



SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER
a community newspaper and program guide
*Brought to you by the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association.
We are a community centre and neighbourhood house offering
recreation, childcare, community events, and much more, right
here in your neighbourhood!*



Fall Fairfield Returns with Music, Food, Art and Plenty of Pie!

by Ashley Chun, FGCA staff

Get your rolling pins ready! Fall Fairfield, presented by the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA), is back for a day of music, arts, crafts, food and an annual favourite, the Fall Fairfield Pie Contest. Home bakers are invited to put their best fruit pies to the test. Enter up to three pies for a chance to win a prize package and, of course, bragging rights! Visitors can sample 3 pies by donation and cast their vote

for the one they think deserves the top spot. All donations support FGCA's community food programs, helping make good food more accessible to neighbours who need it. But there's more to Fall Fairfield than pie. Throughout the day, local performers will bring music and entertainment to create a lively atmosphere for visitors of all ages. Food trucks and vendors will offer plenty of delicious options to enjoy,

while local artisans and makers will have unique treasures to take home. Fall Fairfield is a chance to discover the community spirit that make our neighbourhood such a special place to live. Bring your friends and family, enjoy some great food and music, browse the artisan booths and be sure to save room for a slice (or three) of pie!

FALL

FAIRFIELD

ROBERT PORTER PARK
1350 FAIRFIELD RD.

FGCA.CA

SUNDAY

SEPT

20TH

12-4PM

INSIDE

Summer
Recreation

Donate
Toothbrushes

Watch Out for
Baby Deer

Dave's
Garden



FAIRFIELD GONZALES
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Observer

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 FairfieldGonzales
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 @fairfieldcommunity

CONTACT US

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Victoria BC, V8S 5J1

250-382-4604

place@fgca.ca

RECEPTION HOURS

9am—4:30pm Mon to Fri

Closed Sat, Sun, Stat holidays

*Want to stay up to date
with neighbourhood
news and events?*

**Sign up for our
monthly e-newsletter
at fgca.ca**

*Our neighbourhood of Fairfield
Gonzales is located on unceded
(never surrendered) territories
of the Lkwungen peoples, now
known as the Songhees Nation,
the traditional stewards of this
land. Our centre is committed to
expanding our understanding
and actions relating to truth and
reconciliation.*

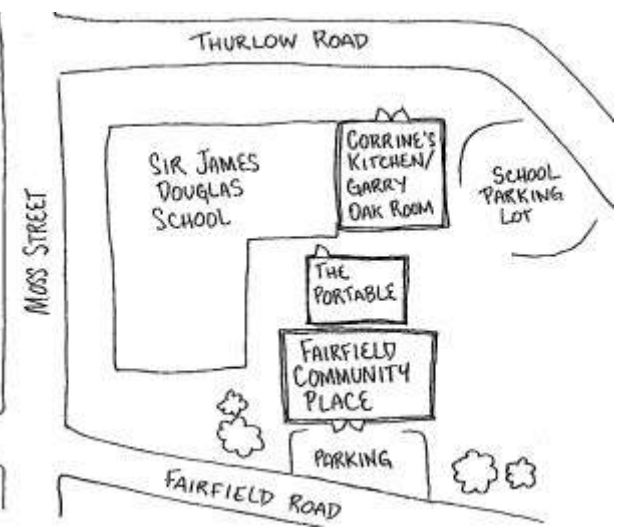
BECOME A MEMBER

Membership is free! As a member you will; have a say in who is elected to the Board, how the FGCA is governed (constitution and bylaws), be eligible to run for the Board and serve on committees. Visit our website and fill out our online membership form.

CONTRIBUTIONS & ADVERTISING

If you would like to contribute an article, artwork, ad, idea or something else, email office@fgca.ca

*The views expressed in the
Fairfield Gonzales Observer do
not necessarily reflect the views
of the FGCA.*



 FAIRFIELD GONZALES
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
the place to connect

WE ARE HIRING

- Join Our Team -

Open Positions:

- On-call Facility Attendant/Custodian
- Out-of-School Care Leaders
- Early Childhood Educator

Visit : www.fgca.ca for
more information

1330 Fairfield Rd
(250) 382 - 4604





THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR

FALL SPONSOR

**Goo Goo Goggles
OPTICAL**

FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY WITH US!



