

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

August 2008

FAMILY DAY 2008

Sunday, August 10th

Wow! Just when you think it couldn't get better, it does! Family Day 2008 promises to be spectacular, thanks to the hard work of MANY volunteers!

- 10 am Parade: Theme "Hillbillies" – all are welcome, on a float or on foot!
Antique Cars will be in the Parade and then on display. Benson CATS have donated \$100 for 1st place float, \$50 for 2nd place, \$25 for 3rd place.
- 10 – 3 Benson Museum open
- 10:30–12:00 Children's Carnival Games
- 9 – 2 Burdock Competition and Display
- 9 – 2 Church Yard Sale
- 9 – 2 Library Book Sale
- 11:30 – 1:00 Fire Department Barbecue Lunch
- 12:30 Awards Presentation and Puzzle Unveiling
- 1 – 3 8th Grade Bingo – Upper Firehouse
- 1:30 VPTA Garden Tractor/ATV Pull



Puzzled? Come to Family Day.!

For information about:

Parade	Contact	Gina Cull	537-2063
Antique Cars	Contact	Bert Berardelli	537-3349
Puzzle Project	Contact	Sue Janssen	537-3111
Tractor Pull	Contact	Keith Cull	537-2063
Burdock	Contact	Loretta Clark	537-2041

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
August 11	Monday	11:30 am	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
August 11	Monday	7 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
August 12	Tuesday	7:30pm	BVS Library	School Board
August 16	Saturday	10 am	BVS	8 th Grade Bottle Drive
August 25	Monday	7 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
August 26	Tuesday	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!		
August 27	Wednesday	6 pm	Library	Reading Group
LOOKING AHEAD				
Sept. 9	Tuesday	10am-7pm	Community Hall	Primary Elections
Sept. 13	Saturday	11-12:30	Transfer Station	Hazardous Waste
Sept. 15	Monday	8:30-4:30	Town Office	Taxes due

**Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on August 11**

Don't heat up your kitchen! Come enjoy a lazy summer day with good friends, old and new. This month's menu features: Tossed Salad – plenty of dark greens, Seafood salad, Pasta salad, Sliced cucumbers/tomatoes, Zucchini bread, Watermelon, Milk, Iced Tea.

Suggested donation: \$3.50.

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, August 8: 537-2971.

SENIOR BUS TRIPS

On **August 19th**, the Fair Haven Seniors are taking a bus to Ticonderoga to shop at the Super Wal Mart. If you are interested in going, please call Althea Codiani at 468-5888 to reserve a seat. The bus will pick up Benson travelers at 10:00 a.m. in front of Town Office.

A bus trip has been scheduled for **August 25th** to attend a "Dueling Organ Concert" in Round Lake, NY. The setting is a Victorian Village and the concert will feature both an old and a new organ. The concert is set to begin at 2 p.m. and cost of admission is \$5.00. Prior to the concert, we will stop for lunch at the Olive Garden in Glens Falls. The bus will depart Fair Haven Shaw's parking lot at 10:30 a.m. Benson seniors who are interested in attending are asked to carpool to the Fair Haven site to catch the bus. Please call Althea Codiani at 468-5888 to reserve a seat for this trip.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Please remember that Primary Elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Attorney General, State Senators and Representatives and State High Bailiff will be held on **Tuesday, September 9, 2008**. Polls will be open at the Community Hall from 10 am to 7 pm.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!

BENSON MUSEUM

We are open for the Season!

Hours: Wednesday from 1 – 3pm and by Appointment (537-2000)

HEATING UP?

As we all try to find ways to afford to keep warm this winter, we need to be VERY careful when using alternate forms of heat (wood, pellets, kerosene, space heaters, etc.). If not installed correctly and used safely, these heaters can turn your hopes and plans to ashes. Your Fire Department will be providing tips and reminders each month in the newsletter but you are ultimately responsible for the safety of your home and your family. Be safe, not sorry!

Need more information? Visit our Town's website: <http://www.benson-vt.com>



WOW!!!

Congratulations to the Benson Softball Team on a 10-0 season!!! The girls worked very hard to improve their skills and it showed. Thanks also to the two awesome coaches Pam Lamoureux and Chris Bean for pushing our girls like they were their own!

