

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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Tunbridge, VT 05077

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The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

May 15, 2012
issue #28

Special Town Meeting - June 11th - 6pm at TCS

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Sue Clark 889-3733

• Save the Date!!! May 18th, 6 PM, Town Hall •

Join the Tunbridge Community in a celebration of our farms. For the past two years the Planning Commission has been studying how farming has changed over the years. Come, see, and hear our findings about the heart and soul of Tunbridge, our farms. Have they changed? Do we still look at ourselves as a town that supports our farming families? Do we need to step back and consider what we need to do to keep farming vital in Tunbridge?

Come and help us answer these questions as they become part of our updated Town Plan. With the help of Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, we will take a look back in time to our farming days and learn what has created the changes and what, if anything, we may want to do to encourage farming in Tunbridge.

First though, come and join us in a Pot Luck Dinner, May 18th, at 6 PM in the Town Hall. Then let us take you down through Tunbridge Farming History with our video presentation and panel discussion.

TUNBRIDGE NEEDS YOU!!!

Questions? Call any of your friendly Planning Commission members or Susan Clark at 889-3733

Green Up Coordinator

Jim Ludwig 889-9422 jimlu@sover.net.

I have been the Coordinator for over 20 years now. It is time for some new blood. Activities might include the school kids and other innovative technics.

I will be the Coordinator this year, but wish that some one or ones would pick up the reins. Keeping our beautiful roads clean of litter is of paramount importance. Please contact me about this exciting opporrtnuity!

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 janet@zugglass.com

I recently became aware of a loophole in the mailing of the TQ. People who live in Tunbridge but don't own property and have an out-of-town mailing address are not receiving this newsletter. If you know of someone in this situation please tell them to contact me and I will add them to the mailing list.

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

Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more events.

- May 28 - Memorial Day: Library plant, book & bake sales, 9-2. Town Hall memorial service, 11am. Parade and cemetery program, following the service.
- May 17 - Wellspring Waldorf School All School Musical: Ramayana 7pm, Town Hall. www.wellspringwaldorfschool.org
- May 18- Planning Commission PotLuck, 6pm Town Hall Tunbridge Farming History presentation and discussion.
- May 31 - Wellspring Waldorf School; May Festival, 1pm. Free.
- June 2- Wellspring Waldorf School; Open House. 10am-12pm
- June 10 - History Mystery Walk. 3pm. Meet at Library.
- June 11 - Special Town Meeting - 6pm, School Gym
- June 16 Vermont History Expo- on the Fairgrounds
& 17 - www.vermonthistory.org/expo
- July 8 - North Tunbridge Grange Open House. 1-3pm
Co-hosted with the Historical Society.
- July 10- Ice Cream Social- 6:30pm- Parish House Lawn
followed by "Tunbridge Speaks" at 7:30 in the Church
- July 13 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm
Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 donation
- July 29 - North Tunbridge Grange Open House. 1-3pm
Co-hosted with the Historical Society.
- Aug. 10- Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm
Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 donation
- Aug. 14- Pot Luck Picnic hosted by The Historical Society. 6:30pm at the North Tunbridge Church. Followed by a Slide program with Euclid Farnham and Mick Maguire highlighting businesses and public buildings along the First Branch.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Maxine Young, Secretary - 763-8274

Merle Howe, President – 889-5574

What a show the 60th year was!! On both nights, the audience gave a standing ovation. Merle Howe, the Tunbridge “crooner”, received a rousing round of applause on Saturday night. Merle is the only person who has been in the show for all 60 years. There were many excellent comments from the audience, such as “it was the best show”, “moved along”, “variety”, “a lot of familiar music”, “silly jokes”. We are so proud to have such extraordinary talent in Tunbridge (or former Tunbridge residents). Henry Swayze, as Mr. Interlocutor, in his opening gave a brief history of the old time Minstrel show tradition and how it has evolved into what is now the annual Civic Club show. This year’s show was dedicated to Cornelia Swayze, and Henry thanked the members of the show for embracing Cornelia throughout her 15 years of Alzheimer’s.