Join the FGCA Board!

Are you looking to give back to your community? We are seeking a few candidates to stand for election at our November Annual General Meeting. We're especially interested in hearing from you if you:

- rent your home
- are experienced or interested in financial literacy or fundraising
- have local networks that will help us reach our goals, or
- have Board or operational experience in social service organizations

Time commitment is 8-10 hours per month, meetings are the first Monday evening of each month.

Interested? Get in touch with Vanya at vmcdonell@fgca.ca or 250-382-4604



**SUNDAY
SEPT
20TH
12-4PM**

**FALL
FAIRFIELD**

 **ROBERT PORTER PARK
1350 FAIRFIELD RD.**

 **FGCA.CA**

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Thank you to our sponsors

PIE CONTEST | LIVE MUSIC | DANCES | VENDORS | CRAFTS | FOOD TRUCKS



Slow down for the baby deer!

Moss Rock Preschool is looking out for local fawns

Over the summer, Moss Rock Preschool had many encounters with deer and fawns, witnessing them crossing the road as “speeding cars” go by. Our educators listened to the children and took seriously their worry for the deer’s safety, and our own. The children were clear - we need to “slow the cars down.” As an offering, we invited the children to decorate their own signs and tell us what they want written on them to communicate with the cars.

When we take a moment to think about this, we see that the children care deeply about the more-than-human beings they encounter every day at preschool. They protest as a way to communicate what they care about. In early childhood education, there is this discourse of innocence, but when we take seriously what the children are telling us or questioning, we see they are true advocates for what they believe in. This is a great start to a conversation about advocacy.

At Moss Rock Preschool, nature is our classroom and every day is a new adventure! Through our outdoor-focused emergent curriculum, Moss Rockers are encouraged to explore, create, and discover at their own pace while

building confidence, independence, and a lifelong connection to the natural world. From imaginative play to cooperative problem-solving, unstructured time in nature gives children endless opportunities to learn through wonder and exploration!

Moss Rock Preschool has a couple spaces open for September: Monday-Friday, 9am – 1pm, Sept - June \$200 month. Email place@fgca.ca for more information.



Dave's Garden

Keeping the garden green for all of us

Lucky for us, Dave’s green thumb led him to the front garden of our community centre. His regular tending, watering, and weeding of the greenery and flowers offer the first welcome to visitors, before they even step through our doors. By sharing his time and talents, he has made our community centre a brighter, happier place for us all.

Staff at the centre wanted to show Dave how much we appreciate is attention to the plants, so we made a little sign “Dave’s Garden”.

How did you get involved with us?

I became involved with the centre soon after we moved to this area in 2021. I noticed some posters asking for volunteers to help with the food garden at the back of the property. At that time this group which I joined was meeting every few weeks to weed and maintain the area.

At some point when we were looking at the gardens at the front of the building, I suggested that I would be willing to take on looking after this area. At that time the gardens needed some attention and the planters needed painting and replanting. This was perfect for me as we lived close by and I could work here whenever it suited me.



Before I knew it this became a year-round position. I appreciated being left to do my own thing.

What do you love about taking care of the garden?

Of course, I really enjoy gardening and after moving into a condo I missed my home gardens. I particularly like coming here early

in the morning before the place gets busy. I enjoy the challenge this area presents with deer and people to take into consideration. Just never know what those deer are going to choose for breakfast!

My goal is to develop the gardens in order that they will only require a minimum of care and water.

All through the fall we have lots happening in our Fairfield Food Forest and the Ross Bay Native Plant Garden. Come grow with us and be part of the wonderful community coming together in our gardens!

