

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

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The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

February 15, 2012
issue #27

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 janet@zugglass.com

Questions, comments or suggestions about the TQ can be directed to me at the contact info above.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Lynn Laskowski 889-3571 <treasurer@tunbridge.biz>

Greetings, This is my first TQ as your new temporary treasurer hopefully soon to be an elected treasurer. First I would like to thank Anne Mallary for all the training and knowledge of my new position, although I still have a lot to learn, I wish her the best of luck in her new endeavor. I would also like to thank Wendy for her vast experience in protocol and standards. I am looking forward to town meeting and hope to serve the town well. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call or email me.

Tunbridge Town Website

Rick Scully- 763-7474

Many thanks to all who have been sending items for inclusion on the official town website (www.tunbridgevt.com)! Just a reminder that if you have something you want to promote -- school fundraisers, grange events, hikes, etc -- the website is a great place to post the event.

Often items are cross-posted to Facebook where there is a growing number of people visiting the Unofficial group: www.facebook.com/groups/149524471756558. If you have any questions please contact Rick Scully at rick@tunbridgevt.com."

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Ben Wolfe - 889-3571

The next few months are our board's busiest time of year. We are responsible for contacting any property owners with substantial changes to their properties (for better or for worse), so we can adjust the listed value to reflect these changes. We welcome any who bring their changes to our attention, and will do our best to contact those who do not. These changes will be applied to the 2012 Grand List.

By statute, we must value properties as they exist on April 1st of each year. If we see the information is unclear or old, we may contact you to make sure we are using accurate data. ⇨

Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more events.

- Feb. 24 - "Winter Evenings" featuring Jack Beatty & Linda Fowler discussing Election 2012 - 7pm at the Library
- Feb. 25 - Winter Carnival Community Day at the School- all day AND Movie Night at 6pm. See Pg 6 for details.
- Mar. 3 - Shindig with "The Chad Holister Band" 8-11pm, Town hall. If you like to dance, you'll love The Shindigs! www.shindigsvt.com Cover charge is \$8. each
- Mar. 5 - Annual School Meeting - TSC 7:30pm
- Mar. 6 - Annual Town Meeting - TCS - 10:00am
- Mar. 9 - "Winter Eveings" featuring Sharon Plumb, invasive species discussion. - 7pm at the Library
- Mar. 9 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 donation
- Mar. 10 - Michael Smith -7:30pm - Town Hall \$15/advance - \$20/door. www.mtnfolk.org
- Mar. 23 - "Winter Evenings" with Sydney Lea, VT Poet Laureate 7pm at the Library
- Mar. 30 - 60th Annual Civic Club Variety Show. 7:30pm - Town Hall & 31
- Apr. 7 - Shindig with "The Honey Bees" and "Nancy's Problem" 8-11pm, Town hall. www.shindigsvt.com Cover: \$8. each
- Apr. 13 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 donation
- Apr. 15 - "Winter Evenings" David Macaulay, Caldecott Medal Winner 2pm - at the Library
- Apr. 21 - MtnFolk presents "Local Musicians benefit Local Community Radio" 7:30pm - Town Hall \$15/advance - \$20/door.
- May 11 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 donation

Tunbridge Historical Society

Kay Jorgensen - 889-5528 Euclid Farnham 889-3458

The Tunbridge Historical Society's 51st season will include history mystery and ghost walks, oral history and slide programs and exhibits in North Tunbridge and at the fairgrounds.

The History Mystery Walk on Sunday, June 10, will begin at the library at 3 p.m. Cars will follow Euclid Farnham to the mystery spot.

Members of the society will be on Antique Hill at the fairgrounds for the June 16 and 17 Vermont History Expo. This year's Expo theme is the Civil War, which occurred 150 years ago from 1861-1865. Civil War artifacts will be displayed at the Log Cabin and elsewhere on the fairgrounds.

On Tuesday, July 10, at 7:30, following The Tunbridge Church Ice Cream Social, the society will present "Tunbridge Speaks," at which letters and writings from and about Tunbridge residents will be read.

Continuing last summer's Tunbridge 250th anniversary exhibits in North Tunbridge, the historical society and Grange will hold open house exhibits on July 8 and 29. The Grange will show its painted stage curtain and other exhibits. At the North Tunbridge Baptist Church historical society exhibits will include two new items: a large butternut Tunbridge Table cribbage table made by John "Bull" Rowell and a large 1882 wedding certificate with photos of Horace Whitney and Jennie Cox.

