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Town of Fairlee

Selectboard Newsletter

January 1st, 2026

Skating Trail

If the weather holds we anticipate opening the skating trail the middle of next week.
Press the button below for the latest conditions.

[Skating Trail Updates](#)



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Fairlee Fire Department Welcomes New Pumper Truck

The Fairlee Fire Department is excited to announce the arrival of its new pumper truck, a major upgrade that will enhance the department's firefighting and emergency response capabilities. Before delivery, Fire Chief Andrew Godfrey and Assistant Fire Chief Steve Bolles traveled to Florida to personally inspect the truck and ensure every detail met the department's needs.

Once it arrived in Fairlee, the crew outfitted the truck with the necessary equipment to make it fully operational. Its first official duty brought smiles throughout town—delivering Santa and Mrs. Claus to the Town Hall for the annual tree lighting! To celebrate this important addition, the Fairlee Fire Department will host an **Open House on Saturday January 24th from 9am to noon**. Community members are invited to come see the new pumper truck up close, meet local firefighters, and learn more about the vital work they do to keep Fairlee safe.



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Road Crack Sealing Completed



The Town of Fairlee contracted with Indus, Inc. to complete crack sealing on portions of Lake Morey Road East and Maurice Roberts Memorial Highway. This work was completed in October.



As pavement ages and settles, cracks can form. Freezing and thawing cycles can cause these cracks to widen, allowing water to penetrate and accelerate deterioration. Crack sealing helps prevent this damage and extends the life of the roadway.

The crack sealer applied by Indus, Inc. is expected to

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extend the useful life of the pavement by several years, helping to protect the Town's investment and reduce the

need for more costly repairs in the future.

Additional Road Work Updates

Other road work this season included improvements on Terry Hill Road, where sections were excavated down to bedrock, a barrier layer was applied, and new gravel was added. Drainage issues in the area were also addressed as part of the project.

These improvements are expected to help the road remain passable during mud season, which has not always been the case in past years. Road Agent Jonathan Blake thanks residents in the area for their patience during the week-long road closure while this work was completed.

Planning Commission Hosts Community Listening Sessions

The Fairlee Planning Commission has been holding a series of listening sessions to hear directly from residents about the future of our town. These sessions are an opportunity for community members to share their thoughts on the services they use today—such as housing, transportation, recreation, and public spaces—and to talk about what is working well and what could be improved.

In addition to discussing current needs, the Planning Commission is asking residents to think ahead and share their vision for Fairlee's future. What should Fairlee look and feel like in the years to come? What values should guide growth and development? Input from these conversations will help shape future planning efforts and ensure that decisions reflect the priorities of the people who live here.

The Planning Commission appreciates the thoughtful feedback already shared and encourages continued participation. **Community input is essential to creating a future that supports Fairlee's character, meets residents' needs, and strengthens the town for generations to come.**

The Fairlee-Orford Food Shelf: open to our community



The Fairlee/Orford Food Shelf is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 to 2:00 PM at the Fairlee Town Hall. To find the food shelf, come in through the front door and walk

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[straight back to the kitchen area.](#)[Translate ▼](#)

The Food Shelf serves residents of Fairlee, West Fairlee, Vershire, and Orford, and **there are no income restrictions**—the only

requirement is residency in one of these four towns.

Each week, a rotating crew of dedicated volunteers helps unload fresh fruits, vegetables, and dairy products delivered by Willing Hands and stocks the shelves with a wide selection of food. Offerings include canned goods, meat, eggs, bread, milk, and seasonal produce.

The Food Shelf relies on the generosity of local supporters. Donations of non-perishable food items and financial contributions are always welcome and help ensure that our neighbors have access to healthy, nourishing food year-round. **Donation drop-off bins are located at the Fairlee Town Hall, and checks can be made payable to “Fairlee/Orford Food Shelf.”**



Budget Hearing Jan 6

Each October, the Selectboard and Town staff roll up their sleeves and start working on the town's budget for the next year. Every department meets with the Treasurer, Town Administrator, and Selectboard to review expenses and plan for the services and projects that keep Fairlee running smoothly.

The Budget Committee then takes a close look at the draft budget and offers its advice to the Selectboard. We all know how important it is to keep taxes as low as possible—your Selectboard members are Fairlee taxpayers too! Still, some increases are often necessary to maintain the level of services and care our community relies on, especially as costs continue to rise.

We want to hear from you! The Annual Public Budget Hearing will be held on **Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30 PM at Fairlee Town Hall**. You can join us in person or on Zoom, and both the Zoom link and the proposed budget will be available on our website beforehand at www.fairleevt.gov.

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Changes at the Transfer Station

Beginning January 1, 2026 rates for trash disposal will be:

\$4.00 per 13-gallon bag (tall white kitchen size)

\$6.00 per 30-gallon bag (black trash size)

\$12.00 per contractor bag

Starting January 24th the transfer station will be open winter hours: 8am to 11am

Fairlee bids farewell to Ryan Lockwood, Town Administrator

Fairlee extends heartfelt thanks to Town Administrator Ryan Lockwood, who has resigned to accept the position of Town Manager in Williamsburg. We wish him every success in his new role.

The Selectboard has received several applications for the Town Administrator position and will begin interviewing candidates soon. The community will be kept informed as the search for Fairlee's next Town Administrator continues.



FAIRLEE FOCUS

Fairlee has an app! Download Fairlee Focus from the [Apple store](#) or [Google Play](#). Get important updates from the Town.

Photo credits Meg Bourn, Peter Berger, Miranda Clemson

Comments or Questions? Contact your Selectboard

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