

The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



February 15, 2018
issue #51

Tunbridge Select Board

John O'Brien, Clerk

889-3474; bellwetherfilms@yahoo.com

Gary Mullen, Chair

889-3323, barn or 889-3242, house; theflyingfarmer29@gmail.com

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

802-272-6108, cell or 802-728-3390, shop; farmallfix@yahoo.com

Jackie Higgins, Administrative Assistant

802-505-1232 or 802-433-6671; tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com

Selectboard meetings are open to the public. Our standing meeting schedule is now the second and fourth Tuesday 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.

Are there any New York Yankees or Metallica fans out there? Mariano Rivera, baseball's best closer ever (admits this Red Sox fan), used to trot in from the bullpen while Yankee Stadium would blare Metallica's "Enter Sandman." To opposing teams, this theme signaled, "Game over." Perhaps we could rig up some speakers and blast "Enter Sandman" as Rodney Hoyt, our Road Foreman, arrives at the Town Garage. Game over, winter. Actually, we never really beat winter, but we can tame it. And to tame winter takes a lot of sand. According to Rodney, we're using more sand this winter than expected, but he's still optimistic that we'll squeeze through February and March before the stockpile is exhausted. Please contact the Selectboard if you have any issues with the roads. Given the challenges, we feel the Road Crew has been doing a helluva job this winter.

The misadventure of the new dump truck #5 continues. Tenco New England, the company installing the dump package, promised to have it ready by Christmas. That didn't happen. Tenco was so behind schedule that they asked Rodney if they could send the truck to Canada for set up. Time goes by. Next, Rodney heard that there was an opening in their Vermont shop and they'd do the work here. Time goes by. As this TQ goes off to print, we're still waiting. In the meantime, old dump truck #5, promised retirement to The Villages, Florida, is still trucking, but you wouldn't call it a happy truck.

Dump-going Tunbridgians weren't very happy in January when the Transfer Station compactor froze up during the deep freeze. Dumpmeister Bert Tatro's mood that day could be described as exceptionally irascible. He had good reason to be: Casella had assured us that the compactors were serviced and good-to-go this winter. Bert recommended that we purchase a space heater that could warm the compressor unit so that we have a back-up plan to Casella's promises. We agreed. We might not need the space heater the rest of this winter, but at some point down the road, it's going to be minus 20 on a Saturday morning. And that's a promise.

While we're on the subject of unhappy Tunbridgians, the Selectboard is hoping to turn those frowns into smiles: we've hired Geoff Hansen to make the official Tunbridge town website (Tunbridgevt.org) a go-to destination. We've heard a lot of complaints about the website over the last couple of years. The complaints are valid. The website has been somewhere between a disappointment to a failure. We're starting over. When he's not laying out The Valley News or photographing a wedding or volunteering at the Fair supper, long-time Tunbridge resident Geoff Hansen has a side business of web design and management. Geoff's plan is to immediately tweak the website to make it user-friendly and up-to-date, and then, if budget and enthusiasm are forthcoming, make it something more dynamic and interactive. If the website becomes something more than meat and potatoes, we hope to hear suggestions from residents on what would make it better yet.

If the Town Hall, Tunbridge Church, and Town Offices now look as white as a Crest smile, we've discovered some alarming decay in the back. The stone retaining wall that keeps the Town Offices from sliding onto Antique Hill is dangerously schlumping. Initial estimates on fixing it are not too far away from six figures. This year, there will be much discussion about "The Wall."

The February TQ, and the imminent TOWN REPORT, should be a bugle call--patriotic fanfare--reminding all residents of Tunbridge to get ye to Town Meeting, March 6th. There's much to do: Make a motion; run for office; vote; add some common sense to a discussion; listen; knit a mitten; fill your pie hole.

