

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
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The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

November 15, 2010
issue #22

Tunbridge Select Board

Ingrid Van Steamburg , Chair (889-3459)

Shane Young (889-2804);

Tom Mullen (889-9499)

The purchase of a new loader for the town, from Beauregard Equipment has been finalized and will be delivered in December. The Septic System for the Town Office is nearing completion. The select board accepted the bid of Dollar Value Construction and they are doing the installation and site work. The select board is underway with another season of budgeting and preparation for Town Meeting Day. If you ever have any questions, suggestions or concerns please contact any member of the board or contact Wendy McCullough in the Town Office.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Sue Clark 889-3733

Tunbridge Planning Commission has been busy with the creation of the Town Forest Management Plan. In September we came together for a tour through both forest lots with Dave Paganelli, County Forester. On 10/10/10 we led a walk through the Drew lot to remove invasive plants.

On thurs. 10/28 at the Pot Luck, Dave and Dan Ruddell presented the findings of their inventory and we held an informal chat as we shared dinner. Dave and Dan are putting together the draft of the management plan. Our Planning Commission meeting on December 8th will be dedicated to a reading and discussion of the Plan. Please join us.

We continue to work on our "Patterns of Settlement" project which will demonstrate the change in Land Cover from about 1960 to the present. It will also show how farms have been sub-divided. We hope to present the information sometime in 2011. It will assist us in the review of the 2007 Town Plan which is up for renewal in 2012.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602

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

Happenings in Tunbridge

Look under the Library Section (page 13 & 14) for more events.

- Nov 19 - "Christmas Shoppe" Town Hall. Handmade goods for sale & 20 - to benefit renovations to the Parish House. See the Tunbridge Women's Group entry on Pg. 6 for details.
- Nov. 20 - Community Roundtable Forum- 10 am - Tunbridge School sponsored by the Orange-Windsor Supervisory Union.
- Dec. 5 - "Storm Window Workshop 1-4pm Town Hall. A Tunbridge Energy Committee sponsored event. See page 17 for details.
- Dec. 6th- Shindig with "The John Lackard Blues Band" Town hall. 8-11pm, Playing fun Rockin' Blues www.shindigsvt.com Cover charge is \$8. each
- Dec. 31 - Shindig- New Years Eve with Dr. Burma \$15. 9-12:30am This is the one Shindig that will surely sell out this year. Get ticktes early at www.shindigsvt.com or call 889-9602.
- Jan. 14 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - Town Hall, 7:30pm All dances taught. \$5.00 donation
- Jan. 14 - "Winter Evenings" featuring Joe Citro, 7pm - Library
- Jan. 22 - "Sensible Shoes"- Town Hall, 8-11pm Benefit for Safeline. MountainFolk is happy to co-sponsor this fundraising event for the Chelsea-based non-profit that offers valuable support to victims of domestic violence and abuse. Suggested door donation \$10. www.mtnfolk.org
- Jan. 28 - "Winter Evenings" with Deb Flanders, 7pm - Library
- Feb. 6 - Shindig with "JukeJoynt with Kerry Rose" Town Hall 8-11pm, \$8. each Dance to the down home rockin' beat combined with high energy vocals between Dave Clark and Kerry Rose. www.shindigsvt.com
- Feb. 11 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - Town Hall, 7:30pm All dances taught. \$5.00 donation
- Feb. 11 - "Winter Evenings" with Scott Russell, 7pm- Library

Tunbridge Energy Committee

Todd Tyson 802-431-3433

The re-constituted TEC, a spinter group of the First Branch Sustainability Network, met recently to discuss several efficiency, conservation & renewable energy initiatives for our town. In addition to co-sponsoring a “Button Up” forum to be held in the Chase Center at Vermont Law School from 6:30 - 8:30pm on Thursday, November 11th. The committee is inviting our fellow citizens to participate in an energy conservation “Storm Window Workshop” to be held at the Tunbridge Town Hall on Sunday, December 5th from 1-4PM. Attendees will assist in the fabrication of several interior storm window inserts that will be installed at the Town Library, the Town Hall and the Town Offices. Welch’s True Value is helping to defray the supplies expense for this project and this initiative has been energetically supported by our Select Board. The savings from these windows is estimated to be one gallon of fuel oil for every square foot of window coverage per heating season. Workshop participants will learn the basic skills necessary to make their own inserts. A pre-workshop planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 1st at 7PM at the Parish House...the public is welcome.

