

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

February 15, 2010
issue #19

Tunbridge Select Board

Tim Wolfe (889-3730)

Shane Young, Chair (889-2804);

Ingrid Van Steamburg (889-3459)

You will see a mention in the Select Board's section of the Town Report that we are instituting a new program of accountability for town employees. This will consist of performance valuations at least annually; Town employees include the transfer station attendants, the Select Board's administrative assistant, the road foreman and road crew.

Based on these evaluations, our plan is to decide on wages each year in May or June for the coming fiscal year, with the amount of any merit raise being the result of each employee's job performance and seniority. The amount budgeted for each of these positions, therefore, represents the most we could expect to pay for each position and will likely be slightly less in most cases. We are also discussing a minimum starting wage for new employees, while any non-incumbent elected official's starting salary will be set by the select board based on their qualifications and experience.

Another topic mentioned in our report, and presented as an open-ended question in the warning for Town Meeting, is what to do with an amount of money held by the town – a little over \$30,000 – which we need the town's instruction in order to spend or move into another fund. (See the Treasurer's remarks in this TQ as to how this situation came about.) In our report we mention several possibilities that have occurred to us of how this money could be used, but it will be up to the voters at Town Meeting what to do with it.

While our suggestions are by no means the only options, here is a little of the thinking behind them. One that may occur first to many, of course, is simply to set this money to reduce taxes this fall. Since this money has already been raised, we could invest the money in the town to reduce taxes over time by putting it into the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund as an investment in our town buildings; we could use it to give a boost to a Paving Reserve Fund (should the Town decide to create one); or we could use it as a down payment on a solar project which the Select Board is currently studying. Other creative suggestions are welcome – including dividing the money between two or more options – and some discussion is definitely warranted.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Jackie Higgins - 889-3566

There will be a Blood Drive April 21st at the Tunbridge School from 12:00 to 6:00pm. Bring your red cross donation card or two forms of id. Donations of sandwiches & volunteers to help during the day are needed, please call Jackie Higgins.

Tunbridge Grange #384

Robin Russell- 889-3246

The Tunbridge Grange invites everyone to come play Bingo, every Friday night at 7pm through the end of April. Please join us!

On January 16th we held a Clothing Give-Away, and hope to have more of these in the future. Please consider donating clothing to this cause, and watch for information for our next Give-Away.

For information on this and any other activities of the Grange, or rental of the hall in No. Tunbridge, please contact the Grange Secretary, Mert Vesper at (802) 889-5595. Monthly meetings have been postponed until late spring.

Ed Larkin Old Time Contra Dancers

Clyde Jenne- 802-436-2104

Their first performance at the Tunbridge World's Fair was in 1933. They were such a hit that they were invited back and have been there every year since. They were formed as a performance group in 1934. The founder, Ed Larkin grew up in the Tunbridge area and as a young man became enthused with contra dancing. He had a long history of playing at and prompting (calling the figures) all over the region. In the early 1930's he realized that the old time dances were disappearing, so he formed the group to preserve and perpetuate old time contra dancing. He led the group until his death in 1954.

The group holds open houses, public dances, once a month at the Tunbridge Town Hall. Anyone is welcome to join us on the second Friday of the month. All dances are taught and we do not wear our period costumes. Anyone should feel comfortable coming to join us. The cover charge is minimal to cover the cost of music.

Descriptions of Elected Positions, Con't

Town Clerk

Term of Wendy McCullough expires.

Pay: Salary of \$453/week— Benefits: The present clerk, who also serves as administrative assistant (AA) to the Select Board receives medical, retirement, and paid holiday, vacation, sick, personal and bereavement days— Hours per week: The clerk may set his/her own office hours. The present clerk includes her AA hours in the posted total of 31 hours from Nov.-June; 28 in summer — Duties and Qualifications: Records, preserves, and certifies the public records, issues dog, marriage, civil union and hunting & fishing licenses. Runs local elections, serves as clerk to the Board of Civil Authority. Should have patience and be a good ambassador for the town. 17 VSA 2646(2)

(Please note: The administrative assistant is a hired position and is not attached to the town clerk election. The AA is paid a salary of \$288.40 per week. Hours also includes two night meetings monthly. Duties are determined by the Select Board.)