On Tuesday, Aug. 14, Euclid Farnham and Mick Maguire will give a slide program on businesses and public buildings along the First Branch. The program at the North Tunbridge Church will start at 7:30. A potluck picnic at the church will begin at 6:30.

The annual Ghost Walk will be Sunday, Oct. 7, at the Village Cemetery at 1:30. The rain date is the 14th.

Tunbridge Board of Listers, Con't.

Ben Wolfe - 889-3571

In the November TQ, we looked at Common Level of Appraisal, or CLA; the CLA describes how high or low (on average) our town assessments are compared to the actual value of the properties that sell in town. Even if our assessments are 100% on average, some listed values could (and do) turn out to be much higher than the sales, and some much lower. That's where the Coefficient of Dispersion comes in.

The Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is a measure of equity or fairness within the town. Ideally, we would be right on the money, every time, and the variation from the CLA would be zero. If the average property sells for 10% above or 10% below the CLA, then the COD would be 10—not great but pretty respectable by most standards within Vermont.

If many properties of sell for a lot less than the listed value, and many others sell for a lot more, then the grand list is not perfectly fair. Those lower sale values are paying property tax on a value greater than he or she should have to. And a property with a sale higher value higher is paying on a listed value that is too low. As markets change, the listed values start to become unfair or inequitable within the town. The low COD shows greater fairness, and a high COD shows greater inequity. If a town's sales reflect a COD of 20 or more, it means that the average property listed value is off by at least 20% of the CLA—and any town is required by statute to reappraise to put property owners on equal footing again within the town.

Two years out from the reappraisal, our newest sales study puts our COD at 5.46. We are fortunate to have among the lowest COD's in the state. We continue a sharp learning curve as we tackle many administrative tasks that Judie has done over the years. We are thankful for her service and wish her the best.

Several interested residents have contacted us to learn about the office as they consider running for the vacancy in the board, coming up at Town Meeting in March. If you are interested, please feel free to come by, and we will be happy to talk with you and show you around. Please do not hesitate to reach us at the office, leave us a message, or stop by with any questions. We meet regularly at 9 a.m. on Tuesday in the Town Office, or we can meet with you by appointment.

Tunbridge Select Board

Tom Mullen, Chair (889-9499)

Ingrid Van Steamburg (889-3459) Bob Dunkle (889-3740)

The board has been quite busy over the past few months working on the budget proposal along with other developing issues. We have put together a budget for the coming Fiscal year that can be viewed in the upcoming Town Report. We hope that everyone will take the time to look it over and bring any concerns or suggestions along with them to Town Meeting. As always we invite folks to share their thoughts at the annual meeting or to come to one of our Monthly Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month to address any concerns that they may have.

It is worthy of mention that the town will be electing a new Treasurer this year. Anne Mallary has resigned from her position as Treasurer this past November, having served the town for some 15 years. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Anne for her dedicated years of service. We were tasked with selecting an interim Treasurer to fill the position until Town Meeting. Lynn Laskowski was selected and has been serving us diligently since the beginning of November.

We have also accepted the resignation from one of our Listers, Judie Lewis. Judie served the town for some 18 years with a passionate dedication to that position. We would like to thank Judie for all of her service and wish her the best. We chose not to fill this position for the interim. This position will also be filled by election at the annual Town Meeting.

As many of you may be aware after viewing the recent article in the "Herald", we have been made aware of some concerns regarding the First Branch Ambulance Service. FBA provides ambulance service to both Chelsea and Tunbridge and is funded equally by both towns. We invited the FBA board, as well as any other interested parties, to attend one of our regularly scheduled select board meetings to discuss the concerns. The meeting gave opportunity for all that were present to express concerns about the current status of the FBA organization, and to offer suggestions for improvement. The meeting proved to be quite productive. We have since received a response from FBA in regards to our concerns and it appears that they will be addressing these issues on a formal basis. It is our hope that we may have more information from FBA at the Town Meeting, and that there will be more opportunity for the town folk to become more informed. ⇨

Tunbridge Central School 8th Grade Class

Jonni Spaulding - 763-2308

This year's 8th grade class would like to thank the community for supporting their efforts to raise enough money to take an educational trip this spring. Our goal is to raise \$7,800 to bring 11 students and 2 chaperones to an educational destination such as Washington D.C. As of February 1st, the students have raised approximately \$5,000.