In the coming months, the TEC will examine Tunbridge’s current street light program as well as doing further research into community based energy sources including solar group net metering, community hydro and field testing for community wind. Committee Members: Deadra Ashton, Justin Ferro, Theo Fetter, Betsy Gaiser, Michael Sacca, Henry Swayze, Todd Tyson

Tunbridge Grange #384

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

Meetings of the Tunbridge Grange, located in North Tunbridge, are held on the first Wednesday’s of each month at 7pm and last approximately an hour and a half.

Grange volunteers will be selling baked goods at Welch’s Hardware on November 23rd and December 20th. Take advantage of this opportunity to purchase some home made goodies and support the efforts of the Grange.

Bingo nights will begin in January, exact date to be determined, but they will be held on Friday evenings at 7pm.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

Property owners have been able to take advantage of the low interest rates for refinancing therefore I have seen an increase in recordings; fortunately I have not seen the amount of foreclosures that have generated around us; Vermont seems to have fared well in comparison.

Elections have been the activity in the Town Clerk’s Office in the fall months; for the Primary Election there were 968 registered voters with 323 voted; 42 of these absentee. For the General Election 1009 registered voters with 651 voted; 126 were absentee.

The results for Election of Justice of the Peace in the November Election for Tunbridge are ; Louise Barreda, Euclid Farnham, Marsha Higgins, Robert Howe, Gary Mullen, John O’Brien, and Helen O’Donnell.

Call Wendy at the Clerk’s Office with any questions or concerns.

New town clerk office hours:

Mon, Tues & Wed: 8-12 & 1-4 ; Thurs: 8-12 & 1:15-4; Friday: 8-11

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

Two members of the Tunbridge community have joined our board in recent months: Pam Dietz and Adam Smith. Other board members are Felicity Swayze, Brenda Field, David Wolfe, Frank LePore, Rick Scully, and Jim Wick.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors continues to provide services to local residents through volunteer action.

If you have suggestions for any programs or events that we could sponsor, please let one of our Board members know.

For instance, in the past we have sponsored a legal clinic for seniors, and we are always interested in similar events.

Tunbridge Treasurer

Anne Mallary- 889-3571

In September, tax bills were mailed with a total due to be collected of \$2,453,045.79. As of today (Nov 5) I have collected \$2,295,155.70, with \$157,890.03 going delinquent. Last year the amount billed was \$2,570,544.43, approximately 4.5% more than this year, and delinquencies totaled \$184,556.90 which is about 14% higher than this year. Is this proof that the economy is getting better?

Tax bills that have more than one name on them are mailed to the first person listed on the deed. If you need more copies please call after the bills have been mailed and I will send a copy.

On August 30th the town held a special town meeting to deal with the budget surplus from the 09/10 fiscal year and the extra money raised by the deficit tax line on your 08/09 tax bills. The results of that meeting are below.

- Highway surplus (estimated amount) \$96,800.00
- Purchase new loader \$80,000.00
- Equipment replacement fund \$16,800.00
- Selectboard surplus (estimated amount) \$83,400.00
- Historical Society \$5,000.00
- Reduce Taxes \$69,840.00
- Remainder \$8,560.00

Some of the remainder of the selectboard surplus may be earmarked for the purchase of the land near the recreation field, but no specific amounts were voted on.

The excess money raised by the deficit tax on your 08/09 tax bill was originally about \$30,000.00. At town meeting \$15,000.00 of that was put into a paving fund, and at the special town meeting the other \$15,000.00 was put into a septic replacement fund.

