

Our Town

Fairfield Community Newsletter and Calendar

Anyone can submit a notice or pictures to Our Town; we announce but don't advocate. Questions? Email Meg Marshall at fairfieldourtown@gmail.com. Submissions due by the 20th of each month. Sign up for the electronic version of Our Town @ www.tinyurl.com/fairfieldenews. Your Our Town staff volunteers: Kristen Hughes, Laura Fulwiler, Laura Bellstrom, Miles Herbert, Sue Magnan and Meg Marshall

February 2013

Monthly Meetings, Activities and Dates to Remember

Select Board: 2nd & 4th Mondays @ town offices 7:30pm
Grant Writer Committee: 1st Monday of each month @ town offices 6pm
Zoning & Planning Committee: 1st Monday of each month 8pm
School Board: 2nd Monday @ FCS school library 6pm
BNML Trustee meeting: 3rd Tuesday @ BNML 3pm (Budget Info Session)
Parent Teacher Organization (PTO): 3rd Thursday of the month look for note home for time
Breastfeeding Support Group: 1st Saturday of the month, 9:30a @ BNML
Outdoor Classroom: 2nd Monday of the month, 3:30p @ FCS Library
PJ Storytime: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:15p @ BNML
FCF Girls Club: 2nd Saturday of the month, 9:30a @ BNML

Weekly Activities & Dates to Remember

Tuesdays: 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 (Tuesdays)
Wednesdays: Playgroup and Storytime @ BNML 10am
Thursdays: Fairfield Farmers Market Online Pickup 3-6pm @ BNML
Kids-in-the-Kitchen Starting March, 7th.

NOTICE TO VOTERS

2013 Town Meeting

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

Veterans Hall- Fairfield Center School Gym

Australian Ballot Voting for School Budget 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Running for a town office?

Town Meeting is right around the corner. Send us a paragraph about yourself (200 words or less). You can't ask for a vote but we can help you get the word out. Submissions due February 20th for the March Newsletter! Send them to fairfieldourtown@gmail.com

Monday, February 4th: Healthy People, Strong Communities Meeting - everyone welcome! Have an idea that would help to support an economically strong and socially healthy Northwestern Vermont? Join the friends and neighbors at 6:30p Fairfield Municipal Building.

Thursday February 7th: Meeting House on the Green group will be holding their next meeting on Feb. 7th at 6:30 - will the paper be out before then? If not, there's no point in putting it in I guess.

Thursday, February 14th: Bee a Sweetie & Bring Your Honey to a sweet BNML Valentine's Day Lecture! 7pm @ BNML

Saturday, February 16th: The Franklin County legislators will be available to meet with constituents 9AM in the BNML Community Room. Light refreshments will be served.

Thursday February 21st: Next FCCA Board Meeting @ 7pm

Friday February 22nd: Foot Clinic for seniors. Call Home Health to make an appointment 527-7351

Week of February 25th-March 1st: FEBRUARY VACATION CAMP at the Center. 7:30-4:40 daily, \$65 FOR THE WEEK. Michelle Jettie and Caitlyn Bailey have all sorts of fun stuff up their sleeves for kids 5-12. Registrations forms will be out soon - get yours in early as space is limited to 24 children. We'll be serving breakfast and snack, kids bring their own bag lunch.

Monday March 4th: Budget meeting 7pm @ Veterans Hall- Fairfield Center School Gym.

Tuesday, March 5: Town Meeting 10am @ Veterans Hall- Fairfield Center School Gym. PTO will offer lunch again this year!

Thursdays, starting March 7th: KITK will start today - not February 7th. Apologies for the mix-up.

Saturday, March 9th: 4th Annual Sap Run Boogie at Branon's Sugarhouse! Celebrate Spring at THE SAP RUN BOOGIE with dinner and music by NOBBY REED PROJECT! Cash bar, great raffle prizes, fun for the whole family! SAVE THE DATE!

The Peoples' House~An Update from Dan Connor

We have been in session for two weeks and I thought an update might be prudent. The first week was much about pomp and circumstance, the general assembly structure, committee assignments, the Budget Adjustment Act, and finding our rhythm.

I sit on the House Agriculture Committee made up of 11 Vermonters from all walks of life. I am extremely fortunate to be among folks who are bright, talented with diverse life experiences dedicated to a working and sustainable landscape-keeping Vermont, Vermont.

Our second week was more about hearing from a host of government, farm membership and allied industry organizations. We received updates from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture's regulatory and promotion staff relative to dairy, maple, animal health, consumer protection, etc. We also received updates from Northeast Organic Farming Association, Vermont Farm Bureau, USDA, Green Mountain Dairy Federation, Vermont Agricultural & Forest Products Development Board, Food Safety Task Force, Vermont Association of Conservation Districts, Vermont Fresh Network, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, Current Use, and the Vermont Working Lands Enterprise Fund (WLEF)). The last program was established by the 2012 legislative session (Act 142) and earmarked 1.34 million in funding. The WLEF received 184 letters of intent totaling \$9.2 million against available funds at \$986,500.00. Northwest Regional Planning was one of the 184 entities submitting a letter of intent on behalf of Franklin County.

