

The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



April 1, 2022
issue #68

Tunbridge Select Board

John O'Brien, Clerk

889-3474; bellwetherfilms@yahoo.com

Gary Mullen, Chair

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Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

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

Mariah Cilley, Administrative Assistant, (802-889-5521 or tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com)

Here's a contest for Tunbridge: With the blessing of our dedicated and hard-working editor, we should unofficially name the four TUNBRIDGE QUARTERLY editions. If we have names for full moons (Wolf Moon, Worm Moon, Strawberry Moon, Buck Moon, etc.), let's name our seasonal quarterlies. For example, April 1st could be the "Sugaring Quarterly" or "Mud Season Quarterly." Send suggestions to the Selectboard or the TQ editor.

If this edition finds us smack in the middle of Mud Season, it's a good opportunity to applaud our Road Crew for maintaining our town roads through a tricky winter. Plowing and sanding, plowing and sanding, the routine repeats itself over and over, but rarely during a 9-to-5 weekday. Nor'easters and Alberta Clippers have little sympathy for the family lives of the Road Crew. Sunday at 3 AM, supper time on Saturday, school commuting time—bad weather has an apparent malicious streak when it arrives in Tunbridge, but our Road Crew is committed to keeping our roads clear and safe, 24/7. We thank them for a job well done.

Some future dates and times are worth keeping in mind:

The Transfer Station, following the time change, is now open 4 to 7 PM on Wednesdays. As usual, it is open 9 to 3 on Saturdays.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Tunbridge's Town Meeting has been postponed from the traditional first Tuesday in March to Saturday, May 21, at the Fairgrounds. This is the same schedule we followed last year. A big thanks to the Fair for being welcoming and flexible.

In a return to tradition, Tunbridge will host its Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30th. Completely canceled in 2020, and pushed off until the July 4th weekend last year, we are a go this year. We are hopeful that antique tractors representing every color of the rainbow—Is there a violet tractor?—will mosey down our defacto Main Street following veterans, a marching band, Little Leaguers and perhaps a brigade of Beagles. We suspect the Fire Department will grill chickens and hotdogs, the Library will sell books and plants, and for gamblers, there may be cow chip bingo.

The Selectboard would like to highlight two articles on the Town Meeting Warning that warrant the consideration of Tunbridgians. At Town

Meeting, we always appreciate civil and thoughtful discussion from residents. Article 9 proposes to give the Selectboard the power to appoint the Town Treasurer and Town Clerk. These positions would no longer be filled through election. There are both pros and cons to this change. On balance, the Select board supports this change. Recognizing how hard it is to find qualified applicants for municipal positions, and aware of how little job security there is for the Treasurer or Town Clerk, the Selectboard feels the change would be a vote for experience and continuity. Municipal jobs ain't what they used to be: Today, they require computer skills; an ability to interface with state and federal officials; a proactive energy to go after competitive grants. That said, the Selectboard is also a big fan of democratically-elected officials. If there was ever townwide displeasure with the Clerk or Treasurer, voters could go to the Selectboard for redress. If the Selectboard was deaf to residents' concerns, it could very well be the Selectboard that gets the boot. "Vote the bums out!" will remain a viable option for dissatisfaction.

Article 11 proposes to return some amount of the General Fund surplus to the taxpayers and sock the rest away in a capital fund. This division is similar to what we did two years ago. We would appreciate voter support, but would entertain an amendment, also.

Post-Town Meeting, the Selectboard is looking forward to striking a compromise on the gnarly issues of Legal Trails and the Transfer Station. If solutions have been long in coming, they are a reflection on the complexity of the issues and the fervid input of town residents and landowners. We doubt the resulting policies or ordinances will make everybody happy. What makes people happy? Puppies and weatherizing. We are currently having energy audits done on the Town Hall and Town Offices to see if we can tighten up those venerable structures. And puppies? Remember to get a dog license for your best friend.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglasstudio@gmail.com

The first issue of The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly was mailed in 2005. Since then, Tunbridge volunteers and town officials have been writing entries every three months which I compile into the TQ format. Spaulding Press does the printing and then the pick up, labeling and sorting for the bulk mailing is all completed here on Dickerman Hill. 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.