In this year's budget there was \$18,000.00 budgeted for efficiency improvements to the town buildings and \$15,000.00 for the town garage. I was hoping not to have drafts this winter, so if you have the skills please talk to the selectboard.

A concern raised at the special town meeting was about the current budget and if we could expect a surplus like last year. As of the end of October when about 33% of the budget should be spent, the highway has spent 32.5% and the selectboard has spent 30.1%. On the income side, the highway shows nothing unusual, but the selectboard received \$19,000.00 more in current use reimbursement over what was budgeted.

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami- Parent Volunteer 889-5575

Over 80 Attended Back-to-School Potluck: On September 3, over 80 adults and children celebrated the start of the school year at the back-to-school gathering hosted by School Club. Guests enjoyed a potluck dinner and had a chance to meet new families. PTO Today provided free Jump In! parent engagement magazines, Mission Tortillas and CLIF Kids bars to everyone. We always grateful for all the parents and community members who helped set up, bring delicious foods and clean up.

Open House a Success: On September 28, School Club provided a pizza dinner and childcare for a well-attended Open House. We would like to thank SoRo's Pizza for providing a discount on so many pizzas that disappeared fast!

Chicken Pie Supper: On October 23, School Club hosted the Chicken Pie Supper as a fundraiser for the school. More than 155 diners enjoyed a meal of biscuit-topped chicken pie, vegetable potpie, mashed potatoes, squash, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, beverages and homemade pies. School Club raised over \$1,000 that will go towards enrichment activities for students. Several area farms, businesses and individuals contributed ingredients. Many volunteers, led by Lynn Tabor, worked together to plan, prepare and serve the meal.

Halloween Party a Hit: On Saturday, October 30, more than 80 students, plus their family members, participated in the annual Halloween Party. The school gymnasium transformed into a haunted setting from 6-8pm. Parents Robyn Rogers and Todd Sedlak, along with many volunteers, organized the event. Students played games, made crafts, received goody bags and dined on spooky treats.

Fair Supper Committee Needs Volunteers: Planning for the biggest School Club fundraiser of the year is well underway. Each year on the first Saturday in December, School Club prepares a four-course meal for the Tunbridge Fair Association's annual meeting. To minimize expenses and maximize profit, School Club will seek monetary and food donations from area businesses and donations of time and ingredients from parents. Volunteers Elaine Howe, Anissa Morrison and Sharon Welch are planning the menu and will coordinate all volunteers including those who will solicit donations, set up and decorate tables, prepare and serve the meal and clean up the dining room and dishes. Please call Sharon at 889-9834 if you can help with any of these tasks.

Upcoming Meetings: Parents, school personnel and community members typically meet in the TCS Library at 6:30pm on the first Monday every month (or the following Monday due to a school break, holiday or inclement weather) to plan events, hear new ideas, review funding requests and manage the organization. Upcoming meetings are on December 6, January 3 and February 7. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair

Nancy Howe - 889-3750

The Friends of the Tunbridge World's Fair, Inc have had a busy summer. Beginning in April, The Board of Directors coordinated the fund raising campaign for the new footbridge that connects Sherlocks field to the main fairgrounds. Our goal was to raise half the cost of the new bridge. We are now only \$1550.00 away from that amount. The Friends would like to close out this project by Dec. 31, 2010. Consider this as an opportunity to make a lasting gift, memorial donations accepted. All donations can be made to FTWF, PO Box 159, Tunbridge.

Coincidentally, Bridge donor # 100, Deb Mullen was elected President following the Friends 4th annual meeting in July. Returning to officer positions were Margaret Rogers- VP, Bridgett Taylor- Sec. and John Holder, Treas. There is still an empty seat open on the board with returning Directors Sue Cain, Kyle Thygesen, Nancy Howe and Margaret Sherlock as UAS liaison. Interested parties should contact any of the above. Be prepared to march in parades, meet monthly and show your enthusiasm for the fair!

