

The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



January 1, 2019
issue #55

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

Jillian Conner, Administrative Assistant, (802-889-3744)

tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com , Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, 9-1

For the Selectboard, from Halloween to Christmas Eve 'tis the season for budgeting. In November and December, we go line by line through last year's budget and decide if a line item should be increased, decreased or level funded for the upcoming fiscal year. Since budgets are estimates of necessary expenditures, we try to accurately predict a line item dollar amount that will be very near the actual cost. To achieve this, we are always looking backwards: the treasurer supplies us with budgets and actuals from the past three years, and we use that data to guesstimate a line item going forward. For example: In Fiscal Year 2017/2018, we budgeted \$2,500 for the printing of the TQ. What it actually cost (which you only know at the end of the fiscal year) was \$2,943.86. We underestimated the cost. To correct for FY '18/'19, we budgeted \$3,100. That correction seems easy enough, but readers and taxpayers can see right away that budgeting doesn't always address the bigger picture. The Selectboard could save some money if we only posted the TQ on the town website, but in our effort to be transparent and keep Tunbridgians informed, we feel it's worth sending a hard copy of the TQ to everybody in town. As a Selectboard, we are constantly trying to find the right balance between frugality and excellent services.

In one of those deals like "breakfast for dinner," Vermont got "January for November." The snowiest November on record didn't give our road crew any time for easing into winter, and the storm on the 27th was, as they say down south, "a hot mess." Rodney (Road Foreman) reminds everyone to keep defunct cars and trucks out of the road right of way. Our Class 3 roads are three rod roads; if a rod measures 16.5 feet, this means our snowplows need 24.75 feet from the center of the road to the shoulder to be without obstructions or obstacles. Mikaela Shiffrin might be the best slalom skier in the world, but she's got nothing on Rodney, Larry, Thomas or Jim when they must zig-zag 24,000 lbs. of dump truck through a goat path of vehicular overflow.

In other Highway news, Tunbridge owns a new John Deere backhoe. Selectboard Chair, Gary Mullen, remarked, “I hope it has that new backhoe smell.” Equipment purchases are always big-ticket items, and none is bigger than the grader. Rodney recently reminded the Selectboard that our current grader will need to be replaced in a couple of years. The price tag? Somewhere north of \$300,000. A backhoe here, a grader there, and pretty soon you’re talking real money. Thank goodness we don’t need an F-35: they run about \$107 million each.

The Town Hall kitchen renovation is back on the front burner. After rejecting the first round of bids for being too expensive, the next round are coming in, with work scheduled for January. We are hopeful that, by Ground Hog Day, the Town Hall kitchen will be modern, efficient, clean, safe, inviting—and open for business!

The Selectboard has hired a new Administrative Assistant, Jillian Conner, to replace Jackie Higgins, who resigned effective November 1, 2018. We will miss Jackie’s remarkable energy and experience—and the fact that she’s related to half of Tunbridge, and can call Euclid Farnham, (Great) “Uncle.” Jillian and her partner, Charlie, along with their dog, sheep and ducks, live just down the road from Uncle Euclid.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglasstudio@gmail.com

The TQ is mailed to everyone that owns property and/or resides in Tunbridge. After more than 13 years of publishing this newsletter, I still receive comments of gratitude just about every time it comes out. Please do remember to thank those folks that write the entires as it’s their continued work that keeps the TQ pertinent and interesting.

The deadline dates for entries are the 15th of December, March, June and September. Entries are printed as received and only edited for typos. 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 is a timely 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

Election news- We had a wonderful turnout for the General Election in November- 693 voters participating! Our newly elected JP's are as follows: Gordon Barnaby, Sarah Buxton, Euclid Farnham, Marsha Higgins, Rob Howe, John O'Brien, and Helen O'Donnell. They will officially take office as of February 1, 2019.

The following are Tunbridge birth/marriage/death records that have been recorded since the last issue of the Quarterly:

Please note that these are recorded in this office. If someone should marry or pass away out of state, I most likely will not have that record here.

Births: No new births have been recorded since the last issue of the TQ.

