

# TALES OF TINMOUTH

March 2020

Vol. 34 Number 3

Tinmouth

Vermont

**Editors' Notes:** *Redwing blackbirds, snow buntings, robins and geese have been reported. And TICKS!! Has Spring sprung?!?!?*

The deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. Please email your information to *Tales of Tinmouth* (tinmouthtales@vermontel.net) or drop it off at the Town Office.

*Our apologies for this issue being a bit tardy . . .*

*Pat Psholka, Helen Mango & Gail Fallar, Editors*

## ~ Town Meeting 2020 ~

77 voters attended the Informational Hearing regarding the bond vote and floor meeting on 2/29/20. The Select Board presented information regarding the proposed three bay garage and salt/sand shed. Voters asked questions and made comments pro and con for about an hour and a half regarding the bond vote.

At the annual town meeting voters approved: the highway and general budgets; creation of and \$500 funding for a special reserve fund for the Conservation Commission; transfer of \$80,000 from town buildings to highway buildings in the Capital Building Fund; transfer of \$30,000 from the Housing Rehab Fund to the Capital Building Fund for highway buildings; an additional \$650 per year to the Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project; and added back \$25,000 to the paving budget.

On Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 208 voters cast ballots (30 absentee). They approved the bond proposal 129-74 and elected the following (all were unopposed – a few write-ins were noted):

Moderator - *Stan Wilbur*

Select Board Member - *Cathy Reynolds*

Community Center Board Member – *Ann Czar*

Town Clerk – *Gail Fallar*

Town Treasurer – *Gail Fallar*

Lister - *Gail Fallar*

Auditor – *Nancy Birdsall*

Town Agent – *Rick Fallar*

Grand Juror – *Glenn D. Merrill*

Tax Collector (Delinquent) – *Cat Yoder*

The **Presidential Primary** had 58 Republican voters, 55 of which voted for Trump; and 141 Democratic voters who cast votes as follows: Sanders 68, Biden 33, Bloomberg 16, Warren 11, Gabbard 7, and Buttigieg 5.

The **Mill River Unified Union School District budget** was approved – ballots from Tinmouth, Shrewsbury, Clarendon and Wallingford were commingled and then counted.

## ~ Pizza Oven Invite !! ~

*By Sherry Johnson*

The Bake Oven Bakers will be firing up the Pizza Oven in Tinmouth on **Sunday, March 8th**, the day we spring forward and gain an hour of daylight at the end of the day. (Remember to change your clocks on Saturday night.)

The oven will be ready at 4 pm and will be available until we run out of dough or 6 pm.

Please bring toppings to share, and your own beverage. We will be eating in the Old Fire House.

## ~ Dog Licenses Due April 1<sup>st</sup> ~

It's time to register your dog(s). All dogs, six months of age or older must be registered annually at the town clerk's office by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

A current (and valid) rabies certificate is required. Fees are \$9 for neutered/spayed dogs and \$13 for those that are not. A 50% penalty is assessed after April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The Town Office will be open Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 1-5 to accommodate last minute registrations!**

## ~ Community News ~

The amaryllis at the town office was stupendous this year!! There were over 30 blossoms at once. Hope you had a chance to take a look, even if just driving by and peeking in the window! The late Bill Jenkins donated the first one 25 years or so ago, they are still going strong!

*Congratulations* to **Jaron Rochon** for being named to the Dean's List at Castleton University. Jaron is a senior at Mill River Union High School. He is the son of **Shannon Zandy** of Tinmouth and **Wayne Rochon** of Fair Haven.

*Get Well Wishes* are sent to **Fred Wagner, Tom and Nancy Buzzell, Janet Cole, Alan Held, Toby Lewis, Jo Reynolds, Nelson Jaquay, and John and Shannon Squier.**

*Heartfelt Sympathies* are sent to **Penny Bushee** for the loss of her brother; and to family and friends of **Nancy (Lollie) Carrison.**

*Welcome* to Tinmouth's newest residents ~ **Hazel Marie Wright** arrived on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, daughter of **Blake and Stacey Wright**, she joins big sister **Harper**; and to **Nora Cailin Ricketts**, daughter of **Nate and Tara Ricketts**, born on January 14<sup>th</sup>. She joins big brother **Liam** and big sister **Fiona.**

*Congratulations and Best Wishes to all!!*

### March 2020 Calendar of Events

Town Meeting (Officers)	Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 am – 7:00	Community Center
Bond Vote	Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 am – 7:00	Community Center
School Budget	Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 am – 7:00	Community Center
Presidential Primary	Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 am – 7:00	Community Center
Website Committee	Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup>	5:00	Town Office
Fire Department	Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30	Fire House
Library OPEN	Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9 am-12	Library
Writers' Group	Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	1:30	Library
Daylight Savings Begins	Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour!!	
Planning Commission*	Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Town Office
Music in Our Schools	Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 & 12:30	Mill River Union High School
Select Board*	Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Town Office
Contra Dance		Cancelled		
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Friday	20 <sup>th</sup>		Don't Miss It!
Book Discussion	None in March, see you in April.			
Energy Committee	Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Town Office
Pie and Poetry Night	Monday	30 <sup>th</sup>	6-7:30	Community Center

### April 2020 Calendar of Events



Dog Licenses Due	Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	1-5	Town Office
Solid Waste & Recycling	Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	5:30	Town Office
Fire Department	Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6:30	Fire House
Library OPEN	Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9-12	Library
THGS Program	Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	2:00	Old Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Town Office
Easter Service	Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 AM	Church
Planning Commission	Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Town Office
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Monday	20 <sup>th</sup>	Don't Miss It!	
Conservation Commission	Monday	20 <sup>th</sup>	7:30	Town Office

Please mark your calendars for May ~ Green-Up is Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Plant Sale is Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

\* The Select Board and the Planning Commission switched meeting nights for March.  
PC is meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the SB is meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday Church Service 9:00 AM ~ All are welcome!

Transfer Station hours are Wednesday 4:00 - 7:00 pm & Saturday 8:00 am - noon.