Tunbridge Board of Auditors

Maxine Young 763-8274, Maxine.young976@gmail.com),

Betsy Race (betsymac9@gmail.com), Linda Hoyt (hoytfarm@sover.net

Once again, the Board of Auditors have been working a lot of hours, gathering information for the Town Report. At this time of year, we double efforts to obtain and input all reports by published deadlines so that the Town Report may be mailed timely. This involves obtaining reports, budgets, orders, reviewing and reconciling of same, and putting the information together for printing. This is a time consuming process and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed to those efforts, including the Town Clerk, the Town Treasurer, Administrative Assistant, Selectboard, School Board, the Supervisory Union representatives and representatives from outside organizations.

This year's town report pictures are courtesy of The Historical Society and we sincerely hope you enjoy them.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Elizabeth (Betsy) Sponable 889-5521 tctunbridge@live.com

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

Pre-Town Meeting- Tuesday, February 27th at 7:30pm.

Annual School Meeting- Monday, March 5th at 7:30pm.

Town Meeting - March 6th, 2018 10:00am.

All meetings will be held at the Tunbridge Central School Auditorium.

The newly formed First Branch Unified District (Chelsea and Tunbridge Schools) will hold its first meeting on March 1, 2018, at 6:30 pm in the Chelsea School Gym. Town Clerks from both Chelsea and Tunbridge will be there with voter checklists from each town for check-in. The new Board will be sworn in at that time.

RABIES CLINIC will be held on March 17, 2018, 9:00am -12 Noon at the CHELSEA TOWN HALL, CHELSEA, VT. This clinic will be combined with Chelsea; the cost of the Vaccine is \$15.00. Vaccine and inoculations are provided by a licensed Veterinarian from the Chelsea Animal Hospital, Chelsea VT, (802) 685-3232. This Clinic is for Dogs and Cats; Dogs must be leashed; Cats must be in a carrier.

Deadline for Licensing is April 1, 2018. If your dog(s) is/are due for a rabies vaccine prior to April 1, a license cannot be issued until an updated rabies certificate has been received by the Clerk. Cost per license is \$9.00 spayed/neutered; \$13.00 for non-spayed/neutered. You may get dog licenses at the Town Clerks Office, or by mail. I will also be available at the rabies clinic to issue dog licenses. Please call the office if you have any questions.

Just as a reminder- if you would like to reserve Town Hall for an event, please call Judy Howe at (802) 889-3487. She maintains the reservation book, reservation contracts, and any other particulars that you may need to know.

No new births, marriages or deaths have been recorded in Tunbridge since our last issue in November. * Please note that if a birth, marriage or death includes a Tunbridge resident but occurs out of Town or State (particularly in the event of a death), a record of that event is not necessarily recorded here in Tunbridge. We may or may not receive a courtesy copy from the location it did occur.

Green Up Day this year is May 5th! Our coordinator is Ed Howe- 889-3750. Green Up bags will be available in the Town Clerk's Office as we get closer to the date.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglassstudio@gmail.com

The deadlines for TQ entries are always on the 1st day of August, November, February and May.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Ingrid Van Steamburg 889-3459

The Planning Commission continues to work on revising the town plan for its regularly scheduled five year review. We are in the final stages and community should look for announcements about a forum in Late February and/or March for any further public input, before the draft is finalized and submitted to the Selectboard for final approval.

Tunbridge Town Treasurer

Becky Hoyt - 889-3571 treasurer@tunbridge.biz

Happy New Year! This has been a very busy time in the Treasurer's office. This time of year we are working very hard to get the Town Report out to the printers. The Auditors start in September working on preparing the town financial pages. This year they will have some inconsistencies because of me learning my new program. Please bear with us as I learn more and more about my new software. We are also in the middle of an outside audit being completed by Bachelor and Associates. We are excited to get the results from them and make even more changes to better our accounting. I hope you will all read your Town Reports this year as there is lots of interesting information in there, but I want to pound one point home as often as I can.

You **MUST** file your Vermont Homestead every year by April 15th. You can **NOT** extend that deadline even if you extend the time on filing your income taxes. It will save you money for late filing if you pay attention to that detail. It can be up to an 8% penalty for filing late your homestead, and it could be another 8% if you are late on paying your taxes. If you are filing for a time extension on your income taxes then estimate on your Homestead and when you have filed go back and file an amended version. If you are new to Tunbridge and Vermont welcome and do not forget to file that homestead, double check with anyone who is filing for you that may be from out of state. If you have any question please contact me, info listed above.