The students are now selling RAFFLE TICKETS (\$1 each or 6 for \$5.00). The Raffle prizes include a hand-made quilt, a 15" LED HD television, and an iPod Shuffle. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets can be purchased from any 8th grader or at home basketball games, at the annual School Meeting on March 5th, or at the annual Town Meeting March 6th. The drawings will be held on March 17th.

Starting February 8th the class will be selling YANKEE CANDLES. The sale will run through March 9th. Students will have sales information available at the Annual School and Town meetings in March for your convenience.

We will be sharing the WINTER CARNIVAL fundraising event on February 25th with the Rec. Committee. The 8th grade class will take over selling refreshments at noon that day and will host a MOVIE that evening at the school. The movie will start at 6:00 pm. Please come join the fun!

A BAKE SALE will take place at the Annual School Meeting the evening of March 5th.

Our 8th graders plan to host a 6-8th GRADE "St. Patrick's Day" DANCE for local schools on March 17th. Students from surrounding schools will need for their school to be approved prior to attending, to share emergency contact information, and ALL students will be required to be signed in and out by an adult that is providing transportation for them.

Ongoing BOTTLE DRIVE: The students are happy to come to your home to collect returnable bottles and cans at your request. A formal door to door bottle drive will be scheduled for this spring. DATES TO REMEMBER:

Now thru 4/17 - Raffle Ticket Sales
2/8 thru 3/9 - Yankee Candle Sales
2/25 - Winter Carnival & Movie Night
3/5 Bake Sale at the Annual School Meeting
3/6 Annual Town Meeting
3/17 St. Patrick's Day Dance & Raffle Drawing
3/30 & 3/31 Refreshment sales - 60TH Annual Civic Club Show

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami- 889-5575 schoolclub@tunbridge.k12.vt.us

Fair Supper a Success: Chef Chad Barnaby, along with a large group of dedicated volunteers, prepared a fabulous gourmet meal following the Tunbridge Fair Association's annual meeting on December 3. Committee members Amy Frost, Elaine Howe, Christine Hoyt, Jen Thygesen and Sharon Welch helped plan the menu, recruited volunteers and sought numerous donations. TCS art students and local Girl Scouts created festive holiday centerpieces for buffet and dining tables. Several students from the 8th grade class, led by parents Rosemary Distel and Jonni Spaulding, served as wait staff for over 100 Association members and their guests. All proceeds will fund student enrichment activities and teacher appreciation at TCS. Many thanks to all parents, students, community members and businesses who helped make this event a success!

Holiday Breakfast & Gift Basket Enjoyed by Teachers and Staff:

As a thank you for all they do for our students, School Club organized a holiday breakfast for teachers and staff on December 13. Parent volunteers contributed delicious items that were served buffet-style in the library before the school day began. School Club also purchased classroom and office supplies (and chocolate!) as gifts waiting for teachers and staff when they returned to school in January.

Winter Carnival: School Club is again partnering with Tunbridge Central School, the Tunbridge Recreation Committee, Tunbridge One Planet and the 8th Grade Class to host a two-day Winter Carnival at the school. Friday, February 24 is the School Winter Carnival for students, staff and teachers. Saturday, February 25 is the Community Winter Carnival for families and community members. Watch for details on the town website, in the Herald and posters around town.

Upcoming Meetings: Parents, school personnel and community members typically meet in the TCS Library at 6:30pm on the first Monday every month (or the following Monday due to a school break, holiday or inclement weather) to plan events, hear new ideas, review funding requests and manage the organization. Upcoming meetings are on February 6, March 12, April 2 and May 7. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

Tunbridge Select Board, Con't.

It appears that we will have a fairly full agenda for this year's Town Meeting. There are several elected positions to be filled which occur annually. There are also a few unexpected elections as well. We are in hopes of a good turnout from the voting population. We would like to remind folks of the "appointed" positions in our town's government which are filled by the Select Board each year. These positions can be viewed in the town report. We typically appoint these positions at our first meeting following Town Meeting. If anyone has interest in these positions, or questions about the positions, please contact us or Wendy, our Administrative Assistant for more information.

As always, if anyone has concerns or questions about what is happening in our town's government please don't hesitate to call or attend one of our meetings. We look forward to the annual Town Meeting which will give all folks in attendance the opportunity to participate. Hope to see you there!

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

Hours - unless otherwise posted

Monday – Wednesday 7:30am-3:00pm

Thursday 7:30-10:30am-12:30-3:00pm or by appointment.

