). While the snow has already flown plenty, that expression would be more accurate if it was "before the snow sticks." I remember Roger Hill (meteorologist for WDEV), once saying that, on average, in Central Vermont, the snow starts to stick—because the ground is frozen--around Pearl Harbor Day. That first week of December, give or take a week, should also be about the time the Road Crew switches from their summer schedule (four 10 hour days) back to their winter schedule (five days a week and on call 24/7).

This fall, the Road Crew has been busy ditching, replacing dysfunctional culverts, and brush hogging the ever-encroaching shrubbery along the sides of the town roads. Way back, the first sharp curve up the Strafford Road was known as Sand Hill. This should not be confused with the Hill of Sand that the Road Crew has ready near the Town Garage to combat the upcoming five months of freezing rain, mixed precipitation or—a word from my childhood, now rarely used--sleet.

At the October 17th Selectboard meeting, board members of the First Branch Ambulance (FBA) presented the Selectboard with a draft contract for emergency services. Remarkably, there has never been a contract between FBA and the Town of Tunbridge. Both sides are amenable to having annual expectations and compensation in written form; details should be worked out by the end of the calendar year. FBA also gave the Selectboard a tour of their brand new ambulance, equipped with a powerlift for gurneys and extra seating for a family member to accompany a patient. It's like a little hospital with four-wheel drive.

Finally, the Selectboard purchased two new heavy-duty sandwich boards with extra letters. The old sandwich boards seemed to spend half their days blown over and the available letters had dwindled down to something out of Wheel of Fortune.

HV A HPPY THXGVNG!

First Branch Ambulance

Judy Tucker 889-3305 judytucker1@myfairpoint.net

The First Branch Ambulance has it's new ambulance A2 on the road and we were fortunate to sell the predecessor for parts. As part of a fund raising effort we are selling the red 911 signs for a \$20.00 contribution. Many thanks to those who have already purchased these signs. It is a great way to support the ambulance while being helpful to fire and rescue when trying to locate an emergency. Call Judy if interested.

We are currently in the talk and planning stage with the select board regarding a three year contract.

Any questions or suggestions are welcomed by reaching out to Tim Wolfe 889-3730 or Judy Tucker at the contact info above.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Elizabeth Sponable 889-5521 tctunbridge@live.com

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

November 1st marks one year since I took over the duties of Town Clerk. This has been quite a challenging year for me, learning the ropes as Town Clerk and overseeing the Election process for the first time. I must admit that I am very happy that the Election is behind us and will not roll around again for several years. Many thanks to my Assistant Clerk Helen O'Donnell, who continues to be my right arm, and to all of my poll workers for a job well done!

The following are Tunbridge birth/marriage/death records that have been recorded since the last issue of the Quarterly:

Please note that these are recorded in this office. If someone should marry or pass away out of state, I most likely will not have that record here.

Births: * Moses Aaron Merriam- born 9/5/16, to parents-
Jacqueline Anne Merriam & Frederick Earl Merriam.

Willow Patricia Moon Lawrence- born 9/29/16,
to parents- Mariah Lee Lawrence & Lee Michael Lawrence.

Marriages: Katelyn Munroe Cousino to Chase Richard Ackerman, 8/19/16
Jamie Elizabeth Frost to Kevin Joseph McHugh, 9/27/16
Allison Frances Garran to Benjamin Standish MacKinnon, 10/1/16

Deaths: Alice Emeline Metcalf, September 2, 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!

TOWN HALL RESERVATIONS- Judy Howe is currently in charge of Town Hall Reservations. You can reach Judy at (802) 889-3487. The keypad lockbox that was installed at Town Hall has been working quite well. 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 feel free to give me a call.

ECFiber

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

- Your ECFiber doings •

New fiber was just lit from Dickerman on Chelsea Mountain Road over to Monarch Hill, as far as the Spring Road.

