

# The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



**January 1, 2020**  
**issue #59**

## **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

As the TQ rolls off the press and newsboys and newsgirls shout on every corner in town, "TUNBRIDGE QUARTERLY! TUNBRIDGE QUARTERLY! TOWN MEETING EDITION!" the Selectboard will be just finalizing the budget for the fiscal year 2020/2021.

Budgeting is a balancing act. The Selectboard looks at what it budgeted for any given line item in past years, and then we look at what the actual number spent on that line item was over the years, and from there we decide: More? Less? Keep it where it is? If you want to make the budget look too good to be true, by cutting or level funding everything, reality will eventually catch up with you when the town runs out of money for that line item. Let's say, last year, we budgeted \$10,000 for truck maintenance, and, in actuality, used \$9,000; now, to cut costs, we decide we could squeeze by with \$8,000 for the coming year. The town, through taxes, raises \$8,000 for that line item. Jump ahead 12 months: it turns out to be a tough year, and truck maintenance comes in at \$12,000. Now you see the problem: we are \$4,000 short and we can't just raid the Bridge Replacement Fund or not pay the listers for half the year. To be too cautious with budgeting is also a problem—for the taxpayers. If we had said, "better safe than sorry," and raised the truck maintenance line item to \$15,000, we wouldn't have had a deficit, but there would be a bloated surplus at the end of the year—we would rather have had the taxpayers keep that money! In a good year, there's a Goldilocks rationale to the budget—not too much, not too little, just right, reasonable and transparent.

Speaking of reasonable, it's time the members of the Road Crew got raises. This is money well spent. Our Road Crew does a terrific job, end of story. They also save the town money: Besides being experienced operators of heavy equipment, they are in-house mechanics, often troubleshooting and fixing machinery problems in the garage, when many other road crews would ship the ailing dump truck or grader off to a professional shop that charges over \$100 an hour in labor. We hope the town supports our budget "ask" on this.

Rodney Hoyt, our Road Foreman, has one request: If you plow your driveway, or have it plowed, don't leave the driveway snow in the middle

of the town road! It can freeze and leave a hazard for the Road Crew. They don't need any more hazards—Mother Nature is giving them enough!

Judy Howe, our Town Hall super, asks that whoever is using the Town Hall without okaying it with her, should check in. Judy is the scheduler of events at the Town Hall, and if townspeople use the building whenever they wish, it makes her job difficult; she can never quite know what condition the Hall has been left in for the next booked event.

Circle Town Meeting Day—March 3rd--on your new 2020 calendars: the Selectboard looks forward to much attendance and engagement from the good people of Tunbridge at our annual festival of democracy and pie.

## **The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly**

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglasstudio@gmail.com

The deadline dates for entries are the 15th of December, March, June and September. Entries are printed as received and only edited for typos. My apologies for any mistakes I miss or make! Feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions.

Current and past issues of the TQ are always available online at <http://tunbridgevt.org/tunbridge-quarterly/>

## **Tunbridge Town Website**

Geoff Hansen, 802-889-3373, or [info@geoffhansen.com](mailto: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 Big Trees Contest**

Brenda Field - 889-5548 [brenda.field666@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.field666@gmail.com)

Eliza Minnucci - 802-552-3466 [eliza.minnucci@gmail.com](mailto:eliza.minnucci@gmail.com)

Sponsored by the Tunbridge Conservation Commission and the Town Forest Committee, the Tunbridge Big Trees Contest will be open until February 14th. Contact Brenda or Eliza for more information on the rules and what is needed when measuring. Prizes will be awarded at town meeting for the Grand Champion - the tree with the largest circumference, the Top Five Species Champions and a Wild Card, determined buy the judges.

## **Tunbridge Town Clerk**

Jillian Conner - 889-5521 [tctunbridge@live.com](mailto:tctunbridge@live.com)

Hours: Monday: 12:00pm - 6:00pm Tuesday - Friday: 8:00am - 2:00pm

Happy slushy, snowy, slippery New Year, folks! As I continue to learn the ropes of the Town Clerk position, I've been keeping up with my Selectboard Assistant duties. On a daily basis I am working on grant applications for our roads, recording land records and vital records, preparing for the presidential primary and town meeting, writing minutes, registering voters, staying up to date with the road crew, setting agendas for the Selectboard, doing 100 other things, and answering the phone throughout. There is no shortage of to-dos at the Clerk's Office!

If you would like to request a slot on a Selectboard meeting agenda, please email [tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com](mailto:tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com) or call the number above.

