

# The **TUNBRIDGE** Quarterly

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



**October 1, 2023**  
**issue #74**

## **Tunbridge Select Board**

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Gary Mullen, Chair

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Post-Fair Tunbridge acknowledges that summer is over and there is much work to be done before winter. While this edition of the TUNBRIDGE QUARTERLY arrives right around peak foliage, it won't be long before it's stick season, hunting season, and the holidays. Roger Hill, the WDEV meteorologist, claims that, in most years, the snow comes to stay around December 7 (Pearl Harbor Day). Of course, there have been years when the white stuff surprised us as early as Halloween and scarily never fully melted.

It's this looming change in the weather that keeps the Road Crew busy. This Fall, the Strafford Road is our number one priority before the frost sets in. Strafford Road, Part 1. Either just before the TQ arrives in the mail, or soon after, the Strafford Road will be closed in order to replace an ancient stone culvert, mortally wounded by high water on 7/10/23, at the four corners of Tuttle Road and Hoyt Hill Road. With FEMA calling the shots and paying the \$200,000 bill, municipal Tunbridge has to do this job to federal and state specs—anytime water is diverted it's a complicated process, with multiple agencies involved, and, in this case, a "squished culvert" is being custom-made for the site. Detours and delays will be with us for a couple of weeks. Trucks will have to loop all the way to Jenkins Brook Road and use the County Road.

Strafford Road, Part 2. The July 7th flooding also caused three new landslides, where the super-saturated soil just let go when the roadway became river that day. These spots can be patched and stabilized using a combination of boulders and crushed stone, and the excavation shouldn't require closing the Strafford Road.

Strafford Road, Part 3. The most problematic fix of all is the spot marked with stop signs, between Drew Road and the Rec Road. It's a long ways down from the Strafford Road to the old Gay Brothers Woolen Mill dam, and even the state-ordered hydrology engineer isn't confident that the boulder and crushed stone solution will be a permanent fix here. Ultimately, the Strafford Road may have to be moved over, by the width of the road, away from the First Branch. But that idea involves property owners' rights,

rights-of-way, and a budget in the millions; not something that will be completed by the time the turkey is laid on the table with the cranberry sauce and creamed onions.

The Selectboard would like to give a shout-out of appreciation to the team that has guided Tunbridge through the events of July 7th and July 17th (a destructive straight wind wallop centered on Town Farm Road and Potash) and the post-event clean-up and coordination with FEMA. Emergency Management Director, Brenda Field, Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department Chief, Simon Bradford, Road Foreman, Rodney Hoyt, Town Clerk, Mariah Cilley, and Grants Manager, Maryann Caron, have spent countless hours and shown remarkable stick-to-it-ness in making sure we utilize all the state and federal monies available to the town for post and future emergencies. To that end, Tunbridge recently won a grant, leveraging our ARPA funds, that has allowed the town to install ultra high-band radios at the Town Offices and Fire Station, upgrades that will make those sites better command centers in the event of emergencies.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the Tunbridgians who wished me well after my recent heart attack. I would like to lay the blame for the episode on the never-ending legal trails litigation, but, in reality, it's a genetic thing (my brother, at 51, had exactly the same 90% blockage of exactly the same artery). Now with a stent and a daily diet of three pills, I should have no restrictions if I use common sense. The cardiologist told me, "Don't pick up anything that makes your eyes bulge out." Good advice for all of us.

## **The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly**

Janet Zug 889-9602 [zugglassstudio@gmail.com](mailto:zugglassstudio@gmail.com)

TQ Entries are printed as received and only edited for typos. Please accept my apologies for any mistakes I miss or make! Feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions.

The deadline dates for TQ entries are the 15th of December, March, June and September.

## **Tunbridge Town Clerk**

Mariah Cilley, Clerk 889-5521

Bonnie McCrillis, Asst Clerk [town.clerk@tunbridgevt.org](mailto:town.clerk@tunbridgevt.org)

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8-2 , Friday closed

Hi Tunbridge! I am sitting down to write this post after a whirlwind of the last few days : The Tunbridge World's Fair! What amazing weather we had this year. Now that the fair is over, it really feels like summer is gone and the fall season is upon us and before you know it, we will be changing out our sandals for our snow boots.

As we get closer to the winter months, a reminder regarding the transfer station: Winter hours on Wednesday will take effect starting on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. Hours will change from 4p-7p (summer hours) to 3p-6p (winter hours). Transfer station tickets can be purchased at the town offices from the clerk or treasurer, online, through the mail, drop box or in person, as well as the Library, The Tunbridge General Store and North Tunbridge Store.

