

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

April 2010

SPRING IS SIZZLING IN THIS SMALL TOWN!

It would certainly seem that no matter what your age or your interests, you would be hard pressed not to be able to find something to do right here in Benson! The only "same old, same old" part about any of the available activities is that they are all being organized by members of our community who have stepped up – as they have done since our town began - and volunteered to help make our town as good as it can be. Thanks to these volunteers, Benson is able to offer activities and events well beyond what can be supported by our budget. For example, the Playground Committee obtained grant money to make much needed improvements at the school; the Family Day Fundraising Committee has held 2 very successful events and has two more in the works. No money for a drama program at school? No problem, a parent has volunteered to stage *Peter Pan*. From Scouts to 4-H to our History to civic concerns to our Book Group, we have it. And, if there's an event or activity that you'd like to see in Benson, get involved and make it happen – it can be done!

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
April 5	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
April 6	Tuesday	7:30 pm	Benson School	School Board
April 8	Thursday	6:30 pm	Town Office	Energy Committee
April 8	Thursday	7:00 pm	Community Hall	VerdMont FCE
April 12	Monday	All Day	Benson School	Playground Improvement
April 12	Monday	11:30 pm	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
April 13	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
April 14	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Planning Commission
April 17	Saturday	10 am–2 pm	Community Hall	Bear Stuffing Fundraiser
April 19	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
April 21	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Library	Reading Group
April 26	Monday	7:30 pm	Benson School	School Budget Information
April 27	Tuesday	10 – 7 pm	Community Hall	School Budget Vote
April 27	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
April 27	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Town Office	History Project
LOOKING AHEAD				
May 19	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Peter Pan
June 19	Saturday	8am – 3pm	Downtown	Car Show Fundraiser

If you want more information – minutes of meetings, schedules, opportunities in Town - please remember to visit our Town's website: <http://www.benson-vt.com>

Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on April 12th

No, there will be no hard-boiled eggs or jelly beans on the menu – we promise! Instead, come join us for: Salad, Old Fashioned Meatloaf, Brown gravy, Mashed potatoes, Green beans, Homemade bread, Tapioca pudding with peaches, Milk, Coffee/Tea

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, April 9th: 537-2971.

SAVE MONEY!

Property owners filing 2009 Vermont State Income Tax Returns should remember to include two important forms which may decrease their 2010-2011 property tax bill. HS-122 (Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment Claim) determines who qualifies for the lower residential tax rate. HI-144 (Household Income) must be filed with HS-122 in order to receive the tax prebate. Both of these forms are included in the Vermont Income Tax Booklet and much of the information needed to complete them is on your 2009-2010 tax bill. If you need a new copy of your bill (or a Vermont Income Tax Booklet), stop by the Town Clerk's office or phone 537-2611.

Health Insurance If You're Over 60

The following information comes to you from the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, one of the organizations you support with your tax dollars:

“As people age, health insurance becomes more important and often times more expensive. Older Vermonters on a limited income can find it difficult to pay the premiums, deductibles and co-payments connected to Medicare and Medicare Drug Plans, or to purchase private insurance if they are not yet eligible for Medicare. The state of Vermont offers several programs that can assist with these costs: private health insurance (VHAP and Catamount), Medicare Drug Plans (VPharm), the Medicare part B premium (Medicare Savings Program), and the co-payments and deductibles not covered by Medicare (Medicaid & QMB). Eligibility is based mostly on income.

To learn about these programs, who qualifies and how to apply, call the Senior HelpLine 800-642-5119 or 786-5991. This is a community service of the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging serving Rutland and Bennington counties since 1974. Web site www.svcoa@svcoa.org, email: seniorhelpline@svcoa.org; Ellen Secord, Senior HelpLine Coordinator, CIRS-A Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging 1085 US RT 4 East, Unit 2 B Rutland, VT 05701 802-786-5991 1-800-642-5119”.

PETER PAN IS COMING TO BENSON!!!

Aided by actors and actresses from the Benson Village School, Peter Pan will be making an appearance at the Community Hall on Wednesday, May 19th at 6:30 p.m. If you would be willing to assist Tonya Bowen as she prepares for this event by helping with costumes, please call Tonya at 537-3533.

BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Open Wednesdays 3 - 7 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.



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Do you like discussing a book you've enjoyed reading? No need to travel to Fair Haven, Castleton or Rutland. Our Reading Group will meet on April 21st at 6 p.m. in the Library. This month we are discussing A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains by Isabella Bird and all are welcome to join our group. If the Reading Group doesn't fit in your schedule, come in and browse anytime we're open – we can help you find a "treat" to take home and enjoy.

