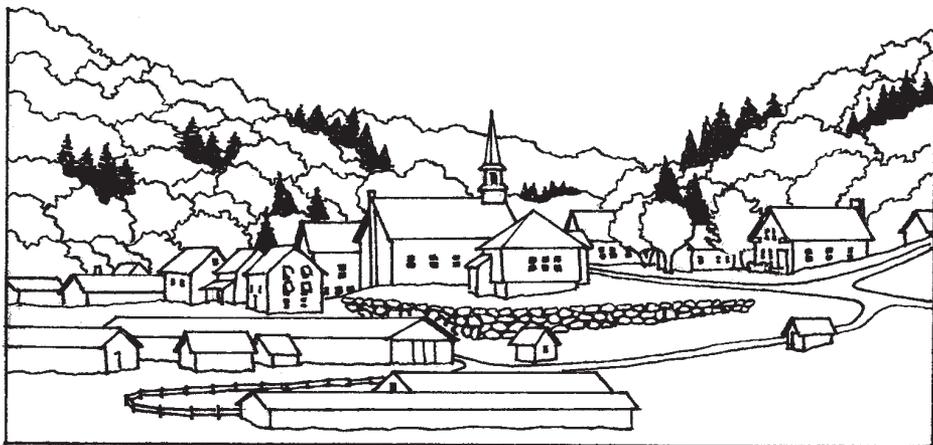


# The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



**July 1, 2018**  
**issue #53**

## **Tunbridge Select Board**

John O'Brien, Clerk 889-3474; bellwetherfilms@yahoo.com

Gary Mullen, Chair 889-3323; theflyingfarmer29@gmail.com

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair 802-272-6108, farmallfix@yahoo.com

Jackie Higgins, AA 802-505-1232; 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.

Now that the TQ will land on July 1st, it's efficiently synchronized with the end of one fiscal year (June 30th) and the beginning of another (July 1st). Although most of the funds that pay for budgeted projects arrive around the November 1st property tax deadline, July 1st is the moment when the budgets and actual spending are theoretically reset to zero. Although, this being the imperfect real world, there are always accounts and funds that are in the black or red, and it's up to the Treasurer and Selectboard to eke the town budgets (General and Highway) through the summer until the fall income arrives. This makes the fiscal year cross-over a good time for the Selectboard to review last year's budgets versus the actual spending, and learn from those figures going forward.

With grading and roadside mowing in full swing, the Class 3 roads (the dirt roads we all travel daily) are shaping up for the summer. The Class 2 roads (all the paved roads in town that are not VT RTE 110) are going to get their cracks sealed later in the summer. Rodney, Larry, Thomas and Jim are engaged in an epic battle with Mother Nature over the condition of the roads. The Road Crew is never going to "win" this battle—Erosion has never improved a road yet!—but they can extend the excellent condition of a road through maintenance and preventative action. So, while sealing cracks or replacing culverts is not cheap, it's definitely a "stitch in time saves nine" thing that stretches tax dollars a little further.

Speaking of preventative, before the milk truck ends up in the Monarch Hill brook, the anxiety-producing span at Rixford's old place is scheduled to be replaced this summer. There won't be a temp bridge, so the Spring Road will see a lot more traffic.

As the next edition of the TQ won't be out until after the Tunbridge Fair, we should mention that CVSWMD (Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District) is looking for "Waste Warriors" to help reduce the waste that is generated by 40,000 fair-goers. There will be free workshops to train helpers. "Volunteers will learn and practice ways to engage and educate the public about reducing waste," advertises the flyer, adding, "waste warrior participants will gain free access or a meal pass, with a 2-3 hour commitment.

For more information, contact Jan Lloyd or 802-229-9383 x 115 or visit [cvswmd.org/waste-warriors](http://cvswmd.org/waste-warriors).” This might be a great gig for high schoolers who have community service hours to fill!

Are you considering a career in municipal government? Don’t worry, it’s not all 24/7 budgets and ordinances. A day in the life of Jackie Higgins, our Administrative Assistant, proves that. Jackie is also Town Manager in Williamstown. It was there, not long ago, that a call came in to the Assistant Town Clerk. The caller, an elderly lady, wondered if someone could help her move her old dog, who had died the night before, to her car, so she could take it to be cremated. Jackie agreed to go. When she arrived, the elderly lady, Alice, said, “Oh, I thought they’d send a man.” Undeterred, Jackie rolled the late canine into a white sheet, and carried the 45 lb. body to the awaiting mini-van. “It was a pretty little dog, but he was old,” reported Jackie to the Select-board. This story reminded Jackie of some other memorable days (Jackie’s worked in municipal government for thirtysomething years), including having a dead sheep thrown at her (presumably killed by a neighbor’s impromptu fireworks), a flat tire thrown at her (presumably cut by hardpak on a town road), and an irate resident hiding dead fish entrails in the town office’s toilet’s reservoir. Tunbridge—we’re not perfect, but we’re nicer than “Billtown.”

