

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

June 2008

THANK YOU!

The 8th Grade Class at Benson Village School would like to thank all of you who supported our bottle drives and bingo nights and made our trip to Washington, DC possible. Some of the highlights of our trip included touring the White House, touring Capitol Hill, visiting the many different memorials, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Smithsonian Institute and so much more.

We appreciate all that you did to help us and we invite all of you to attend our graduation on June 12, 2008.



MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

- Monday, June 2, 7:00 pm, Town Office: Selectboard
Wednesday, June 4, 10:00 am – noon, Community Hall: Cooking for Life
Monday, June 9, 11:30 am, Community Hall: Senior Luncheon
Tuesday, June 10, 6:30 pm, Community Hall: Benson Busy Buddies 4H Club
Tuesday, June 10, 7:30 pm, BVS Library: School Board
Wednesday, June 11, 10:00 am – noon, Community Hall: Cooking for Life
Wednesday, June 11, 7:00 pm, Town Office: Planning Commission
Thursday, June 12, 7:00 pm, Benson Village School: 8th Grade Graduation
Monday, June 16, 7:00 pm, Town Office: Selectboard
Wednesday, June 18, 6:00 pm, Benson Library: Reading Group
Tuesday, June 24, 6:30 pm, Community Hall: Benson Busy Buddies 4H Club
Monday, June 30, 7:00 pm, Town Office: Selectboard
Monday, June 30, 7:00 pm, Town Office: Public Hearing – Town Plan
Monday, June 30, 7:00 pm, Town Office: Public Hearing – Flood Hazard Regulations

LOOKING AHEAD

- Sunday, August 10: Family Day
Saturday, September 13, 11 – 12:30, Transfer Station: Hazardous Waste Day

**Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on June 9**

We guarantee it won't snow, so come out and join your friends and neighbors for a scrumptious luncheon, catered by the Wheel Inn! The menu includes: BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Quick Bread, Pickled Beets/Onions Salad or Cucumber Salad, Strawberry Shortcake, Milk, Coffee/Tea. All are welcome. Suggested donation: \$3.50.

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton: 537-2971.

SENIOR TRIP

I have a trip planned for Friday, June 27th to attend the Vermont Quilt Festival. Cost of admission to the Festival is \$10 per person. Lunch is available on site (sandwiches, chicken, salads, etc). If you are interested in attending, please contact Lica Dodd at 537-3173.

New Energy Committee

A new Energy Committee has formed in Benson, sponsored by the Planning Commission and approved by the Selectboard. The purpose of the Benson Energy Committee is to assess the energy needs of the town and citizens of Benson, and to plan for the conservation and generation of renewable energy to meet those needs. Jean Butman, Whit Humphreys and Karen Barber are the current members of the committee. If you would like to join or help the committee, please contact Jean Butman at 265-3381.

LUMEN CHRISTI OPEN HOUSE

The retreat's last open house got "stormed out", so Let's Try Again!

You are "warmly" invited to an Open House at Lumen Christi Retreat Center, 56 Howard Hill Road, Benson, VT on **Sunday, June 22, 2008** from 3 to 5 p.m.

All are most welcome!

Sister Rosemary

PREBATES

Even though the snow is barely gone, it will soon be time for our September 15 taxes and prebates. To help you budget, we think you should be aware of a change the State of Vermont is making: your prebate check will be divided in two – one half will be deducted from your September tax bill, the second half will be deducted from your March tax bill. Let's say, for example, your total annual taxes are \$2000 and your prebate is \$800. This year that would mean that you will pay \$600 in September and \$600 in March. Your prebate will be divided and deducted equally from each tax bill. We hope this news helps you budget!

BENSON BUSY BUDDIES 4-H CLUB

Members marched in the Memorial Day Parade. For several of them, it was their first time in a parade and they enjoyed the experience.

Our next two meetings will be taken up with learning baking skills as we prepare to invite our families to a tea in late June.

The 4-H Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, at the Benson Community Hall, from 6:30 until 8:00 pm. 4-H is open to any youth between the ages of 5 and 18.

For more information about the Benson Busy Buddies 4-H Club, call Rita Charlton at 773-3349.

CHURCH NEWS

We have two special Sunday services coming up: on Sunday, June 1 we will be honoring the children in our congregation and on Sunday, June 8 we will be honoring all graduates (Benson Village School, Fair Haven Union High School, any college) who live in Benson.

Also, our beloved organist, Daphne Bartholomew, has retired. We are 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: 802-446-3575.

The Book Study series (Religions of the World) will hold its final meeting of this season on Wednesday, June 4 at 10 am. Please come and join us!

