

# The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly



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

issue #6  
November 15, 2006

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly  
P.O. Box 86  
Tunbridge, VT 05077

Postal Patron  
Tunbridge, VT  
05077

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Tunbridge, VT  
Permit No. 3

## **Tunbridge Recreation Department**

Thornton Hayslett- 889-9479

Soccer: Tunbridge Recreation has just completed a successful fall soccer program. There was a third and fourth grade team that practiced three days a week and played five games against Strafford, South Royalton, and Chelsea. This group made great advances in their soccer skills, and also in self-discipline and sportsmanship. Thanks to all the parents for being consistent and supportive. There was also a Kindergarten through second grade group that met on Saturday mornings; in this group are some strong and developing players who will be fun to watch over the coming years. Special thanks to Dominick Amodeo and Anthony Brock for leading this crew on several Saturdays, and for their end-of-season scrimmage at Strafford. Thanks to the Tunbridge Central School for including both recreation teams in this year's soccer banquet.

Skating: We're looking forward to the second year of having a town skating rink. Thanks to the many people who donated generously in last year's fundraising effort. Thanks also to the volunteers who set up and maintained the rink (including members of the Fire Department who last year made 13 runs with the tanker truck to fill it with water!). Special thanks goes to last year's "Ice Angel", Ralph Herrick, for his bone-bruising efforts with the snow blower. This year we will set up the rink in two stages: On **Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.** we'll repaint the plywood kick boards and prepare them for assembly. At the same time we'll lay out the rink outside. On **Sunday, Nov 19 beginning at 12:30**, we'll set the liner and install the kick boards. Please come to help.

Skiing: Kids in grades 1-6 have received Ski Runner packets through the school. This learn-to-ski program happens on Friday afternoons, and is a fun and affordable way to introduce kids to downhill and cross-country skiing. Tunbridge shares a bus to the program with South Royalton. The program is based on volunteer instructors who receive instruction weekly through optional clinics and ski free on Friday mornings.

Basketball: We'll run a program set up like soccer, with a Saturday morning element for K-2 kids and two or three sessions a week for third and fourth graders. Look for sign-up sheets coming home with kids before Thanksgiving.

For more information to to offer assistance call Thornton.

## **Administrative Assistant**

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

With news from your Selectboard and Road Crew.

Robert Mullen retired on June 1 from the Tunbridge Road Crew. He served the Town of Tunbridge for 20 years. On behalf of the Town of Tunbridge the Select Board we thank Robert for his years of dedication.

We hired two road crew members this summer. Thomas Hoyt started July 1, and Richardson Bestenbostal started on August 7.

The new 10-wheel dump truck arrived in August. Larry Wight has been fine tuning the truck to get it ready for winter.

As the rest of us prepare for the winter months please remember that when school is in session the bus routes are maintained first. When school is closed because of inclement weather that is a great indication that the travel conditions are in question. Please allow extra time for our road crew to make the roads safe for travel. If you have any questions or concerns please call Wendy at the Town Office or Rodney at the Town Garage, and we will address them as soon as possible.

The new water system is done and the Town Office, Church and Town Hall now have water. We had hoped to have completed this project this summer but did not receive the State Permit until September 6th.

## **The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly**

Janet Zug 889-9602

The Quarterly is mailed to all Tunbridge property owners and postal patrons. I gather the information and create the final draft which is then handed off to our Town Clerk. Wendy copies, collates, folds and labels about 900 issues with the help of a few other town folks. The cost of paper, copier toner and postage is about \$300. per quarter. If you are interested in contributing to this fund, please contact Wendy or myself.

I appreciate all the encouragement I have received from the community and hope that you continue to find the TQ entries interesting and informative. Entries are printed as received unless they need to be cut to fit or edited in proof-reading. The content is limited to news from our town officers and any non-profit group in the area. If you would like to contribute an entry, please call, write or email me at [janet@zugglass.com](mailto:janet@zugglass.com).

## **Tunbridge Broadband Project**

Janet Zug- 889-9602

The Tunbridge Broadband Project Committee has been hard at work over the past few months. As stated in the last issue of the TQ, we have joined forces with four other town committees to form the East-Central Broadband Committee. The towns included are Tunbridge, Chelsea, Royalton, Vershire and Thetford. Our regional group has met with the wireless internet providers that responded to our request for proposals. Of those we have narrowed it down to three. These three are working to give us a more detailed plan of the network they would build to service our area. From these we will choose one to contract with to build the network.

We have applied for grants from the Vermont Department of Information and Innovation. If we are awarded a grant we plan to use the money to purchase equipment that will help to cover the "last mile" properties. The State of Vermont is interested in seeing full coverage.

