



FAIRLEE NEWSLETTER

June 2018

FAIRLEE TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM



Grand Re-Opening

Saturday, July 28, 2018

**Celebrate the re-opening
of the renovated Town Hall!**

3:30 PM

RIBBON CUTTING

Handicap-Accessible Entrance

SPEAKERS

Second Floor Auditorium

FAIRLEE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS

SELF-GUIDED TOURS

5:00-7:00 PM

DINNER & MUSIC

Town Common

FAIRLEE/ORFORD LION'S CLUB LOBSTER/STEAK SUPPER (\$\$)

MIKE ZSOLDOS TRIO

Sponsored by Fairlee Community Arts

MAKE YOUR OWN SUNDAES

Fairlee Community Church (\$\$)

7:00-9:00 PM

DANCE

The Flames

Second Floor Auditorium

engineers Tata & Howard, the Town was awarded approximately \$3.7 million in federal grants and loans. Of that total from USDA-Rural Development, nearly 45% is a grant and the balance is a loan.

Based on the best available information at that time, the approved plan was to **repair the defective water tank**, which involved tearing down approximately 8 feet of its walls, rebuilding them, and pouring a concrete roof. The Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), written by Tata & Howard, was approved by both USDA-Rural Development and the Vermont Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division.

In spite of the PER's approval, it was clear that the logistics of removing the tank's temporary truss roof and tearing down the upper portions of its walls might very well damage the remaining structure. As a result, neither engineers nor construction companies would guarantee the adequacy and functionality of the tank, because key portions of the structure (that is, the lower walls) were not their own, instead designed or constructed by other entities.

"Replace instead of repair. Repairing the tank is too risky."

The Town's attorney, Bill Meub (Meub Gallivan & Larson) who has decades of experience in construction law, concluded that, because of the instability of the defective tank, **repair was too much of a risk**. He strongly recommended against it. After much research and deliberation, the Selectboard, Lance Colby, and Tata & Howard have decided that **the best means to address the defective tank is to replace it rather than repair it**.

With advances in design, **the construction of a new tank will not change the cost estimates that were presented during the Town's bond approval vote**. Additionally, USDA-Rural Development and the Vermont Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division are in agreement that the Town's change in plans is realistic and appropriate.

In regard to a second water system objective – **constructing a water filtration system** – Blueleaf, Inc., an independent water testing agency that has completed over 60 pilot studies in the last 3 years investigating the removal of contaminants from potable water sources, has begun a process of assessing the Town's water at the pump station. The purpose of the pilot study is to determine the type of filter system most appropriate for Fairlee, given the composition of the Town's natural water supply.

WATER SYSTEM UPDATE

Weeks after Fairlee's voters approved a bond to address water system issues (including repairing the defective water storage tank, installing water meters, replacing selected water mains, and constructing a water filtration system) and because of the diligent work of Town Administrator Tad Nunez, Water Operator Lance Colby, and consulting

EMERALD ASH BORER



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in Vermont for the first time in late February 2018, on private property in Orange County. This is Vermont's first discovered EAB infestation.

The beetle is about one-half inch and metallic green. Its larvae tunnel through the wood just under the bark of ash trees, killing the tree by cutting off the flow of nutrients. All species of ash trees are susceptible.

Town Administrator Tad Nunez and the Forest Board have communicated with the County Forester and are developing a plan to protect the Town's forests, and the Selectboard and Tree Warden Larry Martin are considering a proposal to catalog and monitor ash trees along roadsides and other municipal property.

How can you help? First, search your property for ash trees and become familiar with the signs of EAB presence. (<https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont>) Additionally:

- Report any suspected finds to the USDA EAB Hotline (toll free 1-866-322-4512 or vtinvasives.org)
- Be especially careful when moving firewood, logs or lumber.
- **Volunteer to help catalog ash trees in Fairlee.** Contact Tad Nunez at townadministrator@fairleevt.org

CONGRATULATIONS



“Hat’s off” to Jason Bachus, who was recently named Orford’s Chief of Police. Jason has served as Fairlee’s Town Constable and Chief of Police since 2014. He has developed the Town’s policing so that it matches our current needs. We are very pleased to confirm that **Jason will continue as Fairlee’s Chief of Police.**

HONORING A PUBLIC SERVANT

Richard “Richie” Hall passed away on June 15th. He was 90. Over many years, Richie served the Fairlee community. For 10 years, he served as a volunteer fireman and for 14 years, he was a member of the Selectboard. Jay Barrett recalls that “Richie *always* listened carefully to every idea, and he truly tried to do what was best for the Town.” Our sympathies to Richie’s family and friends.

UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT BYLAWS

The vote to approve the Town’s Unified Development Bylaws (UDB) is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14 and the second public hearing is at 6:00 PM on July 23 in the Grange Room. The Town has been operating under interim bylaws since 2015. The Town’s FEMA flood insurance is contingent upon adoption of the UDB. Copies are available in the Town Hall.

FOURTH OF JULY

This year’s Fourth of July theme is “Idols on Parade.” Staging for the parade is at 10 AM at Rivendell Middle School. The parade begins at 11 AM and ends at Adams Field (south of Wing’s) in Fairlee. Round out the day by visiting the flea market at the Railroad Station and enjoying the Fairlee Fire Brigade’s barbecued chicken and the Fairlee Community Church’s pie and ice cream on the Common. Fireworks over Lake Morey begin at dusk.



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3:30 PM Ribbon Cutting

Fairlee Selectboard
PO Box 95
Fairlee, VT 05045