Other bills we will likely see in committee include GMO's, Migrant Workers Access to Driver's Licenses and Non-Driver Identification Cards, VT Right to Farm Law and others.

February 2013

The Governor has vowed no new broad-based taxes. However, with declining revenues and his new initiatives to enhance education, healthcare, transportation infrastructure, energy, water quality and other unknowns, a new flush of cash is required. There is discussion about increasing fees, surcharges and the like. I will make every attempt to keep you informed. Contact Information: dconnor@leg.vt.state.us or housedanc@gmail.com telephone 802.578.3014.

Healthy People, Strong Communities Community Meeting

Monday, February 4 at 6:30 pm

Fairfield Town Office

Join Northwest Regional Planning Commission and our partners in the Healthy People, Strong Communities project at a meeting in here in Fairfield for refreshments and a conversation about the future of Northwest Vermont.

Local input is essential to deciding what is important on a regional level and your ideas will lead to action and investment in your community!

The purpose of the Healthy People, Strong Communities project is to contribute to job growth and inspire happy, healthy and prosperous lifestyle in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. NRPC is working with over 25 community partners to plan at the regional level for economic development, community health, bike and pedestrian safety and disaster resilience, which will result in regional strategies that address the link between health and socio-economic status. The project will also provide over \$200,000 small grants to organizations, municipalities and others to implement the strategies.

Come build on what we heard at September's Community Dinner!

BNML Updates

Like us on Facebook to hear about upcoming events! Or drop an email to bentnorthrop@gmail.com to sign up for the email list!

A few things to watch for:

- Book Club meets Thursday, February 28th to chat about My Name is Mary Sutter at 6:30 in front of the fire!
- Rainbow Reading Hour: Join us for RU12's Rainbow Reading Hour! We welcome children of all ages to gather, read a story, and do an activity together. This is a chance for LGBTQA families to meet and find community at BNML. Feel free to bring a favorite book or friend to join the fun! If you have any ideas, would like to volunteer, or need more information, feel free to email: Sam@ru12.org Mondays, Feb 4th and 18th at 5:30pm
- Mentors Needed! Have a little extra time to give back to your community? Watershed Mentoring is a community based program that pairs local adults with local kids. Interested? Call Beth 527-5049 X1 or stop by the library for more info!
- Writers Group: Do you like to write? Would you like to share encouragement and inspiration with other writers? Join us on the first Tuesday of each month to share tips, review each others' work and offer constructive feedback. No need to be polished or perfect -- bring along a first draft and your ideas! Contact Marla at 827-3368 with Q's! The first Tuesday of each month, Feb 5th @ 6:30pm
- Afterschool programs abound! Mr K returns and classes begin Wednesday, Feb 12th. UVM Extension brings another round of afterschool programming as well! See www.bentnorthrop.org for more info or to sign up!
- Feb 14th Bee a Sweetie & Bring Your Honey to a very special BNML Valentine's Day Lecture Series. We'll be discussing the basics of beekeeping with Michael Willard from the Green Mountain Bee Farm in Fairfax! In addition to raising northern Vermont Queens and

nucleus colonies, they also produce award-winning honey and skin care products. Don't forget your taste buds. There will be some sampling!

- Feb 19th BNML Trustee Meeting Though all library trustee meetings are public, this one will also be the public information session for the Annual Budget presented at Town Meeting Day. Join us at 3pm in the Community Room.

Mary Ann Duffy Godin
★ A Watercolor Artist ★
exhibits in Fairfield, Vermont!
The Bent Northrop Memorial Library
presents
“*Birds, Blooms, and Vintage!*”
from Sunday, February 17 to Sunday, April 14
Please join us for a “Meet the Artist”/Reception
on Sunday, March 10 from 2 to 3 p.m.
at 164 Park Street, Fairfield, Vermont.

you're invited

www.maryannduffygodin.com

Outdoor Classroom

The Outdoor Classroom would like to thank all the farmers, community members, Fairfield School Staff, students and families and local businesses for all the wonderful support they have offered in 2012. We would also like to thank the taxpayers of Fairfield for the annual town contribution toward the Outdoor Classroom. Without this support the many classroom activities and units of study, field trips, community events, matching grant work and food focused service learning projects would not be possible.

Please come and support the ongoing learning and projects of the Outdoor Classroom. We will be preparing the beds in the HighTunnel and create a garden plan, we will work on two Fairfield trails: Chester Arthur Trails & Fairfield Town Trail. We will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Chester Arthur Trails and work on maintenance and a new sign for the trails and create mile markers at the Town Trail and work on promoting both of these recreational resources. We'll also be getting ready to begin maple sugaring with the 8th grade class. We can always use help with sugaring! The 6th graders are working on this years Project Sweet Talk and have interviewed 10 different sugarers, the "Share Day" will be in March and will be announced next month. If you are interested please come for our next meeting, February 18th @ 3:30pm at Fairfield Center School Library.

Thank you,

Joanna Jerose, Outdoor Classroom Coordinator