

# The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



**July 1, 2020**  
**issue #61**

## **Tunbridge Select Board**

John O'Brien, Clerk

889-3474; bellwetherfilms@yahoo.com

Gary Mullen, Chair

889-3323, barn or 889-3242, house; theflyingfarmer29@gmail.com

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

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

Jillian Conner, Administrative Assistant, 889-3744

Office Hours: Mon 12:00 - 6:00, Tues - Thurs - 8:00 - 2:00, Closed Friday

Looking back at the last TQ, it was published at the very moment COVID-19 invaded Vermont, and all our lives changed. Schools closed. Businesses closed. Stay Home/Stay Safe was ordered. Hospitals braced for a tsunami of Coronavirus cases. It was a scary time, full of uncertainty and anxiety. Assessing where we are now, in the middle of this pandemic, and looking ahead to summer and fall, our situation is a little less scary, but much remains uncertain. "When things return to normal" is a date without a month or a year.

One thing we do know is that Vermont and Tunbridge have done an awesome job at responding to this epidemic. From Governor Scott and Dr. Levine to our Town employees, citizen volunteers and essential workers, Vermonters have risen to the occasion, met the challenge, shown uncommon common sense.

While COVID-19 remains a deadly enemy, and as the government aims to keep us safe while getting us back to work and to school, some things are not going to change anytime soon. Keep social distancing? Check. Where masks in public? Check. Wash hands every chance you get? Check. Hold meetings remotely? Check. Show an abundance of caution around our high-risk friends and family? Check. Be respectful, thoughtful and kind? Double check! When you look at some of the CDC and VT Dept. of Health guidelines, they follow common sense rules that are true whether we're in a pandemic or not. For example, if you or your child has a fever: Stay home! There is no wiggle room there, no ifs, ands or buts.

With the Memorial Day parade and the Tunbridge Fair being called off this year (not to mention dog shows, horse shows, tractor pulls, the Jenny Brook Bluegrass Festival, the Sheep and Wool Festival), the severity of this crisis hits home. COVID ranks right up there with

the 1918 Spanish Flu, the '27 flood and '38 hurricane, World War II, and Tropical Storm Irene. If you're eight years old, you're going to be talking about this disaster for the next eighty years. But, as with those trying times, we got through them. We can also look back at them knowing that more such challenges lie ahead, and hopefully we're better prepared for the next State of Emergency.

Remarkably, the Town of Tunbridge, in this time of crisis, continues to operate pretty darn well. The Road Crew has transitioned over from its winter plow and sand routine to its summertime maintenance and "fix and make better" routine.

The Town Offices are open (not a bad idea to make an appointment, though), with safety measures being observed for our employees and visitors. Zoom meetings are the new norm, and Tunbridgians are invited to zoom in with questions and requests.

Mike Barnaby, the new "Bert," is doing a great job at the Transfer Station. Remember: As of July 1, the State of Vermont prohibits compostable materials going into the trash. Either compost your banana peels, egg shells and over-cooked peas at home or dump them in the food scrap bin at the "dump."

Stay safe, Tunbridge. We're not out of the woods yet.

## **The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly**

Janet Zug 889-9602 zugglasstudio@gmail.com

You may notice that this edition of the Tunbridge Quarterly is rather thin... "canceled" was the number one misspelled word this time around. There is no calendar of events page in this issue, but you will find some fun things to do listed in the Library entry on pages 7 & 8.

The deadline dates for TQ entries are the 15th of December, March, June and September. Entries are printed as received and only edited for typos. My apologies for any mistakes I miss or make! Feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions.

Current and past issues of the TQ are always available online at <http://tunbridgevt.org/tunbridge-quarterly/>

## **Tunbridge Town Clerk**

Jillian Conner - 889-5521 [tctunbridge@live.com](mailto:tctunbridge@live.com)

Office Hours: Mon: 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Tues - Thurs: 8:00am - 2:00pm Fri: Closed

Hello Tunbridgians! I hope you are all keeping well and keeping on during this very strange time. I understand that our changes in office policy and channels of communication with town officials may be feeling difficult at the moment, but please know that I appreciate your patience and have been keeping the gears turning here in the Clerk office to be sure the town can function as best as possible given the circumstances. As I write this entry on June 15th, the town office is still closed to the public but open by appointment, though we hope to open up completely very soon. The installation of two service windows into each office will make that possible, as well as some restrictions. There will be a limit of two people at a time in the main hall way of the office, and a mask required to enter the building.

