

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly



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

Issue #8
May 15, 2007

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
P.O. Box 86
Tunbridge, VT 05077

Postal Patron
Tunbridge, VT
05077

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

Transfer Station & Recycling

Mary-Alice Leonard-Heath- 685-3035

Saturdays from 9:00 - 3:00.

Electronics Recycling all month long in June!

We'll be collecting scrap electronic devices every Saturday in June at the Tunbridge Recycling Depot. Prices are as follows:

Computer System (includes small printer)	\$10.00
Television/Monitor (10" screen or smaller)	\$5.00
Television/Monitor (10" screen up to console)	\$10.00
Console Television; Large Copier	\$20.00
Electronic Devices (i.e. VCR; stereo; fax)	\$5.00
Small Devices (i.e. game; camera)	\$2.00
Cell Phones	free

No manuals or software accepted.

Electronic waste - or e-waste as it's commonly called - is a growing solid waste problem. The ever-increasing volume of electronic products means an ever-increasing volume of waste. In addition most electronic devices contain heavy metals that should not be disposed of in the trash. TVs and computers can contain an average of 4 lbs. of lead, as well as other potential toxics like chromium, cadmium, mercury, beryllium, nickel, zinc, and brominated flame retardants.

Hazardous Waste Collection on June 2nd!

We'll be collecting hazardous waste at the Tunbridge Recycling Depot from 9am - 1pm on June 2nd. The price is \$10 per car for most residential loads. Businesses may use the collection as long as they qualify as "Conditionally Exempt Generators" and pre-register for the event. Businesses are also charged differently for their waste. Businesses with any questions about this should call 800-730-9475 ext. 106 for more information-it's inexpensive, simple, and we'll be happy to walk you through the process.

Fluorescent Bulbs & Used Oil

Flourescent bulbs and used oil will be collected on June 2nd. In addition to this, two area hardware stores are participating in FREE fluorescent bulb recycling. Call the store for details.

Please note: There is a six bulb per visit limit.

Welch's (S. Royalton): 763-8140 Fogg's (Fairlee): 333-4248

Used oil is collected year-round at the Chelsea Recycling Depot. This collection is free and open to all residents of the CVSWMD. Please call for directions or more information, 800-730-9475.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Anne Mallary- 889-5521

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9-12 1-4, Fri 9-11:30

The budget passed as presented at town meeting.

The highway requested \$536,600, with \$413,100 to be raised by taxes. As of now the 06/07 budget looks like it is right on target (some line items are over, some under), with a small surplus. The approximate tax rate for the highway will be \$.374. The selectmen budget was \$309,634, with \$175,534 to be raised by taxes. The 06/07 selectmen's budget will be overspent in town hall and town office repairs and maintenance, due to the mold problem. Currently \$54,498 has been spent on this project, and there are outstanding bills of about \$6,375. Depending on the final figures in the selectmen's budget and the mold project there could be a deficit of approximately \$55,500. A tax rate of about \$.05 would have to be included on your tax bill to cover these costs. The tax rate for the 07/08 selectmen's budget will be about \$.159. \$103,955 was voted for appropriations, which would be a tax rate of \$.094. So... a total tax rate for the municipal portion of your tax bill of \$.677 (last year it was \$.617).

The estimated homestead tax rate for the education portion of your tax bill is \$1.466 (last year it was \$1.3454) for a total tax rate of \$2.143. Last year it was \$1.9624, an increase of \$.1806. Remember, none of these figures are final until after June 30. Tax bills will be sent in the middle of August.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602

Our select board has approved funding to have the TQ professionally printed four times a year. The cost is not much higher, it saves a lot of work at our town office and the quality is greatly improved. If you would like to donate to this cause, see Wendy at the Town Clerk's office.

If you appreciate something you've read in the Quarterly, please remember to thank the person who wrote the entry. These folks have added this task to their already full schedule and the TQ would be nothing without their efforts!

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the TUNBRIDGE Quarterly please call, write or email me at janet@zugglass.com.

