

# Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter January 2009

## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

If you are interested in serving your Town by running for any of the following positions, your petition, signed by at least seven registered Benson voters, is due in the Town Office by

**4:30 pm Monday, January 26, 2009:**

Agent to Prosecute: one 1 year term

Auditors: one 3 year term and one (unfinished) 2 year term

Benson Village School Board: one 3 year term and two 1 year terms

Benson Village School Moderator: one 1 year term

Cemetery Commissioner: one 5 year term

Delinquent Tax Collector: one 1 year term

First Constable: one 1 year term

Library Commissioner: one 5 year term

Listers: one 3 year term

Selectboard: one 3 year term and two 1 year terms

Town Moderator: one 1 year term

Trustee of Public Funds: one 3 year term

**Remember: You can only sign ONE petition for each open position!**

## MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
January 8	Thursday	6:30 pm	Library	Energy Committee
January 8	Thursday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Policy Committee
January 12	Monday	11:30 pm	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
January 12	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
January 13	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Busy Buddies 4H
January 13	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Town Office	History Project
January 13	Tuesday	7:30 pm	BVS Library	School Board
January 14	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Planning Commission
January 22	Thursday	4:30 pm	Town Office	Article Petitions due
January 22	Thursday	6:30 pm	Library	Energy Committee
January 26	Monday	4:30 pm	Town Office	Elected Office Petitions due
January 26	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
January 27	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Busy Buddies 4H
January 28	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Benson School	Bingo
January 31	Saturday	5 am – 7 pm	Town Office Slab	Down Home Derby
February 1	Sunday	7 am – 3 pm	Town Office Slab	Down Home Derby
		LOOKING AHEAD		
February 28	Saturday	5 pm	Community Hall	Cabin Fever Talent Show

**Monthly Senior Luncheon**  
**at the Benson Community Hall on January 12th**

Where can you enjoy a delicious meal that you don't have to prepare yourself, don't have to clean up afterwards, don't have to drive far and don't have to spend a lot of money? Right here in Benson! Proposed menu: Tossed Salad, Hearty Beef Stew, Cornbread, Apples Slices and Cheddar Cheese, Pudding with Fruit, Milk, Coffee, Tea.

Suggested donation: \$3.50.

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

**BUDGET TIME**

The Selectboard is working on the 2009-2010 Budget and we appreciate the input we have received. Please keep it up and don't wait for Town Meeting or Tax Day! Give us your suggestions, ideas, complaints/compliments **NOW!** We welcome any and all budget suggestions and ideas. You are encouraged to express your concerns by coming to a meeting, calling a Selectboard member, dropping a note off at the Town Office or e-mailing the Selectboard (selectboard@benson-vt.com). If the Selectboard is not aware of a problem or concern, they cannot reasonably be expected to address it.

**DOWN HOME DERBY: New and Even Better!**

The Benson Fish and Game Club and Benson Youth League will be holding the 10<sup>th</sup> annual "Down Home Derby" the weekend of January 31 and February 1, when fishing people will get the chance to show their skill and win cash if they can hook the big one. **There will be over \$2500 in fish category prizes and drawings.**

There will be a "Kids Down Home Derby" January 31<sup>st</sup> for ages 14 and under. For the Kids Derby, first place winners in each fish category will receive a trophy; drawing prizes include gift certificates and savings bonds. Tickets will be available for both derbies at bait shops, local businesses and derby headquarters. Additional information is available at local businesses and bait shops or by calling 537-2468. **Changes this year:**

- 1. Derby Limited to only Lake Champlain Waters between Dresden, NY(buoy 16) and Larrabees Point, VT (Route 74).**
- 2. Fish Categories are Northern Pike, Walleye, Three Perch and Biggest Other.**
- 3. Derby Tickets are \$15.**
- 4. There will also be a raffle; prizes will be \$400, \$200, \$100, and two face cord firewood prizes (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> prizes). Raffle tickets are \$5.**

**Town of Benson Auditors' Notice December 1, 2008**

All Reports for the Budget Year 2008-2009 and all budgets for the year 2009-2010 are due in the Town Office by January 5, 2009. Anyone who received money for 2008-2009 must submit an accounting for that money.

