

# Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

April 2008

## BENSON ON THE WEB WE'VE MOVED

You may have noticed that the Benson website is no longer located at [www.bensonvt.com](http://www.bensonvt.com). You will now find an improved website at [www.benson-vt.com](http://www.benson-vt.com).

Aside from a slightly different look, there have been technical changes made to improve use for you, the people it was created for. The most significant change is to the Community Calendar.

Not only is the calendar now easier to read, but when you click on an event, a pop-up window will display detailed information of the event and allow you to email yourself (or someone else) a reminder of the event from 15 minutes to 2 weeks prior to the event.

## MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

Monday, April 7, 7:00 pm, Town Office: Selectboard

Tuesday, April 8, 6:30 pm, Community Hall: Benson Busy Buddies 4H Club

Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 pm, BVS Library: School Board

Wednesday, April 9, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Benson Village School: Bingo

Thursday, April 10, 7:30 – 9 pm, Community Hall: Verd Mont FCE Club

Monday, April 14, 11:30 am, Community Hall: Senior Luncheon

Monday, April 21, 7:00 pm, Town Office: Selectboard

Tuesday, April 22, 6:30 pm, Community Hall: Benson Busy Buddies 4H Club

Saturday, April 12 – Girl Scouts host Powder Buff Derby

Monday-Friday, April 14-April 18 – BVS Spring Break

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the May 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than April 25th.

To submit your news, please either e-mail the information to [benso news@shoreham.net](mailto:benso news@shoreham.net) or call Lica Dodd at 537-3173. Please submit ads to Shirley Vladyka at 537-2002

**Monthly Senior Luncheon**  
**at the Benson Community Hall on April 14**

Spend time with old friends and give yourself the opportunity to make some new friends! You can do this at the Community Hall on Monday, April 14 and, at the same time, enjoy a scrumptious meal prepared by the Wheel Inn. Suggested donation \$3.50. For reservations, call Deanna Britton at 537-2971. Proposed menu is: Tossed salad with plenty of dark greens, Baked Ham, Pineapple Sauce, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Homemade bread, Tapioca pudding with peaches, Milk, Coffee/Tea

**PROJECT GRADUATION 2008**

The parents of the FHUHS graduating class of 2008 wish to continue the tradition of providing a safe and enjoyable "celebration space" following graduation. The all-night party is available to all graduates and their guest, and will be chaperoned by parents. It offers a substance free evening full of fun with their friends, in a safe environment. Activities include swimming, games, basketball, DJ, dancing, as well as others specifically chosen by the students. Also included is a variety of food, refreshments, and prize "giveaways". This Years Project Graduation will be held at Green Mountain College in Poultney.

As part of our fund raising efforts we will be having the Harlem Rockets come play at Fair Haven Union High School on April 8 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time for \$9.00 by calling 537-4474 or they are available at Beverage King in Castleton or Stewarts in Fair Haven. Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.00. So come watch the Harlem Rockets take on our very own Dream Team!

On May 3 we will be holding a Basket Raffle where we will be looking for the Senior Parents to donate a basket in their childs' name. Baskets can be taken to the school and left in the office on May 2.

Our next meeting will be held on April 23 in the FHUHS Cafeteria at 7p.m. We are always looking for help! For more information or to volunteer, please call Sue Brown at 537-4474

**BENSON BUSY BUDDIES 4-H CLUB**

The Benson Busy Buddies 4-H Club meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month, at the Benson Community Hall, from 6:30 until 8:00 PM. All youth between the ages of 5 and 18 are welcome.

**BENSON ON THE WEB**

Have you visited our online site recently? Check it out @ <http://www.benson-vt.com>

## CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is always welcome each Sunday at 10:00 am and, if you enjoy singing, Choir practice starts at 9:30 am!

## VERD MONT FAMILY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLUB

The Verd Mont FCE Club meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month from 7:30 until 9:00 PM at the Benson Community Hall.