Tunbridge Conservation Commission

Aaron Weed, Chair – 889-3282 - aaron.weed@gmail.com

Commission members and interested town residents have continued to meet monthly to discuss how the Commission can assist the town in future planning needs as they relate to the town's natural resources. We are still in the phase of compiling the data and resources available at the town, regional, and state level to identify gaps in information. This process has indicated that we need better inventories of Tunbridge's natural resources including a better understanding of wildlife habitat use and documenting the location and condition of unique and sensitive communities such as vernal pools. This spring the Commission plans to initiate a project involving interested town residents to map as many of the vernal pools in Tunbridge as possible. We will be following up in the future with a formal request but if you know of the location of potential vernal pool sites and the names of property owners that may be willing to have their vernal pool(s) mapped as a part of this inventory please let a Commission member know. To support this project we will be looking for interested volunteers of all ages to come for a walk in the woods and document these unique habitats. We are hoping to plan a small "training" session for volunteers in the early spring lead by a local biologist to cover vernal pool ecology, amphibian identification, etc. Please look out for that call and please also let us know if you are interested in volunteering.

Commission members include Betsy Gaiser, Butch Howe, Isaac Sacca, and Aaron Weed. Feel free to contact any of the members of the Commission with comments or suggestions.

Tunbridge Walking Group

Maxine Young-802-763-8274

The Tunbridge Walking Group was loosely organized in November 2011. We have continued to walk three times a week since that time. We walk Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at various locations in Tunbridge, meeting at 9:30 for about an hour or sometimes a little more. Not everyone can make it every day, even once a week for some. We have lost and gained walkers, however, our numbers remain consistent. Three of us are tasked with setting up a monthly schedule. We have logged many miles, some great hikes, and in the winter snowshoe or cross-country ski. The terrain varies, however, there is something for everyone. Anyone is welcome to join us. You do not have to live in Tunbridge. Contact Maxine Young, 802-763-8274 to be added to our e-mail list or youngvt@myfairpoint.net. This is a great way to begin or maintain a healthy lifestyle, lower blood pressure, lose weight, lower cholesterol numbers, deal with stress, better breathing and the list goes on.

Tunbridge Women's Group

Pam Dietz 889-3315

Local women are invited to send their email addresses to Elaine Howe at ehowe2@wrvsu.org to receive Tunbridge Women's Group (TWG) mailings.

In addition to sharing community news through occasional emails, the women's group hosts monthly potluck suppers in local homes. This is an informal group without officers, committees and duties that offers women a chance to meet each other and share conversation and information about their interests.

Making Change

Lisa Kippen 889-9822 www.secondwindfound.org

Making Change is a support group for young people who are considering or committed to keeping it real when it comes to their substance misuse. Free and totally confidential. Meetings are held on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 at the Parish House.

Tunbridge School Board

Kathy Galluzzo 565-0695 kgalluzzo@wrvsu.org

Maryann Caron 889-5694 mcaron@wrvsu.org

Joe Paquin 417-9849 jpaquin@wrvsu.org

It has been a long road but we are finally past all of the voting. Both Tunbridge and Chelsea have voted yes to merge. As of July 1st, we will be The First Branch Unified School District. Both Tunbridge and Chelsea will operate K--8 schools with full choice. The High School in Chelsea will be closed at the end of this school year.

The new school board will be sworn in on March 1st. The board consists of Tunbridge members Kathy Galluzzo 3-year term; Jena Trombley – 2 year term; Maryann Caron- 1 year term. Chelsea members: Susan Kay- 3 year term, Deborah Allen- 2 year term, Emily Marshia- 1 year term.

The first year of operation we will spend a lot of time looking at how we can best operate together and fully utilize our two campuses.

There will be a First Branch Unified School District Budget vote which will be put together and presented by the new unified board. Exact date and location to be set. The meeting will consist of both towns together at one location. We will be able to discuss and amend the budget from the floor. At the end we will vote.