Fortunately for me, tax matters are not within my job description, so questions related to tax payments, bills, etc. are best answered by Becky Hoyt, our town Treasurer. Her number is 889-3571.

If you would like to reserve the Town Hall for an event, please call Judy Howe at 889-3487. She maintains the reservation book, reservation contracts, and can answer any other particulars that you may need to know.

Contact information for all Town Officers is posted on the Tunbridge website- [www.tunbridgevt.org](http://www.tunbridgevt.org). Our town website has a plethora of information about the Town, Selectboard minutes, updates from various officials, and more.

Town Meeting is upon us, as well as the 2020 Presidential Primary. If you're interested in being an election official, please contact me.

Pre Town Meeting: Tuesday, February 25th, 7:30pm

Town Meeting: Tuesday, March 3rd, 10:00 am

2020 Presidential Primary: Tuesday, March 3rd, 7:00 am – 7:00pm

Pre Town Meeting, Town Meeting and the Primary will all take place at the Tunbridge Central School.

Dog Licensing for 2020 will begin on January 1st. Deadline for licensing is April 1, 2020. If your dog(s) is/are due for a rabies vaccine prior to April 1, a license cannot be issued until an updated rabies certificate has been received by the Clerk. Cost per license is \$9.00 spayed/neutered; \$13.00 for non-spayed/neutered. You may get dog licenses at the Town Clerks Office, or by sending payment, rabies certificates, and return address by mail.

The following lists the various vital record events that have taken place in Tunbridge since September:

Births: Briar Emery Reiss, born September 30th, to Emily and Evan Reiss  
Copeland Marshall Dyer, born November 13th, to Jordan and Damon Dyer  
Isabel Katherine Moore, November 17th, to Barrett Phillips  
and Brendan Moore  
Hadley Jean Demasi-Sayers, born November 26th, to Brooke Moses  
and Austin Demasi-Sayers

A reminder to new parents - if you have a new Tunbridge baby, please stop in to the Clerk's office to pick up a baby quilt. The Sewing Circle have supplied us with some lovely quilts for our new brand new tiny Tunbridge residents!

Deaths: Beverly Whalen passed on September 22nd in Northfield  
Blanche Fisk passed on September 26th in Berlin  
Kevin Barnaby passed on October 6th in Lebanon, NH  
June Sweeney passed on October 11th in Tunbridge

Marriages: Isaac Barker to Kayla Davis, September 7th  
Vernon Maxham to Corine Richards, September 23rd  
Samantha Rice to Robert Hollins, September 28th  
Justin Cruite to Patricia Estep, October 5th  
Heather Lakin to John Spaulding, October 19th

## **Tunbridge Historical Society**

Mick Maguire, 889-5612, [mick@maguire.net](mailto:mick@maguire.net)

The THS has met twice this fall. At the November meeting there was an election of officers.

President Emeritus - Euclid Farnham

President - Mick Maguire Vice President - Fern Strong

Treasurer - Fred Pond Secretary - Elaine Howe

At the December 1st meeting committees were set up to address primary concerns going forward. They include:

Operations (bylaws, nonprofit status, etc.)

Collections ( archives and artifacts)

Programming (events, Mystery Walks, Tunbridge Speaks, etc)

We look forward to input and participation by the public. Please contact any of the officers if you would like to assist.

Fern Strong - [redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com](mailto:redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com), Fred Pond - [fred.pond@gmail.com](mailto:fred.pond@gmail.com),  
Elaine Howe - [elaineahowe@gmail.com](mailto:elaineahowe@gmail.com)

THS plans to met quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2020 at 2pm in the Tunbridge Library.

## **Tunbridge Board of Listers**

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

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

Tunbridge Board of Listers

The listers are finalizing the Grand List for 2019. 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 also continue to work 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. 2020 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 2019.

In late Dec. 2019 (or early Jan. 2020) 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 2018 indicated a Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) of 105.97% (down from the previous 111.06%) and our COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) at 13.23% (up slightly from 11.15%). 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 85% or exceeds 115%, or our COD exceeds 20%. Our preliminary assessment indicates our CLA is likely to go up marginally this year, but it's possible our COD may exceed 20%; the latter would require a town-wide reappraisal.

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?")

Helen O'Donnell's 3-year term as lister will be up for renewal in March (by vote at Town Meeting).

