

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

August 2009



FAMILY DAY 2009

- 10:00 am: Parade
10:00 – 3:00 pm: Benson Museum Open
10:30 – 12:30: Children's Games
Post-Parade: Dog Show/Talent Contest
9:00 – 2:00 pm: Burdock Event (20th Anniversary!), Photo Contest,
Church Yard Sale, Library Book Sale, Townwide Yard Sale
11 – 1 pm: History Challenge
11:30 – 1:00 pm: BBQ Lunch
1:00 pm: Prize Awards
1:00 – 3:00 pm: Bingo
1:30 pm: VPTA Garden Tractor/ATV Pull
2:00 pm: Hymn Sing

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>DAY</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>PLACE</u> | <u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u> |
|-------------|------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| August 1 | Saturday | 9 - noon | Wheel Inn Park | Farmers' Market |
| August 8 | Saturday | 9 - noon | Wheel Inn Park | Farmers' Market |
| August 9 | Sunday | 9 – 5 | Townwide | Family Day |
| August 10 | Monday | 11:30 pm | Community Hall | Senior Luncheon |
| August 10 | Monday | 7:00 pm | Town Office | Selectboard |
| August 11 | Tuesday | 7:00 pm | Benson School | School Board |
| August 13 | Thursday | 6:30 pm | Library | Energy Committee |
| August 15 | Saturday | 9 - noon | Wheel Inn Park | Farmers' Market |
| August 19 | Wednesday | 6:00 pm | Benson Library | Book Group |
| August 22 | Saturday | 9 - noon | Wheel Inn Park | Farmers' Market |
| August 24 | Monday | 7:00 pm | Town Office | Selectboard |
| August 26 | Wednesday | All Day | Benson School | First Day of School |
| | | LOOKING | AHEAD | |
| Sept. 19 | Saturday | 11 – 12:30 | Transfer Station | Hazardous Waste |

**Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on August 10th**

- Let the Wheel Inn cook while you enjoy a lazy summer day, visiting with good friends, old and new, and talking about what you enjoyed the most on Family Day! Proposed menu: Tossed Salad, Seafood and Pasta Salad, Sliced Cucumbers and Tomatoes, Zucchini Bread, Fruit Salad, Milk, Iced Tea. Suggested donation: \$3.50.
- **For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, August 7th: 537-2971.**

**BENSON FARMERS' MARKET, SATURDAY 9 – 12,
WHEEL INN PARK. BUY LOCAL!**

BENSON MUSEUM NEWS

A bit more of our history! This time our celebrations will be written about. The Centennial was observed in the year 1883 and the Sesquicentennial in 1933. Our Charter date is May 3, 1780. According to historical notes, I have found the celebrations were to observe family living in the township and not an exact relationship to the Charter date.

As the time neared for our 200th celebration, we voted at Town Meeting to go with the actual date to agree with our Charter date. Therefore, our Bicentennial was celebrated in 1980.

In the Museum we have the large photographs of each special event and we even have the guest books from all three celebrations.

We hope to see you all on Family Day!

ALL ABOARD FOR THE SENIOR BUS TRIP!!!

Benson has been awarded a \$750 grant to fund a senior bus trip. While there are no specific limitations on where we can go, this grant only covers the cost of transportation. Also, the trip will have to be completed by the end of October.

In the past we have gone to the Tunbridge World's Fair, on a shopping excursion to Burlington, and to other places within and without Vermont. A whale-watch trip was suggested a few years ago, as was a wine tour. However, almost any reasonable destination can be considered. Be creative!!

I plan to lock in the arrangements in the very near future, so please contact Jon Dodd at 537-3173 as soon as possible with your ideas.



BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Open Wednesdays, 3 pm – 7 pm and Saturdays 11 am – 2 pm

Our annual **Summer Reading Contest** is almost over! You have until August 5th to read for a chance to win great prizes including the mountain bike, donated by G & L and Coca Cola.

The book discussion group will meet on Wednesday, August 19th at 6:00 pm at the library. We will be reading about Robert Frost this month. Join us for an interesting discussion - or, just come in during our regular hours and browse our ever-expanding selection of material! We're sure you'll find something to enjoy.