Our committee is concerned with the visual impact of the wireless network that will be built. The "towers" needed to build a wireless broadband network consist of a transmitter box that measures about 12"x 12"x 5" with an unobtrusive whip antenna coming out of it. The antenna is the highest thing. There may also be a battery and/or solar panel to provide back up power. These access points are most cost effective when placed on existing structures or trees.

High-speed internet service is coming to the hills of Tunbridge, it's just a matter of time. How much time you ask? It's a bit too early to say just yet.

For more information about wireless broadband networks go to [www.tunbridgebroadband.org](http://www.tunbridgebroadband.org).

## **Tunbridge Treasurer**

Anne Mallary- 889-5521

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

By November 1, the due date for municipal and state education property taxes, we had collected \$2,136,118.03 out of the \$2,270,263.74 taxes billed. There were 78 property owners delinquent owing a total of \$134,145.71 in tax money.

Next year the State tax rebate and prebate will appear as a credit on the 2006-2007 property tax bills. Some people are wondering how this will work and are concerned that their income will now become public knowledge. The state electronically transmits all homestead and housesite information to the computer program for the town's Grand List. The credit information will be transmitted in the same way. This program generates the tax bills.

According to the Dept. of Taxes, the tax credit is determined using three components: The housesite value, the household income, and the amount of the income tax refund a taxpayer chooses to apply to his/her property tax bill. This is the first year that refund money may be applied directly to a property tax payment. As an incentive the state will pay to the town an additional 1% of the amount applied to the property tax. The legislature adopted this policy to mask the income from calculation.

The town has begun the budget process for the 2007-2008 tax year.

## **Town Auditors-**

Jim Wick- 889-3524

The deadline for Town Report information is January 1st. Please have all information to Jim Wick on or before the first day of 2007. Call Jim if you have questions.

Sarah Scully has filled the long vacant auditor position. After hearing of the vacancy at the Town Meeting in March she volunteered as a way to help our community. Sarah's interest in finance comes from her experience in working with her own business "Scully Sound" which specializes in live music recording.

## Tunbridge Church

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The Tunbridge Church offers a number of events to help us celebrate the joy and meaning of the Holiday season. The events begin with a Thanksgiving Eve Service at **7:30 p.m. Nov. 22.** This service of thanks and praise will include music from both the youth and adult choirs.

Christmas events begin **Dec. 1** with a church decoration party and the annual Christmas Carol Sing. The carol sing begins at **7:30 p.m.** and lets us kick off the season with both religious and secular songs.

The worship service for the first Sunday of Advent, **Dec. 3,** will feature a special presentation by the church youth.

There will be an opportunity to go caroling, after which there will be a time of fellowship and refreshments at the church Parish House. The time of this event will be announced.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at **7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24th.**

Our Church has an active music program and all are invited to join. There are three choirs meeting on **Wednesday evenings** at the church: The New Choir for younger children is at **6 p.m.**; the First Choir for late elementary students is at **6:30 p.m.**; and the Great Choir for adults, at **7:30 p.m.** All choirs have begun practicing Christmas music.

Worship Services are **Sundays at 10 a.m.** Children' participate in the first half of the worship service and are invited to attend Sunday School classes meet during second half.

The church is located in the center village next to the Town Office building. If you would like more information about church programs, you may call Pastor David Wolfe (889-5577), Music Director Judie Lewis (889-9490), Children's Choir Director Janet Zug (889-9602), or Parish Council President Townsend Swayze (889-3234). If you would like to receive the church bulletin or information by e-mail, please send a message to [tunbridgechurch@innevi.com](mailto:tunbridgechurch@innevi.com).

## Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Trombly- 889-2804

The Fire Department wishes to thank all of our friends and neighbors who made donations during our September coin-drop fundraiser. The coin drop was a great success this year, and the donations will assist us with the important maintenance of our older equipment,

We continue to have an active truck committee to plan and research activities for the replacement of our aged apparatus. The committee is planning the design of a new truck and reviewing all of its necessary features.

This fall the Fire Department purchased a trailer to store barricades and traffic safety cones. These will be used in the event of a local disaster or in response to an emergency. We are seeking a centrally located and easily accessible location to park the trailer. If you have such a space available, please let us know.

## First Branch Ambulance & Rescue Co.

Pam Howe Caron- 763-8756

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue received a generous donation from the estate of Louise Darrow. This donation helped pay for a large portion of the recently purchased defibrillator. This tool has already made a difference in our community. Our new Rescue truck should arrive in the first part of next year. The new truck will be a great boost for the services provided by our Rescue Squad.