Pre-Town Meeting; Tuesday February 28th at 7:30pm

Annual School Meeting; Monday March 5th at 7:30pm

Annual Town Meeting; Tuesday March 6th at 10am

Presidential Primary; Tuesday March 6th from 10am-7pm.

All events held at the Tunbridge Central School Auditorium.

If you are a Resident of Tunbridge and are not on the Voter Checklist, the deadline to register to vote at the Annual Meetings and for the Primary Election is Wednesday, February 29, 2012 by 5:00pm.

A RABIES CLINIC will be held March 24th 9am-12noon at the Chelsea Town Hall. Vaccine(s) are provided by a Licensed Veterinarian from the Chelsea Animal Hospital, 685-3232. This Clinic is for dogs and cats; Dogs must be leashed; Cats must be in a carrier. Cost for vaccine is \$12.00. Dog Licenses are due by April 1, 2012. If your dog(s) is due for a rabies vaccine prior to April 1, a license will not be issued. Cost per license \$8.00 for spay/neutered; \$12.00 if dog(s) is not spay/neutered.

Please call Wendy with any questions or concerns that you may have.

ECFiber

East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network
Janet Zug 889-9602 Henry Swayze 889-5556

ECFiber has plans to start connecting Tunbridge customers in 2012. The minimum build for Tunbridge would cover 12+ miles of road extend kitty corner from the offices on Waterman road near Lucky's to both Strafford and Chelsea using back roads as much as possible. Whether we do this build or do even more roads is up to you. In short we need your help to make this grassroots community effort happen.

It takes capital to build a network and since we have not been able to get government nor Wall Street money to build all 23 towns at once we are now taking a locally funded incremental approach building new branches on the tree as we have investors to supply the capital. Our goal is still to service all premises in all 23 towns (something that no commercial carrier is willing to commit to). Having tested the model in Royalton-Bethel-Barnard we are now preparing to do a pass through Tunbridge, Strafford, Vershire and Chelsea called phase III.

To date investments of 1.2million have been secured in Phase I & II and customers are enjoying ECFiber's services along the initial route with more being added each week.

In Tunbridge we currently have investments totalling \$150,000. and are still looking for another \$100,000 to reach the minimum goal. The notes are sold in 2,500. increments, there is no limit to the amount one can purchase. It's a 15 year loan, with no payments in the first year, offering 6% tax free interest. This is a high interest rate for those willing to invest in the first round. This rate is likely to go down next year.

This is a very important investment in the future of Tunbridge. There is no other foreseeable way that we will be able to get true high-speed Internet to the hills of our town. If you are interested in learning more about this important investment in Tunbridge or want to learn how you can help without investing please contact Janet or Henry. <janet.zug@ecfiber.net >
<henryswayze@gmail.com>

ECFiber is a grassroots initiative to build a state-of-the-art fiber-optic network in 23 towns, bringing reliable telephone, and high-speed Internet service directly to homes, schools, and businesses. with a focus on the unserved.

Tunbridge Library, Con't.

A writer's group for youth ages 9 and up will meet every second Thursday, 4 PM, at the library: March 8, April 12, and May 10.

The library offers discount prices on new books, calendars, stationery, seasonal greeting cards, gift wrap bags, and specialty gift items for children and adults. Free, highspeed, wireless internet access is available at the library. Audio books may also be downloaded to an MP3 player. (Ask librarian Jean Wolfe for details or visit the tutorial on the library's website: www.tunbridgelibrary.org)

Tunbridge One Planet Afterschool Program

Phil Diamond - 889-3310

The Tunbridge One Planet after school program had a terrific second session, capped by our Holiday Week which was filled with plenty of smiles and holiday cheer. Amongst other activities, Abby Brabham helped us make breads and cookies for food baskets donated to the Food Shelf. And Michelle Farrell led us on a trip to Riverbend Residential Home in Chelsea where we handed out Christmas cards and ornaments, and sang carols. Both were very special opportunities for us to make a difference in our community.

Session three is up and running and our gymnastics activity seems to be quite the draw. Led by Stano, from Sunrise Gym in Barre, our students are learning quite a bit about the sport of body-bending.

