

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly  
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Tunbridge, VT 05077

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# The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

February 15, 2011  
issue #23

**School Committee Survey Enclosed**

## **Tunbridge Select Board**

Ingrid Van Steamburg , Chair (889-3459)

Shane Young (889-2804);

Tom Mullen (889-9499)

The town received the new loader from Beaugard Equipment in December. Over the past few months we have made improvements in energy efficiency at the Town Office, Town Hall and Town Garage buildings, to include storm windows, programmable thermostats and new insulation for some of the buildings. The select board is making final preparations for Town Meeting Day and we hope you enjoy the larger format of the town report. Many thanks to the Auditors for all of their hard work in making this format transition. If you ever have any questions, suggestions or concerns please contact any member of the board or contact Wendy McCullough, Select Board Administrative Assistant.

## **Tunbridge Planning Commission**

Sue Clark 889-3733

We have two major accomplishments this year. First, we have a draft of the Tunbridge Forest Management Plan. This was created in a cooperative effort between Dave Paganelli, County Forester, and Dan Rudi Rudell, Tunbridge Planning Commission. We are hoping that the Town Forest has come into the consciousness of the community through this effort. The final draft will be submitted to the Select Board for their action.

The second accomplishment is our receipt of a State Municipal Planning Grant for the completion of the "Patterns of Settlement" project. Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission will assist us with the mapping portion as well as the public outreach. This study will have an impact on our Town Plan. We will need to have your input into the findings and how they should be used in determining the future of the Town. Finally, we will try to piggy-back with the activities planned by the anniversary committee over the year. As Tunbridge celebrates this big birthday event by looking back in time, we will be asking you to also look forward. Questions? Call Sue Clark at the number above.

## **Happenings in Tunbridge**

See individual entries for more events.

- Feb. 19 - Winter Carnival Community Day at the School. Breakfast 9am - 12:30pm, Games begin at 1pm. See Pg 8 for details.
- Feb. 25 - "The Tannahill Weavers" 8pm at the Town Hall. A Mountain Folk event. \$20. advance tickets - available at the Tunbridge Store and SoRo Mkt, \$25. at the door. [www.mtnfolk.org](http://www.mtnfolk.org)
- Feb. 25 - "Winter Evenings" featuring Katherine Paterson: 7pm at the Church. See pg. 13 for details.
- Mar. 5 - Shindig with "The Stone Cold Roosters" 8-11pm, Town hall. Playing a fun blend of Rockin' Country. [www.shindigsvt.com](http://www.shindigsvt.com) Cover charge is \$8. each
- Mar. 11 - "Winter Evenings" with William Arkin, 7pm - Library Secret America: U.S. Intelligence in the Decade after 9/11
- Mar. 11 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 donation
- Mar 20 - Kate Campbell 7:30pm at the Town Hall. A Mountain Folk event. \$15. advance tickets - available at the Tunbridge Store and SoRo Mkt, \$20. at the door. [www.mtnfolk.org](http://www.mtnfolk.org)
- Mar. 25 - "Winter Evenings" with Steve Zind, 7pm - Library Journeys into Iran and Afghanistan
- Apr. 5 - Shindig with "The Party Crashers" 8-11pm, Town hall. High energy music to keep us movin'! [www.shindigsvt.com](http://www.shindigsvt.com) Cover charge is \$8. each
- Apr. 9 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 donation
- May 12 - "John Gorka" 7:30 at the Town Hall. A Mountain Folk event. \$20. advance tickets - available at the Tunbridge Store and SoRo Market. \$25. at the door. [www.mtnfolk.org](http://www.mtnfolk.org)
- May 13 - Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 donation

## **Tunbridge Grange #384**

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

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

Bingo nights are being held every Friday evening at 7pm and will continue thru mid-April.

## **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, etc. If you call us we will find a volunteer who can help you.

We've been getting quite a few calls recently, and we are happy to help. Help Line 889 - 3437

Our service is for anyone in the Tunbridge community; there is no membership and the service is free.