Marriages: Emily Renee Wheeler to Evan Samuel Reiss, Sept. 22, 2018.
Rachel Arianna Nadeau Larocca to Michael Robert Logan, October 8, 2018.
Emily Jean Abbott to Paul Christian Russell, Oct 15, 2018.
Rachel Esther Duncan to David Herman Kahn, Oct 24, 2018.

Deaths: Lorraine F. Palmer, October 14, 2018.
Cynthia Ann Moore, October 18, 2018.
Patricia Jean Platenik, November 19, 2018.
Dale R. Avery, November 12, 2018.
Eloise H. McPhetres, November 15, 2018.

2019 Dog Licensing will commence on January 1, 2019. From January 1st until April 1st, licensing fees are as follows: Spayed or Neutered dogs- \$9.00, unspayed or unneutered dogs- \$13.00. After April 1st, late fees will be added. You may license in person, via mail, or simply by dropping the required vaccination form along with payment in the drop box at the Town Office. Tags will then be mailed to you. Dogs cannot be licensed without proof of current rabies vaccinations. If your dog is not up to date on their vaccinations, Tunbridge and Chelsea, in cooperation with the Chelsea Animal Hospital, will be holding their yearly combined vaccination clinic (for both dogs and cats) on March 23, 2019 from 9:00 am- noon at the Chelsea Town Hall. In addition to having your dog(s) vaccinated, you may also license them at that time.

TOWN HALL RESERVATIONS- Judy Howe is our Town Hall Supervisor. To reserve Town Hall, please contact Judy at (802) 889-3487 for availability and rates.

If there are any other suggestions as to what you would like to see included in my Quarterly Reports, please feel free to give me a call, or drop me an email.

As the end of the year is rapidly approaching, we will be turning our attention to the Town Report and preparing for Town Meeting. How time flies!

Winter has arrived early and with a vengeance. Let's hope that spring puts in an equally early appearance! Stay warm everyone!

First Branch Ambulance

Judy Tucker - 889-3305 judytucker1@myfairpoint.net

Happy New Year to all! We wish to thank any and all who contributed to our fundraising letter and they yearly support you offer us at the fair ticket booth. Every little bit helps us continue to provide you with up to date emergency care.

For any new residents or old we still have the red 911 signs available for a \$20.00 donation. Just call me at my home with your street number and I will get back to you.

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.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a non-profit organization with donations the only source of income. 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.

Tunbridge Board of Listers

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

lister@tunbridge.biz) Office hours - Tuesday and Friday from 9-3.

With the calendar year rapidly closing, the listers are finalizing the Grand List for 2018. Primary changes over the fall involve late-filed homestead declarations, and we also make every effort to remedy any Errors and Omissions that have come to our attention (we had one this year). In addition we continue to work with the state to validate all our Current Use information (Tunbridge currently has 207 enrolled parcels, the highest number of parcels of any town in the state). By mid-Jan. 2019 we will send our finalized Grand List summary to the state, and in early February we will file a certificate indicating "no suits or appeals pending", which officially closes the Grand List for 2018.

In late Dec. 2018 (or early Jan. 2019) the state tax department will send us the certified results of a statewide sales equalization study. "In order to treat all municipalities fairly throughout the state, grand lists are evaluated and adjusted annually to bring each municipality's grand list to fair market value. The adjustment is made through the equalization study."

For Tunbridge the equalization study of December 2017 indicated a Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) of 111.06% (down from the previous 116.38%) and our COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) at 11.15% (up slightly from 9.75%). The CLA helps equalize sales values across towns; the 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. We are mandated to do a town-wide reappraisal if our CLA drops below 80% or our COD exceeds 20%. Our preliminary assessment indicates our CLA is likely to drop slightly this year, and it's unlikely our COD will exceed 20%.

There has been a small uptick in number of sales this year (56 total transfers 2018, 51 in 2017; 21 were "valid sales" this year, 16 last year), and sale prices seem slightly up (but are typically highly variable).

The 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?")

Jola Brock's 3-year term as a lister will be up for renewal in March (by vote at Town Meeting). Jola has been a Lister for three years. She has also been the Assistant Treasurer for several years.