The BCA completed our biennial checklist maintenance where we look through our entire voter checklist and send challenge letters to those we believe have moved out of town. If you received a challenge letter and have questions, please contact me and I will help answer those for you.

If you have a tax question, please reach out to our Treasurer, Becky Hoyt, who has the knowledge and expertise to answer those questions for you! Her number is 889-3571 or [treasurer@tunbridgevt.org](mailto:treasurer@tunbridgevt.org).

If you would like to reserve a spot on our Selectboard agenda, please email me at [Tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com](mailto:Tunbridge.adm.assist@gmail.com) or call me at 889-5521 to reserve your time. The Selectboard meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6pm at the Town Offices and on Zoom (Link on the Selectboard page).

As always, I am here and available to the townspeople who need to set up a time to meet outside of office hours. I am more than happy to accommodate your schedule. Give me a call and we can set up a time to meet.

## **Tunbridge Historical Society**

Fern Strong - 860-986-0507

The Tunbridge Historical Society has had a busy year of programs for the community. On May 29th a program about the women of Tunbridge who served in the military was held in the Town Hall followed by some of us marching in the Memorial Day parade with the added presence of Issac Barker's son (start them young).

The Flea Market on July 8 on the Parish House lawn was very successful. Tunbridge Speaks on July 11 "Growing Up in Tunbridge - the Women of Tunbridge" was great fun to hear all the stories of past and present farm life.

On August 13 we learned about the Tunbridge Coronet Band and sang some of the old time songs with piano playing by Nan Frost and John McClintock sang and played guitar. We hope to duplicate this program at one of the upcoming Tunbridge Winter Evening Programs.

We also had a presence at the Tunbridge World's Fair in the Heritage Hall.

The annual Ghost Walk will be Oct. 8 at 1pm at Mt Pleasant Cemetery on Swayze Road. Please car pool. Need directions; contact any of the officers.

THS is having a raffle this year for a quilt, bird feeder, and passes to the 2024 fair. We will have tickets available at our events and drawing later in the year.

THS now has a web page on the town site under organizations. Thanks to Izzy Provoncha for getting that done. Meeting minutes will be posted on the web page. There is also a QR code link to our Venmo account for donations to the society.

Elaine Howe is redocumenting all of the gravestones in our cemeteries with help from Fern Strong. This hasn't been done since the 1960's and much has changed. It is a difficult job and we thank her for the great work she is doing. We are applying for a grant to do stone repair in the Hutchinson Cemetery. We plan to have an opportunity for a cemetery cleanup day in the near future and have information available from Elaine if anyone wants to clean any stones. Basically lots of water and a soft brush. A good opportunity for young people to learn about their ancestors and the history of their town.

Please look to our Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/tunbridgehistoricalsociety/](http://www.facebook.com/tunbridgehistoricalsociety/) and local listserv for dates and times of upcoming events and meetings.

We invite all town residents to join THS. We look forward to input and participation by all. Please share information, questions, and photographs with us on our Facebook page and feel free to contact any of the officers.

## **Tunbridge Board of Listers**

Dan ‘rudi’ Ruddell, Darlene Miller, Deb Mullen 889-3571

([lister@tunbridgevt.org](mailto:lister@tunbridgevt.org)) Office hours: Tuesday and Friday 9am-3pm

Greetings from the Lister Office. As fall sets in, we find ourselves reviewing sales and accounting late changes as the November 1 deadline for paying taxes approaches. Although we do not technically collect taxes, Vermont’s complex system of taxation necessitates close coordination with the Treasurer, Town Clerk, and all other town staff, and we are grateful to have strong relationships that smooth the way for you and us. A gesture of kindness is multiplied along the way.

We have office hours on Tuesday and Friday from 9-3, and email is the best way to reach us; phone messages are generally checked during office hours, and often in between. We are still checking Homestead Declarations weekly. You can file a late homestead declaration and Property Tax Credit claim until October 15, 2023, though late fees and penalties will apply. If you have not received your tax bill (and you should have, they were sent in late August) please contact us at the number above, we may have an incorrect address. Revised Tax Bills are sent out if late Homestead Declarations are made.

We are also starting our Southeast quarterly rotation visits (east of VT Route 110, and south of Drew and Hoyt Hill Rds.). Our postcards went out to landowners in this area of Town a while ago, so this is an extra reminder of visits there in the coming months. These visits help us stay current with changes; we update exterior pictures of your property and will call you if an inside inspection would be helpful. We would also appreciate a heads-up if there are significant changes to your property (up or down), whether you are in this portion of town or not.

