

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

June 2009

FAMILY DAY WILL BE HERE SOON

Sunday, August 9th is the date to save! Our organizational (and probably only) meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25th at 7 pm in the Town Office. We already have one great new contribution: Nancy Kotsull will be sponsoring a "Dog Days" section of the parade with prizes for all sorts of categories: largest dog, smallest, longest ears, most looks like owner, most looks like burdock, etc. So get your ideas ready and join us on the 25th! If for some reason you can't attend but have a great idea, contact us before the meeting.

FARMERS' MARKET OPENS SATURDAY, JUNE 27th

RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY

From now through Saturday, June 13th you can recycle the following items for FREE: computer monitors (flat panels are okay), television sets – all sizes, personal computers, printers, scanners, fax machines, calculators, cell phones, electronic scales, keyboards and mice, microwaves, radios, stereos, telephones, toasters, vacuums. Questions? Check with Wesley at the Transfer Station.

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
June 1	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
June 8	Monday	11:30 pm	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
June 9	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Busy Buddies 4H
June 9	Tuesday	7:30 pm	BVS Library	School Board
June 11	Thursday	6:30 pm	Library	Energy Committee
June 11	Thursday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Policy Committee
June 11	Thursday	8:00 pm	BVS	8 th Grade Graduation
June 15	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
June 17	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Benson Library	Book Group
June 23	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Busy Buddies 4H
June 23	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Town Office	History Project
June 25	Thursday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Family Day Planning
June 27	Saturday	9 - noon	Wheel Inn Park	Farmers' Market
June 29	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
		LOOKING AHEAD		
August 9	Sunday	All Day	Townwide	Family Day

**Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on June 8th**

- Enjoy our beautiful spring weather and have a great meal with friends, old and new!
- Proposed menu: Tossed Salad, BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Quick Bread, Pickled beets/onions salad or cucumber salad, Strawberry shortcake, milk, iced tea, coffee.
- Suggested donation: \$3.50.

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

SATISFACTION SURVEY

In May, the Council on Aging did a satisfaction survey for our monthly Senior Luncheons. For the second year in a row, we received 100% satisfaction in all categories which included menus, quality of the food, service, location. We'd like to thank Kathy Knapp and the Wheel Inn for their excellent meals and support of our program.

THANK YOU KATHY!!!

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SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS

Ellen Secord, Senior HelpLine Coordinator at Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, asked us to share the following information with you:

“Senior Vermonters are invited to take advantage of several social opportunities during these spring and summer months. Many towns throughout Bennington and Rutland counties have very active Senior groups with events planned. Also, Senior luncheons are served in a wide variety of locations and settings for a suggested donation of three to five dollars. In Rutland County, the annual Meals on Wheels Senior Picnic will take place July 17, at the State Fair Grounds. All of these activities are great ways to meet new people and connect with old friends. Additionally, Vermont residents age 62 and older can purchase a Green Mountain Passport for \$10, giving them lifetime free entrance to all Vermont State Parks and any other events that are fully state sponsored. See your local town clerk for this pass. Call the Senior HelpLine at 786-5991 or 1-800-642-5119 for more information and lists of Senior groups and meal sites. The Senior HelpLine is a free service of the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, serving Rutland and Bennington counties since 1974.” (<http://www.svcoa.org> OR seniorhelpline@svcoa.org)

THANK YOU

The Family of Kerry Munger would like to thank everyone who has been of support during this difficult time, with special thanks offered to Kathy Knapp and the Wheel Inn.



BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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

The book discussion group will meet on Wednesday, June 17th at 6:00 pm at the library. We will be reading a Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith. 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.

Our annual **Summer Reading Contest** will begin as soon as school finishes for the year. The Grand Prize will be a bike. Look for more information in the July issue of the Benson Bulletin or stop by the library for details.

CHURCH NEWS

On May 31st we will be celebrating Pentecost. Since May 31st is also Family Sunday, you are all most welcome to join us. On Sunday, June 14th we will be honoring all local graduates and Sunday, June 21st is Children's Sunday.

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.

Benson Village School

Well, the school year is winding down, but there are still many activities going on to keep the students busy!