We are currently in our southeast quarterly rotation. Even if you are not in that quarter, 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. An important reminder when filing your annual state and federal income taxes: business use/rental use is declared on your homestead declaration,

typically filed with your annual state income tax (please make sure your tax preparer is aware of this). Please make sure this information is current, as it affects whether property is taxed at a Homestead or Non-Resident rate, as well as whether that portion is factored into Homestead Property Tax Adjustments (which may give you a tax credit). In particular, let us know if you are no longer renting a space that had been rented previously.

Our deadline for assessing the “as is” status of a property for the 2020 Grand List is on or before April 1, 2020. Any transfers we receive on April 2nd go on the 2021 Grand List. We may continue to look at properties, but consider the status as of April 1. Office hours are Tuesday and Friday from 9-3. Feel free to stop by or give us a call.

## **Farm to School at TCS**

Catlin Macglafin-Weed [cmacglafin@gmail.com](mailto:cmacglafin@gmail.com).

TCS elementary students (K-4) got a hands-on look at one of the many jobs on a local Dairy farm this October. Eager students helped harvest seed corn with the Chapman Family Farm from the field adjacent to the school. Students walked from school to the field where they learned the proper way to remove the corn from the stalk and how to pick out the best looking corn cobs to use for seed corn. Working alongside multiple generations of Chapmans, TCS students quickly moved through the rows collecting armfuls of corn and grinning from ear to ear. After collecting the corn, students gathered to husk the corn and the Chapmans talked more about the life cycle of corn and how the corn they collected would be stored for next years’ corn crop. TCS students proved the old saying “many hands make light work” on that cloudy fall afternoon!

TCS Farm to School hosted a winter squash taste test November 14th with butternut and delicata squash donated to the school by Tunbridge Hill Farm. Students (K-8) tried roasted “delicata smiles” and “butternut confetti salad” with mixed reviews! Sixth grader Isabelle Weed said, “I’m actually surprised most of my class liked the butternut squash!” Second grade students used data collected from the taste test and the results, which are on display in the TCS lobby.

TCS Farm to School committee will next meet every third Monday of the month at TCS. Many thanks to the Chapman Family Farm for inviting us to participate in the corn harvest and the Tunbridge Hill Farm for their generous donation for the November taste test! For more information please email [cmacglafin@gmail.com](mailto:cmacglafin@gmail.com).

## **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)

Thanks to all who participated in last year's survey. We'll be using your input to help the library better meet your needs.

This winter has a number of special events. We are looking forward to a new season of exciting Winter Evenings starting on select Fridays this month (see Winter Evenings schedule in this TQ). This February we will have a series of events honoring the contributions of African-American and the civil rights movement, including a community discussion based on the graphic novel "March" by civil rights legend John Lewis. The current art exhibit is Kate Reeves' collection of paintings entitled "My Winter World." Kate's show continues through February.

There are lots of ongoing activities, as well. A new Adult Writing Group meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm (Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 11). This is for all aspiring and established writers looking to find support and share their work with one another. The Young Writers' Workshop for ages eight and up meets Mondays at 3 pm. A Chess Club for all ages meets every Monday at 4 pm. The Tunbridge Fiber group gathers twice a month on Wednesday evenings; fiber workers of any age and ability are welcome. And families with children of all ages are encouraged to come to our Story Hours which under the leadership of Mariah Lawrence. Story Hours take place on two Saturdays a month at 10 am.

Now more than ever, we need crucial information as well as perspective and relief in books and stories. We offer a wide range of resources, from new bestsellers, classic masterpieces, guides and references on many subjects, and an array of magazines. If you can't find an item in our collection, we will be happy to get it by Inter-Library Loan as quickly as possible. The Library has wireless internet 24/7, and it's amplified so you can get a signal on the porch or in your car when the library is closed. We also offer downloadable audio or E-books, through ListenUp Vermont, as well as subscriptions to online magazines. On this and any other technical issues, please reach out to us and we'll walk you through the steps and do our best to help you find what you need.

Our library is as amazing as it is because YOU are part of it. In coming months we are looking at the possibilities of get-togethers to: to view films; to discuss books that changed our lives, or to consider how to bring positive change to the world around us. Let us know what fires you up, and what your mind and heart are eager to pursue or share with others.



