

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly
P.O. Box 68
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The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

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

November 15, 2011
issue #26

Tunbridge Treasurer

Anne Mallary- 889-3571

This is my final TQ entry as your town treasurer. The selectmen have appointed Lynn Laskowski to serve until town meeting. Lynn lives on Larkin Rd and will serve the town well.

I have enjoyed most of my 15 years as treasurer, but a new full-time opportunity came up that I am looking forward to. I hope to be involved in town politics in some way in the coming years maybe helping the selectmen to make improvements in planning ahead.

I will miss seeing all the townspeople in the office. As tax collector, I had an opportunity to meet many of the folks and hear many stories, which I appreciate.

Just remember when you go to town meeting you are setting the tax rate. Ask questions, look at the big expenditures not just the small ones, which are easier to understand. Be informed.

ECFiber

East-Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network

Janet Zug 889-9602 Henry Swayze 889-5556

ECFiber is working to secure local investors, town by town, to continue to expand the fiber-optic network into the rest of the 23 member towns. The ultimate goal to serve 100% of the territory remains.

In Tunbridge it will take \$250,000. to bring the line in and build a run that traverses our town covering approx. 10-12 miles. This is just a start to building out our whole town. It is our plan to serve the back roads first. There are approx. 84 miles of inhabited roads in Tunbridge including state roads and class 2 & 3.

There is no other foreseeable way that we will be able to get true high-speed Internet to the hills of our town. If you are interested in learning more about this important investment in Tunbridge please come to the Town Hall for an informational meeting on Dec. 12 at 7pm.

If you would like more information about the terms of this investment prior to the meeting on Dec. 12th you may email ECFiber's treasurer at john@roy-vt.net or contact Janet or Henry to receive the executive summary.

ECFiber is a grassroots initiative to build a state-of-the-art fiber-optic network in 23 towns, bringing reliable telephone, and high-speed Internet service directly to homes, schools, and businesses. www.ecfiber.net

Calendar of Events

See individual entries for more events including info on the "Winter Evenings" at the Library on page 8.

- Dec 3:** Shindig with "Automatic Rooster" 8-11pm, Town hall. www.shindigsvt.com Cover charge is \$8. each
If you like to dance, you'll love The Shindigs!
- Dec 11:** Sunday Breakfast and Bake Sale, Town Hall, 8am-12pm
Benefit for Rec. Committee and TCS 8th Grade.
- Dec 12:** ECFiber public meeting 7pm, Town Hall. Building a high-speed network in Tunbridge. More info on pg 1.
- Dec. 31:** New Years' Eve Shindig with "Jeanne & the HiTops" 9pm, - 12:30am Town Hall. Advance tickets are necessary for this Shindig only. Order online or call 889-9602 www.shindigsvt.com Cover charge is \$15. each
- Jan 8:** Sunday Breakfast and Bake Sale, Town Hall, 8am-12pm
Benefit for Rec. Committee and TCS 8th Grade.
- Jan 13:** Friday night Bingo begins, 7pm, N. Tunbridge Grange.
- Jan 13:** Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm
Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 donation
- Feb 4:** Shindig with "The Screw Tops" 8-11pm, Town hall. www.shindigsvt.com Cover charge is \$8. each
- Feb. 10:** Ed Larkin Contra Dancers - with live music - 7:30pm
Town Hall, All dances taught. \$5.00 donation
- Feb 12:** Sunday Breakfast and Bake Sale, Town Hall, 8am-12pm
Benefit for Rec. Committee and TCS 8th Grade.
- Jan 28:** Tracy Grammer, 7:30pm, Town Hall. A Mountain Folk event. Advance tickets for \$15 are available on-line at the Tunbridge Store, the South Royalton Market or at www.mtnfolk.org, . Tickets at the door are priced at \$20.

Farm to School

Mary Zentara - 889-5637

Although still in the process of charting a course for a fun, local food based program, Farm to School in Tunbridge is blossoming in many ways. This fall, potatoes were harvested from the school garden by various students in the One Planet After School Program and then used in the cafeteria by Abby Brabham to make scalloped potatoes. Abby purchased onions and additional potatoes from Wes Mattern and Family who own and operate Pleasant View Farm in Tunbridge to create this dish and serve in the cafeteria.