Library Hours ~ Monday 10:00-noon & 1-5 and Thursday 10:00-noon & 1-5

Fun "non-competitive" Volleyball on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Knit, Craft or Chat ~ Mondays 3:00 – 5:00 pm ~ Library

Bone Builders ~ Tuesday 10:00-11:00 am & Friday 9:00 – 10:00 am Library

Pickle Ball ~ Wednesday and Thursday 6:00 and Some Saturday Mornings ~ Community Center

#### ~ Homestead Declaration ~

This a reminder that you need to file an **annual** Homestead Declaration with the Vermont Department of Taxes, form HS-122. You must file this to qualify for the homestead education tax rate and to request a property tax adjustment if you are eligible. You must also file form HI-144 (household income), **due April 15<sup>th</sup>**. This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes.

Never say a thing is so,  
Unless you absolutely know.  
Just remember every day,  
To be quite sure of what you say.  
~ Happy Jack Squirrel



~ **Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department News** ~

**A message from your local Fire Fighters - In the event of an emergency situation.**

Firefighters NEED to be dispatched by 911! You are not “inconveniencing” anyone by going directly to 911. The dispatcher will assure proper backup for the firefighter and the local fire department.

So, Please do not call your neighborhood firefighter directly!

Here is the proper method should you have to report a fire:

1. Call 911.
2. If you get NO response, (which would mean statewide 911 dispatching is down) then call the Fire Station at 446-2460.
3. If statewide 911 should be down, and you cannot reach the Fire Station by phone, drive to the Fire Station, or get a neighbor to help get word there.

Remember our Fire Fighters are volunteers, and the Fire Station is not normally staffed.

**Please call 911 if any of these situations should occur:**

If your smoke alarm or CO2 alarm goes off, **call 911**. They will dispatch the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department to your house to check the problem out. The fire department has equipment to check CO2 levels in your house.

If you suspect a chimney fire, call 911 right away! Do not wait! Chimney fires can quickly become house fires. The TVFD has the equipment and experience to determine when the chimney fire is actually out.

To prevent chimney fires, you should clean your chimney in the Fall and also at least mid-winter. As we get to warmer Spring-like weather, stoves tend to build up more creosote, as the fire is not needed to burn as hot as in cold weather. This can lead to a higher chance of a chimney fire.



The Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department is run by a dedicated group of Volunteers. Anyone interested in joining the department is welcomed!

Tinmouth has had a reputation for having an amazing group of Junior Firefighters. If any young residents are interested, please show up to our monthly meeting, 6:30 pm the first Thursday of the month. Or talk to one of the current Firefighters. We ask that Junior volunteers be at least 13 years old. Their roles are helping to support the Firefighters while not being in harm’s way.

If you are interested, and can get your parents’ permission, you can join. For more information, call Capt. Kevin Eaton at 855-7885 or email him at [vtautosalon@yahoo.com](mailto:vtautosalon@yahoo.com).



~ **Library News** ~  
*By Ruth Drachman*

There are **THEME BAGS** for children in the library! These are bags of books on a particular topic suitable for children ages 3 through 8 with about 6 or 8 books in a bag. Pick up a bag all about animals, water, family, or transportation. We have a number of great bags of books!

The **Writing group (Motleys)** will meet on the second Sunday (March 8, 2020) at 1:30 at the Library.

The **Book Discussion Group** will **not** meet in **March**. We will meet in April.

**New Books for Adults:**

**The Case of the Missing Servant** by Tarquin Hall, a humorous mystery set in modern India.

**The Pioneers** by David McCullough, the pulitzer prize winning historian; it is “the heroic story of the Settlers who brought the American Ideal West.”

**How Quickly She Disappears** by Raymond Fleischmann, a book of literary suspense.

**American Dirt** by Jeanine Cummins, an **Oprah's** book club pick and a current New York Times Best Seller, it has been called extraordinary!

**As Winter keeps on coming**, remember that the library has **Snow Shoes** which can be borrowed just like a book. We have several pair of adult size , and several pair of children's size snow shoes. They can be borrowed for one week!

**Knit and Chat** is held in the library on Mondays from 3 until 5 PM. Come and do whatever handcrafts you prefer, and be prepared to chat as well.

The library is **open** on Monday and Thursday, from 10:00 A. M. until Noon, and from 1:00 P. M. until 5:00 P. M., as well as the morning of the first Saturday of the month, Saturday, March 7th from 9 until Noon.

**Rep. Robin Chesnut-Tangerman will be there from 10:30 until 11:30 on March 7<sup>th</sup> to answer questions about the legislature.**

~ **Vacancies and Annual Appointments**~

The Select Board will be making annual appointments at their March meeting. Please see the town report for openings/positions. The **Energy Committee** and the **Website Committee** are looking for volunteers.

If you are interested in any of these, please contact the town office at 446-2498 by March 19<sup>th</sup>.



To the Tinmouth Community,

The final week of our Winter Sports Program is March 13<sup>th</sup> provided there is enough snow. Through this program, students acquired and honed their snow boarding, skiing, or skating skills while developing coordination and balance. We are grateful to our volunteers who made this possible Every student was successful and everyone had fun!

The students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade have been writing poetry this month. Poems are displayed on our "Poet-tree" located in the classroom hallway. Stop by and see the world through the work of our wordsmiths.

This is the year that fifth and sixth graders will be going on a spring trip. *Where*, is still being decided, but our *Pie and Poetry Night* will provide the additional funds needed for this outing (the Bill Jenkin's School Field Trip Fund is our primary benefactor). On **March 30<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 7:30**, pie will be raffled off in the Community Center. At each display, participants can purchase a chance to win a pie. Students at each table will entertain the crowds with poetry. There will be fruit pies, cream pies, pizza pies and even chicken pot-pie. Please join the festivities on **Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**.

Please join us for *Music in our Schools*, which is held at Mill River High School on **Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**. Performances are at **10:30 AM** and again at **12:30PM**. Tinmouth students in grades 4, 5, and 6, will be performing with students from across the district. The performance is open to parents, friends, and relatives of students.

**Thank you** to our fifth and sixth grade parents for donating baked goods and food for the Tinmouth Town Meeting on Saturday and for Tuesday voting day!

