

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

August 2011

SUNDAY AUGUST 14th: FAMILY DAY/BURDOCK FESTIVAL

- 9:00 Burdock Entries due at the Town Office
- 9:00 Hymn Sing
- 9 – 1 Library Book Sale
- 10 – 2 Church and Townwide Tag Sales
- 10:00 PARADE: Theme – HOLLYWOOD
- 11:00 Dog Show on the lawn behind the cement pad
- 11:30 – 1 BBQ to benefit the Benson Municipal Volunteer Fire Department
- 12:30 Basket Raffle begins at the Fire Department to benefit the
BVS 8th Grade Class
- 1, 2 & 3 Adirondack Drill Team Equestrian Shows at Kellogg's (across from
Wheel Inn)
- 1:00 Magic Show on the cement pad between the Town Office and
Community Hall
- 1:30 VTPA Garden Tractor/ATV Pulls at the Butler (Lussier) track



grannyearth.com

Plus face painting, vendors, children's activities...and the return of the Burdock King and Queen!

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
August 3	Wednesday	5:30 pm	Town Office	Auditors' Meeting
August 3	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Planning Commission
August 8	Monday	11:30 am	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
August 8	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
August 9	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
August 9	Tuesday	7:00 pm	School	School Board
August 11	Thursday	6:30 pm	Town Office	Energy Committee
AUGUST 14	SUNDAY	All Day	Townwide	FAMILY DAY
August 17	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Library	Reading Group
August 22	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
August 23	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
August 23	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Town Office	History Project
LOOKING AHEAD				
September 5	Monday	All Day	Town Office	Closed
September 15	Thursday		Town Office	Taxes Due
September 21	Wednesday	6:00 pm	School	BINGO

Monthly Senior Luncheon: August 8th

Take a break from harvesting your burdock and enjoy a delicious meal in the newly painted Community Hall. The menu this month, prepared right here in downtown Benson by The Wheel Inn, includes: BBQ pork loin, roasted potatoes, seasonal veggies, fresh fruit and cookies, coffee, tea, milk. Suggested donation: \$3.50.

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, August 5th : 537-2971.

BENSON MUSEUM

The Museum is now open for the season on Thursday afternoons from
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

CULVERT WORK POSTPONED TO AUGUST 8th

The installation of a box culvert on North Stage Road (just north of the intersection of Frazier Hill Road, North Cross Road and Stage Road) has been postponed to the week of August 8th. We anticipate that the road will be closed for the entire week while this work is being done.

BURDOCK COMPETITION

Bring your entries to the lawn in front of the Town Office by 9 a.m. on Sunday, August 14th. Prizes will be given for the most theme-related creation (Hollywood), the tallest burdock, the biggest burdock ball and the most creative sculpture or creation.

2011 Burdock Shirts

The 2011 Burdock shirts are now available for purchase. New this year is the year printed on the shirt. They are ash gray with a deep purple burdock. Shirts are \$10.00 each and \$12.00 for XXL.

If you would like to purchase one in advance please contact Gina Cull at 802-537-2063. (They went fast last year, so pre-order yours today!)

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>

And the Benson Village School's website:
<http://www.benson.arsu.org>.



BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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

The reading group will be reading The Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner, The book will be available for pick-up on Wednesday and they will meet August, 17th.

Reminder: Book Sale from 9:00-1:00 on Family Days 8/14/11.

BALANCED BURDOCK?

Has gathering your burdock to make your entry for the competition thrown you off balance? Why not come and see what our local Bone Builders is all about? This group meets from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Community Hall every Monday and Thursday. No previous experience is needed – just a willingness to come and have fun while you improve your health! (and please leave your burdock at home...)

NEWS FROM BVS 8th GRADE STUDENTS

We have a busy year of fundraising ahead. We will start during the Burdock festival. We will be holding a basket raffle and bake sale at the fire house, after the parade, with the drawing at two thirty. We will be selling community calendars throughout the burdock festival, with a booth near the BBQ.

We will also be doing monthly BINGO again, starting on Wednesday September 21st, then again on October 19th at 6:00pm at the school.

In addition, we will be selling frozen pizzas on October 24th. Be sure to ask an 8th grader for an order form!

