

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly



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

5

August 15, 2006

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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Tunbridge Recreation Department

Thornton Hayslett- 889-9479

Pool: Thanks to a small group of volunteers who spent a couple of hours on July 31 to help clear the pool and patch cracks in the paving, the Tunbridge Pool was full as of August 2nd. Since there will be some maintenance and clean-up work required every year before opening; the best situation might be to set work day, perhaps Green-up Day or the Saturday before Memorial Day? Please feel free to make suggestions, and if you are interested in having the pool open, plan on coming to help if possible. We'll have a picnic and a ball game, so it is not all work. For my part, I'll work to set the date ahead, and get the word out in as many ways as possible. Amy Bogardus has said that she would be interested in providing swim lessons in town next year, starting in July.

Soccer: There will be a K-4 soccer program this fall. Last year's program was conducted on Sat. mornings and Wed. afternoons, which seemed to work well. Please contact me if you can help with this program. We will start the week after Labor Day.

Other Fall Programs: I would like to schedule one or two family hikes this fall, and could use suggestions for in-town routes.

Recreation Field: please contact me to schedule use of the ball field. If you use the field, please pick up after yourself and remember to drag the field after you're done.

Tunbridge Town Hall

Nancy Howe- 889-3750

The Town Hall Elevator Project is underway. The shaft is framed and sheetrocked. Basic electrical wiring is complete. Weber Tech will be here about Aug. 7th to deliver the lift and place the doors. Then some finish carpentry and other electrical work will take place. I'm not sure of a completion date as it revolves around the schedules of the elevator inspectors from the state. I suspect that sometime between Labor day and Tunbridge fair, it may be a done deal.

Our town hall is used by many groups for a wide range of activities and includes a full kitchen for use. About a month ago the two 40 cup coffee makers came up missing. Please call Wendy McCullough at 889-5521 if you have any information about the whereabouts of these coffee makers, or just return them to the Town Office. They are an important part of the utilities we provide. Call Arlene Stockwell at 889-5534 to schedule use of the Town Hall.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Anne Mallary- 889-5521

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9-12 1-4, Fri 9-11:30

The Tax bills for 2006 have been printed and are being copied, folded, stuffed and stamped. Hopefully, I will have them sent by the middle of August. Feel free to stop and pick yours up.

The town tax rate is 0.617 cents, down from the estimate at town meeting of 0.65 cents. There was some money left in both the Selectmen and highway budgets. That surplus was used to lower the tax rate.

The state education rate for homesteads is \$1.3454 and for non residential, \$1.6512. The total rate for homestead property is \$1.9624 and for non-residential property, \$2.2682. The rates last year were: \$1.7909 for homestead property and \$2.106 for non-residential property.

You may receive a prebate check from the State to offset the cost of your education taxes. You can find out how much you will receive by calling the Department of taxes at 1-866-828-2865 or you can go to www.state.vt.us/tax/prebateschedule. Click on "Prebate Calculation Sheet." A worksheet will open that will allow you to calculate your prebate for yourself. You will need to know that the school code is 207, the income from the paperwork you filed for the prebate, and the value of your homestead. The value of your homestead will appear on the tax bill. Call if you need any help with the calculation.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Michael Sacca- 889-3210

The Planning Commission is coming into the home stretch of the Town Plan rewrite process. The document has become more comprehensive and pays particular attention to the agricultural priorities townspeople have voiced during our public input meetings.

Along with so many in our community, we were saddened by the loss of Mimi Sinkler, our friend and fellow commissioner, to cancer in late July. Her presence and input will be sorely missed at our meetings.

The Planning Commission meets on the **second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm** in the town offices. The meetings are open to the public. Call Michael Sacca for information.

Tunbridge Broadband Project

Janet Zug- 889-9602

The TBC has met with five surrounding towns and decided that if we are going to choose a provider, it is best to form an alliance with our neighbors. There is more area to cover but also there are more customers to entice wireless internet providers to service our towns.

We sent a request for proposal to over 15 companies of which 5 have responded with information and offers to provide service. We are now studying the responses to determine who is offering the most coverage and the best service at the best price.

There is another possibility for bringing high speed internet service to Tunbridge. We could form a cooperative and own our network. The start up cost is greater but when the equipment is paid off then the system would be become lower cost and rates would go down. It might also allow us to serve people better with better bandwidth and better coverage into difficult to reach areas. Henry Swayze is working hard on this option but it will take the help of others if we are to seriously consider it. If you are interested in helping with this **please** contact Henry at 889-5556 or swayze@pnguse.net.

