

The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



October 1, 2018
issue #54

Tunbridge Select Board

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“Take me home, country roads.” This summer, if you happened to live on Monarch Hill Road, you could have sung all of John Denver’s song (and, perhaps, Toots and the Maytals’ version, too) by the time you’d driven up the Spring Road and back down Monarch to get to your home. Fortunately, by the time you read this, the brand new Monarch Hill Road bridge may be open for use by residents, milk trucks and coyotes. If the concrete is still curing by publication (who knew that concrete, like cheddar, needs time to mature), it should be aged to perfection by the first week in October.

The Monarch Hill bridge wasn’t the only bridge in Tunbridge getting attention this summer. Water had worked in behind the stones in the Foundry Road bridge abutments and this required chinking (squeezing smaller stones in the cracks) to stabilize the abutments. The Howe bridge needed a punky beam replaced. The Randall Hoyt Company ably repaired both these bridges.

Once Monarch Hill is accessible from the Fire Station side, it’s worth a Sunday drive up the road to see the ditching and culverting that the Road Crew and Loftus Construction did from the Ware’s down. This was part of a Better Back Roads grant and Tunbridge’s part of the matching grant was to execute the work.

To keep those nice U-ditches open, the Road Crew requested a PTO-driven leaf blower, something Rodney has seen used efficiently by the Sharon Road Crew. The Selectboard approved of this purchase.

The Road Crew is also testing backhoes, expecting to replace the old Case by the time the snow flies. Case, Cat and John Deere are all vying for our business.

Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel, Mary Anne, did an expert job making a slope to stabilize the infamous crumbling wall behind the Town Offices. Did I say “Mike Mulligan?” I meant to say Matt Loftus. We would also like to thank the Union Agricultural Society (AKA, the Fair) for giving us a footing to work from.

Rodney asks Tunbridgians two favors: One, apple trees often over-spread town roads, scraping town vehicles and other big rigs. It’s town policy

not to prune fruit trees, but it would be much appreciated if landowners kept their Granny Smiths in line. Two, storm water often runs right down drive-ways into the town roads, either gullyng out the bigger road or leaving a delta of rubble in the right-of-way. Landowners who can divert the storm water before it reaches the town road are doing the town a great service.

More inconvenience ahead: The Town Hall kitchen is due to get a beautiful makeover in October. This will mean no kitchen use for four to six weeks. Jonni Spaulding of Catamount Kitchens has been coordinating this effort, and, after getting good feedback from residents and resident cooks (the Rec Dept.), she is ready to find a contractor who can turn her 3D plans into 3D reality.

Batchelder Associates has finished the outside audit, with recommendations on tightening controls. With guidance from the Town Auditors, the Selectboard voted to accept the audit and move forward with another outside audit for FY 17/18. Auditing firms will be auditioning, this fall, for this job.

The Selectboard would like to take credit for all those Monarch butterflies flying around Tunbridge this summer, but, to be honest, we had nothing to do with it. There is no line item for milkweed in the budget.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglassstudio@gmail.com

The TQ is mailed to everyone that owns property and/or resides in Tunbridge. The submission deadline dates are the 15th of December, March, June and September. Entries are printed as received and only edited for typos and space constraints.

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

Tunbridge Town Website

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

Tunbridge's town website continues to be a resource for information from the Town Clerk, board meetings, upcoming events and past issues of the Tunbridge Quarterly. Please let us know if there's something you would like to see listed, or have any questions.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

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

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

The Primary Election was held on August 14th, 2018, with 242 Tunbridge voters participating.

The General Election will be held on November 6, 2018 at the Tunbridge Town Hall. Polls will be open from 7:00 am till 7:00 pm. If you are a resident and have not yet registered to vote, you may do so at the Clerk's Office, DMV, or online at My Voter Page on the Secretary of States website. Absentee Ballots will be available at the Clerk's Office 45 days prior to the Election.