Tunbridge Library

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

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

Fern Strong, ArtSpace Coordinator, 860-986-0507; redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com

The Tunbridge Library is a place where you can talk to kind and supportive folks to help you find the information you need. It's a place where you can discover and borrow fascinating books, great films, and audiobooks on CD. The library offers engaging and entertaining events, and we provide an environment where you can find good company, meet new people, and get high-speed wifi 24/7. And when you can't visit—you can even download audio and E-books from ListenUpVermont and Recorded Books Digital service. Come find out how you can get started, or check out the library's website for more information.

We are pleased to host a new book discussion series featuring literature set in mountains. Conceived by local mountain enthusiast Wright Frost, the Upper Valley Mountain Literature Society will explore fiction and non-fiction works that examine how human stories unfold in the challenging and beautiful environments of mountain settings. How do mountains inform the way people find identity? How do mountains inspire people to work together, or forge ahead alone? Look for updates on books and discussion times.

Mariah Lawrence has a great series of Saturday Story Hour events coming up—each one is at 9 am. The themes will be Seeds (March 3); Maple Syrup (March 17); Signs of Spring (March 31); Frogs (April 7); Wild Things (April 21); and Nesting (May 5).

Fiber artists gather at the library on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6 pm-- your next opportunity is Feb. 21. Come in from the cold, have something hot to drink, and celebrate warm company as you share and practice fiber crafting!

The current exhibit at ArtSpace is entitled "Before the Storm" with dynamic and expressive paintings by Jennifer Palkowski Jacques, of Barre. This exhibit is on display through March 7. The next show will feature photographs by John Duffy and will run from March 16 to April 23.

Many thanks for speakers, volunteers and committee members who have made this Winter Evenings series a success. Winter Evenings still to come will feature "Bird Diva" Bridget Butler (Feb. 16), a panel speaking about the benefits of the Current Use Program (March 2), and artist and educator Joan Feierabend (March 16). All events are at 7pm. You can find more details in the Herald, our website, or our Facebook page.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young 889-2804

Our annual meeting will be held on Thursday March 8th 2018 at the Town Hall. We will start the evening with a potluck dinner at 6:00pm followed by our business meeting, during which we will elect a Fire Chief, Clerk, Auditor and 2 Trustees. You could serve the fire department in many different ways including membership as a firefighter, a responder to rescue calls, a trustee, clerk, auditor, to offer station coverage during calls, help with cleaning the firehouse and / or fundraising. We have plenty of opportunities for everyone, and a strong fire department is something we all benefit from.

Recent activity includes ordering the equipment and parts needed to fulfill the dispatch frequency grant we were awarded last fall. Installation should take place in the next month or so and will improve our signal strength and communication ability. We filled the ice rink behind the school twice this winter, and as has occurred in the past few years, we had some mechanical issues and truck repairs that resulted and will be fixed. A special thanks to Jeff Young who donated a defibrillator to the department. We are in the process of replacing some of the expired parts and hope to have it on line for use by this spring. You may notice a slight increase in our request for funding in this year's town report. That is due to a recent decision to start a stipend program as an incentive for active, engaged fire department members who are donating a considerable amount of hours and work between training, maintenance and responding to calls. A policy is being created to evaluate eligibility and outline implementation.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held this year on Saturday March 31st at 10:00am sharp at the school playground. We invite local children to bring their collection baskets & sharp eyes to hunt down the elusive eggs. Fire trucks will be on display as well for kids to explore and learn more about.

If you haven't scheduled your chimney cleaning yet, now is a good time. We are more than halfway through the winter, and a good cleaning may be in order. There are many local businesses you can contact who can help you with a basic inspection and cleaning to keep you safe and warm for the rest of the winter and spring ahead.

FrontPorchForum.com

The free e-newsletter for Tunbridge and Chelsea residents includes a calendar that has posted 756 local events. The Forum was started five years ago for neighbors to share everything from lost animals and needed services and materials to giveaways, sales, queries and discussion of local issues. Last month it reached local inboxes more than 11,000 times.