School wide taste testing, led by Stephanie Loeffler, Abby Brabham, and Elaine Howe is happening monthly. All grades sample food that has been made with at least one fresh, local ingredient. Then, students have an opportunity to rate the food and share whether or not they would like to see that recipe served in the cafeteria. So far students have tasted zucchini bread and Beet-nick Cake; chocolate cake made with beets. They also taste tested locally made bread donated by Wes Mattern and Family.

Abby Brabham and Amy Bogardus have led a Harvesting and Canning Program. This has given students an opportunity to learn how to harvest vegetables as well as can and freeze fresh fruit and veggies. Much of the food used in this program is local and many of the canned goods student's process are being donated to the local food shelf.

Elizabeth Dutton received a science unit grant that will enable her to incorporate food education into her combined 3/4/5 classroom. Elizabeth will teach a botany unit the fall. Then, in the winter, the combined class will study food and where it comes from. Finally, in the spring, students will plan and create a class garden.

Although Farm to School is taking root, we invite your participation at our next community meeting in January to keep the momentum rolling!

Please stay tuned for details or call Mary Zentara!

Tunbridge Town Website

Rick Scully- 763-7474 rick@tunbridgevt.com

Thanks to all who have been submitting items for the official town website (www.tunbridgevt.com). If you would like to add your event to the website, please email Rick Scully.

Tunbridge Select Board

Tom Mullen, Chair (889-9499)

Ingrid Van Steamburg (889-3459) Bob Dunkle (889-3740)

The last few months have found the Road Crew, Select Board and Administrative Assistant to the Board extremely busy picking up the pieces from Tropical Storm Irene. Although we were very lucky in comparison to our neighbors, Tunbridge still had its fair share of earth to move to repair roads in our town and there has been just as much paperwork to move for FEMA. Thank you to Rodney, Larry, Richie, Sonny and Wendy for all of their hard work. Additionally we would like to thank members of our Road Crew for their volunteer efforts assisting South Royalton in their repairs.

Our Town Treasurer recently gave her notice and we are actively searching to find a replacement until Town Meeting Day when the position will be up for election. Anne, thank you for all of your work over the years and best of luck to you in the future. A member of our Road Crew, Richie Bestenbostel, just gave his notice and we would like to thank him for all of his work and wish him best of luck at his new job.

The Select Board is in the processing of budgeting for the upcoming fiscal year. As always, please contact any member(s) of the Select Board with any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have in regards to any town issue and remember we meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6pm. If you wish to be on our agenda please contact Wendy at 889-5521.

Tunbridge Town Clerk

Wendy McCullough- 889-5521

Monday thru Wednesday: 7:30am – 3:00pm

Thursday - 7:30-10:30am – 12:15-3:00pm or by appointment

A reminder to new parents; if you are a resident of Tunbridge and have had a child born out of the State of Vermont; in the year 2011, Births out of State are not sent to the Town Clerk to be recorded, if you would like your child's birth to be included in the 2011 Town Report please send me the information before December 1st, 2011. For any children born the month of December they too can be included if I have information before the end of the December 2011.

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

Tunbridge Board of Listers

Ben Wolfe - 889-3571

At this time of year, activity in the Listers' Office is limited to gathering data on the few changes made in the last six months. These changes will be applied to next year's assessments. By statute, we must value properties as they exist on April 1st of each year, so we are busier in the spring. Due to that deadline and the challenges of mud season, we are currently making appointments for any completed construction (or demolition) of any size. We may also contact you if we find our information is unclear or old, in order to make sure we are using accurate data.

In turn, you may have questions for us. If you are interested in our duties or procedures, or if you have questions regarding an assessment, we will do our best to answer your questions. In the case that our explanations don't justify our decisions in your mind, you can consider appealing (or grieving) your assessment any year in June.