From the coaches and the girls: "We would like to thank the Parents, Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts, Cousins, Friends, and everyone else who came out to support us at our games. Your support was essential to our success! Thanks also to all the Benson residents who volunteered to ump our games, especially Dave White and Jim Pritchard. We appreciated your help immensely."

CHURCH NEWS

Get ready for Family Day by coming to our old-fashioned Hymn Sing at 7pm on Saturday, August 9. Organist Rob Noble will be ready and willing to play just about any hymn you can think of. No auditions are necessary – just come and have some fun!

Don't forget to shop our annual "yard" sale on Family Day. Our basement is full of incredible bargains and treasures.

We are still looking for someone to play either the organ and/or piano at our services. If you might be interested and would like more information, please contact Holly Noble.

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

PULL-EASE!!

Come and have a great time on Family Day at a Garden Tractor/ATV Pull, sponsored by VTPA (Vermont Tractor Pullers' Association). There are 4 categories – Youth/Adult Garden Stock, Sport Stock, Super Stock open, ATV – and everyone must be registered by 12:30 pm. The event will start at 1:30 pm at the Rob Butler Track (formerly the Lussier Farm Track). The entry fee is \$10 and all VPTA rules apply. Questions? Call Gina or Keith Cull: 537-2063.

CONTRIBUTING CATS

Our **LOCAL** ATV Club is, once again, making our Family Day Parade a bit more "interesting" by donating cash prizes for the best floats. \$100 will be awarded to the 1st place float, \$50 to the 2nd place and \$25 to the 3rd place. **Local** support of **local** events is a good thing!

Thanks, CATS!

BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Open Wednesday 3 pm – 7 pm and Saturday 11 am – 2 pm



Reading Group

The group will meet on August 27 at 6:00 PM at the Library. We will be reading Eleanor – The Years Alone by Joseph P. Lash. The group is open to anyone interested.

Annual Book Sale

We will have our annual Book Sale on Family Day, August 10. Doors open at 9am.

Summer Reading Contest

The summer reading contest for grades 1 – 8 is almost over!

The contest started June 15 and will end on August 6. After reading two books your name goes into the drawing to win a prize. The more books you read the more chances you have of winning.

All books read must be borrowed from the Benson Library or approved by the Librarian.

Contest Prizes

Grand Prize - A bike donated by Coca-Cola and G&L General Store

2nd prize - \$30.00 gift certificate to a local bookstore

3rd prize - \$25.00 gift certificate to a local bookstore

4th prize- \$20.00 gift certificate to a local bookstore

One winning prize per person.

The First Hundred Years Sheep Marks

In the mid eighteen hundreds, sheep were king in this town and much of Vermont. Sheep do not always observe property lines or fences. In fact, I think sheep in general have no use or respect for either. In order to identify the owners of wandering sheep the town issued “sheep marks” to the owners of sheep. The ears were marked with various combinations of slits, triangles, punched holes or clipped ears. Sketches of the issued sheep marks with the owners’ names are recorded in a book in the Town Office. If you, now or in the future, have need to mark your sheep, we suggest a look at this book.

Benson Village School News

The 8TH graders are beginning to raise money for their class trip to Washington D.C. for the spring of 2009. At the Benson Family Day on August 10th, the students will be sponsoring Bingo from 1:00-3:00 with food for sale. Also from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, there will be a Silent Basket Auction outside of the library with the winners announced at 1:00. There will also be an opportunity to order the 2009 Benson community calendars and add names of family members. The 8th graders will also hold a bottle drive, August 16th, starting at 10:00 a.m. If you have bottles but are not going to be home that day, please give us a call at 537- 2491 to make different arrangements. The 8th graders appreciate the support of the community!

August Energy Tip: BUY LOCAL? LOCAL FOOD? -- FOOD FOR THOUGHT

From the Benson Energy Committee

We may all have our own ideas about what buying locally means—to some it means buying food and products from the United States, or from Vermont, or from an area within 50 miles of Benson, or maybe just from Benson. Any or all of these definitions are relevant, and important. Our health, the economic viability of the local area, our dependence on the petroleum industry, even the character of our town and community are greatly affected by buying locally.