Important update- You may request an Absentee Ballot for a family member by filling out the Absentee Request form. You may NOT, however, take that Ballot from the office. It is required by law to then be mailed to the voter. Election updates state that "No other person except the voter can pick up a ballot for a voter- not the spouse, not the son or daughter, not the parent."

For the elderly or disabled- If you cannot leave your home, you may either request an Absentee Ballot be mailed to you, or 2 Justices of the Peace may bring your Ballot to your home, wait while you complete it, and then return it to the Town Clerk.

Births: Calvin Cross Chapman- born July 14 to parents-

Ann Cross Chapman & Randall Corey Chapman.

Marriages: Jessica Marie Patterson to Stephen Mathew Rogers, August 4

Deeann Jean D'Amico to John Gary Oliver, August 25

Daniel George Guertin to Kevin James Lewis, September 1,

Heather Elise Buckner to Sean Thomas Ogle, September 2

Beverly Jean Curulla to Mark William Curulla, September 2

Deaths: Lorna Gregoire, July 28

Ruth O. Berger, August 16

Town Hall Kitchen- The kitchen in the Town Hall is being renovated! There will be no reservations accepted for the month of October. Other areas of the Town Hall will continue to be available, so be sure to check with Judy Howe at (802) 889-3487 when planning any October event that might require use of those spaces.

WHERE DO I GO FOR? There seems to be a little bit of confusion as to which office does what here in the Town Offices. In order to best direct you to the office that can best meet your needs here is a short list of where to go for specific services:

Town Clerk's office- (802) 889-5521-Land Records, Deeds, Surveys, Birth Records, Death Records, Marriage licenses and marriage records, Dog licenses, Transfer Station tickets, Voter registration, Green Mountain Passports, Property Posting, Selectboard minutes, misc. copying and faxing, and Notary services.

Treasurer's office- (802) 889-3571-Property Taxes are mailed out by and are payable to the Treasurer. All Accounts payable and receivable, Town and School payroll, Tax Exempt forms, Insurance records, Vendor records, Current and Delinquent Tax information.

Lister's office- (802) 889-3571-Lister Cards, Tax Bills, Parcel maps, Assessment information, Subdivision information, Flood Plain information, new 911 addresses, Grievances, Homestead filings.

Contact information for all Town Officers is posted on the Tunbridge website- www.tunbridgevt.org. Please visit the site and look around a bit. There is a lot of good information posted there as well as some wonderful pictures of Tunbridge.

If there are any other suggestions as to what you could like to see included in my Quarterly Reports, please feel free to give me a call. Take care and enjoy the fall!

First Branch Ambulance

Judy Tucker - 889-3305 judytucker1@myfairpoint.net

The First Branch Ambulance wants to thank everyone who stopped by our booth at the Fair and contributed to our fund raising.

We continue to look for people interested in volunteering for the ambulance as EMTs or paramedics. Please stop by the fire station in Chelsea to learn of current opportunities to serve our area. Currently there are 8 first responders living in the town of Tunbridge.

There is also a position open for another town representative. The volunteer is asked to attend one meeting, the third week of every month in Chelsea at 7pm.

Red signs are still available by calling me at the number above

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

Tunbridge Board of Listers

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

lister@tunbridge.biz)

For quarterly rotation this year we are focusing on the northeast corner of town and have sent out notices that we hope to be doing brief exterior inspections and updating our photos of properties in that portion of town. We also try to schedule a visit when there is new construction or significant changes to property in any portion of town.

We are still working on Homestead Declarations and Property Tax Adjustment requests. Significant processing delays related to an unanticipated need for manual error checking at the state level this year have meant that timely filed homestead and property tax adjustments (credited as "STATE PAYMENT" on eligible tax bills) have not showed up properly on some of the tax bills issued at the end of August. Another round of property tax adjustment credits were issued September 7, as will an additional round on November 1 - which is when taxes are due. Revised tax bills will be issued if a Homestead Declaration or Property Tax Adjustment is corrected in this process. If you think you filed on time and should have received a state payment, feel free to give our office a call. If we cannot resolve your issue VT Taxpayer Services phone number is 802-828-2865 which may help clarify the issue.