And finally, we look forward to seeing all of you at Tunbridge's Winter Carnival. As you've read elsewhere, the carnival is going to be quite the event. We will be sponsoring an indoor activity called "The One Planet Challenge". Swing by to test your problem solving skills as you work with others to overcome obstacles of the strangest kind. Bring a focused mind, a bit of patience, and, most importantly, a good sense of teamwork. Hope to see you there!

Tunbridge Library

Contact: Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404

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

Hours: Mon and Wed 3-8, Thurs and Fri 3-6, Sat. 10-4

A generous donation from Dr. Michael Sporn in memory of his wife Kitte will enable the library to build an addition. As yet, the project is in the planning stages; there will be a committee with representatives from the Friends of the Library and the Trustees to oversee the project.

The library is planning ahead for two major annual fundraisers: Town Meeting dinner and the Memorial Day plant, book, and bake sale. Volunteers are needed as well as donations. Donated books are gratefully accepted as long as they are in good readable condition. Donated plant pots should be 7 inches or greater in diameter. Contact Jean in person, by phone, or by e-mail (tunbridgelibrary@yahoo.com).

ArtSpace at the library is featuring, through March 10, photo portraits of Tunbridge residents by Geoff Hansen and Laura DeCapua. Prices for prints are \$25; framed photos are \$40 and \$50. A photo booklet of the entire collection can be ordered for \$30. Proceeds from the sale of art benefit the library. Coming up March 25 - May 19 will be an exhibit of art created by the children of Tunbridge Central School. An opening public reception will be held on Sunday, March 25, 2-4 PM.

There are four remaining programs in the 2012 season of Winter Evenings at the library. Jack Beatty and Linda Fowler will discuss the current political scene: Election 2012 (2/24); Sharon Plumb, invasive species coordinator for the Vermont Nature Conservancy will discuss how to combat the invaders (3/9); Sydney Lea, Vermont Poet Laureate, will talk about Poetry: Another Way to Knowledge (3/23). The programs are open to all; refreshments are served, and while the programs are free, a donation is welcomed. The above three Winter Evenings programs will be held on Fridays at 7 PM. The fourth remaining program has been rescheduled: David Macaulay, Caldecott Medal winner, will discuss Building Books on Sunday, April 15, 2 PM. Updated details about Winter Evenings speakers are available on the library's website.

Children's story hours are regularly scheduled the first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:15 PM. Check the library website for themes and dates. Geoff Hansen took some wonderful photos of the children during the annual appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Claus, prints are on view in the library entry. Reprints can be purchased through Geoff's website: www.geoffhansen.com ⇒

Tunbridge Recreation Committee

Kevin Barnaby - 889-5671

Winter Carnival: The Recreation Committee is teaming up again this year with Tunbridge Central School, the School Club, the 8th Grade Class, and the Tunbridge One Planet Program to present a winter carnival at TCS on Feb 24th and 25th. Friday the 24th is for students, staff, and teachers and will involve a wide range of fun activities and team-building challenges. Saturday the 25th is the Community Winter Carnival Day, which will feature sleigh rides, skating, snow-shoeing, sledding, and cross-country skiing, as well as indoor activities sponsored by the One Planet Program. The Rec Committee will be selling breakfast sandwiches along with coffee, tea, and hot chocolate in the morning, and the 8th grade class will sell hot food, beverages, and baked goods beginning at noon. The 8th grade will also host an evening movie. Look for more details on posters, the town website, and in the Herald. Meanwhile, mark the date on your calendar and think snow!

Sunday Breakfasts: The Recreation Committee is continuing with its second Sunday of the month breakfast fundraisers in the Town Hall. The 8th grade class has been busy doing concessions for basketball games, and will no longer be co-hosting the Sunday breakfasts. The Recreation Committee appreciated the partnership and the energy they brought to the effort. Many thanks to everyone who has helped with the breakfasts and for the many donations as well.

We are still looking for people who would be interested in joining the Committee or helping out with specific projects. We would like to thank Mary Zentara for all she has done, especially her work on the playground grant and the LWCF grant for the land purchase. Mary is stepping down from the Committee but will still be helping some with special projects.

Town Reports will be out shortly with additional Rec information. Please plan on helping with a work bee on the Rec field in late April or early May to spruce up the ball field and clean up the playground and pool area. If you have any questions you can call Kevin Barnaby.