Until opening, here are the answers to some common questions:

How do I get dump tickets? You can drop payment and your return address in the drop box outside the town office. Your ticket will be mailed to the return address you provide. Tickets come in \$10, \$20 and \$30 increments. When the office opens up again, you'll be able to purchase tickets during my regular office hours.

Can you notarize something? Yes! Give me a call or email to set up a time to meet at my office.

Can I do research in the land records? Yes! Give me a call or email to set up a time to visit the vault.

How do I license my dog? Please send your dog's current rabies certificate, name, and payment (\$9.00 for spayed/neutered dog, \$13.00 for unsprayed/unneutered dog) to PO Box 6, or drop materials in the drop box outside the town office. The license will be mailed to you.

How do I request absentee ballots for the upcoming elections? The preferred method is to you make your request online via your My Voter Page (log in at [mvp.vermont.gov](http://mvp.vermont.gov)). If that process is unavailable to you, you can send an email or leave a message for me stating your name, which election(s) you're requesting absentee ballots for, and the address I should mail them to.

Can I get a copy of a vital record? Yes! If you need a certified copy of a birth, death or marriage certificate, I can mail or email you the application to request one. From there, the certificate will be produced and mailed to you. Certified copies cost \$10.00. If you need a plain paper copy, give me a call or email to let me know which record you seek a copy of. I can easily mail or email it to you.

If you would like to request a slot on a Selectboard meeting agenda, please email [tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com](mailto:tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com) or call the number above.

Please direct tax related question to the Treasurer. Contact information for all Town Officers is posted on the Tunbridge website- [www.tunbridgevt.org](http://www.tunbridgevt.org). Our town website has a plethora of information about the Town, Selectboard minutes, updates from various officials, and more.

Vital Records: since the last quarterly, there have been four deaths, zero births and three marriages in Tunbridge. As always, if you'd like more information regarding these events, please contact me and I'd be happy to share any public information you seek. A reminder to new parents - if you have a new Tunbridge baby, please stop in to the Clerk's office to pick up a baby quilt. The Sewing Circle have supplied us with some lovely quilts for our new brand new tiny Tunbridge residents!

## **Tunbridge Historical Society**

Mick Maguire, 889-5612

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic the Tunbridge Historical Society canceled the scheduled May 2, 2020 meeting. For information regarding future meetings, please check our Facebook page.

Operations (bylaws, nonprofit status, etc.) – Informal discussions continue regarding the incorporation processing, including how to be a 501C3.

Collections (archives and artifacts) – Committee members began the inventory process of items in archives located in the library basement prior to the library's closing and hope to resume soon.

Programming - Two of the three events that we planned for 2020 were canceled. We anticipate that the remaining Ghost Walk scheduled for October 18 will go forward with proper precautions observed.

We look forward to input and participation by all. Please contact any of the officers to offer assistance, ideas.

President Emeritus - Euclid Farnham

Mick Maguire, [president@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:president@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org)

Fern Strong, [vicepresident@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:vicepresident@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org)

Elaine Howe, [secretary@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:secretary@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org)

Fred Pond, [treasurer@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:treasurer@tunbridgehistoricalsociety.org)

## **Tunbridge Board of Listers**

Dan Ruddell, Helen O'Donnell, Jola Brock 889-3571

lister@tunbridge.biz)

Greetings from the Lister Office in the midst of these unusual times. With significant disruptions to 'business as usual' due to the impacts of CoVid-19, we have done our best to keep things as close to 'normal' as we can. On June 12, 2020 we lodged the abstract of the Grand List, and (per statutes 32 V.S.A. § 4111 and § 3756(d)) Change of Appraisal Notices were sent to property owners who had such changes (other assessments remained unchanged from previous years; the 2019 Grand List can be found at <http://tunbridgevt.org/board-of-listers/>). Grievances are set for June 26, 2020. Any property owner not satisfied with the response to their grievance has the opportunity to appeal the decision to the Board of Civil Authority (32 V.S.A. § 4404). If appeals go to the BCA, the Town Clerk sets the date and time for these hearings. If a property owner is still unsatisfied with these decisions, they have the right to appeal to the Director of Property Valuation and Review or the Vermont Superior Court (32 V.S.A. § 4461).