Bringing high speed service to the hills of Vermont is an important issue in our state government. There are grants available and our regional group is working to secure one of those grants.

For more information about wireless broadband networks go to www.tunbridgebroadband.org.

Committee members: Henry and Cornelia Swayze, Kathi Terami, Janet Zug, Michael Sacca.

Tunbridge Fair Association

Rebecca Beguin 889-5555

Tunbridge residents can easily pick up The Tunbridge Fair Premium Books at the Village Store, mailbox outside Main fair office, Welch's, Northstar, So Ro Market, North Tunbridge Store and Will's Store. We no longer have a Demo Derby but yes, the beer hall is intact, contrary to any rumors going round.

We are looking forward to an exciting year at the fair and the new events scheduled for Sunday's Family Day.

Tunbridge School Board

Fred Welch- 889-9574

Hello Folks. It's good to have this opportunity to report to you with the latest news from our school. For the School Board, business this summer has been relatively slow so far. We took delivery of our new "down sized" school bus this summer, having kept the old bus as a spare and to be used in a rotation schedule to help make the newer buses last longer.

The Board will be looking at the bus routes and making any needed adjustments this month. Making changes to the bus routes is always a challenge for the Board as we try and be as accommodating to all the students, in the most efficient way keeping the changes to a minimum. Our biggest concerns are safety and time spent on the roads. The school is still looking for substitute drivers. If you have even the slightest interest come on in and let's talk. Also, when you see our drivers, Jimmy and Kevin, give them a big thank you! They do a great job everyday in every kind of weather and hardly ever miss a day!

Our school principal, Amos Kornfeld, has asked to go back to teaching, at least part time. Amos is in the process of developing a Spanish class for our middle school scholars. Getting Spanish back into our curriculum has been one of the Board's goals, but Mr. Kornfeld deserves all the credit. Muchas Gracias Senior Kornfeld!

Speaking of staffing; our long time Building Manager, Ralph Herrick, after more than 20 years at TCS has, to all our regrets, decided to move on to "cleaner pastures" as they say in the custodian business. In preliminary discussions on how to fill this position we are only beginning to really see just how much Mr. Herrick does for the school. Ralph has never failed to be there when needed. Because enough can not be said we'll just say "Thank you very, very much Ralph!"

That's it for now. Please attend our meetings which are the **third Monday of each month at 5:30**. And do not hesitate to call us or our Superintendent with any concerns or recommendations you may have and request a follow-up. Your concerns are important.

Board Members: Fred Welch, Jonni Spaulding, Skip Distel

Vermont Community Land Trust

Susan Gillam- 802-476-4493 ext. 213

In last quarter's newsletter the NeighborWorks® Homeownership Center at Central Vermont Community Land Trust, "<http://www.CVCLT.org>", proudly announced the creation of the Green Mountain Loan Fund, with funding provided by the Vermont Community Development Program. This loan fund provides affordable loans and technical assistance for low and moderate-income homeowners throughout Washington, Lamoille and Orange Counties to perform critical health and safety upgrades to their homes.

Since the start up of the program in May, the staff at the NeighborWorks® Homeownership Center has seen considerable interest in the program. The types of critical health and safety issues for which the majority of applicants are seeking assistance with includes roof repairs or replacements, foundation stabilization, replacement of doors and windows, additions of ramps for accessibility, and porch repairs and replacement.

The application process with the Green Mountain Loan Fund is unique and extremely customer friendly. Interested parties begin by speaking directly with the program's Loan Coordinator, Garrath Gorton. Garrath provides potential customers with detailed information about eligibility and what to expect from the process. Once the customer's loan application is received, Curtis Karr, Rehabilitation Specialist, will perform an on-site inspection to help determine the scope of the work and develop a cost estimate of the project. This information gives the customer the essential information needed to secure bids from area contractors. Once three bids are obtained and shared with the staff at the NeighborWorks® Homeownership Center and CVCLT's loan committee approves the application, CVCLT will work with the homeowner and the contractor to monitor construction and pay for the work.

If you or someone you know have questions about The Green Mountain Loan Fund please contact Garrath Gorton at 476-4493 extension 215.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jim Wick 889-3524

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors is continuing to provide assistance to several of our townspeople. Most of our recent calls have been for giving people rides to medical appointments. However, we are happy to provide help of all kinds and have done so on many occasions. Something too heavy to lift? Need a ride to your mechanic? Need some kind of minor repair? Well, a lot of times we can help. Please call **889-3437**.

We'll take your request and see if we have a volunteer who can do it. (If we have two or three days advance notice that is always a big help!)