IT'S PIE TIME

The official pie calls have begun! We are seeking donations to the Fire Department's Family Day BBQ. We are looking for pies, pickles, sour cream, butter. If you know what you would like to contribute, please call Daphne Bartholomew (537-2611) or Sue Janssen (537-3111). If you also know now that you will be unable to contribute this year, please give us a call so that we don't disturb you. Otherwise....

FAMILY DAY BIKE SAFETY REMINDER

Please remember that State of Vermont regulates the operation of bicycles (23 VSA § 1136) and that parents are legally responsible for assuring that their children operate their bicycles in a safe manner.

TOWN PLAYGROUND REMINDER

The lawn and equipment surrounding the Town Office, the Library and the Community Hall are there for everyone to enjoy (not to vandalize) from dawn to dusk. From dusk to dawn, this area is off limits. Parents are urged to be sure that their children respect his property AND to respect the people who live near the center of town. Parents are reminded that they may be held legally responsible for any damage their children cause. Neighbors should call 911 if they see vandalism occurring or 773-9101 to report any problems they observe.

New Do's Hair & Tanning Salon



1995 Stage Road, Benson, VT

(802) 537-2617

Bring in this coupon to receive:

50% OFF

Any regular priced tanning lotion with
a purchase of a tanning session.

Tues-Thu 9-7, Fri 9-4, Sat 8-2

Prepaid Tanning 7 days a week 7am-7pm

GO VERMONT

Go Vermont is a resource for commuters who want to reduce the cost and environmental impact of driving by offering a free carpool/vanpool matching service and many other benefits including the possibility of winning movie tickets, gas cards, gift certificates and more. For more information, visit ConnectingCommuters.org. To register call 1-800-685-RIDE.

SAFETY CONCERNS

The Selectboard has received a significant number of complaints regarding children in the center of town operating their bicycles in an unsafe (and un-helmeted) manner. Darting out into the road without looking to see if there are any oncoming cars – or pedestrians – is not safe for anyone. Parents are urged to discuss bicycle safety with their children **before** they are involved in an accident.

MOVING SOUTH SALE

Pottery, crafts, furniture, storage units,
household goods and much much more!

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Donald Parker (802) 537-3322

CHURCH NEWS

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

BENSON FAMILY DAY – August 14

On **Sunday, August 14**, Benson Family Day (also known as the Burdock Festival), the church will hold an old fashioned **Hymn Sing** at 9 a.m. to start the day off right! Please get your hymn “picks” to Holly by August 7 so we can have the music lined up ahead of time. The parade will follow at 10 a.m. Following the Hymn Sing we will be having a **Tag Sale** until 2 p.m. Come and we will sing your favorite hymn - then pick up some goodies!

BOOK STUDY

This fall we will be studying the book/DVD entitled, "Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church." It is written by N.T. Wright. Please let Holly know if you are interested in the study!

CHURCH WINDOWS

The Trustees of the United Church of Benson recently voted to start raising money to replace the broken colored windows of the church. Anyone who would like to donate to our window fund can send a check or cash to Fran Bowen, Treasurer, PO Box 186, Benson, VT 05731 and designate that the money is for the windows. Any and all donations are gratefully accepted! If anyone would like to sponsor a window for \$100, a plaque will be placed under that window in memory of or in honor of....given by.... (If you look at the church you might think there are twelve windows, but actually there are two "panels" side by side in each of those twelve windows, so we are calling one "panel" a "window" for purposes of donations - for a total of 24 "windows.") If you have any questions, you can talk to one of the Trustees (John Hill, Jan Ladd, Karen Barber, Cal Sheldrick, and Leonard Lussier) or the Pastor, Holly Ross Noble (446-3575). Thank you.

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

ATV REMINDER

The speed limit in the village is **15 mph** and, if you are not **16 years old**, the speed limit is **ZERO**: if you are not 16 years old, you are **not** allowed to be riding an ATV in the village or on any public roads at all under any circumstances ever!

OPEN POSITION

The position of Community Hall/Town Office Custodian requires 4 – 6 hours a week. The pay is set commensurate with the experience of the employee. A full job description is available in the Town Office.

If you would like to apply, please submit a letter of interest to the Selectboard.

