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Summer Time!!

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plains

America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassion'd stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness

America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for heroes prov'd
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life.

America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness,
And ev'ry gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears.

America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.



A Word from the Town Clerk's Office

Hello everyone! Happy summer!

News:

We are anticipating that tax bills will go out sometime in mid-July again this year. As usual, we will have 30 days from that date to take advantage of the 4% discount. Please note that on Town Meeting Day the voters agreed to change the final tax due date from the usual November 25th (which will land on Thanksgiving Day this year) to the third Friday in November, which is the 19th. This should eliminate any confusion due to the Holiday.

The office hours on Wednesdays are now 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Fairfield Cemetery Association has scheduled two work sessions this summer. The first is on June 19th at the Egypt Cemetery on Egypt Road. The second is August 21st at the Leach Cemetery on Lapland Road. We can use all the help we can get so if you would like to take part just show up at 9:00 a.m. ready to pitch in!

Friends of Chester Arthur. Want to be involved with this? Contact Dick Howrigan at 827-6513 or call our office for details.

And some recent updates:

As a result of our grant writer and grant committee's efforts Fairfield Center and East Fairfield were both approved for Village Designation Status by the State. This designation was created by the legislature to recognize and encourage local efforts to revitalize Vermont's traditional centers. It will allow us the opportunity to find funding sources as well as give us a leg up on the competition when applying for those funds.

This summer we will be conducting our sidewalk feasibility study in both villages. We were awarded \$24,000 to look into the possibility of sidewalks and we are currently applying for a grant for actual construction.

Also this summer we will be installing a generator for the school. This was made possible by a \$28,300 grant from Vermont Emergency Management. The designation of the school gym as our town's official red cross shelter is underway.

Good things are happening all around our town! Have a wonderful summer!

Take care,
Amanda

..Trotter News

So long Mr. Therrien

News from the School Board:

This year we say goodbye to principal, Jason Therrien. He has accepted a position at the St. Albans town school. We thank him for his hard work on behalf of our school and students. Also, we welcome Jennifer Wood as our new principal. She comes to us after working in Milton and lives in nearby Fairfax. She was educated at Middlebury College and did her graduate work at Harvard. Jennifer is very excited to be a part of our school. We look forward to working with her in the challenging times ahead. Please call or email with any questions or concerns. Our contact information is on the school web site: www.ffcsvt.org. Or, simply call the school at 827-6639.

AND POOF.... WE HAVE A NEW PRINCIPAL

Fairfield Center School's Principal Search

In April I was asked to join the search committee for a new principal of Fairfield Center School. Though I had worked as a principal and have been an educator for over forty years, it was a special honor to be asked to participate in Fairfield, my adopted hometown. I am writing this to celebrate the commitment of the committee participants, the excellent quality of candidates, and the integrity of the process.

The committee was made up of four representatives from Fairfield Center School, (Administrative Assistant, teachers and paraprofessional), three parents and community members, two school board members, and two people from Central Office. Over the course of several meetings, we reviewed a series of application letters, interviewed candidates, and engaged in thoughtful conversations concerning what candidate would be best for FCC. I was particularly moved by the dedication and loyalty of the school representatives whose discerning observations and helpful suggestions were critical to our search for the "best match."

The candidates we considered were all well-qualified. Central Office was a great help in providing us with necessary documentation, ensuring that interviewing and hiring guidelines were honored, and facilitating the entire process. Superintendent Bob Rosane was particularly attentive to our deliberations; he asked helpful questions and made sure everyone was heard and a part of our final decision.

I have been on the other side of such professional interviews and can only sing the praises of all who were part of this process. I believe participants took their responsibility seriously and made their decisions for the good of the larger community. And now we have an excellent new principal, Jennifer Wood, to welcome to Fairfield Center School!

Laura Fulwiler, Community Member

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Community Librarian
Bent Northrop Memorial Library
57 Park Street
Fairfield, Vermont

A note from our
Select Board

Select Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday's of every month beginning at 7:30pm in the town office. Minutes are posted at the town office, in Menard's Market, Stone's Shell and on our town web page www.fairfieldvermont.us

Listers

We trust everyone is doing well and enjoying the warm weather. The listers have completed their inspections for the 2010 year which began April 1st. There has been a lot of new construction over the past year. We would like to remind everyone that Fairfield requires building permits for additions and new construction. Also, if a building has been destroyed or removed, it is your responsibility to let us know before April 1st of each year.

We plan on lodging the "abstract of individual lists" in mid to late June again this year. Property owners then have 14 days from that date to file a grievance should they desire to do so. After all grievances have been heard, we file the "Grand List" with the Town Clerk. At that point the Selectmen can use the Grand List and the approved town budget to set the tax rate for 2010 and the treasurer can prepare to mail out tax bills.

It is important to remember that the grievance and appeal process is about the market value of the property not the taxes on it. Issues relating to assessment should be discussed with the listers and with the BCA through an appeal if necessary. Issues about taxes should be addressed with the legislature, school board and select board as those are the entities that control spending and the tax rate.