Be sure to check out our **Picture Book Review** and **Acrostic Poems** in this issue of the Tinmouth Tales!

*Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker*  
Principal  
Tinmouth Mountain School



~ Picture Book Review ~

**Click, Clack, Moo, Cows that Type**  
By Doreen Cronin

In the book, *Click, Clack, Moo, Cows that Type*, cows typed a letter to the farmer. They wanted electric blankets and the farmer yelled, "No!". The cows refused to give their milk until they got blankets. The chickens got on board and will not give their eggs until they got blankets as well. Eventually, the animals traded the typewriter for the blankets.

The farmer learned that if he takes care of his animals then they will take care of him.

I recommend this book for grades 3-5 because it is funny and it teaches a good lesson.

**Isaac Smith**  
4th Grade

Tinmouth Mountain School

~ Acrostic Poems ~  
**Grades 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>**

(2nd) Aliza: Love is....  
Laughter  
Other people caring  
Very caring  
Exciting

(1st) Owen: Love is...  
Lots of happiness  
Open  
Very fun  
Excellent

(1st) Ben: Love is...  
Lots of laughter  
Open  
Valentine's Day  
Exciting

(1st) Sawyer: Love is...  
Laughter  
Others first  
Very kind  
Each other

**The flu has arrived - keep washing your hands!!  
And please stay home if you are ill.  
Everyone thanks you for that!!**

~ Mill River Unified Union School District News ~

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On behalf of the MRUUSD School Board, the Community Engagement Committee is happy to share the first of our monthly updates that will be provided to the community going forward. Please look for this communication in your town and school newsletter as well as on Front Porch Forum.

- This month we received our annual presentation on the communication plans for district updates and news. It was identified that Facebook is the most utilized media, so consider following MRUUSD if you don't already.
- The principals reported that the winter sports programs are going well and that they have enjoyed watching students build skills and gain confidence throughout the season.
- Thank you to all the staff, parents, and volunteers that make the winter sports program a success!
- The calendar for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year will be released this month.
- Congratulations to Shrewsbury Mountain School on receiving the 2020 Farm to School Grant and to Kristin Cimonetti for the prestigious honor of being named a 2020 Rowland Fellow!
- The budget for the 2020-2021 was approved by the full board and we welcome community members to join us at the Annual Meeting on February 27, 2020 at 7pm in the MRUHS Library for any discussion.
- The district is exploring the option of a summer daycare for the pre-K kids that are now enrolled in our elementary schools. We are welcoming public comment at the meeting on March 4, 2020 at 7pm at the MRUHS Library from community members interested in participating in the conversation.
- Stay warm out there!



TINMOUTH CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

"The luck of the Irish." St. Patrick's Day may be more associated with luck (or green beer), then with the actual faith of the saint.

Lots of people seem to believe in luck. We hear people say, "That was lucky." We may say, "Wish me luck!" Is life the playground of random events, sometimes lucky and sometimes not? We may hope for "good luck" if we are purchasing lottery tickets or pushing buttons at the casino. But most of us are trying to steer life to our benefit and know that if we do not do x, y and z, we are not likely to get what we want.

And what about "bad luck?" Before he became a saint, Patrick was a slave, having been kidnapped by Irish raiders when he was 16, and sold to a local Irish king. As a slave, his life was no more valued than the beasts' he tended. It would take more than luck if he was ever to see his family again.

Something sustained him during those years. Whereas previously he had been relatively indifferent in his Christian faith, now he liked to spend his long days reciting the prayers impressed in his memory since childhood (Thank you, mom and dad), along with his prayers for returning home (very unlikely). Six years into his captivity, the opportunity to escape presented itself (Luck? Divine assistance?). After a risky and arduous journey, Patrick made it back to Britain and to his home village. Though bearing the scars of his ordeal, Patrick now had a zeal for God, convinced that both his sufferings and his deliverance had been ordained for some divine purpose.

That purpose was revealed to him in a series of dreams in which he heard Irish voices beseeching him to come back to them. So he returned to Ireland, dangerous as it was for him to do so. For the next thirty years he traversed the Isle, giving birth to the church in Ireland, personally baptizing tens of thousands of people and ordaining hundreds of native clergy. Having been the victim of Irish oppression, Saint Patrick returned to Ireland with malice toward none and the reconciling love of Christ to all, becoming in the process, their patron Saint. Just good ol' Irish luck?

*Blessings,  
Pastor John*

Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman  
(802) 282-7532 (cell, preferred)  
(802) 884-8249 (parsonage)

[hzfam@hotmail.com](mailto:hzfam@hotmail.com)

Office Hours: Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.  
(Tinmouth Community Church)

~ Last Call ~

**New Telephone and Business  
Directory Update**



Please notify us at  
[tinmouthtales@gmail.com](mailto:tinmouthtales@gmail.com) by

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** with corrections/additions/deletions  
to the local telephone directory.

An update will be included in the April *Tales*.  
Thank you for your assistance!

## March Contra Dance is Cancelled

*Mark your calendars and cross your (clean)  
fingers for the April 17 dance  
with Syrup Country and Luke Danforth*

Calling from 8 pm – 11 pm at the Tinmouth Community Center. All dances are taught, and you do not need a partner if you are willing to ask someone to dance. If you are a beginner, come right at 8:00 for a beginner's lesson. There will be live music, enthusiastic swinging and dancing, refreshments and a fun night for all. Bring your friends and family.

The dance takes place in the Tinmouth Community Center on the third Friday of the month at the Community Center is on Rte. 140 in the center of Tinmouth, Vermont 5 miles west of Wallingford. Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission is \$10-\$12, \$8 for teens and free for children 12 and under. More info at [tinmouthcontradance.org](http://tinmouthcontradance.org). Like us on Facebook at Tinmouth Contra Dance.

Shine up those dancing shoes and bring a couple of friends to dance with! Our email is [tinmouthdance@gmail.org](mailto:tinmouthdance@gmail.org). Phone 802-881-6775. Find us on Facebook at Tinmouth Contra Dance.

