



## FROM THE MAYOR

As we near the end of another calendar year, we look back and think about the economy and the destruction that occurred in our state and how it impacted many lives. People have lost their homes, their personal belongings, and in some cases they have lost their jobs. At this special time of year it would be nice to have, however small, an impact to turn the negative into a positive.

When you are ready to shop don't get on the internet. Don't drive long distances to the big box stores. Go to a local restaurant, clothing store, and hardware store, grocery store, salon and barber shops. Everyone gets their hair cut; who wouldn't appreciate getting a car detailing gift certificate, the list of possibilities goes on and on. Buy local and keep **our** money in **our** communities and America. Believe it or not if everyone were to shop locally it would help get people back to work and help put food on their tables and clothes on their backs.

I would like to thank "all" that have helped with the many functions within the city this year. We grow closer to the end of another busy and rewarding year. Please join my wife and me for the Holiday Stroll on December 3, 2011. More details can be found in this publication and on our City website.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All**

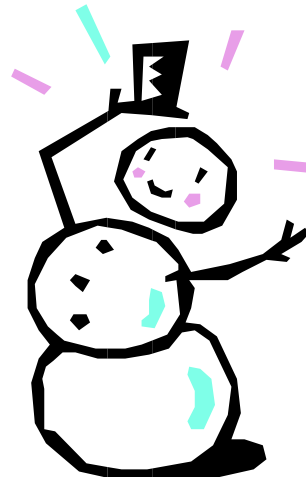
## Do You Want To Be A Volunteer For The National Weather Service?

The National Weather Service is seeking a volunteer to take daily weather observations for them. This would involve a rain can with a stick for measuring, a snow stick for winter and thermometer sensor on a pole with a cable running indoors to a digital readout. Once a day, the measurements are collected and sent into the National Weather Service. This information is used for the national climate record, daily verification of our forecasts, mapping, and also as weather spotters during severe weather.

### Requirements are:

- available year-round hopefully for a long period of time
- someone who doesn't mind going out in the snow to take a measurement
- someone enthusiastic about the weather
- someone who can transmit the data via the internet
- preferably someone in Vergennes or very near town.

Anyone interested can contact Nathan Foster via email at [nathan.foster@noaa.gov](mailto:nathan.foster@noaa.gov) or phone (802)862-8711 x 225



### CONTACT US:

Michael H. Daniels, Mayor  
877-3691  
citymayor@myfairpoint.net

### CITY COUNCIL:

David Austin	877-3261
Lowell Bertrand	877-6960
Ziggy Comeau	877-3267
Peter Garon	877-2954
Joe Klopfenstein	877-2308
Randy Ouellette	877-3714

### CITY MANAGER:

Mel Hawley 877-3637  
(mhawley@vergennes.org)

### CITY CLERK:

Joan Devine 877-2841  
(jdevine@vergennes.org)

### POLICE:

EMERGENCIES 911  
  
Police Station 877-2201

### FIRE:

EMERGENCIES 911  
  
Fire Station 877-3201

### PUBLIC WORKS:

Public Works Garage 877-3585

### ZONING:

Mel Hawley 877-3637



## Vergennes Recreation Committee

by Joe Klopfenstein

The city recreation committee has been meeting regularly to assess the city's recreation assets, make improvements, and plan for the future of the city's recreational needs. We would like to recognize the employees of the city pool and the city's public works employees for another successful season at the Fishman Pool. The pool continues to be a great place to take your family.

We recently oversaw a resurfacing of the tennis courts located next to the pool and are evaluating options for redesigning the basketball court. We're also talking about a new dog park and bouncing around ideas for improving opportunities in the basin. If you have ideas or suggestions for recreation in Vergennes, contact me at [joeklop@comcast.net](mailto:joeklop@comcast.net) or Mayor Mike Daniels at [citymayor@myfairpoint.net](mailto:citymayor@myfairpoint.net).