The deadline dates for TQ entries are the 15th of December, March, June and September.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Mariah Cilley 889-5521 town.clerk@tunbridgevt.org

Hours: Monday & Wednesday: Available 8-2 by phone, email or appointment

Tuesday & Thursday: Available 8-2

Hello Tunbridge! The snow is starting to melt and I think spring is finally upon us. Please note, my new email address above, and update your contact information accordingly.

Dog Licenses are due April 1st. You can either stop in on Tuesday and Thursday between 8-2 to register in person, mail payment and an updated rabies certificate to PO Box 6, or place the items in the drop box at the office and I can issue a license for you. The cost is \$9.00 for spayed/neutered and \$13.00 for non-spayed/neutered.

Town Meeting will be held May 21st, 2022 at 10:00am on the Fairgrounds in the same format as last year.

If you would like to request a slot on a Selectboard meeting agenda, please email 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 our wonderful treasurer Becky Hoyt. 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 questions that you may have.

Starting June 1st I will be on maternity leave. I will have an assistant in the office to cover Tuesday and Thursday hours and who will be available to answer any questions you may have, as well as fulfill dog licenses, marriage licenses, dump tickets, birth or death certificates etc. I plan to resume working from home and be available again by phone or email starting on August 2nd and my assistant will maintain the Tuesday and Thursday hours until I come back to the office. Stop by and give them a warm welcome.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns or to set up a time to meet outside of my office hours if you have matters that require in person meetings. Stay well! Think Spring! -Mariah

Better Bones

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

A twice-a-week session of the free Better Bones balance and weight-bearing exercise program is offered at the Town Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 p.m. It is aimed at increasing bone density at an age when bone mass is lost and osteoporosis is a concern. Anyone can drop in for a session. A doctor's permission is requested for those who continue with the program.

Tunbridge Conservation Commission

Eliza Minnucci

With a healthy membership, and more event ideas than there are weekends in the year, expect to continue to hear lots from your Conservation Commission. You can find us on facebook and instagram: @tunbridgeconservation. You can also find updates on our work and events on the Tunbridge town website. Last year's wildflower inventory identified 129 wildflower species within town limits - we'll be publicizing that work more in the growing season to come. We sponsored two birding walks last spring, one at the town forest which we hope to make more use of. The Conservation Commission also sponsored the second annual hand-feeding bird contest and while the Moody Road chickadees must be the most tame in all of Tunbridge, Rowan Lawrence won the raffle with a clever snowman stand-in, allowed as an entry because this year was a tougher year for hand-feeding!

Powered by the energetic woodworking of Maureen McCullough and Neil Fitzgerald, the TCC Bluebird House Fundraiser has flooded the local market with (bird)housing stock. 78 locally handmade bluebird houses have been distributed to fields across Tunbridge and beyond. We are thrilled and grateful for all the interest in this project.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for a Coverts: Woodland for Wildlife Walkshop to be held at Larry Mengedoht's on April 23rd. Following that will be a more leisurely Spring Ephemeral Wildflower walk on April 30th. Green Up day is May 7th this year and we are counting on you to fill a green bag or two with roadside detritus. Once again this year you can turn in Green-Up Day bags to the dump on May 7th in exchange for "BobnEd Bucks" to spend at the Recreation Field Cook Shack.

And keep an eye out for bird walks to be announced this spring, river clean-up dates to follow in late summer, as well as explorations and trail-work-parties to enhance the Garage Lot Town Forest. Garage Lot? Wonder if we could come up with a better name...Stay tuned!

Your input is valued. The Tunbridge Conservation Commission meets on the third Monday of each month at 6pm, generally at the library. More information can be found on the town website- <http://tunbridgevt.org/conservation-commission/>

Ellen Hosford - Interim Chair - erhosford@gmail.com

Eliza Minnucci - Secretary - eliza.minnucci@gmail.com

Scott Beavers, Jory Innes, Betsy Gaiser, Cheryl McCarty,

Maureen McCullough, Michael Sacca

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Dan ‘Rudi’ Ruddell, Helen O’Donnell, Darlene Miller 889-3571
lister@tunbridgevt.org

Our goal in the Lister office is 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.