See you in Tinmouth!

### ~ Recipe Corner ~

#### Maple Walnut Muffins

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
½ teaspoon baking soda  
½ teaspoon salt  
1 cup chopped walnuts  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
½ cup pure maple syrup  
½ cup milk  
4 tablespoons lightly salted butter, melted

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Lightly oil a 12-cup muffin tin.

Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt into a large bowl. Stir in walnuts. In another bowl, beat eggs, maple syrup and milk until well combined. Make a well in the flour mixture. Add the maple syrup mixture and melted butter. Stir until just combined (the batter will be lumpy).

Divide the batter evenly among the prepared muffin cups. Bake the muffins until golden brown and a tester comes out clean, about 20 minutes.

*Thank you to Shirley Bucceri for providing so many great recipes!! She hopes you have enjoyed trying them.*

### 32nd Annual Maple Festival of the Middletown Springs Historical Society Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Middletown Springs Maple Festival Offers Sweet Fun

Middletown Springs ~ Maple lore & demonstrations, sweet treats from local kitchens, a raffle and a silent auction featuring local artists and craftspersons, merchants and professionals highlight the 32nd Annual Maple Festival of the Middletown Springs Historical Society on **Sunday, March 15 from 1-4 pm**.

The event will feature a demonstration of early maple sugar making in a cast iron kettle over an open fire by Phillip Mahar. Local sugarmaker Ryan Mahar and historians David Wright and Jon Mathewson will give a presentation on maple sugaring history and current practice using examples from the Historical Society collection.

Homemade soup and chili from Sissy's Kitchen, and delicious maple desserts created by Historical Society members, as well as Vermont maple products and new 2020 syrup will be available for sale. Old-fashioned sugar on snow, pancakes & syrup, and maple cotton candy are always favorites.

Acoustic music by Paul Morgan & Friends and kids' activities enliven the free afternoon event. Videos about Vermont maple sugaring will be shown continuously.

Silent auction offers include golf passes; 100 gallons of heating oil; genealogical research; a wine and cheese basket; A Vt. Country Store gift basket; craft items, lessons and services by local professionals; homemade pies; maple syrup; dining gift certificates and other donations from area businesses.

A raffle drawing with many prizes including \$100.00 and \$50.00 in cash, maple syrup and maple products, craft items, and gift certificates from local businesses will go on during the festival.

Museum exhibits on Middletown Springs history are on view during the festival. Admission is free and the building is handicap accessible.

For more information about the Maple Festival call David Wright at 235-2376 or Pat Hemenway at 235-2421.

### ~ Non-Traditional Scholarships ~

**Bob Emerick** would like to remind seniors at Mill River Union High School, that he and his brother Jack, are sponsors for non-traditional scholarships. If you are planning on taking a gap year or attending a trade school, please see the Mill River UHS guidance counselor for details and an application.



**~ Meeting Highlights~**

*(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)*

**Select Board ~ 2/13/20**

Present were members Michael Fallar, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Michael Fannin-Emergency Management Director, Eric Buffum – Road Comm., Kim Harbaugh, and Gail Fallar, SB Asst.

**RRPC Mutual Aid Agreement** ~ Michael Fannin, Emergency Management Director (EMD), reviewed final draft of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission's proposed Municipal Mutual Aid Agreement, noting it was voluntary and discretionary to assist another town if requested. Board voted to adopt as presented and authorized Cathy to sign on behalf of the town. Board then appointed the EMD and the Road Commissioner as Designated Officers and the Select Board as Alternate, positions, not particular people.

**Financial Reports** ~ Board reviewed monthly report, treasurer answered questions from members. Michael questioned usage of overtime, in reviewing the time sheets for the last eight weeks he noted that Eric had 120 hours of OT and Ronnie had 60. Eric advised that's just how it works out.

**Highway ~**

Eric advised that a property owner on North East Road is leaving lots of snow in the road as he plows across it, and that it has been an on-going problem. Eric has not spoken with the individual, Board asked Eric to do that and report back.

Board discussed pre-treating paved roads with salt product, conflicting information arose. Eric advised that it helps release the snow so that it doesn't stick and plows off clean – that's his goal.

**Annual Highway Mileage** ~ Board signed certificate, no change in mileage from 2019.

**VTRANS Structures Grant** ~ Application deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>, Eric advised the culvert for Potters Brook on North End Road was in need of replacing and it would be a big project. Board agreed by consensus and asked Eric to work on estimates for the March Board meeting.

**Yoder/McGinley Driveway Permit** ~ Board reviewed and signed a Driveway Permit for Ramsey Yoder and Denise McGinley for 294 North End Road, to replace previously granted permit for farther north along the road. Eric advised no culvert is needed.

**Speed Limit on Route 140** ~ There was an inquiry regarding lowering the speed limit on Route 140 from the center going north. Frank volunteered to contact Lt. David Fox at the Rutland County Sheriff's Office to check on process. It is believed that a speed study would be needed.

**Others** ~ Kim expressed concern with the removal of the school slide, wondered if it could be brought into compliance.

**Tinmouth Community Center Board** ~ Cathy reported (as the Select Board representative to the TCC Board) that the TCC Board had recently met to discuss which Board had authority over what. She noted that it was agreed that school issues should go to the principal (Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker) and then MRUUSD Operations Director (Gary Marcy) and issues with the Community Center should be directed to Rainbow Squier (TCC Building Coordinator) who would then contact Gary Marcy to work on a resolution. Everyone is to be cc'd on any communication – the TCC Board, Amy Martone-School Board Member, Rainbow Squier and Gail Fallar. Issues with the school building or grounds would need to go to the Select Board.

According to the Agreement signed by the Select Board and Tinmouth School Board, the TCC Board oversees the community center and the Select Board oversees the town green/grounds and the school building (also owned by the town). Cathy wondered if the TCC Board should have control of it all. After brief discussion, Board voted to have communications from MRUUSD regarding the school or grounds process to include the Select Board, the School Board member (currently Amy), the Principal and the Operations Director.