In 2021 and 2022 the sales trend in Tunbridge was mostly a quicker turn-around on sales, but in 2023 sale prices in Tunbridge have followed the rising tide evident throughout the state. Due to the rapid increase in sales prices statewide, legislation passed in 2023 eliminates the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) as a determining factor in whether to mandate a town-wide appraisal. Although not yet in place, current recommendations are that all towns will need to conduct a town-wide reappraisal at most every six years.

Formerly, a town-wide reappraisal was mandated if CLA was below 85% or above 115%, or Coefficient of Dispersion (COD), a measure of equity within town, was above 20%. In 2023, 65% of towns in Vermont had town-wide reappraisals triggered by this threshold. With a six-year maximum window for reappraisals likely to pass soon, the current trigger relies solely on a COD above 20%.

Our current COD is 16.98%; a COD of less than 10% is considered indicative of a high degree of equity within town. Our last town-wide reappraisal was in 2010, and our current CLA is 91.38%.

It is important to remember that the amount of taxes is based on what we vote at town meeting (municipal taxes) as well as our Education funding, divided by the total Grand List. The amount of taxes needed to be raised is a given, but the Grand List (cumulative value of all assessments in town) accounts for how those taxes are divided up - hence our efforts to keep things fair and equitable. Keeping our records up to date is vital in this process.

The 2023 CLA and COD will be released in early January 2024 with full results of the statewide Sales Study.

## **First Branch Ambulance**

Barbara LaFrancis 889-3378. Judy Tucker - 889-3305

We are searching for DRIVERS for transfers and VOLUNTEERS to serve the residents of Chelsea, Tunbridge and South Washington as First Responders-EMR(Emergency Medical Responders)-EMT(Emergency Medical Technicians). Paid, on-call shifts (5pm-9pm, 9pm-5am,5am-7am). Training will be provided. If you are looking for a way to serve and support your communities, please contact Chase Ackerman or Liz Connors at 802-685-3112 for more information.

FBA responds to approximately 400 calls a year, including 911 calls and inter-facility transfers. Our house call program continues to grow.

We wish to thank all of you who stopped by or assisted in our booth at the fair. It is always nice seeing everyone. We appreciate your continued support and depend on it.

Please WATCH FOR upcoming raffle information and our annual fundraising news letter in the near future.

## **South Royalton Rescue Squad**

David Kimball - 603-456-3801

The South Royalton Rescue Squad is doing well, with up-to-date equipment and a well-trained crew. Our 24/7/365 crew responds to calls in Royalton, Sharon, Tunbridge, and beyond, through mutual aid for other ambulance services. We work closely with the local fire departments and police.

We are looking to hire more EMT's. If you are interested, or want to learn more, please contact us at 802-788-1050.

Our website is [southroyaltonrescue.com](http://southroyaltonrescue.com) Our employment application is at <http://www.southroyaltonrescue.com/general-5-2>

## **Tunbridge Library**

Mariah Lawrence, Librarian - 889-9404

tunbridgelibrary@gmail.com tunbridgelibrary.org

Hours: T 10-5; W 3-7; Th 10-5; F 3-7; Sat 9-12

Assistant Librarians - Theresa Fitzgerald & Maureen Moriarty

The library is such a busy and vibrant place these days! After school programming has begun so if you happen into the library between 3-5pm on Wednesdays, you'll have to take time to check out the LEGO builds, observe the game "No Thank You Evil", admire the nature crafts, play an outdoor game, and taste some treats made in cooking class! If you are looking to sign up your child for future sessions connect to make sure you are on our email list.

The library holds many regularly scheduled programs. Fridays at 3:30pm we have a meeting for those interested in Magic the Gathering, a card game. Thursday from 10-11:30 Orange County Parent Child Center holds the "Bumblebee Garden" playgroup. This week a dozen babies and their caregivers were present! Twice a month we have Saturday morning story hours (check the website for more details). First and third Thursdays at 3:30pm we have our middle school book club. Finally every other month we have a meeting of Shelf Love, our adult book club! If you have an idea or energy to lead another program please connect!

We have several events to look for in the month of October. The 20th we have spooky storytelling with Simon Brooks. October 26th, Sarah Porter will take school pictures from 2-4:30pm on a first come first serve basis. October 21st, we will present Jean Wolfe with a library installation to show our appreciation for her work at the library. Finally, on October 28th we will have our 3rd annual 5K, changing it up this year to be a "Dracula Dash" -location TBD!

Words cannot express the gratitude I have for the time Marsha Higgins has put into our library and community, and I know I speak on behalf of our entire town on this subject. We will miss her dearly. We hope your retirement leads to more time for creative endeavours and lots of time spent with family. Thank you Marsha from the bottom of our hearts! Library life will never be the same.