Town Treasurer/Tax Collector

Term of Anne Mallary expires

Term: 3 year— Pay: Salary of \$292/week— Benefits: Medical—Hours per week: 18-19—

Duties & Qualifications: As treasurer, keeps the town and school's accounts, invests money with the Selectboard's approval, keeps a record of taxes voted and pays orders. As Tax Collector, collects taxes and maintains appropriate records. Should be very precise, detail oriented and good at math. 17 VSA 2646 (3).

Trustee of Public Funds

One vacant seat

Term: 1 year— Pay: none— Benefits: none— Hours per week: Variable— Duties & Qualifications: Manages, invests, and reports on real and personal property held in trust by the town. Should like investing money.

17 VSA 2646 (12 and 24 VSA 2431 et seq.

A final note, there are also opportunities to serve as an appointed official such as health officer, a member of the planning board or a member of an ad hoc committee. Please speak with a Select Board member for more information.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

Mon-Wed - 8-12 & 1-4

1st & 3rd Tues - 8-6

Thurs - 8-11 & 1-4

Friday - 8-12

Pre-Town Meeting - Tuesday February 23 at 7:30pm

Annual School Meeting - Monday March 01 at 7:30pm

Town Meeting -Tuesday, March 02, 10:00am.

All meetings will be held at the Tunbridge Central School Auditorium. If you are a resident in Tunbridge and are not on the voter checklist, deadline to register is February 24, 2010 by 5:00pm.

RABIES CLINIC -March 13 at 9:00am -12pm at the Chelsea Town Hall. This clinic will be combined with Chelsea, and Vershire; the cost of the Vaccine is \$12.00. Vaccine and inoculations are provided by a licensed Veterinarian from the Chelsea Animal Hospital - 685-3232.

This Clinic is for Dogs and Cats; Dogs must be leashed; Cats must be in a carrier. Licensing for dog(s) will be available. Deadline for Licensing is April 1, 2010.

Please call Wendy at the Clerk's Office with any questions or concerns.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602

Please call, write or email me at janet@zugglass.com with questions, comments, or suggestions about the TQ.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Anne Mallary- 889-3571

There is a big change in the highway and selectboard proposals this year. The chart of accounts has been revised to hopefully be clearer and more indicative of what is happening with the town finances. The selectboard report in the town report has highlighted the major changes. It will be hard to compare them to previous town reports, but I have combined the appropriate expense and income categories where necessary so that the previous year's columns are consistent with the current budget proposal. If you have any questions before town meeting feel free to call the office and I will try and explain.

Con't ⇨

Tunbridge Treasurer, Con't.

The 2010/2011 highway and equipment budgets show an increase in spending of \$36,315.00 (5.7%) and an increase in the tax amount to be raised of \$5,108.00(1%). The main increases in spending are wages, efficiency improvements, materials, and equipment replacement. These are offset by decreases in spending (grader payment) and increases in revenue (surplus from 07/08 and the trust fund income).

The selectboard proposal reflects an increase in spending of \$28,583.00(7%) and a decrease in the amount to be raised in taxes of \$17,288.00(-7%). The primary increases are benefits for Animinstrative Assistant position, insurance, efficiency improvements, capital improvement transfer and the fire truck payment. The major decrease in spending was the payoff of the construction loan in 2009/2010. Keeping the amount to be raised in taxes down was primarily due to the 07/08 surplus and an increase in hold harmless revenue.

What does this mean on your tax bill? The municipal tax rate last year was \$.742 and the estimated tax rate for this year is \$.727. The tax rate also takes into account all money voted for appropriations. So perhaps less! It depends on what happens at town meeting and the grand list. The 2010 tax bills will be based on the new reappraisal grand list, so depending on how your property is valued in relation to its previous value, that will determine if your taxes go up or down. Of course REMEMBER this is only the municipal tax rate I am talking about. The school tax rate is determined by the state.

Article 13 on the town warning reads "How will the Town vote to use money raised by the Deficit Tax for 07/08?" The deficit tax had to be set by the selectboard on the 2008 tax bill to cover any deficit according to V.S.A. 1523. This statute states that "when a town at the end of the fiscal year ... has a deficit... the selectboard, when making up the next annual tax bill, shall add thereto a tax of five percent or such multiple of five in addition to the tax vote already authorized by law, to be levied upon the grand list of such town as will provide sufficient revenue to liquidate such deficit." The deficit totaled \$88,649.70. The tax rate of \$.106 raised \$119,261.00. Therefore, there was \$30,611.30 extra raised. This money has been in a separate fund collecting interest since Nov 2008 and cannot be spent without voter approval.