As we enter year 3 of COVID-19 impacts it is clear we are living in a changed world. Our office is open on Tuesdays and Fridays again, but many new routines involving fewer direct, in-person communications are likely here to stay, and continue to evolve. Please let us know how we can best serve you, as providing efficient and satisfactory service to the town remains a primary goal. We have mixed feelings about the changes, and believe the community engagement of having elected listers, rather than a contracted assessor, is an important distinction and (we hope) part of what makes living here special.

Darlene Miller was elected our newest Lister at Town Meeting 2021 and is busy getting up to speed on the myriad of tasks that occur on an annual cycle. In addition, all three of us are learning new routines as the state of Vermont transitions to a new system (VTPIE, for VT Property Information Exchange) that will better integrate the property transfers, homestead declarations and property tax adjustment credits, current use enrollments, and parcel mapping that comprise portions of our job complementing the maintenance of current assessment information.

April 1 is the “assess as is” date in our annual cycle, and we are focusing on quarterly rotational reviews in the northwest quadrant of town for 2022. We are primarily updating outdoor pictures and making phone calls instead of visiting interiors, and greatly appreciate notice if there are significant changes to your property (whether in the NW quadrant or elsewhere). If there are changes to a property in any part of town, we may make Changes of Appraisal up until early June but need to estimate the state of completion as of April 1.

HOMESTEAD DECLARATIONS AND HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT CLAIMS ARE DUE APRIL 15, 2022, even if you anticipate filing an extension for income taxes (adjustments can be made later and still be considered timely if you file by April 15). Late fees and penalties apply after April 15, and no HS declarations are accepted after October 15.

If you are eligible, the Homestead Property Tax Adjustment is a credit against taxes, filed at the same time as the Homestead Declaration.

Further information can be found at:

<https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>

We are working on the 2022 Grand List (GL) statewide sales equalization study with a continuing eye to how the pandemic is affecting sales (last year the trend was mostly a quicker turn-around on sales, but this year it appears overall sale prices in Tunbridge may be rising). Based on the 2021 GL sales study, Tunbridge now has: Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) of 98.92%
Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) of 16.69%

We are mandated to do a town-wide reappraisal if our CLA drops below 85% or exceeds 115%, or our COD exceeds 20%; none of these thresholds applies in Tunbridge this year.

The CLA helps equalize sales values across towns for purposes of leveling education taxes (<https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/understanding-property-taxes/education-tax-rates>). Our last town-wide reappraisal, when the CLA by definition was 100%, was in 2010.

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.

The Vermont Tax Structure Commission completed a review of the current taxation system in 2021, and recommended significant changes to the current heavy reliance on property taxes: (<https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Subjects/Commission-Resources/2879ca8c0a/TSC-Introduction-and-Summary-of-Recommendations.pdf>). Until those recommendations start to be implemented, Vermont's taxation structure remains complex and challenging to understand. Our role as Listers places us in the middle of navigating that system, and we do our best to address questions and issues that you have, or connect you with the appropriate resources, while completing the necessities of an increasing workload.

Tunbridge Grange # 384

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

Hopefully at the reading of this Tunbridge Quarterly, many of you are thinking about getting your garden plants started so they are ready to put into the ground around Memorial Day!

Despite a few cancellations due to weather (and covid), the Grange has continued offering the traditional Friday Night Bingo at 7:00pm the North Tunbridge Grange Hall. Everyone said it has been a nice way to support the fundraising efforts of the Grange, while giving community folks a chance to have some fun during our long winters!

We continue to encourage purchasing Rada Cutlery in support of the Tunbridge Grange. You can view the online catalog by typing the following link into your internet browser: <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=5464217.23852c> and choose Tunbridge Grange #384.

If you prefer a regular paper catalog, let us know and we will get some copies of the latest Rada catalog.