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors is for everyone. We encourage you to call if you need help, and we also encourage you to volunteer to be a helper.

American Red Cross

Volunteers of the Tunbridge Fire Department work with the American Red Cross in planning and implementing the Blood Drives at the Tunbridge Central School. They are held three times a year, in October, April and July. Call Nancy Howe, 889-3750, with any questions.

During WWII The Tunbridge Red Cross was formed, which disbanded in the early sixties. A collection of medical supplies was started back then and continues to be available to Tunbridge residents as needed. There are some great antiques in the collection, but many updated items have been donated in more recent years. The items available for loan include wheelchairs, crutches, potty chairs, shower seats, walkers, chair lifts and even a few hospital beds. Contact Dennis Cilley, 889-3776, if you would like to borrow any of these items. Also, if you have something you would like to donate, or would like to contribute money for purchasing new equipment, that would be greatly appreciated.

Tunbridge Town Clerk Office hours: Mon 8-11:30 1-4,
Administrative Assistant Tues & Thurs- 8-12 1-4,
Wendy McCullough- 889-5521 **Wed. 9-6, Fri 8-12**

The Town of Tunbridge has planned a river clean-up on **Saturday, Aug. 19th at 9 am.** We will meet at the Transfer Station. All children must be accompanied by an adult. The town will provide bags. Please wear protective shoes and gloves.

The State of Vermont has passed legislation requiring all towns in the state to document and map all roads by the year 2013. The state has set yearly guidelines for accomplishing the task. The Select Board plans to appoint a committee to work on the project. If you are interested please contact Wendy or a Select board member.

Board Members: Mike O'Donnell, James Spaulding, Shane Craig

Photographic Town Portrait

Michael Sacca 889-3210

ATTENTION, Citizens of Tunbridge:

Make History! Join family, friends & neighbors in a photographic town portrait on Saturday, **August 19th at 4:30 sharp** at the Dodge-Gilman Building on the fairgrounds.

Rain or shine.

Get the word out in our community, and stand with family, friends and neighbors for a moment in time. Come unencumbered or bring your horse, pig, oxen or tractor, stand with a portrait of an ancestor, or your pitchfork, or your laptop, wear your great-grandmother's favorite hat- Do Something Remarkable, or just stand there.

Copies of the photograph will be made available to the people of Tunbridge. For details call the Tunbridge Historical Society at 889-3458 or Michael Sacca at the number above.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602

A TQ email list has been started. If you would like to be included please email me with TQlist in the subject line.

If you have questions or comments about The Quarterly call, write or email me at janet@zugglass.com.

Transfer Station & Recycling

Mary-Alice Leonard-Heath- 685-3035

The Tunbridge Transfer Station is open every **Saturday from 9:00 - 3:00.** Leaving ANY items off at the facility when the facility is closed is considered illegal dumping (even if recyclable).

All-In-One Recycling List

The items listed below may be placed in the same bin.

MIXED PAPER -- Clean & dry.

Examples include newspapers & inserts
magazines & catalogs
white & colored paper
opened mail & envelopes
boxboard
phone books (June - September only)
shredded paper (in clear plastic bags)

NO milk cartons, juice boxes, 6- or 12- pack boxes, refrigerated or frozen food boxes, or food soiled paper.

METAL CANS-Rinse clean & place metal lids inside cans. Labels okay.

Examples include tin cans, empty aerosol cans
aluminum cans, foil, & pie plates.

NO scrap metal or paint cans.

GLASS BOTTLES & JARS-Rinse clean & discard lids. Labels okay.

Examples include all glass food & beverage containers.
All colors okay.

NO ceramics, drinking glasses, plate glass, or light bulbs.

PLASTIC BOTTLES- Rinse clean & discard lids. Labels okay.

Examples include milk jugs, soda bottles, detergent bottles,
& other plastics with a narrow neck.

NO motor oil bottles, plastic bags, plastic cups, or other plastics that are not in the shape of a bottle

Questions? call or email

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

(802) 229-9383 www.cvsmd.org

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The 2006 Grand List has been lodged and is now in the hands of the Town Clerk. Here are the numbers:

There are 847 taxable properties: 491 residential, 67 mobile homes, 87 camps, 9 commercial, 2 industrial, 4 utilities, 13 farms, 60 woodland, 111 miscellaneous land, and 3 that don't fit in any category.

Value of properties for the municipal grand list: \$109,009,457; for the education homestead tax: \$66,939,177; for the non-residential education tax: \$42,256,156.

There are 14 non-taxable properties.