Also, the Library is in the process of planning a Book Mobile Service and they would appreciate it if you would complete and return the survey included in this newsletter.

CHURCH NEWS

On August 2nd at 2 p.m. there will be a potluck picnic at the Noble's in Tinmouth - meat and beverages provided. Please sign up at Church if you are coming – or call Holly - and indicate how many will be coming and what dish (appetizer, vegetable, salad, or dessert) you are bringing. Directions and map are available at Church.

On Family Day, August 9th, we will be holding our annual Tag Sale from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Church. At 2 p.m. we are having a Hymn Sing with the Rev. Rob Noble playing. Bring your favorite hymn so we can sing it!

Everyone is always welcome each Sunday at 10:00 am and, if you enjoy singing,

Choir practice starts at 9:30 am!

Questions? Call Holly Noble at 446-3575.

SCHOOL NEWS

The new school year is right around the corner! The staff at Benson Village School is preparing for the student's return on August 26th. As the new principal, I have been in Benson since July 1st and have been able to meet many community members. Thank you all for the warm welcome. We look forward to the new year and the continuing support from the community in our commitment to the best education for our children. Please call us at the school if you have questions before the year starts.

Kim E. Doty

Principal

**BUY LOCAL AT OUR BENSON FARMERS' MARKET
SATURDAY MORNINGS, 9 – 12, WHEEL INN PARK**

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Garden visits continue all month. If you are interested in participating in one of these visits – either as a visitor or a host – please contact Bob.

Always ready to talk gardening – Bob Phelps 537-3155.

LYME DISEASE ALERT

Please remember that, although we are fortunate in our rural setting to have the opportunity to see a variety of wild animals, setting out food for these animals is NOT a good idea. In the first place, it is illegal. More importantly, perhaps, you place yourself, your family and your pets in danger. Deer, fox, rabbits, raccoons, etc. carry ticks and other diseases that are a danger to all. Feeding wild animals brings the danger closer. Look and enjoy but don't feed the wild animals!

DOGS STILL DELINQUENT

It is hard to believe, but we STILL have owners who have not registered their dogs. If your name is on this list in error, please contact the Town Clerk. Otherwise, please comply with the law, register your dog, and spare the rest of the community the expense of ticketing

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| you: Gleene Bassette | Sharon Doner | John Mohan | Brice Palmer |
| Vonda Bohannon | Heather Luther | Gabby Murray | |

ZUCCHINI LIFTING

If you are wondering how you are going to carry all that zucchini from your garden and sneak it onto your neighbor's porch, why not enjoy a FREE trial membership to our local Bone Builders? Improve your strength and balance and lessen your chances of being apprehended mid-zucchini-transfer. We meet from 9 – 10 am every Monday and Thursday morning downstairs in the Community Hall. The program is FREE and is a great LOCAL way to improve your balance, strengthen your bones and get your day off to a positive, upbeat start. FREE fun and fitness, right here in downtown Benson!

KICKBOXERS BACK IN ACTION

Our local Kickboxing classes will meet on August 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. If you are among those who think that having this activity right here in Benson is a good thing, please come out and get involved. Unless we have enough students to pay the instructor, this program can't continue. So, if you've been looking for a one hour workout which incorporates aerobic conditioning, strength and abdominal work, come join us!

When: Tuesday's from 6 – 7 pm

Where: Community Hall

Fee: \$6/class

Instructor: Joni Imperato

Please be sure to bring a mat or towel to lie on and wear comfortable clothes.

BENSON HISTORY CHALLENGE

Family Day attendees will have an opportunity to participate in a Town History Knowledge competition. Winning prizes will be three \$25 gift certificates. There is no fee to enter.

You can enter the contest between approximately 11:00 am and 1:00 pm, outside near the Community Hall entrance or, in case of rain, in the Community Hall basement. Contestants will be given an entry form with ten questions concerning Benson and will have a few minutes to write their answers on the entry form and return it for scoring. Individuals or groups may enter, however an individual may not be part of more than one group or also enter as an individual if a group member. Every contestant will be given the same questions and therefore should not share the questions with other possible contestants until after the contest closes.

