

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly



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

August 15,
2007
Issue #9

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

Orange County Domestic & Sexual Violence Taskforce

Laura Davidson- 685-7900

Help make it safe to live in Orange County...

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. Please join the Tunbridge Cluster of the Orange County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force. 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 on the **third Tuesday** of the month at the Tunbridge Parish House from **7:00 - 8:30 pm**. Our next meetings will be held on September 18, October 16 and November 20 .

Volunteer Opportunity:

We plan to have an information table at the Tunbridge Fair again this year and are looking for volunteers to staff it. Please contact us if you are able to help out.

Laura Davidson, Coordinator ljd@sover.net or Connie Button, Cluster Member 728-3336.

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue Co.

Pam Howe Caron- 763-9595.

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue is still struggling to cover our day time shifts during the week. The board and the squad members are actively pursuing solutions but so far have not come up with the answers. If anyone has ideas or suggestions please don't hesitate to call a board or squad member. On a happy note - it's almost Fair time and that is our big fund raiser. Thank you to Heather Mullen for heading this effort up and to all the volunteers that help make it a success. Be sure to stop by and purchase tickets - you never know when it will be your lucky day.

Tunbridge Select Board

Administrative Assistant

Wendy McCullough - 889-5521

The Select Board has good news concerning the outcome of the mold eradication projects in the Town Office Building and Town Hall. VLCT which carries our insurance coverage stated early on that they may cover the mold removal in the town hall only due to the fact it was a water pipe leak; the Town Office water was from natural causes and would not be covered. After much paperwork and phone conversations between Wendy and VLCT, the Town of Tunbridge was awarded full coverage for both buildings in the amount of \$59,147.00.

We are still in litigation with Advance Basement Technologies for balance owed to them in the amount of \$5,775.00.

The Road Crew are currently using Bio-Diesel in the one-ton truck, truck #2 and the tractor. Rodney has reported they have had no problems with the product and will be using it in other equipment as the summer progresses.

James Ludwig is our new representative for Tunbridge on the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Board, Thank you Jim.

Our Fire Warden, Brenda Field and Fire Chief, John Durkee are working on the new Fire Ordinance; Brenda is working in conjunction with the State of Vermont and should have a draft to the Select Board soon.

We have also received a grant in the amount of \$142,800.00 to pave one mile of Strafford Road and shim from Recreation Road to Route 110. Pike Paving as been contracted to do the paving; the estimated cost to the Town is \$4,000.00. We are also working with Pike on an estimate to pave the Town Office and Church parking areas.

Select BoardMembers:

Michael O'Donnell, James Spaulding and Timothy Wolfe

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602

Remember the Tunbridge Quarterly if you have a non-profit event happening. The copy deadline dates are the 1st of August, November, February and May.

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the TUNBRIDGE Quarterly please call, write or email me at janet@zugglass.com.

Tunbridge Recreation Department

Thornton Hayslett- 889-9479

SUCCESSFUL JOINT EFFORT SUPPORTS SWIM LESSONS

In June, almost 30 Tunbridge kids took part in swim lessons at VTC through the combined efforts of the One Planet Summer Program and Tunbridge Recreation. Thanks to all of the parent volunteers, and to our bus driver Brian Hayward.

SOCCER COACHES AND REFEREES NEEDED FOR FALL

Please consider volunteering to coach or help with either the K-2 clinic (Saturday mornings from 11:00 to 12:00) or the 3rd and 4th grade team (Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00, and one or two weekday afternoon - TBA). There is also a possibility that Tunbridge Recreation will have at least partial responsibility for 5th and 6th grade teams, so if you're interested helping with or refereeing that age group, talk with principal Amos Kornfeld or contact Thornton at 889-9479, or email hayslett@sover.net).

SHARE YOUR SKILLS

If you have an individual sport or hobby that you enjoy and would like to pass on to kids or adults please contact Thornton. The One Planet after school program is also interested in connecting kids with possible activity leaders; contact Carrie McDonnell at the school.