Email: gardens@fgca.ca





WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at the FGCA

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	WEEKEND
REGISTER ONLINE FGCA.CA  250-382-4604 PLACE@FGCA.CA	Somatic Yoga 7-8pm Oct 6-Nov 10 6/\$60 Registered class	Drop-in Playgroup 9:30-12pm Birth-5 yrs Drop-in*, by donation 1335 Thurlow Rd. Starts Sept 16	Preschool Parkour 9:30-11am Walking-5 yrs Drop-in*, 1/\$4 1335 Thurlow Rd. Starts Sept 17	*Drop-in Programs are closed during School District 61 ProD days, Statutory holidays & Spring, Summer, Winter breaks.	Preschool Parkour 9:30-11am Walking-5 yrs Drop-in*, 1/\$4 1335 Thurlow Rd. Starts Sept 27
Baby Bootcamp 12:10-1:10pm Sept 28-Nov 2 Nov 9-Dec 7 5/\$77.50 Registered class	Drop-in Playgroup 9:30-11am Birth-5 yrs Drop-in*, by donation our Walking Club! Starts Sept 15	Wednesday Wanderers 10:30am-12pm Drop-in* Meet at the centre for our Walking Club! Starts Sept 2	Tiny Tempos 9:30-11am Birth-5 yrs Movement & Music Drop-in*, 1/\$4 1330 Fairfield Rd. Starts Sept 17		Tiny Tempos 9:30-11am Birth-5 yrs Movement & Music Drop-in*, 1/\$4 1330 Fairfield Rd. Starts Sept 27
Spanish for Travellers 9:30-11:30am Sept 22-Oct 27 6/\$105 Registered class	Iyengar Yoga All Levels 11am-12:30pm Sept 8-Nov 10 10/\$150 Registered class	Zumba Toning 5:30-6:30pm Sept 16-Dec 2 \$99 early bird rate until Sept. 7 11/\$110 Registered class	Iyengar Yoga Beginner Friendly 1pm-2pm Sept 10-Nov 26 12/\$144 Registered class	Iyengar Yoga Support & Restore 11:45am-12:45pm Sept 10-Nov 26 12/\$144 Registered class	Moss St. Farmers Market Saturdays 10-1pm Nov-April 10-2pm May-Oct Thurlow & Moss St mossstreetmarket.com
Zumba 5:30-6:30pm Sept 14-Nov 30 early bird rate \$99 ends Sept. 7 11/\$110 Registered class	Iyengar Yoga All Levels 5:30-7pm Sept 8-Nov 24 12/\$180 Registered class	Somatic Yoga 6:30-7:30pm Sept 16-Dec 2 \$99 early bird rate until Sept. 7 11/\$110 Registered class	Thursday Market Shop 5pm Drop-in, Free. Rescued food shop		
SoQi 6:30-7:30pm Sept 14-Nov 30 \$99 early bird rate until Sept. 7 11/\$110 Registered class	Unwind Knitting Club 7-8:30pm Come knit with us! Free Starts Oct 6	Badminton Social Play 7-8pm 1/\$5 SJD gym Register to save your spot. Bring your racket. Does not run during school breaks.	Hatha Yoga 5:30-6:45pm Sept 10-Oct 22 Oct 29-Dec 10 7/\$96.25 Registered class		
Royal Astronomy Society Club 7-8:30pm Wolf Den, back of the FGCA, Free pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca	Beginner Hand Drumming 7-9pm Sep 15-Nov 24 \$250 early bird rate until Sept. 4 10/\$300 Registered class	Courage to Change 7:30-8:30pm Drop-in, Free Narcotics Anonymous Everyone welcome	Level 2 Hand Drumming 7-9pm Sep 17-Nov 26 \$275 early bird rate until Sept. 4 11/\$330 Registered class		



The City of Victoria's Leisure Involvement For Everyone (L.I.F.E.) program improves access to recreation programs & services for folks living on a low income.