This time of year is also when we await the state's latest sales study for our town. After examining the sales from the last three years, the department of Property Valuation and Review publishes a sales study, which includes the new Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for each town. The Common Level Appraisal is a percentage describing how much properties are selling for, compared with the town's listed values. Right now this percentage is a little more than 100%. We expect it to be similar in the new sales study, since our listed values have generally been just a little higher than recent sales. This has no effect on municipal tax rates for next year, but the school tax rate is ultimately divided by the Common Level of Appraisal. Therefore a CLA of over 100% makes the rate proportionally lower, a CLA of under 100% makes the rate higher, and a CLA of 100% leaves the school rate unchanged.

Judie Lewis, who has served on the Board of Listers for almost 18 years, is retiring effective as of Jan. 15. Judie's term is up this year. The select board may appoint someone to fill the unexpired term. Judie is leaving in January to give the new lister a chance to learn something about the office before being hit with the end-of-year activities which are in full swing by the March Town Meeting. The board has elected Ben Wolfe as chairman, to replace Judie who has been chairman since she was first elected in 1994. Please speak with one of the board members if you are interested in serving on the board.

Tunbridge Central School 8th Grade Class

Jonni Spaulding - 763-2308

This year's 8th grade class would like to thank the community for supporting their efforts to raise enough money to take an educational trip this spring. Our goal is to raise \$7,800 to bring the 11 students and 2 chaperones to an educational destination such as Washington D.C. As of November 1st the students have raised approx. \$2,600.

In an effort to encourage community relations many of our fundraising will be done with existing community groups.

Fundraising started this past summer with selling refreshments at the Community Movie Night at the Fair Grounds and the Talent Show. We hope to do the same thing at their upcoming 60th Annual show in March!

The Tunbridge School Club has many events throughout the year and the 8th grade class will be helping as needed.

The Tunbridge Recreation Committee has worked hard to continue the tradition of the Monthly Sunday Breakfasts. Now every 2nd Sunday of the month both groups will come together to offer a "**Monthly Sunday Breakfast and Bake Sale**" at the Town Hall from 8-Noon. (Please note that this event has changed to the SECOND Sunday of each month.) Come share a wonderful meal with your neighbors and take home a home-made treat or two.

The students are now selling **Tunbridge Central School Merchandise**. (such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.) for the December Holiday Season. Please contact a member of the 8th grade class if you would like to make a purchase.

Refreshments for many of the upcoming Tunbridge Tigers' home Basketball Games will be sold by the 8th grade class.

Just prior to the December Holiday Season the 8th grade students will begin selling **Raffle Tickets** for the raffle that will be drawn at their Corned Beef & Cabbage Community Dinner March 17th. More details to come in the next issue of the TQ concerning that dinner. The Raffle prizes include a hand-made quilt, an iPod Nano, and a 15" LED HD Television. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Ongoing Bottle Drive: The students are happy to come to your home to collect returnable bottles and cans at your request. A formal door to door bottle drive will be scheduled for this spring.

Please feel free to contact Jonni Spaulding (802-353-3782 or info@catamountkitchens.com) with any questions or concerns if you cannot contact a student directly, or if you would like help with an event. We appreciate all of your support!

Tunbridge School Club

Kathi Terami- Parent Volunteer 889-5575

Nearly 100 Attended Back-to-School Potluck: On September 6, nearly 100 adults and children celebrated the start of the school year at the back-to-school gathering hosted by School Club.

Open House a Success: On September 27, School Club provided refreshments, including local apples and cider, for a well-attended Open House. We would like to thank Horizon for donating organic chocolate milk! We also appreciate the efforts of Shannon Johnson and Jen Thygesen in pulling everything together.

Chicken Pie Supper: On October 22, School Club hosted the Chicken Pie Supper as a fundraiser for the school. More than 220 diners the enjoyed a meal of biscuit-topped chicken pie, vegetable potpie, mashed potatoes, squash, coleslaw, cranberry sauce, beverages and a slice of one of 58 homemade pies. School Club raised over \$1,500 that will go towards enrichment activities for students. Several area farms, businesses and individuals contributed ingredients. Many volunteers, led by Amy Bogardus, Janet Kennedy and Lynn Tabor, worked together to plan and prepare the meal. Jonni Spaulding organized the 8th grade class who expertly served the meal.