The amount of \$17,231,567 was exempted from the Grand List for properties enrolled in the current use program. There are 158 properties enrolled in the program representing a total of 14,461.68 acres.

An amount of \$300,000 was exempted for veterans. We have 15 veterans eligible to receive a \$20,000 exemption of assessed value.

The board is beginning its work on the 2007 Grand List. Letters were recently sent to the owners of properties in the northeast corner of the town. The properties in this area are to be inspected as part of our annual review of a quarter of the town. This is the last section in the four-year cycle. The assessments will change only for those properties with substantive changes and the new assessment will be at 2002 values, the year of the reappraisal.

There have been rumors of a stalled housing market. Our board and those in neighboring towns have yet to see it. What we do see is more properties offered for sale and at prices substantially above market indicators. According to the experts, prices in Vermont were rising at more than 14% a year. It appears that prices are not rising as fast, but there no indication that the actual selling prices are dropping.

Board Members: Judie Lewis, Ben Wolfe, Helen O'Donnell

Tunbridge Grange #384

Robin Russell- 889-3246

The Grange is planning to install a new handicap access ramp to accommodate a wider range of community members who may wish to join us for meetings, events and rental for private use. Fund-raising efforts will begin with a raffle this fall. The drawing will be at the Harvest Supper on **October 21**. Donations will be gratefully accepted. Please watch for raffle ticket sales, visit us at the Dodge Gilman Building at the Tunbridge Fair, and consider coming to our meetings held the **3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm**. Meetings are followed by refreshment and socializing, and we welcome all visitors. On the first Wednesdays, Grange #54 of So. Royalton meets at 7pm and collaborates with us on many activities.

The Grange is a non-profit, volunteer organization with a mission of community service to its regional neighborhood. Please let us know how we can continue to serve the needs and interests of Tunbridge by visiting, writing or calling Mary Roberts at 685-2143. Volunteer help with events and building maintenance is always gratefully appreciated.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Linda Lazaroff 889-9421

On behalf of the Historical Society and the Annual Tunbridge Civic Club Show, I am looking for pictures from past performances of the formerly titled Tunbridge Minstrel Shows. I am attempting to preserve the memories of these performances and by doing so I need your assistance.

Anyone willing to loan photos to me so that I can scan them into my computer should contact me at 889-9421 or e-mail me at north2vt@peoplepc.com. Your photos will be returned to you within a reasonable time. Please look through those photo albums or those boxes of loose photos. and give me a call.

Tunbridge Playground Committee

Jerilyn Mulvey- 889-9414

We are looking for someone to create a sign for the playground. Preferably out of carved or burned wood. Please call if you know anyone in Tunbridge who does this kind of work.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Trombly- 889-2804

Fire Department Volunteers have been participating in some intensive training sessions with regards to the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The NIMS training sessions help prepare towns to respond to large-scale emergency situations. In addition to the Fire and Rescue personnel, the most recent training sessions were attended by representatives for the Fair Association, the School Board, the Selectboard and other town organizations.

A second round of training sessions focusing on Incident Command Systems (ICS) began in early August. The ICS 100 and ICS 200 training sessions also prepare the Fire Department personnel for emergency management and response.

On a different note, the Fire Department used some of its fund-raising dollars to purchase new dress uniforms for use at special events. The uniforms have arrived and are being distributed to our volunteers.

As we look down the road to September, we would be grateful for anyone interested in helping us staff our coin-drop fundraiser scheduled for Friday and Saturday of the Tunbridge Fair. If you are able to help out, please speak with John Durkee at 889-3408. Thank you for your support.

All Town Party

Janet Zug- 889-9602

On Sunday, **August 27th at 5:30pm**, the School Club and Neighbors Helping Neighbors will sponsor an All Town Party. Come and celebrate the beginning of the new school year and the continuation of the efforts of our Tunbridge Community.

“The Shugarmakers” will provide live music, with something for most every taste. The party will be held behind our school next to the new playground.

Please Bring:

You, your children, your friends and family members.

blanket or chair for sitting.

dancing shoes

Pot luck dish to share We will provide spring water to drink.
(don't let the pot luck dish hold you back, come with or without one!)

We hope to see you there!

Tunbridge Website

Rick Scully- 763-7474

Tunbridge's unofficial website (<http://www.tunbridgevt.com>) is growing by the day. We are adding new features to help residents and town officials communicate and share.

The site now includes a message board. Registration is easy and free, and once completed allows residents to communicate directly with other registered users.

The site's photo gallery allows residents to share their digital photography! Simply e-mail your Tunbridge-related photos to the webmaster and they will be available on the website to share with friends and family. Again, it's easy and free!