As always, grievances need to be notified in writing (by 5 pm on June 26, 2020 this year). Due to the challenges of CoVid-19, grievance hearings this year (if desired beyond written submission) are being conducted remotely (by conference call or computer).

These procedures set the assessed value of all property in town, and the "As Billed" Grand List will be lodged in early August. Taxes are typically set in July-August, based on the results of the municipal budget votes at Town Meeting (and the hard work of our Town Officers that build the budgets to account for them), as well as the statewide Education tax rates. Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment filing dates were pushed back to July 15 this year and affect allocation of taxes. The school budget was voted down in March and a re-vote will be conducted June 20, so the Education rates are still in flux (the Warning for the School Budget re-vote has some "best current estimations" concerning this year's tax rate). While we hope that tax bills will be mailed around the 15th of August, there are clearly a lot of moving pieces this year. As of this writing Tunbridge still plans its one due date on November 1, but please be aware that all of your town officers are acutely aware of these unusual times and are working hard to make adequate accommodations. If you have questions, please reach out by email or phone and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Any transfers we receive after April 1st go on the 2021 Grand List. We will move on to the southwest quadrant rotational visits come summer (west

of Rte. 110 and south of Spring Rd). We will be staying tuned to latest State of Vermont guidance on best practices in conducting business as the response to the pandemic evolves. These visits are our primary process for staying current with changes, and we greatly appreciate your kindness and cooperation in scheduling and facilitating our service to the town and each of you. Re-vamped office hours are being evaluated as this goes to press. Feel free to email or give us a call, and keep an eye on the Town website (<http://tunbridgevt.org/>) for the latest updates.

## **Tunbridge Town Treasurer**

Rebecca Hoyt - 889-3571 [treasurer@tunbridge.biz](mailto:treasurer@tunbridge.biz)

I want to let everyone know some of the changes happening in the Treasurer's office. The first is that when the office reopens we will have a new window to do business through to keep us safe. As soon as the glass comes in and the window can be finished we can open the office back up to the public. If you have something you need before then please call my office at 802-889-3571 or email me at [treasurer@tunbridge.biz](mailto:treasurer@tunbridge.biz).

The other thing that I want to give everyone a heads up is that the time line for tax bills to be printed is a bit of a moving target right now. Many of the normal deadlines for income taxes and the declarations of homesteads has been move back to July 15th. Which will delay some information from the state that I normally have by June 30th. I am hoping that I will be able to have bills printed and sent by the beginning of September. When you receive your tax bill this year please open it and check it for any errors. We may see many revised bills this year as the state works it way through homestead declarations. Please feel free to call or email me if your bill doesn't seem right to you so that we can review it and make sure that State payments are on your bill if they should be. As always if you have any questions or concerns please contact me. Stay Safe!

## **Tunbridge Town Website**

Geoff Hansen, 802-889-3373, or [info@geoffhansen.com](mailto:info@geoffhansen.com)

Tunbridge's town website is a timely resource for information from the Town Clerk, board meetings, upcoming events and past issues of the Tunbridge Quarterly. The selectboard's recent remote meetings are also recorded and can be found on the Agendas and Minutes page. Please let us know if there's something you would like to see listed or have any questions.

## **Tunbridge Library**

Hours: Mon & Wed 3-8, Thur & Fri 3-6, Sat 9-3

Jean Wolfe, Librarian 889-9404 [tunbridgelibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:tunbridgelibrary@yahoo.com)

Fern Strong, ArtSpace Coordinator, 860-986-0507; [redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com](mailto:redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com)

Though the library doors remain closed in order to reduce the public risk of sharing or contracting Covid19, we have so much to offer our community. We are currently providing curbside service for all of your library lending needs. In order to ease the difficulty of choosing a book while not having the option to browse the shelves, we are offering FaceTime tours, phone hours, and as always our online catalog to help connect you with the perfect book. Stay tuned for our next phase of reopening when we will be offering appointments.