## Great Fire of February 1958 and More

by Elias Baldwin

The Great Fire of February 1958 burned half a Vergennes city block. It began at Adams Hardware on Green Street and consumed the neighboring Corn Crib restaurant and a furniture store. It continued down School Street, jumped the alley toward Main, and leveled the three-story Dyer Block. Foote's Insurance building, while gutted, remained the only surviving structure in a flattened area of smoking rubble.

Forty-five color photographs of this disastrous event reside in the Bixby Memorial Free Library's historical photograph collection. Thanks to a partnership with University of Vermont's Bailey Howe Library and local history student Elias Baldwin, all of the nearly 800 photographs in the library's collection can now be seen online at [cdi.uvm.edu](http://cdi.uvm.edu).

Covering 122 years of history, presents a visual slice of life in the Little and 1914 parades join others of the city's art, transportation, and people. Every photograph is viewed in large format. The entire collection is accessible anytime for free at [cdi.uvm.edu](http://cdi.uvm.edu). The entire collection is accessible anytime for free at [cdi.uvm.edu](http://cdi.uvm.edu). Photographs of Vergennes, Vermont City. Photographs of the elaborate 1909 architecture, business, industry, scenery, tograph has a full description and can be tion is easily searchable, and visitors to

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The entire collection is accessible anytime for free at [cdi.uvm.edu](http://cdi.uvm.edu). “Photographs of Vergennes, Vermont,” makes enjoying and researching Vergennes' past with a comprehensive collection of rare and unique images easier than it has ever been. With the Fire of '58 just one of the topics represented, this resource gives our city's rich visual history new life.



## Maynard Building Revolving Loan Fund

by Mel Hawley, City Manager

Back in the mid-1990s, the City worked with Addison County Community Action Group to obtain a \$163,600 Community Development Block Grant to renovate the so-called Maynard building located at 97 Main Street, a multiple-family dwelling with four affordable rental apartment units. Upon completion of the project, the property transferred to Addison Housing Limited Partnership. The way that the grant was structured, the construction costs of \$158,600 must be paid back to the City in the form of a mortgage. Re-payments are not made on a monthly basis like typical mortgages. Upon completion of annual financial statements for Addison Housing Limited Partnership, a distribution occurs based on adequate reserves for future roof and furnace replacement, painting, and any other anticipated capital expenses. To-date, \$88,382.04 has been re-paid. These funds go into a separate account called the Maynard Building Revolving Loan Fund.

There is a seven-member committee, chaired by Henry Broughton that reviews loan applications for recommendation to the City Council. Other members include vice-chair Scott Gaines, Christine Collette, Joan Devine, Kevin Rooney, Lynn Jackson, and City Council designee Ziggy Comeau.

In 2008 the City assisted Shear Cuts with a loan from this fund to acquire and move their salon to its current location at 171 Main Street. Just recently, additional funds were committed to Shear Cuts to restructure their debt, formalize payment of their share of the streetscape project, and also fund additional improvements to both the interior and exterior of the building. At least two new employees will be hired as a result.

There is still about \$30,000 available for additional loans and the fund will continue to grow as Shear Cuts pays back their loan and Addison Housing Limited Partnership makes annual distributions. Also, a portion of the senior housing project is funded with a \$670,000 grant from Community Development Program funds. Once complete, the City will have a mortgage representing approximately 50 percent of that grant; the other 50 percent must be paid back to the State. Business owners wanting to learn more about this program can reach me at City Hall at 877-3637.

## Pets During The Winter Months

by Joe Klopfenstein

It's tough for everyone to keep active during the winter months and our pets are no exception. Here are a few tips to help keep your dog or cat healthy, happy and active as the snow flies.

Dogs love hide and seek. Hide some of your dog's favorite treats around the house and send him on a treasure hunt.

Rig a toy mouse on a string and let your cat chase it. Cats also love to pounce on light from laser pointers (be careful not to point it at her eyes!). Our cat loves to play with a toy we purchased that looks like a giant fishing fly at the end of a plastic wand. Check out your local pet store for a toy your cat might enjoy.