Special thanks go out to Lynne Hadley and her crew of volunteers who manned the on grounds golf cart shuttle during the fair. This service allows many of our friends, neighbors and relatives to continue to enjoy our hometown fair.

Looking forward to 2011, The Friends, with the sponsorship of the Royal Civic Club are coordinating the first annual Tunbridge Duck Race on Memorial Day afternoon. Watch for opportunities to purchase your lucky ducks. Great for stocking stuffers and secret santas. Proceeds, after prizes, go to support FTWF projects.

Tunbridge Better Bones

Shelia Mitchinson 889-5547

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

Mon & Wed. - 8:30am

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

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

You probably don't think of "Board of Listers," "computer technology" and "Wi-Fi" in the same sentence. However, our lister office is a "hot-spot."

Perhaps as you passed the office you wondered what those folks are doing sitting in their cars. More than likely they are logged on to our Wi-Fi network and enjoying high-speed internet. (Some folks come inside to take advantage of this service.)

So why has our office created "a hot spot?" Here's the story. Pretty much all of our state services are delivered via the internet. This includes: Updates for both the mass appraisal and the Grand List programs; downloads of the homestead declarations, state tax payments, current-use information and sales study information; transmissions of various types of grand list information between our office and the state; and technical assistance whenever we have an issue with one of the programs.

For years we accomplished these procedures using the snail's pace dial-up connection. But in the spring of 2007 the state techs advised that we needed a high-speed connection if at all possible.

We went to the Selectboard and obtained permission to hook the office up to cable. We talked with the cable folks and had the service installed. Anne and I drilled holes in the floor (no easy task for two not-so-handy types), and ran cables to all the computers in the building. We called the state techs and our office computer tech, Tom Henderson, who networked the three lister computers.

And we did one last thing: For little cost, we added a second router to provide wireless internet service outside the office network. This means that anyone can use our high-speed connection, but can't log on to our internal network.

We have also set up a public access computer. On this computer you may obtain lister information of a town property, including a picture and sketch, a parcel map of any property, and Grand List information including tax bills. We can also e-mail these documents upon request.

Tunbridge School Board

Lorinda Oliver 889-9462

Now that Election Day has passed, many people have put legislative thoughts to the back of their minds, at least until 2012. However, this newly elected government will be closely followed as it is likely to have a direct impact on the future of education, especially following the changes made last year.

As we continue to monitor and provide input into legislative matters, we will continue to conduct our normal business.

Currently the focus of our meetings and discussions are in the areas of budget, educational values, governance and negotiations. BUDGET – The first draft of the budget has been created and will serve as a starting point for our discussions and adjustments. The Challenges for Change target reduction for Tunbridge is \$27,210.

Over the next several months we will be working on how to address this area while covering the loss of several grants, an increase in health care and dental premiums, and rising special education costs. As expected, managing the budget continues to be one of the most challenging aspects of our responsibilities.

VALUES – With a need to stabilize the budget in a time of rising costs, the Board and community have recognized the importance of prioritizing our expenditures. In order for us to do this we are in the process of gathering input on what we value in our local education system. This will ensure that all programs being funded are working towards either supporting these values or meeting government requirements. With this in mind an education forum is scheduled in Tunbridge for Saturday, November 20 at 10 a.m. at the school. We are encouraging all community members to attend and provide input on this important topic.

GOVERNANCE – For those that follow local news, you will note that the forum being held in Tunbridge is actually part of a series being conducted throughout the OWSU district. These forums are being sponsored and moderated by all Boards within the district and are a reflection of the collaborative approach being taken to respond to the recent changes in education. We are actively working together to improve local education for all by reducing the long-held mindset of “us” against “them.” We feel that working collectively and collaboratively can help us in improving efficiencies, sharing resources and streamlining processes, which will allow us to maintain a sustainable high-quality local education.

