

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

July 2010



CAR SHOW A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Benson Car show was a great success with 39 car show entrants and many people coming to this event to support the Town of Benson. The Best of Show award was awarded to a Connecticut man who saw the information on the Benson VT website. Best Interior was awarded to Tad Fyles, with drivers Brian and Tracy Norton; Best Paint Job was awarded to Jason LaFond from Castleton, VT. The Benson Car

Show grossed \$1200 which will be used for Benson Family Day and for future Public Property Improvements. We would like to thank the following people for helping us that day: Jaime Vladyka, Eric Aubin, Bobbi Jo and Katrina Bean, Eli Springer - these people spent the day providing the games. Thank you also to the following people: Bill Shattuck, Larry Vladyka, Keith Cull and Jeff Noble who had a great Barbecue with Ham Sandwiches, Sausage with Pepper and Onions, French Fries that every one enjoyed. Thank you to Jan Lussier Grenier who donated pies for our dessert wheel and to Joe Ambrozaitis for the wood plaques and to Jan and Donnie Ladd for their help.

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
July 8	Thursday	6:30 pm	Town Office	Energy Committee
July 12	Monday	11:30 pm	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
July 12	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
July 13	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
July 15	Thursday	6:30 pm	Town Office	Energy Committee
July 21	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Library	Foolish Frogs
July 22	Thursday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Policy Committee
July 26	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
July 27	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
July 27	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Town Office	History Project
July 28	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Library	Reading Group
		LOOKING	AHEAD	
August 8	Sunday	All Day	Townwide	FAMILY DAY!!!

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

Celebrate your independence by enjoying a wonderful meal catered by the Wheel Inn. No fireworks - just some fantastic food and time to share some fun visiting with your friends. The proposed menu is: Tossed salad, Hamburgers, Rolls, Coleslaw, Watermelon, Cookies, Milk, Lemonade. Suggested donation: \$3.50.

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

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The following local students were recently honored for their outstanding achievements:

Benson Community Scholarship: Molly Noble

Eaves Memorial Scholarship: Allysa Hurd and Sarah Alexander

H. Glenn Munger Awards for the FHUHS senior boy and girl with the highest GPA:
Sarah Alexander and Dennis Brown

H Glenn Munger Awards for the 8th Grade boy and girl with the highest grades:
Brittany Coutermarsh and Benhail Horton

CONGRATULATIONS!

OPEN POSITION IN TOWN

We are looking for an Animal Control Officer. If you would like to be considered for this position, please submit a letter of interest to the Selectboard by July 9th.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Town of Benson is soliciting bids to paint the south side of the Community Hall. Bids should include scraping and minor repairs, including but not limited to priming and two coats of paint. Bids should be received by July 23, 2010. The Town of Benson reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Town of Benson
Community Hall Bids
PO Box 163
Benson, VT 05731

802-537-2611



BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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

This month our Reading Group will meet on Wednesday, July 28th and we will be discussing Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*. All are welcome to join us.

We also have a special program planned that will be fun for the entire family. On Wednesday evening, **July 21st** at **7:00 p.m.**, TARADIDDLE will bring the Foolish Frogs to the Benson Public Library.

Everyone is welcome to come and share this evening of song and stories about big blue frogs, based on Pete Seeger's musical tale of the havoc that ensues when a farmer makes up a simple song. The program will be presented by two former public librarians, Jean Roberts and Daphne Bartholomew. They have over 20 years experience sharing tales and tunes with children and families and we are sure that you will enjoy the evening.

SCHOOL NEWS

School year 2009-2010 has come to an end for Benson Village School. It was a wonderful year and here's a recap:

- ◆ Our students made AYP (adequate yearly progress) in both Reading and Math.
 - ◆ Spanish Culture Night and Science Night were very well attended.
 - ◆ The Playground Committee did an amazing job upgrading our playground.
 - ◆ Peter Pan, the play, was magnificent.
 - ◆ Our winter concert was grand.
 - ◆ The Community Lunch in November was delicious.
 - ◆ Visiting poet Ted Scheu wowed the students in April.
 - ◆ Trips to the Bronx Zoo and Washington DC were smashing successes.
- Thanks to everyone for supporting our school community. Check next month's Benson Bulletin for what to look forward to in 2010-11!

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>

CHURCH NEWS

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

RAGAZZI BOYS CHORUS CONCERT – July 2 at 7:30 p.m., Castleton

On Friday, July 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Federated Church of Castleton, 504 Main Street, Castleton, VT, the famous Ragazzi Boys Chorus will give a concert. There is no cost for admission, but a free will offering will be taken for the organ restoration fund. After the concert, desserts and beverages will be served. Don't miss this great event!

