

# The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly



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

May 15,  
2008  
Issue #12

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

Postal Patron  
Tunbridge, VT  
05077

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Tunbridge, VT  
Permit No. 3

## **Orange County Domestic & Sexual Violence Taskforce**

Connie Button 728-3336

Do something to end bullying in your local school, help prevent violence in your neighbor's home, and learn more about the causes of relationship and family violence. Please join the Tunbridge Cluster of the Orange County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Tunbridge Parish House from 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

In the coming year, we will need volunteers to march in the Randolph Parade and hand out information, booth-sit at the Tunbridge Fair and help us plan our community wide dinner and meeting. The greater number of community members who lend their voice to this issue, the easier the message will be spread that we don't condone violence in Tunbridge .

### **Localvore Alert**

Anne Leeds- 889-3350

Sprouts are sprouting and spring is springing.

'Tis the season for localvore eating!

Here is an expanded list of Tunbridge food producers raising and growing wholesome delicious foods. Call these folks directly for specific product information and availability.

- Beef and lamb, Gordie Barnaby, Barb Farnsworth and Pam Steiner- 9438.
- Maple products, Bill and Marie Danforth- 5661.
- Produce, Tripp Edwards- 3235.
- Raw milk (for pets only), Rob Howe- 3704.
- Raw milk (for pets only) and beef, Gary Mullen- 3323.
- Produce, Jean and Wendy Palthey- 3565.
- Lamb and eggs, Marion White, 3417.
- Beef, pork and poultry, Ray Williams and Liz York- 3211.

### **Transfer Station & Recycling**

Mary-Alice Leonard-Heath- 685-3035

**Saturdays from 9:00 - 3:00.**

The transfer station is no longer accepting cash. You need to have a ticket to take your trash to the transfer station. Tickets are available at the town office and The Village Store. They are available in \$30, \$20, \$25 and \$10 denominations.

## **Tunbridge Treasurer, Con't**

The estimated municipal tax rate is \$.69. This will increase by \$.018 if the \$20000 for the ambulance is added at a later date. It could also change if there are any deficits or surpluses in the 07/08 budget. As of now the budget looks pretty tight. Assuming the ambulance passes later, the estimated municipal tax rate will be \$.708. Last year the municipal tax rate was \$.589, an increase of \$.119. An increase of \$119 on a property valued at \$100,000.

The estimated education residential tax rate is \$1.548, and the non-residential is \$1.845. Therefore the estimated Homestead tax rate will be \$2.256 and the Non-residential rate will be \$2.553. Last year the residential rate was \$2.014 and the non-residential rate was \$2.3301. There is an increase of \$.242 in the residential rate, or \$242. on a property value of \$100,000.

### **Tunbridge Select Board**

Administrative Assistant, Wendy McCullough - 889-5521

The Select Board welcomed the new Board member Shane Young at the Select Board organization meeting on March 05, 2008. Tim Wolfe was Elected Chair; Mike O'Donnell is the Vice Chair and Shane Young is the Clerk.

The Select Board is currently working on the issue of finding sand locally and are calling on property owners for assistance; if you are interested in being on a search committee and or have ideas please contact the Select Board or Wendy.

They are currently looking at options on purchasing a new truck; the Road Crew and SB have looked at and test drove a few, they plan to have one ordered by the end of April.

A Town Hall Committee has been established; the Committee has taken an inventory of the Town Hall; they will be checking the Town Hall after it has been rented; and working on incomplete projects and new projects. Committee members are Penny Chapman, Mary Fisk, Helen O'Donnell and Jonni Spaulding.

A Special Town Meeting is being planned for this summer for the First Branch Ambulance Appropriation and New Fire Truck.

The Select Board are actively working with the property owner of the damaged building at the Recreation Field. They will be placing a safety fence to help deter trespassers from entering the unsafe structure. The Select Board will do what they can to get this site secured and cleaned up in a timely manner.

The Select Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to attend.