The proceeds from the show, after expenses, were distributed to various Tunbridge entities. This year, the proceeds were divided between the Town Library and the School Library, for the purchase of books in memory of Wayne Young and George Crouse. Funds were also distributed to the Recreation Association, North Tunbridge Grange, and the Food Shelf.

A lot of energy goes into planning the show, and the cast and Civic Club members are to be commended for the amount of time and effort that is put into bringing this show to Tunbridge on an annual basis. We are in need of new energy and new faces, so hopefully, you came to the show this year and enjoyed it so much that you want to be in it next year!! You may contact any of the Civic Club members or officers; Merle 889-5574; Maxine 763-8274; Butch 889-3716; or Jim 889-3524.

Tunbridge Women’s Group

Pam Dietz 889-3315

Inviting women of all ages and walks of life to gather monthly to share a meal and to meet, converse and share common interests. For information call Pam Dietz

Tunbridge Better Bones

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

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

Mon & Wed. - 8:30am

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

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Ben Wolfe - 889-3571

These spring months are the busiest time for the board, as we finalize the abstract (draft) of the Grand List. This effort includes receiving and reviewing homestead and Current Use reports, entering exemptions, and concluding our visits to assess any changes in properties. We continue to work for transparency as we attempt to meet the rising standards of various programs and state regulations. If the value of your property has changed from the 2011 value you will be sent a Change of Appraisal Notice. If your property value has not changed, you will not receive a formal notice, unless you requested one. The 2012 current use allocation will be sent to enrollees in early June, at the same time that change-of-appraisal notices are sent out.

If you have land enrolled in the Use Value Appraisal program (Current Use), your application should have a map showing any land that is excluded. Due to the evolving nature of the UVA program, we are valuing the excluded land at the graded land values of the excluded acreage as mapped (in the past we have used an averaged value across all land grades, multiplied by the acreage of the exclusion). This may cause some variation in the value of the excluded/enrolled land values.

The Board of Listers will hold grievance hearings at the Town Office from 9:00am to 4:00pm on Friday, June 15th 2012, these hearings will be continued on Saturday, June 16th from 1:00 to 4:00pm.

Any property owner may grieve the listed value of their property. After grievance hearings, we will finalize the Grand List. For this reason, you must notify us of your intent to grieve by the time of hearings on June 15th & 16th, 2012, or you will have to wait until next year.

Remember that you are grieving the listed value of your property, not the tax bill. (That amount will be calculated by the treasurer in August using the tax rate, based on the budgets passed and the final Grand List amount.) We would encourage you to come and talk to us prior to the official hearings so we may be able to answer any questions you may have about how we arrived at the current value of your property. The Lister office has information on sales and comparison sheets for you to review, and these can help you conclude what value your property should be listed for.

The official grievance hearing is much more formal. This is your time to present evidence to us, to show us what you think the listed value should be for your property. After the grievance, we may request a chance to see your property. This will allow us to take a fresh look at the state of your property, so we can consider how we should reflect your concerns in the listed value.

Tunbridge Select Board

Bob Dunkle, Chair (889-3740) Tom Mullen, (889-9499)

Ingrid Van Steamburg (889-3459)

The select board is busy this Spring what with getting through the mud season and getting ready for Summer projects. We know that some areas were hit pretty hard with the fast warm up and warm nights that did not allow the roads to refreeze much. Your patience was appreciated and we are happy to report that we survived another mud season and are now in the grading and fixing mode. Please feel free to contact us with any road issues or questions. Our goals this summer are to work on infrastructure which will include working with the road crew to check drainage and culverts. Please let us know of any concerns so that we can address them.

An ongoing project has been the transfer station and how to trim cost and boost efficiency. We are meeting with Casellas to look at the latest options that are available to us regarding recycling and becoming more efficient and easier for the town.