WHILE HOLLY IS ON VACATION - Holly will be on vacation July 5-19 (spending time with her dad, who will be staying with her the month of July). She will not be actually out of "town," so if there are pastoral concerns during this time, you can still try to call her at home. If you can't get through, please contact one of our Deacons: Fran Bowen (537-2371), Marcia Anderson (537-2313), Betty Bartholomew (537-3962), Kathy LaRock (537-2293), Leonard Lussier (537-3620), or Bob Senn (537-2983).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN CASTLETON - The Federated Church of Castleton invites all kids for an out-of-this-world adventure! Their Vacation Bible School is called "Galactic Blast" (from Cokesbury) and a good time will be had by all who attend!

WHERE: Federated Church of Castleton

WHEN: Sunday, July 25th through Thursday, July 29th.

TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

For more information please contact Tammi Howard at 265-3021 (Home); 558-9631 (Cell) email: castletonchurch@yahoo.com (We will need volunteers to help, too!!!) Registration forms can be found on the website: www.castletonchurch.org or at the Benson Church.

BENSON FAMILY DAY

On **Sunday, August 8**, Benson Family Day (also known as the Burdock Festival), the church will hold a Tag Sale from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. The parade will be held at 10 a.m. Like last year, we will wrap up the day with an old fashioned **Hymn Sing** at 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon. Come and we will sing your favorite hymn - as long as we have the music.

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

SPINNING WITH SPARKLERS?

Before you celebrate the 4th of July by trying to imitate a fire-fly, you might want to stop by our local Bone Builders for a balance check. We meet every Monday and Thursday morning, from 9 – 10 a.m. at the Community Hall. No need to bring your firecrackers – just be ready to have a good time while you learn to strengthen your bones and improve your balance. It's free and fun!

Weatherization Skillshops for Do-It-Yourselfers

Are you ready to...

- Learn how your home can be more energy efficient?
- Make your home more comfortable?
- Save on your home energy costs?
- Take advantage of financial incentives to weatherize your home this year?

And are you...

- Handy with home improvement projects?
- Able to invest your own time and resources in your home?
- Ready to learn new skills?

Then you are **invited** to join the Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Pilot Program! Central Vermont Community Action Council (CVCAC), in partnership with Efficiency Vermont, is organizing a series of day-long Weatherization Skillshops in nine locations statewide for do-it-yourselfers on how to weatherize their homes. These skillshops are being organized in partnership with the Adult Technical Education Centers throughout the state. CVCAC gratefully acknowledges the support of the High Meadows Foundation for underwriting a portion of the costs of the skillshops.

Sign-up for the Weatherization Skillshop on July 10 at the Stafford Technical Center in Rutland. Skillshop participants will learn the core fundamentals and hands-on techniques needed to improve building efficiency on their own, including background on building science, how-to demonstrations, and hands-on skill building. The weatherization skillshop consists of three distinct modules: air-sealing and insulating attics, air-sealing windows and doors, and air-sealing and insulating basements. Participants will learn how to choose the right energy saving products and tools for basic projects and how to safely and effectively use materials.

The **cost** of the skillshops is \$150 - which includes \$100 in weatherization tools, supplies, and resources - and lunch.

At the skillshop, you can sign-up to **participate** in the DIY Pilot; you will receive a professional energy audit and have access to several auditors in your area. Your auditor will check in several times to see how the work is going. Your energy auditor will conduct a performance test to measure the improved energy efficiency. If you have met minimum standards, you will get a rebate of \$1,000 towards your auditor costs. Additional improvements may generate additional incentives (up to \$1,500) and you can receive up to \$1,500 in federal tax credits for a portion of your materials costs.

For **registration, information and the schedule** for other skillshops around the state: Call Laurie at 888-514-2151 (toll-free). Visit the website: weatherizationskillshop.com. Email: info@weatherizationskillshop.com.

The First Hundred Years **H.J. Wilkinson (Continued)**

Excerpts from the articles of H.J. Wilkinson about his life in Benson from 1830 – 1847

“Vermont was then famous, as it is now, for producing apples in abundance, of the finest quality, and they were an important item in the food supply. There was little or no market for them off the farm, as every farm had its own orchard. Many bushels of apples were fed to stock, a generous supply was stored for winter, or dried for use the next summer. Boiled cider apple sauce was a favorite relish, and there is a faint recollection of “apple butter”, but the name only is recalled. Small fruits were not cultivated, as red and black raspberries could be had for the picking in nearly every wood lot. There is no recollection of canned fruit in those days. In fact, good apples, as long as they can be kept fresh and palatable let canned fruit out of serious consideration. The permanent meadow produced strawberries in many seasons, that did not need “two sugars to one berry” to make them something to remember with pleasure. Strawberry shortcake is not a modern invention.”” Two or three miles away, across the lake in New York, blueberries grew in large quantities in some seasons, and parties were made up frequently to gather them, and were enjoyable affairs.”