We would love to welcome Theresa Fitzgerald to the staff of Tunbridge Library. Her knowledge of books, endless energy, ability to organize, and overall positivity and joy will be a huge asset to the library.

Keep an eye on our website for details on all our upcoming programming. As always please connect with us to share ideas for programs, or for any concerns or questions.



## **Tunbridge Grange # 384**

Rosemary Distel 802-272-2235

There are MANY events scheduled at the Tunbridge Grange this fall!

By the time you receive the Fall TQ edition, some of you may have already attended our first Community Craft Night on September 28th at the Grange Hall in North Tunbridge. But more craft nights are scheduled for a fun night learning how to make crafts with friends and family! All on Thursday evenings starting at 6:30pm on October 19th, November 16th, and December 14th. Marie Danforth and Chancity Young will be our craft leaders. Each craft night is \$10 to help cover the cost of supplies. You must sign-up in advance to make sure we have enough supplies. Our Tunbridge Grange #384 is on Facebook and you can see what types of crafts will be offered at each night; choose one or more! Don't have Facebook? Call Chancity at 802-272-4782 to sign-up for a spot or get more information about the crafts.

The annual Harvest Supper will be Saturday, October 21st. Two settings: 5:00pm and 6:00pm. We will also have take-out boxes available. Menu: ham, corned beef, hash, root vegetables, rolls, beverages and of course, homemade pies! Bargain prices of \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. Please rsvp to Peggy Willoughby at 618-751-9766 by Thursday, October 19th. Walk-ins are welcome, but you do take a chance on what's left! We will be doing our raffle drawing by the 2nd seating at the supper, so you will still have a chance to purchase tickets that evening.

Our annual Holiday Craft Market will take place at the Grange Hall on November 25th, 9AM-3PM with vendors upstairs selling handmade crafts, candies, Christmas toys, gifts, and more! In the lower level of the Hall, there will be a bake sale and a light lunch offered (11:30-1:00) as well as a special "drop-in" Bingo from 1-3pm.

Mark your calendars for a very special event hosted by the Grange! On Friday, December 8th at 6:30pm there will be a "Holiday Prize Bingo!" Wear your ugly sweater and join us for an evening of fun, prizes, and a chance to win some great holiday gifts! \$20 Entry tickets (limited number) and tickets can be purchased ahead of time from a Grange member or in-person at the door (if still available). Regular games will have a prize value of at least \$50 and the Jackpot will be a value of at least \$250. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and a basket raffle.

## **Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department**

Jamie Bradford 889-3478

October 08-15, 2022 is Fire Prevention week. Each year during Fire Prevention Week there is a theme, this years theme is “Cooking Safely!” This theme reinforces the importance of safety when grilling, microwaving, keeping cooking surfaces clean, etc. The Fire Department is happy to answer any questions you may have around this topic. We plan to visit the school community this year to help spread the message of fire safety, we are excited to have this opportunity again and share our knowledge.

Please remember that it is important to check your smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and have your chimneys cleaned and your furnaces serviced this time of year. Mark your calendars to replace your detectors batteries every time you turn the clocks back and then again when you set your clocks ahead. The Fire Department can be reached by email [tunbridge.fire@gmail.com](mailto:tunbridge.fire@gmail.com) to help with any of your fire safety and prevention questions.

The Fire Department hopes that everyone that was able to attend had an enjoyable and safe time at the Tunbridge Worlds Fair this year. We appreciate everyone’s continued support with the coin drop. This is the Fire Departments biggest fundraiser and we are grateful that we were able to hold this fundraiser again this year. As always the Fire Department is looking for volunteers, if you are interested in joining the department, helping fundraise, or looking for more information please reach out to Simon Bradford at [tunbridge.fire@gmail.com](mailto:tunbridge.fire@gmail.com).

## **Ed Larkin Contra Dancers**

Clyde Jenne - [clydo46@gmail.com](mailto:clydo46@gmail.com)

The Ed Larkin Contra Dancers are back at the Tunbridge Town Hall on October 13th and November 10th dances start at 7pm.

All dances taught. Refreshments at intermission. \$8 donation at the door. Bring the family. Children under the age of 12 admitted free.

## **Better Bones**

Kay Jorgensen – 889-5528, [kjayvt@gmail.com](mailto:kjayvt@gmail.com)

Better Bones balance and weight-bearing exercise program is offered at the Town Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 p.m. It is aimed at increasing bone density at an age when bone mass is lost and osteoporosis is a concern. Anyone can drop in for a session. A doctor’s permission is request ed for those who continue with the program.