On June 1st, the K, 1st and 2nd Grades will be going to Castleton State College to see the Junie B. Jones performance.

On June 3rd the IMU will visit Mount Independence and take a cruise on Lake Champlain on the Carillon! The IMU is also participating in the Guard Card Program which provides servicemen and women with long distance phone cards to keep in touch with their families. They have a Parking Meter Coin Bank outside their room for collecting change. All are invited to help fill the parking meter!

Julie Corey from The Village Drum will be visiting BVS during the week of June 1st. There will be a Community Drum Circle held on Wednesday, June 3rd from 6:30-8:00, that all are welcome to come and make rhythms together!

8th Grade Graduation will be held on Thursday, June 11th at 7:00 pm.

The end of the year celebration and luncheon will be held on Monday, June 15th beginning at 10:00 am, starting with Kindergarten Graduation, awards ceremony and luncheon. There is early dismissal that day following the luncheon.

The Graduating 8th Grade class would like to thank all Community members, Parents and Businesses for their wonderful support in making their trip to Washington, DC possible!!

Thank You!!!

VERD MONT FCE CLUB

Club members Dale Sweet, Charlotte Collett and Rita Charlton attended the Vermont FCE Spring Meeting held in East Middlebury on May 9th. The workshop "Show Me the Power of Healing Foods" followed the business meeting in the morning. The afternoon session on stamping gave everyone the hands on experience of making their own greeting cards.

The Rutland County FCE Council held their Spring Meeting in Ira on May 13th. Dale, Charlotte, Rita and Fran Bowen attended this meeting. The Verd Mont Club was responsible for the evening entertainment.

Members will meet in June, on a date to be selected, to go out to dinner as a group. This will wrap up the year for the club. Regular meetings will resume 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."

WOOD STACKING

If your favorite summer sport is stacking wood but your balance is a little wobbly after a cozy winter next to your stove, why not come and join our local Bone Builders? 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 – lots of laughs are included at no extra charge!

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Our first annual plant swap was very successful. Many people brought plants, some took different plants home, and others stopped by to see what we had. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Our first garden tour of the season is June 18. Throughout the summer we are not scheduling meetings, only garden tours. At each tour, we will decide on the time and location of the next tour. Please call 537-3155 for details.

Garden tips for June: Weed, weed, weed! Hoe often, hoe shallow, less than 1 inch deep. Allow the weeds to lie in the hot sun for a few hours and then mulch with leaves, straw, old newspapers, anything that will help suppress the weeds and hold the moisture. There are biodegradable black mats available for heat-loving plants such as tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers, which do better with a thinner mulch so that the roots can stay warmer. For those pepper plants that look great but never set enough fruit, mix 1 teaspoon of Epsom salts with a pint of water and spray your plants when they start to blossom, and once more 10 days to 2 weeks later.

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

Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw Changes

The Planning Commission has tentatively agreed to recommend the following regulatory changes to the Selectboard. The suggested changes will be reviewed and discussed at the July 8th Planning Commission meeting; there will be no Planning Commission meeting in June.

1. Change the minimum lot size in the Agricultural and Rural Residential District from two acres to one acre.
2. Change the minimum side and rear setback distances in the Village District from 40 feet to 20 feet.
3. Change the minimum side and rear yard setbacks in the Lake Shore District from 50 feet to five feet.
4. Change the minimum shoreline setback in the Lake Shore District from 75 feet to 25 feet.
5. Change the minimum lot width in the Lake Shore District from 200 feet to 100 feet.
6. Change the minimum lot size in the Lake Shore District from two acres to 10,000 square feet.
7. Change the permitted use size of a child care facility from six full time and four part time children to 10 full time and 6 part time children.
8. Change Conditional Use Approval Standards to allow the Development Review Board to require decommissioning bonds for cell phone towers and windmills.
9. To require subdivided lots needing 22A access to meet state access requirements prior to subdivision approval.
10. To authorize the Zoning Administrator to grant waivers for structures otherwise requiring a permit.
11. To require subdivision plats or scaled drawings for lots of 20 acres or less be prepared by a licensed surveyor.
12. Additional changes to clarify existing provisions.