We are excited to announce a new library installation: The Storywalk at the fairgrounds! A Storywalk is where the pages of a book are laminated and spaced out to be read on a bike ride or walk around the inner circle of the fairgrounds. Don't forget to sign the log and grab information for the summer reading program. Every two weeks we will be setting up a new story, so keep coming back for more.

Our virtual story times include a chapter book read on Mondays and Fridays at 3PM via Zoom, and story hour on Saturdays at 10AM. Contact the library for links and more information. The Tunbridge Fiber Group meets via Zoom on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6 pm; you can find the link when you click on the Fiber Group event on the Library's website. The Adult Writers' Group continues an online discussion as folks share what they've been working on. Contact us if you would like to join the conversation.

Our summer reading program this year has more than just fun for the kids. We are offering a BINGO reading incentive chart for kids, young adults and adults alike. Upon completion of any Bingo chart patrons will receive an entry into our wonderful local business raffle with prizes from Janet Zug, Dandelion Acres, Classic Gardens, and more! Any child who even just fills out the sign up sheet will be awarded for their intentions with a local business participation package with items from 2nd Smallest Chicken Farm, Sandy's, South Royalton Coop, Dandelion acres, and First Branch Coffee.

This summer we will be offering a performance by Jools, where children will help create and imagine their story with the help of her gentle prompts, interesting props, and wonderful humor and creativity. The dates for the performances are July 22nd, July 29th, August 5th and August 12th at 4pm. Contact the library through our website, social media or phone for details on location as the event date nears.



We continue to offer wifi 24/7 at the library which is reachable from your vehicle on Route 110 or the drive to the Fairgrounds. On this and other topics, the library is sending out updates and posts through emails, on our website ([tunbridgelibrary.org](http://tunbridgelibrary.org)), on Facebook and Instagram. There are lots of downloadable and online resources to keep your mind content and your spirits lifted. We also hope to include other events online (or maybe even in-person) as the circumstances allow. You can email us with any questions, ideas, or thoughts at [tunbridgelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:tunbridgelibrary@gmail.com). Staff are also available to answer questions by phone (889-9404). Currently you can reach us Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 to 6 pm, and Saturdays 9 am to 12pm

## **Intelligence Based Policing**

VSP barracks 802-234-9933 recorded

Email [DPS.VSPROYALTONIBP@VERMONT.GOV](mailto:DPS.VSPROYALTONIBP@VERMONT.GOV)

In this time of COVID-19, much has been suspended, including IBP meetings. It is uncertain when we will reconvene. We first need to determine when the Vermont State Police troopers and local law enforcement, especially Chief Stalnaker, will be available to join us. We may also have to find a different location to meet.

The suspension of local meetings however, doesn't mean that the VSP aren't working constantly to keep us safe. They need our help and information about violence and suspected drug activity. See the above email address and phone number. We still have to do our part in keeping our communities safe from this problem, which isn't quarantined during this pandemic. "If You See Something, Say Something".

## **Tunbridge Civic Club**

Elaine Howe, President 889-5560

Maxine Young, Secretary 763-8274 - [youngvt@myfairpoint.net](mailto:youngvt@myfairpoint.net)

Reminder that the annual show will be held the second weekend in March – which will be March 12 and 13, 2021, so mark your calendars! If you are interested in participating, please contact Elaine or Maxine.

Our annual meeting will be held Monday, October 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs town hall. Everyone is welcome so please come and share your ideas about future shows or anything else you are interested in seeing the Civic Club do. This is also when election of officers and directors occurs.

Current officers are President, Elaine Howe; Vice-President, Butch Howe; Secretary, Maxine Young; and Treasurer, Jory Innes. Directors are Martin Young, Jr., and Donna Alden Locke. Looking forward to next year.....