Recently we were approached regarding a Hazard Mitigation Grant that is applied and run through the Vermont Law school and is designed to explore and mitigate the environmental, economic and social aspects of a disaster. Tunbridge is one of 2 pilot towns (Hartford, VT is the other). This means that Tunbridge demographics will be used in the grant process.

First Branch Ambulance last met with the select board on March 20th. In that meeting we were told to expect a report within a week. We did receive the report on April 17th. A copy of the report is available at the town clerk's office. A meeting will be warned sometime before the end of the fiscal year regarding articles 8 and 9 from the Town meeting.

As always, please contact any member(s) of the Select Board with any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have in regards to any town issue and remember we meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6pm. If you wish to be on our agenda please contact Wendy at 889-5521.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

Hours; Monday - Thursday 7:30am-3:00pm

Dog(s) licenses were due on April 1st, 2012; late notices are being sent to those who had dog(s) on file last year. If you no longer have your dog(s) please notify me so that they can be removed from the computer file.

Tunbridge School Club, Con't.

Upcoming Meeting: 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. School Club will meet at 6:30pm in the school library on June 4. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

Tunbridge Central School 8th Grade Class

Jonni Spaulding - 763-2308

Thank you to all that helped us make our goal. This year's Tunbridge Central School's 8th Grade Class raised just over \$8,000 to visit Washington D.C. In early June these students, chaperoned by two faculty members, will ride the train down for a five day trip. We wish them well and look forward to hearing all about the trip upon their safe return home.

A very special thanks, from Jonni Spaulding personally, goes to Tracy Vesper and the parents that helped out each and every time they were needed. I enjoyed getting to know you and your families better and am also very happy we are done with fundraising.

Tunbridge Notaries

FYI: Tunbridge is home to 25 notaries!

All terms expire 2/10/15

Alexander W. Banks

Danielle Braley-Winkle

Shelley L. Barnaby

Sarah Buxton

David Eggum

Brenda Cohen

Allison Ericson

Joanne Goodnow

Jacqueline Higgins

Christine A. Hoyt

Linda Lazaroff

Judith Lewis

Gail S. Lund

Wendy McCullough

Sharon Mee

Helen O'Donnell

William Porter

Daniel Seddon

Elizabeth M. Sponable

Elizabeth Tracy

Brooke Trottier

Tracy L. Vesper

Jeffrey Young

Victoria Weiss

Virginia West

Tunbridge School Club

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

Winter Carnival a Success: Nearly 80 people came out to participate in a daylong Winter Carnival held at TCS on February 25. The day included breakfast, horse-drawn sleigh rides and sledding. Tunbridge One Planet organized indoor agility games. The eighth grade class fueled carnival-goers with homemade snacks. To end the day, people of all ages gathered to watch one of two movies offered.

Teacher Appreciation Week: Every spring, the first full week of May is National Teacher Appreciation Week. School Club organized a special luncheon on May 10 that gave teachers and staff a rare chance to enjoy a meal together. Thank you to all who contributed and recognized our special teachers and staff in other ways.

Last Day of School Picnic: School ends with a half-day on June 14. School Club will host the annual last-day-of-school picnic from 11am - Noon for all students, staff, teachers, parents, community members and volunteers. Please call Kathi Terami at 889-5575 or email schoolclub@tunbridge.k12.vt.us if you would like to contribute to this celebration in any way.

Vermont History Expo Supper: The Vermont Historical Society has once again asked School Club to host a community supper on the Saturday evening during the Vermont History Expo – June 16.

The supper will give Expo staff, volunteers, visitors and general community members a meal option right in town midway through this two-day event. A School Club committee is busy planning a Vermont-inspired menu that will feature local ingredients and historical recipes. Please email schoolclub@tunbridge.k12.vt.us if you would like to contribute ingredients or volunteer to cook, set up, serve or clean up. Watch the Herald and advertisements around town for details!