LOOKING AHEAD

Please contact Thornton if you can help with recreation basketball teams or K-2 clinics!

While it is hard to think about winter sports when it's almost 90 degrees out, please remember: if you're looking for equipment, many clearance sales happen before the season begins! Henderson's (on rt. 4 in Quechee) begins the season with a Labor Day tent sale. Also on Labor Day Weekend is a region-wide Peter Glenn sale event at the Bolton Valley sport center (there is a Peter Glenn store on the Barre-Montpelier road which will have a smaller sales event of its own in Mid-October). The Killington Ski Club and the Ford Sayre program in Hanover sponsor sales closer to the beginning of the season, as does the Suicide Six Ski Runners program. Thygessen's Sports in Barre usually has a pretty good selection of used skates as well as new equipment. Hopefully our winter sports season will get off to an earlier start this year and we'll see more of each other on skates, skis, and snowshoes!

Tunbridge Broadband Project con't

Fiber optic cable carries telephone, TV and internet service. It is the fastest and most reliable solution for internet service. It is not a technology that will go out of style in the foreseeable future and it does not require towers to create the network. The cable runs mostly on existing telephone poles and would be run in to every home in Tunbridge that wants the service.

The city of Burlington created a non-profit company called Burlington Telecom (BT). The company has been privately financed using the town's bond rating as collateral. Once the infrastructure has been paid off with monthly fees, the profit will go back into the town as revenue. In its fourth year BT projects that it will start to put revenue into the city's general fund. BT's goal is to provide service to all Burlington residents by 2008. Part of the infrastructure they needed to build is a hub where all the fiber comes together and telephone, TV and Broadband services are connected. They have room for 100,000 customers. This hub is under-utilized by BT and they are looking to expand into other towns in an effort to help all of Vermont get connected. Check out BT's website for more info at www.burlingtontelecom.net

While we know that fiber optic technology provides superior performance results for internet, telephone and television usage, we realize that there are many questions to be answered as we explore this newly emerging opportunity. Members of the Tunbridge Broadband committee have become part of a regional effort, temporarily named the East-Central Vermont Fiber Network, including ourselves and 14 other neighboring towns. The purpose of this group is primarily to explore the feasibility and advisability of bringing a fiber optic opportunity to our towns. Additionally, joining other towns in our area will be necessary in order to achieve the minimum number of households (12 per mile) to start the project.

The East-Central Committee's, first task is to determine the cost of installing the network. The group has split into sub-committees and the finance committee is working on that now. The communication committee is working to talk with each town's selectboard to inform them of the logistics of the FTTH project and ask for help in bringing the idea to the towns people.

Within this regional group we still have Tunbridge's interests at the top of our list. Our goal is to bring quality high-speed internet service to our hills in a way that offers the best service with the least visible impact at a good price.

Committee members:

Janet Zug, Henry and Cornelia Swayze, Kathi and Scott Terami

Tunbridge Fair Association

Rebecca Beguin- 889-5555

The Friends of the Tunbridge Fair had its first annual meeting on Sunday July 22nd, and launched the organization with a cake cutting ceremony. Members present elected a board to serve a one year term with Nancy Howe as President, Deb Mullen as Vice President, Marian White as Treasurer, Bridgett Taylor as Secretary. Other Board members include Don Faulkner, Pam Dietz, Jen Thygesen, David Howe and Margaret Rogers. As Friends of the fair, this non-profit organization is now moving forward with the application for 501-C-3 status, and it is an opportunity at last to create a developmental support for these very special fairgrounds, and fair-related programs, in coordination with the U.A.S. Board. For example, an initial fund drive would be towards the cost of new vendor pavilion.

Fair news: Listen for our radio ad in early September. Craig Greenman sent a recording of his song about the fair "Have you ever been to Tunbridge?", and gave permission to use part of it, that is, less than 30 seconds, for the radio ad. Premium Books are available at the Village Store, Welch's, So. Royalton Market, Sharon Trading Post, Messier's General Store, Dandelion Acres, North Tunbridge Store. First class postage is very high for these, so help by passing them on to your friends who may be out of town. If you know a good place for a poster, feel free to come get one.