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

VERD MONT FCE CLUB

Verd Mont FCE Club members, Charlotte Collett and Rita Charlton, attended the Vermont FCE Spring Meeting held in Derby Line. Charlotte was presented with the "Vermont Heart of FCE" award at this meeting. This award goes to a grassroots member who has made continuing contributions to the organization over the years.

Verd Mont hosted the Rutland County Spring Meeting held at the Community Hall on May 6th.

The Verd Mont FCE Club will resume regular meetings in September.

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."



BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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

New Library Books

1. My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult – Fiction
2. T is for Trespass by Sue Grafton – Fiction
3. Storming Las Vegas by John Huddy- Non-Fiction

Reading Group

Group meets on June 18, at 6:00 PM at the Library. We will be reading Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende. The book is about South American involvement in the California gold rush. The book has a little romance and adventure. The group is open to anyone interested.

Summer Reading Contest

Again this year the Library will have a summer reading contest for grades 1 – 8.

The contest starts June 15 and ends 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.

FARMERS' MARKET

Once again, thanks to the generosity of Kathy Stannard, the Benson Farmers' Market will take place each Saturday morning from 9 to noon, weather permitting from June 21 through mid-September in the park next to the Wheel Inn. EVERYONE is encouraged to participate! 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!

BENSON ON THE WEB

Have you visited our **NEW** online site recently? Check it out: <http://www.benson-vt.com>
And, you can read this newsletter on our site – so, if you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please e-mail us at bensonnews@shoreham.net

Energy Tip: Saving Gas = Saving \$\$\$

One activity of the Energy Committee will be to publish a monthly energy tip in the Benson Bulletin. With gas prices climbing, our tip this month concerns driving. Slow down – gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds over 55 or 60 mph, depending on your vehicle. Using your overdrive gear and cruise control can save gas. Don't leave the car idling for more than 30 seconds. To improve your mileage, accelerate slowly and brake slowly –jack rabbit starts and rapid braking use more gas.

Here are some maintenance tips to give you better mileage – check your tire pressure at least once a month and use the recommended grade of motor oil for your vehicle. Keep your engine properly tuned and replace the air filters regularly. Try a lower grade of gasoline if you use premium. Clean the junk out of the trunk – the extra weight decreases gas mileage. Don't carry things on top of your vehicle when you don't have to.

Combine trips when possible, walk or car pool. Ask a neighbor if you can pick up something for them when you are doing errands. If you would like to ride share regularly with another Benson resident, but don't know who is going your way at a particular time, call Karen Barber at 537-3155. We will publish a list of people looking for rides or riders in next month's Benson Bulletin.

Finally, when it's time for a new vehicle, consider one with better mileage than your current one. The difference between a car that gets 20 mpg and one that gets 30 mpg is \$930 a year, assuming 15,000 miles of driving at \$3.72 per gallon. See the Find and Compare Cars section at www.fueleconomy.gov to find the mileage estimates for 1985-2008 model year cars.

From the Benson Energy Committee

How Fast Can YOU Go?....Another Tip to Save Money

It would appear that some folks think that those nice new signs in Town – you know, the ones with the numbers on them – have been put up for decoration. Well, be forewarned: our Constable now has a fully operational radar gun and all our speed limits are legally posted. Also, please remember that should you be stopped for speeding, your license, registration and insurance will automatically be checked. Also – and we can't imagine that this would be of concern to any Benson citizen – any other “problems” (alcohol, controlled substances, etc., etc., etc.) are actionable once you have been stopped for exceeding the speed limit.

STILL LOST?

If the black snap-on jacket (left in the Town Office on Grievance Day) and the yellow suede hat (left in the Fire House at the Rabies Clinic) are not claimed, they will be donated to Fair Haven Concerned.

A Puzzling Project

The Vermont Arts Council – no doubt still confused about Benson’s Pallet/Palette Project – has announced this summer’s community art initiative: Art Fits. Their logo states that it is a “...project that’s greater than the sum of its parts.” Apparently, they are having some difficulty adding and so we’ve agreed to help. Mid-June we will have available 50 plywood puzzle pieces, approximately 12”x14” that you can paint any way you want – scenes from Benson, a piece of burdock, your favorite pet – anything (almost). We will need the pieces back mid-July. If you would like to reserve a puzzle piece, put your name and phone number on a piece of paper in the envelope at Westbrooke Gardens or call Sue Janssen: 537-3111.

BENSON’S BEST KEPT SECRET?

For FIVE YEARS, from 9 – 10 am every Monday and Thursday morning, there’s been a lot of laughing in the Community Hall!

Our local **Bone Builders** group follows a professionally designed program that helps build bones. It is especially important for people over 49, but all ages can benefit by participating in a regular routine of activity. The program is FREE and is a great LOCAL way to improve your balance, strengthen your bones and enjoy some good company. Come join us!