As always there is a right answer, a wrong answer and the judges' answer. In this case only the judges' answer counts. In case of a tie, a drawing will determine the winner or there may be a question on the entry form to use to determine the winner. Winners will be announced at the 1:00 pm "Prize Awards" or shortly thereafter, posted at locations in Town and listed in the next newsletter.

If you decide to participate, the following information may be helpful.

1. In the early fifties, there were many public activities held at the Benson, Fish and Game Club. There will be a question about those activities.
2. At one time, there were eleven school districts and many rural one room schools in Benson. There will be a question about the one room schools.
3. There is a monument to Veterans in front of the Town Office. One of the following two questions will be asked. What is the most frequent last name on the monument or what is the second most frequent name on the monument?
4. In the early 1930's there were four different brands of gasoline sold in Benson Village. There will be a related question.
5. There will be a geography question, a population question and a question about first settlers plus three others.

PRETTY PLAYGROUND

Many thanks to Shirley and Larry Vladyka for attacking the weeds at the playground! The roto-tilling is finished but there are still a few weeds waiting to be picked up by willing hands attached to shorter bodies! Thank you, Shirley and Larry!!!

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>

20th Annual Burdock Building Contest and Exhibit Rules

Entries are not limited to adults, children or others
All ages are welcomed and encouraged to enable this behavior
You may submit as many entries as you wish

Winners will be determined by creativity, neatness, and form

Entries should be clearly labeled with the name and contact information as well as an explanation or story (if necessary)

Deliver your entry (entries) to the Wheel Inn Park across from the Benson market no later than Sunday 10:30 on August 9th

We will be using these categories:

- Inventive (non-edibles) culinary creations
- Designer attire (including jewelry, clothing, and accessories)
 - Tallest plant
- Artistic Design (including sculptures, art of all kinds)
 - Most creative uses for a burdock

DOG SHOW/ TALENT CONTEST

Schedule: 9:45 am – meet in Leonard Lussier’s driveway. March in the parade or ride on the float; 10:00 – Parade; Post-Parade: Meet on Kellogg’s lawn (behind the antique shop) for the first-ever...

BENSON DOG SHOW/TALENT CONTEST CATEGORIES

- Best Canine Costume
- Best Tail-Wag-Shakes (wiggles, stumpers and thumpers allowed) – 30 seconds
- Best “BURDOCK” (all true Bensonites can figure this one out...)
- Best Kisser-Smooching Pooches – you will have 30 seconds to impress the judge
- Best Catch/Fetch – 3 tosses per entrant
- Dog/Owner Look-Alike (costumes allowed)
- OPEN – Best Trick – Show us what you’ve got!
- Pro-Stock Division – reserved for dogs with show experience
- Bucket Race – similar to equine cloverleaf barrel races – dog and owner race as a team

Throughout the morning, our judges will be scouring the crowd for other Canine “CHAMPS”. Awards will be presented after singing our closing song “Dogs Bless America”.

AWARDS TABLE sponsored by PURINA PRO PLAN
DOG ID TAGS sponsored by WEBSTER VETERINARY SUPPLY
FAMILY PORTRAIT sponsored by ARTHUR PHOTOGRAPHY

**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU
FROM THE FAMILY OF BETTY LUSSIER.**

Thank you ALL for your kind words, cards and donations to the Benson Church in our Mother's memory. Our Mother loved living in Benson and being part of a small town. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and ongoing support so many of you continue to show our father.