## **Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department**

Jamie Bradford 889-3478

Due to the risk of Covid-19 exposure the 2020 Tunbridge Worlds Fair has been canceled. The Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Departments Annual Coin Drop that is always held during the fair will also be canceled this year, we hope to be back out fundraising when it is deemed safe to do so.

Tunbridge residents in need of obtaining a burn permit please contact the Fire Warden Brenda Field at 802-889-5548. Please follow safe burn practices and have a water source nearby. Please check the town website to inquire about burn bans and what is permitted to be burned [tunbridgevt.org](http://tunbridgevt.org).

The Fire Department is always welcoming new Volunteers. If you are interested in joining or would like to receive information about joining the Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department please stop by a meeting any Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. or email [Tunbridge.fire@gmail.com](mailto:Tunbridge.fire@gmail.com).

## **Chelsea Area Senior Center**

Susan Pirie, 685-2290, [chelseaseniorcenter@gmail.com](mailto:chelseaseniorcenter@gmail.com)

Due to the Coronavirus we are not offering the Congregate meal at this time but we are offering Meals on Wheels and Take-out meals. These are being done in a different way. The Meals on Wheels will come to your door and knock. Then they will go get in the car and wait for you to get your meals and wave to them saying you are ok. These are being delivered on Mondays and you are able to get up to 5 meals total per Senior.

As far as the Take-outs, all you have to do it call the number above before 9:30 am and we will get the meal/meals ready for you. We will give you a time to pick them up and they will be in a cooler at the side door. Everyone will get a different time so no one will have contact. These are done on Mondays and Fridays. The location of the Senior Center is at the United Church of Chelsea, 13 North Common, Chelsea, Vt. 05038. Stay Healthy.

## **Tunbridge Women's Group**

Elaine Howe -889-5560 [elaineahowe@gmail.com](mailto:elaineahowe@gmail.com)

Local women are invited to send their email addresses to Elaine Howe at to receive Tunbridge Women's Group (TWG) mailings. In addition to sharing community news through occasional emails, the women's group hosts monthly potluck suppers in local homes. This is an informal group without officers, committees and duties that offers women a chance to meet each other and share conversation and information about their interests.

## **ECFiber**

### **(East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network)**

Henry Swayze 603-667-8932, henryswayze@gmail.com

Amy Frost - 889-3739 asf802@gmail.com

Jim Ludwig - 889-9422 jim@ludwig.net

ECF office - 763-2262 info@ecfiber.net www.ecfiber.net

New sections of Tunbridge are coming on line. The newest is the Foundry road and the Bicknell Hill area which is now ready for customer connection. A section of 110 from Dickerman road to Whitney Hill road also appears newly ready. This is in addition to Dickerman, Whitney Hill, 110 from Button south, Button to Potash to Kibbling Hill roads already providing service. See the map on the ECFiber website for the status of your road. <https://map.ecfiber.net/>

As you are aware almost all town roads with poles have had fiber hung on them most of the winter. The fiber is waiting to be lit or activated. In Tunbridge there is no town “hub” that feeds the fiber. We are fed from 3-4 surrounding towns. Those towns have now had their hubs upgraded to be able to service Tunbridge and now are being hooked up or “cut over” to light sections of Tunbridge one at a time.

The Office is promising that all of Tunbridge will be serviced this year and Chris Recchia is holding their feet to the fire. I suspect most will be ready for service in the next 1-2 months. It is very helpful to get the job of servicing customers done quickly to know you are indeed wanting service. Signing up or re-signing up on the web site is the most efficient way: <https://www.ecfiber.net/subscribe/>. You can also call the office at 763-2262. Also being sure you are ready for fiber at your premise will be a big help in speeding hookups. If you have overhead power lines to the house you are all set. If your power comes in by underground then you must check to see if your conduit has space for fiber.

Submitted by Henry Swayze, Dick Dybvig and Amy Frost

Your representatives to the governing board

## **The Tunbridge Church**

Kay Jorgensen, 889-9828, [thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com](mailto:thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com).