CHURCH NEWS

On Thursday, April 1st, Maundy Thursday, at 7 p.m. there will be a special worship service downstairs in the church. We will be remembering the last week of Jesus' life.

We will be celebrating the Son's rising from the grave with the sun's rising on Easter morn, April 4th at 6:30 a.m. on the steps of the Church. After the service, we will go inside for a potluck breakfast. Then at 10 a.m. we will have our Easter Sunday service in the sanctuary of the Church. All are welcome to join us.

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

**Questions? Please contact Holly Noble: 802-446-3575 or
hollyberry530@yahoo.com**

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE UPDATE

There has been a group of community members working together since September on ways to improve the grounds at the Benson Village School. We are pleased to announce that we currently have a workday set! We have teamed up with the Skills USA students from Stafford Technical Center under the leadership of their faculty advisor, John Bixby. It is with their generous donation of time, resources, and manpower that this workday will be taking place. We have also been fortunate in securing EPSDT Grant money which will enable repairs to be made on existing equipment, grounds work, the purchase of new equipment, and general sprucing up of our school's exterior. The Benson PTO has made a donation of two tetherball games, which will be installed on this day. There is still a lot of work to be done and we can't do it without the continued support of the community. **We will be doing these improvements on Monday April 12th and are in need of donations.** The following items would be greatly appreciated: -Monetary donations to be put towards the purchase of trees which will be planted as a wind break behind the playground; -4 foot sections of "Sono" construction tubes to use in setting some of the equipment in cement; -Monetary donations will also be accepted to help purchase food for the student volunteers. We are always open to further suggestions and additional donations. If you feel you possess something that would be of use to us on our workday, and would like to donate it please get in touch with Amy Munger: 537-3456; Gina Cull: 537-2063. Our next meeting will be held on Thurs. March 25th at 6 pm.

PLAY GROUP IN BENSON

The Rutland County Parent Child Center hosts a playgroup downstairs in the Community Hall every Wednesday from 9:30 – 10:30 am. Any child, age 0 – 5, from any town, is welcome to participate. Please bring a snack.

Questions? Call Lori at 775-9711.

Tax-Aide Helps Taxpayers

Free tax counseling and preparation for taxpayers with middle and low income, with special attention to those 60 and older, is available from AARP Tax-Aide from February 9 through April 15. You do not have to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use this service. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers, trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, will offer help with personal income tax returns at various locations around Rutland County. Appointments are required. Call: Phil Stephan, Rutland City Hall, Rutland 773-8931 or Wallingford Town Office, Wallingford 446-2336. Service is also available for homebound individuals through the Southwest Vermont Council on Aging. Contact Ellen Secord at 786-5991. AARP Tax-Aide is administered through the AARP Foundation and supported locally by the RSVP office. Questions? Please contact Ellen Secord, Senior HelpLine Coordinator, CIRS-A Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging 1085 US RT 4 East, Unit 2 B Rutland, VT 05701 802-786-5991.

IF HOPPING AFTER HARES...

...has led you to question the health of your balance, we have a great idea for you and it's not hidden in a basket! Come and join us at Bone Builders for a free trial session. We meet every Monday and Thursday morning, from 9 – 10 a.m. at the Community Hall. No bunny costume required – just a willingness to have a good time while you strengthen your bones and improve your balance.

CORRECTION!

In last month's Benson Bulletin we printed: *"We also like our Constables once elected. There are a number who served for 15 or 20 years. It was apparently a lucrative position in the late 1700s; there is a note in the records that David Hodgship was paid \$30.25 for the position in 1799."* We added the word "was" in front of "paid". That is NOT what our "From the Past" author had submitted. Tom Bartholomew had written *"...David Hodgship paid \$30.25 for the position..."*. And Tom was, as usual, correct! People used to pay for the privilege of being Constable, apparently because they then could keep the proceeds from any fines they levied.

APRIL UPDATE FROM THE ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Benson Energy Committee is working on the Town Office building, having finished work in the Community Hall (except for more blown insulation over the stage area). Our goal is to reduce heat loss from the building, the largest loss being the combination of foundation/sill to ceiling/attic, which can account for 40% of infiltration loss on a windless day. Warm air rises, leaving the building through holes in the ceiling and attic, including light fixtures, attic hatches, chimneys, plumbing and electrical penetrations. Cold outside air entering through the foundation/sill joint then replaces the warm air. Similar air flow may be occurring in your home. Tightening up these holes is much cheaper than replacing windows and accomplishes more also.