Library Trustees

Terms of Laura DeCapua and Liz Guth expire

Term: 3 yeas— Pay: none— Benefits: none— Hours per week: Variable— Duties & Qualifications: Oversees establishment maintenance, and management of library. 22 VSA 102

Listers

Term of Ben Wolfe expires

Term: 3 years— Pay: \$15/hour— Benefits: none—Hours per week: Average of 5 hours for a regular member, 20 hours for chairman— Duties & Qualifications: Appraise property within the town for purpose of property tax assessment. Maintain the Grand List. Determine housesites and homestead values, meet all state requirements and deadlines. Maintain town's parcel map. Should be polite, yet firm, and not oversensitive to criticism.

17 VSA 2646 (5).

School Director

Term of Jennifer Hayzlet's expires

Term: 3 years— Pay: \$800-\$900 stipend— Benefits: none— Hours per week: Variable— Duties & Qualifications: Manages the school: Sets policy, oversees school property, hires, take any action required for the sound administration of the school district. 16 VSA 563.

Selectman

Term of Tim Wolfe expires

Term: 3 years— Pay: Stipend \$900-\$1,100 per year— Benefits: none— Hours per week: Variable, generally two meetings per month and many phone calls— Duties & Qualifications: General supervision and control over town, enacts ordinances, regulations and policies for town, oversees town property and personnel, prepares and manages budget, oversees roads. Should know town well, be able to understand all sides of complex issues, and have a very thick skin. 17VSA 2646(4) and 17 VSA 2649.

Town Agent

Term of Larry Mengendoht expires

Term: 1 year— Pay: none— Benefits: none— Hours per week: usually none—Duties & Qualifications: At the request of the Selectboard, assists when litigation is in progress. Generally not a very active position. 17 VSA 2646 (11).

Descriptions of Elected Positions

In recent issues we have encouraged participation in our local government. Next month at Town Meeting we will elect our town officials. For your information we list below the offices open for election this year. Most descriptions, qualifications, and statutory references were taken from the Vermont Secretary of State's web site. The compensation is for the present fiscal year, 2009-2010. Pay rates have not been set for the 2010-2011 tax year. Offices are listed in alphabetical order:

Auditor

Term of Jim Wick expires

Term: 3 years— Pay: \$10/hour— Benefits: none— Hours per week: Variable— Duties & Qualifications: Reviews and audits all town accounts and prepares the annual town report. Should be very detail oriented. 17 VSA 2649.

Cemetery Commissioner

Term of Baxter Doty expires.

Term: 3 years— Pay: none— Benefits: none— Hours per week: Variable— Duties & Qualifications: Responsible for the care and management of town's cemeteries. 18 VSA 5431 et seq

Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Term of Jackie Higgins expires

Term: 1 year— Pay: 8% penalty on collected delinquent taxes— Benefits: none— Hours per week: Variable— Duties & Qualifications: Collects delinquent taxes. Should be good with numbers and also able to work with people who are in difficult circumstances. Should also have thick skin. 17 VSA 2646(9)

Constable (First & Second)

Terms of Dan Mullen, first constable and

John Durkee, second constable expire

Term: 1 year— Pay: none— Benefits: none— Hours per week: Variable— Duties & Qualifications: Has power to serve civil process, assist the health officer in discharge of his/her duties, destroy unlicensed dogs, kill injured deer and remove disorderly people from town meeting. Should be good with animals. 17 VSA 2646 (7).

Grand Juror

Term of Nancy Howe expires

Term: 1 year— Pay: none— Benefits: none— Hours per week: usually none— Duties & Qualifications: Helps to prosecute criminal offenses that occur in the town by giving information to state and local law enforcement. Generally not a very active position.

17 VSA 2646 (10).

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

The board is in the final phase of work on the town-wide reappraisal for 2010-2011. We are studying lots of reports: First, to determine that properties are equitably assessed and, second, to determine that the values are representative of recent sales.

Fairness and equitably is our top priority. We have viewed the exteriors of properties throughout town and as many interiors as we could make arrangements to do so. The data we collected has been entered into our mass-appraisal computer program. We have checked and rechecked (we will check again) the factual data. We are printing report after report to compare the more subjective value components: A dwelling's quality and condition, land grade and the value of any outbuildings.