Halloween Party a Hit: On Saturday, October 29, nearly 60 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.

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 Chad Barnaby, Elaine Howe, Christine Hoyt, Amy Frost 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. If you are interested in helping with any of these tasks, please email schoolclub@tunbridge.k12.vt.us to express your interest.

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 5, January 9 and February 6. All are welcome to come to share ideas or get involved! Children may come along to do homework in the library or watch a family-friendly movie.

Tunbridge Planning Commission

Sue Clark 889-3733

There was an excellent turnout for the Planning Commission Pot Luck on Oct. 28th. The food was excellent as always and we were treated to a talk by author and UVM Professor Frank Bryan. Prof. Bryan talked about the "Quirkiness" of Vermont and kept everyone enthralled for 1 1/2 hours. The program was designed to gather public input on changes to the Town Plan.

The Planning Commission is looking at changes to agriculture over the last 50 years. Our Town vision centers on agriculture. The current plan took a close look at agriculture in town today. This project looks back to see how it has changed. We need to apply that in a look forward so our plan takes into consideration the changing look of farming in Tunbridge.

I've spent the last two months working for the Vermont Agency of Transportation, living in Brattleboro and working for the Dummerston Incident Command Center (ICC). This ICC and one created in Rutland, has been dealing with repairs to the State transportation system needed as a result of Tropical Storm Irene. I bring this up because I have seen firsthand the damage created by raging rivers. Tunbridge has been working slowly towards a revision of the Flood Plain Ordinance and discussing the hiring or appointing of a Flood Plain Ordinance Administrator. Irene is a strong reminder that we cannot put this aside.

Too many people around Vermont have lost their homes and all their possessions with no hope of reimbursement. Let us make sure we do everything in our power to take care of our residents and protect not only us but those who live downstream from us.

Tunbridge School Board

Lorinda Oliver – lorinda.oliver@gmail.com – 889-9462

Kathy Galluzzo - GALLUZZK@nationwide.com – 603-252-0352

Amy Frost - asf802@gmail.com - 889-3739

Although the initial back-to-school phase is over and everyone has started settling into some routines, the school remains an exciting hub of changing activities. Recent events have included lessons outside, the annual book fair, a hay ride, themed events and seasonal food. A special treat, which everyone seemed to enjoy and we hope to make an annual tradition, was the creation of scarecrows (including a live one!) which now decorate our facility.

In addition to the scarecrows, there is now a tiger called “Chip” in the school hallway that has created quite a stir. As students participate in our PBiS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) system in their classrooms they earn tokens which are then ‘fed’ to Chip at the end of each week. When the token level reaches a designated mark the entire school earns a reward. The students have been doing an excellent job working together and have already started earning rewards. Other changes made to the PBiS system this year include the addition of a program specific workspace (known as the “Core”) and the designation of an individual to coordinate the program, especially the vital component of parent and teacher communication. So far these changes have had positive results school wide and show us we are moving in the right direction.

Last month there was a significant change to the membership of the school board as we regretfully accepted the resignation of Lois Gross, who had served since March 2010. Following the advertisement of the open position we were pleased to appoint Amy Frost to fill the remainder of Lois’ term. A recent addition to our community, Amy comes to us with school-age children, prior school governance experience and a willingness to serve. Certainly a triple win in our eyes! We are currently inundating her with information so that we will be back up to full speed as a three-member board as quickly as possible.

Historically these colder months are filled with meetings, and this year is no exception as we continue to negotiate with the Teachers Association on developing a replacement contract, and work to develop the FY2012-13 school and district budgets. The most significant change at this point is the movement of special education from a local budget item to a district item, which is in direct response to a state mandate. Early reports show that this will cause a small budget change to all towns in the district next year, but will provide more stability long term.