Tunbridge School Board

Fred Welch- 889-3574

Board Members: Fred Welch, Jennifer Hayslett, Skip Distel

At the May & June's meetings the Board hired a new Special Education teacher. We have had discussions on how to provide time for better, more efficient opportunities for the teaching staff and principal to meet and deal with school wide issues. Some thoughts were to have a few half days, regular scheduled half days each week, increase the length of the school year and have some full days for the staff to meet. No action has been taken on this at this time. →

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

Greetings from your Volunteer Fire Department! Thank you to all of you who supported the Department at our Chicken Barbeque fundraiser on Memorial Day. With your support we raised just over \$2000 for our equipment fund.

As we just wrapped up our fiscal year at the end of June, we responded to a total of 24 calls in Tunbridge and the surrounding areas. Structure fires were the cause of 3 calls, while chimney and wild land fires each resulted in 2 calls. Motor vehicle accidents were the reason for 6 calls and our neighboring towns called us in 5 times for mutual aid. The final 6 calls were split evenly between calls related to down power lines and miscellaneous calls.

We have not had any response yet to the two grant requests, one for the replacement of Engine 2 and one for an exhaust system for the fire house. The grants were submitted back in the spring. In addition to those grants, another grant was recently submitted to replace the radio in Engine 1. We anxiously await a response to these 3 grants which could dramatically help to bring both our truck fleet and our firehouse to a new level of functioning.

Do you have a building you've been meaning to tear down? We are in search of old buildings, barns and/or sheds to use for practice burns. If you have such a structure that you would be willing to "donate" to our department, please contact John Durkee at 889-3408.

Finally, our annual coin drop fundraiser will be organized by Matt Loftus this year. If you are able to donate any time to this event which will be on **Friday September 14th and Saturday September 15th**, please contact Matt at 889-3274. We need around 15 people for shifts each day to help us make this event successful & we appreciate any time you may have to offer.

The Herald

The Herald is in search of an official Tunbridge town correspondent and to have local people send news. Anyone interested in being a correspondent can contact Martha Slater at news@ourherald.com. News and calendar listings go to that address and letters to the editor go to editor@ourherald.com.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

**Mon 8-11:30 1-4,
Tues & Thurs- 8-12 1-4,
Wed. 9-6, Fri 8-12**

This being an odd year I am working on Purging of the Checklist; which requires sending challenge letters to any voter who hasn't voted in the last two Federal Elections; or may have moved from town but have not registered in another Town. This year the Town's Board of Civil Authority; which includes the Town Clerk, Justices of the Peace, Select Board and Town Agent have one property tax appeal hearing.

The Board of Abatement which in addition to the above members also includes the Treasurer and Board of Listers have two Tax Abatement hearings; these properties were lost to fire earlier this year. Please call Wendy at the Town Office with any questions or concerns 889-5521.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Anne Mallary- 889-5521

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

Tax bills will be sent out in the middle of August. We are printing them this week, and you can stop and pick it up, if you want it earlier.

The municipal tax rate this year is \$0.589. This is down from last year's rate of \$0.617. The estimated rate in the town report was \$0.64. The \$0.589 is made up of the selectmen's budget (\$0.119), the highway budget (\$0.376) and appropriations (\$0.094). The reason behind the drop from the estimate is 1.) a surplus of \$26,279.26 in the selectmen's budget, 2.) \$8,102.36 remaining in the legal fund from the Washington Electric lawsuit and 3.) \$10,276.25 left over from the water project. The surplus in the selectmen's budget is mainly due to more income than budgeted in hold harmless, interest and dump tickets.

The Homestead education tax rate is \$1.425 and the Non-residential education rate is \$1.6512, making the total tax rate for homesteads \$2.014 and the total for non-residential parcels \$2.3301. You can figure out what your taxes will be by taking your grand list value, dividing that by 100 and multiplying by your tax rate. If you receive a state payment it will show as a credit on your tax bill.