## **The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly**

Janet Zug 889-9602 [zugglasstudio@gmail.com](mailto:zugglasstudio@gmail.com)

The TQ is now on a new quarterly schedule and will be delivered on or very close to the first day of January, April, July and October. The new deadline dates for submissions are the 15th of December, March, June and September. Entries are printed as received and only edited for typos and possibly space constraints. My apologies for any mistakes I miss or make!

The first issue of The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly was mailed in 2005. The idea to publish this newsletter for our town came to me on the way home from a public forum meeting our Planning Commission held on communications. The Tunbridge Broadband Committee was also formed at that time, which eventually led to ECFiber. Since then, Tunbridge volunteers and town officials have been writing entries every three months which I compile into the TQ format. Spaulding Press does the printing and then the pick up, labeling and sorting for the bulk mailing is all completed here on Dickerman Hill, often with help from my family.

Feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions.

## **Tunbridge Town Clerk**

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

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

As of June 5th, 250 dogs have been registered in Tunbridge, including many new dogs. Our records show that there are still approximately 38 Tunbridge dogs out there that are still unlicensed. You may still license your dog in person at the Town Clerks office, via mail, or the drop box located at the front entrance of the Town Office Building. Fees: altered \$11.00; non altered \$17.00. These fees include a late fee. A valid certificate of rabies is needed to license. If you no longer have your dog(s) please contact the Town Clerk so that we can adjust our records.

The Transfer station continues to be open on Wednesdays, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. in addition to the usual Saturdays. Tickets are currently available at the Tunbridge Library, Tunbridge Village General Store and the Town Clerk's Office.

Births: No new births have been recorded in Tunbridge yet for 2018.

Marriages: Emily Alissa Poe to Adam Robert Chamberlin- May 4, 2018.

Teresa Lynn Mullen to Dominic Franco Codispoti- June 2, 2018.

Deaths: No deaths have been recorded since the last Quarterly issue.

The Proposed changes in Vital Statistics: The State has put the deadline for the proposed changes in the Vital Statistics bill on hold, as the website and forms needed for this new process are not yet in place. The new projected date to go live is now October 1, 2018. I will post on our town website as soon as I have further details. When they have been put in place, the procedural changes will require anyone seeking a Certified copy of Birth or Death records, to 1) Provide ID and state what their relationship is to the individual on record, and 2) To complete and submit an application for each record they seek. The state's goal is to attempt to reduce identity theft. You will no longer be required to go to the Town where the birth or death occurred, but you can visit any Clerk's office in the state to obtain the record. Copies will no longer be made from the Clerk's recorded original. All Clerk's will be required to sign onto the Vermont Vital Statistics page online and download and print from there. Clerk's will be required to log in each and every Certified document number that they issue into the online system, and the state will then monitor the number of copies issued for any given record. This new system will not pertain to Marriage Certificates. They will continue to be available at the individual Clerk's office in which the License was issued.

Vermont will be holding both a Primary and a General Election this fall.  
Primary Election: August 14, 2018 - Tunbridge Town Hall from 7am-7 pm.  
Absentee Ballots should be available in early July.  
General Election: November 6, 2018-Tunbridge Town Hall from 7am-7 pm.  
Absentee Ballots should be available in early October.

The State of Vermont has sent me an unclaimed property disk in the hopes that I can let Tunbridge residents know that they have money out there and how to apply to receive it. I have a printed list in my office. Please feel free to stop in, give me a call, or send me an email to check if you are on it, so that any monies that are rightfully yours can be returned to you.  
Take care everyone. Enjoy summer in Tunbridge!

## **Tunbridge Town Treasurer**

Becky Hoyt - 889-3571 [treasurer@tunbridge.biz](mailto:treasurer@tunbridge.biz)

Happy Summer and end of the Fiscal Year! This year has been full of storms, small floods and other exciting weather patterns which cause our budget to have its ups and downs. Even though we have had all of those exciting weather patterns we are still going to end this year with a surplus in both the General Fund and the Highway dept. The select board did a very good job of building budgets and finding grant money to help rebuild bridges and roads effected by the flooding of last year.