The Town Office is open 8 to 12 and 1 – 4:30, Monday to Thursday.

Benson Auditors: Robert Butman and John Kubin

## CHURCH NEWS

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Christmas Pageant and our Christmas Eve Service and we would like to extend an open invitation to all of you to continue to share your presence with us each Sunday. Please remember that, beginning on January 4th, we will be meeting downstairs.

Our new Book Study will begin on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. We will be spending two weeks studying the book of Ruth, then two weeks studying the book of Esther.

The United Church of Benson's Sunday School for pre-schoolers through sixth grade meets every Sunday during the regular service. After the Children's Message, the children go downstairs with teachers Meghan and Cassie. The last Sunday of each month is Family Sunday, where the children and parents can worship together.

Questions? Call Holly Noble at 446-3575.

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

LOOKING AHEAD: Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> is Souper Bowl Sunday – all donations will aid Fair Haven Concerned.

## BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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



The Reading Group is still in hibernation but our newly redecorated Library is open and we're ready to find you the perfect book to read while the snow is falling. And, given the way our winter has been thus far, you might want to consider checking out two or even three books!

## BENSON BUSY BUDDIES 4-H CLUB

Members of the Club visited Benson Heights to sing Christmas carols and share refreshments with the residents. At an earlier meeting, they crafted decorations that they can use during the holiday time and will be able to enter in the fair, next fall.

Club officers will be elected at the first meeting of the new year, to be held on January 13th. Members will also be starting their sewing projects for competition in the county event to be held in the spring.

The club welcomes new members Kiara Bowen and Cloverbud Sarah Masse.

## PLEASE REMEMBER...

“No person, other than an employee in the performance of his or her official duties or other person authorized by VTrans (in the case of state highways) or Selectboard (in the case of town highways), shall plow or otherwise deposit snow onto the traveled way, shoulder or sidewalk of a state highway or a class 1, 2, or 3 town highway.” 23 V.S.A. 1126a.

Fines for putting snow onto the road range from \$27 to \$1085 and a waiver is \$65.

## **Benson Village School News**

The students of Benson Village School had the wonderful opportunity to learn circus skills during the last week of school in December. Dan Roberts of Circus Smirkus spent a week with our students, teaching them juggling and balancing using many different objects. The week culminated with a performance on Friday afternoon by Dan. All the students were very enthused about learning new skills and making connections that the same learning practices can relate to the skills taught at school. It is hopeful that Circus Smirkus can be brought back again for two weeks next year concluding with a performance by the students!

The 8th graders would like to thank everyone who has helped support their efforts to raise funds for their class trip to Washington in the spring. The students will be riding Amtrak to Washington and staying at the 4H Center. For fundraising activities for January, the class will be having Bingo on the Wednesday, the 28th, at 6:30 PM.

Questions? Call Principal Rick Beal: 537-2491

## **THIRD SCHOOL BUS**

The Benson Village School is contracted with First Student to provide busing for the students of our community. Currently, two buses are used for pick up and return of students with the East bus taking high school students to Fair Haven. The morning bus runs start approximately at 6:40 AM with the East and West buses arriving at the Benson Village School at 7:40 AM. There are approximately 50 and 42 students who ride the two buses. In the afternoon, the two buses leave the Benson Village School at 2:30 to take students home with the East bus going to the high school after the BVS students are dropped off. Depending on road conditions, the East bus can arrive at the high school between 3:10 PM and 3:30 PM. The West bus returns to the BVS at approximately 3:45 PM to pick up high school students brought to Benson on the East bus.

To help address concerns about length of bus rides and the timing of pickups, the Benson School Board will be presenting an Article at Town Meeting for an additional bus. With an additional bus, time spent on a bus for students will be reduced. Also, a third bus would allow the pick up of Benson high school students to be more compatible to the high school's dismissal time.

If you have any questions, feel free to call the school or attend the January 13<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting.

## **ARTICLES FOR TOWN MEETING**

If you have an Article that you want to be warned and raised for a vote at Town Meeting, you must submit a petition to the Town Office, signed by 36 registered Benson voters, by January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please remember that your Warning will be published exactly as you submit it, so it is important that you state your position clearly and concisely. A petition should be written in the simplest manner that accurately reflects the issue you want discussed. Complicated wording and run on sentences could confuse enough people to change the outcome of a vote on your issue.