## **Intelligence Based Policing**

Robert S. Childs. r.s.childs645@outlook.com 802-889-3241

Central Vermont Intelligence Based Policing has been working on an initiative to promote our overall goal of reducing in crime in our area. The problems span policing, the courts and the corrections department. Policing is the issue we are working on now. The courts and corrections departments will take a greater effort, politically, to correct.

I have met with several area select boards to promote a cooperative effort by two or more towns to join forces in acquiring police services. The idea comes from a couple of towns in Vermont that have utilized the policing forces already in place in one town to provide policing in the adjoining town. The practice accomplishes several things. It places officer's familiar with the area in the area, the citizens get to know the officers, the officers get to know the people. In part based on the old "Officer Friendly Program", this results in better communication between the citizens and the police. Without this communication the police are at a disadvantage in solving much of the crime taking place.

With limited officers and large patrol areas our State Police are often times an hour to respond to an incident. Keeping patrol areas smaller results in faster response times.

The costs for individual towns to setup their own police departments is great. By cooperating two or more adjoining towns into a policing area these costs can be supported by a wider tax base. By contracting services through an already established policing agency much of the initial cost of property, equipment and administrative fees can be greatly reduced. To start, I contacted the towns of Chelsea, and Tunbridge. Vershire and Strafford have since been included in the promotion of this idea. Strafford, Tunbridge and Chelsea have all indicated an interest and each has or is in the process of meeting area policing agencies to gather additional information.

One of the things that we have learned from past policing contracts is that while some patrols have happened, little if any actual policing has occurred. It is evident that a few hours of patrol dollars do not result in tickets being issued or crimes being investigated. By acting locally, we can accomplish this but we must start by giving the support necessary to form and finance policing within our area.

## The Tunbridge Church

Kay Jorgensen, 802-693-0098, [thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com](mailto:thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com)

After a busy summer The Tunbridge Church community has returned to the Village church for Sunday 10 a.m. worship services and is planning its Christmas season calendar. Four Advent services in December will precede Christmas and celebrating Jesus' birth. The Dec. 3 service will include decorating the church and carol singing. Banners hanging from the deck will announce the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love.

All are invited to come to church. Upcoming Sunday services are:

- Oct. 1, Rev. Skye Murray
- Oct. 8, Rev. Gene Kraus
- Oct. 15, resident Islene Runningdeer
- Oct. 22, resident John McClintock
- Oct. 29, Volunteer Appreciation Day hosted by the Parish Council
- Nov. 5, Rev. Gene Kraus
- Nov. 12, Rev. Skye Murray
- Nov. 19, Islene Runningdeer
- Nov. 26, Rev. Gene Kraus.
- John McClintock will lead all of the December worship services, including a Dec. 21 Service of Light and Christmas Eve.

A spot has been cleared at the church flower garden for placement of a granite bench in honor of Annie Laber, a beloved resident and generous benefactor to the church who died in 2021. The bench's delivery was delayed by flooding in Barre. We hope it will be installed this fall and invite residents to enjoy a rest there.

The church's special mission offering, which continues to Oct. 15, is for the benefit of the Chelsea Area Senior Center which serves Tunbridge residents. Proceeds of the July Community Yard Sale were added to the fund. The church hosted a Community Ice Cream Social in July. The July and August Sunday services were at the South Tunbridge Methodist Church and North Tunbridge Baptist Church. August began with an outdoor service and potluck. The recent Fair Service focused on history and music of the Tunbridge World's Fair past 50 years.

The church's Outreach Committee has hosted three Super Senior Luncheons, with the last one set for Oct. 28. Treats bags will be delivered to local seniors and homebound before Thanksgiving and poinsettia plants for Christmas.

Women Moving Forward holds potluck fellowship meals on the third Thursday of the month at the Parish House at 12 p.m. Nancy Howe and Margaret Rogers lead these times for support and discussion.

The Tunbridge Community Food Shelf is open Fridays from 4-6 p.m.

in the Parish House. Please see the separate TQ writeup about produce and other goods that are available at the Parish House lawn creche. Al-Anon and AA meet at the house on Sundays at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively To join the church email list, write [thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com](mailto:thetunbridgechurch@gmail.com) or call 802-693-0098. The church welcomes support of its programs at PO Box 270, Tunbridge VT 05077 or by credit card at [tunbridgechurch.org](http://tunbridgechurch.org).