I have not as of yet done all the calculations to find the finial tax numbers, but I am hopeful that this year we will have a small reduction in the tax rate. I am still waiting for the state to send me the finial number for the school tax rate, which I should have by the end of June. Once I have that, I will be able to start the process of calculating the tax rate and sitting down with the select board to make sure all of my calculations are correct. Once that is finished we should have a rate and I can start to print the tax bills and send them out hopefully around the beginning of August, if all goes well. Please remember to open your bill as soon as possible and make sure that it looks correct. If you have any questions please call me or a lister at 889-3571. We will try our best to get it worked out.

Also just to update everyone. We have a draft of the outside audit that is available if anyone is interested in reading it. The final draft will hopefully be available soon.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful summer! As always if you have any questions please contact me.

## **First Branch Unified District**

Kathy Galluzzo 565-0695 kgalluzzo@wrvsu.org

Maryann Caron 889-5694 mcaron@wrvsu.org

Jena Young 889-2804 jyoung@wrvsu.org

It has been a crazy busy spring for the school board dominated by two main topics- hiring a new principal and developing our first combined budget as a new First Branch Unified District.

On the principal search front, anything we write here will be out of date by the time this reaches your mailboxes. The process used was to form a Principal Search Committee that included 3 Board members and 4 staff or community members. That group screened applicants, interviewed a sub-set of applicants, and referred finalists on to the full Board for interviews. From there the candidates had a 2 hour school visit and a 45 minutes community interview at a Community Forum night. Initially after seeing 5 candidates in person (4 in Community Forum) an offer was made to one of the candidates but that candidate declined. More applicants were reviewed and two more candidates were then brought forth for school visits and a Community Forum. Out of those two, a candidate was selected and an offer is being made. As noted above, at the time of writing this we do not know the outcome of that offer. In all close to 30 applicants were reviewed, 7 were interviewed by the Committee, and 6 were referred to the Board. All of those 6 were then sent forward (at different times) to do a school visit and to participate in a Community Forum interview. Fingers crossed that when this hits your mailbox we will be able to say we have a principal hired.

On the budget front, we have good news to report. The budget was passed. And an important thing to note is that the informational sheets that were mailed out by the Board early in the spring do not reflect the final passed budget. It was discovered that there was a \$500,000 error in the spreadsheet where one of the sub-totals was being counted twice in the final number. Correcting that error significantly reduced the bottom-line and the tax rate. In fact, correcting for the error in the spreadsheet resulted in an Equalized Tax Rate of 1.4846. But due to the Act 46 Regulations the 1.4846 rate was more than a 5% decrease of the Equalized Tax Rate which is the maximum decrease allowed. Part of the Act 46 regulation put in place a restriction to allow no more than 5% increase/5% decrease of the Equalized Tax Rate to both protect tax payers and to protect kids. As a result, the lowest Equalized Tax Rate allowed for the First Branch Unified District in FY19 is 1.5683.

Per Act 46 Sec. 7 (b) (1) (C) “During the years in which a new district’s equalized homestead property tax rate is decreased pursuant to this subdivision (1), the rate for each town within the new district shall not

increase or decrease by more than five percent in a single year.” So the 5% min/max is in effect for the next 4 years which corresponds to the 4 years we will receive the merger tax incentives (8 cents, 6 cents, 4 cents, 2 cents). The 5% increase/decrease is off the current year tax rate. Next budget cycle we will not be able to increase or decrease more than 5% off the tax rate we established this budget cycle.

So what does this mean to us? The difference between the 1.4846 Equalized Tax Rate we were at after correcting the spreadsheet error and the 1.5683 we will have to use by law was over \$320,000. The Board felt that as the tax rate was going to be 1.5683 by law that it would be in the best interest of the communities and the newly merged district to add the \$320,000+ back into the budget. Adding back in the \$320,000+ did NOT change the Equalized Tax Rate at all due to the 5% Min/Max Regulation noted above. This brings the final total expenses to \$6,637,796 making FY19 expenses a 1.37% increase over FY18. Per pupil spending is thus \$16,210.06; which is actually a decrease in per pupil spending for both towns. The FY19 Equalized Tax Rate is 1.5683 which is the minimum it can be for the First Branch Unified District in FY19 by law as noted above. This makes the FY19 Tunbridge Homestead Tax rate 1.4121, which is a 2.51 cent increase over FY18. Of note the FY19 Chelsea Homestead Tax Rate will be 1.6130 (given the differences in the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) between the two towns) which means they will see a 3.7 cent decrease over FY18 Homestead Tax rate.