The Tunbridge Central School together with the Orange-Windsor supervisory district office has applied for a grant to build a link from the school to the Chelsea ECF hub. This will allow the learning process to tap into the educational programs only available on line. The hope is that this United States Government funding will come and be in time for ECF service to be in place for the start of next school year. These grants are not usually supplied for infrastructure but we are in hopes it will be approved. Last years town's presubscription drive to build the entire town out all at once was missed by 27 pre subscriptions. Had we done this the school would be getting connected for sure.

There will be another crowd funding presubscription drive this year and signing up now will put us ahead of the game. You can go the ECFiber website or call the office 763-2262.

Additional \$s from the state to take internet to unserved spots will be made and ECF will bid for routes in their territory including roads in Tunbridge. Remember this is superior quality service, owned by our towns for our towns. We are not shipping our \$s and jobs out of state and once the system is fully built revenues can be returned to our towns or used to reduce rates or both.

We continue to look for volunteers to help on this project. At least one membership to the governing board needs to be filled. Contact henryswayze@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

What to report? Your board has been so busy attending multiple meetings a week that we do not have the energy to bore you with a long-winded update! So here's to short and sweet:

The Act 46 slog continues. We are currently studying options that maintain choice for high school and that try to preserve the greatest degree of local democracy possible, per your feedback at our spring forums and through last year's survey. If you are interested in attending any Act 46-related meetings, please consult the Supervisory Union calendar on its website for times and dates. Here is the website address: <http://wrvsu.org>

FYI: Tunbridge is currently a voting member of the "PK-8 Study Committee" for purposes of finding the meetings on the calendar. That group generally meets the first and third Monday of each month at the Supervisory Union offices. Anyone is welcome.

We are also entering budgeting season. This work is spearheaded by our fearless leader, Principal Farnsworth, and our SU Business Manager. We welcome your thoughts on what our priorities should be as the budget takes shape over the next few weeks and months. As always we are motivated to make the most of educational opportunities for our students, while keeping a careful eye on the year-on-year change to the overall budget and tax rate. We like to hear townspeople's thoughts on where we should be flexible in spending and where we should be uncompromising!

As many of you may have read in the papers, your district, like many in Vermont, is also headed into another round of collective bargaining with our faculty, and also separately with our support staff. These negotiations will have budget implications both in the near term and in the future. If you are curious about this process because of what you have been hearing on the news, please reach out to any one of us and we will do our best to explain the process.

TCS has recently held its annual Taste of Tunbridge, celebrating and supporting our Farm-to-School program (thank you to Jen Thygesen for her tireless efforts sustaining this great program for our kids!). And TCS's School Club just held its annual Chicken Pie Supper, which raises funds for amazing enrichment opportunities for our K-8 students (thank you to teacher, parent, and event leader Amy Bogardus, and to all the intrepid volunteers, for making this great event happen!). We hope that you had the opportunity to attend one of these events, not only for the amazing food available, but to also check out just how great the school is looking inside and out!

Last, but not least, we are very proud and excited about the Pre-Kindergarten program serving our district, along with Chelsea, run through the Orange County Parent-Child Center here in Tunbridge. We are so lucky to have such a beautiful building, staffed with such great professionals, serving our town. They just recently had an open house, but if you are a family interested in preschool options for your child, it is never too late to contact them to hear about options. They have gone the extra mile in making this an affordable choice for area parents, beyond the ten hours of free preschool available to all Vermont families. Please reach out to Co-Executive Director, Emily Marshia at 685-2264 or emily@orangecountypcc.org to hear how preschool can work for your family!