Tunbridge Library Con't:

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)

Attention film buffs: The Tunbridge Library will be starting a filmseries in January, and we are looking for volunteers to help in programming and running the monthly series, to be called First Friday Films. The movies will screen on the first Friday of the month. If you're interested, please contact Nicola Smith at Nicola.Smith@charter.net or 889-3373, Jean Wolfe at the Tunbridge Library, Tunbridge_Library@yahoo.com or John O'Brien at bellwetherfilms@yahoo.com or 889-3474.

Tunbridge One Planet Afterschool Program

Carrie McDonnell 889-3310

Session I proved to be a great beginning for our program. I would like to highlight our “Career Exploration” activity, in which we invited community members to come into the program and speak about their careers. A special thanks to those volunteers: Rich Landry (Funeral Director), Wendy Palthey (Organic Farmer), Christine Hoyt (Judge), Geoff Hansen (Photographer), Laurie Barcelow (Veterinarian), and Nancy Clark (Nurse).

Session II begins on November 8th. We'll be offering a variety of classes including a fiber studio, K-2 basketball, a middle school cooking class called “The Learning Kitchen”, a hands-on cultural activity called “One Africa, Many Countries”, a computer literacy class and more. As we have done in the past, Session II will be interrupted from December 13-21 for a special Holiday Session. If you are a community member with a special craft/art that you would like to share with our kids during the Holiday Session, please contact me!

Lastly, I would like to recognize Chelsey Hook, our Tunbridge Site Coordinator. Chelsey is due to have a baby in January, and she will be leaving the program at the end of November. She has been a talented and committed teacher in One Planet for over two year. We wish you luck and will miss you.

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

The library is in need of volunteers; volunteers automatically become members of the Friends of the Tunbridge Public Library. The "Friends" is a group of people interested in helping the library meet its goals of service to the community. These volunteers assist with fundraising events, assist the librarian, plan community cultural events, provide refreshments for library activities, and help in many other ways to maintain our library as a strong community center. Come into the library, speak with Jean, and find out how your volunteer efforts can be matched with the needs of the library.

ArtSpace at the library is currently featuring, through November 19, pastel and oil portraits by Joan Feierabend. The next exhibit (Dec.12 - Feb.5) will feature works by George Lawrence and Jacquelyn JiMoi. An opening public reception will be held on Sunday, Dec.12, 2-4 PM at the library. Sales benefit the library.

There is a change in the winter Children's Story Hour schedule; dates are November 18 (Little Red Hen theme) and December 9 (Music). Santa will be the featured guest on Saturday, December 11; holiday stories will be read at 10:30. After that the regular schedule will resume: first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:15 PM. Upcoming themes are Teddy Bears (1/6), Moon/PJ Story Hour (1/20), Snow/Winter (2/3), Royalty/Dragons (2/17), Cats (3/3), and Transportation (3/17).

The library is offering a lineup of outstanding Winter Evenings presenters. The programs are held on Friday evenings, starting at 7 PM: Joe Citro, writer and collector of ghostly tales on Spiritualism in 19th Century Vermont (1/14); Deb Flanders, Vermont folklore musician and historian (1/28); Scott Russell, Tunbridge's own Home Brew Guru (2/11); Katherine Paterson, two-time Newbery Medal and National Book Award winner, current Ambassador for Children's Literature appointed by the Library of Congress (2/25); William Arkin, co-author of a recent Washington Post series on Secret America: Ten Years after 9/11 (3/11); and Steve Zind, VPR journalist speaking on reporting from Iran and Afghanistan (3/25). The programs are open to all; refreshments are served, and while the programs are free, a donation is welcomed.

Tunbridge School Board, Con't:

NEGOTIATIONS – This collaborative approach can also be seen in the area of teacher negotiated agreements as one of the state mandates is that we conduct district wide merged bargaining by 2012. As many of the towns are in a different point in their agreement periods, we have decided to take a multi-step approach to meeting this requirement. This year all OWSU towns will have a representative on a negotiating team that will work towards aligning non-salary components of the agreement. The final product will then be adopted by each individual town during their regular negotiations process. The discussions on salary components of the agreement will remain within each town at this time.