## **Intelligence Based Policing**

VSP barracks 802-234-9933 recorded

Email [DPS.VSPROYALTONIBP@VERMONT.GOV](mailto:DPS.VSPROYALTONIBP@VERMONT.GOV)

The IBP group which has been meeting since April, held a successful forum at the VT Law School the beginning of November, which focused on four topics, the need for additional safe and secure rehabilitation sites and funding, the educational LEAD program, law enforcement policies and penalties, and finally prosecution of drug and other offenses. The group listened to the insight of many experts who were present including Orange County States Attorney Will Porter; Windsor County States Attorney Ward Goode-nough; Orange County Sheriff Bill Bohnyak and Deputy Gail Lund-Rowell; Windsor County Probation and Parole officer Bill Soule; VSP Troopers Knapp and Lyons; South Royalton Police Chief Loretta Stalnaker; Scott Farnsworth , former Tunbridge principal with experience in the field of guidance and counseling; Windsor-Orange 1 Representative John OBrien; as well as aspiring candidate to Orange County Senate seat, Bill Huff ; and candidate for Vermont Governor, John Klar.

Following the forum the group was charged through an email by Bill Huff to start work on a variety of topics beginning in the New Year, to strive toward some go the following goals:

1. Fund or find funding for Orange County LEAD kits ,and work to get the LEAD program into all schools in Orange County.
2. Work toward getting IBP information and programs into all other Orange County towns....Windsor as well.
3. Seek information about possible safe and secure rehabilitation sites (Old Windsor prison?)
4. Work toward imposing stiffer sentences on suspected drug traffickers and sellers.
5. Learn more about what policies impede the ability to arrest and prosecute traffickers and sellers. Work toward changing laws through our legislature.

The IBP group is a group of concerned citizens from Tunbridge, Chelsea, South Royalton, Sharon and Vershire, trying to help law enforcement with their difficult job, supporting fellow citizens struggling with addiction ,and attempting to make the community safer. Meetings are open to the public and are held every Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 usually at the Tunbridge School. To be placed on the email list for meeting notifications, contact [nanran@myfairpoint.net](mailto:nanran@myfairpoint.net). There is also a Facebook page under Central Vermont Intelligence Based Policing for those interested.

## **Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department**

Jamie Bradford 889-3478

The Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department has had a great fall. October 06-12, 2019 was Fire Prevention week. The Fire Department visited The Tunbridge Central School as well as Orange County Parent Child Center on Thursday October 10, 2019. During that visit they taught and reminded the students and faculty about fire safety and prevention. Each year during Fire Prevention Week there is a theme, this years theme was to know your escape route. The Firefighters urge all families to make an exit plan and practice fire safety at home. Please remember that fall and winter is the ideal time to check your smoke detectors, and have your chimneys cleaned and your furnaces serviced. This is an important step in fire prevention when preparing for the winter months.

The Fire Department and the Rec Department have been working to complete the task of preparing and filling the ice rink. As long as the weather cooperates it should be up and running soon.

The Fire Departments Annual Meeting will be held on March 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Tunbridge Town Hall. At this event we will have a potluck dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by the meeting that will begin at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

The Fire Department is always welcoming new Volunteers. If you are interested in joining or would like to receive information about joining the Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department please stop by a meeting any Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m., or email [Tunbridge.fire@gmail.com](mailto:Tunbridge.fire@gmail.com).

## **Tunbridge Energy Committee**

Chair: Todd Tyson, [folkbloke@gmail.com](mailto:folkbloke@gmail.com)

The TEC continues to research information on how Tunbridge can lessen its carbon footprint and do its part to mitigate climate change. We have had several meetings with the SelectBoard presenting options on how the town could install a 25-30 kilowatt solar array that could cover most or all of the town building's electricity supply for the next 25 years. This system could also be adapted to install a future village-based EV charging station.

The TEC strongly believes that we are in a "climate emergency" and that the town, state and nation should quickly adopt measures that address this situation.

If you would like to learn more about or join the TEC, please contact Todd.

## **Tunbridge Grange # 384**

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

Tunbridge Grange will again be having fun with our annual Friday Night Bingo. The first one starts Friday, January 10th at 7 PM *at the Tunbridge Grange Hall instead of the Town 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!

Sometime this spring, we will probably be hosting another one of our enjoyable potluck and surprise bag auction to support the Tunbridge 8th grade class. Watch the Randolph Herald and local posters for other future community events sponsored by the Tunbridge Grange.

The Grange supports our local community (like families in need or the Tunbridge School). 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 Marilyn (Mert) Vesper 889-5595.

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

Joann Welch - 802-477-2147

Happy Holidays from the Friends!

We are currently taking a break from meetings until the second Wednesday in April 2020.

We have had over 500 name suggestions for a the new horse model we donated to Antique Hill! We will make sure to announce it once the official name is chosen.

Anyone interested in making a donation or becoming a member of the Friends can join by sending a check to:

Friends of the Tunbridge Worlds Fair

P.O. Box 159

Tunbridge, VT 05077

Annual membership fees are: Single- \$25, Couple- \$50, Family-\$100. Lifetime memberships are \$1000 (can be paid over 3 years).