Tunbridge Board of Listers

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

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

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT HOMESTEAD DECLARATIONS AND HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT CLAIMS ARE DUE APRIL 18, 2018, even if you anticipate filing an extension for income taxes (adjustments can be made later and still be considered timely if you file by April 18). Tax preparers sometimes need to be reminded about the Property Tax Adjustment claim in particular, especially if they are out of state. While our primary job is to assess property as equitably and fairly as possible, we inevitably work closely with the Treasurer in assuring that these important filings are properly accounted. If you are eligible, the Homestead Property Tax Adjustment can be a critical piece in making ends meet come tax time. YOUR LIFE AND OURS GO MUCH EASIER IF THESE DEADLINES ARE MET.

We received the results of the annual statewide sales equalization study in late December 2017. Tunbridge now has a Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) of 111.06%, our first drop in this measure since our last town-wide reappraisal in 2010 and down from last year's peak of 116.38%. The CLA helps equalize sales values across towns.

The Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is a measure of equity within the town. A COD of less than 10% is considered indicative of a high degree of equity within town. This year our COD is 11.15%, up a bit from 9.75% last year. We are mandated to do a town-wide reappraisal if our CLA drops below 80% or our COD exceeds 20%; neither of these thresholds applies in Tunbridge this year. A CLA over 100% indicates that property in town is generally listed (assessed) over the statewide statistical estimation of fair market value. Education tax rates are divided by the CLA; if the CLA is over 100%, the education tax rate is adjusted downward (as will happen in Tunbridge this year).

The sales study includes valid sales from a moving window of the last 3 years. In 2017 this window included 39 valid sales, up from 32 in 2016 which was a level of activity we had not seen since 2009 (sales activity started tapering significantly after 2007, when the study included 47 sales in Tunbridge).

Our goal is always to set a fair market value for each property in town and ensure that the costs of living and working here are borne as equitably as possible across the town and across the state. (Ask yourself, "what do I think I could sell my property for on the open market?")

We are working on our northwest corner rotational visits and photo updates, as well as trying to assess any new construction or other significant changes in any part of town. Our deadline for assessing property for the 2018 Grand List is on or before April 1, 2018. Any transfers we receive on April 2nd

go on the 2019 Grand List. We will move on to the northeast quadrant rotational visits come summer. These visits are our primary process for staying current with changes, and we greatly appreciate your kindness and cooperation in scheduling and facilitating our service to the town and each of you. Feel free to stop by or give us a call.

Tunbridge Town Website

Geoff Hansen, 802-889-3373, or info@geoffhansen.com

The Town of Tunbridge website has been reorganized and rebooted. The site features town officials' contact information and meeting minutes, as well as the current and past issues of the Tunbridge Quarterly. There is also a Calendar of Events page, listing upcoming meetings and events hosted by non-profit groups. If there is information you would like included, please contact Geoff via. the email address above.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

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

Do you have talent? Do you like to sing with a group? Do you like to just have fun? Whether you want to just sit in the chorus and sing and have fun, or do an act front and center stage, the uniquely formatted annual TUNBRIDGE CIVIC CLUB SHOW is looking for you!

There are 8 rehearsals and 2 show dates: Rehearsal Dates: Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:00p.m., beginning March 21st and ending April 16th at Tunbridge Town Hall.

Show dates are Friday and Saturday, April 20th and 21st, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. also at Tunbridge Town Hall.

If you are planning on being in the show and not able to attend the first rehearsal, please let Elaine (889-5560) or Martin (356-0799) know.

This year's theme is New Orleans. Look for more information on the 66th Comedy and Musical Showcase sponsored by Tunbridge Civic Club. Proceeds from the show, after expenses, are distributed to various Tunbridge organizations.