Tunbridge Recreation Department

Thornton Hayslett- 889-9479

Swimming Lessons: Tunbridge Recreation will provide children's swimming lessons, in cooperation with the One Planet summer program, from **June 19 to June 29**, at the VTC Shape Center in Randolph Center. The cost of the swimming lessons will be paid through Recreation funds whether children are in the One Planet program or are taking swim lessons independent of the program. Bus transportation will be provided from Tunbridge Central School, leaving promptly at **9:45 a.m.** The bus will travel to South Royalton to pick up program participants, and then proceed to VTC. Lessons begin at 11:00 a.m. and continue through 1:00 p.m. When their groups are not in lessons, there will be supervised physical activities in the Shape building or on the VTC campus. Children should bring a snack or light lunch. The bus will leave VTC at 1:15 and return to the Tunbridge school by 1:45 p.m. To register for swim lessons only, contact Thornton at 889-9479. For information about the One Planet summer programs (there are a total of three two-week sessions) contact Carrie McDonnell at the Tunbridge One Planet after-school program.

Recreation Field: Thanks to the efforts of a crew of softball players led by Jon Barnaby, the Rec field has a newly leveled infield. Thanks also to Blake Thompson and Bill Freese for the transit work to re-establish locations for home plate and baselines. Please contact Thornton or Wendy at the Town Offices to schedule use of the ball field. If you use the field, please pick up after yourself and remember to drag the field after you're done. Contact me if you have questions, or if you'd like to suggest an activity for kids or adults.

Tunbridge Photo Project

Geoff Hansen- 889-3373

On Monday, May 28, several photographers are planning to document Tunbridge's activities, scenery and people as a fundraiser for the Tunbridge Church's steeple renovation. Coordinator Geoff Hansen of Tunbridge said "A Day in the Life of Tunbridge" will be presented as an art show later in the summer. Framed prints in the show will be offered at silent auction. All proceeds are to go to the steeple project. For more information about the photo project, go to www.geoffhansen.com/tunbridge

Tunbridge Broadband Project

Janet Zug- 889-9602

In the last issue of the Tunbridge Quarterly, we reported that we were waiting for proposals from two different broadband providers. Although these providers do want to build a wireless network in our region, they are busy working in other areas they were previously committed to.

Launching broadband in rural areas is a slow process. During our wait, we have learned these things: Wireless broadband is generally faster and more reliable than either satellite or cell networks. Having most customers sign up with a single provider means that we can create a network that will reach the largest possible percentage of the town and likely lower the cost.

We still do not have a timeline for providing broadband service to Tunbridge, but do know that we continue to work on it in conjunction with surrounding towns. We appreciate your patience and will keep you posted.

Committee members: Janet Zug, Henry Swayze, Kathi Terami

Central VT Community Land Trust

Bettie Barnes- 802-476-4493 ext. 211

Is your home in need of essential repairs? Affordable Loans for Home Repairs may be available to you from the Green Mountain Loan Fund. Residents of Orange, Washington or Lamoille counties who meet income eligibility requirements and live in single family homes or owner-occupied properties of up to four units may qualify for affordable loans to address health and safety concerns, rehab to correct code violations or access modification for elderly or disabled.

For more information call (802) 476-4493. CVCLT, NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center 107 N. Main Street, Barre, Vermont 05641

This program generously funded by a VCDP grant of \$375,000 awarded by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

Tunbridge Fair Association

Rebecca Beguin- 889-5555

The ad hoc steering committee of the Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair (FTWF) is currently registering with the State of Vermont, as the first step in filing as a 501-C-3 nonprofit, tax deductible charitable corporation. We hope to hold our first annual meeting this July on the fairgrounds, featuring "a heritage family picnic"(complete with hampers and ants).

Our mission statement is as follows :

FTWF is organized exclusively for raising awareness, continued improvement, and preservation of the World's Fair in Tunbridge (Union Agricultural Society), its fairgrounds, infrastructure, educational programs and associated events, while acknowledging and promoting its agricultural heritage and rural culture.