We will continue to work on these issues and more throughout the months to come. We appreciate the continued input and guidance that community members provide to us. Although there are many, many people within the community that have a direct impact, special recognition of service should be given at this time to the Committee to Explore a Sustainable Future for the Tunbridge Central School, the School Club, the Recreation Committee, and the Tunbridge One Planet after school program as these organizations either make our jobs easier or put smiles on the faces of the children.

We meet on the third Monday of each month at 6 pm in the school library. Upcoming meetings: Nov. 15, Nov. 20 (community forum), Dec. 20, and Jan. 17 <http://tunbridge.owsu.org/www.owsu.org>

Tunbridge Women's Group

Pam Dietz - 889-3315.

The Tunbridge Women's Group started five years ago for women to get together for a monthly potluck where we share fun, food, and comraderie. We have splinter groups of quilters, knitters, mahjong players, and bridge players.

The TWG is sponsoring a Christmas Shoppe on Friday, Nov. 19 from noon until 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and the Parish House. High Tea will be served on Friday from 1:30-4, Lunch will be served on Saturday from 11:30-2:30 \$5.00 Entry Donation. Door Prize from Anichini. Pictures with Mr. & Mrs. Claus. on Sat. 10-12. Bring your own camera.

A unique collection of New England artisans and local shopkeepers will be there presenting a variety of decorative, functional and gift items. Proceeds will be used for maintenance and renovation of the Church's historic buildings.

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue

Pam Caron- 889- 9595

Thank you to everyone that helps out with our fund raiser at the Fair-both those that man the booth and those that buy the tickets. This is our only fund raiser and it helps in many ways. Heather Mullen does a great job setting this up each year and we know she puts in many hours of her own time for this.

We are beginning our budget planning process to present to the Towns on Town Meeting day and believe we will have to ask the towns for an increase this year. We have spoken to both of the Select boards about this in the last several months so they are aware of our concerns. We are struggling with reimbursement for services as everyone in health care is. At the present time it appears we are getting reimbursed at a rate of approximately 35-40%. This means that for the other 60-65% we have to make up for when it comes to our operating expenses. We are looking at various options and changes to our billing practices for the future in order to remain viable.

We did recently join Gifford Medical Center in a group effort project to work on plans for the future to help decrease costs to our towns and yet still provide good quality emergency services. This will be an opportune time for the squads and towns in our area to work together and we are very excited about this opportunity.

If anyone has any concerns or questions they are more than welcome to join us at our monthly meetings, third Tuesday of each month at 700 pm, January-June in Tunbridge Fire Dept and July to December in Chelsea Fire Dept.

8th Grade Fundraisers

Janet Kennedy - 889-3741

The Tunbridge 8th graders have begun fund raising for their annual end of school year trip. So far they have plans to sell refreshments at basketball games, an auction for February, a spaghetti supper in the spring, and lots more.

The 8th grade auction is being planned for Saturday of February 26th, please watch for more information to come. We are looking for donations that are clean and in working condition (no computers please). For more information please contact Jackie Higgins at 889-3566 or jackieh46@yahoo.com.

Each year this class trip is made possible by fundraising, as it is not a budgeted school expense. The class would like to thank you in advance for all of your support.

ECFiber.Net

Janet Zug 889-9602

The East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network (ECFiber, an interlocal agreement among Tunbridge and 22 other towns) is slowly moving towards its goal of providing universal fiber optic high speed Internet in our towns. As many of you know, our plan for a public offering was all set to go about two years ago until the September 12, 2008, demise of Lehman Brothers essentially shut down capital markets. Since then we have unsuccessfully sought Federal government stimulus money, and we have been attempting to restart our public offering.