Finances in Good Standing: School Club currently has just over \$5,000 its bank account. So far this year, School Club has provided support for the Back-to-School Potluck, refreshments at the Open House, t-shirts for the art class Irene recovery fundraiser, the 8th grade leadership retreat at Treasure Island, the movie site license, the Halloween Party, tickets to Annie at Northern Stage for the 3/4/5 class, the Holiday Breakfast for teachers and staff, classroom supplies for teachers, sleigh rides for the school Winter Carnival day and Teacher Appreciation Week. Upcoming support will include room darkening shades for the multi-purpose room, the Camp In at the Montshire Museum of Science for the 3rd grade class, a contribution towards the 8th grade class trip, flowers and cake for the graduation ceremony and the end-of-the-year picnic. ➡

Tunbridge School Board

Lorinda Oliver – lorinda.oliver@gmail.com – 889-9462

Kathy Galluzzo - galluzk@nationwide.com - 802-565-0695

Amy Frost – asf802@gmail.com – 889-3739

As this is our first formal communication with the community since our annual meeting in March when the 2012-2013 school budget was approved, we wish to thank you for your continued support. There have been some significant changes over the past few years as we worked towards laying a strong foundation for sustainable local education. We appreciate your vote of confidence in the the process and your continued communication with us, which ensures that adjustments can be made as necessary to ensure the best outcome.

At that March meeting we regretfully announced that after four years of service, Principal Kathie Ball would be leaving us, primarily due to health issues. Directly following this, a ten person committee was formed that consisted of Board members, TCS employees, and community members, with the charge of recommending applicant(s) that they felt would be an appropriate fit for TCS. This process, which included candidate interviews, resulted in three applicants moving forward. Each candidate then spent some time in the school where they enjoyed a student led tour, met some of our faculty and staff, participated in a robust Q&A session with a handful of lucky students and met with Principal Ball. The selection process was further enriched by interviews with Superintendent Bickford and finally the School Board itself.

We are pleased to announce that following this intense process, the position has been offered to (and accepted by!) Richard Talbot. With extensive classroom and administration experience, Rick currently serves as a principal of a large middle school in Maine. There he is known for building a warm and welcoming school atmosphere where there is a culture of respect and high expectations for students and employees alike.

Among other things, Rick will bring with him wide ranging experience in instructional practices and pedagogy, effective communication, curriculum development, conflict resolution and PhiS, standardized testing, budgeting, and employee supervision, evaluation and development. During our conversations Rick came across as a straightforward, student-centered administrator who highly values building a learning community that actively involves parents, teachers and students. This was echoed when he was asked what he wished for people to know about him right away. He responded that he wanted people to know about his open door policy and his willingness to work collaboratively with the goal of providing educational excellence for children. ➡

Tunbridge School Board, Con't

Rick will soon be relocating from his current home in Maine to start working with TCS and OWSU to ensure a smooth leadership transition. Please help us in welcoming him to our community and wishing Kathie the best as she moves into a new principal position within a few miles of her home!

For further updates on what our school is doing, please visit the websites of www.tunbridge.owsu.org and www.owsu.org. (We are pleased to announce that over the summer the entire TCS website will be redesigned.) And, as always, you are encouraged to attend our regular board meetings on the third Monday of each month at 6 PM at the school, or to contact us directly.

Tunbridge Board of Auditors

Elizabeth Bicknell, Maxine Young, Sarah Ballou

HEADS UP FOLKS. The theme for the 2012 Town Report will be "Farms of Tunbridge." We will be soliciting photos of working Tunbridge farms for the Town Report. We would like past or present photos. Submit to auditors@tunbridgev.com. If you have questions, please contact any of the above auditors.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Lynn Laskowski 889-3571 treasurer@tunbridge.biz

Many thanks to all who voted me in as your Town Treasurer, I really enjoy the job and thankful at that to have one. All is well here at the town office and I am learning something new every day, I've attended my first workshop with VLCT which was very educational and hope to attend as many as possible.

Moving forward my priority will be to work with the Listers and learn the procedures for property taxes. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Saturday Sewing Circle

Nancy Howe - 889-3750

The Saturday Sewing Circle will meet on May 5, June 2, and July 7 at the TCS Library from 8am to noon.