## Happenings in Tunbridge

- May 17th - "Building a Better Vermont"  
Orange County Community Forum with Progressive gubernatorial candidate, Anthony Pollina... with free pizza and a free film screening of "The End of Suburbia". Discussion/meal starts at 6PM at the Tunbridge Town Hall with film to follow at 8PM. Further information at folkbloke@hotmail.com & 802-431-3433.
- May 30th - REAL Memorial Day Contradance Party at the Tunbridge Grange - music by Rumpledethumps  
7:30 - 10:30pm \$8.00 adults \$4 teens children under 12 & under free Sponsored by the Tunbridge Grange and New Acadia Farm.
- June 27th - Contra dance Series: Happening on the 4th Fridays  
July 25th at the Tunbridge Grange Hall. 7:30 - 10:30pm  
Aug. 22nd \$8.00 adults \$4 teens children under 12 & under free. Beginner's lesson and couple's dance lesson at 7pm. No partner needed. Please bring clean, soft-soled shoes.
- May 9th - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers- all dances taught  
June 14th 7:30pm - \$5.00 donation  
July 12th
- June 21st - Vermont History Expo  
& 22nd: at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds
- June 22 - To coincide with the Vermont History Expo, -  
Round Barn tours 3-5pm and post expo BBQ and kitchen junket at the David Whitney Farmhouse
- August 16th - New Acadia Farm, Whitney Hill. Annual Summer-time Music & Dance Weekend Open air Contradance with The Clayfoot Strutters, Kathy Anderson calling. (Friday and Sunday dances also with music/band workshops) Information: call Robin at 889-3246

## ECFiber.Net

Janet Zug 889-9602

Do you want High-Speed Internet? Pre-registering online at [www.ecfiber.net/preregister](http://www.ecfiber.net/preregister).

In case you haven't heard about it yet, The East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network (ECFiber.net) is an association of towns in East-Central Vermont formed to build a community-owned fiber-optic communications network for the purpose of making high-speed Internet, digital television and telephone services universally available to the approximately 23,000 homes and businesses in participating towns.

On town meeting day this project received overwhelming support in all the town that voted to join. To date we have 23 participating towns. The Tunbridge Select board appointed myself as your delegate to this committee and Henry Swayze as the alternate. Then, the delegates from all the participating towns voted to create the ECFiber Executive Committee. Yours truly was elected to serve on that committee.

The ECFiber project would not be possible without three main factors; community support, willing volunteers and ValleyNet. ValleyNet started a new initiative, ValleyFiber, to help towns organize themselves to create and use town-wide fiber-optic networks. ValleyNet has the experience in setting up an Internet business, and they hired Tim and Leslie Nulty to work on this project. The Nulty's have years of experience in creating Fiber-Optic networks, including Burlington Telecom (BT).

If you are curious to know what the subscription cost will be, check out the BT website at [www.burlingtontelecom.net](http://www.burlingtontelecom.net). ECFiber's prices and packages will be close to the rates listed there. There will likely be a small increase, as the services will not become available for more than a year or two.

Show your support for ECFiber by pre-registering. Pre-registering is not a binding commitment as it is understood that your needs may change. When service is available in your area, ECFiber will contact you to ask if you are still interested. You can also help by encouraging your friends and neighbors to pre-register. The most efficient way to pre-register is online at [www.ecfiber.net/preregister](http://www.ecfiber.net/preregister).

If you have questions please contact Janet Zug at the number above or Henry Swayze at 889-5556

## **First Branch Sustainability Project**

Henry Swayze 889-5556

We had a most successful Sustainable Living Fair on April 12th with 9 workshops and over 35 exhibitors. Attendance was approximately 700 people which was far beyond our greatest expectations. Thanks to all of you who supported this event. Our goal was to offer the public little steps they could take to reduce their dependency and the economic impacts of the rising cost of fossil fuel while at the same time helping the environment. If you would like a suggested list of actions complete with potential percentage reductions in energy usage you can obtain just call or email me [henryswayze@gmail.com](mailto:henryswayze@gmail.com) or go to [www.vpon.net](http://www.vpon.net) where a version of it will be in the May newsletter and later a more detailed guide will be posted.