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

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.

Our board members now include Felicity Swayze, Brenda Field, David Wolfe, Pam Dietz, Adam Smith, Frank LePore, Rick Scully, and Jim Wick. If you have any questions about TNHN please feel free to contact any one of us.

## **Tunbridge Town Website**

Rick Scully- 763-7474

The town website is visible online at [ww.tunbridgevt.com](http://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](mailto:rick@tunbridgevt.com).

## **Tunbridge Town Clerk**

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

### **Town Meetings:**

Pre-Town Meeting: Tuesday February 22, 2011 at 7:30pm

Annual School Meeting: Monday February 28, 2011 at 7:30pm

Annual Town Meeting: Tuesday March 1, 2011 at 10:00am

Meetings are held at the Tunbridge Central School Auditorium.

The deadline for Tunbridge residents to register to vote at town meetings is Wednesday, February 23, 2011 by 5:00pm.

The Rabies Clinic will be held March 12, 2011 9:00am-12noon at the Chelsea Town Hall, Chelsea VT. Vaccine(s) 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.

2011 Dog Licenses are due by April 1, 2011. If your dog(s) is due for a rabies vaccine prior to April 1, a license may not be issued. Cost per license \$8.00 for spay/neutered; \$12.00 if dog(s) is not spay/neutered.

Town clerk office hours: (unless posted otherwise)

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

## **The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly**

Janet Zug 889-9602

Each year in the February TQ I have included some information and encouragement for people to think about running for an elected office at our upcoming Town Meeting. Last year I extended that by including descriptions of each office (taken from the VT Secretary of State's website) I also added who was coming up for re-election and what the position pays.

This year, I am encouraging interested residents to look at our town report and talk to the officers coming up for re-election. This is probably the best way to find out what the job really entails. Then talk to folks affected by that person's job to gather further information. One individual's service can truly make a difference in a small town like ours.

Feel free to call, write or email me with questions, comments, suggestions about the TQ. [janet@zugglass.com](mailto:janet@zugglass.com)

## State Representative

Sarah Buxton - 802-828-2228

The legislative session is off to a flying start. I was appointed to the Education Committee and asked to serve as Clerk. It's hard to imagine a better fit for our district as we struggle with high property taxes, difficult school budgets, school-merger discussions, workforce development, early childhood education issues. I offer a unique perspective to my committee since I am entirely "Vermont-educated" – pre-school through law school. Our top priorities this year include: taking a critical look at education governance, closing the academic achievement gap between low-income children and their peers, and addressing education funding problems. Here's a sampling of other issues the House is working on:

- Changing the definition of poultry products to not include quail, pheasant, and partridge for purposes of slaughter.

- Implement parts of the "Farm to Plate Plan" through primary and secondary school initiatives, agricultural distribution changes, expanding processing facilities (including slaughter), nutrient management innovations, land access and raw material expansion, and transition/succession plans for family businesses.

- Single-payer health care. Dr. Hsiao released an outline of three health care options for the legislature to consider adopting. We expect a final report on Feb. 17th. Keep this in mind as you read about these plans: Our goal is to curb the skyrocketing healthcare costs we bear under our current structure. "Doing nothing" is not an option for our state financially.

- "Line of Duty" Death Benefit. This past year, there was an off-duty volunteer firefighter who stopped to help with a car accident, and was then sadly hit and killed himself. His family did not receive his \$50,000 state death benefit because he was not on duty, even though he had an obligation to assist. Under this law, the family of an off-duty emergency first responder such as a firefighter or EMT would receive their state death benefit if they died while performing or responding to the need for emergency services.

... continued on next page...

## Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami- Parent Volunteer 889-5575

**Fair Supper Raised over \$2,900:** Parents Anissa Morrison and Sharon Welch coordinated the biggest School Club fundraiser of the year on December 4. 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 \$2,900 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 Enjoyed by 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 20. Parent volunteers contributed delicious items that were served buffet-style before the school day began.