The community calendar is a great way to keep up with all the events and announcements that happen in town. Check the calendar to see what is happening over the next few months, and/or sign up for the weekly e-mail newsletter to have the calendar delivered to you!

The web site is open to any group interested in providing news, agendas, reports, or calendar listings of upcoming events in Tunbridge. Contributions and ideas are welcome, and people with community information are encouraged to contact the webmaster to volunteer any input they may have. Organizations wishing to participate are encouraged to do so.

For more information, visit www.tunbridgevt.com or contact the webmaster, Rick Scully at rick@tunbridgevt.com.

Tunbridge Bone Builders

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

The fall schedule for the Tunbridge Bone Builders is Mon-Thurs at 8:30am , with evening classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30pm. You may attend two classes per week with at least a day in between. These classes are free and open to all ages.

If you want to become stronger, energized and more balanced, attend our classes and feel it for yourself!

Tunbridge Public Library

Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404

Hours: Sun 11:30-1:30, Mon 3-8, Wed 6-8, Fri 2-6, Sat 10-4

Story Hours resume in **September** with the themes of “Farms” and “Balls, Bubbles and All Kinds of Round Things” (**7 and 21**), **October** will be “Apples” (**5**) and “Pumpkins” (**19**). November brings us to “Creepy, Crawley Things” (**2**) and “Family Food” (**16**).

The current art display “Gladys Lowray and Progeny: Five Artists, Four Generations” will continue through September 22. On **October 2** a display of pen and ink animal sketches by local artist Wendy Judge will open with a reception.

The Ghost Walk comes back to life on **Sunday, October 29th at 1pm**, cosponsored by the library and the Tunbridge Historical Society. Come to the Spring Road Cemetery and meet residents you never thought to meet in this life! Since ghosts don't do well in moisture, the **rain date is November 5th**.

Don't forget that the library has internet access for patron use and instruction or assistance may be arranged if we know you need it in advance. Also keep in mind that almost any title is available through interlibrary loan. The library is handicapped accessible and home delivery may be arranged for the homebound. Please call with any questions about library services.

Last January Donald Hall canceled his Winter Evening Series reading due to illness. We're happy to report that Mr. Hall is in much better health now and we have rescheduled his reading for **October 13th at 7pm**. Since the canceled appearance his collected poems, “White Apples and the Taste of Stone: Selected Poems 1946-2006” has been published to wide acclaim. Most recently Donald Hall has been appointed the new Poet Laureate of the United States. Despite this, he remains adamant about his reading in Tunbridge.

Due to an anticipated large turnout, the Library highly recommends reserved seating, and will not announce the reading to the wider public until very close to the date of the event. The Library is making every effort to serve Tunbridge residents first. Please help us by making your reservations as soon as possible.

Tunbridge Church

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The Tunbridge Church conducts a special service, a Festival of Worship, for the Sunday of the World's Fair. The service is primarily music and songs from the eloquent to the rowdy. The words and the music of the service are all meant to lift the spirit and bring us closer to the Creator during this harvest season. This is definitely a come as you are service, even if you've been up all night partying.

The choir for the fair service consists of folks from around the community. If you are interested in singing in the expanded Fair Service Choir, please come to practice on **Wednesdays at 7:30 pm** until the week of the fair. The Children's Choir will start on **Aug. 24th at 6pm**.

The last Family Night of the season, a star-gazing party, is scheduled for **Sept. 24th at 6:30pm**. More information may be obtained from Pastor David Wolfe, 889-5577.

The church's annual stewardship potluck will be after the regular 10am service on the first Sunday in November. All are invited. There are no speeches, just eating and visiting.

Communion will be served on the first Sundays in September and November.

Both the Market Village and the North Tunbridge churches need major repairs to their steeples. Estimates for the Market Village church range from \$40,000 to \$60,000. The Parish Council is reviewing possible grants and other ways to raise funds for this vital work.

State Representative

Rozo McLaughlin- 763-5262

Some of the issues in last seasons legislative sessions included, Health Care Reform, Roads, Bridges and Rail, Property Taxes, State Budget, Rural Economic Development, The GMO Libality Bill and The Farm to School Act to name a few.

If you are interested in hearing the details of what I am working on in the legislature please email me at rozo@valley.net. I publish a newsletter of my own with updates on all the issues. Periodically I hold forums to discuss concerns with the community. All citizens of Tunbridge and South Royaltan are invited to attend.

Your thoughts and ideas on the issues facing our community are very welcome, so please call or e-mail or come see me anytime.