## **Tunbridge Town Hall**

Janet Zug 802-738-9602 Marty Young 802-356-0799

The effort to clean, upgrade and redecorate the “Green Room” at the Tunbridge Town Hall is complete! “Green Room” is the designated name for the room before the stage where performers can prepare for their gig and have a respite in between sets. We hope you take an opportunity to go and check it out. We are grateful to be able to offer this comfortable and useful space in our lovely town hall. Thank you to all the folks that donated to the cause!

Most of the contributions were made thru a link for donations for the Green Room on our town website. The link is on the home page, third link down under ‘credit card payments’ We’re going to change it to be donations for the Tunbridge Town Hall as there is more we can do in the hall to make it a better space that we can all be proud of. You may also use that same link to donate to our library. Checks can be mailed to the Town of Tunbridge P.O. Box 6. Just make a notation that it’s for the town hall.

Information on renting our town hall can be found at [www.tunbridgevt.org/town-hall-rental](http://www.tunbridgevt.org/town-hall-rental) or by contacting Judy Howe at 889-3487.

## **The Shindigs**

Janet Zug - 802-738-9602 [shindigsvt@hotmail.com](mailto:shindigsvt@hotmail.com)

The 16th season of the Tunbridge Town Hall Shindigs will begin on Nov. 4th, come and enjoy visiting downstairs & dancing upstairs! The dances happen from 7 - 10pm on the first Saturdays from November thru April (\$15. at the door) except the January gig is on New Years’ Eve. Advance pre-paid reservations (\$25.) will be needed for NYE. Information on where to purchase will be announced soon in the Herald, on posters and thru the Shindigs email list. Shoot me an email if you’d like to be added to that list.

Nov.4 - *Something Reckless*

Classic Rock, 90s Hits and Country!

Dec.2 - *Full House*

Rock, country and blues together with full harmonies all for dancing!

Dec.31- *To Be Announced* • New Years’ Eve 9pm - after midnight

We have a few good options for NYE, just waiting to hear back.....

## **Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair**

Deb Mullen - 889-9406

Due to the flooding issues this summer we were forced to cancel the duck race, although it didn't stop us from coming up with a bunch of winners!

We drew numbers on the Sunday of the fair, and while it was not as exciting as herding the ducks towards the finish, some young fair goers still had a very good time pulling numbers out of an antique tub in Heritage Hall. The top 3 winners of cash prizes are Jim Sherlock (\$250), Sandy Doyle (\$100) and Janette Ducey (\$75). There were numerous other winners of merchandise and services as well.

We would like to thank all of our donors: Anichini, Tunbridge Sewing Group, Crossroads Bar and Grill, Zug Glass, Button's Feed Store, Will's Store, Nancy Howe, Patrick Rogers, Darlene Miller and the Tunbridge Fair. And thanks to all who bought duck tickets!

The Friends ran 2 shuttles and moved a lot of people over the 4 days of the fair. Our most recent project, restoration of a panoramic photo of the fair from 1926, was displayed in Heritage Hall and looks great.

If you'd like to be in on the fun for next year, consider becoming a member. Friends receive a free day pass for the Fair, as well as the opportunity to support our mission of education and preservation. Contact FTWF president Deb Mullen for more info.

## **Tunbridge World's Fair**

Ingrid Van Steamburg 802-889-5555 [info@tunbridgeworldsfair.com](mailto:info@tunbridgeworldsfair.com).

There were several weather obstacles this year, but The Tunbridge World's Fair had another successful year with perfect weather and great crowds! As we wind down the 2023 event season the VT Sheep & Wool Festival will be on the grounds September 30th & October 1st - come check it out, last year they had record attendance with nearly 5000 people in two days. We are working on filling the buildings with local campers, boats, cars, etc. to be stored for the winter ahead. Please call or email the fair if you are interested, as we are filling up fast. We hope you enjoyed the events on the grounds this year, and we are busy booking events for 2024.

## **Tunbridge Community Food Shelf**

Open Fridays 4:00 to 6:00 802-693-0098 (please leave a message)

This summer you may have had the chance to enjoy produce or other foods from our outdoor food pantry. The fresh vegetables are thanks to a CSA from the Tunbridge Hill Farm. Perhaps you have checked out the community garden beside the Parish House, thank you to Jerilyn Zaroogian for her efforts. Other community members have been generous this summer dropping off eggs, produce and other household items. We feel, despite the rainy summer, that we have had a successful season.

By the time you receive this Tunbridge Quarterly, we may have closed our outdoor pantry and moved back inside the Parish House, depending upon fall temperatures. Regardless, we encourage you to drop in and find out what the Tunbridge Community Food Shelf has to offer. We have a large supply of pasta and sauce, a variety of soups, tuna, some meat, a few convenience foods, canned fruits and vegetables, several kinds of cereal, flour and some baking supplies, as well as personal care items.