A dwelling's quality is dependent on such things as type of construction, roof pitch, window placement, and attention to detail. The age and condition of a dwelling determine the amount of physical depreciation. There are things that affect a dwelling's value that require additional depreciation, such as lack of modernization, a difficult layout, or a location adversely affected by the surrounding neighborhood.

Site grades are determined by a combination of attributes such as privacy, vista, general area, relation to the road, and special considerations such location at the end of a road or near ponds, brooks or the river, or a location near an unkempt area or large transfer power lines. The value of contributory land, any acreage beyond a site area, is based on such things as whether the land is steep, rolling, wooded, open, good only for protection, or highly developable. Raw land grades are determined by location, topography, openness, and ease of development

After we review the data for equitably, we will compare the resulting values with sales. The value of a property must relate to the sale price of similar properties. This is no easy task as very few sales are made based on cold logic. To complicate matters, it has been a slow market with few sales to use for comparisons.

Our board would be more than delighted to limit our concern to equitability. However, the state mandates that we be at 100% of market value and we are aiming to hit that mark.

In early June all residents will receive a booklet with the old and new values for all town properties and a time for any property owner to contest a value which does not appear to be equitable or to represent fair-market value.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

Greetings from your Volunteer Fire Department. This winter has kept our Chief busy as he has secured funding from 2 different grants to help us add income to our coffers to purchase needed equipment for our department. The first grant for \$4,200 will go towards the purchase of updated communications equipment for use by the firefighters. The second grant was awarded by the State of Vermont Forest & Parks and was for roughly \$450. This will go towards the purchase of some forestry hose, couplings & bladder bags for use in fighting woodland related fires.

We have recently equipped Engine 1 with tire chains to make back road travel less challenging and we are currently shopping for a generator to use on E-1 to help provide lights at a fire scene. We have also recently purchased a storage container from Lucky's Trailers to use for overflow storage of equipment. You may have noticed the container near the transfer station and Town Garage.

Finally, our annual meeting will be held in March & we hope many of you can attend. This is a great opportunity to obtain valuable feedback from the members of our community. Additionally, we are actively seeking members of our community who are not members of the fire department to serve on the department's Board of Trustees. A trustee typically attends one meeting per month on the second Thursday of each month, and may provide some minimal consultation between meetings as needed. Please consider serving the Department in this role – we look forward to seeing you there.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Linda Lazaroff at 889-9421.

Mark your calendars and be sure to spread the word! The 58th annual show will be held on Friday, March 19th and Saturday, March 20th at 7:30pm at the Town Hall. This year's show will be dedicated in memory of Peter C. Jorgensen.

If the economy is getting you down or if you're suffering from the winter blahs, come join us for an evening of fun. Proceeds from the ticket sales continue to benefit the various Tunbridge organizations.

Tunbridge One Planet Afterschool Program

Carrie McDonnell 889-3310

TOP is currently planning a four week summer program for July 5-July 30th. Our program will run 8:00-5:00pm, Monday-Friday. Half-day enrollment will be an option for the first time!

Programming will include fun, hands-on theme-related activities, sports, outdoor adventures, field trips, snacks & lunch, and 2 weeks of swimming lessons. Paperwork will be sent home with Tunbridge Central School students in late March.

Tunbridge School Board

Lorinda Oliver 889-9462

Although it is the state level of education that has been in the news recently, here we will focus on activities in and around the school.

FACILITIES - Our facilities and grounds are seeing an increase in use by community groups. With the assistance of the building manager and Principal Ball we are currently reviewing our building use policy and pro

TRANSPORTATION - One bus has been in and out of service, often necessitating last minute schedule and route changes, which are especially challenging for parents and caretakers. We are currently conducting a feasibility study of reducing to one bus and one driver, which would make multiple runs in the morning and afternoon. There are numerous factors to be considered, but we are exploring it as an option at this time.

ENROLLMENT - At this time our student enrollment remains steady, so we are focusing on curriculum, program changes, and improvements in technology – including an overdue automation of our library collection. Much of this work has been done with through the receipt of grants.

STAFF CHANGES – Marilyn Lyford will be retiring at the end of this school year. Scores have benefited from her many years of dedication to our school and she is sure to be missed. With a re-configuration of classes we will not be hiring a full-time person to fill this position. We are also proposing a reduction in guidance and physical education. These changes are not due to a reduced need, but are reflective of current budget and scheduling issues.

Please come to the annual school meeting in March to learn more and to support the youth of our community.