Although the deadline for late filing has been extended by the legislature to October 15, it is in your best interest to file your Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment by April 15 (the actual due date) so the town receives the state payment in a timely fashion. In addition, please make sure to use the correct SPAN (School Property Account Number) from your previous year's tax bill, or feel free to give our office a call to get your SPAN number. Many of the errors that needed to be manually checked this year came from incorrect SPAN numbers.

While we have not fully assembled the numbers for this year, preliminary evidence indicates more market activity this year than in the last several years, and several recent sales have come in above the current town-assessed value. Our last town-wide reappraisal was in 2010, and our Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) crept up each year until 2016-2017, after which it started to drop again (101.79%, 102.75%, 106.04%, 111.95%, 114.93%, 116.38%, 111.06%). The CLA is based on a statewide sales study, and is an equalization adjustment designed to bring each town's grand list to fair market value and thus level the field between towns when calculating education taxes. The 2018-2019 CLA revision will be released January 2019.

<http://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/Intro%20to%20Vermont%27s%20Equalization%20Study.pdf>

Office hours are Tuesday and Friday 9-3. Feel free to stop by or call.

Tunbridge Grange # 384

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

The Annual Grange Harvest Dinner will be held Saturday, October 20th at the Grange Hall in North Tunbridge. Our Harvest Supper has always been very popular in serving the typical New England boiled dinner; ending with a huge selection of homemade pies for dessert! \$12 adults; \$6 children under 10.

Due to the large turnouts, this year we are requesting people to RSVP for a setting at either 5:00 or 6:15, (or 7:00, if necessary). Walk-ins are welcome, but only if space is available. Early arrivals can wait upstairs in the main hall and see our beautiful historic hand-painted "Grand" drapery (roll-drop stage curtain). Please call Mert Vesper to RSVP with the time requested and number of seats at 889-5595.

Please consider joining the Grange so we can continue to keep this worthy organization going. We try to meet the first Wednesday of the month and the meetings usually only last about an hour and then we have good conversation and snacks! You don't have to commit to every meeting or every fundraiser, but we've love to have you. The Grange is located on Rte 110 in the North Tunbridge village.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Elaine Howe, President, 889-5560 ehowe2@wrvsu.org

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

The Civic Club annual meeting will be held Monday, October 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs Town Hall. All are welcome to attend. The agenda will include discussion for the upcoming show, election of officers and other business. Current officers are President - Elaine Howe; Vice-President - Butch Howe; Treasurer - Jory Innes; Secretary - Maxine Young; Directors - Martin Young, Jr. and Donna Alden Locke.

As with many organizations, the Civic Club is in transition and we are looking for new ideas to include how to diversify our annual show to make it more appealing to a larger audience. We appreciate those of you who support our efforts from year to year, however, after expenses, we are not able to distribute funding to support as many local organizations as the original intent was. This will be the main topic of discussion at our annual meeting, so please come with your suggestions. If you are not able to attend, you could email Maxine or Elaine with your ideas.

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 weather and seasons are changing... constantly. Whether your needs are consistent from week to week or you're facing new challenges, the library is here to help. We offer diverse reference services, as well as resources such as museum passes and online courses and subscriptions. In our immediate collection we have thousands of novels to help put life in perspective, and we have thousands more titles in our non-fiction section to enrich your life and expand your mind.

Keep in mind that a Gathering of Fiber Artists meets at the Library on first and third Wednesdays, from 6 to 8 pm. Come enjoy the company of friends and neighbors as you share your successes, questions, and ideas. You'll be glad you came!