Alliance for Vermont Communities

Michael Sacca - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

We are excited to announce the conservation of the Manning Farm in Strafford and are happy to see an important cultural asset protected and in the hands of good stewards. This success was due to the hard work of many people and several organizations and are proud that the AVC played a role in the collaborative effort. The Manning and Boles families sold the property to the Strafford Organic Creamery. The Upper Valley Land Trust coordinated the successful fundraising effort to secure a conservation easement on the property, which meant Earl and Amy could purchase the property at a reduced price, and make it a worthwhile investment for their farm. To cap off the fundraising effort, AVC put up a \$10,000 matching challenge to the community. In a few short weeks \$16,000 was raised by the surrounding Strafford community and enough money was raised to complete the project. AVC is working with the Upper Valley Trails Alliance and the Upper Valley Land Trust to create a recreational trail on the property available to the public. Thank you to everyone involved in this unique project! The conservation of the Manning Farm means this property will be protected, locally owned and productive for generations to come. We see this as a movement within our communities of working together to create local solutions by local people.

Recent News For those of you who may have missed the recent media coverage, AVC and the proposed NewVistas project have recently had stories in the Boston Globe, NPR's "Here and Now" and in the Valley News. For links to these articles and podcasts, go to <alliancevermont.org> We will be following these stories and hope to continue the public discussion moving forward. We are excited by our progress, but know that David Hall and the NewVistas project are not going away just yet, and neither are we.

Local Movement Though the NewVistas development project continues to buy land in the area, AVC is looking past the NewVistas threat. We know that community engagement and organizing will help us better understand the needs of our local economy, which is why we have created a committee focused on this part of our work. This group is made up of people from towns throughout the region and from a diverse set of backgrounds. We, the residents of this area see great potential with the natural and cultural resources found here and AVC intends to mobilize and organize to create our own vibrant future for our communities and our children. If you would like to be involved please email our coordinator, Alex Buskey at therangervt@gmail.com.

Together We Can! Thank you to everyone who has been involved in this important work. To learn more about what we do please take a look at our

website or contact Alex Buskey at therangervt@gmail.com or Michael Sacca at 889.3210. Tax deductible donations can be mailed to Alliance for Vermont Communities P.O. Box 545 South Royalton, VT 05068 or be made on our website; alliancevermont.org. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Pam Dietz, President – 889-3315

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

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

TNHN provides needed services to residents through volunteer actions and acts as a coordinator for volunteer efforts. There is no charge for any service.

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.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a non-profit organization with donations the only source of income. Our major expense is maintaining a telephone to receive and forward calls for help. Donations to help with telephone expenses would be gratefully accepted. Please mail to Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Box 2, Tunbridge, VT 05077.

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

The Tunbridge Church

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

This year The Tunbridge Church will observe several notable church milestones: the 40th anniversary of the union of the town's Baptist, Congregational and Methodist congregations, the 50th anniversary of the church's Festival of Worship service on Fair Sunday and the 185th anniversary of the South Tunbridge Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Pastor Search Committee continues its work to find a settled pastor. If anyone knows someone who would be interested in a part-time pastoral position, please refer them to www.ucc.org/ucc_ministry_opportunities, the website through which they can get church information and submit their resumes. The Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg, who formerly served United Church of Bethel, will lead worship services on Feb. 18, March 4 & 11, and April 1 & 8.

The new Children's Choir was well received when it provided the worship service music for the first time on Jan 28th. The choir will sing monthly, the next time will be Feb. 25th. New members are always welcome. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 6:15-6:45 p.m. Children's Choir Director Janet Zug can be contacted at 889-9602 or zugglassstudio@gmail.com.

On Saturday, Feb. 17, the annual Just Desserts evening of music, desserts and silent auction will be held from 7-9:30 at the Town Hall. George White & Friends and "Tweed" featuring Nancy Taube & Dr. David Indenbaum will provide music for listening, dancing and singing. Proceeds will benefit the capital fund for church buildings.

The church will welcome the coming of spring and the Easter season with a joyful worship service of music at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 18. A full band will provide accompaniment. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to join the chorus. Rehearsals will be at 7 p.m. Thursdays, March 1, 8 and 15.

The Good Friday communion service on March 30 will begin at 7:30. The April 1 Easter sunrise service will be held at the top of Strafford Road at 6 a.m. followed by breakfast at the Town Hall. The Easter worship service will begin at 10 a.m. in the church.