State Representative

Sarah Buxton - (802) 233-0274 (cell) sbuxton@gmail.com

The legislature has maintained a furious pace since we convened in early January. Almost immediately, we passed a bill to reimburse towns for education property taxes that were abated because of flood damage. We also responded to the recent Vermont Supreme Court case holding that information used by towns to calculate adjustments to residents' property taxes should remain private. The bill we passed holds public agencies and municipalities harmless for disclosure of property tax adjustment information while new protections are put in place to bring them in compliance with the Court's decision.

Three big bills have already made it through the House – the budget adjustment act, the House redistricting plan, and a bill to reform Vermont's mental health delivery system (i.e. the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury). One of the proudest moments of my short political career was when I voted in favor of the House redistricting plan on Feb 1st. The act of redrawing political districts, which every state must do every ten years, is notorious for enabling partisan games. Our government operations committee worked on our maps for months - listening to towns, past and present members, and nearly every interested party you could think of. In the end, the plan was based entirely on shifts in population and not a play for power. One of the final options would have put three republicans (the minority party) in a single two-member district in order to achieve the goal of "collapsing" a district in the Rutland-Windsor area. Instead, two current members of the House (a republican and a democrat), conferred with one another over the weekend and proposed that they give up their own safe districts to become a new district and would run against each other next year. When the final bill was presented on the floor, both members rose to describe how they came to the decision because it was "best for the state of Vermont." Every member of the house appreciates the selflessness and integrity of those two men. This supports my firmly held belief that Vermont has the purest and strongest democracy in the country. ⇨

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

At our December business meeting we had our annual insurance coverage review with our insurance broker to go over the levels of insurance for our trucks and equipment as well as our insurance coverage in the event of an injury or death of a member in the line of duty.

A quick reminder for residents who have an alarm system that automatically sends out a call for help when triggered. If you do not need the fire department to respond, please contact 911 to cancel the automatic call for help. We have responded to more than one alarm call in the past where, upon arrival, we were told that our help was not needed.

Our annual meeting will be held on Thursday March 8th at 6:00pm at the Town Hall. Please join us for a potluck dinner & dessert followed by our business meeting. We are actively seeking members of the community who are not members of the fire department to serve on the department's Board of Trustees. A Trustee typically attends one 1-hour meeting per month on the second Thursday of each month.

Please consider serving the Department in one of these valuable roles.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the school playground will be held on April 7th this year. Mark your calendars for some fun egg hunting with your child(ren). If you have any plastic eggs you would like to recycle, just drop them off at the fire station - we are usually there each Thursday evening from 7:00 - 8:00pm. We would be happy to put them to use!

Making Change

Lisa Kippen- 889-9822

A substance abuse support group for young people 14-21 who are considering or committed to getting clean and staying clean. Meetings are held on Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:30pm at the Parish House. www.secondgrowth.org

Tunbridge Church

Deadra Ashton - 685-3029

Worship Services:

Regular Sunday morning services are held at 10:00 a.m. in the Congregational Church building next to the Town Hall.

Good Friday: The Good Friday Candlelight Communion service will be held in the Tunbridge Church at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday (April 8): The Easter Sunrise Service will be held at the top of Strafford Hill on Sunday. Time TBA. The service is followed by breakfast in the Town Hall. All are welcome to attend. The regularly scheduled 10:00 service will be a joyous celebration of our risen Lord.

Youth Sunday: Worship will be led by the Youth Choir and the younger members of the congregation on May 13.

Choirs: Practices are held in the Tunbridge Church Sanctuary. The Youth Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. The Great Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Education and Social Events:

Bible study, led by Rev. David Wolfe, is held every Sunday morning in the Parish House through the month of June. A mid week Bible Discussion Group, led by Ben Wolfe, is held on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Sunday school room in the Tunbridge Church.

Sunday School for Children is held every Sunday morning during the Service.

The **Environmental Stewardship Group** meets every third Sunday following the service. All are welcome to attend.

The **Sugar on Snow Party** will be held at time and place to be announced when sugaring conditions are right.

Food Shelf:

Located in the Parish House, is open every Friday from 4:00 - 6:00p.m.

For more information contact:

Pastor: Deadra Bachorik Ashton (685-3029)

Music Director: Judie Lewis (889-9490)

Director of Youth Choirs: Janet Zug (889-9602)

State Representative, Con't.