The volunteer ambulance squad has reached a point where we are faced with a critical need for coverage during the day time hours; Monday through Friday. The majority of our volunteer squad now works outside of the two towns; therefore they are not available during these hours. The board is currently beginning work on projects to help alleviate this predicament. Please watch for newsletters or notices coming soon. This is a situation we are taking seriously in order to continue to provide the quality care that our volunteer squad has given to our two towns for over 20 years now.

If you or anyone you know is an EMT. ECA or a First Responder and are available during the weekday hours please call Ambulance Captain Linda Kuban at 685-2206.

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

Tunbridge had a large turnout for the Nov. 7th General Election 2006. There are 896 registered voters on the checklist; 627 voted, giving Tunbridge a 70% turnout.

Elected Justice of the Peace for Tunbridge are Louise Barreda, Randy Chapman, Euclid Farnham, Joanne Goodnow, Rob Howe, John O'Brien and Helen O'Donnell.

I would like to thank my Election workers and vote counters for their help in the Primary and General Elections.

Here are the results of the Nov. 7th election:

- US Senator: Diamondstone-4, Hill-7, Moss-5, Sanders-395, Tarrant-201, Chuck Howe-1.
- US Representative to Congress: Karr-1, Morrisseau-1, Newton-4, Rainville-292, Stern-0, Trudell-1, Welch-325.
- Governor: Clarke-3, Douglas-337, Ericson-6; Hogue-4, Parker-273, Skold-1.
- Lt. Governor: Dubie-302, Dunne-283, Hebert-13, Malek-11.
- State Treasurer: Ngoima-52, Spaulding-538, Armstrong-1.
- Secretary of State: Markowitz-433, Moomey-157, Wardinski-13.
- Auditor of Accounts: Abbott-62, Brock-296, Levy-11, Salmon-227.
- Attorney General: Carver-184, Jackowski-19, Sorrell-1, Welch-1.
- State Senator: MacDonald-369, Webster-243.
- State Representative: Ainsworth-316, McLaughlin-304, write-in-1.
- Probate Judge: Lewis-535, write-ins-4.
- Assistant Judge: Anthony-149, Pease-407, Sprague-142, Upham-169, write-ins-5.
- State's Attorney: Porter-564, write-ins-5
- Sheriff: Bohnyak-433, Fredette-157
- High Bailiff: Ducharme-545, write-ins-4
- Justice of the Peace: Louise Barreda-306; Roberta Bicknell-200, Randy Chapman-300, Euclid Farnham-428, Joanne Goodnow-293, Mary Alice Leonard-Heath-206, Peter Howe-218, Robert Howe-323, Larry Mengedoht-150, John O'Brien-325, Helen O'Donnell-328, Townsend Swayze-258, Roger Welch-268, Marian White-193.

## **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).

As many of you know, Evelyn Sargent has been a valued employee of the town of Tunbridge for around fifty years. For over thirty of those years she has been the friendly face greeting us weekly when we do our weekly trash/recycle chores. Evelyn ran the old town dump, and from the time the dump closed through the present time she has been the main attendant at the Transfer Station.

Most good things do come to an end, and I must report to you that Evelyn has decided to retire at the end the year. Please make sure to stop by the Transfer Station and thank Evelyn for her commitment to a job well done, and for her significant dedication to the town.

## **Tunbridge Web Site Committee**

Pete Jorgensen- 889-5528

A year ago a local web site for Tunbridge was launched at [www.tunbridgevt.com](http://www.tunbridgevt.com). Historical Publications, Inc., run by Kay and Pete Jorgensen of Monarch Hill Road, has been funding the operation and up until this past September they were paying a webmaster to make changes on a weekly basis.

The Jorgensens wish to turn the web site over to a local group of residents. All volunteers are welcome. Funding will be available to set up page access to make weekly changes in meeting agendas, program announcements, and other activities. The Tunbridge Web Site Committee is looking for members to finish the job of having a viable local town site, plus people who would like to serve on the Board of Directors.

Volunteers should contact the WEBMASTER at [www.tunbridgevt.com](http://www.tunbridgevt.com) and while you are there click through the pages as they now appear to see what has been done thus far. Although the site is fully functional with 34 individual pages plus several pages of photographs, the final step of sending notice to all residents asking them to sign up for site membership and email notices has not been executed.

## **Tunbridge Board of Listers**

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The Board of Listers this month will finish the exterior inspections of properties in the northeast quadrant of town. This process includes taking notes and pictures and comparing those with information on file. If there appears to be an obvious change in the dwelling, the Listers will call and schedule for an appointment.