Greetings to our Tunbridge friends. We hope all of you are feeling well and doing well. All of our lives have changed a lot since the last issue of the Tunbridge Quarterly was published. We in the church are glad to be part of a community of people who are taking care to protect themselves and others from the coronavirus and helping their neighbors.

Thank you to everyone who has donated goods and funds to the Community Food Shelf. That includes the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints which recently delivered a shipment of commodity foods, continuing a donation program that began last year.

In addition to serving weekly clients on Fridays from 4-6 p.m., at the Parish House, the food shelf provided weekend meals during the school year through the Tunbridge Central School's backpack program.

Donation checks may be mailed to Community Food Shelf Treasurer Mary Fisk at PO Box 12, Tunbridge, VT 05077. To donate other items, such as produce, or to schedule a Food Shelf visit, call Sue Barnaby at 889-3736.

The Tunbridge Church has not held a Sunday worship service since March 15. At this writing in late June our plans for the coming months are not set. Any outdoor or indoor services or events will be announced through the church Facebook page and website, Front Porch Forum, the Tunbridge Facebook and Tunbridge List.

In the meantime, Pastor Jenny Cook has been emailing a Midweek Connection and Sunday Worship Service. Music Director Judie Lewis emails special weekly music. To join the email list please send a note to [thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com](mailto:thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com).

One of the programs we had to cancel was a monthly Care for the Caregiver time of respite with fellowship, fun and food. The annual Super Senior Luncheons in April and June were not held. The church's Outreach Committee delivered homemade turkey soup meals to senior residents in March and a macaroni and cheese meal in June.

Holy Week and Easter services were also canceled because of the pandemic. The plan is for Easter to be celebrated after regular services resume. At that time congregants will "see the light" literally. During the church closure, new sanctuary lights were installed at the Tunbridge Village church.

Memorial donations in honor of Barbara Howe funded the lights. Barbara was the church's oldest member and had served for years as the Parish Council secretary, as well as a Ladies Aid member and Sunday School teacher. She died on Dec. 29, 2018, at age 95.

Mother Nature is flourishing during COVID-19 – from birds, bugs and butterflies to hay fields, vegetable gardens and flowers. When you drive through the village enjoy the flowers in the garden between the church and town offices and at the Parish House.

The Tunbridge Church welcomes donations in support of its programs. They may be mailed to Recording Treasurer Elsie Farnham at 425 VT Route 110, Tunbridge, VT 05077. The church also supports a separate Pastor's Fund for confidential emergency assistance at the pastor's discretion.

## **Tunbridge Grange # 384**

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

We hope everyone is staying healthy. We were sorry to have to cutoff our winter Bingo early this year due to COVID-19 - we missed seeing you on Friday nights. We also were saddened to not have the wonder Tunbridge Memorial Day parade and festivities. We will just have to design an even better Grange parade float next year!

We hope to start back to our regular monthly meetings soon, which normally are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7PM. Please look for a sign out front of the Grange notifying everyone when we will start back up - we have plenty of space to spread out safely. The Grange supports our local community (like families in need or the school).

Please consider joining the Grange so we can continue to keep this worthy organization going. For more information, contact Marilyn (Mert) Vesper 889-5595.

## **Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Pat Howe, Vice President and Treasurer – 889-5512

Maxine Young, Secretary – 763-8274 - [youngvt@myfairpoint.net](mailto:youngvt@myfairpoint.net)

**For TNH services, call: \*\*\*889-3437\*\*\***

TNHN is available during this difficult time to help in slowing the spread of COVID-19. As stated in the news, a top priority in reducing the spread of this virus is getting people to stay home and if you must go out, please wear a mask.

If you or someone you know in Tunbridge is in need of assistance, such as pick-up and delivery of groceries and prescriptions, wood-stacking, and other tasks where physical distancing can be maintained, please call Neighbors Helping Neighbors phone line at 889-3437 and we will do our best to help.

Regrettably, we have to continue our current practice with COVID-19 not taking clients to hospital, doctor and dental appointments until it is deemed safe to do so for our volunteers and for the client.

We send our kindest thoughts to you and please take care of yourself and your loved ones.