In closing the First Branch Unified District Board would like everyone to know that we meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, at 6:30, alternating meeting location between Tunbridge and Chelsea. With principal hiring (hopefully) and budget work behind us the summer will be spent exploring what our new combined district can be. Be on the lookout for notices about future Community Forums to gather your input as we do this work. Have a great summer.

## **Tunbridge Planning Commission**

Ingrid Van Steamburg 889-3459

We are nearing the end of our quinquennial Town Plan rewrite with the Selectboard holding a public hearing on July 10th. After the hearing we hope to complete the process with their approval.

We will be taking the month of July off and will be meeting again on the first Tuesday in August in the Town Office @ 6:30 pm.

We look forward to hosting several public forums/potlucks over the coming year in regards to goals in our plan and chapter topics of our plan.

## **Tunbridge Library**

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

Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404 [tunbridgelibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:tunbridgelibrary@yahoo.com)

Fern Strong, ArtSpace Coordinator, 860-986-0507; [redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com](mailto:redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com)

Come by the library to relax, cool off, catch up on computer work, or explore the collection to find novels, guides, an audiobook, or a film to enjoy. If you can't find it here-- we 'll track it down and bring it to you. Besides the collection, there are downloadable audiobooks and E-books online, and there are many events with programming for all ages and interests throughout the summer.

Sunday, July 1 at 6:30pm, we will be holding our annual reading of Frederick Douglass' famous speech "The Meaning of the Fourth of July for the Negro." Come read, listen, and reflect how the American dream fits with the American experience, and how Douglass' words both inspire and indict our nation to this day. Discussion and refreshments will follow.

The Summer Library Program (for any elementary school students and their families) will be every Monday at 6pm-- adding new discoveries, great activities, and ice cream in the ongoing Race to Read. We're encouraging each young reader to try reading at least 30 minutes a day-- giving them hours of powerful brain-building by the end of the summer. Every week has a different theme July will be Map-making; July 9 is "Code-building," and July 16 is "Questing." Come once or every week-- just sign up at the library and get details with a racing form to record your success.

As summer schedules settle in, we will also be developing a regular schedule for cartooning and writing workshops. Throughout the summer, we will be holding book events for young readers focused on a single book or theme. They include fun activities, a discussion, pizza, and a film. Young readers and their families are invited to connect with other readers, make new friends, and stretch their minds and imaginations through reading.

Meanwhile, another book discussion group is scaling new heights every month; the Upper Valley Mountain Literature Society is now embarking on "A Walk in the Woods," and will be gathering for discussion on Thursday, July 12 at 6:30. Come pick up a copy and join the hike!

A Gathering of Fiber Artists will meet Wednesday, July 18, at the library at 6 pm, before taking a late summer break. Come enjoy the company of friends and neighbors as you share your successes, questions, and ideas. You're guaranteed to leave happier than you came!

Throughout the summer we'll be having some weekend book sales. Come by for great deals on over on a treasure trove of used books.

In August, we look forward to hosting a special VINS presentation about the amazing ways birds communicate. We'll also enjoy our annual volunteer picnic; stay tuned for more details.

## The Tunbridge Church

Kay Jorgensen, 889-9828, [thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com](mailto:thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com).

This is a year of anniversaries for the church: a building 185 years old, a musical worship service celebrating its 50th year, and the 40th anniversary of the Baptist, Congregational and Methodist congregations joining to form The Tunbridge Church.

All summer Sunday services will begin at 10 a.m. During July worship services will be held at the South Tunbridge Methodist Church. A special service on July 8 will commemorate the 185th anniversary of the building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Fellowship will follow.

The July 10 Community Ice Cream Social will include a 40th church anniversary cake. All are invited to come to the Parish House lawn at 6:30 p.m. — bring a chair. The Tunbridge Historical Society's "Tunbridge Speaks" program will be held in the church at 7:30.

On July 14, the annual Community Yard Sale will be held from 7 to 2 on the Parish House lawn and at the Town Hall. Vendors, crafters market gardeners and others are invited. The 15'x15' spaces are \$20, payable that day. Contact Nancy Howe to reserve space at 889-3750. The church welcomes donations of Christmas and gently used items, excluding clothing and large furniture, for its tables. Call 889-5528 for pickup. Safeline, the non-profit that serves area victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking, will provide refreshments.