As always please feel free to contact us with questions or concerns. We are here to serve and are happy to do so.

Fairfield's Garden of Verses

Garden Gate

WHEN: Saturday, June 19, 2010
10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Tea from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Self-guided tour of eight great gardens in Fairfield followed by high tea on the last garden's patio.

Tour ticket: \$12 Box lunch: \$8

Tickets available in advance at: Bent Northrop Memorial Library and Fairfield's Town Clerk

Questions? Call Sonia 827-3694 or Bridget 827-3942

Inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's book "A Child's Garden of Verses", Fairfield's Garden of Verses brings together the beauty of nature and literature with our town's private gardens and our town's public library.

Summer is coming !!

Fundraiser by The Friends of the Bent Northrop Memorial Library

Community Center

UPCOMING FUN AT THE FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER: 827-3130

FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH, June 20th from 10:30-1:00. Waffles, bacon, sausage, home-fries, eggs, fresh fruit, coffee, tea and milk. Bring your dad to a healthy and leisurely brunch at the Community Center. \$7/pp, \$5/seniors and kids over 4, FREE for kids 4 and under.

Black Creek Adventure Camp July 12th-Aug13. Still some spots left. Don't miss out on this - It's half the cost of daycare, and twice the fun!

Mark your calendars for SUNDAY, JULY 25 - The 18th Annual JIG-IN-THE-VALLEY! A day of community celebration with fabulous music, great food, kids' activities, Flea Market*. Noon to dusk, rain or shine. On the green in East Fairfield.

* Seeking vendors for the Flea Market at the Jig-in-the-Valley. \$20/space, some tables available or bring your own. Now's the time to clean out your attic! Looking for antiques, household, books, plants, art, etc. Call 827-3130 for more information or to reserve a space.

Interested in Volunteering? We need help in the following areas: Food Shelf, Community Garden, Brunch, Jig-in-the-Valley. Don't be shy, call today, 827-3130

Bent Northrop Memorial Library

Update

The library trustees thank the Fairfield community for their support of the ballot vote giving the Fairfield School District the permission to purchase the present library space. The day after the funds were approved, the trustees met with Connor Construction to start planning for the new library. Mike Connor has been hired as the construction manager for the project. Many decisions have been made concerning the Pafundi property including a survey of the property, researching the historic designation status of the building, conducting hazardous waste inspection and removal, salvaging and selling the contents and building materials, and demolition of the building. The trustees hired Michael Dugan to design the new library. A floor plan based on this spring's questionnaire response was given to him as a starting point. The interior is being designed for the different patrons, uses, and programs of the library. The exterior of the building is being designed according to orientation on the lot, elevation of the property, and respect for local architecture and culture ("Fairfield vernacular").

Even though the Bent Northrop Memorial Library has funds designated for the construction of the new library, the trustees will be asking the community to give the approval to secure a construction loan through the Peoples Trust. An informational meeting and vote will be scheduled for the end of June or beginning of July. At that meeting, the trustees will present the work to date on the design and construction of the library. We hope that you will join us!

Terry Hale, Randy Clark, Bet Howrigan, Julie Wolcott, and Albert Tetreault

Recreation Committee News June 2010

- Disc golf (also called Frisbee golf) goals and discs are available to sign-out at the Bent-Northrop Memorial Library. They are portable and make it easy to set up a course around the Recreation Park. If enough interest is generated, we would like to start a weekly group to meet and play.
- There is a volleyball net set up at the Recreation Park. It is a grass court and open to anyone who wants to play. A volleyball is available to sign out at the Bent Northrop Memorial Library.
- The St. Albans City Pool is offering swim lessons to Fairfield residents at the reduced rate of \$65 per child (for a 2 week session). Dates: August 2nd –13th (M-F). Lessons are from 12 - 1pm. Sign-up forms are available at the Library and the Town Office. Deadline to sign up is June 18th.
- The Sunday Youth Soccer Program will start in August this year. The start date is Sunday the 29th. There will be a registration table at the first practice. PreK - K practice will be from 1 - 1:45pm, Grades 1-2 will be from 1-2pm, and Grades 3-4 will be from 2-3:15 pm. More information will be posted at the Town Clerk's office and on our website.
- Zumba will continue this summer. Check our website for updates.
- The Recreation Committee has 2 openings for new members. If you are interested in joining the FRC, please call Rick Haag @ 524-7528 for more information.

The Fairfield Recreation Committee would like to hear from you. Meetings are open to the public and held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Chester A. Arthur Conference Room. The recreation website can be found at www.fairfieldvermont.us, with schedules, updates, meeting minutes, and contact information.

Thanks for your support,

Rick Haag (Chair) (802) 524-7528

Stacey Clark (Secretary), John Baxter, John Dasaro, Brenda Goodhue, Pat Hartnett, Carol Lizotte, Faith Cassidy, and Mike Malone (Members).

FAIRFIELD NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2010