We have begun our Northwest rotation and some of you may have seen us out and about. If you would like to schedule a time with us to come see your property please contact our office. Since Tunbridge doesn't have a permitting process, this is our primary means for tracking changes to properties.

Our deadline for assessing the "as is" status of a property for the 2019 Grand List is on or before April 1, 2019. Any transfers we receive on April 2nd go on the 2020 Grand List. We may continue to look at properties, but consider the status as of April 1.

Feel free to stop by or give us a call.

Tunbridge Grange # 384

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

January means that the Tunbridge Grange will have started its 2019 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.

"Tunbridge, not perfect but pretty darn close!" - Gary Mullen

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 Library is looking forward to an exciting year filled with new books, new films and audiobooks, and (best of all) great events for everyone in the community.

This year begins with an exciting line-up of local speakers for Winter Evenings on first and third Friday evenings of January, February, and March. We begin the series with an extraordinary local baker and end with some of Tunbridge's own brewers (see Winter Evenings schedule here in the TQ). Story Hours for families with kids of all ages are offered 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 9 am beginning on January 5th. We're also looking forward to a few visits from a master storyteller who shares tales without using books.

If you are interested in knitting, crocheting, or other fiber crafts can find company invited to the Gathering of Fiber Artists every other Wednesday night, from 6 to 8 pm. We'll also be hosting periodic book discussions, including tales of adventure with the Upper Valley Mountain Literature Society.

The first days of the year mark the conclusion of the terrific solo show by Marianne Benoit. The next exhibit will be the oil paintings of Anna Ross, with an art reception Sunday, January 13th from 2 to 4 pm.

If you'd like to lend a hand at the library, there are a myriad of ways to use your time and skill-- from low-key routine tasks and sign-making, to brainstorming activities and programming ideas. Right now we are looking for some movie enthusiasts to help us us line up some terrific films we'll be screening over the course of the year.

To learn more about what the Library can do for you, and to keep updated on events, you can visit the website (tunbridgelibrary.org) or email us (tunbridgelibrary@gmail.com). If you don't have access to email, you can find our events in our column in the Herald, as well as on our phone message at the library. When you get a chance, just stop by and we'll can catch you up, and help you find something that will make your week easier, brighter, and more interesting!

Better Bones

Kay Jorgensen – 889-5528, kjayvt@gmail.com

The Better Bones program, which began in July 2005, offers free sessions of balance and weight-bearing exercises upstairs at the Town Hall. Adults (with doctor's permission) are invited to join the program which aims to increase bone density at an age when bone mass is lost and many people become susceptible to osteoporosis.

Sessions are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. On Jan. 14 a Better Bones with Music class on Mondays at 10 a.m. will begin. Linda Howe will lead the class (about 45 minutes) which is designed to strengthen muscles and improve coordination while participants get a cardiovascular workout, strength training and stretching. She can provide more information at 685-3340.

Chelsea Area Senior Center

Susan Pirie, 685-2290, 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

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.

Winter Evenings

Kay Jorgensen – 889-5528, kjayvt@gmail.com

The 2019 Winter Evenings series offers programs for many interests: a bread baker, a popular illustrator, an author whose book was optioned for a movie by Brad Pitt and Tony Kushner, the co-founder of Royalton Community Radio, a community consultant/facilitator, and Tunbridge brewers with beer samples.

The programs will be held at 7 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of January and February and March 1. The final program will be on Thursday, March 14. There's no charge and refreshments are served.

The Jan. 4 speaker is Martin Philip, head bread baker at King Arthur Flour. His book *Breaking Bread: A Baker's Journey Home in 75 Recipes* received the 2018 Vermont Book Award and Grand Prize at the New England Book Festival. He will bring bread to share.

On Jan. 18, Todd Tyson of Tunbridge, a co-founder of Royalton Community Radio, will talk about "Setting Free the Airwaves: The Roots and Branches of community radio in the Upper White River Watershed."