Now is a good time for Benson residents and landowners to comment on the proposed changes or to suggest additional changes to the regulations. Please attend the July meeting or contact a planning Commission member and share your thoughts.

LOOKING FOR A WALKING PARTNER?

Join Walk Rutland! Walk Rutland is a FREE team based walking program for residents of Rutland County. You can improve your heart health while you enjoy some great company. Contact Sandra Owens (775-0555 or Sandra@walkrutland.com) for more information or visit the website: www.walkrutland.com.

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>

WEDNESDAY'S WEREN'T WORKING FOR YOU?

If you have been unable to participate in our local kickboxing class because of a prior commitment on Wednesday's, you're in luck! For the summer (June, July, August), this group will be meeting on Tuesday's. So, if you are looking for a one hour workout which incorporates aerobic conditioning, strength and abdominal work, come join us!

When: Tuesday's from 6 – 7 pm , June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

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

Energy Tip of the Month

Spring is here! Now's the time to start thinking and working towards ways of saving money come fall and winter. If you have an exposed basement, putting up blueboard around your foundation during the good weather, or planning for hay bales to go there come fall, will save heating dollars when it gets cold again (and we all know it surely will!). We all have lots of spring and summer chores, just be sure to include weather stripping, sealing windows against heat leaks, tightening up doors on your to-do list. If you have been thinking about solar panels, insulation improvements, etc., now's the time to put thoughts into action. Waiting for cold weather before starting these chores just makes them harder to do and less likely to get done.

And Spring means other savings are also yours for not a lot of effort. Setting up an "old fashioned" rain barrel can save on energy use and its cost by providing water for gardens, car washing and so forth. Seed packets are pretty inexpensive, and a small house garden for salads and other easy to grow veggies saves the cost of both the trips to the store and the purchase of fresh food. What tastes better than a tomato fresh off the vine? You might want to check out Benson's new garden club if gardening is new to you (see or call Bob Phelps for more info). Using some of your yard for a garden also saves on mowing and thus the cost of fuel, emissions, time and noise. And don't forget your clothesline as a great "energy equals dollars" saver. So, here's to spring, and summer too – time to save those hard earned \$\$\$\$.

GOING TO THE DOGS?

As of now we still have 20 unregistered dogs in Town. The deadline was April 1, 2009. Your dog cannot register itself and, even though he/she may have eaten all the issues of this newsletter warning you of the April 1st deadline, as well as the letter we have sent reminding you that you have missed the deadline to register your dog, **YOU** are responsible. We will be publishing the list of owners who have not registered their dogs in the July issue of the Benson Bulletin. Check the list posted in the Town Clerk's Office to be sure your name is not on that list.

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BENSON MUSEUM RE-OPENS FOR THE SEASON

Wednesday's from 1 pm to 3 pm

It is Benson Museum time again. Instead of an event in the Museum's history for this article, it will be about the Museum's future.

It has been suggested that if anyone is interested in being co-curator, please submit your name to the museum. Also, volunteers are needed.

I have been asked many times who is going to take charge and I hope this will work out. I used the term "co-curator" because I will be available to help in the transition period.

Benson Museum, has been a very rewarding project for 28 years and I hope it will always be a part of our heritage.

Genevieve Trutor

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SENIORS GET DOWN AND DIRTY!

The residents of Benson Heights have their raised bed vegetable garden up and running for the season. This would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers. We would like to thank: Tad Fyles for the use of his 1 ton dump truck, Paul Parent for donating topsoil, Laura and Pete Parent for transporting the topsoil and helping to fill the beds.

C.A.T.S. OPEN FOR THE SEASON

Our local 4 wheeler group has been busy with their annual maintenance of existing trails as well as the preparation of several new trails made possible by the generous participation of local landowners. If you are interested in having a trail developed on your land, please contact the Trail Co-Ordinator, Shane Plummer (265-9766). If you have general questions about the Club, contact President Dick Legault (537-4536) and if you are interested in membership, contact Treasurer Lynn Bowen (537-3978). Again, we would like to thank all of our participating landowners. We're looking forward to a GREAT season!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **July 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than June 25th. 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