Tunbridge Library

Librarian_ Jean Wolfe 889-5577

Pulbicity, ArtSpace Coordinator: Marsha Higgins 889-5576

Hours: Sun 11:30-1:30 (May through October),

Mon and Wed 3-8, Fri 3-6, Sat 10-4

ArtSpace at the library is featuring through March 27 the very special work of printmakers Jeanne Robacker Amato and Marilyn Syme. Prices start at \$15. Proceeds from the sale of art benefit the library. Coming up in April will be an exhibit of art created by the children of Tunbridge Central School.

There are three remaining programs in the 2009-2010 season of Winter Evenings at the library. See pages 9&10 for details.

The library is planning ahead for two major annual fund-raisers: Town Meeting dinner and the Memorial Day plant, book, and bake sale. Volunteers are needed as well as donations. Donated books are gratefully accepted as long as they are in good readable condition. Donated plant pots should be 7 inches or greater in diameter.

Children's Story Hours are usually held on the first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:15 at the library. Stories are accompanied by fun activities and refreshments. The theme for Feb. 18 is Sharing; children will have a tea party and share their stew. Mar. 4 - Pajama Story Hour,

Thursday, March 18th, 6:00 - 7:30pm: "Go with the Flow- Discovering the Connecticut River Watershed". Get to know your watershed. Join VINS and Silvio O. Conte of the National & Wildlife Refuge as we investigate watersheds through hands-on activities and demonstrations. A program for grades 3-8 with a maximum of 30 participants. Please call the library to register. It is FREE! Also, VINS will provide a story hour program for toddlers through grade 2 about turtles the same night at 6:30 PM. Please plan to join us.

Geoff Hansen took some wonderful photos of the children during the annual appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Reprints can be purchased through Geoff's website: www.geoffhansen.com

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

Tunbridge/Royalton Phone Book

Janet Zug 889-9602

trphonebook@aol.com

I will be sending the completed file for The Tunbridge/Royalton Phonebook to the printers in the second week of February. IF all goes as planned the TRPB will (finally) be ready for sale by the end of this month!

The Phone Book will cost \$5. each. (unless you wish to pay more as a donation to the Tunbridge Community Playground Project:) We expect to have it for sale at both the Tunbridge and Royalton Town meetings and the town offices. Many of the local stores have agreed to sell it as well. You may also call or email me to purchase the phonebooks through the mail. Pre-orders are welcome.

Tunbridge Town Website

Rick Scully- 763-7474

The town website is visible online at ww.tunbridgevt.com The site still needs people to provide content. If you are involved with an organization in town and want to post events, or other information, please consider becoming a content provider on behalf of your group. For more info contact Rick Scully at rick@tunbridgevt.com.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jim Wick 889-3437

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors continues to provide services to local residents through volunteer action. We mostly get requests for rides, but have done many other things, such as change a tire, stack wood, fix a door, help with a computer, and many other things. If you call us we will find a volunteer who can help you.

Help Line 889 - 3437

Our service is for anyone; there is no membership and the service is free. We presently have a volunteer who is willing to do small weatherization projects a people's homes. Examples would be caulking, door sealing, minor insulation projects. There is the possibility of getting materials at no charge through the COVER program. Call us if you need some help of this kind.

We can always use more volunteers, especially people who are able to drive during the weekdays.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Sue Clark 889-3733

The Planning Commission has been approached about developing a management plan for the Town Forest. The County Forester is available to assist the Town with this project at no cost.

There may be more information forthcoming at Town Meeting, however, we are at the very beginning of this discussion and have few details at the moment.

We are slowly working on the Patterns of Settlement project and have identified key residents we would like to contact. We are expecting to work with the 8th Grade class at Tunbridge School.

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue

Pam Caron- 889- 9595

The Board of Directors finalized their budget process this year after a great deal of hard work and we are going to the two towns asking for no increases for funding this year. This was through a combined effort on everyone's part to keep costs to a minimum, so if you see a Board member or a squad member be sure to thank them for their time and effort.

We are working on some projects in the future utilizing our paid squad for various things; among them perhaps home checks, blood pressure checks, blood glucose monitoring. Some of this is part of a larger project involving other ambulance squads and area clinics.

We are also beginning our plans for acquiring a new ambulance as we draw nearer to our 10 year mark with this one. This involves a search committee looking at all options and then finalizing the plans. Once that is done it can take up to a year before we receive shipment of the final project.