We have had some new members recently join the Tunbridge Grange (you don't have to actually live in Tunbridge to join) and we'd love to see more people join. We hold our meetings the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at the North Tunbridge Grange Hall. Stop by to see what we do (and bring friends); meetings usually only last about an hour. For more information, please call Mert Vesper at 889-5595.

Tunbridge Library

NEW Hours: T 10-5; W 3-7; Th 10-5; F 3-7; Sat 9-12

889-9404/tunbridglibrary@gmail.com tunbridglibrary.org

In the coming months you will see the dream of our outdoor space become reality. Sue Barnaby continues to be a force within our community as we imagine and create a place where families and children are honored, safe, surrounded with literature, and have the freedom and space to play. We are excited to say during the month of May, Corner Rail Fence will be constructing the beautiful fence and arbor that will enclose all the pieces that will make up our community space. We will have new gardens, a sandbox, picnic tables, a mud kitchen and so much more to look forward to.

Children from the after school program will have a chance to enjoy this new space during the spring session. Each Wednesday dozens of children hop off the bus, enjoy a snack and a story, then choose their preferred activity. Kids can choose from Comic Club, Lego Club, Fiber Group, or Chess Club. Thanks to our partnership with Tunbridge Central School's One Planet program and the amazing volunteers who donate their time, we can continue to offer this program free of charge to families in our community. If you would like to volunteer please contact Mariah Lawrence at the library.

There are so many ways to connect, learn and grow from each other at TPL. Each Wednesday we offer Chess Club at 4pm. All ages and abilities are encouraged to attend. "Shelf Love" our bi-monthly adult book club will be meeting May 13th @6pm to discuss their next selection. We have a monthly fiber group that meets the first Wednesday night of each month from 6-8pm. For families we offer Saturday morning story hours at 10am as well as a "Discovery" story hours for the under 5 year olds on Tuesdays at 10am. Every other Tuesday we hold a homeschool day with a book club focused on Vermont's Golden Dome book award nominees.

Through a generous grant from the Vermont Humanities council we are very excited to offer another round of Generation Connect, our multi-age book club. If you would like to be a part of this program there is still plenty of time to join. Participants can join as individuals or with a partner of a different generation. For this round we will be reading *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera.

"Abstractions," a solo show by artist Julia Pavone, of Chelsea, Vt., will be on display at the Tunbridge Public Library from March 22 until June 18, 2022. Pavone is the co-founder and Curator/Director of the Alexey von Schlippe Gallery of Art, and was Professor of Studio Art and Art History at the University of Connecticut's Avery Point Campus for 25 years. Julia is now a full-time artist, living and working in Vermont and is one of the co-founders of the Chelsea Arts Collective.

We would like to remind everyone that The Tunbridge Underground (formerly known as the basement book sale) is open during all library hours and for giant sales once per month. You can find titles in various genres, gift items, puzzles, children's books and more!

Tunbridge Historical Society

Fern Strong - 860-986-0507

The Tunbridge Historical Society is still looking for a new president. If you are interested, please contact any of the board members stating why you believe you would be a good fit and what your objectives would be.

2022 is going to be a busy year for programs. We plan a program for Memorial Day on Tunbridge's Chapter of the American Red Cross through the years. Tunbridge Speaks program in July will be about the Tunbridge World's Fair as this is the 150th anniversary. Also, we plan another program related to the World's Fair in August. The Ghost Walk will take place in Kelsey Mountain Cemetery in October. Please check for details about these programs on social media and local listserv.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for April 3rd -1pm at Town Hall. We look forward to input and participation by all. Please share information, questions, and photographs with us on our Facebook page and feel free to contact any of the officers.

Fern Strong, president@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org,

Elaine Howe, secretary@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org

Israel (Izzy) Provoncha, treasurer@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org

First Branch Ambulance

Judy Tucker - 889-3305 tuckerjudy40@yahoo.com

The FBA would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions in response to our fundraising letter. We are currently seeking staff for EMTs and will provide training. and certification if necessary.