**Winter Carnival Community Day:** The School Club is partnering with the Tunbridge Recreation Department and Tunbridge One Planet to host a Winter Carnival for the community on Saturday, February 19, from 1:00pm – 7:30pm at TCS. Outdoor activities will include horse-drawn sleigh rides (1-4pm), ice skating, pick-up hockey games, sledding, snowshoeing, skiing, snow sculpture making, a bonfire (lighting at 4pm), a BBQ (at 5pm) and a winter-themed movie suitable for all ages (show time at 6pm). The 8th grade class will sell food at the event to raise money for their class trip in spring.

**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 February 7, March 7, April 4 and May 2. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved!

## **Tunbridge One Planet Afterschool Program**

Carrie McDonnell 889-3310

**Session III:** As temperatures dip and snow flies, Tunbridge One Planet is making the most of the winter season. From ice skating to snowshoeing to animal tracking, kids have been busy with these outdoor activities, enjoying the opportunity for exercise and exploration. Participants have also been enjoying cozy indoor activities like sewing, woodworking and cooking.

**Winter Carnival Community Day:** On Saturday, February 19th, One Planet participants will have an opportunity to exhibit their snowshoeing and skating skills during Winter Carnival Community Day. One Planet will be partnering with Tunbridge Recreation Committee and School Club to sponsor this event from 1pm to 7:30pm at TCS, See the Tunbridge Rec entry on page 8 for complete details.

**New Site Coordinator:** We welcome our new Site Coordinator, Cindy Perry. With a Masters in Elementary Education and many years of experience, Cindy is a great addition to our program. Beyond her Site Coordinator duties, she is interested in providing resume and cover letter help to parents as a free service. Feel free to contact her at Tunbridge Central School at 889-3310 if interested in taking advantage of this service.

**Fundraising:** TOP is combining efforts with the Tunbridge Recreation Committee to offer new Tunbridge Tiger products, including youth size t-shirts, water bottles, and lanyards. These items will be sold at TCS basketball games and are available in the TOP office. All proceeds will go towards supporting the One Planet and Tunbridge Recreation programs. Please contact Carrie McDonnell at 889-3463 with any questions.

**Summer Program:** One Planet Summer Program will run July 5th-July 29th. Enrollment packets will go home with TCS students and will be posted at [www.owsu.org](http://www.owsu.org) in late March. More detailed information will be available at Town Meeting.

## **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.

• The Blue Ribbon Tax Commission released its final report two weeks ago. The legislature requested this report because it gives us the opportunity to look at our tax system in the context of the whole, rather than individual tax provisions. The recommended restructuring is revenue neutral, meaning that it will raise the same amount of money that is raised now. This is not an attempt to raise taxes. The recommendations will align our tax methods with most other states by allowing businesses thinking of locating to our state the opportunity to compare “apples to apples.” The way our tax structure works now, it is difficult to see how we actually compare, and it looks like we are a higher tax state than we really are. Note: The report is only a recommendation. No changes have been made and the Legislature may pick and choose which recommendations to adopt -- if any. The Ways and Means Committee will be dealing with the Tax Expenditure Bill separately from the Blue Ribbon recommendations. Next week, the committee will examine our current tax expenditures (more commonly known as “tax breaks”).

You can always reach me at [sbuxton@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:sbuxton@leg.state.vt.us) or at 828-2228. Please feel free to contact me anytime! I would love to hear from you.

## **Tunbridge Treasurer**

Anne Mallary- 889-3571

The Town Report has arrived at the office. I haven't had time to give it a detailed look, but I like the new format.

The combined budgets for the highway and selectmen show spending for FY 11/12 to be \$1,132,261.00. This is an increase of \$39,085.00 over last year, which is a 4% increase. Taxes to be raised however show an increase of \$81,763.00 which is an increase of 11%. This would be an estimated \$.05 increase in the tax rate, or an additional \$125.00 on your tax bill for a property valued at \$250,000.