The audit for FY2010-11 has been finalized, with a surplus in the general fund of about \$57k and an \$8k surplus in the food service program, both which are significant achievements! We are potentially looking to use the surpluses to create reserve funds for long-term maintenance, building repairs, and replacement equipment purchases, all of which have not been funded appropriately in the annual budget. There will be additional details available on this after we finalize our proposed budget for FY2012-13 over the next few months

Tunbridge One Planet Afterschool Program

Carrie McDonnell 889-3310

With help from a VT Arts Council grant, TOP has been lucky enough to have an exciting in-house program this fall. The VT Puppetree Company has been delighting us each week with their artists-in-residence, Ann, Jamas, and Caitlyn. They have been teaching the kids about puppets, puppet theatre, and how to be a puppeteer. In addition to making several types of puppets, the children are writing their own version of The Ugly Duckling. On Tuesday, November 8th, the kids will perform an original version of The Ugly Duckling with the puppets they make.

Miss Abby is teaching the kids a number of fun, social outdoor games, including badminton (which they LOVE), horseshoes, and croquet. Artist Joan Hoffman has been teaching nature drawing and painting, giving the kids freedom to draw what they see in the world spontaneously. Health Connections of the Upper Valley is providing our kids in grades 3-6 with local, fresh produce to cook tasty, healthy recipes. Each child gets to take home a bag of ingredients to repeat the recipe at home. In Awesome Anatomy with Miss Michelle, kids have watched virtual surgeries and done full-body drawings. Learning new board and card games, and crocheting hats with Miss Marion has been a fun way to end our week.

Active Learners has been focusing on BIG things like dragons, dinosaurs, and killer whales. Kids enjoyed measuring out dino lengths on the one-foot square floor tiles in the halls, which was a “WOW!” experience for all.

We are now serving ONLY healthy snacks. With yogurt, watermelon, fresh apples, Nutri-grain bars, cheddar cheese and crackers, bagels with yogurt-cream cheese, pretzels, cheese sticks, and milk everyday, our kids are making better choices at snack time and enjoying good food.

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.

First Branch Ambulance & Rescue

Pam Caron- 889- 9595

We are busy working on our budget plans for next year. We hope to hear soon if the grant we applied for toward the purchase of a new ambulance has been awarded. In the event it has not we will be exploring other avenues including a fund raiser. Please watch for this and if anyone is interested in helping with this let us know. We meet the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 with a rotating schedule between the Chelsea and Tunbridge Fire Stations. January-June is Tunbridge and July-December is Chelsea. All are welcome to attend.

Tunbridge Civic Club

Maxine Young - 763-8274

The Annual Meeting was held on October 3rd. It was voted to hold the Tunbridge Civic Club show in March 2012. As of this printing, the show is scheduled for March 30th and 31st. This will be our 60th year, and there will be a concerted effort to have as many people in the show as possible. Dale Post will be the music director and Butch Howe the overall director. Marianne Benoir will do the decorating and posters and Maxine Young will do the advertising. Revised Rules of the Show were passed unanimously.

Maxine will be responsible for write-ups for the TQ. Since there was no election of officers, the officers in place will serve for the next year; Merle Howe, President; Butch Howe, Vice-President; Jim Wick, Treasurer; and Maxine Young, Secretary.

A fun and successful Variety Show was held on October 8th, sponsored by the Civic Club and in celebration of Tunbridge's 250th. Many thanks to Linda Lazaroff for heading up this event. A big thank you to Euclid Farnham for performing as Master of Ceremonies, to Seth Stoddard for lighting and sound; and, without whom the show could not have happened, a BIG THANK YOU to all the participants who volunteered their time.

On a sad note, we lost one of our dedicated and longtime members, Cornelia Swayze. Cornelia was our music director for many years and an excellent performer. We will all miss her vivacious personality.

Tunbridge Grange #384

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

The North Tunbridge Grange will begin it's weekly bingo nights on Friday, Jan 13th at 7pm. This event will continue every friday night thru April.

Tunbridge School Board, Con't.