Thank you.
Betty's Family

"SERIOUS" BURDOCK STUFF

On Family Day, Herbalist Jude Millar, of Sacred Ground Herbals, will be presenting "The Beauty of Burdock~~a much maligned and undervalued weed." Jude will be talking about this plant with an attitude (wonder why it's become Benson's mascot...) and if you've wondered what it can be used for other than building and sculpting and decorating, come visit with Jude. Learn about the food and medicinal uses of this abundant plant. From Burdock Pickles to Savory Roasted Roots, burdock is packed with nutrition. As if that's not enough, burdock also provides us with a "green pharmacy," addressing health concerns ranging from skin and joint diseases to nourishing and cleansing the liver and kidneys. Questions? Call the Clarks: 537-2041

FAMILY DAY PARADE

We've just learned that Judy and Chris from CAT Country will be joining us for the parade. We told them that they had to decorate themselves with burdock to participate, so let's see what they come up with! Remember, the parade theme is "Happy Birthday Champ" and, as usual, this theme is open to YOUR interpretation. Everyone is welcome to enter a float or to simply march/walk along, with friends or with your leashed dog. in the parade! C.A.T.S., our local ATV Club, is donating \$50 for 1st place and there are trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place too. Call Gina Cull (537-2063) if you have any questions, otherwise get those bribes floats ready!

TOWNWIDE YARD SALE

It's not too late to sign up and have your sale included in this event. Remember, you can hold it at your home or we'll find a spot for you in Town.
Questions? Call Jan Ladd: 537-3434.

CHAMP PHOTO CONTEST RULES

On the front page of this newsletter, you see the photo that inspired this contest. Steve Arthur was out for a stroll one Sunday morning and that's what he saw. Bob Phelps claims it's friendly, but perhaps that's because Bob feeds it. Personally, we advise all of you to keep your toes out of Beaver Meadow Pond. Now, for all of you who have insisted that there actually be rules for this contest...

To be considered for a prize, you need to submit your favorite photo of your favorite encounter with your favorite Champ to the Benson Village Store or to G & L by noon on Saturday, August 8th.

You can take your photo with a digital camera or a real, old-fashioned camera. If you don't have a camera, use a crayon. If the Beaver Meadow Pond Monster ate all your crayons, go up to the recycle bin at the Transfer Station on Wednesday or Saturday, get some old magazines and cut out the colors you need.

If you want credit – and possibly a prize – for your photo, put your name and how we can contact you on the photo (front or back). If you think we won't understand what the photo is, give a brief explanation. If you think your photo should be in a specific category, tell us. To preserve your artistic freedom, we are not making up the categories until after we see the entries.

Photos will be displayed in the Community Hall on Family Day and, if the Judges still have some strength left after picking the winners for the Parade as well as the Burdock Competition, they'll come up and judge the photos. If we've come up with a prize by then, you'll get it.

LAWN MOWER NEEDED

The Cemetery is in need of a new lawn mower. If you have one in good condition that you would be willing to donate, please contact Don Ladd: 537-3434.

PICNIC TABLES

It has been suggested that it would be nice to have some picnic tables to put out on the slab. If you have one to donate to the Town – or would be willing to make a monetary donation for tables, please contact Jan Ladd: 537-2611.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **September 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than August 26th. To submit your news, please either e-mail the information to

bensonnews@shoreham.net or call Sue Janssen at 537-3111

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

FEATURING BENSON!

Loretta and Dennis Clark, and the Benson Village Store have been chosen to be featured in an upcoming Vermont Magazine article. Although not confirmed, it looks as if the article will appear in the Sept/Oct issue. The Clark's, members of the Vermont Alliance of Country Stores and Vermont Grocers Association, are proud of what they have accomplished at the store, and that the magazine has picked their store as a feature. Dennis and Loretta say they have been assured that downtown Benson, and Benson in general will be discussed as well. "We're proud to be here in Benson, and happy to have had some input into the content of the article concerning Benson. We especially thank Mrs. Trutor for the historical data gained about the wonderful history of Benson and the Benson Village Store that she has compiled over the years. We can only hope that all of downtown will see a few more visitors, you know----those that see that sign 'Benson--just over the hill'. We thank all of Benson for your continued support."

Energy Committee Receives Weatherization Grant

The Energy Committee has been awarded a grant by the Vermont Community Climate Change Grant Program. We will use this money to insulate and air seal the town office and the community hall. Over the next few months, we will be detailing the work done in the Energy Tip column, so that you can follow along and make some of these improvements in your own home or business.