FBA provides free home visits to those who may need minor care issues addressed, such as vital signs, medical evaluations or dressing changes. If you or someone in your family could benefit from this service please call Chase Ackerman at 1-802-685-3112 to set this up.

EMT Liz Connor has been promoted to Assistant Director of FBA. She has worked with us for 3 years and lives in Chelsea. She also works for the South Royalton Rescue.

The Tunbridge board representatives are Barbara LaFrancis and Judy Tucker. Anyone wishing to purchase the red house sign can do so by calling Judy at 1-802-889-3305 leaving a message and call back number. The charitable donation is \$20.00.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jamie Bradford 889-3478

The Fire Departments Annual Meeting will be held on May 12, 2022 at 6:00p.m. Due to Covid-19 we have postponed this event to a later date in the hopes for better circumstances or the opportunity to be held outdoors. At this event a potluck dinner typically begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Any and all community members are welcome to attend. This event will be warned in the Herald as the event date approaches.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt put on by the fire department each year was canceled last year. The department is planning on a hunt this year and is currently awaiting guidance as to how the egg hunt will look this year. Once a set plan is in place, the information will be posted on The Fire Departments Facebook page (Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department).

The Fire Department will have the chicken BBQ at the Memorial Day parade this year providing all celebrations go on as planned. Communications and prices will be posted on the Fire Departments Facebook page closer to the parade date.

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.

Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair

Deb Mullen 889-9406

2022 marks an important milestone for the fair, our 150th! In addition to special events taking place during the fair we have, as usual, a number of pre-fair projects on our slate and we hope you'll want to join us! The fair committees have been meeting to plan special events; if you have ideas you'd like to share, join the Friends for an opportunity to have them heard.

We are excited to announce that we received a \$1000 grant from the Co-Op insurance company to help with the purchase and installation of windows in the new building (the former bingo hall); the Frankenburg Agency and Carol Bushey matched the grant, for a total of \$3000.

The volunteer opportunities start this spring with our annual duck race ticket sale on Memorial Day; we will be set up on the library lawn. There will be additional opportunities to buy ducks (and to volunteer!) on Town Meeting Day, and throughout the summer; to learn more, contact the Friends directly at 802-889-9406. The Friends meet monthly from May through October on the 2nd Wednesday of the month; we hope you'll join us for what promises to be a very special year for both our town and our fair!

Tunbridge Community Food Shelf

Open Fridays 4:00 to 6:00 802-693-0098

Tunbridge Church phone number...please leave a message

The Tunbridge Community Food Shelf is sponsored by the Tunbridge Church and is located in the Parish House across from the town office building and church. It is currently open every Friday afternoon 4:00 to 6:00, with the exception of immediately before holidays and the week of Tunbridge Fair. If there is a day or time that you feel would work better, let the committee know, as we are trying to determine how to meet the needs of the community.

Anyone who needs items to supplement their weekly food is encouraged to stop by and see what is available. There are no restrictions for using the food shelf. Recipients need to fill out a brief form with their name and the number of persons who will be fed by the foods obtained. Specifically the USDA and VT food bank requires that we keep track of the number of children, adults and persons over 65, for their records. There are teams of accommodating and nonjudgemental volunteers who man the food shelf each Friday. Additional volunteers are always welcomed.

The Tunbridge Community Food Shelf has a good supply of canned fruits and vegetables, soups, dried beans, rice and lentils, tuna fish, peanut butter and jelly, pasta and sauces, cereal, meat and an assortment of personal care items. We only occasionally have fresh vegetables and fruits. To remedy this the committee is contemplating purchasing a local CSA to provide a source of fresh vegetables. Additionally, we hope vegetables and herbs will be available at the community garden. We encourage anyone with a few extra vegetables this coming summer to share those with the community. We are again planning to use the area near the creche in front of the Parish House for the dispersal of vegetables.

Please note the change of phone number from the last Tunbridge Quarterly. Our present number is 802 693-0098. Anyone wishing to make food donations may leave them at the Parish House or monetary donations can be sent to Mary Fisk, treasurer at PO Box 12, Tunbridge, VT 05077

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 (including videos of meetings via Zoom), an Events Calendar listing upcoming meetings and community 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.