People have raised their hands with interest in working on the following subjects:

- Core overview to identify projects and put people together
- Communications
- Campaign to make yours and others houses more energy efficient
- Community energy production- wind, hydro, biomass, hydrogen, ethanol?
- Pellet stove coop for fuel and stoves and perhaps production of pellets
- Sustainable land management large and small with the potential of sequestering carbon
- Green investing
- Public transportation and ride share
- Food in our valley
- Permaculture and wild edibles
- Extending your growing season
- Support from a master gardener

If you wish to work on any of these areas or have other areas that you wish to peruse please contact me to be put together with other like minded individuals. Our goal is to transition our area off of our dependency on fossil fuel and at the same time make it a community that has more resilience to the shocks of climate change, fuel price escalations-shortages and potential economic disruptions. In short to make our community even a more robust than it is already. Together we can make a marvelous future.

## **Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department**

Jena Young- 889-2804

Greetings from your local Fire Department. We begin this edition of the TQ with a big congratulations to six of our members on their recent completion of the Firefighter Level One course. These six members are made up of Mike Morrison, Tripp Edwards, Todd Sedlak, John Welch, Vern Maxham and Bob Dunkle. This comprehensive course started last October and involved 140 hours of training covering everything from dealing with hazardous materials, to the National Incident Management System, CPR, addressing wild land fires and even traffic control. Some of these members are now moving on to pursue additional training in a First Responder Course.

Turning to other business, several members of the department have been finalizing the specifications for the new fire truck to replace Engine 2. The design phase is just wrapping up and we are moving on to putting the building of the truck out to bid. If all goes as planned, we expect to be calling a special town meeting sometime in the mid – late summer for a vote to approve financing for the balance of the cost over & above the current truck fund balance.

We are also in the process of reviewing and updating several department related documents including our By-laws which govern our Board and Officers and our Mutual Aid Agreements with other towns.

Finally, Memorial Day is coming up! Be on the look out for our annual advertisement in the Herald to reserve your barbeque chicken and dinner. Thanks to your continued support this fund raiser proves to be a great success every year. We hope to see you there!

## **The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly**

Janet Zug 889-9602

You may notice that the TQ is a bit heavier this time, another page has been added to accommodate all the entries.

Please send your submissions to the email below. Deadlines for the Quarterly are the first day of August, November and February and May.

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the TUNBRIDGE Quarterly please call, write or email me at [janet@zugglass.com](mailto:janet@zugglass.com).

## **Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Jim Wick 889-3437

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors has been started to help provide services to local residents through volunteer action. We started providing services nearly two years ago. We have about 90 volunteers who have agreed to help. We have helped many local residents in many ways including giving rides, changing a tire, fixing a lock, helping with a computer, and so on. If you need help with something, the number to call is:

889-3437

One of us will take your request and try to line up a volunteer. There is no charge for the service and you don't have to join anything. There are no dues or fees. We are being supported by generous donations from local residents and businesses. This service is for anyone. Our emphasis will be to provide services for seniors, but anyone is eligible. If the request is reasonable and we can find a volunteer, we will do it. Everyone needs help with something sometime, so please call.

Board Members: Bunchie Angell, Bill Chester, Felicity Swayze, Frank LePore, Rick Scully, Jim Wick, David Wolfe.

Call any of us if you need more information.

### **TNHN Elderly Housing Questionnaire**

The results have been tabulated from last fall's questionnaire regarding elderly housing in Tunbridge. We got about 70 responses.

Overall we found that:

- Most people expressed the hope that they could spend their senior years in their present home in Tunbridge.
- But, the same people usually checked off a number of reasons why they might have to move - present home too much trouble, too expensive, taxes too high, too isolated, too far from village, and so on. We interpret the above to mean that while people would like to remain in their present homes, necessity may require that they move at some point in their lives.

Other findings:

- Most people felt elderly housing should be located near Tunbridge
- Most people would be interested in an elderly oriented apartment, house-share, group residence or other shared living arrangement. Few were interested in a different single family home.