On page 15 of the town report is the auditor's estimate of taxes. Last year's tax rate was \$.455, this year's estimate is \$.55 (almost \$.10). This is due to an increase in all budgets and because there is no deficit money to be applied to reduce it. This tax rate would add \$250.00 to your tax bill for a \$250,000 property value.

## **Tunbridge Board of Listers**

Judie Lewis- 889-3571

Things are very quiet at the lister's office. We have completed the town-wide reappraisal and have chosen to visit only properties with large changes and not do our rotational visits for the 2011 Grand List. We will begin our rotational visits this summer for the 2012 Grand List.

We divide the town into quarters and each year we concentrate on one of those areas. That means we look at the exterior of every property in that area, take exterior pictures, and do interior inspections as warranted.

Our rotational visits do not constitute a "rolling reappraisal." If we decide to decrease or increase a value, the new value will represent the 2010 sale's value, the fair-market value at the time of town-wide reappraisal. With a "rolling reappraisal" the new values are changed to represent the new year's sales' values. For example if your property was one of those visited in 2011, your new value would represent 2011's fair-market while the rest of the town would be at 2010 levels. Our board does not like this method and so have chosen to do rotation reviews instead.

It is important that we review all properties on a regular basis. Things change. An owner may add a room, demolish an outbuilding, cover a porch or remove a deck. An owner may make changes that radically upgrade the condition of the house, or something may happen the just as radically downgrades the condition.

Meanwhile, regardless of whether a property is part of the year's rotation, we are required to revalue for any large sweeping changes, such as the construction of a new building or an addition that substantially changes the size of a dwelling

All properties must be assessed as they exist on April 1st. We may continue to visit properties after April 1, but may not consider any improvements made after April 1. For example, if you move a doublewide on your property on April 1, it will be assessed for that year's Grand List; but if you brought it in April 2, it will not be assessed for that year.

Official notification of any change in appraisal is sent in late May or early June. Official grievance hearings are scheduled no less than two weeks after the notifications are mailed.

## **Farm to School**

Mary Zentara - 889-5637

Farm to School programs are blooming locally, throughout the state of Vermont, and around the country. The process of connecting kids with local farms while introducing food education into the classroom and local food into the cafeteria is taking root. Sharon Elementary, Randolph, and the South Royalton school system (among others) have created vibrant Farm to School programs. They offer students many hands-on opportunities that include preparing and tasting test fresh, local food, gardening at school, learning about plant life cycles and nutrition in the classroom, and taking field trips to local farms to plant and harvest vegetables and learn where food comes from. In short, Farm to School programs, often referred to as F2S, aim to cultivate connections between farms, community, classroom, and cafeteria while supporting local agriculture.

I am pleased to share with you that Tunbridge Central School has received a "Rozo McLaughlin Farm to School" Planning Grant from the VT Agency of Agriculture. It was a very competitive year with fewer awards available and more applicants than usual. We're fortunate to have this opportunity!

A F2S Planning Committee comprised of interested faculty, administration, farmers, parents, and community members will be creating a F2S plan unique to Tunbridge. The goal of the committee is to create an action plan and with that, apply for the \$15,000 "Rozo" F2S Implementation Grant. We hope to create a plan that provides great opportunities for kids, addresses needs, obstacles and program sustainability, and moves at an unhurried, manageable pace.

Tunbridge Central School F2S program will need community support. If you have an interest in farms, gardening, local food, etc., we invite you to join our efforts. We are planning the formation of a Tunbridge group that would provide community-based support to this school effort, just like Royalton Roots and Sharon Sprouts give community assistance to their local F2S programs.

On Wednesday, March 16 at 6:30pm, we plan a first gathering of this community group at the Town Hall. Everyone who is interested in local farms, fresh food, and community participation are welcome. If you would like to get involved with this exciting program, participate in the planning process, and/or have ideas about F2S you'd like to share, please contact Mary Zentara..