On Aug. 5 the annual outdoor service and picnic will be held at Judie Lewis's Dickerman Hill pond. Remaining August services will be at North Tunbridge Baptist Church, all at 10 a.m. The Outreach Committee will host its third Super Senior Luncheon on Aug. 25.

In September worship services will return to the Congregational Church in Tunbridge Village. All services will start at 10 with the exception of the 50th annual Festival of Worship Fair Service on Sept. 16, which will begin at 9:30. It will be a musical service with a full band and chorus of singers from around the area. Rehearsals will begin the last week in August. All are invited to participate. Contact organist/choir director Judie Lewis at 889-9490 or [singjudie@gmail.com](mailto:singjudie@gmail.com).

The Parish House at the corner of Potash Road and Route 110 will be open all summer for the Community Food Shelf on Fridays from 4-6 p.m. and AA, Al-Anon and Making Change meetings. The schedule is displayed at the front door.

The Pastor Search Committee continues to invite queries about the pastor position through [www.ucc.org/ucc\\_ministry\\_opportunities](http://www.ucc.org/ucc_ministry_opportunities). Church news is posted at [www.facebook.com/thetunbridgechurch](http://www.facebook.com/thetunbridgechurch). To receive weekly announcements by email contact [thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com](mailto:thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com).

## **Safeline Serves Tunbridge**

Lenora Kimball 889-3758

Safeline, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking in Orange County and northern Windsor County.

Joanne Goodnow served as one of this critically important agency's Board of Directors, during the early years of Safeline's development. Currently 3 residents of Tunbridge serve as Trustees: Felicity Swayze, Board Chair, has actively served Safeline for over 9 years. Lenora Kimball, over 2 years & Maureen Morriaty, who has just recently been elected to the Board.

During the fiscal year, Safeline's staff and volunteers provided services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking. 133 services were provided for 12 victims who identified themselves as residents of Tunbridge. It is likely that these statistics are understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their own safety. Most of the victims have children within their family.

One of the Trustee's responsibilities is to support Safeline's fund raising efforts. The Town of Tunbridge generously allots \$750.00 per year in our Town Budget, which goes directly to Safeline's services to our community. The agency's Annual Appeal is a major factor in the agency's operations. Other fund raising is accomplished by active Board participation. One such opportunity will be the Community Yard Sale on the Parish Lawn, July 14th. This is also the weekend of the Chelsea Flea Market. Safeline will be selling all manner of Yard Sale Items, Coffee & Baked Goods, Hotdogs & Cold Beverages. Proceeds from all sales will go directly to support the free services Safeline provides.

A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, info and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7days a week Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Survivors can also choose from a wide array of additional services including legal advocacy, day shelter services, job readiness skills development, and financial management education.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource for the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full range of prevention education for community organizations, schools, medical centers, faith communities, youth groups, and anyone who is seeking information about domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking. This year, Safeline's staff presented the "Healthy Moms, Happy Babies" program at Orange Parent Child Center, tabled and presented at Capstone's Community Dinner, plus offered "How Domestic Violence Effects Children and What You Can Do to Help" to the local school. Safeline is grateful to the voters & residents of Tunbridge for your support as we all work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse.

## **Tunbridge Board of Listers**

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

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

On June 1, 2018 we lodged the abstract of the Grand List, and Change of Appraisal in Real Estate Notices were sent. Grievances were heard June 19; any property owners not satisfied with the response to their grievance had the opportunity to appeal the decision to the Board of Civil Authority by July 10, 2018 (32 V.S.A. § 4404). If appeals go the BCA, the Town Clerk sets the date and time for these hearings. If a property owner is still unsatisfied with these decisions, they have the right to appeal to the Director of Property Valuation and Review or the Vermont Superior Court (32 V.S.A. § 4461).

These decisions determine the assessed value of all property in town, and the "As Billed" Grand List will be lodged in early August. Taxes are actually set in July-August, based on the results of the municipal budget votes at Town Meeting (and the hard work of our Town Officers that build the budgets to account for them) as well as the statewide Education tax rates. Tax bills are mailed around the 15th of August, and in Tunbridge there is one due date on November 1.