The Feb. 1 speaker is Mimi Baird of Woodstock. She will talk about researching *He Wanted the Moon: The Madness and Medical Genius of Dr. Perry Baird, and His Daughter's Quest to Know Him*, a Washington Post Best Book of 2015 and future major motion picture.

On Feb. 15 Susan Clark, a writer, teacher, community consultant and town moderator, will talk about "Slow Democracy: Keeping It Real in the Green Mountains and Beyond."

The March 1 speaker will be illustrator Shawn Braley. He will talk about and show some of his favorite illustrated works, including from newspapers and greeting cards.

On Thursday, March 14, Tunbridge brewers Anne and Ben Linehan of Brocklebank Craft Brewing and Andy Puchalik and Lauren Adamoli of Upper Pass Beer Co. will talk about their beer and brewing and offer samples.

Winter Evenings Committee members are Chair Michael Sacca, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Mariah Lawrence, Christina Marts and Ben Wolfe.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Ingrid Van Steamburg 889-3459

The Planning Commission has been on a bit of a hiatus recuperating from 2 plus years of extra meetings and a lot of homework to complete the Town Plan rewrite on schedule. The final version was approved by the Selectboard in June 2018. One of the big feedback take-aways from the May 2018 roll-out of Town Plan updates was that we should strategically select about 3 items from our goals & recommendations (see our full implementation table in the town plan) each year to move towards completing action items. We will collect feedback at town meeting 2019 and have a public potluck dinner/brainstorming session in April to finalize 3 focus items for the coming year. With 3 goals selected we will seek assistance from townspeople in the form of action groups/subcommittees to work on them in conjunction with the Planning Commission. We see this as an ongoing process moving forward, with periodic public potlucks to report on progress and gather continuous feedback as we move to meet the goals and recommendations of our current and future Town Plans.

We'll also benefit from experienced facilitators courtesy of the Vermont Council on Rural Development, who will be coordinating a three-month Community Visit program involving Tunbridge, Strafford, Sharon and Royalton starting in early 2019; keep an eye out for more news on that front.

FrontPorchForum.com

This free e-newsletter for Tunbridge and Chelsea residents offers an events calendar and news. Residents' posts include everything from community events to services offered and needed and things and animals lost and found to those for sale and free.

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

Alliance for Vermont Communities

Michael Sacca - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

Friends,

The Alliance for Vermont Communities has continued with our work and the continued importance of our efforts now that David Hall has publicly stated that he is withdrawing NewVistas from Vermont. Mr. Hall has yet sell a parcel, so rest assured we are monitoring the movement or lack thereof of parcel sales.

Vermont Council on Rural Development

Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) was formed to help Vermont citizens build prosperous and resilient communities through democratic engagement, marshaling resources and collective action. They have facilitated over 60 intensive community visits to towns around Vermont. During these visits residents come together to identify and advance key priorities. VCRD brings a team of state, federal, business and nonprofit leaders to listen, facilitate discussion and match resources with the town's needs. These processes inspire unity, momentum and new leadership. Normally VCRD visits one town at a time, but we invited them to consider the four town area of Royalton, Sharon, Strafford and Tunbridge as a new and exciting opportunity to work on a regional approach with our towns. All four towns share roots in agriculture and forestry and despite any surface differences, face the similar issues; balancing desirable growth and appropriate sized development, issues concerning the elderly, keeping and encouraging young people to stay and move to our area, all the while maintaining their distinctive individual character.

Last spring, the project gained the unanimous support of all of 4 towns select boards. In June of 2018, an initial "get to know you" meeting took place with town officials and other residents from the four towns attending. The room was full of energy and with much enthusiasm, the group felt encouraged to move forward with the plan but then the VCRD board had to approve the innovative project.. In October, VCRD informed the selectboards that it was a go. The VCRD staff has been reaching out to movers and shakers from the 4 towns in the last month or so in preparation for a February 2019 launch of the nearly your long effort. If you want to be involved, please contact Michael Sacca (see below for contact info.)

From the VCRD website: Our Community Visit program is a way for towns to engage and bring together their residents, set common goals and directions in a neutral and facilitated structure, and access resources that will help them take action on those goals. The Community Visit program, provided at no cost to communities, gets citizens engaged in working for their communities and connects them to the resources they need to be successful.