RECREATION COMMITTEE CLOSES

The “official” Recreation Committee has now completed its work and the final report is available for you to read in the Town Office. There were 3 main suggestions for further “exploration”:

- ❖ A walking path/trail from the village to the school
- ❖ Expansion/re-organization of the playing fields at the Benson Village School
- ❖ Re-structuring of the common area and playground between the Town Office and the Community Hall

If you are interested in working on any of these proposed projects, please contact the Selectboard.

DAN RANSOM RECOGNIZED

Dan Ransom, the Custodian at the Benson Village School, was recognized in Montpelier on April 28th (National Healthy Schools Day) for the outstanding work he has done. By switching to certified green cleaning products and promoting other “go green” efforts, Dan has made the buildings and ground at Benson Village School safer for the both children and adults.

Congratulations, Dan – and “Thank you!”

GARDENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

- Plans for an official Community Garden have been put on hold but we have noticed that many people are putting in new gardens or enlarging their existing gardens, so why not use what we are already planting to “Garden Our Community” this summer? One way we can all extend the benefits of our garden is to “adopt” a senior citizen who no longer has access to their own garden. Why not look around your neighborhood and see if there’s someone who would enjoy a small amount of produce from your garden each week. Another way to share the benefits of home-grown produce AND to earn money would be to participate in the Saturday morning Farmers’ Market. You don’t need to be a large business-type producer – just bring a little green to the market and go home with some green in your pockets! We can only all “Buy Local” if people are willing to “Sell Local”.

WORK LOCAL

There are two Town positions open and posted:

- Custodian, Community Hall and Town Office
- Road Crew (will be posted 6/4/08)

Check job descriptions and application deadlines at the Town Office.

Also, the Selectboard is requesting bids to replace the roof at the Community Hall.

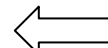
BENSON MUSEUM

We are open for the Season!

Hours: Wednesday from 1 – 3pm
and

By Appointment (537-2000)

Do you know who
this is?



Come

visit us and find out!

DOG UPDATE

Thanks to our ACO, Mitch Bowen (537-2715), our Dog Census is now complete. There are still, however, 48 dog owners who have not registered their animals. They have been notified and, if they do not comply with the ordinance, they will be ticketed.

Thanks, Mitch, for a job well done! Your hard work will keep us all safer.

DO YOU NEED/WANT?

From the Church for free:

a Hammond Church organ
2 full size cribs

From the Benson Museum:

\$50 for 2

folding wooden seats

VACATION IDEAS CLOSE TO HOME

With the price of gas going up and up, Sue Strosnider (Benson Village School nurse) thought you might like a list of summer attractions for the family that are within a short driving distance. This is only a glimpse of what is happening in the area. Lots of events are free and wonderful for a day excursion.

- ❑ June 14,15 - all State Parks are free
- ❑ June 14 - free fishing day
- ❑ June 14,15 - Kids Pirate Festival – Maritime Museum- Vergennes
- ❑ June 14,15 - LCI Fishing Derby
- ❑ June 15-18 - Queechee Balloon Festival
- ❑ June 21 - Vermont History Expo- Tunbridge
- ❑ June 28- Cold Blooded Critters- Lake St. Catherine State Park
- ❑ July 12 - Solarfest Tinmouth
- ❑ July 12 and 13th- Native American Encampment and Craft Show- Maritime Museum
- ❑ July 12-Billings Farm Museum Children's Day
- ❑ July 13- 19 - Festival on the Green Middlebury
- ❑ August 1-3 - Champlain Valley Folk Festival- Ferrisburg
- ❑ August 5-9 - Addison County Field Days – New Haven
- ❑ August 10 - Ice Cream Social Ferrisburg- Rokeby Museum

Or you could visit :Shelburne Museum, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, the State Parks at Bomoseen, Button Bay, Lake St. Catherine, Ben and Jerry's Factory Tour in Waterbury, Mount Independence (Orwell), Fort Ticonderoga, Bennington Museum and Battlefield, ECHO Center in Burlington, Montshire Museum, Hildene Museum, Teeny Tiny Poultry Farm in Pittsford, Lake Dunmore.

And remember that there are often free concerts in Rutland and Castleton's free Tuesday concerts start on June 3rd. Pack a picnic supper and carpool with friends.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **July 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than June 24th. To submit your news, please either e-mail the information to benso news@shoreham.net or call Sue Janssen at 537-3111.

WOW!

The next time you see Shirley Vladyka, please say "Wow!" Shirley **VOLUNTEERS** to put together the advertisement pages that support our local businesses and support the cost of getting this newsletter into your hands. And if you are an advertiser, please respect the deadlines AND the request that you submit payment WITH your ad and that both ad and payment go **DIRECTLY** to Shirley.