The current art exhibit is a collection of the photography of Allison Clayton. Raised in the First Branch valley, Allison captures familiar scenes and images with a clarity and creativity. This show runs through November 3.

Every four to six weeks. The Upper Valley Mountain Literature Society hosts book discussion at the library with the facilitation of Wright Frost—an able mountaineer in his own right! We'll be exploring a new title every four to six weeks, and the library will make copies available to anyone interested in joining the expedition.

For newly independent readers (8 and up) we are assembling a new discussion group, starting with exciting mysteries for October. On top of this, there will be monthly events for youth to explore our area with a twist—we're developing the guides for people to follow. Kids and their families are invited to come 'questing' with us!

Story Hours continue every other Saturday morning. Look for additional events, including our Halloween evening, Stone Soup in November, and a visit from Mr & Mrs. S. Claus in December.

Look for additional events for entertainment and enrichment in the coming weeks. Next up, we'll be having evening events to teach you how to use online resources, including downloadable audiobooks and E-books.

The library is a place to work, study, read, or just catch up with friends and neighbors. We hope you stop by and see what's new this week, and let us know how we can be helpful to you. As always, we're eager how we can serve you better.

If you are enthusiastic or curious about knitting, crocheting, tatting, or any other fiber arts, there is a dedicated Fiber Art group that meets here in the library first and third Wednesdays at 6pm. Upcoming dates will include May 16, June 6, June 20, and July 18 (skipping the Fourth of July).

In recognition of the Fourth of July we will be hosting a community reading made possible by the Vermont Humanities Council. When Frederick Douglass was asked to speak to an audience of urban elite in 1852 in honor of Independence Day his response was both a courageous declaration of the dignity of all people, and an indictment of all who ignore the cries for justice and liberty for their fellow human brothers and sisters. Come join us on Sunday, July 1st at 6:30pm for this event. No preparation is required.

Better Bones

Kay Jorgensen 889-5528

Classes on Tuesdays & Thursdays

6:30am - Elaine Howe 889-5560

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. Come join us or come back for renewed strength, energy and balance!

Chelsea Area Senior Center

Susan Pirie, 685-2290, chelseaseniorcenter@gmail.com

Tunbridge seniors are invited to attend noon congregational 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

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 Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Pam Dietz, President – 889-3315

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

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

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

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.

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.

Our annual meeting to elect officers and board members will be held Tuesday, October 2 at 6:30 in the Library Community Room. Current officers are President Pam Dietz; Vice President and Treasurer Pat Howe; Secretary Maxine Young.

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

HELP US HELP OUR NEIGHBORS WITH A DONATION! THANK YOU

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 Auditors

e-mail: Since the auditors e-mail does not work, please e-mail one of the auditors personally with questions or concerns.

Auditors: Maxine Young – Maxine.young976@gmail.com, (763-8274); Betsy Race – betsymac9@gmail.com; Linda Hoyt – hoytfarm@sover.net.

Work on the town report has started. For the financial information, the first step is reconciliation of all funds balances and then creating the fund report pages for town report. It will be interesting and a bit of a challenge as reports from the NEMRC accounting system are presenting in different formats.

For formatting, inputting reports, and design layout, to start, all outside written and financial reports for FY 17 are needed as soon as possible. Although the deadline is December, it would be awesome if FY 17 reports were sent much sooner (October would be nice!!)

REMINDER: For the Town Report, the following deadlines will apply for financial and narrative reports. For groups following a July-June fiscal year, all reports are due by December 1, 2018. For those organizations following a calendar year, including the Delinquent Tax Report and School Budgets, reports are due January 4, 2019. If we do not receive the reports by the deadlines, we cannot guarantee that we can include them in the Town Report. Submit to Maxine at above email. The Board of Auditors welcomes questions and we are happy to set up a meeting with any organization requiring our assistance with reporting. If you wish an appointment, contact Betsy at the above email.

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.