## **State Representative**

David Ainsworth- 763-8017

Things here at Montpelier are like I've never seen before. It's a mad rush to wrap-up bills, mostly from the Senate, are being wrapped up onto House bills and we have been asked to vote on them often without adequate time to review.

The House Agriculture Committee, on which I serve, continued to work hard on bill trying to help and expand agriculture and increase the accessibility of local grown and produced food for all Vermonters. Most of our bills were passed by the house and returned from the Senate in their original language (this was a rarity this year). We passed: H-616 Farm Fresh Milk allowing 50 Qts. of raw milk to be sold daily; H-46 Directing the State to procure more Vt. products for use within the different State depts.; H-755 Economic Development and Forestry Viability an act like Farm Viability only for Forestry folks; H-749 On Farm Livestock Slaughter allowing on farm slaughter for others. Then we have H-711 a bill to request the Education Dept. and Agency of Agriculture to jointly support and improve the "Vt. Agr." programs around the State. Well, this bill originally had three sections, as of right now it is still in Conference Committee and has expanded to 45 sections- in Montpelier terms it has become a "Christmas tree". How it comes out, if it comes out, is anybody's guess at this time.

I have enjoyed representing you here in Montpelier and if you have any questions about the Government or any of the Agencies feel free to contact me this summer and I will help if I can.

### **Tunbridge Civic Club**

Linda Lazaroff- 889-9421

Once again, the Tunbridge Civic Club has had a successful show year! The Civic Club sponsors a show once a year and the proceeds of the show, after expenses, are distributed to benefit various needs, activities or organizations within Tunbridge. Proceeds from this year's show were distributed as follows: Neighbors Helping Neighbors \$25.00; N. Tunbridge Baptist Church \$200.00; Public Library in honor of Kitty Martin \$100.00; school library \$100.00; food shelf \$200.00; and N. Tunbridge Grange \$75.00.

"The Tunbridge Civic Club Presents..." has raised just over \$2,700 after the cost of printing. Proceeds will be distributed among various organizations within the Town of Tunbridge. Books are still available for sale and can be purchased at the Town Office, Library, Village Store and North Tunbridge Country Store. Please feel free to contact Linda Lazaroff (889-9421) with questions about the book.

**Tunbridge Town Clerk** M/Tu/ Th- 8am-12pm & 1pm-4pm  
Wendy McCullough- 889-5521 1st & 3rd Wednesdays- 8am-4pm  
Town Clerk News 2nd & 4th Wednesdays- 9am-6pm  
Friday - 9am-12noon

The Town Clerk would like to remind all dog(s) owners that if you have not licensed your dog(s) the deadline was April 1st; proof of current Rabies must be on file with the Town Clerk. Reminder that there is a leash law in the Town of Tunbridge; if you cannot contain your dog(s) to your own property they must be hitched and/ or contained.

See above for a change in the Town Clerk hours for the summer months. The Town Clerk is also available by Appointment. Please call Wendy at the Town Office with any questions.

### **Tunbridge Treasurer**

Anne Mallary- 889-5521  
Office hours: Tues & Wed 9-12 1-4, Fri 9-11:30

As always Town Meeting is an interesting day. This year the highway budget passed with no changes. The big increases were in materials (gravel and sand) and equipment. The equipment budget has been on the rise because of fuel costs and the need for replacing old equipment. In the past the equipment fund wasn't funded adequately hence the need for more money. The estimated tax rate for the highway will be \$.436, based on a budget of \$613,100 and an amount to be raised in taxes of \$489,600. Last year the budget was \$536,600. with \$413,100. to be raised in taxes, with a tax rate of \$.376.

The selectmen's budget passed with an amendment to add \$6000 to the recreation budget. The other major increases in the selectmen's budget were in county tax and insurance. The estimated tax rate for the selectmen will be \$.178. This is based on a total budget of \$347,965. with \$199,865. to be raised in taxes. Last year the budget was \$309,634. with \$175,534. to be raised in taxes (this amount was reduced by \$44,658 because of a \$26,279. surplus in the selectmen's budget, \$8,102 left over in the legal fund and \$10,276. left over in the water project fund). The selectmen's tax rate last year was \$.119.

