

Dear Friends,

Our local newsletter, emerged from the Community Visit facilitated by the Vermont Council for Rural Development two years ago. Participants at that event expressed a need for town-wide communication: How do folks who don't have kids in school hear about the Holiday Concert or Harvest Dinner? How do folks learn about the speaker scheduled for the library next month? How do I find out what's on the agenda for the Select Board meeting? How can I sign up for soccer, yoga or cooking classes?

As a result of these conversations, a group of volunteers got together to help the Recreation Committee enhance and increase the publication of a community newsletter, Our Town, which now provides community members information about local events. Beginning as a quarterly publication, we mailed Our Town to local homes. However, when we shifted the publication to a monthly one, we had to make a choice between printing and mailing costs, so we encouraged folks to read Our Town online or pick up paper copies at several handy locations. Clearly fiscal realities colored the visions with which we began the project.

At the same time, several other developments surfaced that provided community members with information. The *Town of Fairfield website*, <http://www.fairfieldvermont.us/>, posts municipal activities and is becoming a go-to site to learn about municipal happenings - as well as other posts from the community. *Front Porch Forum*, has also increased in subscription and is now enjoyed by 239 people (out of 720 households in town). While all three endeavors—Our Town, *Town of Fairfield website*, and *Front Porch Forum*—focus on local activities, they mostly target people who use technology. What about people who do not use computers or do not want to get their news that way? What's the best way to provide news for these folks?

We at Our Town need to assess our usefulness to the community at this time. We've noticed that we receive fewer submissions each month, making our publication more of a calendar listing than a forum for local news stories. **We'd like to get your feedback about the role/purpose our publication serves you and the community entity you represent. Would you please respond to these questions so that we might better serve you and Fairfield?**

- How do you see Our Town helping you publish your news and events?
- Does Our Town duplicate the town website or Front Porch Forum for your purposes?
- Are there particular ways Our Town can better serve you?
- Other suggestions or ideas?

Thanks so much for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely,

Meg Marshall, Laura Fulwiler and Kristen Hughes
fairfielddourtown@gmail.com

Anyone can submit a notice or pictures to Our Town; we announce but don't advocate. Questions?

Email Meg Marshall at fairfielddourtown@gmail.com. Hopefully our last e-mail change
Submissions due by the 20th of each month. Sign up for the electronic version of Our Town
[@www.tinyurl.com/fairfielddenews](http://www.tinyurl.com/fairfielddenews)

Your Our Town staff volunteers: Kristen Hughes, Laura Fulwiler, Laura Bellstrom, Miles Herbert, Sue Magnan and Meg Marshall

January 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

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 (1st, 3rd & 4th Tuesday of each month)

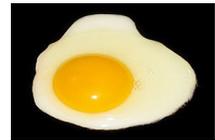
Wednesdays: Playgroup and Storytime @ BNML 10am

Thursdays: *Fairfield Farmers Market Online* Pickup 3-6pm @ BNML

Kids-in-the- Kitchen **Starting January 24th** @ FCC see below for details.

January Calendar

Monday, January 7th: Come join us for RU12?'s Rainbow Reading Hour! We want to welcome children of all ages to gather and read a story, and then do an activity together. This is a chance for LGBTQA families to meet and find community at BNML. This event will be taking place from 6-7pm, every 1st and 3d Monday, starting January 7th. 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 me at Sam@ru12.org



Thursday, January 10th: Join Al Stirt and Wendy Scott for their annual slideshow. Be inspired with "Rocks, Maps and the Ungava Anomaly" 7pm @ BNML

Monday, January 14th: Outdoor Classroom meets 3:30 pm @ the school conference room.

Tuesday, January 15th: Cow Tails Drivers education registration due for February for more information. Contact Melissa Manson at melissajmanson@gmail.com or 309-5076

Thursday, January 17th: The ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING of the Fairfield Community Center Association at 5:30 p.m. at the Center. Come see what's happening, come get involved!



Saturday, January 19th: Tech Petting Zoo: Did you get a new eReader or tablet for Christmas? Do you have experience with Nooks, Kindles, iPads, Pods, and Minis? If you have information to share or want to learn more, join us for this community sharing event. BNML will give overviews of eReaders, explain how to borrow library books, and offer one-on-one assistance. Your friends and neighbors will share their favorite apps, tricks and tools. Bring your fully charged eReaders or tablets (Kindle and Kindle Fire owners should also bring their Amazon.com account ID and password) Try one of our Kindles, Nooks, or Ipads. 10am

Monday January 21th: RU12?'s Rainbow Reading Hour! See January 14th

Thursday, January 24th: BNML Book Club @ 6:30pm. This month's pick is [Fever 1793](#) by Laurie

Halse Anderson

Sunday January 27th: A SUNDAY BRUNCH from 10-1 at the FCC to benefit the Fairfield Food Shelf. Menu includes pancakes, ham, scrambled eggs, home fries, homemade bread and jam, sticky buns, fresh fruit, non-wimpy coffee and orange juice. Please bring along a canned food item to donate to the Food Shelf. (Soup is good!)