Any transfers we receive after April 1st go on the 2019 Grand List, so as we are lodging the Grand List for this year we are also trying to get caught up on accounting property transfers that have occurred in the interim, starting the ball rolling on the work ahead for the coming year.

Tunbridge has been approved to participate over the next year in a project that aims to bring consistent standards to digital parcel mapping throughout the state. Although we contracted to have our parcel maps digitized in 2005, the current effort (primarily funded by the Vermont Agency of Transportation with help from other project partners) offers enormous potential for making better use of digital maps by a broad spectrum of stakeholders. For more information feel free to talk to Dan (rudi) Ruddell.

We will move on to the northeast quadrant rotational visits come summer (east of VT Rte 110 and, roughly, north of Potash and Kibling Hill Roads). We will be sending out post cards soon and you will receive one if you are in this section of town. 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, office hours listed above.

## **Tunbridge Conservation Commission**

Aaron Weed - 889-3282 aaron.weed@gmail.com

Cold pools and slimy creatures were central to the activities of conservation commission (TCC) this spring. Why you may ask? Well the answer is related to the TCC's goal of increasing awareness about the location and condition of unique ecological communities in town. Vernal pools are one of those communities -- they form in the spring after snow melt typically in small, isolated depressions within our local forests. Because they dry up in the summer and therefore cannot support hungry fish year round, these pools have become home to a unique assemblage of animals, namely amphibians, that require these pools for breeding each spring. But it's not only the frogs, salamanders, fairy shrimp, and diversity of insects that care about these pools -- vernal pools are also important sources of water for wildlife and the large number of amphibians that grow in these pools provide a rich source food for predatory birds and other animals.

In an effort to document vernal pools across the town and educate residents about vernal pool ecology and the identification of associated critters, the TCC organized a workshop at the end of April. The workshop, which was kindly sponsored by the UV Chapter of the Sierra Club and lead by Strafford resident and Vermont Center of Ecostudies' (VCE) biologist Steve Faccio, involved a visit to a local pool where participants listened to Steve talk about vernal pool ecology and learned about identifying vernal pool critters. Despite the cool temperatures we received great attendance; the majority of attendees being from Tunbridge but we also had participants from Royalton, Sharon, Strafford, and Braintree. While the diversity we encountered during the workshop was not as we had hoped for, likely due to the cool spring temperatures delaying development, we did encounter wood frogs at the beginning of their breeding season and Steve found the first Tunbridge town record of the Jefferson's salamander -- a species of special concern in VT! Thank you all for you attendance and to the landowners for providing us access to your pool!

After the workshop the TCC and town residents visited suspect locations across Tunbridge to verify whether they were active pools or not. As a result of Betsy Gaiser's hard work and through responses from local landowners, the TCC was granted permission from residents to visit 10 of 16 locations that were identified in the past by the state as potential vernal pools sites. If you would like to see the locations of these sites or learn more about the project please visit : <https://vtecostudies.org/projects/forests/vernal-pool-conservation/vermont-vernal-pool-mapping-project/>.

Despite not being successful in securing grant money to help with the basic equipment needs for this project, town residents in cooperation

with the TCC were able to visit all 10 suspected locations and an additional two locations suggested by residents. Of these, 8 were confirmed to be vernal pools: each had breeding amphibian species that are closely associated with vernal pools and the pools themselves fit the criteria. Wood frogs were found in all 8 pools and the majority of sites also had (mole) salamander egg masses or adults and some sites recorded fairy shrimp & an array of other species.

I first want thank everyone that assisted with this effort and to the landowners that permitted access to your properties and gave permission to include your data in the state database. I also want to extend special thanks to Betsy for conducting most of the pool visits and for her leadership in coordinating the project. The TCC will archive the data for the town's records and will submit the data forms to the state so that the information can be included in the statewide database. From now until next spring we will compile other suspected pool locations in town so if you know of additional locations that should be checked please contact either Betsy or myself.

## **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 Women's Group**

Elaine Howe 889-5560

Local women are invited to send their email addresses to Elaine Howe at [ehowe2@wrvsu.org](mailto: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.

## **Alliance for Vermont Communities**

Michael Sacca - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

The mission of Alliance for Vermont Communities is to protect working farms, forests and communities of central Vermont and to promote responsible development that will sustain the rural heritage and values for present and future generations.