## Tunbridge Library

Librarian\_ Jean Wolfe 889-5577

Publicity, 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**

**Children's Story Hours** are usually held on the first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:15 at the library. Upcoming themes are Dragons/Royalty (2/17), Cats/Kittens (3/3), and Cars/Trucks/Things That Go (3/17). Please note: April story hours will be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays (4/14 and 4/28). 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](http://www.geoffhansen.com)

**ArtSpace** at the library will be featuring an exhibit of sculpture and paintings by Chip Hopkins and fabric art by Jayn Bier. An opening reception is scheduled for Sunday, February 20, 2-4 PM. A special exhibit is being planned for late summer (July 29 - September 23) to celebrate **Tunbridge's 250th anniversary Art Show**. Artists who are interested in submitting a piece for this event should contact Marsha Higgins now. The theme of the show is Artists Envisioning Tunbridge: Celebrating 250 Years of History. The theme leaves possibilities wide open to any art form and interpretation of Tunbridge. There are still a few of Jacquelyn JiMoi's artfully potted plants for sale; the proceeds are totally donated to the Tunbridge Food Shelf.

There are three remaining programs in the 2009-2010 season of

**Winter Evenings** at the library: Katherine Paterson: Newbery Medal, National Book Award winner, and National Ambassador for Young People's Literature (2/25), (This program will be held at the Tunbridge Church.); William Arkin, Washington Post columnist and reporter: Secret America: U.S. Intelligence in the Decade after 9/11 (3/11); and Steve Zind of VPR: Journeys into Iran and Afghanistan (3/25). All programs are free, but donations are welcomed. Programs start at 7pm, Refreshments are served.

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.

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](http://www.tunbridgelibrary.org))

## Tunbridge School Board

Lois Gross 889-5679

This year has been a year of changes at the Tunbridge Central School. As anticipated at the last town meeting, this fall we created a classroom cluster of grades 3, 4 and 5 with two teachers. Given the short preparation time, the challenges of aligning schedules, and a temporary change in staff due to a death in the family, our teachers have done extraordinarily well in making these new class groupings a success. There have been a few bumps in the road as adjustments and improvements were made, but we are assured that this structure is sustainable and worth the investment of our resources. We thank all of those involved for their commitment to making this transition as comfortable and easy for the children as possible.

Another significant change this year was a shift from owning our own buses to contracting this service with Butlers Busing. While it was initially believed that this could be achieved with one bus, it was quickly recognized at the start of the school year that the schedule was unrealistic and we moved to two buses. There has been a transition period as we coordinated policies, expectations, and communication lines, but overall it has been a positive experience. This is especially apparent during the few times when a bus was unable to complete a run and Butlers was able to quickly provide backup transportation.

As you are likely aware, the current three-year teacher agreement will expire at the end of June 2011. Negotiations with members of the Teachers Association have started and are progressing nicely. There is little to report at this time but as we are meeting approximately twice per month, we hope that we will come to a satisfactory agreement within a reasonable time frame.

We would like to remind the community that the School Board meets the third Monday of every month in the school library at 6 pm. Feel free to stop by and let us know what is on your mind and to learn about what is happening within your school.

We also encourage families with children at TCS to work directly with the teachers about any concerns about their child's education and experiences at the school. Strengthening this bridge between families, students and educators ensures that the needs of the children can be met to the best of our abilities.

Important Dates:

Feb. 14 – Regular meeting – 6 pm – school library

Feb. 21 – Pre-Town meeting – 7:30 pm – school multipurpose room

Feb. 28 – Annual school meeting (including budget vote) – 7:30 pm – school multipurpose room

## **First Branch Ambulance & Rescue**

Pam Caron- 889- 9595

The Board of Directors for FBA & R has been working diligently on ways to contain operating costs for the ambulance service without increasing the funds we need to ask the two towns for. When you receive your town report you will see we have asked for an increase from 20,000 to 30,000 from both towns. We worked hard to have a balanced budget and still maintain a quality service for our towns. Unfortunately this has been happening at the same time that we've seen decreases in the reimbursement rates and increases in the amount of unpaid services. Much of this has to do with what is happening nationally within our health care system and is something everyone is having to face.