Alliance for Vermont Communities

Michael Sacca - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

Dear Friends.

The Alliance for Vermont Communities has been busy planning and thinking about our work and the continued importance of our efforts now that David Hall has publicly stated that he is withdrawing NewVistas from Vermont. Below are some updates on our work.

The Future of the NewVistas Land

The fate of the 1554 acres of Land purchased by New Vistas Foundation/ Windsorange, LLC is yet to be determined. There have been some conversations among conservation organizations and town officials, but coordination is complex. We at AVC feel there is potential that the situation may offer a unique opportunity to take a long view at conservation and land use possibilities in our region.

The Upper Valley Land Trust has taken the lead in conversations with David Hall. Hall has said that he wanted to sell or make a deal that involves all the land but there is some indication that the possibility of it happening is slim. Mr. Hall has said he has an interest in conserving some of the land though he has begun to list the properties separately. One notable parcel on the market is the 500 acre Clifford Farm at a listing price of 2.9M. We will keep you updated as more is learned.

Meeting With The Governor

A group of 6 representatives from the Upper Valley met with Governor Scott on August 29th. The primary goal of the meeting was to discuss what actions have been successful in dealing with rural economic development in the state. Four areas of interest were education, a land based economy, housing and recreation opportunities.

Attending were:

Governor Scott, Tayt Brooks, Dir. of Affordability and Economic Initiatives, representing the Governor's office, Tim Briglin, State Representative from Thetford; Strafford and Sharon; Sarah Danly, Farm to Plate/ Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund; Zac Freeman, Rochester/Randolph Area Sports Trail Alliance (RASTA); Brenda Petrella, AVC board member; Alex Buskey, AVC Outreach Coordinator; Michael Sacca, AVC board president.

A follow up roundtable is planned around the topic of economic development with selected economic development innovators from around the state, state officials and the Governor's office. No date has been set, please watch for details.

Ashley Community Forest

AVC, with the assistance of the Vermont Land Trust, purchased the 218 acre Ashley parcel in early June of this year. With an offer on this unique piece of property from NewVistas in January of 2018, we jumped at the opportunity to conserve it for recreation and forestry purposes. The Ashley parcel borders the Manning Farm, purchased by Strafford Organic Creamery and conserved by the Upper Valley Land Trust early this year.

AVC board members have met with town officials from both Strafford and Sharon to give an overview of how the project came to be, the recreation and forestry potential of community forests and the process and challenges of creating a management plan. We will be continuing our discussions with both towns and our partners at the Vermont Land Trust in the coming weeks.

We had a great walk with a small group through some existing trails on the property. There was a lot of excitement around the time spent exploring the remnants of the original homestead. The stone work left behind is incredible and we hope it will serve as a great historical education site in the future. In general there has been a positive outlook from both towns on the future of the land as a community forest and outdoor recreation hub. Watch for the announcements of public discussions in early fall as well as a date for an outing on the property. A sincere thank you to all of you for investing in a truly sustainable and vibrant future for these communities.

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. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Tax deductible donations can be mailed to AVC P.O. Box 545 South Royalton, VT 05068 or be made on our website alliancevermont.org.

The Tunbridge Church

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

Worship services are being held at the Congregational Church in Tunbridge Village, after a summer of worship at the South Tunbridge Methodist Church. Sunday services begin at 10 a.m. The candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7 p.m. All are invited to any service.

On Oct. 6 the annual Anything Apple Harvest Fest will be held from 11-2 at the Tunbridge Town Hall and Parish House lawn. It will feature soup and sandwiches, apple foods for eat-in and take-out, silent auction of goods and services and apple pie judging. Community groups and farm, crafts and exhibitor participants are invited to set up on the lawn. Proceeds will go to the capital fund for Parish House improvements. For information contact Kay Jorgensen, 889-5528, kjayvt@gmail.com

During the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas season the church will be remembering its neighbors. Thanksgiving bags with treats for senior and homebound residents will be packed and delivered. Several weeks later groups will carol and take poinsettias to seniors' homes. And the Outreach Committee and Community Food Shelf will fill boxes with everything needed for Christmas dinner, from meat to decorated cookies, and display gift items for families to choose from.