**Old Business ~**

*East Road Right of Way* – no progress.

*Trash on Mountain View* – Newly adopted Ordinance goes into effect on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Frank advised he will be taking further action. Town has received on-going complaints. He also noted he had been contacted regarding trash accumulating on Ezra Stone Road, but believes that situation is being cleaned up.

*DEC Notice of Violation re: Transfer Station*~ Gail advised that the tires have been removed; the Closure Plan updated and submitted; and the transfer station and road crew advised that they need to keep the tarp on the dumpster whenever the transfer station is not open. DEC personnel was satisfied with photos of action taken.

**New Business ~**

**Town Meeting Prep** ~ Board agreed to post copies of the Select Board Annual report (found in the town report) to Front Porch Forum.

**Personnel Review**~ Board discussed upcoming personnel review with Eric, Ronnie and Gail, would like to keep it simple – developed four questions to ask, will look for feedback from employees, what are the expectations, review Personnel Policy, can the SB help in any way. Meeting set for the 18<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting.

**Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project** ~ Gail, as TPMP President, asked for Board approval for TPMP to apply for an aquatic nuisance grant from DEC. Board granted.

**Hazard Mitigation RFP** ~ Board tabled until meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

*(Select Board Highlights continued on next page.)*

### **Executive Session ~**

At 9:10, the Board, based on advice of counsel, moved that the Select Board enter executive session, as premature disclosure regarding possible civil litigation with the Town of Wallingford would be detrimental to the interests of the town.

At 9:25 Board exited executive session. Board voted to advise Jim Carroll Esq., town counsel, to proceed with negotiations per his recommendations regarding the dispute of the town line with Wallingford.

*(Editor's Note ~ The Select Board Meeting scheduled for 2/18/20 was cancelled due to weather conditions.)*

### **Planning Commission ~ 2/20/20**

Present were members Bob Lloyd, Kim Harbaugh, Vito Macaluso, Larry Carabeau, Grant Reynolds, Pat Psholka, and Michael Fallar, as well as Gail Fallar, Sec.

Members discussed proceeding with seeking Village Center Designation – Gail advised she had dropped the ball and needed someone else to work on it. Grant and Pat volunteered to bring back a report next month. Brief discussion about the process, RRPC (Rutland Regional Planning Commission) is willing to help, and there is a draft map in the current town plan.

Gail reported that Doug Inkley, representing Tinmouth Properties, had inquired about the process to change the other affordable housing lot in the October Hill project to simply a lot that would be re-absorbed back into Tinmouth Properties (they had donated 10 acres for the project many years ago), the lot lines approved by the PC to create just two five acre parcels would need to be adjusted so that there was a north lot (with the house) and a south lot, each with five acres. NeighborWorks is seeking to abandon the affordable housing aspect as the project fizzled due in large part to the economy at the time it was created. After brief discussion, members decided that it could be done with a boundary adjustment application approved by the zoning administrator – no need for a new application to the PC.

Bob reported the RRPC's meeting concerning review of Tinmouth's Enhanced Energy Plan amendment to the Town Plan had been postponed due to weather conditions.

Members discussed issues to pursue in 2020 besides the Village Center Designation – possible community energy project?

Members also discussed the situation with VTel's fiber optic back-up batteries that will soon need to be replaced as their life span comes to an end. If there is an electrical power outage, the batteries are supposed to provide juice so that the telephones will work – for a few hours at least. When the batteries are done, they have to be replaced by the home owner, not complicated, but not simple either. There was a reminder that if you have a generator for power outages, you need to make sure the telephone is on the generator's circuit so it will work.

Michael reminded everyone the March meeting will be time to re-organize and elect a chair and vice chair, was anyone interested?

### **Conservation Commission ~ 2/17/20**

*With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Secretary*

Present were members Doug Fontein, Jeff Ams, Robbie Leeds, Rainbow Squier, and Chuck Bronk, as well as Gail Fallar.

#### ***New Business:***

Doug Fontein reported that the Select Board agreed that proposed articles to create and fund an ongoing Tinmouth Conservation Fund be included in the Warning for Town Meeting on February 29, 2020. The commission reviewed the wording of Articles numbered 4 & 5 in the Annual Report. Doug agreed to present the Articles at Town Meeting but asked the Commission to help him provide talking points for his presentation. The following were suggested:

Things the CC has done/past accomplishments:

- Saved amphibians and reptiles on Town roads at migration times.
- Provided funds for Trout in the Schools program.
- Made improvements to the Tinmouth Mountain Cabin.
- Improved the Ridge Trail by providing bog bridges, clearing blow downs and providing maps at the Kiosk.
- Improved the turn out for Green Up Day.
- Sponsored Alan Betts talk on Climate Change in association with the Wallingford Conservation Commission.
- Freed "Frog Rock" in 2012. *(Located on the top of Cobb Hill, near the Giant Table Rock.)*

New Projects:

- Clearing and blazing the Drachman trail
- Additional Tinmouth Mountain Cabin work
- Extending the Ridge Trail North
- Hunter safety training
- Web site inclusion of the Ridge Trail
- Future talks and presentations
- Recreation plans for the Town lot behind the Transfer Station

Rainbow Squier reported on a conversation that she had with Cathy Reynolds, Chair of the Select Board, regarding the Commission's plans for the recreation uses of the Town lot behind the Transfer Station. Cathy cautioned that plantings such as fruit trees would require on-going maintenance, perhaps for a number of years.

*(Conservation Commission Highlights continued.)*

Cathy also suggested that the Commission visit the site and after formulating plans for the site, invite Town members to the site to review the plans. The Commission reviewed access to the site, which portions of the site would be required for the proposed Salt Storage Building, and possible parking locations. A site visit was set for May 10, 2020 at 9:00AM.

**Old Business:**

Robbie Leeds reported that the new Amphibian Crossing signs are completed and just need to be picked up from Green Screen Design. Doug agreed to purchase posts for the new signs, and asked that Jeff Ams, Nelson Jaquay, and Chuck Bronk be ready to place signs when a warm, greater than 50 degrees Fahrenheit, rainy night is forecast this Spring.