When can you sit down with us? As some of you may have already noticed, our regular meeting has changed from the last school year. The towns of the SU have been combining meetings for efficiency's sake in order to avoid adding another administrative position at the SU level, keeping more money available for direct instruction! We now have a combined meeting with the Chelsea School Board on the second Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 pm. The location alternates between the two towns' schools. In December we will be back in Tunbridge. The Board can also add meetings on an as-needed basis, which often occurs as budget deadlines approach. Again, the SU calendar is a good place to check, as our school website is still under construction. Thank you for everyone's interest in educational matters, and for the wonderful support that you all give to the school, with special thanks to all the local volunteers who chip in to create so many great experiences for our kids, whether it's visits from the TVFD for fire safety education or reading one-on-one week in and week out to our students! There are too many ways to list that the adults of this area give to our kids. We are very grateful for that.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglasstudio@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 Library

Hours: Mon & Wed 3-8, Thur & Fri 3-6, Sat 9-3

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

ArtSpace Co-ordinator: Betsy Gaiser 763-2288

Now more than ever, we need useful information as well as perspective and relief in books and stories. We offer a wide range of resources, from 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.

Don't forget we offer free downloadable audio or E-books, through ListenUpVermont. On this and any other technical issues, talk to us and we'll walk you through the steps and help connect you with the solution you need.

As of the release of this TQ, we are anticipating the opening of "Paper Menagerie" with mixed media by Mitch and Anne Beck of Royalton. The reception will be Sunday, November 18 from 2 to 4 pm. Come see how pieces of paper can be a flexible and whimsical material-- finding new life in collages, or even on the surface of musical instruments. This show will run till January 13. The next ArtSpace Exhibit will open on the afternoon of Sunday, January 29 with the work of Peter Neri and Jeanne McMahan.

Our Story Hours for families with children of all ages is currently scheduled for first and third Saturdays, always at 9 am. We will be having Story Hour on Saturday Nov. 20 when the theme will be Stone Soup. If you can stick around, we will be having an early lunch later that morning (around 11 am). On Saturday, Dec. 3, Santa will be joining us after stories to hear reports and requests from children across the land. Due to holiday schedules, we will have our final Story Hour of the year the next Saturday, Dec. 10.

For those of other ages and interests, there are lots of ways to participate in community events at the library. The Fiberarts Meetup is the first Thursday of every month, at 6pm. Whatever your level of experience, you can join in on Dec. 1 at 6pm to share good company, new ideas, and age-old techniques.

We're looking forward to the 2017 season of Winter Evenings. The season will begin on the evening of Friday, January 6 and proceed on first and third Fridays' through March (Jan. 20, Feb. 3, Feb. 17, March 3, March 17). Stay tuned to hear what creative and curious minds are coming to visit Tunbridge this winter! The Winter Evenings committee is hard at work as we speak: Michael Sacca, Kay Jorgensen, Chuck Ashton, Elaine Howe, and Christina Marts.

Our library is as amazing as it is because YOU are part of it. In coming months we are looking at the possibilities of get-togethers to: practice mindfulness; to view films; to discuss books that changed our lives; and to discuss reflective writing about your own life. Let us know what fires you up, or what you're mind and heart are eager to pursue or share with others.

Tunbridge Board of Auditors

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

The auditors are busy working on the Town Report. If you have suggestions on format, pictures or anything else regarding the town report, please feel free to contact us. We are happy to set up a meeting with any organization requiring our assistance with reporting. Contact email is listed above.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

For TNHN services, call: ***889-3437***

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. 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, Pam Dietz, Michael O'Donnell, Patricia Howe, Jory Innes and Maxine Young.

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 have reviewed and submitted 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). There were 17 of these “valid” sales in Tunbridge this year. As 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. 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. This year’s CLA will be announced near the end of January 2017.

We are still working on late Homestead Declarations and Property Tax Adjustment requests. Although the deadline for late filing has been extended by the legislature to October 15, late Property Tax Adjustments (credited as “STATE PAYMENT” on eligible tax bills) will not come in till November 1 - which is when taxes are due. After November 1, penalties and interest will be added. It is in your best interest to file your Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment by April 15 (the actual due date) so the town receives the state payment in a timely fashion.