Arguably the most difficult part of the board's duties is trying to keep up with all the changes so we may meet our obligation to value all town properties equitably. The town has no enforceable notification process. Some property owners simply do not think to let the town know when they are building or renovating. There are those, however, who delight in the notion that they are getting away with something when, in fact, what they are doing is asking the rest of us to pay a portion of their share of the tax burden.

The Vermont Statutes do not include discovery and enforcement as part of the Lister's duties. Nevertheless, a fair portion of our time and budget is spent looking for property changes. Despite our best efforts, in any given year it is not humanly possible to find all property changes that may affect value. Therefore, certain inequities may exist.

There are two ways to solve this problem: To increase public awareness and trust property owners to participate in a voluntary notification program or to institute an ordinance requiring building permits, setting penalties for noncompliance and hiring an enforcement officer. For the record, neither Ben, nor Helen, nor I have even the slightest interest in taking on the job of enforcement officer. Personally, I would rather not add another governmental restriction. My choice would be to enjoy the cooperation of our community to help maintain an equitable Grand List.

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

## **Tunbridge Grange #384**

Robin Russell- 889-3246

Grange #384 in No. Tunbridge held its annual Harvest Supper and Raffle on October 21, 2006. Many folks came out and enjoyed the celebration of the harvests bounty while raising funds for the Grange. Combined with the sale of the raffle tickets, over \$1000 was raised. We thank the many hard-working volunteers who prepared and served dinner, sold raffle tickets, donated raffle items and cleaned up the hall.

The Mountain House Cloggers have been brightening the hall with the sounds of percussive dancing **each Tuesday night**. On November 11th, the same hard-working folks hosted the annual Hunter's Breakfast.

This month's meeting included the annual installment of new officers for both Tunbridge and White River Grange #54. We continue to seek and invite new members and guests to our meetings and events. Meetings are held on the **first Wednesdays of the month at 7p.m.** The next meeting will be **December 6th**. Please call Master Mary Roberts for more information at 685-2143. The Grange Building is available for rent upon request.

## **Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Jim Wick 889-3524

If you could use a hand with something, think of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors hot line... **889-3437**

It's best to give a couple of days notice but not always necessary.

TNHN is for everyone. We have a network of neighbors ready to help out with a variety of needs. So if you need a hand, or would like to lend a hand, call the number.

## **Tunbridge Bone Builders**

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

The Tunbridge Bone Builders meet weekly at the following times:

**Mon-Thurs at 8:30 a.m.**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.**

**Monday & Wednesday at 3 p.m.**

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 School Board

Board Members: Fred Welch, Jonni Spaulding, Skip Distel

The Tunbridge School Board has set their goals for the 2006-2007 school year. The first goal is to continue to establish ongoing communications with the faculty. Gathering information from the faculty about what is being done to help children in need and to enrich the curriculum for those who excel, will help the board to stay in touch with the students on a ground level.

The next goal addresses the needs of the school building. As stewards of the Tunbridge School facility the board will work to continue developing a long-range maintenance plan and consider establishing a maintenance reserve fund. They are drafting a plan showing the status and future needs of the facility such as the roof, furnace, painting, furniture, carpets etc. This plan will be proposed before the end of the 06-07 school year. The decision on a possible building maintenance fund will be decided for the 2008 town meeting.

The board will continue to evaluate classroom organization. They will work to study the effects of combined classes through documented discussions with the administration and faculty. The school board has felt that due to changing demographics, state tax laws and school financial situations there has been a need to change the structure of the classes. They are working to make Tunbridge School efficient without compromising the quality of education.

The fourth goal on the School Board agenda is to consider ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of school operation. Thru discussions with other Orange-Windsor Supervisory Union school boards they will consider ways to collaborate for improved services, reduced costs and expanded opportunities for children.

The Tunbridge School Board meets in the school library on the **third monday of each month at 5:30p.m.** All citizens of Tunbridge are invited to attend the meetings.

## Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Volunteers are needed to help with this year's Community Thanksgiving Dinner. There are two segments to this event: 1) The dinner is served on **Thursday Nov. 23rd from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** in the Chase Community Center of VLS. 2) Approximately 400 meals are delivered to people in Royalton, Tunbridge, Sharon, Strafford, Vershire, Chelsea and Bethel.

The volunteer opportunities are as follows:

- 1) Homemade pies are needed. These may be dropped off at the United Church in S. Royalton on **Nov 21 from 3-7 p.m.**
- 2) Help with cutting and cooking 200lbs. of potatoes and squash at the United Church. This happens on **Monday, Nov.20 and Tuesday, Nov. 21 from 3-7p.m.**
- 3) Dividing up the meals and delivering begins at **8:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day** at the Chase Center.