Doug reiterated that Adam Guettel is receptive to the idea of switchbacks in the steep sections of the Ridge trail but not receptive to additional trails through his property to create a bypass.

On the Drachman Trail brush hogging, Doug cautioned after skiing the trail, that the work would have to be carefully timed after the clearing of snow from the trails but before the complete thawing of “mud season”. Regarding the Tinmouth Purchase Loop and Tinmouth Mountain Cabin, Doug reported that there has been an uptick in reservations for cabin use, largely due to a group of UVM students. A discussion of firewood usage and management followed, and the group agreed that current stores should be adequate for the current usage level.

Next meeting set for April 20, 2020 at 7:30 PM

**Community Fund Annual Meeting ~ 2/29/20**

*With thanks to Helen Mango, Secretary*

Board members present - Jan Krantz (Chair), Ray Pratt (Vice Chair), Cathy Reynolds (Treasurer), Nikki Pfeiffer, Melody Squier, Rainbow Squier, Patti Macaluso, and Helen Mango (Secretary). A couple dozen interested citizens of the Town of Tinmouth attended as well.

Jan gave a brief background to the Tinmouth Community Fund, beginning with the building of the Community Center and the use of leftover donated funds to begin the TCF. A fund was created with the Vermont Community Fund, which is split between an endowed fund (5% of this is drawn down each year) and a reserve fund (a smaller amount set aside for projects that require greater one-time funding; e.g. ceiling tiles for the Community Center). There are three programs: Community grants, K-12 camp scholarships, and continuing education scholarships.

Jan briefly discussed this year’s proposals for community grants – there were many applicants, and the board had to look hard at the proposals to keep within use of 5% of the endowed fund. This year there is one small-

business start-up grant begun as a pilot program. She thanked all donors to the fund.

Cathy gave a report on the fund’s finances: 2019 was a great year for the stock market. (2020 has not started so well.) The endowed fund gained \$72,000. The TCF has \$133,691 (endowed fund) + \$53,540 (reserve fund). The scholarship fund contains \$210,631; donations totaled \$52,297. Total of all funds: \$405,067. Total grants: \$18,406.

Ray gave a summary of the 2019 awards (16 awarded): \$5276 was awarded, and \$4962 was disbursed.

Jan announced the deadlines for submissions of grants: January 31 for community grants, April 15 for camp scholarships, and May 1 for continuing education.

Helen handed out the awards for 2020 (\$500 each unless otherwise noted):

- Tinmouth Contra Dance
- Ping Pong at the Community Center (\$150)
- Tinmouth Pickleball League (\$150)
- Tinmouth Mountain School – Butterfly garden
- Tinmouth Mountain School – Climbing wall
- Old Firehouse Concert Committee
- Tinmouth Green-Up Day (\$340)
- Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department (Community Center supplies) (\$450)
- Tinmouth Library
- Aeos Equus
- Advertising (signboard/sandbags) (\$280)
- Advertising (signs, announcements) (\$380)
- Stop the Bleed
- Tinmouth Blooms 1 (\$400)
- Tinmouth Blooms 2 (\$400)
- Tinmouth Milfoil Project
- Tinmouth Elves
- Tinmouth Pond Milfoil
- Tales of Tinmouth

Alan Held gave a brief overview of the newly-named Green Mountain Pickleball League. He thanked Cathy for putting down the permanent lines on the floor. The league was continued when Alan was ill, and he appreciates those who kept the league going in his absence. He thanked the TCF for the grant. (Cathy noted that the Community Center Board took care of putting down the lines.) *(Several pickle ball players made donations).*

Cathy asked for volunteers to serve on the Continuing Education scholarship committee to read and decide on applications to the fund. There is now a rubric for scoring the applications. She clarified that the scholarships are not just for college; any form of continuing education, and part-time education, qualifies. The committee will meet in May. Cathy requested volunteers; Jan, Ruth Drachman, Nelson Jaquay, Bob Lloyd and Doug Fontein all agreed to continue. Other volunteers can contact Cathy by email.

*(TCF Annual Meeting Highlights continued.)*

Melody reported from the K-12 camp scholarship committee: There were nine scholarships given out to four families. These scholarships cover all sorts of summer camps (e.g. conservation, writing, theater, soccer, music). \$1780 was awarded in 2019. The amount available is being increased to accommodate the increasing number of applications.

The terms of Board members Asha Carroll-McCullough, Ray and Patti are all expiring. Ray and Patti are both stepping down; Jan thanked them for their years of service. Rainbow advised she is stepping down from the TCF Board. Todd Dennis, Casey Voigtlaender, Lisa Patry, and Asha Carroll-McCullough were elected by voice vote.

Cathy discussed the Scholarship Fund capital campaign. The fund currently contains \$210,000. This generates about \$10,000 each year; the TCF has been awarding \$11,000-12,000 per year. A capital campaign to raise \$100,000 has begun, at first as a "silent" campaign (with individual potential donors approached by TCF members). There have been a number of donations to the campaign, including several large ones, bringing donations to date to \$69,000. The Plant Sale brings in about \$4500 each year, but the Plant Sale people are getting older and cannot promise the Plant Sale will continue forever.

Jan thanked Nikki for making the posters and handouts that illustrate the progress and successes of the continuing education scholarship program and recipients.

Amy Martone discussed the **Stop the Bleed** grant. She is a registered nurse. She described the Stop the Bleed kit that the grant will purchase for the Community Center. In May, Stop the Bleed training will be brought to the Community Center for anyone interested in learning how to use the kit.

Jan announced that the TCF board, including new board members will meet briefly. Action was the election of officers: Jan Krantz - board chair, Melody Squier- board vice-chair, Helen Mango – Secretary, and Cathy Reynolds- treasurer.

#### **~ Unclaimed Property at the Vermont State Treasurer's Office ~**

Just an annual reminder that a number of Tinmouth folks have unclaimed property being held at the State Treasurer's office. There is a process to get it back. Telephone, snail mail and Internet are ways to access and claim it. Visit [www.Vermont.gov](http://www.Vermont.gov) Treasurer's office for more information, or stop by the town office to find out if you are on the list and to pick up the forms.