The appropriation budget was increased by \$6000 for a contract with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, and decreased by \$20,000. because the First Branch Ambulance request did not pass. We are assuming this will be voted in at a later date. The original budget was \$99,610. As voted at town meeting the budget will be \$85,610. The estimated tax rate for appropriation will be \$.076.

### **Tunbridge Town Website**

Rick Scully- 763-7474

With the blessing from the Selectboard at the February 27 meeting secured we are ready to move forward with the official town website! The next steps are to identify people interested in participating in the steering committee, and more importantly to find people willing to be content providers. The latter would involve sending information on group events, on a regular basis, to be included on the site. This is vital. If you are a member of an organization in town (Grange, Civic Club, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Food Shelf, Fire Department, Church, etc, etc, etc) and are interested in sending periodic updates (preferably via email), please come forward. We need your help. Photographers interested in having their photos considered for the site's design are also welcome. Business owners who would like to have their business listed for free on the site should also make contact. So, if you are interested in helping with the website please contact Rick Scully at 763-7474 or rick@tunbridgevt.com.

### **Tunbridge Recreation Department**

Thornton Hayslett- 889-9479

Carrie McDonnell- 889-3310, One Planet Program Director

This summer Tunbridge One Planet will partner with Tunbridge Recreation Department to offer several exciting opportunities for local children. One Planet Summer Program will run June 30 to July 25, Monday-Friday from 8am to 4:30pm at Tunbridge Central School. The program will include fun enrichment activities, swimming lessons, and fieldtrips. Tunbridge children do not need to enroll in summer program in order to participate in swimming lessons (contact Thorton Hayslett if just interested in swimming lessons). In addition, a summer Tutorial will be offered to students who need extra help in math and reading. The Tutorial will run July 7-18, Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 12 noon at Tunbridge Central School. Finally, One Planet will also be hosting a VINS Community Nature Day Camp at Tunbridge School July 28-August 8. This should be a great opportunity for kids to explore the wild areas in our own community. For any questions about summer programs, please call Carrie McDonnell at 889-3310.

## **Tunbridge Board of Listers**

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The Board of Listers has scheduled its grievance hearings for 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, June 17 at the Town Offices. Please take note: If you wish to appeal your assessment for the 2008-2009 tax year you must notify the board by this date or the opportunity is lost. This is a legal requirement set by state statutes. Even if we wanted to consider a request after June 17th, the law says we cannot.

You may appeal your assessment whether or not it was changed for this tax year. If the assessment did change, the board is required by law to notify you at least 14 days before the scheduled hearing.

The trick in considering whether you should appeal is determining a reasonable price for your house to bring on the open market. Our last appraisal was effective in 2002, and so your value should reflect a 2002 selling price.

Contrary to some people's belief, prices have not fallen below 2002 values. Housing prices rose at a rapid pace until 2006. The pace of growth has slowed since then, but according to Vermont reports property values have not decreased. The market has slowed down and buyers may appear to be getting better deals. But no buyer is going to get a property for a 2002 price without some special consideration.

Look at your present assessment and ask yourself if that is what you would sell your house for. We understand that you are probably not expecting to sell your house, but you have to pretend for purposes of this exercise. If the town's Common Level of Appraisal is anywhere near correct, you should be able to divide your assessment by 72.61% and come up with a figure that is close to today's selling price. In other words, if your property is listed for \$151,000, the average 2002 value of a Tunbridge property, today's fair market value is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$208,000.

Please call us if you have questions about your assessment.

This summer we will be starting an official town-wide reappraisal which we anticipate will take affect for the 2010-2011 tax year. We are pleased that Anne Malary, our town treasurer, has agreed to assist the Board in accomplishing the reappraisal. Board members are Judie Lewis, Ben Wolfe and Helen O'Donnell.