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 with any concerns.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young 889-2804

As you probably know, each year during the Fair, the Fire Department runs a coin drop on Rte. 110 both North and South of the fairgrounds. This year's coin drop raised just over \$12,000. We rely on the funds raised at this coin drop as a part of our annual fundraising and to cover expenses associated with operating a volunteer fire department. On the days when we are running the coin drop, we also must have several members of our department on the grounds at all times during the fair. We have very few non-TVFD members who help out with the coin drop, and as such, we are in dire need of additional volunteers to help staff the annual coin drop. Without additional volunteers to help staff it, we may need to reduce the size of it, or eliminate it altogether. If we don't run the coin drop, then the town risks the Fire Department needing to add the value of the coin drop donations to the town appropriation. The hours of noon – 6pm is the hardest time to staff the coin drop. If you are able to volunteer for a 2 hour, 4 hour or even a 6 hour slot, please contact us & we can add you to the schedule next year.

For the 8th year in a row, Fire Department members went to the Tunbridge Central School in October to provide fire safety education to students in recognition of Fire Prevention month. Educational materials were distributed to students as well as providing instruction of what to do if you are caught in a fire. Students had an opportunity to practice evacuating a (simulated) burning building in the event of a real fire.

Daylight savings time has just past us by again. Remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and have your chimney cleaned. These regular maintenance activities can help to ensure you and yours have a safe holiday season and winter ahead.

Remember to contact our Fire Warden Brenda Field at 889 5548 for a fire permit if you plan to burn brush. If you are interested in learning more about membership on either the fire or rescue squads, please feel free to stop by the firehouse at one of our business meetings. Meetings are typically held on the second Thursday each month at 7:00pm, however for the remainder of the winter, we may need to move the meeting date while we our Fire Fighter One class is running in the station at that same time. You can contact Fire Chief John Durkee, or Secretary Jena Young for an exact time if you wish to attend.

The Tunbridge Church

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

The Tunbridge Church will observe the coming Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas seasons with a Community Christmas Nativity Pageant, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, outreach and social programs. Community members of all ages are invited to participate in or attend the intergenerational pageant that will be part of the 10 a.m. service on Dec. 18.

Volunteers will pack and distribute Thanksgiving bags (sugar-free for diabetics) for local seniors on Nov. 19. Last year 52 bags that included home-baked treats, fruit, cheese, crackers and more were delivered. The church will be decorated for Christmas and the crèche will be set out on the Parish House lawn after the Dec. 4 Sunday service. Those who help decorate are invited to stay for soup, bread and dessert at the Parish House.

On Dec. 16, groups from the church will go caroling to local seniors' homes. The next day Christmas boxes will be packed for Community Food Shelf families. Interim Pastor Jo Shelnett will lead the Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m., and the Christmas Day Service at 10 a.m.

Thanks to participants and donors, the October 5K Fun Run/Walk raised \$1,310 for the Community Food Shelf. The Food Shelf is open on Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at the Parish House, corner of Potash Road and Route 110. This year the Food Shelf is again sponsoring the backpack project with the Tunbridge Central School. Donations to Food Shelf treasurer Euclid Farnham, 26 The Crossroad, Tunbridge, VT 05077 are welcomed.

The church appreciates the community's support for the recent Anything Apple lunch and silent auction and other events over the past two years that raised funds for its capital campaign to paint the 1839 Congregational Church in Tunbridge Village. It will be painted next year.

Church members collected items for residents of the Vermont Veterans Home and contributed to a special Church World Service offering for Hurricane Matthew relief. The Outreach Committee held its fourth and final 2016 Super Seniors Luncheon before Halloween. These lunches honor older residents, including 10 attendees who are over age 90.

The Pastor Search Committee recently mailed a letter and survey to church members and friends. Committee members are now meeting with some of them to discuss how they view the church, congregational life, community service and worship currently and their thoughts for the future. The information will help the committee prepare a church profile which will be shared with prospective candidates for permanent half-time pastor.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

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

The Civic Club held its annual meeting on October 3, 2016.