## **Tunbridge Sewing Circle**

Elaine Howe -889-5560 [elaineahowe@gmail.com](mailto:elaineahowe@gmail.com)

All skill levels are welcome to join the Tunbridge Sewing Circle from 8am until noon in the School Library. Upcoming dates are January 4, February 1& March 7. Park out by the soccer field and come up to the library doo. Contact Elaine or Nancy Howe (889-3750) for more info.

## **Alliance for Vermont Communities**

Michael Sacca - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

### AVC work ahead

With some recent developments in the Four Town work and some awards, AVC sees its work of land conservation and community development focusing on working lands through the lens of recreation in particular. The following headings tell what we are up to.

### Four Town Task Forces

With the advent of the Four Town Task Forces, community members from the towns of Royalton, Sharon, Strafford and Tunbridge are meeting to discuss collaborative efforts in the areas of Housing, Economic Development and Working Lands including Land Use, Trails and Agriculture Networks. The committees are working to draft action plans and also to create inter-town communication through a website under development. If you want to be involved, contact Michael Sacca (see below) and he will refer you to the appropriate committee contact.

### Manning Farm Trail

If you travel up Potash Hill Road, and keep going, taking into account a few turns, you will find yourself into Strafford and on Robinson Road. Coming in 2020 along that stretch will be the northern trailhead of the Manning Farm Trail. The 2.5 mile trail will wind southward along the eastern border of the property then crossing and ultimately coming out along the road with a .6 mile walk back to the modest parking area. The Manning Farm Trail will connect to the Ashley Community Forest to the south and is the start of a trail network linking 852 acres of conserved land in Strafford and Sharon. The project is a partnership between Upper Valley Land Trust, the Vermont Land Trust, the Upper Valley Trails Alliance and AVC. Last summer AVC hired the High School Trail Corps under the leadership of the Trails Alliance to rough in about half the distance.

AVC has recently applied for a Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation, Recreational Trails Program grant to complete the Manning Farm Trail in 2020. With some good fortune we will hear in March if we received the grant.

The 382 acre Manning Farm was purchased by Strafford Organic Dairy in January of 2018 with UVLT purchasing development rights. AVC gave \$10,000 towards the \$340,000 project total and requested a trail easement. Strafford Organic Dairy graciously agreed.

### Recreation, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

In November, AVC was awarded 1-2 years of assistance from a National Park Service administered program. We will receive technical assistance as part of the “Rivers and Trails” program with two trail related goals;

the creation of a Trail Network on the Manning Farm, Ashley Community Forest and the possibly the Robinson Farm in Sharon and Strafford, and the creation and promotion of a "gravel" bike network of trails using the existing back roads through the four town area. Watch for community outreach meetings to help us determine what the networks look like, what types of trails are built and where. AVC will collaborate with the Four Town Trails committee on the project, If you are interested in joining the committee, contact AVC (see below).

### The Ranger

Registration is underway for next year's Ranger ride on Saturday, June 14, 2020 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. This event excited those near and far about what our region has to offer regarding its people and a strong sense of place -- all while engaging our communities to work and recreate together. It's a great day for the entire family with various length and types of rides. It all ends up at the "Party in the Pasture" to benefit three great organizations AVC, Vermont Adaptive and Little Bellas. Go to [www.therangervt.com](http://www.therangervt.com) for more information.

AVC welcomes your feedback, input, questions, ideas, and interest.

Check out our website or contact Michael Sacca at 889.3210. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. 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; [www.alliancevermont.org](http://www.alliancevermont.org)

The mission of the 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.

## **Tunbridge Women's Group**

Elaine Howe -889-5560

Local women are invited to send their email addresses to Elaine Howe at [elaineahowe@gmail.com](mailto:elaineahowe@gmail.com) 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.

## **The Tunbridge Church**

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

The Thanksgiving through Christmas season found folks at The Tunbridge Church busy in the community. Their first project was filling and delivering Thanksgiving bags that included homemade treats, fruit and cheese for senior and homebound neighbors.

The Tunbridge Community Food Shelf families were recipients of a Christmas food package that contained the fixings to make a turkey dinner and a breakfast. The Tunbridge Church Outreach group and community volunteers helped pack the boxes. Clever Clover 4-H club members gave decorated cookies that they made. Many people donated gift items for the families to choose from. Thank you to all who helped.