“The paring bee held first place in the affections of the youngsters, as a merrymaking occasion. The work to be performed was no hindrance to continued talking. The boy, if not too bashful, could talk to the girl who quartered the apples he was paring, and the girl could answer him, and still keep an eye on another boy some distance away in whom she took some interest. All could talk, work, joke and laugh, without restraint, and that is just what they did. After work was over, and the last string of apples taken away and hung up, the room made tidy, came refreshments.” “More likely it would include biscuit and butter, doughnuts, mince pie, cookies and cheese, and cold water or sweet cider. After supper came an hour of games probably, and if an awkward, unlucky boy went sprawling on the floor to catch the whirling platter, or if an innocent, unsuspecting lad could be induced to pick cherries and hand them down to “George and Susie”, or take a seat between the two most attractive girls present, the victim took the hilarious laughter that followed with as good a grace as possible. No serious heartaches were taken away from the paring bee.

How unsatisfactory the supply of fruit on the farm in those days might be now, it was an important item then, and it was had for the gathering and taking care of, and the family performed the labor mainly.”

(to be continued next month)

Energy Tip for July

When we think of energy conservation in Benson, we often think about ways to reduce our heating bills. However, many of us use nearly as much energy to stay cool in the summer as we do to keep warm in the winter. In fact, Vermont is one of a few states where peak energy use usually occurs in the winter months. Most areas use more energy staying cool in the summer than staying warm in the winter.

The May 4, 2010 issue of US News & World Report featured an article titled “10 Ways to Reduce Your Summer Utility Bills.” The highlights of the article are:

- ✓ Clean your air conditioner filters at least once a month.
- ✓ Make sure your house is as leak free as possible. (Install weather stripping on windows and doors, caulk small gaps where air leaks in and out of your house. Insulate areas with no insulation)
- ✓ Use a programmable thermostat on your air conditioner, or turn the A/C on when you get home, rather than letting it run all day.
- ✓ Replace older light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent bulbs.
- ✓ Use a “Smart strip” to shut off power to televisions and home entertainment systems
- ✓ Avoid using your oven on hot days, or any days you have an air conditioner on. Enjoy a cold meal or cook outside on a grill on hot days.
- ✓ Close doors and windows on hot days.
- ✓ Close shades to block the sun and keep rooms cooler.
- ✓ If your toilet is older, it probably requires over 3 gallons of water to flush. You can set a soda bottle, filled with sand, in the toilet to reduce the amount of water used
- ✓ Hang laundry out to dry.

While we have made many of these suggestions in previous energy tips, the important thing to remember is that energy conservation requires a year around effort.

Regardless of how well we think we're doing, saving energy, we can always do a little better!

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.

A HUGE BOUQUET OF FLOWERS...

- ...to Ed Peltier and Russ Symons. Most of us just expect the grounds around the sign for Benson on Route 22A to look nice. It looks nice, however, because Ed continues to donate the flowers and Ed and Russ do the planting and weeding...not just this year, but for more than a decade. If you see them, please thank them. And maybe there should be a contest on Family Day to see how many people can name the other public areas in Town that are thoughtfully and faithfully beautified by volunteers?

DOG-GONE-IT!

Dog days are right around the corner already! Family Day 2010 will once again include the four-legged members of our homes. This year, we will have world famous dog trainer, CAROLINE ALBERT in town to put on a CLICKER TRAINING DEMONSTRATION. It is NOT too late to teach an old owner a new trick, so plan to bring your human, a leash, and a sense of humor as we explore what makes clicker training unique. Free clickers! Audience participation! Games! Laughs! Contests! Sponsored by JoJo Helen Wheels Kotsull, Border Collie, and Crooked Halo Farm.

PIES, PIES, PIES

Our Fire Department is continuing their tradition of preparing their fantastic barbecue lunch for us on Family Day. To do this, however, they need your help. If you are willing to donate a pie, baked beans, butter or sour cream, please call Sue Janssen (537-3111) or Daphne Bartholomew (537-2611) by Friday, July 23rd. If you are a “regular” contributor and we haven’t heard from you by the 23rd, expect a phone call!

IS YOUR DOG DEPRESSED?

- It might be because he or she still does not have a shiny new tag and therefore won’t be able to participate in the fun on Family Day. We still have quite a few dog owners who have not registered their dogs. Please consider this your last reminder and get your pet’s rabies certificate to the Town Office as soon as possible. You will need to pay \$10 for a neutered dog and \$16 for a non-neutered dog.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **August 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than July 23rd. Submit your ads to Shirley Vladyka: ShirleyV@shoreham.net To submit your news, please either e-mail the information to bensonnews@shoreham.net or call Sue Janssen at 537-3111.