So far this biennium, I have been the primary sponsor of twelve bills and have co-sponsored 48. I intended to introduce at least two more "short-form" bills by the end of the month. (Short-form bills are generally broad and offer the committee of jurisdiction an opportunity to study a specific policy aim.) If you are interested in researching my work, go to the legislative website at www.leg.state.vt.us. Click on "find a bill" and select my name from the drop down menu. I expect that eight of the bills I drafted this year will gain some significant attention: H.395 (gravel extraction), H.563 (flood plain management), H.608 (prescription drug reporting), H.610 (sale of invasive plant species), H.651 (public funding of independent schools), H.660 (corporate campaign contribution disclosure), H.681 (small-scale dairy promotion), and H.728 (reformed meat/slaughter regulation).

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments and concerns and will do my best to answer any questions you have. See you at Town Meeting!

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jim Wick- 889-889-3437

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors has been started to help provide services to local residents through volunteer action. We have about 90 volunteers who have agreed to help. We have helped may 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: Felicity Swayze, Brenda Field, Pam Dietz, Adam Smith, Jim Wick, David Wolfe, Bill Gefell, Lee Banas. Call any of us if you need more information.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Sue Clark 889-3733

PC continues to work on the Town Plan update with the assistance of TRORC and funding through a State Municipal Planning Grant. Most of the work on the update revolves around the "Patterns of Settlement" project. We will be reaching out to a handful of residents for interviews on the changes to their farms over the last 50 years.

We also are working on the update to the Flood Plain Hazard Ordinance. Everyone can expect to hear more about flooding hazards and resulting bylaws/ordinances to prevent future disasters.

Not only is this a topic for the Tunbridge Planning Commission but it is also being discussed at the Legislature. Stay tuned.

Heating Fuel Assistance Fund

Ben Wolfe - 889-9467

The Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Fund is made up entirely of donations, and it is used to administer no-interest loans for residents. These loans are designed for any who find it difficult or impossible to pay the full price of a fuel delivery amount all at once. Residents with a large fuel payment are then able to spread the cost out over a longer period of the year, allowing them to make ends meet. The Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Committee is very grateful for the generous donations that have been given to the Fund. The 250th T-Shirt fundraiser has strengthened the fund for the need ahead, and any further donations are most welcome. Contributions can be made to the "Town of Tunbridge" with "Fuel Assistance" in the memo line. They may be sent to the Town Treasurer; P.O. Box 6; Tunbridge, VT 05077.

While the State of Vermont and Central Vermont Community Action Council do give grants for fuel, these are rapidly exhausted and are not necessarily large enough to fund a delivery of fuel. If you apply for these grants and still need help, consider applying for a loan. Our Fund only administers loans, not grants. However, there is no income ceiling, since we realize a wide range of households are finding budgets extremely tight. If you find that this describes your situation, please consider applying--- the Tunbridge community wants to help! You can find applications at the Tunbridge Town Clerk's office, the Food Shelf, and the Public Library, and they are available on the Tunbridge town website at:

www.tunbridgvt.com/residents/groups/tfac/

If you have ideas, concerns, or questions please feel free to call Ben Wolfe, or send an email to tunbridge.fuel.assistance@gmail.com

Tunbridge Civic Club

Maxine Young, Secretary - 763-8274

Merle Howe, President - 889-5574

It is that time of year again. The annual Tunbridge Civic Club show dates are Friday and Saturday, March 30th and 31st at 7:30pm. This is our 60th year and what an event we are planning!! We encourage new entertainment and wish to welcome back some of you whom we have not seen in awhile. The first rehearsal is Monday February 20th, so please come and join us. The proceeds of the show, after expenses, are given to local community organizations and causes. So bring out those dancing shoes, that singing voice, or just come and join the chorus and enjoy the fun!! All for a worthy cause.

AND, 60 years ago the average salary was \$3,000; the average purchase price for a home was \$9,000; Frosted Flakes was new; polio vaccine was discovered; the first open heart surgery was performed; the Yankees won over the Brooklyn Dodgers; Queen Elizabeth was crowned Queen of England; NBC Today Show and Howdy Doody Time debuted.

Tunbridge Grange #384

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

We are having our electricity brought up to code upstairs, we did the downstairs last winter. We are hoping to earn enough money to put up new steps and a handicap ramp in the back. We are looking for a person that would be interested in starting a junior grange. We had a great turnout for our harvest supper and hunters breakfast.

We are having bingo every Friday night at 7pm everybody is welcome.

Tunbridge Better Bones

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

Tues. & Thurs - 6:30am/ 8:30am/ 5:30pm

Mon & Wed. - 8:30am

Classes are free with weights provided. Come join us or come back for renewed strength, energy and balance.