Also before Christmas, carolers sang and delivered poinsettia plants to local seniors' homes. The church hosted several special services, including a solstice Service of Light with prayer and meditation to help people cope with the Christmas season.

Caregivers are invited to a Care for the Caregivers morning on Saturday, Jan. 15, at the Parish House. From 10:30-12:30 the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Cook will lead a time of respite for fellowship, fun and food. There will be a time for sharing, determining areas where life can get out of balance and how to try to correct that, self-care, maybe some singing, dancing, yoga, and laughing. RSVPs would be appreciated at 889-9828.

The new year's early social calendar will include a community event on Feb. 15, details to come. And maybe a sugar on snow party, depending on sugaring and snow.

The Outreach Committee's four bimonthly Super Senior Luncheons will resume in April. Residents who are over 80 are invited to socialize at the Town Hall and enjoy lunch prepared by volunteers who share the meal and visit with them. Lunches are taken to some seniors who cannot attend.

The Food Shelf is open Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at the Parish House at the corner of Potash Road and Route 110. The Food Shelf also provides backpacks with weekend food as needed for local students.

The Parish House is the meeting place for AA and Al-Anon and base for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors telephone.

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](mailto:thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com)

## **ECFiber**

### **(East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network)**

Henry Swayze 603-667-8932 [henryswayze@gmail.com](mailto:henryswayze@gmail.com)

Amy Frost , Jim Ludwig

ECF office - 763-2262 [info@ecfiber.net](mailto:info@ecfiber.net) [www.ecfiber.net](http://www.ecfiber.net)

ECFiber is a consortium of 24 towns in East-Central Vermont, that banded together with Valley Net in 2008 to build a community-owned fiber-optic network to deliver high-speed Internet and telephone service to every home, business, or civic institution in our territory.

Subscribing to ECF's services not only gives you the best possible Internet service, it also supports our community directly.

## **Tunbridge Fuel Loan Assistance Committee**

Ben Wolfe- (802)738-6570 [Tunbridge.Fuel.Assistance@gmail.com](mailto:Tunbridge.Fuel.Assistance@gmail.com)

Everyone needs to stay warm in cold weather, and heat has become one of the larger financial burdens for households in Tunbridge to bear. The Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Committee aims to help residents access heating resources, including our Fuel Assistance Loan Fund. This Fund was formed to make no-interest loans available to Tunbridge residents to pay for heating fuel of any kind. In short, our focus has been to manage a loan program designed to spread the high costs of winter fuel over a longer period.

For the past year the Committee has included Sue Barnaby, David Wolfe, Anne Mallary, Helen O'Donnell, Shari Murawski, Betsy Sponable, Rebecca Hoyt (treasurer), and Ben Wolfe (chair). Don't hesitate to contact any one of us if you have any questions or ideas.

Are you interested in getting involved? We'd welcome your help. Look for our upcoming meeting in January. Our committee is looking to connect with other organizations that share our goals, and find better ways to help residents stay warm without having to give up needed food, medicine, or other essential services. We are hoping to learn about the successes of other communities, to develop ways to connect residents in need with locally sourced wood.

If you have questions about applying for a loan, or if you would like to share ideas and learn about the Committee's activities, you may contact any member of the Committee, or reach out to Ben Wolfe at the phone number or email above.

## **Better Bones**

Kay Jorgensen – 889-5528, [kjayvt@gmail.com](mailto:kjayvt@gmail.com)

The Better Bones program offers three free exercise sessions for adults. The 45-minute Monday morning Better Bones with Music class led by Linda Howe begins at 10. The Tuesday and Thursday groups meet at 6:45 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The classes offer balance and weight-bearing exercises aimed at increasing bone density at an age when bone mass is lost and many people become susceptible to osteoporosis. Sessions are upstairs at the Town Hall. Anyone can drop in and try it out. A doctor's permission is requested for those who continue with the classes.

## **Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Pat Howe, Vice President and Treasurer – 889-5512

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

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

TNHN continues to provide services to local residents through volunteer action. We mostly get requests for rides, but have done many other things.

Our service is for anyone; there is no membership and the service is free.

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 add you to the list.

Current Officers: Michael O'Donnell, President (763-8985); Pat Howe, Vice President and Treasurer (889-5512); Maxine Young, Secretary (763-8274) - [youngvt@myfairpoint.net](mailto:youngvt@myfairpoint.net)

Current Board Members: Michael O'Donnell, Patricia Howe, Jory Innes, Maxine Young, Linda B. Howe, Linda Lazaroff, Sarah Priestap Porter, David Wolfe (emeritus).