All officers were re-elected and two new directors appointed, replacing Butch and Jory. The new directors are Martin Young, Jr. and Donna Alden Locke. The officers are President, Elaine Howe; Vice-President, Butch Howe; Secretary, Maxine Young and Treasurer, Jory Innes. A unanimous decision was made to hold the Civic Club Annual Show on Friday and Saturday evenings, March 31st and April 1st, 2017, which will be our 65th show. The music committee is comprised of Martin, Jory, Judi, Butch and Elaine, who will be meeting in January. Again, a fun filled evening of entertainment (with some surprises thrown in) is planned. Since this is a BIG year - 65th, we encourage anyone who has been in the show to make a comeback! We are hoping for a wonderful reunion and fun show! Of course, we also want to see new faces. The expectation for practices is that one try to make at least four of the practices, the dress rehearsal being mandatory. If you want to be in the show and will have trouble making practices due to extenuating circumstances, you should contact Elaine, Maxine, (contact info abover) or Butch Howe at 889-3716. This will give us an idea of how many slots we have to fill for specials.

Proceeds from the show, after expenses, are distributed to various Tunbridge organizations. Again, Seth Stoddard will be working his magic with sound and stage lighting. So join us-have fun and in the process help to benefit civic causes. Watch for the advertising - 65th Comedy and Musical Showcase sponsored by Tunbridge Civic Club!!

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 Mallary, David Wolfe, Joanne Goodnow, Ben Wolfe and our Town Treasurer, Rebecca Hoyt. Feel free to reach out to any of us with questions, or your interest to apply or help us out. Our next meeting will be the evening of Thursday, November 15 (6pm) at the Library Community Room.

We are constantly learning how to make this Fund serve the entire community better. Fuel costs are a stress to most household budgets this time of year, and your input has helped us a lot in the past. Donations of any size help a lot, too, and many generous folks have made our work with this Fund possible. 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.

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 Grange # 384

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

The Grange had a very good turnout at its annual Harvest Supper on October 15. Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted with the dinner by either cooking, waiting tables, washing dishes, or contributing food items. Special thanks to Bob Cromwell, David Ainsworth, and Tim Sanford for donating the many wonderful fall vegetables. You don't have to be members of the Grange to assist with such events as the Harvest Supper, Hunter's Breakfast, or other fund raising events, but we'd love to have more members!

The winners of the annual Grange raffle were: Kip Boardman won the quilt, the table runner went to Kay Jorgensen, and Fred Pond won the Shepard's Hook. Friday night Bingo will start up again on January 6th and continue every Friday until April. Stay tuned for other Grange events which are open to the community.

The Grange supports local community members in need. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm and the meetings usually only last about an hour and then we have good conversation and snacks! 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 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 Town Treasurer

Becky Hoyt - 889-3571

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Ingrid Van Steamburg 889-3495

State Representative

Sarah Buxton 763-0777 phone/text

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami 889-5575 schoolclub@tunbridgeschool.org

Chicken Pie Supper: On October 29, School Club hosted the Chicken Pie Supper as a fundraiser for the school. Over 150 diners enjoyed a meal of biscuit-topped chicken pie, vegetable potpie, mashed potatoes, squash, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, local cider and a slice of homemade pie. School Club raised over \$1,500 that will go towards enrichment activities for students. Several area farms, businesses and individuals contributed ingredients. Many volunteers, led by Amy Bogardus, worked together to plan and prepare the supper. Costumed students members expertly served the meal.

Fair Supper Committee Needs Volunteers: Planning for the biggest School Club fundraiser of the year is well underway. Each year on the first Saturday in December, School Club prepares a four-course meal for the Tunbridge Fair Association's annual meeting. To minimize expenses and maximize earnings, School Club will seek monetary and food donations from area businesses and donations of time and ingredients from parents. Lead organizer, Jen Thygesen, is planning the menu and will coordinate all volunteers including those who will solicit donations, set up and decorate tables, prepare and serve the meal and clean up the dining room and dishes. If you are interested in helping with any of these tasks, please call 889-5628 or email jthygesen33@gmail.com to express your interest.

Upcoming Meetings: Parents, school personnel and community members typically meet in the TCS Library at 6pm 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 December 5, January 9 and February 6. All are welcome to come share ideas or get involved! Children may come along to do homework, read or play games in the library.