On a special note the Board wishes to recognize our middle school math teacher Karen Colby as she was recently honored as a 2011 Vermont Outstanding Teacher. This is not the first time that a teacher from our small school has been honored in this way and we are proud each time it happens. Congratulations, Karen!

For updates on other fantastic things our school is doing, please visit the websites of www.tunbridge.owsu.org and www.owsu.org. The sites are regularly updated by the school and district offices with important information for parents and community members so please check them out. And as always, you are encouraged to attend our regular board meetings on the third Monday of each month or contact us directly.

Tunbridge Recreation Committee

Kevin Barnaby at 889-5671

We met on Oct 3rd for the first time in a while. We had to play a little catch up. First of all we would like to thank Tom Wells for tearing down the building of our newly purchased property. Great job. Second we were able to have the pool opened and it got a lot of use and for that we would like to thank George Elderd for all his hard work there. We still have a lot of work to do on both projects so if anyone would like to help or donate that would greatly appreciated. We are still having the Sunday Breakfast on the second Sunday of every month and we are sharing that with the 8th graders.

We would also like to ask if anyone would be interested in being on the committee. We will be having meeting the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. We have a lot of things to go over before next spring. We would like to do a lot of cleanup and would like to try to put up some kind of play area for the kids. We also need to do some repairs on the pool. If anyone has any questions feel free to call.

The TUNBRIDGE Quarterly

Janet Zug 889-9602 janet@zugglass.com

Questions, comments or suggestions about the TQ can be directed to me at the contact info above.

State Representative

Sarah Buxton - (802) 233-0274 (cell) sbuxton@gmail.com

It's no surprise that Irene will be the hot topic in Montpelier this year. I was recently asked to join the Post Irene Property Task Force formed by Senate Pro Temp John Campbell. Chaired by the president of the Vermont Bar Association, this task force brings together a handful of legislators and key members of the administration with representatives from the Realtors Association, the Bankers Association, Legal Aid, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and state agencies to examine some of the unique issues that property owners and municipalities face after Irene. We will set our agenda at the first meeting on November 3rd, ensuring that we have time to present some of our findings and recommendations to the General Assembly in January.

Two important education-related developments have also unfolded in recent months. First, public hearings were held in early September to engage citizens and stakeholders about the strengths and weaknesses of Vermont's current education funding system. Last session, the legislature commissioned an independent study and evaluation of K-12 education financing as a first step toward reform. Much like the Blue Ribbon Tax Commission Report submitted to the legislature earlier this year, I expect these findings will be the basis for significant discussion about changes to the way we pay for education in Vermont. Second, the federal government has invited states to apply for waivers from some of the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Gov. Shumlin, Education Commissioner Vilaseca, and the State Board of Education have drafted Vermont's request, which will be reviewed by the House Education Committee (my committee) on November 4th.

I recently asked our Secretary of Agriculture, Chuck Ross, to visit this district before we return to Montpelier in January. He enthusiastically accepted my invitation and agreed to participate in a roundtable luncheon with local farmers, foresters, and meat processors. I am excited to showcase the breadth and depth of agriculture-related issues in Royalton and Tunbridge and solicit his support for regulation reform that would help strengthen our agricultural economy. Please contact me if you would like to be included in the discussion.

Last spring, a controversial bill titled "Death with Dignity" was introduced in the House and assigned to the Human Services Committee. Dozens of constituents contacted me urging my support or opposition to the bill. I announced that I would abstain from taking a formal position until we could have an open community discussion. To that end, I have arranged for a series of panelists – representing all sides of the issue – to attend a town hall meeting on the topic on November 14th at 7pm at the Royalton Academy Building. Please mark your calendars.

Finally, I would like to thank the many community members who have helped welcome me to my new home in Tunbridge. I am thrilled to live in such an active and vibrant community. Getting to know you as neighbors and friends will be a great joy! 7

Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department

Jena Young- 889-2804

A warm thank you to all who volunteered to help out at the coin drop fundraiser 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. This year, the Fire Department decided ahead of time that a portion of the funds collected from the coin drop would be used to make donations towards the clean-up efforts following Tropical Storm Irene. To that end, the TVFD used some of the 2011 coin drop funds to make a \$1,500.00 donation to the South Royalton School and a \$1,500.00 donation to the Bethel / Whitcomb School specifically to help in the clean-up of their ball fields, which are used both by the schools and by the local communities.