The FTWF offers new way for the community to belong and participate in the fair. Membership of all levels is being developed and will be tax deductible. We would like anyone interested to join us now. The group needs basic seed money to demonstrate community involvement to the state and federal governments (evidence for non-profit status) and to get the paperwork filed, etc. We offer an initial "founding membership" for \$25—and it is two years for the price of one (2007 and 2008). This could be applied to any other level of membership once we get going. In return you can be nominated to be on the board by the annual meeting, and have an avenue for further participation the future of the fairgrounds and programs.

Any questions, email Rebecca Beguin:
info@tunbridgefair.com or Nancy Howe, Jennifer Thygesen, Marian White, David Howe

American Red Cross

Jackie Higgins 889-3566

The Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department will be sponsoring a Blood drive **June 27 from 12:30 to 6:00 pm** at the Tunbridge Central School for more information please contact Jackie Higgins at 889-3566 or Nancy Howe at 889-3750. Call TNH if you need a ride! 889-3437

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

Greetings from your Volunteer Fire Department! In March we held our Annual Meeting at the Fire House over a delicious a potluck dinner. At the meeting John Durkee was re-elected as Fire Chief, Becky Hoyt was elected as Clerk and Jena Young, Pete Button and Corey Chapman were elected as Trustees for 2-year terms each. All present received reports from various committees and Shawn Young received his 5 year pin.

Our Volunteers have been very active so far this year with one of our busiest 4 months ever. As of the end of April we had received 16 calls so far in 2007 including responding to 2 structure fires. Most people may not realize is that it takes more time to clean up and put the apparatus back including cleaning the hoses, trucks, personal protective equipment, tools, etc., than it does to actually fight the fire.

In addition to responding to fire calls, we recently submitted two grant requests - one for the replacement of Engine 2 and one for an exhaust system for the fire house. The turn-around time on these grants is several months away, so it will be awhile before we know if our applications will be approved or not. In conjunction with Town and School efforts, the Fire Department is also researching the possibility of using bio diesel as a more environmental safe fuel product for our apparatus.

Finally, preparations are underway for the upcoming Memorial Day festivities where the Department will once again be offering a chicken barbeque with all the trimmings. Be on the look out for our announcement in the Herald as the date approaches. As you know, reservations are strongly encouraged as we usually sell out of chicken and meals every year!

Tunbridge Bone Builders

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

Mon-Thurs at 8:30 am

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 pm

Monday & Wednesday at 3:30 pm

You may attend two classes per week with at least a day in between. These classes are free and open to all ages. Call TNH if you need a ride! 889-3437

Tunbridge Town Clerk Mon 8-11:30 1-4,
Wendy McCullough- 889-5521 Tues & Thurs- 8-12 1-4,
Wed. 9-6, Fri 8-12

We are back on our Offices as of March 13th. There are a few minor things that need to be completed but the buildings are fully operational. Work on the ceiling in the upstairs of the Town Hall will be done in May; there are a few boards that have come loose, a contractor has been hired to repair these areas.

The Town Clerk would like to remind those who have not licenses their dog(s) that the deadline was April 01, 2007. Please call Wendy at the Town Offices with any questions.

Tunbridge Select Board

Tim Wolfe- 889-3730

The Selectboard has been working on several ideas recently. Most exciting is probably our consideration of biodiesel for use in the town trucks. 'Biodiesel' is a refined plant oil (soybean, canola, or rapeseed) which can be used in place of regular diesel fuel, often as a mixture with it. Besides reducing our use of an imported fossil fuel, biodiesel can also have beneficial effects on how well a truck engine functions.

We have also discussed an ordinance against burning trash, which is illegal under state law but up to our town to decide how we handle it. In conversation with our Fire Chief and Fire Warden, we also learned that the town has no protection against the costs of handling wildfires (even when it was clearly caused by a fire set without a permit), so we would like to include that in the ordinance as well. There will likely be a public hearing on this in the near future, so please watch for that if you have any input to offer.