## Winter Evenings

889-9404, tunbridgelibrary@gmail.com

The Tunbridge Public Library Winter Evenings programs will be at 7 p.m. on two Fridays in January and February and March. The new season's subjects range from Arabia, vernal pools and printing to local farmers and women who grew up in Tunbridge. The 100th anniversary of women's suffrage will be celebrated with a musical program.

The Jan. 10 speaker is conservation biologist Steve Faccio of Strafford, a co-founder of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. He will speak on "Vernal Pools: Wicked Big Puddles or Critical Wildlife Habitat?"

On Jan. 24, archaeologist Christopher Tuttle of Tunbridge, director of archaeological surveys in Saudi Arabia, will speak on "Ancient Arabia: A Bridge to Three Continents."

Laura Ginsburg of Tunbridge, the Vermont Agricultural Development Section Chief, will lead a Feb. 7 local panel: "Our Farming Culture: Established and new farmers discuss their experiences in agriculture."

On Feb. 21 Paul Cooker of Tunbridge, a lifelong collector of books and manuscripts who is fascinated with their history, will speak on "The Evolution of Printing."

The Vermont Humanities Council is sponsoring the March 6 program: "From the Parlor to the Polling Place: Stories and Songs from the Suffragists" with vocalist Linda Radke and pianist Arthur Zorn. Songs and stories will highlight Vermonters' efforts from 1840-1921, as they lobbied for women's enfranchisement.

On March 20, Elaine Howe will moderate "Growing Up in Tunbridge." The panelists, who will reminisce about school, 4-H, the fair and other highlights of their youth, include: Susan (Cilley) Barnaby; Shirley (Roberts) Boles; Maryann (Chambers) Caron; Nancy (Anthony) Chapman; Rosemary (Welch) Distel; Joyce (Farnham) Miller; Jean (Barnaby) Parker; Margaret (Sherlock) Rogers; Jennifer (Howe) Thygesen; and Judy Tucker.

Winter Evenings are free. Refreshments are served. Donations are welcome. Committee members are Carrie Cooker, Elaine Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Anne Linehan, Fern Strong and Ben Wolfe.

## **Tunbridge Civic Club**

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

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

Reminder that the annual show will be held the second weekend in March – which will be March 13 and 14, 2020, so mark your calendars! If you are interested in participating, please contact Elaine or Maxine. The theme for the show will be “Country”. The chorus songs have been picked and CD’s can be requested so that you may start becoming familiar with them. Martin Young, Jr. will be burning CD’s. You can contact Martin at [martin.young66@gmail.com](mailto:martin.young66@gmail.com).

At the annual meeting in October, the same slate of officers and directors were re-elected. They are President, Elaine Howe; Vice-President, Butch Howe; Secretary, Maxine Young; and Treasurer, Jory Innes. Directors are Martin Young, Jr., and Donna Alden Locke. We are looking forward to another successful and fun show.

## **Tunbridge Walking Group**

Maxine Young-802-763-8274 [youngvt@myfairpoint.net](mailto:youngvt@myfairpoint.net).

The Tunbridge Walking Group continues to walk three or four times a week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30a.m. We will schedule a Monday or Friday walk occasionally also. We meet at various locations (an email is sent each week) and walk for about an hour or an hour and one-half. To be added to the e-mail list, contact Maxine at the above e-mail. There is a core group of walkers, however, we have many walkers who join us occasionally as time allows.

Hopefully, we will begin snowshoeing and/or cross-country skiing soon. Well behaved dogs are welcome on our walks/hikes. Occasionally, the dog will have to be on a leash for part of the walks so as not to go onto peoples’ properties.

## **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. Tunbridge Meals on Wheels delivery is available on Mondays. The Senior Center, which is affiliated with the Central Vermont Council on Aging, serves residents of Tunbridge, Chelsea and Ver-shire. It offers entertainment, health speakers, blood pressure clinics, foot clinics by appointment, trips and fundraisers. To request Meals on Wheels and for other information contact director Susan Pirie.

## Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more events.