**Verd Mont FCE is part of the National FCE organization with the following mission:**  
“Strengthening individuals, families and communities through continuing education, developing leadership and community action.”

## FOR SALE!!! MUSEUM BENCHES

The Benson Museum is selling its benches. The wooden seats consist of two chairs side by side. They would be a lovely addition to your front porch or deck and are quite comfortable. The cost for 1 bench is \$50.00 or for those slightly “damaged” (some slats are missing) you can have 2 for \$50.00. Please contact Jan Ladd at the Town Office at 537-2611 if you are interested in owning a bit of Benson history.

## PARKING BAN IN EFFECT

Please remember that the Parking Ordinance directing that there is to be no parking on the streets within the Town of Benson is in effect until April 15th. The purpose of this ordinance is to facilitate the removal of snow. Thank you for your cooperation.

## NEWS FROM THE BENSON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

“911” ADDRESS SIGNS. 911 address markers should be on all homes and buildings in the town of Benson. Landlords are reminded that the green address signs are required on all rental properties. Signs must be placed in a highly visible location and should be on all properties by May 1, 2008.

## Want More News?

If you would like to receive an e-mail copy of the weekly Benson Village School Newsletter, please send a request to [bvsparentemail@arsu.org](mailto:bvsparentemail@arsu.org). You will not receive a response from this e-mail address – your name will be put on a list to have the newsletter emailed to you.

## The Grand List The First 100 Years

At this time of year the listers are busy preparing the Town Grand List for the next tax year. The 1819 Grand List completed by Kellogg, Clark and Parkhill totaled \$23,735.12 for Town taxes and \$23,473.62 for State taxes.

The property assessed included the following:

149 polls	\$ 20.00 each
3429 and 1/2 acres of improved ground	1.75 each
Houses in total	328.00
163 oxen	10.00 each
745 cows & other cattle of 3 years	6.50 each
297 cattle of two years	5.00 each
288 horses and mules of 3 years and upward	13.50 each
24 horses and mules of 2 years old	6.50 each
22 horses and mules of 1 year	3.50 each
1 stallion of 3 years old	50.00
1 stallion of 4 years or older	150.00
Pleasure carriages	none
5 house clocks	10.00 each
1 gold watch	10.00 each
13 common watches	5.00 each
Money on hand and deposit @ 6%	335.00
2 Attorneys	38.00
3 practitioners of physics and surgery	45.00
Merchants and traders	52.00
Owners of Mills and Machines	65.00
Mechanics	52.00

There were additions and deletions from the total for such things as horses of the cavalry, militia polls and deductions for those subject to military duty and equipped by parents.

## **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

If your power goes off, remember to call CVPS at 1-800-451-2877. Thinking that your neighbor probably called in will NOT really let CVPS know that you are without electricity.

## **GET A REAL WORK OUT!**

Do you want to get a good work out while having fun and making new friends??? If you do, please join us at our Cardio Kickboxing Aerobics Class at the Benson Village School. Classes are meeting now and will continued on Monday and Thursday evenings 7:00 to 8:00 through the end of April.

For further information, please call Joan (the instructor) at 802-775-0980 or Colleen at 537-3521.

## **211**

Do you know that by dialing 211 you can receive information about the thousands of resources available in Vermont that can help you solve almost any problem you are experiencing? This is a local call that provides a free and confidential service with person-to-person assistance, 24/7. Please be sure to use this information and referral program of the United Ways of Vermont if you need help with child care resources, health care services, legal assistance, support groups, utility assistance to name only a few topics. If

## **DOG REGISTRATION**

Benson Residents are reminded that all dogs should have been registered prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please see Jan Ladd at the Town Office (537-2611) to register your dog if you have not already done so.

## **DO YOU HAVE A CONCERN/COMPLAINT?**

Residents of Benson who have a problem with Town services are asked to complete a Service Request Form so that their concerns can be accurately addressed. Requests/complaints that are phoned in will also be recorded on these forms. This will make it easier for all involved to be sure that all complaints/concerns/issues of Benson residents are brought to the attention of the Selectboard, are resolved and followed up appropriately.