This event takes a lot of community support. Please call Stephanie Fisk at 763-2445 if you can help with any aspect of The Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

## First Branch Sustainability Project

Henry Swayze 889-5556

Working to live better with less dependency on Fossil Fuel.

The Project began in the fall of 2005, many informational and organizational meetings have been held during the year. We are concerned with enriching the community in the face of the destructive economic and environmental costs of being dependent on fossil fuel. One of our goals is to make the First Branch Valley fossil fuel neutral by 2020, that means we produce as much energy sustainability as we import.

Right now we are working on the Solar Hot Water Challenge, promoting the installation of solar hot water heaters in as many homes as possible. By relying on technology that is effective, affordable and practical anyone can heat their water with the sun. Contact Phillip Mulligan at 685-7784 or [phillip@sover.net](mailto:phillip@sover.net) for more info on solar hot water.

For more information about the First Branch Sustainability Project or to be on our email list contact Henry Swayze by phone or email; [swayze@pcgusa.net](mailto:swayze@pcgusa.net).

## Tunbridge Public Library

Marsha Higgins 889-9404

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

Children's Story Hour activities are usually held in the Library on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 6:30**. Changes in scheduling are announced in advance. Upcoming Story Hour themes are "Food" (**11/16**), "Babies" (**12/14**), "Grandparents" (**1/4**), "White" (**1/18**), "Friends" (**2/1**), "Quilts" (**2/15**), "Birds" (**3/1**), and "Green" (**3/15**). Santa will make an appearance at a special story hour on Saturday morning **12/9**.

The popular and free Winter Evenings Series will feature David Budbill, poet/author (**1/11**); Howard Coffin, historian (**1/25**); Ted Levin, naturalist (**2/8**); Linda Faillace, author/shepherdess (**2/22**); Jeff Danziger, editorial cartoonist (**3/8**); and Kristina Stykos, musician (**3/22**). All programs begin a **7 p.m.** after which refreshments are served.

Art Exhibits are sponsored by the Friends of the Tunbridge Library. On display until November 20, and for sale, are Wendy Judge's animal drawings. Note cards and Christmas cards featuring her artwork are also available. A percentage of the artist's sales benefits the library. A reception opening the exhibit of George Lawrence's watercolors and Jacquelyn JiMoi's pastels ("Painting the Life Fantastic") will be held on **December 3 from 2-4 p.m.** The photography of Stephen Baumbach will exhibit from **January 28- March 9**. Call the library if you wish to be added to the mailing list for upcoming art receptions/exhibits.

The library is always in need of a variety of volunteer helpers. Volunteering at the library is a wonderful way to meet people. You can earn community service credits from your school or meet the volunteer requirement of the SHARE program. You can suit your time and talents to our needs and feel good about contributing to our special programs and services. We need people to read and tell stories to children and make story hour materials. You could help at the circulation desk, help maintain computer files, do computer reference searches, or help patrons with computer use. Help with building maintenance and creating display materials are other areas where your talents are needed. You could volunteer to help at fund-raising and social events by joining the Friends of the Library. Training is available; please contact the librarian about volunteering.

## Orange County Domestic & Sexual Violence Taskforce

Laura Davidson- 685-7900

It should not hurt to live in Orange County...

If you want to do something to end bullying in your local school, help prevent violence in your neighbor's home, or learn more about the causes of relationship and family violence then please join us at the Tunbridge Parish House on **Tuesday, November 21st from 7 - 8:30 p.m.**

The Orange County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force is comprised of people like you; men, women and teens. We are educators, lawyers, advocates, students, parents & artists. We are individuals who recognize that domestic and sexual violence affects all of us, whether directly or indirectly, and we are dedicated to raising our voices to create cultural, institutional and policy changes around these issues.

Meetings are held monthly at the Tunbridge Parish House from **7 - 8:30 p.m.**

### November 21

Domestic Violence Causes and Effects with Wynona I. Ward, founder of "Have Justice--Will Travel," a non-profit organization that brings legal and social services into the rural communities on the back roads of Vermont

### December 19

Legislative Updates & More... with Sarah Kenney, public policy coordinator for the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

### January 16

Special Showing of "Breaking the Silence: Children's Stories and Small Justice: Little Justice in America's Family Courts", followed by a discussion lead by Christine Dunn from the Family Services Division, Department for Children and Families.

Please RSVP to help us plan for food by calling Laura Davidson at 685-7900.

Future dates will be announced in the next newsletter.