## **Alliance for Vermont Communities**

Michael Sacca - 889-3210 mfsacca@sover.net

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are living through times that will become studied, written about, and discussed for generations. It is beyond stunning to reflect upon the enormity of the scope of the changes we are experiencing due to a raging pandemic, overwhelming unemployment amid an economic collapse and on the positive side, mass protests calling for long overdue equality and justice under the law on a number of fronts. If that sentence were written even 6 months ago, it would be have been considered fiction.

Folks across the state have done their part to control the spread of the coronavirus and the many ripple effects across our economy and social life by following informed leadership and cooperative efforts across the board. Vermonters have stepped up with a community spirit to support neighbors, essential workers, food shelves, through a wide variety of organizations, state and non-profit. Locally, Neighbors Helping Neighbors and the Food Shelf at the Tunbridge Church Parish House have been an enormous help as has Brenda Field the town Emergency Management Director and town clerk Gillian Conner among many other townfolk too numerous to name.

AVC board members have been involved with ongoing efforts to improve local recreational opportunities, to conserve the working landscape and with local economic development outreach. While selectboard negotiations relating to the Ashley Community Forest project (located in Strafford and Sharon) has been on pause, other activities such as trail maintenance and improvement efforts and the completion of a land survey have carried on. The 256 acre community forest is open to the public for hiking. Please see our website for a trail map and parking instructions.

The neighboring Manning Farm Trail will soon have a connector trail to the Ashley Community Forest. We are seeking volunteers to help with trail building this summer. If you are interested, please contact us by phone or email, see below. Both parcels and trails will have many placed-based education opportunities for local schools and homeschoolers.

The Ranger, the annual Gravel-Enduro biking and community “Party in the Pasture” event that raises money for AVC and other Vermont organizations was of course canceled. That didn’t stop over 280 people participating in The Ranger’s virtual “Backyard Dirt” event on Sunday, June 14th organized by event coordinator and former AVC board member Alex Buskey. In

total over 10,000 miles were logged by riders across the country from cities as large as Miami and towns as small as Tunbridge. There was even international riders! Each participant was challenged to find a section of dirt from their homes and pause to reflect on how they have turned to these special places during tough times in the past and think of how they will turn to them in this time of growth as a society. The Ranger received moving messages and images from people who used this day to get outdoors and appreciate the places where we ride. See pictures and read testimonials from the day at the Ranger Instagram account- <https://www.instagram.com/therangervt/> We look forward to the Ranger in June of 2021 when we will hopefully be able to ride together in Tunbridge.

AVC is seeking board members! If you enjoy working with are community minded folks, give us a shout.

AVC welcomes your feedback, input, questions, ideas, and interest. Checkout our website or contact Michael Sacca at 889.3210. We are a 501(c) (3) nonprofit. Tax deductible donations are very welcome and can be mailed to: AVC P.O. Box 545 South Royalton, VT 05068 or be made at our donate page on our website; [www.alliancevermont.org](http://www.alliancevermont.org)

## **Tunbridge Walking Group**

Maxine Young-802-763-8274 - [youngvt@myfairpoint.net](mailto:youngvt@myfairpoint.net)

The Tunbridge Walking Group continues to walk three or four times a week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. We will schedule a Monday or Friday walk occasionally also. We meet at various locations (an email is sent each week) and walk for about an hour to an hour and one-half. There is a core group of walkers, however, we have many walkers who join us occasionally as time allows. With the weather improving, we will occasionally set up longer hikes to interesting areas around the state.

A recent article in Prevention Magazine discusses the incredible power of walking. A partial synopsis “ Walking is good for the body and the soul. How do we know? Well, there are piles of research studies that reveal its health benefits: weight management, a tougher skeleton, a stronger heart, a sturdier brain. But we also heard from more than 1500 readers who answered our call to tell us why they walk – from staying fit to healing a broken heart, the reasons are both simple and moving.” There were several personal stories within the article which made my resolve to walk even greater.

Well behaved dogs are welcome on our walks/hikes. Occasionally, the dog will have to be on a leash for part of the walks so as not to go onto peoples’ properties or present a danger to itself or the walkers.

To be added to the e-mail list, contact Maxine at the above e-mail.

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