Super Senior Luncheons for residents in their 80s and 90s begin April 28. The Outreach Committee hosts the noon meals at the Town Hall the last Saturdays of April, June, August and October.

Thirty-two families received boxes containing Christmas dinner and a breakfast from the Community Food Shelf. The families chose from a variety of donated gift items when they went to the Parish House to pick up their boxes. The church's Outreach Committee organized the Christmas project.

The Tunbridge Central School Student Council conducted a holiday food drive and decorated the food boxes. Clever Clovers 4-H Club members made cookies. The Tunbridge Recreation Committee donated its December

Sunday breakfast proceeds of more than \$1,000 which was used for Christmas box foods, including hams. Many local people gave food, gifts, money and their time to help pack the boxes for the families.

Sunday worship services are at 10 a.m. at the Tunbridge Village church through June. The adult choir welcomes new members at rehearsals on Thursdays at 7 p.m. The Food Shelf is open Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at the Parish House which is across the road from the church.

Tunbridge Grange # 384

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

The Grange has started its 2018 Friday Night Bingo. It starts at 7 PM in the Tunbridge Town Hall (more available parking in the winter than at the Grange Hall). In addition to the usual Bingo money prizes, we also have door prizes and sell food. Come out on Friday nights, have fun, and support the Tunbridge Grange!

Watch the Randolph Herald for other future community events sponsored by the Tunbridge Grange. The Grange supports local community members in need. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7 PM 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 Marilyn(Mert)Vesper 889-5595 or Rosemary Distel at the contact info above.

Better Bones

Shelia Mitchinson - 889-5547

Classes on Tuesdays & Thursdays

6:30am - Elaine Howe 889-5560

8:30am - Shelia & Gordon Mitchinson - 889-5547

5:30pm - Kay Jorgensen - 889-5528

Classes at the Town Hall are free with weights provided. You only need to bring yourself, a towel and a bottle of water! You can pick up your liability and Medical Release Forms at the Town Clerk's office. These are required before you begin and can be turned in at your first class. Come join us or come back for renewed strength, energy and balance!

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami 889-5575 tunbridgeschoolclub@wrvsu.org

Fair Supper a Success: A large group of dedicated volunteers, led by Jen Thygesen, prepared a fabulous gourmet meal following the Tunbridge Fair Association's annual meeting on December 2. Volunteers helped plan the menu and prepare the food, sought donated items, and decorated the TCS multipurpose room for the event. Several TCS students and alumni eagerly served as wait-staff for over 120 Fair Association members and their guests. All proceeds from the event will fund student enrichment activities and teacher appreciation at TCS. Many thanks to all parents, students, community members and businesses who helped make this event a success!

Holiday Breakfast & Gift Basket Enjoyed by Teachers and Staff: As a thank you for all they do for our students, School Club organized a holiday breakfast for teachers and staff on December 11. Parent volunteers contributed delicious items that were served buffet-style in the library before the school day began. School Club also purchased classroom and office supplies (and chocolate!) as gifts waiting for teachers and staff when they returned to school in January.

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 March 12, April 2 and May 7. All are welcome to come share ideas or get involved! Children may come along to do homework, read or play games in the library.

Vital Communities Listserv

Michael Sacca 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

Fellow Tunbridge-ites, many of the towns in our immediate area have a "ListServ" in place which is hosted by Vital Communities* to foster increased communication among residents from offering items for sale, to services wanted and offered, announcements of coming events, lost and found, and to discussions of community wide interest. To sign up, go to: <https://lists.vital-communities.org/lists/info/tunbridge> then select "subscribe" on the left hand side and type in your email address.

* Vital Communities is a nonprofit organization based in White River Junction, Vermont, that brings together citizens, organizations, and municipalities in the Upper Connecticut River Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire to take on issues where an independent voice and regional approach are essential. Working together, we make our region a better place to live, work, and play every day.

Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair (FTWF)

Heather Mullen, President - 685-3269 or heather@bushwayinsurance.com

Membership in the Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair offers a unique giving opportunity for fair enthusiasts. To join, send the membership fee to:

Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair

P.O. Box 159, Tunbridge, VT 05077.

