

February 2012

“Our Town” is a community publication run by local folks who volunteer their time. The monthly publication is funded by several town organizations as well as the Town of Fairfield. The purpose of “Our Town” is to establish a forum for town organizations, government and the school to publish upcoming events and information pertinent to the Fairfield Community. Our role is to announce events, rather than advocate particular positions. The newsletter can be found in various stores, shops and town buildings throughout Fairfield. Due to space limitations, we ask that submissions be brief and to the point. Please submit your entry by the 20th of each month to Meg @ megm2@msn.com.

Thanks - The Newsletter Committee

Monthly Meetings, Activities and Dates to Remember

Select Board: 2nd & 4th Mondays 7:30pm @ town offices
Grant Writer Committee: 1st Monday of each month 6:00pm @ town offices
Zoning & Planning Committee: 1st Monday of each month 8pm @ town offices
School Board: 2nd Monday each month 6pm @ FCC school library
Art Hop Classes: Thursday nights, BNML (registration required)
BNML Trustee meeting: 3rd Thursday 3pm @ BNML
Book Club: 3rd Tuesday this month 6:30pm @ BNML Loft
KnitWits: 3rd Thursday each month @ BNML, drop in any time
Girls Club: 2nd Saturday of the month 11:30am @ BNML
Breast Feeding Support Group: 1st Saturday of the month 9:30am @ BNML
Mahjong: 1st, 2nd & 4th Tuesday of this month 6:30pm @ BNML

Weekly Activities & Dates to Remember

Sunday: Ski & Board @ Smuggs
Monday: Reserve tickets for Ski & Board @ Smuggs call 827-6564 by 6pm
Tuesday: Senior/Community Lunches @ FCC 11:30-1pm call 827-3130 to reserve a place; Food Shelf hours 1-1:30 and 3-5pm @ FCC; BINGO 6pm @ FCC; Mahjong @ BNML 6:30pm
Wednesday: Playgroup/Story Hour @ BNML 10-11:30; Kids in the Kitchen grade K-6th @ FCC 3-5:30pm
Thursday: Fairfield Farmers Market Online Pickup 3-6pm @ BNML
Saturday: Yoga @ Fairfield Town Offices 4-5pm resuming Feb. 11

February

Feb 2: PTO meeting 6pm @ FSC library
Feb 7: Getting Your Business Online/One on One Business Mentoring, 6pm @ BNML
Feb 9: Al Stirt and Wendy Scott Revisiting "The Idea of the North", 7pm @BNML
Feb 10: USDA commodity delivery day and food shelf open 10-12 @ FCC
Feb 12: Photography Workshop by FRC @ BNML 2-3:30
Feb 15: Intro to Public Speaking BNML, 6:30p @ BNML
Feb 17: FCS No School (inservice), Foot Clinic @ FCC 9:30-11:30 by appt only call 527-7531
Feb 20: Newsletter submissions due for March edition
Feb 24: Town Reports mailed (if you haven't picked yours up already)

Happenings at Bent Northrop Memorial Library

“The Idea of the North: Wendy and Al’s Canoe Travels,” Thursday, February 9, 7 pm.

Wendy Scott and Al Stirt will unravel the lure of traveling long distances in northern Canada by canoe, mixing great photos and Al’s usual dry humor with tales ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous.

“How to Talk in Front of a Group,” Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 pm. Research says that 3 out of 4 people suffer from public speaking anxiety. If you are one of the many, Kerry Lambert is here to share some quick tips for speaking to a crowd. Join her for an introductory class on how to talk in front of a group - just in time for Town Meeting!

Success by Six Playgroup and Storytime, Wednesdays, 10 am. Playgroup and Storytime is a great way for young children (ages 0-6) and their caregivers to meet other young families in town. Join us at 10am for stories, activities and a light snack!

Look for the newest afterschool offering at BNML Kids in grades 4 and up will work on digital literacy skills while proving a valuable resource for their community! Participation will be limited to 16 students as they use the new mobile lab! For more information check the [website](#) or contact the library to be added to the email list!

Art Hop this February! The Art Hop (yes, the name is borrowed from the annual Burlington event) is designed for adults who are interested in trying out a few introductory art classes! This month, join local artist Meta Strict for painting face, figure and imaginary characters. Weekly, evening classes will be held at BNML on Thursdays...Check our [website](#) or contact the library for more info!

BNML is holding a contest for the design of a permanent outdoor sign to be installed on the corner of Park Street and South Road. **Winner will receive prizes valued at \$100** (Chesters, Esdens, Menards gift certificates, a Kindle ereader, or combination of)! **Deadline: March 15. Pick up details at the library** or call Julie for more info @ 933-4592, gwfarm@vtlink.net



Fairfield
e-Vermont
Community Broadband Project

Whether it’s online marketing, more efficient business operations, or just showing up in a search engine – small business owners in Vermont have been learning to use the Internet effectively through the Vermont Small Business Development Center (VtSBDC). As part of e-Vermont, VtSBDC now has a full time

adviser working with businesses on their use of online tools. Through 1:1 sessions, workshops, webinars, and printed materials, VtSBDC works on matching tools to business strategies within a context of strong business planning. This month, Fairfield eVermont brings two of these to town!

“Getting Your Business Online,” Tuesday, February 7, 6 pm. Pat Ripley of VtSBDC will provide interactive training and information for business owners planning, or in the process of, establishing a website. Business owners are informed of potential costs, benefits, expectations and processes involved in establishing an online presence. Participants are taken through the design process and advised on website function and appearance. This seminar does not require participants to be stationed at computers and is open and valuable to businesses large and small, for profit or non-profit.