Furniture Repair

Traditional chair caning - press in
Reconstruction of broken parts
Re-glue, stain or paint



Les Burleson
802-537-4481

1015 Carter Street
Benson, VT 05743

THE WHEEL INN

Corner of Lake Road and Stage Road
Benson, VT



WEEKLY SPECIALS

Monday: Mexican

Wednesday: Chicken and Biscuits

Thursday: Sirloin

Friday: Fish and Chips

Dennis Hillier
REALTOR

RE/MAX
Champlain Valley Properties

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Windsor, VT 05791
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Fax: (802) 239-1600
Toll Free: (800) 445-8890

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Will Stevens
State Representative
Rutland Self-Storage & Moving

1129 Lakewood Drive
St. Albans, VT 05572
Tel: 802-892-7201

Hours:
Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am - 4:00pm
Sunday 10:00am - 4:00pm

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in the comfort of home*



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FROM THE PAST

Town Business, Industry and Development

Benson was chartered in 1780; twenty years later the population was 1159 which is greater than the current population. The Town was developed as a farming community; the 1801 grand list shows 195 polls and 2525 acres of improved land. Benson reached a maximum population of 1561 by 1810.

The 1820 grand list shows a vibrant farming community of 1481 persons with many support services. There were 8216 acres of improved land, 183 houses, a gristmill, seven saw mills, seven cider mills, a distillery, blacksmith shop, attorneys, practitioners of physic, stores, mechanics and merchants. The farms had 1190 cows and other cattle, 216 oxen and 339 horses and mules.

The Town continued to develop and farmers, merchants and others became more prosperous. Sheep appear on the grand list in 1828. The 1840 grand list shows 18,308 sheep in Benson; this was the maximum number of sheep to appear on the grand list. There were 200 polls in 1840 with 9489 acres of improved land, 231 houses, 17 mills, stores and distilleries, 1018 cows and other cattle and 217 horses. The town was served by two attorneys, three practitioners of physic and surgery, four mechanics and manufacturers, and three merchants and traders.

Sheep became less profitable due to changes in tariffs and competition from the West and numbers began to decline after 1840 in Benson and throughout the State. In 1853 the Benson number was 8500 and by 1857 it was 6700.

Hamilton Child's 1881-1882 Gazetteer and Business Directory of Rutland County, VT. provides a good description of nineteenth century Benson. The following information is based on the Gazetteer.

"In 1880 Benson had a population of 1,104, was divided into eleven school districts and had eleven common schools, there were 271 pupils Under the superintendency of Royal D. King."

"Benson, a post village, is beautifully located in the central part of town, and contains three stores, two blacksmith shops, one hotel, two churches, (Methodist Episcopal and Congregational), one shoe shop,, one marble shop, and has a population of about 250."

"Benson Landing (p.o.) is a small hamlet located in the western part of the town, on Lake Champlain. It contains one store, one store house, and about eight dwellings."

To be continued next month.....

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FRESH PICKINS'

The shop at the Lussier Farm on Route 22A has fresh corn, seasonal veggies and berries as well as a great selection of pickles, jams, jellies and salsa. Stop in for some great **LOCAL** produce!

Greg's Metal Recycling

*We Buy Junk Cars, Batteries, Converter
Aluminum Rims And More
 Free Removal of Metal and Tin*

Benson, VT

Greg 802-770-0451

Demolition/Clean Outs
Greg 802-770-0451 Benson, VT
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Cleaning of Basements, Attics, Etc.
 Demolition of Small Buildings and Mobile Homes
 Removal of Junk Cars, Metal, Tin, Etc.

APARTMENT AVAILABLE

If you are 62 or are any age and handicapped or disabled, now is a good time to apply. Rent is based upon 30% of the household monthly income less any out of pocket medical expenses.

Please call THM Property Management at 802-367-5252 for more information.

Jeanne Bartholomew Realty

East Rd Jeannebrealty@aol.com 802-537-4938

Benson 3-4bedroom home in idyllic wooded setting with year-round brook. This is a well-built home with lots of windows and natural light, a new wrap around deck, 2 car attached garage and heated workshop. Home is well insulated with a slate roof and VT Castings wood stove (propane back up) Property also includes a small barn and rustic cabin. \$210,000

Benson 100 acres of open and wooded land with 1/2mi Lake Champlain frontage. This is in a very private location and also includes a furnished 7room camp and older horse barn. Offered at \$299,000

Benson 3 season fully furnished camp on Perch Pond. Great swimming and fishing! Comes with a dock and float, 2 outbuildings, nice lawn and easy access to your own sandy beach. owner offers financing. Call for details \$169,000

Benson 1.8 acre bldg lot with permits and septic design, power and frontage on Perch Pond. Build your summer or year-round home! Owner offers terms. Call for details \$75,000

Benson 3 bedroom 2 bath, full basement ranch home on 1/2acre lot. Town sewer and drilled well, nice lawn and comes with all appliances. Move right in! Also included is a separate 1 acre lot with its own town sewer hookup, and an older mobile home. Nice open field and plenty of road frontage....just outside the village - offered at \$149,000 for both parcels together!