Since this is affecting everyone in our area we have joined the other ambulance services in our district, along with Gifford Medical Center, in a Memorandum of Understanding to work on plans for the future. We have been meeting and are moving toward a goal of working together, maintaining quality service to our towns; while still keeping the local presence in our communities, and hopefully creating a sustainable and predictable service. We all feel strongly that the members of our squads are the backbone of our organizations' success and want to keep that involvement and provide the support and training they need to do their jobs.

This is a work in process with many people involved and lot of hours of work ahead of us but I believe we are on the right track. As this unfolds we will be communicating to the towns what we have come up with.

As always, if there are any questions or concerns please ask one of the board members or attend a meeting. We meet the third Tues. of the month at 7:00pm from January - June at the Tunbridge Fire Station and from July - Dec. at the Chelsea Fire Station.

## **Heating Fuel Assistance Fund**

Ben Wolfe - 889-9467

There is a Heating Fuel Loan Assistance Fund in Tunbridge, formed entirely by individual donations. This fund is for any Tunbridge residents who are finding their household budgets stressed by the costs of heating, whether or not they qualify for other fuel assistance programs. No-interest loans are available up to \$300, and they can be repaid over 6 months, in money or in community service. Applications can be found at the Town Office, Library, or Food Shelf. Call Ben Wolfe with further questions.

## **ECFiber.Net**

Janet Zug 889-9602

This news from our latest press release:

ECFiber's Treasurer, John Roy of Vershire, announced that the closing of Phase I Financing concluded on schedule and ahead of projections. A total of \$907,500 was raised through private local sources exceeding the original goal of \$850,000. ECFiber expects to begin construction in the spring.

ECFiber Governing Board Chair Loreda Sola of North Pomfret said, "This is a very important and hard-fought first step. Phase I establishes a baseline for building and operating cost, build time, expected market penetration, and resulting revenue. That baseline gives ECFiber a solid platform on which to build its network to all twenty-three ECFiber member towns."

"More importantly," said Sola, "this community-raised financing demonstrates confidence in a community-owned and managed network as well as frustration that public and private promises to bring us broadband have fallen way short. Here's an example in true Vermont tradition of communities stepping up and taking charge."

ECFiber's original financing plans were derailed by the meltdown of global financial markets in 2008. Since then, the volunteer-run organization worked diligently to find alternatives to build a fiber-to-the-home network connecting every home, business, and public institution in its territory.

More info can be found at [www.ecfiber.net](http://www.ecfiber.net)

## **8th Grade Fundraisers**

Jackie Higgins - 889-3566

The 8th grade auction is scheduled for February 26th at 10:00 a.m. at the Tunbridge Central School Multipurpose Room. We are currently soliciting donations. If you get the urge to do some early spring cleaning and would like to donate please contact Jackie Higgins at 889-3566 or email [jackieh46@yahoo.com](mailto:jackieh46@yahoo.com) Please no clothing or computers. Breakfast and lunch will be available and we will also have a bake goods auction that day.

The 8th grade will be selling Yankee Candles in the very near future - renowned for their quality and true-to-life scents.

There is a spaghetti supper being planned for March 19th and an antique car show on May 14th. Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you to all who have and will support our efforts. It is greatly appreciated.

## **Tunbridge Congregational Church**

Deadra Ashton - 685-3029

### **Worship Services:**

Regular Sunday morning services are held at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, April 22: Good Friday Service, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 24:

Easter Sunrise Service (time and place to be announced)

Easter Breakfast, Town Hall following sunrise service.