Transfer Station & Recycling

Mary-Alice Leonard-Heath- 685-3035

Saturdays from 9:00 - 3:00.

Tunbridge Transfer Station

Recycling Trivia* and Thoughts to Ponder

- A quart of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of water and 1 acre of land 1 inch deep.
- Americans throw away enough used motor oil every year to fill 120 supertankers.
- If all used motor oil in the U.S. were recycled, it would result in a saving of 1.3 million barrels of oil per day.
- The U.S. currently imports about 60% of our oil and within 20 years we will be importing 100% at a cost of \$150 billion annually.
- The world will need twice the raw materials in 2010 that it does today. Maintaining the same level of oil usage will require discovering as much in the next 10 years as has been found in all of history.
- Every minute of every day over 120,000 aluminum cans are recycled in the U.S.
- Americans discard enough aluminum to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet every 3 months.
- It's estimated that since 1972 some 13 million tons of aluminum cans have been recycled in the U.S. These 534.7 billion aluminum cans placed end-to-end could stretch to the moon some 170 times.

*Trivia facts from:

http://www.admin.co.fayette.ga.us/extension_service/recycling/trivia_recycle.htm

As the hot weather continues, please remember to clean out your containers before recycling, or those who handle the materials will suffer the consequences. Pet food containers and milk are two of the items that result in the foulest of odors.

Thank you for reusing and recycling. Please call Mary Alice at 685-3035 or email: malh@sover.net with any questions.

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The board lodged the 2007 Grand List on July 24th. Once the Grand List is lodged, the Listers cannot change the values. Changes can only be made by the Selectboard or the Board of Abatement and only for very specific reasons such as the building was destroyed by fire. No municipal body has the authority to change a listed value because a property owner believes the taxes are too high. If you think your taxes are too high, plan to attend the Town Meeting in March and let your objections be known and talk to your legislator about the State Education Tax.

The total value of the taxable Grand List for 2007 is \$110,296,691. There are 859 taxable parcels and 434 declared homesteads (as of Aug. 1st).

We have begun our rotational inspections which this year will include all roads in the southeast quadrant of town from Potash Road to Button Hill Road, plus Spring, Gould, Goodwin Hill, Tunbridge Mountain and Whalen roads. We sent letters to property owners in these areas to advise them of the inspections.

These rotational inspections give the Listers an opportunity to review all properties in the town in a four-year period, to note any noticeable improvement or depreciation in the property and to correct any errors in our existing data. We first look at the exterior, take pictures and notes. We compare that information with the pictures and notes taken at our last inspection. We may call and ask to view the interior of a dwelling if we believe we need more information. In addition to the rotational inspections we will visit properties with new construction.

Tunbridge Broadband Project

Janet Zug- 889-9602

A lot has happened since the last issue of the TQ. In our last report we talked about having to wait for the wireless providers we chose to be able to come to our area. We also talked up the benefits of wireless over satellite or cell networks. Well, a technically superior solution is now being developed in Vermont - It's called Fiber To The Home (FTTH). →

Tunbridge Church

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The choirs are gearing up for the Festival of Worship Service held on Sunday during the Tunbridge World's Fair. Singers from around the community join with the regular church choir members for this celebratory service. It is a mostly music service with songs of all genres, some offered by the choir and others by area bands. (If you read this in time and would like to join in the singing, the adult component meets at **7:30 Wednesdays** at the church) The children's choirs practice at **6:30pm starting on August 22nd.**

By the way, the "fair service" is an informal occasion; so, please come as you are. The service is at **9:30 am on Sept. 17th.** If you need a ride to this or to any church service, call Neighbors Helping Neighbors, 889-3734.

August church services are being held at the Brick Church in South Tunbridge. The worship services will move back to the Village Church in Septembers. Services are at **10 am every Sunday.**

An informal Bible Study group meets at **6:30 pm Wednesday** as the Parish house. Call Ben Wolfe for more information, 889-5577.