You may have read recently of a Federal government grant of \$81 million and a government backed loan of \$35 million to Vermont Telephone (VTel) for broadband communication, which was represented by some political figures as a "game changer." For the 19,000 subscribers in VTel's 14 town service area, this will provide high speed Fiber to the Home (FTTH) internet service similar to what ECFiber plans to bring to its 23 towns. This is very good for them. For the rest of Vermont's residents without high speed Internet, VTel plans to build out its Wireless Open World (WOW) service over the next three years. While wireless service is certainly better than dial-up, it will not allow for all the uses of the Internet, like streaming video. Also, because of the nature of wireless connections, this network will have many pockets of unserved areas.

ECFiber has begun plans for an initial "pilot project" to get things moving. Phase 1 provides the technical and financial foundation for the full 23-town project, so it is a very important first step toward our 23 town goal. This phase includes an area within a radius of approximately 10 miles from the central office, located near I-89, Exit 3, in Royalton. Applications for attachment to the first 500 poles has already been submitted, and the central hub design is underway. This opening phase is funded totally through a private placement of tax-exempt notes, and about 90% of the minimum amount we need has already been committed. ECFiber's Treasurer, John Roy, is administering the private placement. Call Janet Zug if you would like more information.

You may always check www.ecfiber.net for updates.

Tunbridge Congregational Church

Deadra Ashton - 685-3029

Every Sunday our Worship Service is held at 10:00 a.m. in the Tunbridge Congregational Church. Sunday School for Children is held during worship service.

The Community Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at 7:30 p.m., November 24, at the Church.

The Youth Service Group, open to all those in fourth grade and up, will meet Friday, December 10, from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Parish House. We plan to make goodies for the Thanksgiving Baskets. Pizza will be served!

The Christmas Carol Sing and Church Decorating will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 3 at the Church. Christmas Caroling will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 17. We will meet at the Parish House and carpool.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on December 24 at the Congregational Church. The 6:00 p.m. service will feature the Youth choir and the Adult Choir will provide music for the 8:00 p.m. service.

The Sunday Morning Bible Study, led by Pastor Emeritus David Wolfe, meets on Sunday mornings at 8:45 in the Parish House. The Weekday Bible Study group meets every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Parish House.

The Children's Choir normally rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. (Janet Zug 889-9602). The Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. (Judie Lewis 889-9490)

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

Thanksgiving Baskets will be packed at the Tunbridge School and distributed on Saturday, November 20. Baked goods may be dropped off at the Town Library or at the home of Elaine Cilley during the week of November 15. If you would like to help, contact Sue Barnaby at 889-3736.

On Nov. 19 & 20 the Tunbridge Women's Group is sponsoring a "Christmas Shoppe" sale of Handmade crafts to benefit renovations to the Parish House. See their entry on page 6 for details.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and potluck will be held at the Town Hall, immediately following the worship service, on Sunday February 6.

Tunbridge Recreation Committee

Carrie McDonnell 889-3310

On August 30th, a Tunbridge Town Meeting was called to discuss the use of surplus town funds. At this meeting, the Recreation Committee requested some of the surplus funds be used for the Tunbridge Recreation Area revitalization project, more specifically to purchase the property adjacent to the ball field and demolish dilapidated building on site. The town voted yes to this request providing that an environmental review/test be done on site before purchase. 50% of the total cost of land purchase and demolition will be reimbursed by a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant.

In addition to the LWCF grant, the committee also applied for a Recreational Facilities Grant to help fund a new playground for the Recreation Area. We just received great news—they will be funding our project at \$10,000! This grant is also a matching funds grant, so the other \$10,000 will be funded by the Committee's savings which is largely made up of donations and additional funds we have raised over the past few years.

We hope to have a drastically improved Recreation Area for our community to enjoy by the end of next summer. We still have a huge amount of work ahead of us, so please let us know if you have any interest in helping with this project!