## VERD MONT FCE CLUB

Members enjoyed a pot luck dinner and exchanged gifts at their Christmas party held on December 11th. Names were exchanged for Secret Pals for 2009.

Regular meetings will resume in February, if the weather cooperates!

The Verd Mont FCE Club meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Community Hall at 7:30 PM. The meetings are open to anyone who has an interest in issues that effect Family, Community or Education.

**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."

## NEED HELP KEEPING YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

Our local Bone Builder's group is ready to welcome you. No prior experience needed: just come and be ready to have a good time! Join us 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 enjoy great company.

## WALK RUTLAND

Walk Rutland - a FREE team based walking program for residents of Rutland County – always has room for new members. Get some great group support as you develop or expand a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors and stay healthy. Contact Sandra Owens (775-0555 or Sandra@walkrutland.com) for more information or visit the website: [www.walkrutland.com](http://www.walkrutland.com).

## KICKBOXING CONTINUES IN BENSON

If you are looking for a one hour workout which incorporates aerobic conditioning, strength and abdominal work, come join the local kickboxing class.

**When:** Wednesday's from 6 – 7 pm , January 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

**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.

Questions? Call Joni 775-0980

## MANY THANKS!

The Benson First Response would like to thank everyone who helped make the Craft Fair a success. We raised over \$700. Thank you.

## THROWING OUT...

...ink cartridges or cell phones? Stop at the Town Office and pick up a free mail-in bag which will allow you to safely dispose of these items.

## **The First Hundred Years**

### **Decay of a Town – Part Three**

In March 1884, a letter to the editor of a local paper was written by E. L. Barbour which was entitled “Decay of a Town”. Parts of the letter were printed in the November and December newsletters. To demonstrate the importance of Benson, Mr. Barbour included the following in his letter.

#### **Decay of a Town (continued)**

In proof of this we will give a copy of an advertisement taken from a paper published in the county in 1796.

#### **COPARTNERSHIP**

“Asa Farnham, Jonas Abbott and Oliver Root take this method to inform their old customers and the public at large that they have commenced to trade in the mercantile i e in company, and are doing business under the firm of Farnham, Abbott and Root at their store in Benson and also at the store formerly occupied by John White in Orwell near Gregories mills, at which place they have just received and are now opening for sale a very general apartment of goods, groceries, hard and crockery ware, too numerous to particularize. Also they wish to inform practitioners of physic that they have opened a medical store under the same roof within their store in Benson, consisting of a very general and genuine apartment of drugs and medicines, dye woods and points, which they will dispose of very low for present pay, approved notes for six months. Gentlemen of the faculty are desired to call at their store for further satisfaction, where they will find a constant supply of the above articles. Orders will be carefully attended to with fidelity and dispatch. For their further convenience in pursuance of the above business they have opened the store in Troy, N. Y. formerly occupied by Benjamin Gordon, where they propose keeping a dry goods and grocery store. Likewise storing and freighting on as good terms as in the city. Hoping for the patronage of their friends and gentlemen of the mercantile order on and near the border of Lake Champlain who wish to store and freight their property to New York. At the same time requesting the citizens of Vermont to call and give them the preference so far as they can be satisfied with the quality and prices of their goods. Benson, May 26, 1796.”

#### **NEWS FROM THE LISTERS: STATE MANDATES REAPPRAISAL**

The State has the authority to require a town to undertake a reappraisal any time that their figures show that there is enough inequity in the town to require one. The figures the state uses to decide whether inequities exist are suspect in a small town with very few sales, but the law is what it is and we have to abide by it.

The Listers are therefore undertaking a reappraisal beginning now and ending sometime before April 1, 2011. This appraisal requires that all properties in Benson be visited and interior inspections made. The cooperation of all property owners is gratefully appreciated.

Listers may leave cards at properties where no one is home. Please call the Listers with phone numbers or other information that will facilitate the reappraisal process.

Any questions may be addressed to the Listers at [listers@shoreham.net](mailto:listers@shoreham.net), or to 537-2611.