## **Tunbridge School Board**

Lorinda Oliver-889-9462

Board Members: Fred Welch, Jennifer Hayslett , Skip Distel

The Tunbridge School Board has been quite active in recent weeks. As many of you are aware, Amos Kornfeld, principal at Tunbridge Central School for the last five years, has accepted a job at the Ottaquechee School in Quechee and will begin his position there as of July 1. As a result, a Principal Search Committee has been formed to assist in the process of finding a replacement. Our primary goal in choosing a committee was to achieve a balance of people to represent a variety of view points, including having parents of children of varying ages.

The Principal Search Committee consists of the three Tunbridge School Board members (Jenn Hayslett, Skip Distel and Lorinda Oliver), four community members (Pete Howe, Robyn Rogers and Kathi Terami), three teaching staff members (Amy Bogardus, Karen Colby, John Duffy and Marilyn Lyford) and one staff member (Tracy Vesper). To date the committee has met twice to discuss important qualities for the next Tunbridge principal, and review materials of the applicants. If all goes according to plan, the first round of interviews will take place early in the week of May 5.

In addition to the search for a new principal, the board is nearing the end in the process of negotiating with the teaching staff to establish their next three-year contract.

Recently the school has sustained significant water damage to the western end of the school following recent heavy rains. We wish to publicly recognize Jimmy Kinnarney and Kevin Moran for their extra hours and efforts in cleaning up the flooded areas. Temporary precautions to prevent further water damage are in place as we await the receipt of an engineering proposal for repair. It is anticipated that the repair, which will include additional drainage pipe on the north side of the building, will take place during the summer.

At Town Meeting, the school board passed around sign-up sheets for three committees: transportation, building maintenance, and declining enrollment, in an attempt to bring a deeper perspective and level of expertise to some complex issues facing the school board. Because things have been very busy for the Board, the committees have not convened. We would like to thank all who have signed up for the committees and thank you for your patience in waiting for committee action as we concentrate our attention to the principal search, contract negotiations, and the water damage. Board Members: Skip Distel, Jenn Hayslett, Lorinda Oliver.

## **Tunbridge Planning Commission**

Michael Sacca 889-3210

The planning commission recently hosted a potluck and discussion titled “A Call to Action”. About 30 people gathered around a table and shared food and conversation. We then discussed the citizen groups working in town, such as Share, the public library, TVFD, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, First Branch Sustainability Project, Ancient Roads, Food Shelf, the town web site and others.

The topic for the evening was inspired by the Goals, Recommendations and Policies found in the town plan adopted last fall, which were written in direct response to comments noted from townsfolk comments at the public meetings over the last several years. We at the TPC would like to throw the ball back to the townspeople to act on whatever topic they feel strongly about, possibly by creating committees to begin discussions. A list of

- potential topics include:
- transportation including a “Stagecoach” stop
- small business opportunities in Tunbridge
- housing opportunities for young families and the elderly
- road issues including a culvert inventory
- invasive plant species control
- river issues including mapping and field observations
- local agriculture opportunities including a farmers market
- recreation
- creating a capital budget for the town
- creating walking trails in the town forest
- land use patterns and regulation
- town energy policies

Please contact Michael at 889-3210 if you are interested in helping with any of the topics listed above.

Copies of the town plan are available from the Library or online at the TRORC website: [http://trorc.org/docs\\_tu.html](http://trorc.org/docs_tu.html)  
Seven town maps can also be found at the Two Rivers website.

The Planning Commission meets at 7:00 P.M. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Town Offices. All are welcome. Members of the commission are: Michael Sacca, Chair, Liz York, Gary Mullen, Jesse Mundel, Sue Clark, Ted Hoyt, Ben Wolfe and Dan Rudell. Lorinda Oliver has resigned to take a position on the Tunbridge School Board.

## **Tunbridge Grange #384**

Robin Russell- 889-3246

The Tunbridge Grange has been a hopping place this spring, with the Mountain House Cloggers practices on Tuesday nights and a performance in March. Many thanks to them for their donations towards use of the hall. If you haven't seen them yet, or want to join in, classes will be resuming in May.

In April, in honor of Grange Month, we hosted David Ainsworth as our Guest Speaker to report on the state's legislative activities. Thanks to all who attended.