If anyone has any questions about what is happening with First Branch Ambulance & Rescue please feel free to call Deb or I as we are your representatives and welcome your feedback or questions. The Board is meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 and everyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

expecting to work with the 8th Grade class at Tunbridge School.

8th Grade Fundraisers

Mary Zentara- 889-5637

Please join us and help send our 8th graders to Washington D.C. this June. Enjoy three more Breakfast Buffets on March 7th, April 11th, and May 20th at the Town Hall. In addition, the traditional Spaghetti Dinner will be held March 13th. Save the dates, have fun dining with the community, and support our 8th grade!

ECFiber.Net

Janet Zug 889-9602

We're still waiting on a decision from the RUS as to whether will receive a loan thru the Stimulus Program. Meanwhile other avenues for borrowing the money needed for the project are being considered. As a member of the Executive Committee of ECFiber I can say that despite the long wait for funding, enthusiasm for and work on this project has not waned. You may always check www.ecfiber.net for updates.

ECFiber is a grassroots initiative to build a state-of-the-art fiber-optic network in 22 towns, bringing digital television, reliable telephone, and high-speed Internet service directly to homes, schools, and businesses.

Tunbridge Recreation Committee

Carrie McDonnell 889-3310

Tunbridge Recreation Committee has been newly assembled and revitalized! With seven members generating many ideas and energy, the Committee is expanding its offerings of recreational activities in the Tunbridge community. The Committee will continue to organize and oversee K-6th grade soccer, basketball and track & field and a summer swimming program. The Committee will also continue to maintain and oversee the ice skating rink at Tunbridge Central School which is now open to the community.

For new projects this winter, the Committee is making plans for a cross-country ski track to be groomed at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. They will also be sponsoring a BKL skiing race and a Family Winter Carnival at Tunbridge Central School on February 13th at 10am. Come join us for some winter fun.

For fundraising, the Recreation Committee just recently offered a chili supper at Tunbridge Central School on January 23rd. As a first time fundraiser, it was a successful event, raising over \$300. We want to thank everyone who offered generous donations of time, money and chili!

We will be sponsoring another fundraising event on February 20th. We will be hosting a Snowball Tournament at the Tunbridge ball field at 11am. The cost is \$125/team. Please contact Kevin Barnaby at 889-5671 with any questions.

The Committee meets at 6:30pm on the second Tuesday of every month at the Tunbridge Town Hall. Anyone is welcome.

Tunbridge Church

Deadra Ashton - 685-3029

Special events during the season of Lent and Easter include:

Friday, April 2 : Good Friday Service, at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service (time and place to be announced)

Easter Breakfast, Town Hall following the Sunrise Service

Easter Sunday worship service, 10:00 a.m.

The time and place for the Sugar on Snow Party is to be announced when sugaring conditions are right.

The church is collecting a special offering to aid victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti. If you would like to contribute, a check may be made out to the Tunbridge Church (with "Haiti" in the memo line) and placed in the offering plate at the back of the church, or sent to the Tunbridge Church, P.O. Box 270, Tunbridge, VT 05077, attention Townsend Swayze treasurer.

Just about every Wednesday night the Children's Choir practices at 6pm and the Adult Choir practices at 7pm. Feel free to come and sing with us, enjoying music to fill the soul.

Union Agricultural Society(Tunbridge Fair)

Rebecca Beguin - 889-5555

First Annual Fairgrounds Community Work-bee

May 15 with Sunday May 16 as rain date or carry-over.

Time: 9 AM Park: Pavilion area

- Siding the poultry barn with board and batten, Bring tool belt/hammer.

- Staining the milking parlor
- Inventory Antique Hill collections
- Barn repair due to ice damage
- Many ways to participate hands-on

Picnic lunch and refreshments provided by Fair Directors:

We'll have the lumber, equipment and organization, come join in.

Tunbridge Bone Builders

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

Tu/Th 6:30am/8:30am/ 5:30pm

Mon. & Wed. classes will resume in the spring

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

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami, Parent Volunteer 889-5575

The Fair Supper Raised over \$2,600: Parents Anissa Morrison and Sharon Welch coordinated the biggest School Club fundraiser of the year on December 5. They recruited volunteers, sought numerous donations and prepared a holiday-themed gourmet meal following the Tunbridge Fair Association's annual meeting. After deducting expenses, over \$2,600 were raised to support School Club's mission. TCS art students and local Girl Scouts created festive centerpieces for buffet and dining tables. Middle school students served as wait staff for over 100 Association members and their guests.