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 7:00p.m., downstairs in the Town Hall. Meetings are always open to the public.

If you have questions, please contact Heather, contact info listed above, or visit our website at www.friendsoftunbridgefair.org.

ECFiber

(East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network)

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

ECF office - 763-2262 info@ecfiber.net www.ecfiber.net

The mission of ECFiber is "To build and operate a universal, open access, fiber-to-the-premises network, bringing state-of-the art connectivity to every home, business and civic institution in all of our member towns."

ECFiber has 24 member towns. Installing fiber optic cable and hooking up all the customers who want this service takes time. The best way to get on the schedule to have your road connected is to go to www.ecfiber.net/subscribe and sign up. Then, talk to your neighbors and get them to subscribe as well. The planners are using those statistics to decide where to build next.

Each town has two delegate seats on the board which meets once a month. Tunbridge needs another volunteer to step up and join this worth while effort. Please contact Henry if you are interested in learning more about getting involved.

Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more events.

Feb.

- 16 - Tunbridge Library Winter Evenings; Bird Diva: Bridget Butler 7 p.m.
- 17 - Just Desserts, Town Hall. 7-9:30pm Desserts, see pg 13
- 27 - Pre-Town Meeting, 7:30pm in the TCS Gym.

March

- 2 - Tunbridge Public Library Winter Evenings Current Use panel with Paul Harwood, David Paganelli, Dan “Rudi” Rudell. 7 p.m.
- 3 - Shindig with “Soul Fix”, Town Hall. 7:30-10:30 \$10.
Playing upbeat Soul, Funk and R&B
- 5 - Annual School Meeting- 7:30 pm in the TCS Gym
- 6- Annual Town Meeting- 10am in the TCS Gym
- 9 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers 7:30pm Town Hall, \$8.00
- 16 - Library Winter Evenings;artist & teacher Joan Feierabend. 7pm
- 18 - Festival of Worship Service, 10am at the Village Church
- 21 - Rehearsals begin for Civic Club Variety Show, see page 10

April

- 1 - Easter Sunrise Service, 6 a.m., top of Strafford Road
followed by breakfast at the Town Hall
Easter Worship Service, 10 a.m., Village Church
- 7 - Shindig with “Dave Keller Band”, Town Hall. 7:30-10:30 \$10.
Original and classics, soul and blues music,
- 13 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers 7:30pm Town Hall, \$8.00
- 20 & 21- 66th Annual Civic Club Show, 7:30pm, Town Hall
- 28 - Super Seniors Luncheon, Town Hall, 12 p.m.

May

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

Second Sundays: All-you-can-eat breakfast, 8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.

Tunbridge Energy Committee

Todd Tyson 802-431-3433

The recently re-activated Tunbridge Energy Committee (TEC) is seeking more members to help the town lower its carbon footprint, save money through conservation/efficiency and become more independent with its increased use of renewable energy to meet its needs for electricity, heating and transportation.

The TEC supports the “climate change” resolution included on this year’s Town Warning and will present supportive, explanatory arguments on Tuesday, March 6th.

If you are interested in the TEC, contact the TEC at the email address below. Our next meeting will be on TH, April 5th at the Tunbridge Library.

Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Committee

Ben Wolfe- 889-9467 Tunbridge.Fuel.Assistance@gmail.com

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 just like you. The Committee can point you to resources, and will consider loan applications when a resident has exhausted other available resources (including state fuel assistance). 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. We want to do this better, and look forward to looking at ways that we can reach more people who are struggling financially in the cold months. With the support of the Town Energy Committee, we are looking to make connections with COVER for support in weatherizing homes. Interest has been growing for a community woodbank, keeping heating affordable and dollars local at the same time we are relying more on our productive forests, and less on fossil fuels far away. Look for meetings coming up in the coming weeks and months. Do you have wood you could contribute? Do you have labor and experience to help cut and move it? Do you need some extra wood? Let us know.

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, Shari Murawski, 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. There are lots of things we can do as a community to help one another through cold weather and tough economic times. Consider joining us at the meeting!

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