The Town Garage has completed a building to house hazardous materials. The Road Crew have had a long muddy spring and have done a great job in keeping our roads passable.

And finally, the town is currently lacking a representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District. While it is not a glamorous position, it is an important one to the town, since without a representative from our town at their meetings they could very well make decisions that are not in Tunbridge's best interests. The meetings are only once a month; if you would be willing to serve the town in this way, even short-term, please contact the Town Offices today. And thanks!

ALL-IN-ONE Recycling Now at the Tunbridge Recycling Depot!

All-in-one, or "single stream" recycling means that all household recyclables, plastic and glass are collected in one bin. We will continue to collect cardboard and paper bags separately. They are processed at the same facility, but the volume of material recycled makes it easier for us to keep them separate.

Instead of sorting items at the depot when they're dropped off, recyclables are sorted at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Chittenden County. This will eliminate the problems that occur when items are improperly sorted. And, this makes it a whole lot easier for everyone to recycle!

We collect the following items at the recycling depot:

- Newspapers; magazines; office paper; boxboard; cardboard; paper bags; clear, green, and brown glass; plastic #1 PETE and plastic #2 HDPE bottles and jugs only; and tin/aluminum cans, clean foil.

Is everything still being recycled?

YES! This is a common concern in communities when switching to all-in-one recycling, but rest assured that everything is still being recycled just as before. Mixed recyclables are deposited at the Materials Recovery Facility where they are pushed onto a conveyor belt-the first step in the sorting process. Materials are then moved mechanically through the facility and sorted through a specially designed series of screens, blowers, and magnets. Once sorted the material is baled and shipped to market to be made into new products. Glass is crushed on site and used in the local construction industry. Before arriving at the MRF, CVSWMD may transfer recyclables at the recycling shed at the CV Transfer Station in E. Montpelier where they are loaded into a larger truck and transported in bulk to the Materials Recovery Facility. This saves time and transportation dollars and emissions.

There is a short video available of the MRF in action on the Chittenden Solid Waste District Web site:
http://www.cswd.net/facilities/material_recovery.shtml.

In calendar year 2006 we recycled 53.64 tons of recycling; 34 tons of cardboard; 21.96 tons of scrap metal & appliances; and 4 tons of scrap tires at the Tunbridge Recycling Depot!

For more information about recycling please contact the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District, 800-730-9475; and on the Web, www.cswmd.org.

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The Lister Year is drawing to a close for the 2007 Grand List. We will be sending out change-of-appraisal notices no later than Monday, June 4th. Grievance hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 19th. The hearings will be held at the Town Office Building, 271 VT Rte 110.

Anyone may grieve their assessment at this hearing. The hearing is the time for you to officially appeal your assessment. Once the hearing is closed, you may not officially appeal your assessment until the next year.

Please note: This is a hearing to grieve your property assessment, not your property taxes. The Board of Listers does not set the tax rate or collect taxes. The place to make noise about the tax rate is at Town Meeting.

Your property assessment must reflect its selling value in 2002, the year of our town-wide-reappraisal. If you want to know how that value would relate to today's real estate prices, then divide your assessment by 70%. The result should be somewhere in the range of what you could reasonably expect your house to sell for in today's market.

If you are thinking of appealing your assessment, we recommend that you speak with us. We will discuss how we arrived at the value. At that time you may review sales and assessments of other properties. If in the conversation, we determine that we made an error in fact or in judgment, we may change the assessment prior to the hearing. If we don't make a change or the change isn't to your satisfaction, you will have the information to prepare a case for the hearing.

It is important to remember that when you appeal to us, or at the next levels, to the BCA and State Appraiser, you must be prepared to demonstrate that your property value does not fall in the range of a probable selling price.

The board will soon begin its round of rotational inspections. This year we will review properties in the southeast corner of town, from Potash Road south.