### Jan

- 10 - Tunbridge Library Winter Evenings 7pm, Vernal pools talk, see pg 16
- 10 - Friday Night Bingo begins at the Grange Hall in N. Tunbridge
- 11 - Ed Larkin Contra Dance, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00
- 15 - Care for the Caregivers respite program, Parish House, see pg 13
- 24 - Library Winter Evenings 7pm, Ancient Arabia talk, see pg 16

### Feb

- 1 - Shindig with “Cold Chocolate” Town Hall. 7:30 - 10:30pm, \$10.
- 7 - Library Winter Evenings 7pm, Local farmers panel , see pg 16
- 8 - Ed Larkin Contra Dance, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00
- 21 - Library Winter Evenings 7pm, Evolution of Printing , see pg 16
- 25 - Pre-town meeting, 7:30pm at TCS

### March

- 3 - Town Meeting 10:00 & Presidential Primary 7am-7pm at TCS
- 6 - Library Winter Evenings 7pm, Stories and Songs from the Suffragists, vocalist Linda Radke, see pg 16
- 7 - Shindig with “GrooveSum” Town Hall. 7:30 - 10:30pm, \$10.
- 8 - Ed Larkin Contra Dance, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00
- 13&14 - Tunbridge Civic Club Show, see pg 17
- 15 - Deadline for entries for the January issue of the TQ. see pg 2
- 20 - Library Winter Evenings 7pm, Growing up in Tunbridge, see pg 16
- Weekly - Community Food Shelf, Fridays, 4-6 p.m., Parish House.
- Second Sundays - All-you-can-eat breakfast, 8am - 12pm, Town Hall, \$10.
- Every Wednesday - Intelligence Based Policing meeting 6-7pm, TCS. See pg 8

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly  
P.O. Box 68  
Tunbridge, VT 05077

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## The Tunbridge New Neighbors Network (TNNN)

Todd Tyson folkbloke@gmail.com Betsy Gaiser 763-2288

The TNNN will hold its inaugural organizational meeting on Thursday, Jan. 9th at 6:30 at the library. We plan to build upon the previous work of the Tunbridge Welcome Committee, and hope to have folks from all the neighborhoods in town get involved to help our new residents feel at home.

## Free Vermont Radio

Contact: info@royaltonradio.org

WFVR-LP continues to serve the communities of the Upper White River Watershed. This unique community radio station is staffed by 40+ dedicated volunteers hailing from area towns...including eight folks from Tunbridge. 24/7 programming both on-air (96.5FM) and on-line (wfv.org) includes numerous musical genres, local and national public affairs programs, a regular community calendar feature and the launch of a national news program in 2020. If you would like to get involved with volunteer community radio, just email the station or call 802-763-2700.

## MountainFolk

Contact: Todd Tyson, folkbloke@gmail.com

Tunbridge-based music presenter, MountainFolk is back in 2020 with three shows. Jim Rooney is joined by Bob Amos and Catamount Crossing on Saturday, February 15th at 7:30pm at the Seven Stars Arts Center in Sharon for an evening of roots/bluegrass/Americana music. \$15. in advance/\$20. at door. On Friday, March 6th, the May Erlewine Trio also performs at 7:30pm at Seven Stars featuring May's superb vocals and emotive songwriting. \$20. in advance/\$25. at door.

Welcome Spring at the Tunbridge Town Hall on Saturday, March 21st as Free Vermont Radio celebrates its 7th Anniversary with an evening of live music, tasty appetizers and local craft beer and other refreshments. Free with RCR membership (already a member or pay/renew for \$25.) \$20. for non-members.

For more information.... visit [www.mtnfolk.org](http://www.mtnfolk.org) or send an email to Todd

## Tunbridge Conservation Commission

Betsy Gaiser 763-2288

The Conservation Commission meets at the library on the 3rd Monday of each month. We are happy to welcome four new members to the Commission in the last few months. We are looking for one additional resident of Tunbridge to fill out our membership. If you are interested in joining us, please feel free to attend a meeting.

We have been busy planning several events that will take place in the next few months:

- Steve Faccio with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies will give a talk on vernal pools at the January 10th Winter Evening at the library. This will be a very informative talk and slide show revealing the vast array of life that exists in and around these temporary woodland pools.

- Kick off for the Tunbridge Big Tree Contest happened on Dec. 8th and will run until February 14th. Sponsored in partnership with the Town Forest Committee, this contest is designed to be fun for the whole family to get out and discover the unique natural world in our town. Find out more about the contest guidelines by contacting Eliza Minnucci at [eliza.minnucci@gmail.com](mailto:eliza.minnucci@gmail.com). Entry forms may be picked up at the library.

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- 21 - Free Vermont Radio 7th anniversary celebration, Town Hall, 6pm. live music, appetizers and local craft beer and other refreshments.

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

Second Fridays - Ed Larkin Contra Dance, 7:30pm, Town Hall, \$8.00

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

Every Wednesday - Intelligence Based Policing meeting 6-7pm, TCS. See pg 8