The Tunbridge Church

Kay Jorgensen, 802-693-0098, thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com

All are invited to The Tunbridge Church Easter Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. on April 1. Featuring hymns and readings, it will be held in the field at the top of Strafford Road at Orchard Road. Dress warmly.

The church building has been closed this winter. Guest Pastor Benjamin Wolfe is leading live and interactive Evensong Services on Zoom and by phone on Sundays at 4 p.m. through May. Link to the service from the church's website at tunbridgechurch.org or dial (646) 876-9923 to join by phone – meeting ID: 985 3218 9697, passcode: 974076.

Join early or stay connected after the service for fellowship time. Recordings of the services, without the social time, are posted on YouTube at the “Index to Services” link on the church website. The Parish Council will be sending a survey asking when church members feel they will be ready for in-person services in the sanctuary or outdoors after May.

Last fall the church accepted mission donations for the Vermont branch of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI Vermont) which is settling people from Afghanistan. The donation totaled \$1,100, including all of the Christmas Eve offerings. Church members also collected a dozen bags of winter clothing for the Orange County Sheriff's Annual Winter Clothing Drive that were distributed through Capstone Community Action.

The current mission benefits Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire. Half of offerings received through May will be donated, unless designated for other purposes. The agency helps keep residents out of hospitals, emergency rooms and nursing homes. Between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, VNH made 614 homecare visits to 22 Tunbridge residents.

During the winter the Tunbridge Community Food Shelf, with support of the Outreach Committee, began a new venture — Storm Snack Packs for local seniors. The bags included such foods as cocoa, cereal, juice, soup, fruit and snack treats.

Women Moving Forward, a group that started last summer for widows, meets at the Parish House on the third Thursday of the month at noon for potluck lunch. In addition, a collection of books that offer comfort and support is kept at the Parish House for anyone to borrow or keep.

A Bible Study group with leaders Liz and Vinnie White meets at 4 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Parish House. The Tunbridge Community Food Shelf is open Fridays from 4-6 p.m. Al-Anon and AA meet at the Parish House on Sundays at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively.

To join the church email list, write thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com or call 802-693-0098. Announcements are also posted on Facebook. The church welcomes donations in support of its programs at PO Box 270, Tunbridge VT 05077 or by credit card at tunbridgechurch.org. Food Shelf donations may be sent to Mary Fisk, PO Box 12, Tunbridge VT

ECFiber

Your Local Community-Owned Internet Provider
Henry Swayze 603-667-8932, Richard Dybvig 802-522-3567
ECF office – 763-2262 info@ecfiber.net www.ecfiber.net

Tunbridge is now served, lit, activated, whatever you call it, it's done. Now I'll probably get in trouble because someone will say "I can't afford the direct burial cost" or "I ordered a service last month and it's not done". In answer: 1) we are working on subsidies for long, underground runs, and 2) we can't drop everything to install one service. But if the pole is wired, you should be lit in two weeks.

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber, access our district map showing member towns and network build status, and review minutes of our governing board meetings. ECFiber has installed 1570 miles of fiber in the original 23 towns, serving 6900 subscribers. We also added 8 new towns and a \$2.8 million grant for design work. This has and will continue to bring fiber without any burden on taxpayers. We also have created a committee system which includes: Finance, External Relations, Operations & Marketing, Governance and Construction. This has already proven to have more focus on specific issues and to avoid 2.5 hour monthly meetings.

Regarding the Hoyt Farm debacle; we recognized the gravity of their situation. In spite of our best efforts to identify the insurance resources and resolve it quickly, the attorney filed a claim against four different entities. This guarantees that the process will be long and drawn out. It's now completely out of our control.

We appreciate your support for this community led and community owned project. We now have better Internet service than many living in cities. Make good use of it.

A final note: if you want to be involved in this project, we would welcome you as the third, and youngest, representative from Tunbridge.