## BENSON TRANSFER STATION PERMITS

Transfer station permits for March 2008-April 2009 are available at the Benson Town Office for \$10.00 each. Please see Jan Ladd at the Town Office to get your new "dump" sticker.

## TRIP TO SARATOGA CASINO AND MALL

The Castleton Seniors are sponsoring a trip on April 9<sup>th</sup> to the casino and mall in Saratoga. Pick up times are 9 a.m. at Castleton Meadows and 9:15 a.m. at the Shaw's parking lot in Fair Haven. The bus should return at approximately 4:00 p.m. Please call Mrs. Eleanor Bushey at 468-8842 if you are interested in taking this trip.

## NEWS FROM THE BENSON LIBRARY

New to the Benson Library: The library has received two books on Vermont's history:

- 1) **The Troubled Roar of the Waters** (Vermont in flood and recovery 1927-1931) and
- 2) **Vintage Vermont Villainies** – true tales of murder and mystery from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The newest offerings in the category of Non-fiction include: 1) **Blue Heaven** by C.J. Box – a suspense novel about two children who go on the run from four men they watched commit a murder. All set in Northern Idaho; 2) **Firefly Lane** by Kristin Hannah – Love, loss and the magic of friendship; 3) **Duma Key** by Stephen King – An accident victim takes up painting, but these paintings have powers that cannot be controlled; 4) **Honor Thyself** by Danielle Steel – An actress falls victim to an explosion and begins a journey of survival and self-discovery; and 5) **The Friendly Persuasion** by Jessamyn West – Set in Indiana during the Civil War, a Quaker family deals with the violence and strengths of their beliefs.

## MONTHLY READING GROUP

This month's Reading Group book is **High Tide in Tucson** by Barbara Kingsolver. It is a grouping of essays and short stories. The Reading Group will meet April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

## GLOBAL WARMING DISCUSSION COURSE

Are you concerned about the effects of global warming? I would like to host a discussion course on this topic. We will use a book called *Global Warming: Changing CO<sub>2</sub>urse* offered by the Vermont Earth Institute. *Global Warming: Changing CO<sub>2</sub>urse* offers people opportunities to learn more about the history and science of global warming, explore personal values and habits as they relate to climate change and consider actions to curb global warming. We will meet four times at the convenience of those interested to discuss selected articles and consider personal lifestyle choices as they relate to climate change. If interested, please call Karen Barber at 537-3155

## NEWS FROM THE BENSON MUSEUM

The Sycamore tree in Benson Village has its own history! In April 1871 word was received that one of Benson's prominent citizens had been assassinated in Florida. Dr. Cooley went to Florida with the brother of the deceased. The internment was to be in Benson.

The tombstone in the Old Cemetery (behind the Town Office building) reads as follows:

Side 1: John Quincy Dickinson. Capt. Dickinson was assassinated by the Ku Klux Klan near his home on the night of April 3<sup>rd</sup>. He fell at the post of duty in the integrity of a true Patriot.

Side 2: Capt. John Q., son of Isaac & grandson of Capt. Joel b. Benson Nov. 26, 1836, Graduated Middlebury College 1860. Served in the War of Rebellion from 1861-1865, died at Marianna, Florida April 3, 1871

Descendants of Captain Dickinson still live in our area: Mrs. Marion Munger in Benson and Mrs. Frieda Walker in Fair Haven.

Dr. Cooley was mentioned earlier in this article because he brought a "slip of a sycamore tree" and planted it near his home. His home was located between the Lisle Bartholomew residence and the Trutor residence. It burned many years ago.

The tree has been measured because of its extremely large size and has been recorded in various articles. Visitors from other parts of the state have come to see this extremely large tree.

Special Note: Hope to see you at the Museum this season!