Beginning May 30th, a new Contradance Series monthly on the fourth Fridays will begin. (See the “Happenings in Tunbridge” section for more info) Lively music and a variety of callers from around New England will be scheduled, and a beginner's workshop will be given at 7pm. All dances are taught during the evening, you don't need a partner to come, and generally you'll find everyone with a smile on their face. There's nothing quite like live acoustic music, so come and listen, bring an extra pair of shoes clean shoes to protect the floor, and jump right in. Music begins at 7:30pm. Adults \$8, Seniors & Teens \$4 – Children 12 & under are free.

We'd like to express our gratitude to the United Way and several friends who have made generous donations over the past few months towards Grange and its Handicap Access Ramp Capital Campaign Fund. A special thanks to Clayton Flye, who installed the new back door entrance. Donations are gratefully accepted. Please stop by to see our progress, and watch for up-coming fund-raising activities throughout the summer.

The Tunbridge Grange is a community service organization which serves the needs of the local community. All are invited to our meetings on first Wednesdays at 7pm. We welcome new members anytime, and are always open to new ideas for activities and projects. The hall is available for rent to private parties and community organizations. For more information, contact Mert Vesper at 889-5595.



## **Tunbridge Public Library**

Librarian: Jean Wolfe- 889-9404

Publicity, ArtSpace Co-ordinator: Marsha Higgins 889-5576

**Hours: Sun 11:30-1:30, Mon 3-8, Wed 6-8, Fri 2-6, Sat 10-4**

The library will be closed Sun, May 25 and Mon, May 26.

The library is seeking volunteers for the annual Memorial Day Plant, Book, and Bake Sale. If you can help with these events, please contact Jean as soon as possible. If you are donating books please be sure they are in good, readable condition. Old paperbacks can be disposed of at the town's recycling location, but you must remove the covers; only the interior pages are recyclable. Please do not bring paperbacks to the library unless they are like new.

The Children's Story Hour themes for June are "Flowers" and "Summer." Story Hour is usually held on the first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:15. Changes in scheduling are announced in the Tunbridge Library News section of the Herald. Watch the Herald for information about this summer's special reading program schedule.

The library is sponsoring a contest to redesign the covered bridge postcards it has sold for many years. Anyone may enter by submitting a black and white drawing of one of the surviving or extinct covered bridges in Tunbridge. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and the name of the bridge with your entry. The deadline for submissions is August 1.

ArtSpace at the Library is currently featuring the photography of VTC Professor John Knox through June 7. Upcoming exhibitors will be Strafford painter Micki Colbeck, June 27- August 8 (public reception June 27, 7-9 PM) and Women of Watercolor, a group of artists from Woodstock, August 22- September 26 (public reception August 22, 7-9 PM).

When planning summer family field trips, remember that reduced entrance fees are available by borrowing the library's pass to the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Up to two adults and three youths will be admitted for just two dollars each. The library needs just three more donations of \$25 each to obtain a VINS membership which would enable any family to visit VINS and many other educational sights in Vermont and New York at discounted rates.

The Library collection contains over 50 titles of books and DVD's dealing with environmental issues and sustainable living. These selections cover the interests of children as well as adults. Free, high speed, wireless internet service is available at the Tunbridge Public Library.

## **TNHN Elderly Housing Questionnaire, Con't**

- There considerable interest in services including: meals, activity space, housekeeping, cleaning, personal care, social programs, medical services, etc.

- More than half expressed a need for transportation services as they get older.

Overall TNHN believes that the questionnaire indicates an interest in some kind of elderly housing for Tunbridge. We think that a project with 10-12 units would fill up.

TNHN is not itself able as an organization able to undertake a project like this. We are, however, asking for interest from anyone who might be able and willing to carry this idea forward, and will attempt to get an effort established. Please get in touch with any board member if you have such an interest.