We have a variety of on-going projects and are always looking for ideas. All materials are provided, skills are easily taught and we enjoy seeing your creations too.

Our fourth annual Quilt & Needlework Show will be August 10th and 11th, upstairs in the Tunbridge Town Hall. This years theme is "Homecoming- Family Gatherings through the Years". Contact Elaine Howe at 889-5560 or Nancy Howe at 889-3750 if you have items to display or have any questions about the SSC.

Tunbridge Library, Con't.

Come in and check out our newest books. We have added a number of great food and gardening books. We also have a large collection of titles on homesteading, plants, and wildlife. If you are curious about some of the newer titles, you can see some on the "Recent Additions" link on the Library website. Nothing beats coming in to look them over in person.

On sale at the library are reduced price 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 Grange #384

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

We have the electricity done upstairs now. The front steps are fixed and the handicap access is done in the back for entrance to the upstairs. We are having open house July 8th and July 29th from 1pm til 3pm

We are always looking for people that are interested in joining this important organization.

Tunbridge One Planet Afterschool Program

Phil Diamond - 889-3310

Well, we're heading down the homestretch. We've had such a wonderful school year here at Tunbridge One Planet. From Gymnastics to Jump Roping, Cooking for the Community to Map Making, and Photography to Gardening, we've had quite a variety of activities through each session. The excitement is sure to continue as we head into our five weeks of summer camp. Starting the week of July 2nd, One Planet is again hosting day camp at Tunbridge Central School.

We have some highly anticipated plans in place including two weeks of swimming lessons at VTC, a trip to Hampton Beach, a kid's carnival complete with gaming booths, talent show, and pie eating contest, a visit to a nearby ropes course, and the coup de grace, a camp out on school grounds on the next to last day of the summer. We're looking forward to having a really terrific time. Camp is open to residents and non-residents alike. Plenty of spots are still available. Please contact Phil Dimond @ oneplanet@tunbridge.k12.vt.us or 802-889-3310. 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

Children's Story Hours are usually held on the first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:15 at the library. The Arts Bus will be visiting the library the afternoon of June 26th--- followed by the Opening Celebration of The Summer Library Program-- for readers of all ages --at 6:00pm. The theme this year will be Night-- and you can look forward to great activities, adventures, and stories as well as rewards for those who read. The more time you read, the more tickets you can get to trade for ice cream, books, and more! The Program will meet every Tuesday, with special activities planned for July 3rd, July 17th, July 23rd, and August 6th.

The library will also be partnering with VSA-Vermont to support an artist at the Tunbridge One Planet program. Stay tuned for a summer art exhibit from the One Planet students.

The Young Writers' Group meets next on May 31st, from 3:15 -5:15 p.m. The attending writers have begun to plan their first published collection. Anyone 8 to 12 can submit writing to be included. This group is open to any and all young writers, and they will be meeting more often in the summer months, so please tell us if you wish to be added to the contact list. Anyone interested can attend--- and if you would like to be part of another Writer's Group for other ages, contact Ben at the library's e-mail: tunbridgelibrary@yahoo.com

ArtSpace at the library is featuring, through May 19, the colorful work of all Tunbridge Central School students. The next art event will feature the photography of Henry Swayze. The exhibit will open with a public reception Friday evening, June 1, 7-9 PM.