In October all the various activities move back into full swing. There is Sunday School during church for the young ones. Choirs meet regularly on Wednesday nights. The Pastor's **Sunday morning (8:45am)** study group resumes and will be studying the controversial passages of Paul's letters to the Romans.

Communion will be served on the first Sundays of September and November. There will be a pot luck lunch after church on the first Sunday in November.

A family night, featuring star gazing, is planned for **6:30 pm Sept. 30th.** The place will be announced.

For more information about the church and its activities: David Wolfe, pastor, (889-5577), Townsend Swayze, parish council president (889-3234), Judie Lewis, music director (889-9490), Janet Zug, children's choir director (889-9602).

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jim Wick 889-3524

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors is an organization founded to help provide services to local residents through volunteer action. We started providing services nearly two years ago. We have about 90 volunteers who have agreed to help. We have helped many local residents in many ways, including: giving rides, changing a tire, fixing a lock, helping with a computer, and so on.

The number to call is: **889-3437**

TNHN has begun to explore the issue of elderly housing in Tunbridge. We recently held a public forum on the subject, attended by about 25 people. It was mainly an informational session. Various models for elderly housing were discussed, as were various types of public support programs and permitting issues.

The opinion at the meeting was that we should take steps to determine more definitely the need and desire for elderly housing in Tunbridge. We will be sending out a questionnaire, and if there is a positive response from it we will attempt to get a grant through the Town for a formal market study.

Board Members: Bunchie Angell, Bill Chester, Felicity Swayze, Frank LePore, Jim Wick, David Wolfe. Call any of us if you need more information about this.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Michael Sacca- 889-3210

The Planning commission held a public meeting on July 10 in the Town Offices to hear comment on the proposed town plan. About 10 citizens were present including all three Selectboard members. The members of the Planning Commission voted unanimously to send it on to the Selectboard. They have 60 days to warn and hold another public meeting to hear comment on it. Watch for it in The Herald and around town. A copy of the town plan is available from the Town Clerk.

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 889-3210 for information.

Tunbridge School Board con't

Board member Fred Welch and teacher Joann Herrick were on a district wide committee to interview Superintendent candidates. A new Superintendent, David Bickford, formally of the Northfield district, has been hired. Hopefully a "Meet the Community" meeting will be held soon so anyone who wants to can meet and talk with Mr. Bickford. Our Superintendent plays a major roll in our schools and we encourage everyone to make the time to meet him and discuss the issues.

The Board did not meet in July. Future meeting agenda items will be setting goals for the upcoming year. These goals will be issues that the Board will try and give extra focus on. Also the board will start Master contract negotiations with the Tunbridge Teachers association this Fall.

Another reminder to stay informed with legislative issues in Montpelier. Many major decisions made there have strong impact on our school.

First Branch Sustainability Project

Henry Swayze 889-5556

Summer activities have included: More commercial solar hot water installations, and an excellent and well attended tour of a home made solar hot water system... Thanks Jim Ludwig.

We supported H520, the climate change bill and it passed containing many good provisions. Unfortunately legislators failed to override the governor's veto so a valuable year has been lost. All must work together to get an even better bill passed next session. Books to check out at the Tunbridge library include:

Heat by George Monbiot

The Long Emergency by Howard Kunstler

The Carbon Buster's Home Energy Handbook by Godo Stoyke

Actions we can all take to become carbon neutral include: tightening up our houses, shifting towards wood and wood pellets, eating more locally, joining together as small groups or whole communities to harness the wind and water for net metering, and perhaps even growing our own transportation fuel. As a help along this path we will put together a workshop for each of you to get some of your own answers.

Contact Henry Swayze 889-5556 or Swayze@pngusa.net Please join in. All are welcome and needed.

Tunbridge Public Library

Marsha Higgins- public relations

Librarian: Jean Wolfe- 889-9404

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

The Tunbridge Library has a selection of over sixty magazines covering a variety of adult interests: consumer information, the arts, global news and issues, religion, nature, home, parenting, cooking and nutrition, health, sports, to mention a few. Quality children's magazines are also available for loan. The Library also continues to add new selections to its book collection, but if a book you are looking for is not available on our shelves, we are happy to obtain it for you via interlibrary loan. High speed, wireless internet access is available to all, free of charge, at the Library. Computer assistance is also available; ask the librarian for information about setting up an appointment.