## **World Relief Quilt Project Day**

Nancy Howe- 889-3750

The ladies who participated at The Lutheran World Relief Quilt project day on April 5th had such a good time that we are doing it again. Interested piecers, tie-ers, cutters, pinners and threaders are meeting at TCS library (use the rear library entrance) on Saturday May 10th and June 7th to continue project work. Materials have been donated, machines are available and it is a real opportunity to gain some some skills, brush off some rusty ones and to interact with some great Tunbridge ladies of all ages. Consensus of those attending is that we wish to continue on meeting the first Saturday of each month from 8 am to noon. Consider it time to sew, quilt, patch, knit or crochet etc. in a fun filled atmosphere as a group or on individual projects. For more info, contact Elaine Howe or Nancy Howe.

I want people to consider giving up computer solitaire and boring word search games and participate in [www. freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com). It is a challenging way to increase your vocabulary and memory skills while filling the rice bowl with 20 grain of rice for each correct word. Rice is purchased by the website advertisers and distributed by the World Food Program of the UN. Sure I like my causes to be local but this is an easy way to help and have fun doing it. School children all over the county participate. It only costs some internet time. Try it, You'll like !!

## **First Branch Ambulance & Rescue Co.**

Pam Howe Caron- 763-9595.

Unfortunately no one was at Town Meeting to represent First Branch Ambulance/Rescue leading to a vote of no funds at all to support our services to the town. Please be aware that that does not mean we are not covering Tunbridge-at this time we are still covering the town. I want to thank the volunteer squad whose first concern was that Tunbridge residents would be worried about having emergency services coverage. That certainly shows their commitment to this service.

In the last two years the board has put a lot of time and effort into researching ways to cover our area with the limited number of daytime volunteers available. We did not go in to the decision of hiring without talking to area services to see how they've done it themselves and how much it would cost to have them cover us. We felt strongly that we were doing the best for the towns when we came up with a cost of \$15 per capita for us to hire our own coverage versus a minimum of \$50 per capita to hire an outside service. At that time we went to both selectboards to alert them of our issues and that we would be increasing our request for funds to ~\$20,000-\$25,000.

As someone who personally pays a large amount of property taxes in this town I certainly don't want the taxes to go any higher than they have to, while still maintaining a high level of excellent emergency care. We as a board were grateful that after researching our costs and options that we would only have to ask for the lower amount of \$20,000.

I have asked the town to hold a special meeting in order to re-vote this request of funds to support our service. We will hold an informational meeting prior to this meeting and as always both Deb and I are available for questions.

Thank you,

Pam Caron

President, Board of Directors

First Branch Ambulance/Rescue

## **Tunbridge Church**

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

Imagine a church service with balloons, stuffed toys and a picnic? That's what you will find at the Tunbridge Church on June 8th as we celebrate the children of our community. The 10 a.m. worship service is a festive affair aimed at children (in age or thought). After the service there is a picnic on the Parish House lawn. All are invited. Bring your children, grandchildren and yourselves.

The children's service begins the church's summer activities. The annual ice cream social is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. July 8th on the Parish House lawn. The outdoor worship service and picnic will be held on August 3rd. The place is to be announced. Family nights, which include songs, picnics, bon fires, toasted marshmallows, and good fellowship are held once a month during the summer at the Parish House. The times will be announced.

Church worship services move to the South Tunbridge Brick Church for the month of July. Communion will be served on the first Sunday of July.

The pastor's Sunday morning Bible study (8:45 a.m. at the Parish House) will continue through June, but will not meet during July and August. The informal Bible Study, which meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Parish House, will continue through the summer.

The church choirs offer a special program of music for the Festival of Worship service held on the Sunday of the World's Fair. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to join in the fun. Rehearsals for the adult choir will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays beginning August 6th.

The Children's Choirs are working to raise money to build a play structure on the Parish House lawn. Our hope is to have raised all the money needed by the end of June so we still have time to order it and get it in before fall arrives. The kids are planning to run a lemonaid stand during the Memorial Day festivities. Please help to build this playground in our downtown by visiting the kid's refreshing booth on May 26 or donating directly to the TC Children's fund. Contact Janet Zug for more information.

More information about the church and its programs may be obtained from Pastor David Wolfe (889-5577), Parish Council President Ben Wolfe (889-9467), Music Director Judie Lewis (889-9490), Director of Children's Choirs Janet Zug (889-9602).