Thursday, January 31st: Join artist Kathryn Lipke Vigessaa when she discusses the current exhibit on display at BNML: *Molas in Translation: The Textile Art of Kuna Women* Reception @ 6:30pm

Monday, February 4th: Healthy People Strong Communities, Fairfield Community Conversation 6:30 - 8 pm @ Fairfield Town Office



From BNML Library Trustees

We are looking for people to run for a Bent Northrop Library Trustee position at March Town Meeting. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 3pm at the Library. Join us at our next meeting or to express interest and have your questions answered please call or e mail Julie (933-4592 gwfarm@vtlink.net)

Outdoor Classroom

Outdoor Classroom Petition: We are asking Fairfield voters to consider signing a petition in support of funding for the programs of the Outdoor Classroom. Programs include the Chester Arthur Unit, Sugaring Unit, Local Farms, Local Foods, River Unit and more! Joanna Jerose is the coordinator bringing the Community to the school and students to the Community. The petition needs 90 signatures to be accepted to be on the warning for the 2013 Town Meeting. Petitions (look for the BLUE paper) will be at the school, the Municipal Office, BNML and the Fairfield Community Center. Thank you for your support!

The Outdoor Classroom will be meeting at a new time starting in February. The OC meeting will be on the 3rd Monday of the month at 3:30pm (Feb 18th, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, June 17).

The Fairfield Community Center

Happy New Year to all!

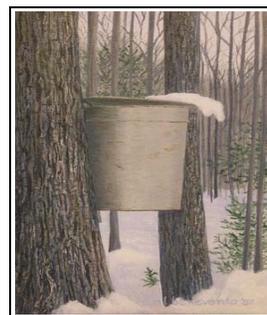
Our big news, of course, is that the Community Center has acquired the Old Meeting House on the green in East Fairfield from the United Church of Bakersfield and East Fairfield. The congregation voted to transfer the title to the FCCA back in November and the closing was last week. The FCCA will be acting as fiscal agent for the group currently forming to focus on this project. Already the group has raised some \$7500 to help with initial repairs and upgrades to the building so that the doors can be safely opened to the public. As soon as some electrical work is completed, the small section of roof over the organ replaced and the front walkway leveled – which will probably be in the spring – we'll celebrate this exciting and important preservation project with a concert and open house. And we'll ring the bell!

The Old Meeting House group will be meeting in the near future to continue discussion on building design and restoration, event coordination and fundraising. If you're interested in helping to preserve this lovely old building for future generations, while creating a unique public space for concerts, lectures, community theater, weddings, art gallery, etc., come to our next meeting!

Upcoming:

KIDS-in-the-KITCHEN cooking classes for kids 5-12 years old will run this year on Thursday afternoons from January 24th to February 21st, 3:30-5 p.m. A list of the classes will be forthcoming, please call 827-3130 or 827-6626 to register.

Save the date! The 4th Annual **SAP RUN BOOGIE** at Brannon's Sugarhouse will be Saturday, March 16th! Music, dinner, dancing and fun for the whole family. More details to follow, but mark your calendars!



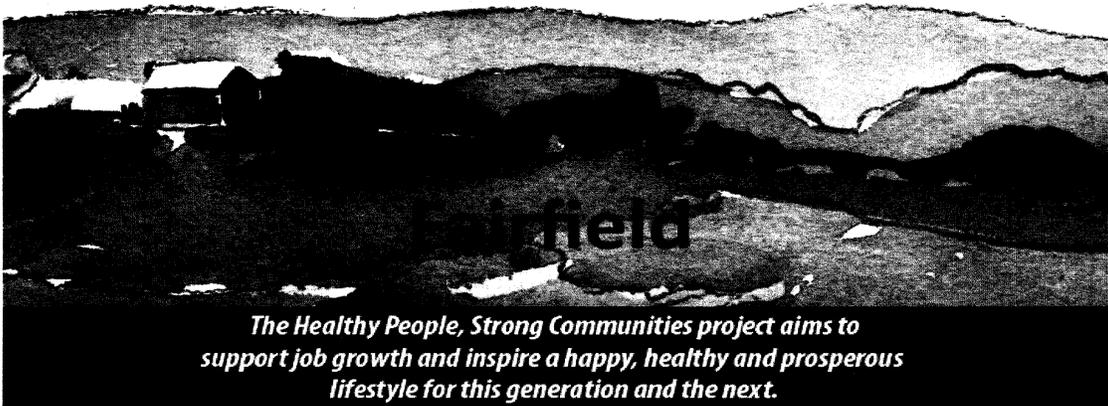


Don't forget that BNML has snowshoes to check out thanks to the Fairfield Rec Dept! Call ahead to reserve a pair for you and your family!!

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

Healthy People, Strong Communities

*Live, work and play here -
today and tomorrow!*



The Healthy People, Strong Communities project aims to support job growth and inspire a happy, healthy and prosperous lifestyle for this generation and the next.

How can we keep our region healthy, safe and prosperous?

Tell us what YOU think about:

- Job opportunities and job training
- Living a healthy lifestyle
- Bike and pedestrian safety
- The future of your community

Join us for a conversation about the future of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties and your community

Monday, February 4th
Fairfield Town Office
6:30 to 8:00 pm

Your ideas will lead to action and investment in your community!

Visit us: www.nrpcvt.com/hud.html and Like us: www.facebook.com/healthyandstrongvt