Food and financial donations from our community are always welcome. Items can be dropped off during food shelf hours or left by the back door, temperatures permitting. Monetary donations can be sent to Marie Fisk, treasurer at PO Box 12, Tunbridge, VT 05077.

The food shelf committee is gearing up for the fall and winter season. The school back pack program will start soon. Contact the school nurse for more information about enrollment applications. Our last Super Senior meal will be October 28 th , which our committee helps prepare with the help of the church Outreach committee. We plan to continue mid- winter snack pack deliveries to some of our older residents.

We encourage you to visit the Tunbridge food shelf if you or someone you know is food insecure. There are no restrictions on use of the program, just need. Please take advantage of this community resource.

## **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 (including videos of meetings via Zoom), an Events Calendar listing upcoming meetings and community events, and past issues of the Tunbridge Quarterly. Please let us know if there's something you would like to see listed or have any questions.

## **Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Pat Howe, Treasurer – 889-5512

**For TNH services call 889-3437**

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors coordinates and provides basic services at no charge to town residents through the efforts of volunteers. We are a non-profit organization whose operating costs (primarily phone service) are supported by the generosity of Tunbridgians who allocate funds at Town Meeting, and by donations, which may be sent to TNH, P.O. Box 22, Tunbridge, VT 05077.

A few of the services offered by TNH are:

Rides (see below)

Pick up of prescriptions or other goods from stores

Short term cooking of meals for people who are ill or otherwise unable

Minor repairs or painting, minor home improvements, changing a lock\*

Changing a flat tire or jump-starting a car

Simple repairs to household appliances\*

Help lifting or moving large objects

Delivery of library books or Food Shelf items

Help with gardening, lawn care or stacking firewood

Shoveling snow off walkways and steps and Other reasonable requests

\*Please note that the cost of any materials needed falls on the person requesting help.

Rides could include transportation to and from nearby medical appointments, church and other local events, car repair/service appointments and shopping trips. If the trip is a long one, please be aware that some drivers may need riders to contribute to the cost of gas due to high fuel prices. Services provided by volunteers in recent months included finding a dog groomer who makes home visits, helping to clean out the firehouse, providing a ride to the emergency room, and bringing trash and recycling to the transfer station.

Anyone needing a service offered by TNH should call 802-889-3437. We do our best to find a volunteer who is available for that specific request at that specific time and date. However, on occasion that is not possible, especially if advance notice is not given.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers. To join our list, please contact any of the board members listed below or call 802-889-3437. We respect and value your willingness to help your neighbors.

Current Board Members: Michael O'Donnell, President – 763-8985; Jory Innes, Vice President – 802-299-9249; Pat Howe, Treasurer – 889-5512; Sarah Priestap Porter, Secretary; Linda B. Howe; Holly Bee.



## **Tunbridge Emergency Management Director**

Brenda Field - 889-5548

Much has been going on that was the result of the flood and our wind event. A huge thank you to the Tunbridge road crew and our Tunbridge Fire Department for many hours of working in the rain cutting trees, directing traffic, checking on folks and most of all the road crew repairing roads. Our grants manager, MaryAnn Caron is enjoying her hours/days of filling out FEMA forms and meeting with all the FEMA folks.

I am getting a dozen more water test kits this week from the state. I will hand these out, set up a test date and deliver it to the WRJ office to double check those wells that need it. Call me for one if you believe you need to test or retest at the number above.

A caution from the state that when you get to the stage of running the treatment out of your well, do not run your well dry as it can damage the pump in drilled wells.

As all of you know the Strafford road has issues. These issues will cause it to be closed for up to 3 to 4 weeks. Be prepared as cars and pick-up trucks can go around to N. Tunbridge but large trucks like delivery, fuel trucks, dump trucks etc will not be able to do that. Covered bridges and historic iron bridges can not manage those vehicles. Think about that and plan ahead. For example you may want to order your fuel delivery earlier etc. Rod is not sure when this could happen but he guesses closer to the end of October and even Nov. The town will let you know when we know.

## **Friends of First Branch Schools**

Eliza Minnucci, [friendsoffirstbranch@wrvsu.org](mailto:friendsoffirstbranch@wrvsu.org)

Tiffany Bates, Jen Loftus,

The Friends of First Branch Schools fundraise and volunteer to support and celebrate the students and staff of our Tunbridge and Chelsea schools. This year we are meeting at 6:30pm on the last Thursday of each month. We have fundraisers throughout the year, and fund requests from teachers for outdoor gear, recess equipment, classroom materials, field trips, and special events like field days and winter carnivals. Our members are often called upon for joining the fun at school helping at activity stations on special days.