Enjoy your summer and call Jeanne for any of your Real Estate needs!

BENSON BUSY BUDDIES

The Benson Busy Buddies enjoyed a quiet month in July but that is soon to change! We will now be getting ready for the Vermont State Fair and there is so much to do.

In the end of June we had our family dinner. On the menu was taco salad, cornbread, guacamole, salsa, sangria, chocolate cinnamon fudge, lemon cream, and sopapilla. It was all so delicious and fun to learn how to do! The families all really enjoyed the food too!

In the end of July several of our members took part in a quilt camp. They had the choice of a lap size quilt or pillow. The point of the camp was to teach the kids different ways to use scrap material and make nine patch squares. Be sure to look for the quilts and pillows at the Fair.

Benson Veterans' Honor Roll Memorial

The Benson Veterans' Honor Roll Committee would like to thank Jan Ladd for making the Memorial Day Program a great day with a huge turn out. Jan did all the organizing for it. Thank you to those who participated in it as well! And thank you to those who showed up to honor our Veterans. The program was very well attended and very much appreciated!

Thank you to Gina Cull and her Fundraising committee for putting on the Car Show and donating the proceeds to the fund. These proceeds make it possible to have more names added to the Honor Roll at no cost to the Service Person! Thank you to those who have donated monies to this project. It is very much appreciated!

We will be at Benson Family Day looking for any names to be added to the memorial. We are going to have these new names added for Veterans Day 2011. The criteria for inclusion on the Honor Roll are:

1. Veteran whose **"home of record"** was Benson at the time of entry into active service.
2. Veterans whose **place of birth** was Benson.
3. Veterans whose **principle residence** has been Benson for **20 years** or more.
4. **Reservists** who have **completed their military obligation**.

We do need to see your **DD214** and we want to include those who served in peace time as well as War. If you have a name or any questions, please either email or call Sue Brown at redwolf363@aol.com or 537-4474.

Sincerely,
Don Ladd, Russ Symons, B Amore
Judy Munger, Gina Cull, Susan Brown

RAVNAH CLINICS FOR AUGUST

The Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice offers our community a valuable service by providing numerous Blood Pressure and Foot Care clinics throughout the county each month. There is a suggested donation of **\$2.00 for blood pressure screenings** and **\$5.00 for foot care**. The following calendar lists the blood pressure and foot care clinics for **August 2011**.

Monday	8/1	Pittsford	Village Manor	11:30 a.m.
Wednesday	8/3	Wallingford	Wallingford House	11:30 a.m.
Thursday	8/4	Rutland	Parker House	11:00 a.m.
Thursday	8/4	Rutland	Bardwell House	12:30 p.m.
Friday	8/5	Poultney	Young at Heart Senior Center	9:30 a.m.
Friday	8/5	Ira	Ira Town Hall	12:30 p.m.
Thursday	8/11	Castleton	Castleton Meadows	12:30 p.m.
Friday	8/12	Rupert	Rupert Fire House	11:00 a.m.
Wednesday	8/24	Rutland	Godnick Adult Center	12:30 p.m.
Thursday	8/25	Fair Haven	Appletree Apartments	9:30 a.m.

Got Cholesterol?

The Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice (RAVNAH) offers a total lipid profile along with a comprehensive cholesterol and glucose screening on the first Wednesday of each month. Screenings will be held at the RAVNAH office on 7 Albert Cree Drive, in Rutland on **Wednesday, August 4 and Wednesday, September 1 at 8:30am**. Please call **in advance** for an appointment at 775-0568. The total lipid profile is a group of tests to determine risk of coronary heart disease. The blood glucose test screens for diabetes. The complete lipid profile requires an 8-12 hour fast prior to the test to ensure accurate results. The cost for a Complete Lipid Profile and Glucose is \$30.00.

DOG CENSUS

Animal Control Officer Dean Hanson has begun going to each home in Benson to complete a dog census. If you have any questions about this process, please contact the Selectboard. Thank you for your co-operation.