Donations of Thanksgiving bag baked goods, Christmas gift items and funds for food purchases are welcome. Monetary donations may be mailed to Food Shelf Treasurer Euclid Farnham, 24 The Crossroad, Tunbridge, VT 05077.

The church recently started providing lunch once a month for volunteers who are building an Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity house off Howe Hill Road in Sharon. Lunches are made at the Parish House and delivered to the site.

Before winter the Parish House front doorway will be rebuilt. It will replicate the circa 1830 original, which was identical to that on the brick house at the Tunbridge Public Library.

The Community Food Shelf is open Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at the Parish House at the corner of Potash Road and Route 110. AA, Al-Anon and Making Change meet weekly at the Parish House. Their schedules are posted at the front door.

The Pastor Search Committee continues to invite queries about the pastor position. Information about the church is available at www.ucc.org/ucc_ministry_opportunities.

Visit the church at www.facebook.com/thetunbridgechurch. To receive the weekly announcements and bimonthly newsletter by email contact thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Emily Howe 889-3474

The Volunteer Fire Department had another successful coin drop during the Tunbridge World's Fair! With most department members needing to be working elsewhere on the Fairgrounds as part of emergency services, and local volunteers running short these past few years, we decided to hire the VTC Cross Country Team to man the coin-drop part of the time. The students did a great job and the money paid to them went towards their own fundraising efforts for their programs.

We will be working with the school in October to do a Fire Safety Day with the children. This has always been a popular program as well as a good opportunity to teach local children about fire safety, both preventative measures and emergency procedures in the case of a fire.

Our 2nd Annual Haunted Trail Fundraiser will be held again at Landgoes Farm on the nights of Friday, October 26th & Saturday the 27th. This event was a lot of fun last year and raised quite a bit of money for our department. We could most certainly use more volunteer help with either the haunting, parking cars, running the refreshment table, making doughnuts to be sold, keeping things organized, etc. Donations of spooky stuff are also very welcome. Please contact a member of the fire department for more info, or call Clerk, Emily Howe at the number above. Volunteers working on the trail must be 18 years of age, available both nights we are open, and be pre-approved and assigned to a station. If anyone has good ideas for improvement, or comments on last year's event, feel free to pass those along.

With winter approaching, make sure you get your chimneys cleaned, furnaces serviced, and replace your smoke detector batteries! Have a safe and happy fall!

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami 889-5575 tunbridgeschoolclub@wrvsu.org

What is School Club? School Club is an organization dedicated to providing enrichment activities and services to students, families, staff and teachers at TCS. Anyone can participate and there are no membership dues.

How can you participate? School Club provides many opportunities for parents, teachers and community members to connect with one another, share ideas, plan activities and more. We welcome volunteers of all interests and abilities. Skills such as organization management, bookkeeping, fundraising, event planning, public relations, cooking/baking, etc. are helpful.

What are School Club funds used for? Last year, School Club provided support for the Back-to-School potluck; movie site license; Grades 1 & 2 “Dairy in the Classroom” field trip to Vermont Tech; student gifts at the holiday concert; the holiday breakfast for teachers and staff; classroom supplies for teachers at the New Year; Winter Carnival; a Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon; flowers and cake for the graduation ceremony and the last day of school picnic.

How is money raised? School Club organizes two major fundraisers each year: the Chicken Pie Community Supper and the catered Fair Supper after the annual meeting of the Union Agricultural Society. This year, we are looking for volunteers to help plan both events. Please email tunbridgeschoolclub@wrvsu.org if interested.