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

May 8. (Mother's Day) Youth and Family Sunday. This service will be led by the youth and children of the church.

### **Choir:**

Choir Practices are held most Wednesdays. The children's choir (ages 6 and up) practices from 6-6:45pm, the Adult Choir practices from 7-8:30pm. All are invited to join. Call Judie Lewis for the Adult choir - 889-9490 or Janet Zug for the kids - 889-9602.

### **Education and Social Events:**

Bible study, led by Rev. David Wolfe, is held every Sunday morning in the Parish House. A mid-week Bible study, led by Ben Wolfe, is held on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday School for children is held every Sunday morning during the Service.

A Labyrinth event will be held Saturday, March 12, and Sunday, March 13 in the Town Hall. Watch for posters with more information.

The Sugar on Snow Party will be held at a time and place to be announced when sugaring conditions are right.

The Environmental Stewardship Group meets every third Sunday following the service. All are welcome to attend.

## **Tunbridge Civic Club**

Merle Howe 889-5574

Mark your calendars! The 59th annual civic club variety show will take place on Friday March 25th and Saturday, March 26th at the Town Hall. We promise to entertain you with another spectacular event.

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. Please contact Linda Lazaroff at 889-9421 if you wish to purchase a book.

## **Tunbridge Recreation Committee**

Carrie McDonnell 889-3310

The Tunbridge Recreation Committee is actively looking for ways to enhance and create safe and affordable recreation opportunities for people of all ages in our town. This spring we will facilitate a community forum to create a plan for a bright recreational future in Tunbridge. More details to come.

The Tunbridge Recreation Committee will host a breakfast/brunch fundraiser from 9:00am to 12:30pm at the Tunbridge Central School on Saturday, Feb. 19th, to begin the Winter Carnival Community Day. The all-you-can-eat buffet menu will include eggs, toast, pancakes, hash, sausage, bacon, home fries, fruit, juice, coffee and pastries. Cost for the breakfast is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12, and free for children under 6 years old.

Following the breakfast, on Saturday, February 19th from 1-7:30pm, Tunbridge Recreation Committee will be partnering with the One Planet Program and School Club to sponsor a Winter Carnival Community Day at the school. The afternoon will include horse drawn sleigh rides (1pm-4pm), free skating, pick-up hockey games, snowshoeing, snow sculpture making, a bonfire, food and more. A winter themed movie will be shown from 6-7:30pm and will be appropriate for all ages. Please join us for a day of fun in the snow!

The skating rink behind Tunbridge Central School has benefited this season from an expanded maintenance crew, including Ken Ashley, Kevin Barnaby, Scott Beavers, Skip Distel, Justin Ferro, David Mattern, Mike McDonnell, Michael Morrison, Steve Rixford, George White, and Tony Welch. Anyone who would like to help with this effort can call Thornton Hayslett at 889-9479. The skating rink is open for general use any time that school is not in session, and has lights that can be plugged in for evening use. Resurfacing usually happens between 8:00 and 10:00 p.m., one to three times a week depending on weather and rink conditions.

The Recreation Committee has several fundraisers underway. We are combining efforts with Tunbridge One Planet to offer Tunbridge Tiger products, including youth size t-shirts (\$14), water bottles (\$12), and lanyards (\$7). These items will be sold at TCS basketball games and are available in the TOP office. All proceeds will go towards supporting the One Planet and Tunbridge Recreation programs. Please contact Carrie McDonnell at 889-3463 with any questions.

Tunbridge Recreation Committee meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall at 6:30pm.

## **Tunbridge 250th Anniversary Committee**

Kay Jorgensen - 889-5528 Euclid Farnham 889-3458

Everyone is invited to join in celebrating the town's 250th birthday this year. Volunteers, who have been meeting since October, are planning a variety of activities and projects and welcome anyone who is interested to join them.