The Tunbridge Library's annual Plant, Book, and Bake Sale will be held from 9 AM to 2PM on Monday, May 28. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Tunbridge Public Library. Several thousand books will be on sale in the lower level of the library. Book donations are still being accepted until May 26; however, books should be in good readable condition. There is a need for brown, grocery-size paper bags for book buyers to fill. Baked treats always sell out quickly from the lower level of the Town Hall. Contact Sue Barnaby (889-3736) if you can donate pies, cakes, cookies, or breads. Also popular is a wide range of reasonably priced, hardy perennials for sale on the parsonage lawn across from the Town Hall. If you can volunteer, Liz Guth (889-3746) needs help digging, potting, and transporting plants from local gardens. A few early spring bloomers are on sale at the library now. (Donated plant pots should be 7 inches or greater in diameter.) ⇄

ECFiber

East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network

Henry Swayze 889-5556 Janet Zug 889-9602

The first round of Phase III investments closed on April 2. Investment were received from residents of Tunbridge, Chelsea, Strafford, Vershire, Thetford and Norwich. Although the overall phase III investments came in above our goals, the folks who invested in Tunbridge are rather spread out. Work is still under way to figure out the most efficient first route the network can take in Tunbridge with the investments provided.

Another variable at this time is a potential grant we may receive from the VTA to build the network to premises they consider unserved. We have applied for other VTA grants in the past but the situation on both sides has changed allowing us to be optimistic. The decision on this grant is expected to be made in early June. After this time ECFiber will make definite decisions on what roads can be served in this first round.

ECF is offering further opportunities to expand the network thru subsequent closings approximately every 3 months. The next closing is expected to be on or around July 2, 2012, then again on or around October 1.

The checks aren't due until the closing date, but signed commitment letters secured before then will help speed along the pole application and engineering process. All that means- If you think you can invest, please let us know sooner rather than later!

Once the ECFiber network is established in Tunbridge it will be easier to add more routes through raising additional funds at each quarterly closing. The rate of return is very good on ECFiber investments. It's a 15 year term but it does pay well and it does bring this essential service to our town!

Here is what you could do:

Decide to invest.

(Make money while helping your community!)

Contact your friends and neighbors about becoming investors.

Request the paperwork from our treasurer John Roy

john.roy@ecfiber.net 685-3151

Return the commitment page from this paperwork as soon as possible. The check can come any time on or before July 2

Henry and Janet can meet with any individuals or groups that have questions. We can also arrange meetings with ECF treasurer, John Roy or project directors, Tim and Leslie Nulty.

State Representative

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

The legislative session adjourned late on Saturday night, May 5th, after an intense 12 day “race-to-the-finish.” We successfully completed our work on all the big money bills - the budget, miscellaneous tax bill, and transportation bill. I’ll be sending out an end-of-session report within the next few weeks with more detail about what that means for your pocketbooks and Vermont’s economic future. Here’s a brief update on bills that many of you have contacted me about:

- River bill - S.202 passed overwhelmingly. The senate used the bill I introduced that fixes some of VT’s compliance issues (for the purpose of qualifying for National Flood Insurance Program) and added some Irene-influenced “fixes” to river access during emergencies, updated mapping funded by state for state & town use, and greater training/support for road crews around infrastructure updates. This is a GREAT bill -- very important for Royalton & Tunbridge, and something I’m proud to helped create.

- GMO bill - Voted out of house agriculture at the end of April, but didn’t make it out of the judiciary committee before adjournment. There is significant support for this bill, so it’s likely to reemerge next year. Concerns about barriers to implementation and law suits from Monsanto have forced a slower process.

- The Fracking Bill - Vermont became the first state in the country to ban fracking (fracturing rock, usually shale) for the purposes of extracting oil and gas. The bill included further study of the environmental and economic impacts of fracking, should there ever be a movement to lift the ban in the future.

- Exemptions to vaccinations for school-aged children: The House version of the bill, maintaining philosophical exemptions, passed. The bill included more education and outreach to help us boost our immunization rates across the state.

- Agency of Education- passed a bill that creates a state agency of education and a secretary of education. GIANT step forward for creating transparency and accountability for education policy in Vermont.

- Prescription Drug Bill: Several bills pass to address substance abuse and treatment issues. The bill related to law enforcement access to the prescription drug database did not pass. More detail on this in my end-of-session report.

- Health Care Bill: Passed the House and the Senate.

- Search and Rescue: Passed a bill on last day of session to set response protocols used by rescue organizations in response to the recent death of a hiker in Ripton.