TRANSFER STATION REMINDER

We can no longer throw plastic shopping bags in the recycling bin. Wes has placed a barrel for our convenience in front of the bin. Please put your plastic bags in that container, not in the dumpster. Thank you for your cooperation.

Weatherization Wrap Up

In 2009, the Energy Committee was awarded a grant by the Vermont Community Climate Change Grant Program. We used this money to insulate and air seal the town office and the community hall. Now that the 2010 – 2011 heating season has ended, we are finalizing our report, looking at our savings in gallons of fuel oil and tons of carbon dioxide emissions saved.

Our goal was to reduce heat loss from the buildings, the largest loss being the combination of foundation/sill to ceiling/attic. 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. We hoped to reduce our heating oil use by 20%.

First we had an energy audit, performed by BROOC. Then we started doing weatherization work on the Community Hall/Library and the Town Office. We sealed air leaks and added blown cellulose insulation to bring the overall R factor to 40. The sills were insulated with rigid foam. We also installed programmable thermostats in the town office and library so that the temperature would automatically go down when the buildings weren't occupied.

Now the results: In the two heating seasons prior to this work, the Community Hall used an average of 0.25 gallons of fuel oil per heating degree day. This past season, the usage was 0.24 gallons per heating degree day, a savings of **5%**. This is not as big as we expected, and is probably due to the fact that the thermostats in this building are kept at 60 degrees unless the building is in use, which is variable.

The Town Office used an average of 0.275 gallons of fuel oil per heating degree day in two heating seasons prior to this work. This past season, the usage was 0.21 gallons per heating degree day, a savings of **24%! That's more like the savings we were hoping for.** Together, we saved 615 gallons of fuel oil and reduced our carbon dioxide emissions by 13,800 pounds this year. Although the price of heating fuel has risen dramatically since we started this project, we spent about the same amount this year as we did 4 years ago, because of the weatherization work done.

As I write this, the thermometer persists at over 90 degrees, and it's hot! The last thing on anyone's mind is the coming winter, and the next heating season. But now is the time to prepare. One great place to start is NeighborWorks' H.E.A.T. Squad program. They will schedule a home energy check-up for you which scientifically pinpoints areas in your home that are causing you to lose money on home heating and other energy costs. An Energy Auditor will also test for carbon monoxide and other health and safety hazards. The Auditor provides you with a detailed report of his findings in which he prioritizes your home energy improvement recommendations - complete with cost estimates and savings estimates. Rutland County residents are able to get a home energy check-up for a special price. Financing options are also available through NeighborWorks. Call the NeighborWorks H.E.A.T. Squad today at 438-2303 x 227 or visit www.heatsquad.org to participate in this great program.

Benson Village School News

<http://benson.arsu.org>.

8th grade fundraising efforts for the Washington trip are off to a great start! Look for our events on Family Day on 8/14. We will be selling the calendar, running a bake sale, and having a basket raffle.

Congratulations to our Honor Roll recipients for the 4th quarter:

High Honor Roll:

McKenzie Apjohn	Samantha Hadvab	Benjamin Lannon
Marcus McCollum	Samantha Rheume	

Honor Roll:

Heidi Ambrozaitis	Jacob Apjohn	Dominick Andronaco	
Alexis Beauregard	Austin Beauregard	Kelsi Bean	Brody Cole
Beccalyn Dugan	Hailey Hults	Dan Hurd	Kaleb LaRock
Emily Lucie	Kaitlyn Pellerin	Keilani Pellerin	Kaetlyn Sweatt
Zane Tenzer			

Merit Honor Roll:

Gabrielle Ellis
Samantha Masse
Dolly Wing

Dates for August:

8/11	6:00 pm	8 th Grade Parent Meeting
8/14:		Family Days Fundraising Events
8/31:		First Day of School!

Water Notification: It is the responsibility of Benson Village School to inform the community of the results when the school tests for lead in their drinking water. The water was tested multiple times per standard procedure on 3/10/11. The results: .002, .001, .001, .001, .001, .001, .001, .001, .001, and .001 mg/l, were all below the action level determined by the EPA. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Ransom.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **September 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than **August 25th**. Drop off your information at the Town Office or e-mail what you would like included in the newsletter to bensonnews@shoreham.net or suejanssen@shoreham.net or call Sue Janssen at 537-3111.