Gift shopping? On sale at the Library are reduced price books, lovely stationery and specialty items, and unusual jewelry.

Children's Story Hour activities are usually held in the Library on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays** of the month at **6:15**. Changes in scheduling are announced in advance. Upcoming themes are Fairs and Farms (9/6 and 9/20), Fall Apples (10/4), Pumpkins (10/18), Nighttime Animals (11/1), and Food Festivities (11/15).

ArtSpace is sponsored by the Friends of the Tunbridge Library. Currently on display through August 19 is the photography of Randolph resident and selectman Ken Goss. The next show, **Sept. 17 - Oct. 14**, will feature scenes and people of Tunbridge snapped by several photographers. A reception and silent auction of the photographs to aid the steeple restoration fund will be held on **Oct. 14**. Further details will be published in the Herald and Valley News.

The annual Ghost Walk, co-sponsored by the Library and Historical Society, will be held on **Oct. 21 at 1 pm**. Return to the Spring Road Cemetery to meet some fascinating spectres. Rain date is 10/28.

Book donations are welcomed throughout the year. Please be sure that your donations are in good condition.

The library is compiling a list of e-mail addresses to enhance communication about Library events. If you wish to be notified via e-mail, please phone or e-mail the librarian. Residents needing transportation to events can call Neighbors Helping Neighbors at 889-3437.

The library is compiling a list of e-mail addresses to enhance communication about Library events. If you wish to be notified via e-mail, please phone or e-mail the librarian. Residents needing transportation to events can call Neighbors Helping Neighbors at 889-3437.

Tunbridge Historical Society

Kay Jorgenson

Dinner, Photo & Quilt Raffle To Help Fund Church Repairs

A dinner for four catered by JP and Judi Debeuf; a Stephen Baumbach photograph, "Tunbridge Morning," and an antique quilt are the prizes in the Tunbridge Historical Society's annual raffle. Raffle prize tickets will be sold until October. This is the society's ninth year of raising money to restore the 1870 North Tunbridge Baptist Church, which has been closed for more than a year because of water damage.

The Debeufs, new owners of the Tunbridge Village Store, will cater a dinner for four within 20 miles of Tunbridge. They have been in the restaurant business for over 20 years, most recently owning two restaurants in New Hampshire, one of which was voted the best restaurant in Southern New Hampshire.

Part-time Tunbridge resident Stephen Baumbach of Rivertree Photography donated a color photograph which he took from Mill Bridge in the Village. He exhibited dozens of his beautiful color photos at the library early this year.

Ella Pappius of Tunbridge, a prize-winning quilt maker, donated a 1940s Grandmother's Flower Garden quilt that measures 76x84 inches. The quilt was made in Lancaster, Pa., and is hand-pieced and hand-quilted at 8 stitches per inch.

The church building has been closed to annual church services held in the building in August and historical society meetings since areas around the steeple leaked and portions of the inside ceiling of the vestibule and Sunday school room collapsed.

The society had previously spent thousands of dollars raised in raffles to paint the church, make steeple repairs and protect the lawn. Raffle tickets will be sold at the fair and can be requested from treasurer T Swayze at 889-3234. He also has copies of the annual newsletter and welcomes donations and memberships.

Tunbridge Bone Builders

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

Mon-Thurs- at 8:30 am; Tues and Thurs at 5:30 pm

Monday & Wednesday pm class-

call Elaine Howe at 889-5560 for time

If you think you're too busy to come to a class that previous exercise is all in the past. You must stick to it if you want to gain for your health, I'll hound you and be a pain! Classes are free with weights provided. You may attend two classes per week with at least a day of rest in between. These classes are free and open to all ages. Call TNH if you need a ride! 889-3437