- Two of the 250th projects will be visible: "Welcome to Tunbridge" signs will be installed this spring at the north and south ends of Route 110 and a banner will be hung across the front of the Town Hall.
- A brief town history will be published for handout at Town Meeting and other locations. The logo contest committee invites designs to be submitted to the Town Clerk's office for display on Town Meeting day. The Planning Commission will make the final selection from the three most popular designs.
- Cookbook committee members Nancy Chapman, Edie Benson and Joyce Miller are seeking old family recipes, along with brief information about the family, cook and home, for a cookbook featuring local traditional recipes.
- The birthday celebration will kick off on May 30, Memorial Day, with a parade that will salute the 250th. Floats and costumes are invited.
- On Sunday, July 10, everyone is invited to the fairgrounds for a townwide Tunbridge Appreciation Picnic. The Ed Larkin Contra Dancers will be there to demonstrate their dance steps and get some locals on the dance floor and share the fun of contra dancing. The Tunbridge Fire Department will be at the fairgrounds with fire safety and other activities for kids.
- On July 24 from 1-5, the Northeast Fiddlers Association will put on a concert and fiddle jam at the fairgrounds. People are invited to come to listen, dance or play along.
- Area artists are invited to exhibit in an art show that opens at the library with a reception Friday, July 29, and runs through Sept. 23. "Artists Envisioning Tunbridge: Celebrating 250 Years of History" is the theme. The ArtSpace committee welcomes all art forms and interpretations. Questions can be directed to coordinator Marsha Higgins at mhiggins@wavecomm.com or 889-5576.
- The Saturday Sewing Circle will host a quilt and needlework show at the Town Hall Aug. 13 and 14.
- Bells will ring on Sept. 1 in celebration of the day that New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth granted Tunbridge. Plans are being made to have the bells in the three town churches rung, by hand, 250 times.
- A 250th Variety Show will be held at the Town Hall on Oct. 8, hosted by the Tunbridge Civic Club.
- A summer historical exhibit will be set up in the N. Tunbridge Church.

- The Tunbridge 250 Committee is working on some other ideas including a DVD of Tunbridge movies, photos and artifacts; notecards and postcard reprints, publication of Euclid Farnham's historical articles that ran for many years in Behind the Times, a Dreamland-type dance, outdoor movies and town walks. We are seeking old home movies of Tunbridge, for possible Tunbridge 250 Celebration DVD - contact Fred Pond @ 889-3251 or fred.pond@gmail.com

Anyone who would like to be added to the 250th email list can contact Kay Jorgensen at 889-5528 or at mail@civilwarnews.com.

## **Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department**

Jena Young- 889-2804

For over ten years, the Fire Department has tried to incorporate long term planning in their budgeting process. Below is a list of equipment we currently have in service, as well as some plans for the future. All pieces of apparatus will hopefully provide 30 years of service to the Town of Tunbridge.

Currently we have:

1. 1991 Pierce Arrow Pumper
2. 2004 International 2,000 Gallon Tanker
3. 2009 KME CAFS Pumper

Currently we are funding the debt service of the 2009 KME Pumper at a rate of \$30,000 a year to be paid off in November 2014.

We plan to continue to fund the equipment replacement at a rate of \$30,000 a year. The estimated replacement period for the 1991 Peirce Arrow will be approximately 2021. If we can get more years of service out of this piece of apparatus then we will. We hope this gives you some idea of our long term plans related to the apparatus we currently have.

A quick reminder for residents who have an alarm system that automatically sends out a call for help when triggered. If you do not need the fire department to respond, please contact 911 to cancel the automatic call for help. We have responded to more than one alarm call in the past where, upon arrival, we were told that our help was not needed.

Our annual meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10th at 6:00pm at the Town Hall. Please join us for a potluck dinner & dessert followed by our business meeting. 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 and to fill the role of Secretary. A Trustee typically attends one 1-hour meeting per month on the second Thursday of each month. Our Secretary takes the minutes of our business meeting once per month. Please consider serving the Dept. in one of these valuable roles. We look forward to seeing you on March 10th.