Nearly 40 Tinmouth folks are named, some are now deceased, some have moved, but some are still here – values are less than \$10 to more than \$200. Could be a

forgotten bank account, uncashed check, security deposit refund, etc. These items have to be turned over to the state treasurer by banks, insurance companies, and others.

#### **Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

#### **Irish Band - EXTRA STOUT**



#### **🍀 JUST IN TIME FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY 🍀**

Extra Stout is the Green Mountains of Vermont's favorite traditional Irish band that has been playing together for upwards of twenty years. They bring all of the variety that Irish music has to offer from raucous drinking songs to ballads of home and county; from slow and haunting airs to rocking reels, jigs and polkas. Suggested donations of \$10 to \$15 per person at the door.

*For more information, call the Wallingford Town Administrator at (802)446-2872.*

#### **~ United States Census 2020 ~**

The decennial census is the most inclusive civic activity in our country, covering every person in every household. The U.S. Constitution requires an accurate count of the nation's population every ten years. Moreover, the census is integral to our democracy. The data collected affect our nation's ability to ensure equal representation and equal access to important governmental and private sector resources for all Americans, including across racial and ethnic lines.

Census results are used to allocate seats and draw district lines for the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislatures, and local boards; to target at least \$800 billion annually in federal assistance to states, localities, and families; and to guide community decision-making affecting schools, housing, health care services, business investment, and much more. These functions depend on a fair and accurate census.

The 2020 census is easy. The 6 questions are simple.

**During the 2020 census, the Census Bureau will never ask you for: your social security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party, your bank or credit card numbers.**



**The  
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Hen**

Farm Fresh Eggs For Sale  
send me an e-mail or give me a ring:  
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hikings@vermontel.net

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**Hunting and Fishing Licensees  
are available at the Town Office.  
The town receives \$1.50 for each  
license sold.**

**Licenses expired on December  
31st!!**

**Goat Milk Soap**

Handmade in Tinmouth \$4 for 2-3  
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Lavender Charcoal, Peppermint,  
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Made with organic olive, coconut  
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**Phil's Mill**  
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 Shed Packages  
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**(802) 325-3594**

**WORK WANTED:** Companion sitting, light house work, child care, dog walking, feeding animals, running errands, taking you to a medical appointment.  
**Carol Bohlin, 446-2119**

**~ Helpful Items for Loan ~**

Someone getting a new hip or knee? Or just needs some help getting around? The Town Office has walkers, crutches, a potty seat, a potty chair (commode), and a wheel chair to loan. And now we have a high chair.  
 Please call 446-2498 to make arrangements.

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**Pure Maple Products**  
 158 North East Road, Tinmouth, VT  
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Stop by our self-serve stand for any of your maple needs. We have Maple syrup sizes range from 100ml to one gallon with prices ranging from \$3 to \$40.

We also have Maple Cream and Maple Sugar in limited supply. Please contact us with any special orders, we can also accommodate your party/weddings with maple favors!

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[uthrive@vermontel.net](mailto:uthrive@vermontel.net) • [thriveinvermont.com](http://thriveinvermont.com)

**For Sale:** Small camping lot on Tinmouth Pond Road, 100' x 50' near scenic Tinmouth Pond. Majestic mountain views, motivated seller.  
**Contact Terry McGann at 802-775-5483**

*Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!*



**Need help finding help?**

Reaching out to Vermont 2-1-1 is your first step.

*Are you facing difficult times and don't know where to turn?*  
 Vermont 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember three-digit phone number that connects you with the services that can help.

*Looking for help with everyday needs?*  
 At 2-1-1, you will speak to someone who will provide the human touch, help to problem solve, and link callers throughout Vermont with government programs, community-based organizations, support groups, and other local resources.

**WHEN should you contact 2-1-1?**

Call 2-1-1: 24 hours/7 days

(Or 1-866-632-4636 toll-free in Vermont, or 1-802-632-4636 from outside Vermont)

OR

Text your zip code to 898211: Monday-Friday: 8am-8pm

Standard message & data rates apply. Text STOP to opt-out. For end user privacy and terms and conditions of texting with 898211, go to: <http://www.vermont211.org/text>

Also visit: [www.vermont211.org](http://www.vermont211.org)

In Vermont, call 9-1-1 to save a life, stop a crime or report a fire;

Contact 2-1-1 for community information and referral.



**March came in like a lamb, will it go out like a lion?**  
*(As the old timers used to say!!)*

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## Testing Drinking Water from Your Private Well



**If you own a home with a private well** The Health Department recommends the following testing schedule to make sure your drinking water is safe:

- Total coliform bacterial test **every year**
- Inorganic chemical test **every five years**
- Gross alpha radiation screen **every five years**

### Total Coliform Bacterial Test

A total coliform bacterial test is recommended for homeowners with private wells every year. Coliform bacteria are a large group of soil and intestinal bacteria that show possible well contamination and may cause health problems. However, coliform bacteria do not necessarily make you sick. If total coliform bacteria are found, the water is then checked for *E. coli* bacteria. Test results show an absence or presence of bacteria.

Do not drink water that has tested positive for bacterial contamination. Boiling water for one minute will kill bacteria so it can be used for drinking.

### Inorganic Chemical Test

Testing for inorganic chemicals is recommended for homeowners with private wells every five years. Test for these chemicals: arsenic, chloride, copper, fluoride, hardness, iron, lead, manganese, nitrate, nitrite, sodium and uranium. These chemicals can create nuisance problems, or in some cases, health symptoms or concerns. When you receive test results, they will be compared with maximum levels.

### Gross Alpha Screen

A screen for alpha radiation is recommended for homeowners with private wells every five years. This is a screening test for naturally occurring mineral radioactivity in water such as uranium and radium. This radioactivity is measured and reported in picocuries per liter (pCi/L). You can use your gross alpha result and uranium result to determine if additional testing or treatment is needed. For more information visit: [healthvermont.gov/water/radioactive-elements](http://healthvermont.gov/water/radioactive-elements).