Ashley Community Forest

Representatives from Sharon, Strafford, AVC and Vermont Land Trust have formed the Ashley Community Forest Working Group with the goal of creating an Interim Management Plan for the Community Forest. It is fairly unique project in that two towns would enter a joint plan to manage the community forest for recreation and forestry in perpetuity. There are challenges with the work but the group is dedicated to seeing it happen. The two towns will be holding community forums and ultimately will be voting on whether to accept the land from AVC in special town meeting to take place in the late spring of 2019. AVC feels pretty confident the project will come to pass. It will be a regional resource for recreation for residents and visitors alike.

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 Michael Sacca at 889.3210. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Tax deductible donations are very welcome and can be mailed to: AVC P.O. Box 545 South Royalton, VT 05068 or be made at our donate page on our website; alliancevermont.org.

The Tunbridge Church

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

The new year will begin with a fundraiser for the Community Food Shelf. The church Outreach Committee and chef Lois Gross will host an Italian Pasta Night Out at the Town Hall on Saturday, Jan. 5, from 5-7 p.m. Meals are \$10, ages 6-12 \$6, 5-under free, families \$25.

Two other annual community events are yet to be scheduled. The Just Desserts musical social and dessert evening with silent auction will be set when the Town Hall kitchen reopens. The sugar on snow party date will depend on sugaring and snow. Watch for announcements.

In December, the Food Shelf, with the help of Outreach Committee members, the Tunbridge Central School Student Council, and Clever Clovers 4-H Club, filled 30 boxes with hams, vegetables, fruit, decorated cookies and other foods for a family meal. Donated gift items were displayed for families to choose from.

Before Christmas the church hosted several special services, including a mid-week Service of Light to help people cope with loss during the holidays. Carolers sang and delivered poinsettia plants to local homes. Before Thanksgiving bags that included homemade treats, fruit and cheese were delivered to senior and homebound neighbors.

During the rest of the year The Tunbridge Church sponsors additional community programs such as the Food Shelf, which is open Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at the Parish House at the corner of Potash Road and Route 110.

Four Super Senior Luncheons are hosted for residents over age 80. Everyone is welcome to attend the Easter breakfast, sugar on snow party and July ice cream social. The church supports Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Valley by providing lunch once a month for the volunteers building a house in Sharon.

The church also makes its facilities available. The Parish House is the meeting place for AA and Al-Anon and base for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors telephone. The Parish House lawn, which includes a public playground, is available to groups on Memorial Day and during the church's July Community Yard Sale and Anything Apple events.

All are welcomed at worship services on Sundays at 10 a.m. To receive weekly church announcements and the bimonthly newsletter by email contact thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com

Choir Rehearsals continue most weeks on Thursday evenings at 7pm. For more information contact Judie Lewis at singjudie@gmail.com or 889-9490.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Emily Howe 889-3474

It's been a relatively quiet fall for the Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department (you guys must have done a good job getting your chimneys cleaned this year!). We had a less-than-successful Haunted Trail event due to winter moving in early and very low attendance on the one freezing night we were able to open. We made only \$500 compared to last year's \$7,000 but it was still great fun and we thank our volunteers and community for being as supportive as could be, despite the hypothermic conditions for ghouls and walkers alike. But, speaking of freezing, we'll be helping the Rec Department fill the skating rink at the Tunbridge School this week, weather permitting, so dust off your skates, the rink is lit at night, open to the public, and well enjoyed by young and old.

Wrapping up the fiscal year, we have a surplus of \$24,395 in our fundraising account, which will be divided evenly between our Truck, Equipment, and Building Funds. We have an awning/side entryway overhang here at the station that was destroyed by snow and will need to be replaced, a project that will be underway soon. As we begin working on our Town Report, and finishing the budget, it looks as though the proposed budget for the coming year will be the about same as last year, approximately \$39,900. Our radio grant is complete and an added receiver in place, something that we've been working on for quite a while now! Happy New Year, Tunbridge

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.