We continue to work on the Rachel Brown Memorial Building Project and look forward to using the ice skates purchased in her memory soon!

There are many ways to participate, the easiest is just to read our once or twice monthly emails - join our mailing list by reaching out to [friendsoffirstbranch@wrvsu.org](mailto:friendsoffirstbranch@wrvsu.org)

## Tunbridge Town Nurse

Jodi Hoyt 802-249-8956 [healthofficertunbridgevt@gmail.com](mailto:healthofficertunbridgevt@gmail.com)

Hello Tunbridge residents,

I got a call from a resident in north Tunbridge with positive Ecoli and chloriform on July 29th. I went for a home visit and discovered that yes their results were true the water was undrinkable. They had bought a test and tested getting results way faster than the Vermont state testing. So immediately first concern was the school and north Tunbridge store in which supplies food for a lot of the town. School thankfully was closed for summer and summer camp was at Chelsea campus and they were going to send a test. My first thought was it was river contamination, flood related. I made a post on my Tunbridge nurse website and town for everyone to test specifically along the river. I was able to get 14 tests from Barre. I also set up a water donation/supply donation with a contact I had made earlier in the flooding. So we set up Salvation Army supply drop on 8/1 at Tunbridge school. I met with residents, I educated on how to collect water samples and gave couple tests in Tunbridge town and up Whitney Rd to get some “control” tests”. I brought the samples down to the WRJ lab later that after noon. Some residents met me there so I ended up dropping off 17 tests that day. Encouraging everyone to go get the bottled water at the school. We started getting results back via email on 8/3 and 8/4. They came through faster than we were told. It was mixed readings, it felt so random. North Tunbridge was negative but neighbors were positive and neighbors to the initial positive was negative. One resident’s well who is right beside the river and across the road from the initial positive was completely negative not even a trace. This information was very confusing at first. As there are all different placement of wells. We got 30 more tests from fema, Brenda Field, Tunbridge’s emergency manager director and I got the tests delivered and met up on Saturday 8/5 in north Tunbridge. We walked up and down north Tunbridge handing out water tests. Teaching how to test and how to sanitize your well if it was positive. We were able to hand out all 30 tests. Some got taken for other parts of Tunbridge along river, Monarch, Whitney, Howe, Potash, Hoyt Hill, Strafford and right along rte 110. The tests were all gone by the end of the day. My family and I also put cleaning, food and water donations at the 24 hour food shelf in Tunbridge and it was gone by the Sunday the next day. Monday 8/7 Brenda brought the tests to WRJ. Results back 8/6 and 8/7, trickling in all week. Brenda and I used the White river partnership 2023 Swim Smart Monitoring season test results as they tested. Realizing the river water contamination actually was trending down in our area. So ruling river contamination out. We started to realize the common determinants were how deep your well was and if your well was below

hillside and/or on saturated grounds. Where you were near run off it became very clear that the containment wells were dug or more shallow drilled wells, or even springs.

So at that point there were 16 positives all spread out thru Tunbridge with no relation to one containment or the riverside. We had wells only 100 feet from each-other one testing positive the other negative. But only 2/16 were artisan wells. So then this sparked to have everyone test your well no matter where you lived in Tunbridge. I was notified of another 6 positives after the initial 16 but a lot of people who tested did not report back to me or Brenda. We are now helping people safely treat and retest their wells. As it is crucial to do it correctly and safely as too much bleach can ruin the good bacteria in your septic. The water donation was being used that I put at the school to help people during this time.

This was definitely a big puzzle but everyone came together to take care each other. People helping me collect tests, people with negative wells giving water to people with positives. Residents reaching out saying they never knew Tunbridge had a community nurse. Meeting new clients I can help when the water issue calms down. We are still treating wells and helping people retest. Some people, even after treating once, still getting a positive result and having to treat again. We tested the Tunbridge fair grounds and made sure it was all set for the fair. I was so thankful we were able to catch this problem quickly and for all the help everyone gave to help resolve it.

I continue to work with clients with their needs. We are looking for anyone who wants to volunteer and or work as a caregiver so please reach to me for that or any other nursing issue.

## **Chelsea Area Senior Center**

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

In addition to offering Meals on Wheels and Curbside pick-up, the Chelsea Area Senior Center is open for indoor dining on Mondays at 12:00 pm. Please call to make a reservation to eat indoors, for curbside pick up and also Meals on Wheels.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly  
P.O. Box 6  
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