Looking forward to seeing and talking with you all over the coming weeks and months! I’ll be knocking on doors soon, but feel free to contact me before that if you have a specific question or concern.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

We are in the process of reviewing and revising our policies to include a Code of Conduct for our volunteers. This Code will be an addition to our existing Standard Operating Guidelines and will outline the standards of professional conduct for all representatives of the Department while conducting fire department business and / or while representing the Department in the community.

At our annual meeting in March, Shawn Young was recognized for 10 years of service to the Fire Department. Congratulations Shawn! Additionally, Bob Dunkle & Mike Morrison were re-elected to the Board of Trustees and Ariel Harrington was re-elected as Clerk. If you would like to get involved with your fire department, we are always looking for volunteers. Our business meeting is every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the fire house. Stop by if you would like to join our squad or serve the department in any way.

Our 4th annual Easter egg hunt was held on April 7th at the School. It was a beautiful sunny day for the over 50 kids & adults who searched for 500 hidden eggs on the playground and the surrounding area. This is always a fast event as kids race to fill their baskets in a matter of minutes. Two of our fire trucks were on the scene for kids to explore while others played on the playground after the search.

It’s BBQ time! If you would like to eat our barbeque chicken on Memorial Day, you must call ahead & reserve your chicken / meal. Remember, you can purchase just a half chicken, or you can make it a meal for a few bucks more which includes macaroni and potato salad, a roll, butter and a choice of beverage.

You can e-mail your chicken barbeque reservations to TVFDBBQ@gmail.com or call Jen Loftus at 889-3274 or Jamie Bradford at 889- 5518 to place your reservation. Thank you for your continued support as this fund raiser proves to be a great success every year.

Making Change

Lisa Kippen- 889-9822

A substance abuse support group for young people 14- mid twenties 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 through the last Sunday in June. In July we worship at the South Tunbridge Methodist Church and in August at the North Tunbridge Baptist Church.

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

Choirs: The Youth Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. from late August through mid May. The Great Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Tunbridge Church Sanctuary from mid- August through early June.

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 **Youth Group** for young people in grades four and older meets the third Sunday of the month at the Parish House.

May 20 from 3:00-4:30 June 17 from 4:00-5:30

July 15 from 3:30-5:30 August 19 from 3:30 -5:30

Family Nights, a time of food, bon fire and fun for people of all ages will be held June 17, July 15 and August 19 on the Parish House lawn beginning at 5:30. In case of rain the Family Nights will be held in the Town Hall.

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

The **Ice Cream Social** will be held Tuesday, July 10 at 6:30 on the Parish House lawn, or in the Town Hall if it rains.

The **Outdoor Service and Picnic** will be held Sunday, July 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Pam Dietz on Falls Hill Road.

The **Food Shelf**, located in the Parish House, is open every Friday afternoon from 4:00 - 6:00.

A call for items for a **Second Time Around Sale** to benefit the Tunbridge Church Parish House.

Let's keep unused household items moving within our community! Consider donating items for a sale on July 14 on the Parish House lawn. This is a great way to rid your cellar of dust collecting, space taking things AND give the item new life to a new owner AND benefit this important community meeting space.

You can call Michael Sacca at 889-3210 to arrange a pick up or drop off of items. Please no electronics, clothes or broken items, and nothing larger than a baby's crib.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jim Wick - 889-3437

For several years Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors has been providing services to local residents through volunteer action. We have been getting a steady stream of calls, and have been able to help quite a few people with all kinds of things.

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: Brenda Field, Bil Gefell, Lee Banas, Felicity Swayze, Adam Smith, Pam Dietz, Jim Wick, David Wolfe.

Tunbridge Church Community Playground

Janet Zug - 889-9602

The Tunbridge Church Community Playground was built with the church kids in mind, but is offered for all to enjoy. Most of the funds to purchase the play set were raised through the creation of the Tunbridge/Royalton Community Phonebook in 2010. We still have a few of those left for sale at a discounted price of \$3/ each or two for \$5.