Many thanks to all parents, students, community members and businesses who helped make this event a success!

Holiday Breakfast for Teachers and Staff: As a thank you for all they do for our students, School Club organized a holiday breakfast for teachers and staff on December 21. Parents contributed delicious items that were served buffet-style before the school day began.

Photos of School Events on Sale: TCS Parent and photographer Geoff Hansen has captured wonderful images of students in action at TCS during events such as the Halloween Party and the whole-school production of Peter Pan. To view the collections of photos, go to www.geoffhansen.com. Proceeds from the sale of these prints will support the work of School Club.

Note Cards Feature TCS Student Artwork: School Club designed and published note cards using artwork provided by TCS art classes. These unique cards make excellent gifts and add a special touch to thank you notes, special occasions and everyday messages. Sets are available for sale at the TCS Library and at the Tunbridge Public Library.

Upcoming Meetings: Parents, school personnel and community members meet at 6:30pm on the first Monday every month (or the following Monday due to a school break, holiday or inclement weather) to plan events, hear new ideas, review funding requests and manage the organization. The next meetings are in the TCS library on March 8, April 5 and May 3. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

Happenings in Tunbridge

Look under the Library Section (page 13) for more events.

Feb. 23 - Pre-Town Meeting in the school gym at 7:30pm

Feb. 26- "Winter Evenings" featuring Peter Post, director of The Post Institute and great grandson of Emily Post. His wife Tricia is editing an upcoming edition of Emily Post's famous etiquette book. 7pm - Library

Mar. 1 - Annual School Meeting in the school gym at 7:30pm

Mar. 2 - Town Meeting in the school gym 10:00am.

Mar. 6 - Shindig with "Jeanne & the HiTops" at the town hall. 8-11pm, Our local legends are playing a Shindig! We encourage you to purchase tickets in advance for this Shindig, as it is expected to be a popular night! (We've sold out one Shindig, and it could happen again) goto: www.shindigsvt.com or call Janet at 889-9602 Cover charge is \$8. each

Mar. 12 - "Winter Evenings" featuring Roger Hill, National Weather Service forecaster. "Weathering Heights: Meteorology and Weather Forecasting". 7pm - at the Library

Mar. 12 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - Town Hall, 7:30pm \$5.00 donation See page 18 for further details.

Mar. 14 - Scotland's Battlefield Band -Scotland's pre-eminent traditional Celtic quartet. Touring internationally for the past 30 years with fiddle, bagpipes, bozouki and keyboards. Tickets: \$15 advance at www.mtnfolk.org \$20 at the door.

March

19 & 20- The 58th annual Civic Club Variety; 7:30 pm at the Town Hall.

Mark your calendars and be sure to spread the word!

Mar. 26 - "Winter Evenings" with John Dumville, Historic Sites Operation Chief, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, will speak about the 1780 Royalton Raid. 7pm - at the library

Apr. 3 - Shindig with "The Squids" at the town hall. 8-11pm, The Squids play an upbeat, fun, and eclectic blend of rock, R & B, blues, funk, and Latin dance music. www.shindigsvt.com Cover charge is \$8. each

April 9 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - Town Hall, 7:30pm \$5.00 donation See page 18 for further details.

April 10 - Bow Thayer & Perfect Trainwreck - Town Hall Check the Herald in March for further info. This is a fundraising event to benefit the production of Trainwreck's upcoming CD. Cover charge - \$12.

April 17 - Singer/Songwriter Mark Erelli: one of America's leading songwriters/folk troubadours with a 1/2 dozen recordings to his credit including "Hillbilly Pilgrim". Mark's style ranges from folk to alt-country to honky-tonk. Tickets: \$15 advance at www.mtnfolk.org \$20 at the door.

Apr. 21 - Red Cross Blood Drive at Tunbridge School; 12-6pm

May 1 - Shindig with "The John Lackard Blues Band" at the town hall. 8-11pm, Back by popular demand, JLBB plays a fun blend of rockin' tunes. www.shindigsvt.com Cover charge is \$8. each A table of munchies is provided, you may bring something to share if you like.

May 14 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - Town Hall, 7:30pm \$5.00 donation. See page 18 for further details

May 15 - First Annual Fairgrounds Community Work-bee starting at 9am. See page 11 for further details.