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. 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 builds in 2019. Subscribe now to get on the list to be hooked up to this state-of-the-art network! www.ecfiber.net/subscribe

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

The Fuel Assistance Committee was formed to find ways to ease the burden of fuel costs on Tunbridge residents. We started by creating and overseeing a Fuel Loan Assistance Fund, formed as a no-interest revolving loan fund, and composed entirely of donations.

Since our formation, the Committee has gotten familiar with other fund sources that residents can use for purchasing fuel; we ask residents to apply for these resources first before they apply for a loan through us. We are able to point anyone interested to the seasonal fuel assistance from the state of Vermont, and we can connect you with Capstone Community Action for crisis fuel assistance. Recently we have connected to a regional Energy Advocacy Council that is finding ways for communities and institutions to address the real challenge of heating that leaves many choosing between heat and other necessities.

You can find the Fuel Committee's resource packets at the Town Clerk, the Library, or the Food Shelf to learn more about the resources available, including the loans from Fuel Assistance Fund. To contact the Fuel Committee reach out by phone (at 802-738-6570), or by email: tunbridge.fuel.assistance@gmail.com, or you can send letters as well as tax-deductible donations to: the Tunbridge Fuel Assistance c/o Town Treasurer; P.O. Box 6; Tunbridge, VT 05077. The Committee welcomes your feedback, your ideas, and your elbow grease, which we'll need in such efforts as our initiative to start a wood bank. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 10 at 6:30 pm at the Library's Community Room.

Stay warm, and make sure your neighbors are keeping warm, too!

Friends of the Fair

Deb Mullen - 889-9406

Happy Holidays from The Friends of the Fair!

What a Fair! With the warm weather and high rate of attendance we transported a record number of fairgoers in 2018. That number continues to rise every year as more people learn that this service is provided free to help people to move around the grounds, as well as to aid those leaving the grounds to head home.

This Fall the Friends were recognized by the Vermont Council for Independent Living for helping to make the Fair more accessible. It was exciting to find out that people notice and appreciate our efforts!

Projects completed for the 2018 fair included providing safety equipment for the security team and lighting and matting in the ox barns. We have several new projects in the works for 2019 and are always looking for ways to improve the Fair experience for exhibitors and attendees.

We have meetings the 2nd Wednesday of the months of May through November; anyone who would like to attend is welcome. For more information please contact Deb Mullen.

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. 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 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 events.

Jan

- 4 - Tunbridge Library Winter Evenings: King Arthur Flour baker Martin Philip, "Baking Bread"
- 5 - Italian Pasta Night Out, Town Hall, 5-7 p.m., benefit for Food Shelf
- 11 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission
- 18 - Tunbridge Library Winter Evenings: Royalton Community Radio's Todd Tyson, "The Roots and Branches of Community Radio"

Feb

- 1 - Tunbridge Library Winter Evenings: Mimi Baird on her book and future movie, "He Wanted the Moon"
- 2 - Shindig with "Frydaddy", Town Hall. 7:30 - 10:30pm, \$10.
Serving up a spicy gumbo of rockin' soul!
- 8 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission
- 15 - Tunbridge Library Winter Evenings: Community consultant & town moderator Susan Clark, "Slow Democracy: Keeping It Real in the Green Mountains and Beyond"

March

- 1 - Library Winter Evenings: Illustrator Shawn Braley, "Paper & Ink"
- 2 - Shindig with "Annie and the Hedonists", Town Hall. \$10. cover
7:30 - 10:30pm, Offering an eclectic mix of blues, vintage swing & jazz, and folk roots Americana.
- 8 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00
Live Music, refreshments at intermission
- 14 - Tunbridge Library Winter Evenings: Owners of Brocklebank Craft Brewing and Upper Pass Beer Co., "Beer & Brewing in Tunbridge"

April

- 6 - Shindig with "John Lackard Blues Band", Town Hall.
7:30 - 10:30pm, \$10. Rockin Blues for dancing the night away!
- Weekly, Community Food Shelf, Fridays, 4-6 p.m., Parish House.

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