Pat will also be available earlier that day to meet with individual businesses interested in establishing and/or improving their online presence. To schedule a 1:1 session with Pat, please contact [Kristen at BNML](#) or Pat directly at 802-595-3388. A second workshop--its focus determined from feedback first workshop--will be offered later in the month. Stay tuned for specifics! Use the numerous online resources, including the Online Business Toolkit (with webinars, handouts and strategies) or get an overview of work VtSBDC does with e-Vermont at <http://tinyurl.com/frfldebusiness>.

Vermont Communities in a Digital Age: Join community leaders from around the state on Thursday, February 16, 2012: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm to share ideas and best practices for using online tools to create jobs, reinvent schools, attract visitors, improve civic involvement, and enliven Vermont communities.

Anne Galloway of VtDigger.org will be the keynote speaker. Session topics include mobilizing community resources for emergencies big and small, a hands-on lab exploring online tools for business, a showcase of how technology is expanding the classroom for 4-6th graders, a look at conducting a town meeting in the digital age, and ways to increase public Internet access in your town (and why).

Registration is \$20 and includes course offerings, refreshments, lunch and the chance to win a Kindle reader and other prizes in our raffle drawing. For more information about the day go to vermontworkshop.org. Register online, by phone 802-859-3090, or by e-mail joanna@snellingcenter.org.

Fairfield Farmers Market: Online!

The **Fairfield Farmers Market Online**, Thursdays, 3-6 pm. After a brief winter hiatus, your neighbors and friends are back on February 2, offering high quality, healthy and local food with the convenience of online ordering and one local pickup! Questions about how to get signed up or use the site can be directed to **Kristen at BNML!**



FCS Parent Teacher Association

Fairfield PTO helps all students at FCS by reducing the cost of field trips (e.g Flynn Theater) and events. Although we have many volunteers for our events we welcome new faces and new ideas. If you are a teacher or a parent of a FCS student, you are already a member! 2012 ideas are: Annual Pancake Breakfast, PTO Pumpkin Patch, and Annual Luminary Walk. We would also like to sponsor a Native Perennial Garden. We'd like to revive Popcorn Friday and are looking into an annual sports equipment trade event. Check the FCS website, Fairfield's calendar of events, or FPF for meetings. Contact Erica @ eac0227@gmail.com.

Outdoor Classroom

Exciting news--the High Tunnel Greenhouse has been fully constructed.! The Outdoor Classroom would like to thank all the incredible volunteers who gave their time, skills and drill bits to complete this amazing structure. Special thanks go to Peter Burns, Dick Hudak and Norman Menard. The high tunnel has recently been inspected by Sarah Larose from NRCS, the source of the grant for the green house. The green house will extend our growing season into the fall/winter and begin earlier in the spring. We plan to grow vegetables for the food service program, donate vegetables to Senior Meals and the Food Shelf and sell the remaining produce through our Fairfield Farmer's Market Online. The high tunnel will also serve as a classroom to all students where they will apply their in classroom skills for the good of the greater community. The O.C has been busy in the classrooms throughout the fall and winter months. Students have visited farms, cooked in the classrooms with locally grown food, made food for food shelf recipients and community meals, and learned about the community they live in through guest speakers, field trips, and agricultural links within the classrooms. If you have an idea for the O.C., please call/email Joanna Jerose 933.8789 or jerose@surfglobal.net. Stay tuned for a Local Dinner and Dance to support the efforts of the Outdoor Classroom! Thanks - Joanna Jerose

Fairfield School Board

Last year, a budget of \$5,406,900 was approved by Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day. This year, we prepared a budget of \$5,421,635. This reflects a less than 1% increase (0.27%) compared to last year. We are presenting this budget to the public on Monday, March 5th, at 7:00pm, at the school. Voting will occur by Australian ballot from 7:00am to 7:00pm at the school on Tuesday, March 6th, Town Meeting Day. Feel free to contact anyone of us with questions or concerns. Our contact information is on the school web site (www.ffcsvt.org) and available from the school by calling 827-6639.

A Word from the Town Clerk's Office

Hello everyone! I look forward to seeing you Tuesday, March 6th at 10am at the Veterans' Hall in FCS for Town Meeting Day! Lunch and childcare will be available. The school budget will be decided by Australian Ballot and will be held at the school from 7am until 7pm . The presidential primary will also be held at the same time. If you are not going to be able to be present, feel free to stop in the town office for absentee ballots.

Town Reports: are expected to arrive in the office the second week of February. We will have them available for pickup during that week to decrease postage expenses. I will advertise in the St. Albans Messenger and put the sandwich board out announcing their arrival. The remaining reports will be sent by mail on February 24th.

Dog Registration: by April 1, 2012 the cost \$8 for neutered or spayed and \$12 for not neutered or spayed. Please bring a current rabies vaccination certificate. Don't have a current vaccination? There is a Dog Clinic every March here in Fairfield! Details to come! Take care, Amanda

From Your Listers

The New Year is upon us bringing cold, snow, skiing, sugaring and of course visits from the listers. If you have new buildings or additions we will be stopping by at some point during February and March. For new houses we usually make appointments, for typical outbuildings we simply drop in, grab measurements and other essential data. We always knock and leave a notice stating that we were there. From there we enter the data into the assessing software and sometime in mid to late May we send out Change of Appraisal notices which give all pertinent information. There has not been many new homes built in the past year and the list of outbuildings is shorter as well. We look forward to another successful year serving you. The Listers

Other Announcements

Fairfield and Smugglers' Notch 2012 Ski & Boarding: Sundays throughout the winter, through March and maybe April! Call by 6pm Monday to reserve tickets or for more info. Dawn Menard 827-6564.

North Country ATV Association, Inc Please see our article to be voted on town meeting day in your Town Report. Visit www.ncaa-inc.com for more information.