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

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 Lafromboise, Treasurer - 685-3184, cmlafromboise@gmail.com

Those attending the fair this year may have seen the four recently added blue canopies covering the courtesy shuttle benches. The FTWF purchased five, 12'x12' canopies to provide shade and protection from inclement weather for those waiting for the courtesy shuttle. The courtesy shuttle remains a huge success transporting people from the gates to locations within the fairgrounds.

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.

Nov.

- 19 - WVFR Benefit Concert and Silent Auction - Town Hall
www.royaltonradio.org

Dec.

- 3 - Shindig with “The Shugarmakers, Town Hall. 7:30 - 10:30pm
\$10. cover charge. www.shindigsvt.com”
- 11 - All-you-can-eat breakfast, 8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.
- 18 - Community Christmas Nativity Pageant, Tunbridge Church, 10am
- 24 - Christmas Eve Service, 7pm, Tunbridge Church

Jan.

- 6 - Friday Night Bingo begins, 7pm, Town Hall
- 7 - Shindig with “Linda and the Barn Cats”, Town Hall. 7:30 - 10:30pm
\$10. cover charge. www.shindigsvt.com”
- 15 - All-you-can-eat breakfast, 8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.

Feb.

- 4 - Shindig with “Stone Cold Roosters”, Town Hall. 7:30 - 10:30pm
\$10. cover charge. www.shindigsvt.com”
- 11 - “Just Desserts” entertainment, desserts & silent auction, 7 p.m. Town Hall, to benefit The Tunbridge Church painting fund.
- 12 - All-you-can-eat breakfast, 8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.

The Shindigs

Janet Zug - 889-9602 shindigsvt@hotmail.com.

The Shindigs are a series of dances held at the Tunbridge Town Hall from Nov. - April, always on the first Saturdays of the month. (No New Years’ Eve dance this year). The musical genre ranges from good ole’ rock n’ roll, R&B and funk to honky tonk and rock-a-billy.

Our Town Hall provides the perfect space for folks to dance and enjoy the music upstairs with a quieter space for visiting downstairs. Every band that has played for the last 10 years has commented on how fortunate we are to have such a welcoming hall with great sound qualities.

Alliance for Vermont Communities

Michael Sacca - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

A group of concerned citizens from the towns of Tunbridge, Royalton, Strafford Alliance for Vermont Communities held a the successful event on the South Royalton Green in late September. Our purpose was to announce the formation of AVC and to invite all those concerned about NewVistas to join with us. Importantly, our fledgling group was joined that day by two strong Vermont organizations; the Vermont Natural Resources Council and the Preservation Trust of Vermont.

Our mission statement looks beyond blocking NewVistas to a better future for the region: “We seek 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.”

NewVistas Foundation’s purchases to date are somewhere in the 1400-1600 acres range and are continuing. This is of course a primary concern to us. Our goal is to send a strong message to NewVistas Foundation that we do not want this out-of-scale, top-down project here, or anywhere in VT, and hope to discourage the development plans and future land purchases.

Our activities to date include the production of lawn signs, buttons, and bumper stickers with thanks to Janet Zug. The posting of signs has had an electrifying effect in particular neighborhoods near the center of New Vista land purchases. People have found strength in the numbers of neighbors opposing the project. The AVC website has been retooled as an information resource and includes a portal to make donations from the site. See www.alliancevermont.org. We’re producing materials and maps to help inform and educate people in the immediate area as well as the entire state.

We have attended and made presentations at many meetings of public committees, such as the planning and conservation commissions and select boards of the four towns. And we have spent much time engaging elected representatives and political leaders (and candidates) and are very pleased with the strong support we have received from them.

For more information please contact Michael Sacca at or Jane Huppee at 802-291-3932.

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

PRSR1STD
U.S. Postage PAID
Tunbridge, VT
Permit No. 3

Postal Patron
Tunbridge, VT
05077