The first step is to have an energy audit. Ours was performed in January by Charles Murphy from BROCC at no cost to the town. Energy conservation and weatherization assistance is available from BROCC at no cost to Vermont residents who meet income eligibility guidelines (regardless of whether you own or rent your home, apartment or mobile home). However, if you rent, you must obtain permission from your landlord for the work to be done. For 2009, a family of 2 with income up to \$29,124 annually or a family of four with income up to \$42,829 annually qualify for a free energy audit. For more information, call BROCC at 802.775.0878.

If you do not qualify for a no-cost energy audit from BROCC, they will still do an audit for you for a charge. Or, see Efficiency Vermont's website for a list of certified building auditors.

Our next step will be to have a blower door test done. This is often done as part of the energy audit. We will use this as a baseline to measure improvements. Another way to measure improvements is in gallons of heating oil used, and we will report on this throughout the coming winter.

ATTENTION PIE PEOPLE!

If you are one of the wonderful people who has agreed to contribute a pie for the Family Day Fire Department's BBQ and you would like your pie plate back, please be sure your plate is labeled. Thanks!

THANK YOU, LEONARD!

One of the MANY things we have come to appreciate from Leonard Lussier is the excavating work he so skillfully does in our cemeteries. Fortunately for Leonard but unfortunately for the Town, Leonard is retiring from his digging duties. Please join us in extending our heartfelt thanks for the years of service Leonard has provided. Thank you, Leonard!

MORE CEMETERY THANKS!!!

Most of us have learned to slow down just a little on Lake Road in the mornings so that Judy and Edmond Lowell can enjoy their morning stroll more safely. In addition to improving their health, the Lowell's have a chance to appreciate the scenery, although they have not yet spotted the Beaver Meadow Pond Monster. The Lowell's would like to commend the Cemetery Crew for the wonderful job they do in Fairview Cemetery. The grounds are impeccably maintained and thus add to the beauty of our community.

Thank you, mowers!

Garden Tractor/ATV Pulls

On behalf of Gina and Keith Cull, along with VTPA (Vermont Tractor Pullers Association), we would like to thank our sponsors for 2009. Without you, we would not be able to make this special event possible. The money donated goes to pay purse prizes for the V.P.T.A. Stock and Super Stock classes 3 places back. Trophies for the other 5 classes 3 places back, a port-a-potty, and advertising for our sponsors. Banners will be placed along trackside the day of the event along with announcements throughout the day thanking the following businesses and donators:

Winmill Equipment
Orwell Sand & Gravel
Fyles Brothers. Inc.
Kinney Pike Insurance
The Wheel Inn
Doug Hathaway Trucking and Excavating
Scott Perron Plumbing and Heating
G & L General Store
Willy T's Good Food Bakery
Black Box B.B.Q.
New Do's Hair Salon
J. V. Construction
Lowell Country Gifts
C.A.T.S. – our local ATV Club

With a special thanks to Robert Butler for the use of his track!

Thank you all very much for your help and support.
Hope to see you all trackside, Sunday August 9th at 1:30 pm.

Benson Village Library is making plans to provide a ‘book mobile’ service to those who find it difficult to get to the library, but would appreciate the opportunity to have books available in their area of town for selections and return on a regular basis.

Please help us plan how to serve you and your neighbors by answering the following questions:

1. What kind of books would you like us to have on the book mobile for you to choose from? _____

2. Would you prefer to :
a) Make a selection from what those who answer the survey ask to have available. Yes / No
Suggestion: _____

b.) Request one or more types of books, or a specific book, be brought by the book mobile on it’s next visit to your area?
Yes / No
Suggestion; _____

3. Which of the following types of books should we have available for you to choose:

Fiction: Circle all that apply

Sci-Fi- Mysteries - Historical fiction - Science Fiction - New Writers – Westerns –

Others - _____

Favorite Authors - _____

Non – Fiction: Circle all that apply

History – Science – Gardening/Plants – Domestic Activities (sewing, cooking, etc.) – How to – Business – Financials – Educational

Others - _____

Please drop your completed survey in the boxes at the following locations: G&L General Store, Benson Village Store, Wheel Inn, Book Shed, Lowell’s Country Gifts, Ed’s Nursery, the Library, or Town Hall.