In the Town Office attic, the chimney has been flashed with aluminum and high temperature caulk after the insulation was pulled back from the masonry. Then, to accommodate the additional 6-8 inches of cellulose insulation and keep it away from the chimney, a plywood dam was built around the chimney, keeping it an inch or more away from the masonry. A plywood dam was also built around the access hatch and the hatch itself backed by blueboard. The hatch frame was weather-stripped to keep air from seeping into the attic. Finally, where the plumbing vent stack above the bathroom penetrates to the attic, a large hole was filled and foamed closed. We should be blowing that and the Community Hall stage area insulation within a month.

In the basement, where the bulkhead door goes through the foundation wall, the existing blueboard was removed, light framing built, the board cut 1 inch smaller so it could be can-foamed around all edges, and replaced. The doorframe and casings were also foamed. Around the sill, where the floor framing meets the concrete foundation, the old fiberglass insulation was removed, rigid foam cut smaller than the opening glued in, then foamed around the edges for a tight fit. This work is still underway.

A few other items will be done in the basement, which will be described in the future; this work, along with keeping the door to the upstairs closed, will allow us to isolate the basement thermostat from the other zones in the building and turn it down.

From the Past: Grant Rejected

The Benson Village School, which was erected in 1855, was totally destroyed by fire of unknown origin on August 14, 1933. All equipment and books in the high school were lost. However, through quick action by townspeople, pupil's desks, some furniture and a few texts were saved in other departments.

A PWA grant was approved and allowed for a new school but under the rules, the construction costs were so high, a special town meeting was held. At the town meeting, it was deemed wisest to reject the grant and the Town voted to erect its own building. It appears the construction cost was \$8,022 and the new building was used starting in the fall of 1934. The building is now used for Town offices.

Apparently increased costs associated with federal dollars are not a recent happening.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Beginning April 1, 2010 the following will be the official email addresses:

Listers listeners@benson-vt.com
Selectboard selectboard@benson-vt.com
Town Clerk townclerk@benson-vt.com
Zoning Administrator zoning@benson-vt.com

Boards

Community Hall Committee chall@benson-vt.com
Conservation Committee conservation@benson-vt.com
Development Review Board drb@benson-vt.com
Energy Committee energy@benson-vt.com
Planning Commission planning@benson-vt.com
Public Policy Review policy@benson-vt.com
Recreation Committee play@benson-vt.com

Community

Public Library library@benson-vt.com
Museum museum@benson-vt.com
Newsletter news@benson-vt.com
Newsletter Ads ads@benson-vt.com
Subscribers newsletter@benson-vt.com
Webmaster webmaster@benson-vt.com

Public Safety

Animal Control dogs@benson-vt.com
Constable law@benson-vt.com
Fire Department fire@benson-vt.com
First Response ems@benson-vt.com

Public Works

Highway Department highway@benson-vt.com
Transfer Station recycle@benson-vt.com
Waste Water Treatment wastewater@benson-vt.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **May 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than April 23rd. To submit your news, please either e-mail the information to bensonnews@shoreham.net or call Sue Janssen at 011-33-4-93-60-32-06.

Submit your ads to Shirley Vladyka: ShirleyV@shoreham.net

VerdMont FCE Club

The Verd Mont FCE Club met on March 18th at the Community Hall. Members voted to support Project Graduation at FHUHS with a monetary contribution. The club is making plans to host the Rutland County FCE Council meeting in May. Rita Charlton presented a program on Irish trivia.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 8th, at 7:00 PM.

Verd Mont FCE is part of the National Family Community Education Association with the following mission: "Strengthening individuals, families and communities through continuing education, developing leadership and community action."

SCHOOL NEWS

At the April 6th School Board meeting, the dates for the Budget Information and the revote on the Budget will be confirmed. They are tentatively scheduled for:

Monday, April 26th 7:30 p.m. – Informational Meeting

Tuesday, April 27th 10 – 7 p.m. Voting

Please be sure to check this information after the April 6th School Board meeting by calling the school or ARSU: 265-4905.

The U.S. Census is Hiring!

\$13.50/hour + \$0.50/mile

Work up to 40 hours a week in a temporary, part-time job with the 2010 Census and enjoy flexible hours and a chance to be a part of history in the making.

Entrance exams at Benson Community Hall:

Tuesday, April 6, 3 PM

Tuesday, April 13, 3 PM

C.A.T.S.

The next meeting of the Benson C.A.T.S. will be on Saturday, April 3rd at 6 p.m. at Dick Le Gault's house. Please check with your officers regarding the scheduling of our first trail maintenance day of the season.