To apply email crystalpool@victoria.ca



ROOM RENTALS

We have several spaces to rent including a few classroom sized rooms, our large Garry Oak room for up to 80 people standing, and a commercial kitchen. See our website for our rates, availability and how to submit a booking request.

FREEBIE NIGHT FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS
2nd Monday of the month, 7-9pm, rental by donation
If your workshop, meeting, event, gathering or info session, is public and free to attend, you can book for free. Rooms are classroom sized and can accommodate up to 30 people.

250-382-4604 to book

CHILD CARE

Huckleberry Infant Toddler
10-36 mths | Full Day | \$10/day

Camas Early Years Centre
2.5-5 yrs | Full Day | \$10/day

Moss Rock Preschool
3-5 yrs | Half Day | \$10/day

Before & After School Care
Grades K-6
Fairfield-Sir James Douglas & Margaret Jenkins Schools
Cost varies based on Enrollment.

www.fgca.ca for details



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS at the FGCA



Garden Work Parties
Saturdays

SEP & OCT

See website for dates. fgca.ca Fall is a busy time for the gardens. Come help tidy, feed and prep our Food Forest and Native Plant Garden for the cold months. Everyone Welcome! No experience needed!



Paint Nights
Thursdays

SEPTEMBER 17

Raccoon in hiding

OCTOBER 15

Glowing Moon & Stars

6:30-9pm 1/\$40
Registered class



Meet A Stranger
3rd Saturday of the month

SEPTEMBER 19

OCTOBER 17

NOVEMBER 21

2:15-3:30 pm
Free. 1330 Fairfield Rd.
A chance to chat with a complete stranger.



Clothing Swap
Saturday

OCTOBER 3
NOVEMBER 7

10am-1pm
By donation
1330 Fairfield Rd.
Give away clothes, pick up new ones!



Fall Fairfield
Sunday

SEPTEMBER 20

12-4pm
Porter Park
Come to our annual community harvest celebration with music, arts, crafts and food. Free



Mama's Dance
Saturdays

SEPTEMBER 26

OCTOBER 17

NOVEMBER 21

6:30-8:30pm
1335 Thurlow Rd.
1/\$5 For ALL those who mother. Let's Dance! Babes in arms welcome.



Community Dinners
Fridays

OCTOBER 9

NOVEMBER 13

6-7:30 pm
1335 Thurlow Rd.
\$8 suggested donation. Stay & eat, or bring your container for take out.



Art at the Place

Holly Vivian

SEPT & OCT

Visit our foyer to view works with vibrant colours, and loose playful texture to evoke delight and joy.

9am-4:30pm Mon-Fri
1330 Fairfield Rd.



Repair Cafe
Saturday

OCTOBER 3

2-5pm, By donation
1330 Fairfield Rd.
Drop by and learn how to fix your broken items with volunteer fixers!



Annual General Meeting
Thursday

NOVEMBER 26

7pm-8:30pm
Everyone is welcome to the FGCA's Annual General Meeting. We will celebrate our accomplishments of the last year and members will vote for our board of directors.



Kokedama Plants
Thursday

NOVEMBER 19

6:30-9pm 1/\$40
Registered class. Learn the Japanese art of binding a plant's root ball to make a sculptural sphere. An assortment of plants to choose, build 2 to take home.



Queer Community Dinners
Fridays

OCTOBER 23
NOVEMBER 27

6-7:30 pm
1335 Thurlow Rd.
\$8 suggested donation. Stay & eat, or bring your container for take out.

Toothbrushes for Project Reconnect

Creating care packs for our unhoused neighbours

By Susan Martin

This year Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours (learn more at NSUN.ca) has committed to supplying at least 100 toothbrushes to be distributed at Project Reconnect. Project Reconnect is an annual event that invites anyone to come by and learn about services available to help those who are homeless or precariously housed. In past years, attendees have been able to enjoy a sit down meal, get their haircut, get help with their taxes on the spot, find some clothing items that they need and be provided with a bag of hygiene supplies and cold weather accessories (gloves, warm socks, toques). This year's event will be on September 22 at the Central Baptist Church (833 Pandora) from 11am to 3pm.