## TURN IT OFF

Idling your vehicle for more than 10 seconds uses more gas than restarting your engine. Turn your engine off:

- For your health. Prolonged exposure of vehicle emissions such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and benzene can affect our respiratory systems, including our lungs and heart. Children, the elderly, and individuals with asthma are especially vulnerable.
- For our environment. Greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles contribute to climate change. Vermont's ski, maple sugar and tourist industries are threatened, as well as many plant and animal species. If the 550,000 registered Vermont vehicles all reduced their idling by five minutes/day, the total CO2 emissions reduction could exceed 50,000 tons/year.
- For your wallet. Needless idling burns our hard earned dollars through the exhaust pipe. An idling vehicle gets 0 miles to the gallon. Idling a compact car for only 10 minutes daily wastes 30 gallons of gasoline a year.

So how long should a parked vehicle be allowed to idle? The general rule for a warmed up, parked vehicle is 30 seconds; for warming up, in all but extreme cold, 0 to 30 seconds usually suffices. Vermont has a statewide idling law for school buses on school property. The Benson Village School has a policy regarding school buses and other vehicles idling on school property. It is a violation to idle a vehicle while unattended in public.

What you can do:

- First, as a general rule, limit idling to 30 seconds. If it's too cold to sit in a parked vehicle with the engine off, if at all possible, seek warmth inside a building. Likewise if it's too hot, find a shady parking spot and open windows, or go inside a building to keep cool.
- Avoid using a remote vehicle starter, which encourages unnecessary idling.
- Consider the purchase and use of an engine block heater.
- Instead of using the drive-through, park and walk in. You'll get some exercise, save fuel and keep emissions out of the atmosphere.
- Spread the word to family and friends.

See the [idlefreevt.org](http://idlefreevt.org) website for more information.

## PARKING BAN

Please remember that from November 15<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup> the Parking Ordinance directs that there is to be no parking on the streets within the Town of Benson. The purpose of this ordinance is to facilitate the removal of snow. Thank you for your cooperation.

## CURE FOR CABIN FEVER FOUND IN BENSON

There's a great new way in Town to cure Cabin Fever: our incredibly creative PTO is sponsoring a Talent Show! The contest is open to any child in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and the performance will be held at 5 pm on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Community Hall. Tickets are only \$2 to see what promises to be a spectacular show. All proceeds will benefit the Benson Village School PTO. Prizes will be awarded and the audience will pick a First, Second and Third Prize winner. Registration forms are available at the Benson Village School and must be returned, with the \$10 fee, to the school by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Questions? Contact Tanyia Chandler @ 802-345-2487.

## Think Spring: A New Garden at Benson Heights

This summer, the residents of Benson Heights and the Vermont Master Gardeners, an extension of UVM, teamed up to start a community garden in the green space behind the Benson Heights Apartment complex. We broke ground this spring with the help of Bob St. Peter and his tractor and the loan of a tiller from Lynn Bowen. After much rock piling, raking, and some spade work, a core group of residents -- Fernande Washburn, Millie Ricketts and Betty Cuvaroo -- along with Master Gardener Christina Shaw, planted over 16 kinds of vegetable seed and donated plants.

Newspaper under hay mulch helped keep the weeds tolerable and a special thanks goes out to MG Interns David Graham and Tamaki Sahurai for their help with that. Although we had an early set back with a water source problem, we soon recovered and were able to distribute lots of fresh food -- especially lettuce, peas, green beans and tomatoes -- to all the residents, as well as provide a good excuse for exercise. We also managed to grow a few small pumpkins this year that were used as Halloween decorations then made into pie!

We learned a great deal in our first year about plants, weather and community spirit, and we look forward to spring when we can pot up some seeds and get right into the dirt again. Eventually we hope to get a raised bed or two constructed and begin seed saving for future seasons. If you have any extra seeds or seedlings next planting season, or feel the urge to pull some weeds, please keep us in mind. Thanks!

Contact Christina Shaw, MG Class 2006

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **February 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than January 26th. To submit your news, please either e-mail the information to [bensonnews@shoreham.net](mailto:bensonnews@shoreham.net) or call Sue Janssen at 537-3111. Submit your ads to Shirley Vladyka: [ShirleyV@shoreham.net](mailto:ShirleyV@shoreham.net)

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