We hope to add another piece to the playground. Something that is best for the younger ages. If you use the playground or you enjoy watching others use it, please consider making a direct donation to help with this and other future additions.

Donations can be mailed to the Church Treasurer, T Swayze, 56 Swayze Road in Tunbridge. Please make your check payable to The Tunbridge Church and make sure you specify it is for the Playground in the memo line.

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue

Deb Mullen - 889-9406

There will be a **Special Town Meeting in the school gym on July 11th at 6pm** in regards to the First Branch Ambulance appropriations from Town Meeting.

As residents who attended the recent Town Meeting heard during discussion of the Selectboard's budgets, several allegations of misconduct by First Branch Ambulance and Rescue (FBA&R) had been taken to and discussed by the board.

In response to those allegations the First Branch Board conducted an investigation. On April 17 it emailed its investigation report to the Tunbridge Selectboard.

On May 1 the Selectboard and First Branch board members discussed the report. Selectboard members were satisfied with the report and said they will move forward to schedule a Special Town Meeting to vote on the First Branch appropriation of \$30,000.00 Operating Funds and the \$15,000 toward the purchase of a new ambulance that were tabled in March at Town Meeting. We hope that everyone can come out to the special town meeting to show your support for 1st Branch.

First Branch Ambulance Captain Linda Kuban, the Orange County Sheriff's Department and the First Branch Board's attorney investigated the four complaints. No evidence was found to support three of them.

The four allegations, brought by two individuals, dealt with the ambulance driver texting while on duty, pornography being viewed on the squad's computers at the Chelsea Fire Station, squad members responding with alcohol on their breath and the ambulance not being properly cleaned.

One instance where someone texted while driving was admitted to while the ambulance was stopped at a stop sign while coming back from a transport. The board disciplined the driver by putting a letter in his personnel file and putting him on six-months' probation.

In addition, the board took other actions, including revising the by-laws, which are available to the public, and updating personnel and other policies. FBA&R has notified the Tunbridge and Chelsea Fire Departments that the ambulance and rescue policies call for a drug free, harassment free environment at each station.

Linda Kuban, who served 25 years as captain of the ambulance, is now the unpaid administrator and continues as a first responder. Pam Caron was replaced by the Selectboard in February after 24 years as one of the town's two representatives on the First Branch board. She was board president for many of those years. We thank her and Linda Kuban for their many years of service dedicated to First Branch. ➡

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue, Con't.

The Selectboard named Bob Sponable as the town's second representative on the board. The other representative, Deb Mullen, is the new board president. Adrian Lakin of Tunbridge is now ambulance captain. Dan Roberts of Tunbridge continues as rescue captain.

The board welcomes residents who would like to help formulate First Branch Ambulance and Rescue 5- and 10-year plans. Volunteers are always welcome as members of the ambulance and rescue squads.

Residents who would like to be involved with First Branch or who wish to read the full investigative report can contact Deb Mullen at 889-9406 or dmullen@luckysttrailers.com or Adrian Lakin at 889-5686 or aelakin1@charter.net.

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.

Royalton Community Radio

Todd Tyson - 431-3433

An innovative community cultural media asset is coming to Tunbridge, Royalton and surrounding towns....Low Power FM Radio operated by folks like you. Our non-profit board is preparing a license application to be submitted to the FCC later this year to secure permission to operate a 100 watt station. We hope to be launching streamed broadcast from our web home at <http://royaltonradio.org> sometime in the next couple of months. If you are interested in being a programmer, volunteer or financial contributor please visit our website or call Todd.

Our Mission

Royalton Community Radio (RCR) will provide an independent, community-based, all volunteer, non-profit station intended to educate and entertain our audience with diverse, thought provoking local programming that has been neglected or under-represented by other media. In particular, RCR's programming will reflect the values of environmental/agricultural sustainability, freedom of expression, grassroots democracy and the uniqueness of our creative, cultural community.