Fire Department members were at the Tunbridge Central School in October providing some fire safety education to the students in recognition to Fire Prevention month. And as a part of ongoing communication and education of the community, TVFD has developed a Facebook page, called Tunbridge Volunteer Fire Department. We plan to use our Facebook page to provide extra communication during disasters, such as road or bridge closings & to communicate other information about the Fire Department to townspeople. To become a fan, just go to our Facebook page & "Like" us so you can begin receiving our news reports. We are also looking to recruit several public information officers to get out information locally about the needs for support during responses to local emergencies. If you have an interest in this, please call our Fire Chief, John Durkee, at 889 3408.

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 Auditors

Beth Bicknell, Sarah Scully, Maxine Young

The Board of Auditors invites photo submissions of any 250th Tunbridge Celebration activities to be considered for inclusion in the 2011 Report of Town Officers (Town Report). Please submit no more than 3 original photographs via email to: auditors@tunbridgevt.com. File size should be between 1 MB - 10 MB, with .jpeg or .tiff formats preferred. Photos will be printed in black and white and converted from color if necessary. The photographer will receive credit for each photo used. The deadline for submissions is January 1, 2012. Please contact us via email with any questions. Thank you for your interest and participation in making our town report great!

Tunbridge Church

Deadra Ashton - 685-3029

Worship Services:

Regular Sunday morning services are held at 10:00 a.m. in the Congregational Church building next to the Town Office.

The Annual Thanksgiving Eve service will be held Wednesday, November 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Choirs:

The Children's Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

The Great Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

Education and Social Events:

Bible study, led by Rev. David Wolfe, is held every Sunday morning in the Parish House through the month of June. 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.

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

The Youth Service Group will meet Friday, November 18, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

The Sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas, followed by the annual **Christmas Carol sing** on Friday, December 2, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

We will go **Christmas Caroling** on Friday, December 16, beginning at 6:15 p.m. Meet at the Parish House.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24. The 6:00 p.m. service will be led by the Children's Choir.

The Church's **Annual Meeting** and potluck luncheon will be held Sunday, February 5, in the Town Hall immediately following the worship service.

The **Valentine's Cabaret** will be held Saturday, February 11, at the Tunbridge School.

The Annual **Valentine's Day Party** and Family Game Afternoon will be held Sunday, February 12, at the Parish House.

The **Food Shelf** is open every Friday afternoon from 4:00 - 6:00.

Tunbridge Grange #384

Mert Vesper - 889-5595

The North Tunbridge Grange will begin it's weekly bingo nights on Friday, Jan 13th at 7pm. This event will continue every friday night thru April.

Tunbridge Library

Librarian_ Jean Wolfe 889-9404

Publicity, ArtSpace Coordinator: Marsha Higgins 889-5576

Hours: Mon and Wed 3-8, Thurs and 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.

The library is offering a special book sale of brand new books on a variety of topics. All books are half the retail price and are suitable for gift giving. Sales benefit the library.

ArtSpace at the library is currently featuring, through December 3, the sculpture of Dr. Christopher Wilson. The next exhibit (Jan.15 - Mar. 10, 2012) will feature photos by Geoff Hansen and Laura DeCapua: "Our Town: A Snapshot of Tunbridge Residents in 2011." An opening public reception will be held on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2-4 PM at the library. Sales of art benefit the library.

Santa will be the featured guest on Saturday, December 10; holiday stories will be read at 10:30. Children's story hours are regularly scheduled the first and third Thursdays of each month, 6:15 PM. Check the library website for themes and dates.