Tunbridge Church

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The church will celebrate and honor our community's children **June 3rd** with a festive worship service and a picnic on the Parish House Lawn. Everyone, children and adults, are invited to bring a favorite stuffed toy to participate in the fun. In July the location our worship services move to the Brick Church in South Tunbridge. Services begin at 10:00 am

The church's traditional ice cream social will be at **6 pm, July 10th** on the Parish House Lawn. The Historical Society sponsors a concert at the church of varied artists after the service.

The church picnic is scheduled for Sunday **August 5th**. The location is to be announced.

Rehearsals for the adult Fair Service Choir will be at **7:30 p.m. Wednesdays** beginning on **August 1st**. All are invited to join the choir, which draws members from around the community to sing at the Festival of Worship service held on the Sunday of the World's Fair, September 16th. Two younger choirs will also sing at the service, one for early elementary students and another for older elementary students. Rehearsal dates will be announced.

Information about the church programs and choir schedules may be obtained from Pastor David Wolfe (889-5577), Parish Council President Townsend Swayze (889-3402), Music Director Judie Lewis (889-9490), and Youth Choir Director Janet Zug (889-9602).

As many of you know the steeple of the village church was in miserable shape, verging on collapse. The steeple itself is not in such bad condition but the entire supporting base of the steeple was badly damaged from years of water damage. The steeple has served the village well. It dates from the 1880's when the original steeple was blown over by a strong wind. We hope by next month we can celebrate the raising of the new steeple. The look will be unchanged. With very generous donations from many in town we have raised a large portion of the estimated \$50,000 in building costs, although we are still short of meeting our target. We hope to have some future fund raising events on Memorial Day that will help meet the shortfall. Thank you all who have given so generously.

Orange County Domestic & Sexual Violence Taskforce

Laura Davidson- 685-7900

Help make it safe to live in Orange County...

If you want to do something to end bullying in your local school, help prevent violence in your neighbor's home, or learn more about the causes of relationship and family violence then 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**. Our next meetings will be held on June 19, July & August 21. To RSVP and for more information please contact: Laura Davidson, Coordinator 272-2320 lj@sover.net or Connie Button, Cluster Member 728-3336.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jim Wick 889-3524

Do you need a hand with something around the house, a ride to the doctor, a little help in the yard, an errand done? Call Neighbors Helping Neighbors at **889-3437**.

We will find a volunteer to give you a hand. This service is for anybody, rich, poor, old, young, anybody who needs hand now and then.

We have really a lot of volunteers, over 90 at this point. So volunteers, don't hesitate to use the service yourself! Volunteers need help with things just like anybody else, so please call. And volunteers, you can be a big help in spreading the word about the service. Encourage your friends and neighbors to call us. You can be a big help helping people overcome their natural reluctance to ask for help.

We continue to receive generous donations from many individuals to help cover our expenses. Thank you very much. We also recently got a nice donation from the Tunbridge Civic Club, as a result of the Civic Club Show. Thank you! We will be having a volunteer appreciation potluck later this spring.

Another service that TNHN provides is rides to the many events that happen in Tunbridge. If you would like to attend a town event and need a ride, give us a call.

First Branch Sustainability Project

Henry Swayze 889-5556

The FBSP has mounted a challenge to get 50 or more Solar Hot Water Heaters committed for installation. We held three public meetings with a total attendance of about 400 people. The information packet from those meetings is available by contacting Henry Swayze Swayze@pngusa.net. Hot water makes up approx. 30% of a house's fuel usage and solar can save 70% of that. It is a proven technology with a 10-15% return on investment. For those do-it-your-selves Jim Ludwig will hold a build your own workshop later this spring. Call him at 889-9422.

Our overall goal is to improve quality of life in our valley in the face of rising fuel prices and at the same time address climate change. To join or get more informed contact Henry Swayze

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue Co.

Pam Howe Caron- 763-8756

The First Branch Ambulance & Rescue has continued to remain busy. The new Rescue truck has arrived and is working out well. We are putting the "old" rescue truck up for bids-there should be ads in the local paper. We have paid off our loan on the ambulance and will now put that money toward saving for the next ambulance. Typical life expectancy for an ambulance for us is ten years. We are still looking for people to help us in covering the daytime shifts during the week. Please let Linda Kuban the ambulance captain know if you or anyone you know is available.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Michael Sacca- 889-3210

Watch for the public warning in the Herald and around town in regard to public comment of the Town Plan. We are anticipating an early summer meeting.