The Committee to Explore a Sustainable Future for the Tunbridge Central School

Nicola Smith at 889-3373

The Committee to Explore a Sustainable Future for the Tunbridge Central School is a community-based, volunteer group made up of Tunbridge residents. We're committed to maintaining the viability and integrity of the Tunbridge Central School as it navigates the coming changes in education at the state level. We are a diverse group and are interested in getting a broad range of ideas on how we can best serve the community and its school. We are looking at issues of financing, tuition caps, school choice, demographic of the town in next 5 to 10 years, community forums, school facility and maintenance, among others. Town residents are invited to come share their ideas and concerns. We meet the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Upcoming meetings are Nov. 8 and Dec. 13. On Nov. 20, at 10 am there will be a community roundtable forum at the Tunbridge School sponsored by the Orange-Windsor Supervisory Union.

First Branch Sustainability Network

Henry Swayze - 889-5556

The First Branch Sustainability network of Chelsea, Tunbridge & Vershire is working on a project to develop a series of Regional Food Centers in the area. By providing processing and storage facilities, these centers would make direct farm-to-consumer transactions easier and thereby help to create genuine local food networks.

This winter the FBSN will be hosting a series of grant-funded meetings and/or potlucks to gather data for developing a strategic plan. We will be seeking input from farmers, marketers, non-profits, and consumers. Discussions will be professionally facilitated, and will bring in speakers or consultants as needed. This is a chance to create real, change-making infrastructure in our rural area.

Anyone interested in being involved in this project should get in touch with Dan Breslaw (439-5324, lostm@sover.net) or Jessie Schmidt (685-4360, jessica.a.schmidt@uvm.edu).

Tunbridge 250th Anniversary Committee

Kay Jorgensen - 889-5528 Euclid Farnham 889-3458

The Tunbridge Historical Society hosted an October meeting for people interested in helping plan the 250th anniversary of the town's 1761 incorporation. Twenty-nine people attended the meeting and more have joined the effort since then. A second meeting is scheduled Nov. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Parsonage on the corner of Rt 110 and Potash Road.

A variety of programs and projects for all ages and interests will be held next year. Ideas and workers are invited. A cookbook with traditional recipes and some local history, two Route 110 town signs, a quilt, a 250th-theme calendar and DVD of old movies are already definite, with more to come. The Memorial Day Parade theme will be the 250th anniversary.

As Town Meeting did 50 years ago, the August Town Meeting voted some funds for the anniversary.

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

Thank you to all who volunteered to help out at the coin drop fund raiser during the fair again this year. The coin drop is our biggest fund raiser each year and it serves a critical role in the replacement and upkeep of equipment and supplies for our members. We also appreciate your support at our Ham & Bean Dinner in October. Those of you who came out for that event were treated to a surprise visit from Smokey the Bear and his friend Sparky the Dog. Smokey and Sparky had been at the Tunbridge Central School earlier that same day providing some fire safety education to the students in recognition to Fire Prevention Month. Turns out, they had so much fun with the kids, they decided to stay for dinner that night!

We are pleased to report that we have a new hydrant on Ordway Road on the property of Dave & Barbara Farnsworth. The hydrant cost roughly \$3000 with approximately \$1000 of the total cost being covered by a grant and volunteer labor. Additionally, we have completed the paving project at the Fire House which has dramatically reduced the dirt being tracked into the building. This will help us keep the equipment clean of sand and salt during the winter months as well.

Daylight savings time has just past us by again. Remember that this is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and it is also a good idea to have your chimney cleaned, especially if you have not had it done since last winter.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Linda Lazaroff at 889-9421.

The Civic Club's annual meeting took place on October 4th. The following individuals were re-elected into office: Merle Howe, President; Butch Howe, Vice President; Maxine Young, Secretary; and Jim Wick, Treasurer. It was unanimously voted upon to hold our annual show again next year which will mark our 59th year.

There are a few remaining books of "Tunbridge Civic Club Presents..." an historical book with 55 years of Civic Club Show memories from 1952-2007. The cost is still \$20 per book and the entire amount from the sale of these books goes directly toward Tunbridge community causes. Please contact Linda Lazaroff if you wish to purchase a book.