Most people in the area know AVC as the group opposing the NewVistas development. That is still true today as it was 2 years ago when we incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit. What people may not know is that at our formation we decided to state what we didn't want, and work at what we did want for our communities. The Alliance is actively partnering with local and state organizations to create a positive, thriving place that builds on its agrarian and forestry related roots and that continues to be a place where we hunt, hike and connect with the land. If you have ideas for how to help make that happen, please contact us. Recreation is a key activity here. Read on to learn one way AVC is promoting it.

### The Ranger

On June 10, we held our second annual Ranger bike ride and community celebration at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. Two hundred cyclists from 10 states and Canada celebrated the area with a "gravel enduro" ride up and down the hills of Tunbridge and Strafford. This year new to the Ranger through a collaboration with the Rochester/Randolph Area Sports Trail Alliance (RASTA), Mason Racing Cycles and Kim Coleman of Trek Bikes was the Junior Ranger ride for children and families, as well as the women's supported group ride. We believe the outdoor recreation community has a direct and deeply personal interest in the protection of our landscapes and the experiences they offer. The more effort we put into including a diverse group of people and inspiring and educating our youth to the importance of these special places, the more powerful our voice will be in cultivating a strong vibrant community into the future.

Hundreds of community members joined the gathering to enjoy music, food, fun and games. Local bands Sensible Shoes and Haywire kept people hopping, food vendors (NOFA-VT, Kiss The Cow Farm and Trail Break) kept our bellies happy, cow pie bingo and the "Nearly Famous" 1966 Ford Falcon van (turned photo booth) set the stage for laughs and fun. Brocklebank and Upper Pass breweries again teamed up and served an incredible brew, Together We Can, specially made for the event. A host of volunteers and organizations made the event a huge success for our communities and as a fundraiser for AVC. Two beautiful trophies made by Mario and Isaac Sacca were awarded to the woman and man who had the fastest time in the timed

sections of the ride. You can see images on our Facebook page and on Instagram at @alliancevermont and soon, on our website.

### Together We Can!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to or been involved with our 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 AVC P.O. Box 545 South Royalton, VT 05068 or be made on our website [www.alliancevermont.org](http://www.alliancevermont.org).

## **Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department**

Emily Howe 889-3474 [emilylouisehowe@yahoo.com](mailto:emilylouisehowe@yahoo.com)

Hello all! I'm Emily Howe, the recently elected Fire Department Clerk, taking over for Jena Young who now faces challenges on the merged School Board. (Please forgive any rookie mistakes I may make!) The Memorial Day Chicken BBQ, held on the Fairgrounds was a success. We raised our meal prices a dollar apiece this year due to food costs going up. We made \$5,894.00 which, after expenses are deducted, is just about the right amount needed to purchase a new-to-us compressor, with very few hours on it. It was a good deal and will be a handy piece of equipment for years to come.

Engine Two is needing radiator repairs to pass inspection and is being assessed by McCleod's in Barre.

Lots of training sessions are in the works for the summer, as well as helping the Town Road Crew wash the bridges. We are planning on holding our Haunted Trail fundraiser again the weekend before Halloween, so anyone who wishes to volunteer is asked to contact me or any other Department member. We will need spooks and ghouls to people the woods, and also would very much appreciate our area bakers donating the fresh doughnuts that sold out last year!

We are having a drier-than-usual season thus far. Be safe and careful with your campfires, and for bonfires or burn piles, call Brenda Field at 889-5548 for burn permits. Happy summer!

## **Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Pam Dietz, President – 889-3315

Maxine Young, Secretary – 763-8274 - [youngvt@myfairpoint.net](mailto:youngvt@myfairpoint.net)

For TNHN 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.

## **Tunbridge Town Website**

Geoff Hansen, 802-889-3373, or [info@geoffhansen.com](mailto:info@geoffhansen.com)

It's been great to hear from so many of you about the new and improved Town of Tunbridge website! We continue to build upon it -- please let us know about improvements you would like to see. 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.

Contact Geoff via the email address above with questions and suggestions.

## **Chelsea Area Senior Center**

Susan Pirie, 685-2290, [chelseaseniorcenter@gmail.com](mailto:chelseaseniorcenter@gmail.com)

Tunbridge seniors are invited to attend noon congregate meals on Mondays and Fridays at the Chelsea Area Senior Center in the United Church of Chelsea on the North Common. Meals on Wheels delivery in Tunbridge is available those days.

The Senior Center, which is affiliated with the Central Vermont Council on Aging, serves residents of Tunbridge, Chelsea and Vershire. It offers entertainment, health speakers, blood pressure clinics, foot clinics by appointment, trips and fundraisers.