When we buy food and/or services from the local area

- We know what we are getting, because we know the reputation of the provider. We know how the food is grown, how the product is made, the competence of the service provider.
- We provide jobs for local people who spend their money locally, and the community becomes more economically viable.
- More jobs are local, the community has people who stay in Benson for a greater part of the day/week, and the community itself is stronger.
- Food is consumed close to the time it is harvested, and is fresher, healthier.
- Products and food and services are provided with less dependence on the petroleum industry: less transportation cost, less wear on the roads, less gas/oil.
- Small business and industries, the real economic backbone of America, get stronger and provide a strong hedge against a large-scale economic collapse such as a Wall Street disaster, or some other factor completely out of our control.

Where we can buy locally

- There are a great many independent producers of a variety of foods, products, and services right here in Benson, as well as the local stores.
- There are local farmer's markets in Benson, Orwell, Fair Haven, Rutland, Middlebury, and more. Local beef and lamb are available right from the farm here in Benson, as are vegetables, eggs, and milk.

Growing your own, sharing, and preserving

- We can grow a lot of what we need, fruits as well as vegetables. Even a small row of greens produces enough to be passed along to a friends and neighbors. Family groups can get together and decide who will grow what.
- Home-grown foods taste better. They are better for your health, and for the earth.
- Canning and freezing are good group activities for anytime in the summer after the garden starts coming in. You know what you are eating, where it came from, who grew it, how it was grown.
- What about a root cellar? Homes are once again being built with root cellars in mind. Having the summer harvest all winter extends the goodness and keeps the trips to the store to a minimum.

What else do we get out of buying locally / growing our own / sharing?

We are in greater control of our lives, independent. Isn't that what Vermont is all about?

FARMERS' MARKET

The season has started and everyone is encouraged to participate, either as a seller or buyer. The Benson Farmers' Market takes place each Saturday morning from 9 to noon, weather permitting through mid-September in the park next to the Wheel Inn. If you have crafts, jam, produce, please come. And, new this year, FREE knitting lessons will be offered. So, on your way to the ~~dump~~ transfer station, sell a few zucchini to pay for your gas and learn to knit a scarf to keep yourself warm so you can lower your thermostat next winter!

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

If it's your creaking joints, come join our local Bone Builders Group from 9 – 10 am every Monday and Thursday morning in the Community Hall. The program is FREE and is a great LOCAL way to improve your balance, strengthen your bones and enjoy some good company

BURD IS BACK

By popular demand, the Benson Burdock Competition is once again a feature of Family Day. Under the benign guidance of Loretta Clark (who now knows the difference between thistle and burdock and is being tutored to be able to distinguish burdock from rhubarb), the competition is open to everyone. As usual, the fields are wide open (tallest plant, most unusual plant, designer attire, sculpture, culinary creations – you name it...or we will!) and the judges are, as tradition dictates, open to "influence". Weather permitting, all entries will be displayed in the park by the Wheel Inn on Family Day. Check with the Clarks if you have any questions: 537-2041.

BURN PERMITS

It is unlawful to burn anything in the open air without a Burn Permit. When you want to burn items on your property, you must first obtain a Burn Permit from the Benson Fire Warden, Jake Brown (537-3336). When you request a Burn Permit from Jake, you must state specifically what you intend to burn. Once you've received permission to burn those items, you cannot add other things to it. If you have additional things to burn, you must call Jake and get another Burn Permit.

Burning without a Burn Permit is considered an unlawful burn. Unlawful burns can cost the home/property owner hundreds of dollars in fines and, if the fire department is called to put out the fire, additional costs can reach into the thousands of dollars for time, manpower and equipment.

Please remember: Always request a Burn Permit from the Fire Warden.

Never burn items not specifically stated in your request.

Never leave a fire unattended.

CONGRATULATIONS!

JoAnn Gates won the \$50 Seafood Prize from Fishhounds.net.

Thanks to all of you for playing!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **September 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than August 25th.

To submit your news, please either e-mail the information to benonnews@shoreham.net or call Sue Janssen at 537-3111. Submit your ads to Shirley Vladyka:

nanasstuffafriend@gmail.com