Along with supporting Project Reconnect NSUN continues to help out other organizations doing outreach with unhoused people like Peer2Peer Indigenous Society, QomQem Coastal Connections and SOLID Outreach. Usually we do this by reimbursing these groups for snacks, food and drinks that they hand out during outreach.

Individually, NSUN members are also involved in helping plan the upcoming Point in Time Count (happening October 8, 2026) as well

as the city's extreme weather response that aims to provide unhoused people with safe indoor spaces when the weather turns dangerous. Though Victoria's winters are mild compared to many other locations in Canada, long stretches with heavy rain and temperatures in the single digits take a toll on the mental and physical health of those who live outdoors - particularly when they often have no way to have dry clothes to wear because of limited access to laundry facilities.

We also hope to find some way to give housed people more opportunities to interact with folks living unhoused whether that is through doing crafts on Pandora (something Professor Mike Ma from UVic has been doing the past few months), collaborating with other organizations to put on meals or bringing local research to the wider community.

NSUN is always happy to welcome new members - we typically meet twice a month, once on Zoom and once in person. We are very open to new ideas about how we might work together to solve this problem and at the same time strengthen community and connection across a wide spectrum of neighbours both housed and unhoused. Feel free to go to the



Help us collect toothbrushes for our unhoused neighbours.

contact page on our website nsun.ca or send an email to neighbourhoodsun@gmail.com.

If you'd like to know more about Project Reconnect check out their website:projectreconnectvictoria.ca NSUN may have a table at the event and we'd love to meet you if you want to drop by. There is also the possibility to volunteer at the event in a variety of roles from greeter to helping serve the hot meal to set up/tear down.



making cheese and baloney sandwiches for QomQem night outreach.

Peer 2 Peer Indigenous Society mobile outreach van



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www.thaihideaway.com

How We Can Help

Advocacy
on policy issues that affect our lives & communities

Assistance
navigating provincial government & community resources & services

Information
on provincial government policies & services

Outreach
by promoting, attending, or speaking at community events

Recognition
of unique contributions or milestones with congratulatory certificates & letters

We'd love to hear from you!

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Grace Lore

MLA for
Victoria Beacon-Hill
Community Office

1084 Fort Street Victoria, BC V8V 3K4
250-952-4211 Grace.Lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca



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May - Oct
10am to 2pm
Nov - Apr
10am to 1pm

Keep the Child Care Promise



FAMILIES IN BC WERE PROMISED AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE. THE COMMITMENT WAS CLEAR: CHILD CARE CENTRES WOULD BE CONVERTED TO \$10ADAY CARE BY NOW. BUT FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS ARE PUTTING THAT PROMISE AT RISK.



Don't let
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child care
disappear

TAKE ACTION!

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Provincial



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provincial and federal leaders
using these QR codes

 @fairfieldcommunity  fgca.ca

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Contact us to book your Kinesiology assessment prior to starting class.
Call 250.686.0899
www.amazeactivehealth.ca



Flourish Fest

In August we hosted Flourish Fest, turning the Food Forest into an interactive outdoor museum celebrating sustainability, food security, and the natural world. Thanks to everyone who helped out & dropped by!



FGCA GARDEN EVENTS

Saturday Sep 19
Garden Material Neighbourhood Distribution
1pm until materials run out
Stop by & pick up free materials for your garden!
Bring your own bags, bins.
Robert Porter Park (along Thurlow Rd)

Saturday Sep 26
Fairfield Food Forest Year End Work Party
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Come celebrate another great season in the garden & help us get ready for the next season.
Robert Porter Park (along Thurlow Rd)

Saturday Oct 03
Ross Bay Year end Work Party
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Join us at the Ross Bay Native Plant Garden for our final work party of the season! We will be spending the afternoon weeding & tidying to help keep the garden healthy & looking its best.
Memorial Crescent & Dallas Rd