For additional information contact director Susan Pirie, 685-2290, [chelseaseniorcenter@gmail.com](mailto:chelseaseniorcenter@gmail.com)

## **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.

## **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

At the ECFiber governing board meeting on June 12 they made it official. All roads in Tunbridge will be built out in 2019. Investments in Tunbridge alone will be approx. \$2.1 million. None of this comes out of taxpayers pocket and the 24 town of ECF owns the system.

If you want the earliest possible connection or just want to support this effort go to <http://www.ecfiber.net/subscribe/> and subscribe. There is no contract nor obligation due to having subscribed. You will be contacted when your address is ready for service.

I want to give a big thanks those that have already subscribed as it put us over the top for being chosen for this build.

## **Tunbridge Fuel Loan Assistance Committee**

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

This 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. The goal is to keep our community strong and connected, and to make sure that everyone has the ability to stay warm.

We'll be meeting this summer to touch base and think ahead, with a tentative date of Thursday, July 19 at 6 pm at the Library Community Room. How are we doing? What can we do better, and what can we try completely new? Is a loan process the best way to help folks in need or is there another model that we should consider? What's the easiest way to connect people with fuel resources? Weatherizing resources? How do you start a local wood bank? We'll be considering these questions and more, and we'd love to have you join us to come up with good answers to help everyone in our community through challenging economic times and cold winters ahead.

## **Making Change**

Lisa Kippen 889-9822 [www.secondwindfound.org](http://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.

## **Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair (FTWF)**

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

The FTWF will hold their annual pot luck lunch and meeting on July 29th. It will start at noon with the pot luck and meeting, followed by the duck race. Racing will start at the foot bridge and end at the south gate. Ducks are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. See any member of the FTWF to purchase tickets, or get them at the library. Prizes are \$250 for 1st, \$150 for 2nd, and \$100 for 3rd. There will also be other prizes donated from local business's. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, it helps us to continue to make improvements around the grounds, plus it is just a really fun time, we hope to see you there!

You can become a member of the FTWF as well, dues are \$25 a year and we meet the second Wednesday of the month at the town hall at 7pm. Meetings are always welcome to the public so stop in anytime. ,Also-sending a special thank you to Joanne Goodnow for all she has done to help us through the years, you mean a lot to us and you will surely be missed.

## **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.vitalcommunities.org/lists/info/tunbridge>  
then select "subscribe" on the left hand side and type in your email address.

## **Tunbridge Walking Group**

Maxine Young-802-763-8274 youngvt@myfairpoint.net.

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. Anyone is welcome to join us. You do not have to live in Tunbridge. Contact Maxine Young, to be added to our e-mail list .

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.

## Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more info.

### July

- 1 - Tunbridge Library, 6:30pm, Reading of Frederick Douglass' famous speech "The Meaning of the Fourth of July for the Negro."
- 8 - S. Tunbridge Methodist Church 185th commemorative service, 10am
- 10 - Ice Cream Social, Parish House lawn. 6:30pm, BYO Chair  
Tunbridge Historical Society "Tunbridge Speaks" at church, 7:30 p.m.
- 12-15 - Woodstock and Green Mountain Dog Shows, on the fairgrounds  
[www.woodstockdogclub.org](http://www.woodstockdogclub.org), [www.greenmountaindogclub.org](http://www.greenmountaindogclub.org)
- 13 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00  
Live Music, refreshments at intermission
- 14 - Community Yard Sale on Parish House Lawn, 7am - 2pm, see pg 8.  
The 15'x15' exhibitor spaces are \$20, payable that day.

### Aug

- 5 - Annual outdoor worship service and potluck picnic hosted by The Tunbridge Church at 183 Dickerman Hill Rd.
- 10 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00  
Live Music, refreshments at intermission
- 18 - Vermont Nanobrewery Festival  
12:00-6:00 pm, Tunbridge Fairgrounds  
12 small breweries, 4 food trucks, 2 bluegrass bands  
\$10 tickets at [vtnanofest.eventbrite.com](http://vtnanofest.eventbrite.com)

### Sept

- 13-16 - 147th Tunbridge World's Fair !!
- 16 - Festival of Worship Fair Service with chorus and band,  
The Tunbridge Church, 9:30 a.m.
- 29&30 - VT Sheep & Wool Festival on the Fairgrounds  
[www.sheepandwoolfest.com](http://www.sheepandwoolfest.com)

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

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly  
P.O. Box 68  
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