Getting the Word Out: Stay informed about School Club happenings by watching for information sent home with students, the TCS email list, articles on the Tunbridge page in The Herald, and the School Club section inside the Tunbridge Quarterly. Interested individuals can write to tunbridgeschoolclub@wrvsu.org to sign up for the email list and receive event details, meeting agendas and more.

Upcoming Meetings: Parents, school personnel and community members typically meet in the TCS Library at 6:00pm on the first Monday every month from October through June (or a rescheduled date due to a school break, holiday or inclement weather) to plan events, hear new ideas, review funding requests and manage the organization. The first meetings of the new school year are on October 1, November 5 and December 3. All are welcome to come share ideas or get involved! Children may come along to do homework, read or play games in the library.

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

Great news for Tunbridge! Our town has been selected for complete network build out in 2019. Subscribe now to get on the list to be hooked up to this state-of-the-art network! www.ecfiber.net/subscribe

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.”

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.

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. Traditionally we have focused on this as our main way to help our neighbors meet their needs. Our goal has always been to make sure that everyone has the ability to stay warm, by keeping our community strong and connected. To that end we are looking for new and different ways to support our community in the winter temperatures ahead.

We’re looking forward to a guest speaker to help us with our effort. Linda Anderson from Capstone Community Action will be sharing her expertise about the funds available for residents, the application process, and additional resources. The date and time of this event is still to be determined; we’ll be publishing details about this meeting and promoting Button-Up workshops in our area to educate residents weatherization.

Vital Communities Listserv

Michael Sacca 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

Vital Communities hosts a ”ListServ” 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.

Friends of the Fair

Deb Mullen - 889-9406

Our annual meeting was held on July 29th. It started with a potluck lunch and meeting and ended with our 8th annual duck race. This years duck race was the best yet! We had a record number of ducks sold - 500 - and a record number of prizes awarded - 44. Many thanks go out to all that sold ducks and especially to all of the donors of prizes to make this such a great fundraiser and great way to spend a Sunday afternoon along the First Branch of the White River.

Once again we ran the shuttle service during the 4 days of Tunbridge Fair. With temperatures in the 80's each day we provided much needed rides to many hot and tired fair goers. We always get great feed back from the people we shuttle. Many tell us they would not be able to go to the fair without the help in moving around the grounds that we provide.

We also provided new safety equipment for the Security Staff and additional lighting in the ox barns.

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining the Friends see our website is www.friendsoftunbridgefair.org, email: friendsoftunbridgefair@gmail.com or 802-889-9406.

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.

Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more events.

Oct

- 6 - Anything Apple Harvest Fest, 11-2, Town Hall & Parish House lawn. Lunch, apple foods sale, silent auction, pie judging, lawn activities.
- 12 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission
- 14 - Historical Society Ghost Walk, 2 p.m. Cemetery to be announced.
Rain date 9/21
- 20 - Annual Grange Harvest Dinner - North Tunbridge Grange Hall
5pm & 6:15pm seatings Call 889-5595 for reservations
- 26 & 27 2nd Annual Haunted Trail Fundraiser - 6:30 - 9:30pm
Landgoes Farm off Moody Rd see TFD entry on page 14

Nov

- 3 - Shindig with “Fu’ Chunk” Town Hall. 7:30 - 10:30pm, \$10.
If you like to dance, you’ll love the Shindigs!
- 9 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission
- 11 - All-you-can-eat breakfast, 8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.
Recreation Committee Fundraiser

Dec

- 1 - Shindig with “Linda B and the Barn Cats” Town Hall.
7:30 - 10:30pm, \$10. If you like to dance, you’ll love the Shindigs!
- 24 - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, The Tunbridge Church, 7 p.m.
- 31 - New Years’ Eve Shindig with “The Shugarmakers” Town Hall.
9pm - after midnight - \$15. Ring in the new year with the Shugs!

Weekly, Community Food Shelf, Fridays, 4-6 p.m., Parish House.

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