The library is offering a lineup of outstanding Winter Evenings presenters. The programs are held on Friday evenings, starting at 7 PM: author/ artist David Macauley (1/13); Arctic photographer Steven Gorman (1/27); Allison Hooper, co-founder of Vermont Butter and Cheese Creamery will present "from farm to table: bringing American-made artisan cheese to the American market." Allison will talk about the evolution of their business, share her cheeses and her book, In a Cheesemaker's Kitchen.(2/10); Jack Beatty and Linda Fowler will discuss the current political scene (2/24); Sharon Plumb, invasive species coordinator for the Vermont Nature Conservancy will discuss how to combat the invaders (3/9); speaker to be announced (3/23). Updated details about Winter Evenings speakers will be available on the library's website. The programs are open to all; refreshments are served, and while the programs are free, a donation is welcomed.

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)

Heating Fuel Assistance Fund

Ben Wolfe - 889-9467

As winter approaches, many of us find budgets are tight, and fuel costs are high. In our community, we are able to help one another when other resources fall short. The Fuel Assistance Fund is made up entirely of donations, so that Tunbridge residents can get no-interest loans for necessary heating fuel of any kind. The Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Committee is charged with reviewing loan applications and administering these loans in a confidential manner.

This is a loan program, not a grant program. Recipients can repay the loan in up to six monthly installments. We encourage anyone interested to apply as soon as possible, so that we have time to consider the application and administer the loan before the applicant runs out of fuel. You can find applications at numerous places in town, including the Town Clerk's Office, the Food Shelf, and the Public Library.

As funding for other fuel programs dwindles with state and federal governments budget cuts, local groups are stepping up to meet these needs that would otherwise go unmet. In order to meet the growing needs of our neighbors, we are relying on your local donations to the Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Fund. Donations can be made to the "Town of Tunbridge" with "Fuel Assistance" in the memo line, and they may be sent to: Town Treasurer; P.O. Box 6; Tunbridge, VT 05077.

Please feel free to come to the Annual meeting of the Tunbridge Fuel Assistance Committee. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 1st at the Tunbridge Town Office. We will elect officers, examine the state of the fund and current loans, and talk about better ways to meet the needs of our community. Refreshments will be served. You can call Ben Wolfe with any questions or ideas, or you can send an email to benjamin.m.wolfe@gmail.com.

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Jim Wick- 889-889-3437

Tunbridge Neighbors Helping Neighbors has been started to help provide services to local residents through volunteer action. We have about 90 volunteers who have agreed to help. We have helped many local residents in many ways including giving rides, changing a tire, fixing a lock, helping with a computer, and so on.

If you need help with something, the number to call is: **889-3437**. One of us will take your request and try to line up a volunteer. There is no charge for the service and you don't have to join anything. There are no dues or fees. We are being supported by generous donations from local residents and businesses.

This service is for anyone. Our emphasis will be to provide services for seniors, but anyone is eligible. If the request is reasonable and we can find a volunteer, we will do it. Everyone needs help with something sometime, so please call.

Board Members: Felicity Swayze, Brenda Field, Pam Dietz, Adam Smith, Jim Wick, David Wolfe. Call any of us if you need more information.

Tunbridge 250th Anniversary Committee

Kay Jorgensen - 889-5528 Euclid Farnham 889-3458

The town's 250th celebration officially came to a close with the Oct. 8 Variety Show and final Hike of the Month.

The committee reviewed the year and discussed unfinished projects at its final meeting on Nov. 6. A detailed Tunbridge 250th Committee report for residents will be in the next Town Report.

Additional copies of "Tunbridge Cooks" are being printed since the first 400 sold out. Copies may be reserved with Nancy Chapman at 889-5542. They will be sold at the library.

For those who already have cookbooks: the "unidentified" little girl in the front row of the cover photo next to Euclid Farnham and David Cilley identified herself at the fair. She is Lilla (Tomlinson) Woodard from South Royalton.

Logo T-shirts for kids and adults are on sale at the library (three for \$20) along with the last photo magnets, postcards and notecards featuring old photos plus reprints of the 1877 town map.

If anyone missed ordering a Town Photo print contact Kay Jorgensen.