### Certified Laboratories

You can order test kits from the Health Department Laboratory at 800-660-9997 or 802- 338-4736 – or use another certified drinking water lab. For a list of certified labs, visit: [healthvermont.gov/drinkingwaterlab](http://healthvermont.gov/drinkingwaterlab).

### Other Water Problems

If your water has an unusual smell, taste, color or sheen, switch to another safe water source until test results are known. For more info visit [healthvermont.gov/water](http://healthvermont.gov/water) or call the Private Drinking Water Program at 800-439-8550 or 802- 863-7220 for guidance.

## The Old Firehouse Concert Series Continues!



Old Firehouse Concerts Spring Series 2020 - Save the Dates  
Our lineup for this spring is full of old favorites!

### April 3 ~ Gypsy Reel



**Gypsy Reel**, a perennial favorite, opens the Spring Series at the Old Firehouse in Tinmouth on **Friday April 3rd at 7:30pm**. Featuring the same lineup as at last year's packed house, they will be taking advantage of the intimate space for a rare acoustic concert. Featuring Graham Parker on fiddle, Claudine Langille on banjo, octave mandolin, guitar and vocals, Camille Parker on mandolin and vocals, Jon Clinch on guitar and vocals, and Reagh Greenleaf on percussion and vocals, Gypsy Reel's original tradition music, while Celtic based, is infused with rhythms from all over the world. Concert is one week early due to Good Friday.

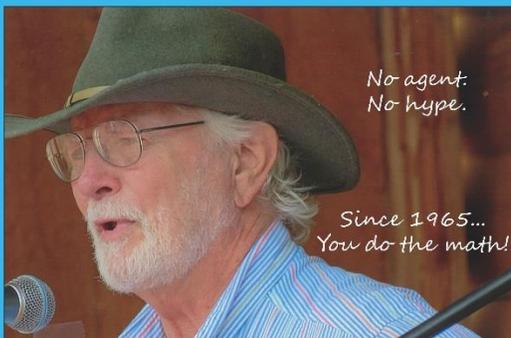
### April 24 ~ Shady Rill - Patti Casey and Tom Mackenzie

Patti is an award winning songwriter and her voice will melt your heart, as it has many times at the Firehouse. Tom's Banjo and voice are a perfect compliment, as the two of them weave their way through the many styles of traditional based songs and tunes. *Everything from French Canadian dance tunes, to Tin Pan Alley, to Old Time Country, to their own impressive originals is likely to be on the musical menu. Great harmonies and wonderful instrumentation are the hallmark of these two much-traveled musicians.* Their instruments include Banjo, Guitar, Hammered Dulcimer, Flute, Keyboard, Ukulele, seated clogging, and fine humor.





## Bill Staines



### May 8 ~ Bill Staines

Bill Staines has been playing and singing folk music for 40 years. Most of the songs are his own, but many have passed into music history without his name on the – you just think of them as American folk songs. And a lifetime of touring the country have given him a treasury of stories you just have to hear. Bill's music is a slice of Americana, reflecting with the same ease his feelings about the prairie people of the Midwest or the adventurers of the Yukon, the on-the-road truckers, or the everyday workers that make up this land. We feel very blessed to have Bill play in our building!

### May 22 ~ Jenni Johnson

Jenni has sung at the Firehouse many times, and she always delights a full house. Her full, smooth voice offers an ideal format for her collection of American jazz classics, as well as, blues, swing and funk music. You will be mesmerized by her unique style and versatile renditions. She'll have you smiling from your souls, while your feet dance happily to the beat. Johnson says she's still learning how to use her instrument, the vocal chords, with each performance. In addition, she has sharpened her musical skills with opportunities working with national jazz/blues musicians from New Orleans.

### June 12 ~ House Blend

House Blend is a delightful group of musicians who get together to sing for the fun of it. Larger than most of our performing groups, they somehow fit our small house perfectly. Many are music teachers or professional performers; all have well trained voices. Their repertoire is as wide as the membership – instead of one director, they take turns leading songs they have chosen. They perform songs from all over, and from many periods. “A capella singing group” (Singing without instrumental accompaniment) is their only musical classification, for the musical genre varies from one song to the next.



All concerts are at 7:30 on a Friday night; doors open at 7:00. Coffee and tea will be hot soon after the doors open; refreshments available as well. Donation for the concert is \$10-15. 90% goes to the musicians; 10% to the town for maintenance of the Old Firehouse. Donations for the refreshments go to support local projects. The Old Firehouse is at 9 Mountain View Road, just south of the intersection of Vermont Route 140 and Mountain View Road, in the heart of downtown Tinmouth.

# FREE TAX HELP FOR VERMONTERS

**NOTE:** To participate, you must meet each program's eligibility requirements.

## Free E-filing with Free File or MyFreeTaxes Partnership

In 2019, about 65% of Vermont taxpayers qualified to e-file their federal and state income taxes through Free File, but only about 5% of those eligible actually used Free File. Are you eligible? Find out at [tax.vermont.gov/free-file](http://tax.vermont.gov/free-file).



The MyFreeTaxes Partnership provides free federal and Vermont e-filing for qualified individuals. Are you eligible? Find out at [myfreetaxes.com](http://myfreetaxes.com).



## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) & Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs

Free tax help for those who qualify: 1) lower incomes, 2) disabilities, 3) the elderly, or 4) limited English. TCE focuses on those age 60 years and older. Learn more about VITA/TCE and find a location near you by searching "VITA" or "TCE" at [irs.gov](http://irs.gov).

## AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program

Provides tax assistance sites to taxpayers who qualify, such as those with low and moderate incomes, giving special attention to those age 50 years and older. Learn more about the Tax-Aide Program and find a location near you by searching "tax aide" at [aarp.org](http://aarp.org).

Download forms: [tax.vermont.gov/forms-and-publications](http://tax.vermont.gov/forms-and-publications)  
Order forms: [tax.vermont.gov/form-request](http://tax.vermont.gov/form-request)

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