Chelsea Area Senior Center

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

In addition to offering Meals on Wheels and Curbside pick-up, the Chelsea Area Senior Center will be opening for indoor dining at 12:00 pm on April 4th. Please call to make a reservation to eat indoors, curbside pick up and also Meals on Wheels.

Tunbridge School Club

Tiffany Bates, 802-693-0396 tunbridgeschoolclub@wrvsu.org

Eliza Minnucci, Meg Hopkins, Jen Loftus

At publication it remains to be seen whether our timing proves accurate or optimistic, but in early March, parent volunteers helped bid winter adieu with a joyful Winter Carnival, and welcomed spring by distributing the High Mowing Seed Fundraiser seeds. The School Club and parent volunteers provided hot chocolate and muffins, skate tying, snowshoe wrestling and snow art supervision on a perfectly blue sky day to support Winter Carnival. Our High Mowing Seed fundraiser raised over \$500 and also provided a wealth of seeds to be used by teachers and students this spring. Thank you to all who ordered!

Never more than after the last two years of pandemic schooling, we look forward to showing gratitude to our school staff during Teacher Appreciation Week May 2 - May 6.

Additionally, we will be looking for ways to bring more parents and community members together in support and celebration of our schools in the coming months.

If you wonder about ways to support the quality of our local school - one way is to join the School Club. All community members are encouraged to join us, you don't have to be a parent. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm, by Google Meet for now. Email tunbridgeschoolclub@wrvsu.org for the link.

Tunbridge World's Fair

802-889-5555 info@tunbridgeworldsfair.com.

The Tunbridge World's Fair Office is happy to answer any questions about the fair and the use of the fairgrounds for special events which need to be scheduled through the Main Office. We welcome all size groups, but regardless of size you will need a contract to use the fairgrounds.

Please help us celebrate the 150th World's Fair this year. In true Tunbridge tradition we are starting the celebration early! We will be participating in the Memorial Day Parade and hosting three other events at the fairgrounds this summer. Save these dates and look for more details in the coming months on our website.

June 17th @ 6pm – BBQ/Dance.

July 13th @ 6pm – Historical Games/Trivia/Bring your own Picnic Dinner
& Ice cream will be provided.

August 10th @ 7pm – Outdoor Movie Night.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

For TNHN services call 889-3437

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors coordinates basic services to town residents provided by the willing hearts and hands of volunteers. This help is offered to anyone who needs it at no charge. (The cost of any materials needed will fall on the person requesting it.)

Most of our calls are for rides to and from nearby medical appointments, church and other local events, car repair/service appointments and shopping trips. Among the other tasks taken on by our handy volunteers in the past year were repairing a screen door, taking recycling to the transfer station, fixing smoke detectors, and removing and chopping up an old swing set.

Additional services offered by TNHN could be:

Pick up of prescriptions or other goods from stores

Cooking meals for people who are ill or otherwise unable to cook/short term

Minor repairs or painting, minor home improvements, changing a lock

Changing a flat tire or jump-starting a car

Simple repairs to household appliances

Help lifting or moving large objects

Delivery of Tunbridge Public Library books or Food Shelf items

Help with gardening, lawn care or stacking firewood

Shoveling snow off walkways and steps

Other reasonable requests we haven't thought of

Anyone needing help with something should call 802-889-3437; advance notice is appreciated. We do our best to find a volunteer who is available for that specific request at that specific time and date, although on occasion that is not possible.

TNHN is always on the lookout for more volunteers! Tunbridgians are encouraged to participate in this enjoyable way to get to know some of their neighbors, and we respect and value everyone's willingness to help. To join our volunteer list, please contact any of the board members listed below or call 802-889-3437.

TNHN is a non-profit organization supported by town funding and donations, which may be sent to TNHN, P.O. Box 22, Tunbridge, VT 05077.

Current Board Members: Michael O'Donnell, President – 802-763-8985; Jory Innes, Vice President – 802-299-9249; Pat Howe, Treasurer – 802-889-5512; Linda B. Howe, Linda Lazaroff, Sarah Priestap Porter.

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