We are planning a couple of potluck events this summer to continue discussion about various planning issues concerning our town. Notices will be posted around town.

Ginny Burnham has resigned from the Planning Commission to pursue work with the Ancient Roads Committee. We would like to welcome Susan Clark to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission meets on the **second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.** in the town offices. The meetings are open to the public. Call 889-3210 for information.

Tunbridge Public Library

Marsha Higgins- public relations

Librarian: Jean Wolfe- 889-9404

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

Memorial Day always features special events that include the annual Library Book, Bake, and Plant Sale. This year the plant sale will be different; it will offer annuals only. After this year's reorganization and rejuvenation, the traditional perennial plant sale will appear with renewed vigor on Memorial Day of 2008. Volunteers are needed to help to work on the plant sale transition and this year's Memorial Day fundraiser. Please call Jean at the Library if you can help.

Children's Story Hour activities are usually held in the Library on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 6:15. Upcoming themes are Flowers **(6/7)** and Musical Instruments for a Band **(6/21)**. July story hours will take place on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays; details will appear in The Herald.

ArtSpace is sponsored by the Friends of the Tunbridge Library. On display through May 28 is student art work, grades 7-12, from six area schools: Tunbridge, Chelsea South Royalton Newton (Strafford), Sharon Academy, and Wellspring in Chelsea. The next exhibit will feature the photography of Randolph resident and selectman Ken Goss. The public is invited to an opening reception on **June 17** from **1-3 pm**. If you wish to be added to the mailing list for upcoming art receptions/exhibits, please call the library.

Book Discussion will take place Sunday evening, **June 17, at 7pm**. All are welcome to discuss The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. This is an informal gathering; it is not necessary to have read the book although copies and an audio version are available at the library.

Summer Reading Program: This year's theme is "Get a Clue at Your Library." Dates and activities will be announced in the Herald and publicized at the Library.

There will be a Harry Potter Party on **July 20**. It is suggested that the activities of this evening are appropriate for 4th graders on up, and parents are invited to attend with their children.

The library is compiling a list of e-mail addresses to enhance communication about Library events. If you wish to be notified via e-mail, please phone or e-mail the librarian. Residents needing transportation to events can call Neighbors Helping Neighbors at 889-3437.

Tunbridge School Board

Fred Welch- 889-3574

Board Members: Fred Welch, Jennifer Hayslett, Skip Distel

The School Board welcomes Jennifer Hayslett to the board after the election at town meeting. At the subsequent school board meeting, Fred Welch was again elected Chairperson, Skip Distel is the Vice Chair and Jenn Hayslett is the Clerk.

We have two people leaving TCS after this school year, Diane Parker and Sharon Groblik. Interviews are being held to fill these positions for next year.

Our Superintendent, Steve Metcalf, is leaving the Orange-Windsor Supervisory Union (OWSU) on June 1st. Dave Bickford, formerly of the Washington South Supervisory Union has been hired to fill the position.

After Ralph Herrick retired, Kevin Moran and Jimmy Kinnarny took over the maintenance work while still driving the bus in the mornings and afternoons, this leaves them with 4 hours each to work on maintaining the school. The school was still 4 hours short of the usual amount of time spent on maintenance, so Chad Bailey was hired to fill in for 2 hours a day.

The school board is researching the possibility of contracting the bussing duties with an outside company. No decisions have been made, but we are discussing it.

Conversations are starting at the Supervisory Union level to address how to sustain our town schools into the future. Looking at declining enrollment we need to be pro-active in our planning. There are also many issues at the Legislative level to pay attention to. The Vermont Legislature's website is a great source of information on many topics, <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/>

The Tunbridge School Board meets in the school library on the **third monday of each month at 5:30pm**. All citizens of Tunbridge are invited to attend the meetings.