Playing ball isn't just for summer! Pet stores have balls suitable for indoor fun that your dog can chase.

A walk outside is great for dogs and their owners! Acclimate your dog gradually to colder weather then go out and enjoy the sidewalks our city employees do such a wonderful job to keep clear.

# Vergennes Holiday Stroll

Saturday, December 3, 2011

Contact: 802-388-7951 x1

**7:30 - 10:00 Breakfast with Santa** at VUHS Cafeteria - adults \$6, under 10 is \$4, under 3 free; info: 759-2922 Come and eat breakfast with Santa and make a **craft** in his **workshop!** Sponsored by VUHS students and Friends of Music

**9:00 - 3:30 11th Annual Winter Holiday Craft Fair** at Vergennes Elementary School - Admission: canned goods and non-perishables for the local food shelf

**9:30 - 5:30** Visit shops & play “**Spot the Candy Cane**”- if you find a candy cane, you’ll **receive a discount coupon**

**\*Help supply the Community Food Shelf** - drop off non-perishable items in merchant’s food shelf boxes

**10:00 - 2:00 Bixby Library Open House and Annual Silent Auction of Holiday Baskets** donated by local businesses and patrons (Bidding ends at 1:45 - winning bids announced at 2pm) **bring items / donations** to hang on the “**Mitten & Sock**” tree!

**10:30 Ring in the Holiday Stroll** by joining **Santa** and his elves strolling from the Vergennes Opera House to the Bixby Library - bring bells to ring and a voice to sing!

**10:45 Santa Claus** reads “**Twas the Night Before Christmas**” at the Bixby Library

**11:00 - 12:00 Jon Gailmor**, singer / songwriter at Bixby Library - due to limited space, **free tickets required** call 877-2211

**11:00 - 12:00 “Reminiscing with Father Time”** at the Clock Shop - 33 Green Street - Listen or share memories, photos, objects, etc. of Christmases past or Days of Old (conversation style). Enjoy mulled cider and cookies.

**12:30 - 1:00** Bixby Library - delectable light **Holiday refreshments** offered by Vergennes Community Forum

**1:00 - 1:30** Bixby Library - **Maiden Vermont** an a cappella group

**2:00 - 4:30 Visit a Winter Wonderland** at Vergennes Opera House - a community effort! **Food sale** to benefit Little City Players theater group, **Hot cocoa** offered by Northlands Job Corps Academy

**2:00 - 3:00 Champlain Brass Quintet** at the Vergennes Opera House

**2:00 - 3:30 Dickens Carolers** (Little City Players) in front of businesses on Main Street

**2:00 - 4:00 Make & Take Christmas Cards** at Vergennes Opera House - free for all ages by the Vergennes Masonic Lodge

**2:30 - 4:30 Children Visit with Santa** in a **Winter Wonderland** at Vergennes Opera House (VOH) - suggested donation of \$5 per family to defray VOH heating cost. Enjoy: 5x7 child’s picture with Santa by The Custom Image (Ralph Muzzy & Elaine Eldridge) compliments of Kinney Drugs!

• Gingerbread **cookie decorating** for children of all ages by Northlands Job Corps Academy

• Make **ornaments** at Santa’s Workshop for the “Children’s Holiday Tree” which will be on display at Jackman Fuels for the month of December

• **Mrs. Claus** reads stories

• **Children’s ID** - offered free by NY Life - consists of picture, fingerprinting, detailed/important contact information, specific details that can help identify your child and their medical information

**3:30 - 4:00 Victory Baptist Church Choir** at Vergennes Opera House

**4:45** S D Ireland lighted Holiday Mixer Truck in City Park

**5:00 Lighting of City Park & Memory Tree** with Mayor Michael Daniels, caroling by Addison County Gospel Choir.

**6:00 American Legion - Christmas Calcutta** with baked ham dinner - Calcutta drawing at 7 pm followed by Benefit Dance. Proceeds benefit local Heating Assistance Program. Info: 802-349-6370

**The Vergennes community working together!**