Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter June 2010

CAR SHOW JUNE 19th

The Benson Family Days Fundraising Committee's final event of the season will take place on Saturday, June 19th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and there's a lot more than "just" cars going on in Town!

First, the cars – be sure to vote for your favorite. Second, free fun for kids of all ages – crafts and activities - starting at 10 a.m. Sign up at the Event Table. Third, food! Some local chefs have expressed an interest in challenging Joe Shaw's (winner of the Chowder Cook-Off) bragging rights and are going to be competing for the best baked beans in Benson. There will also be a food tent open all day where you can buy snacks or a complete lunch. Fourth, a town-wide Scavenger Hunt (the Benson Village Store and New-Do's will be some of your stops).

If you are interested in helping out any of the events/activities or if you want more information on what you need to do to place Joe Shaw's title at risk, please contact Jen (537-7044), Shirley (537-2002) or Gina (537-2063).

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

DATE	DAY	TIME	PLACE	ORGANIZATION/EVENT
May 30	Sunday	10 am	Church	Memorial Day Service
June 1	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
June 3	Thursday	7:00 pm	Community Hall	Verd Mont FCE
June 7	Monday	7:30 pm	Community Hall	Informational Meeting
June 8	Tuesday	10 am–7 pm	Community Hall	School Budget Vote
June 8	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
June 8	Tuesday	7:30 pm	Benson School	School Board
June 9	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Community Hall	Route 22A Meeting
June 10	Thursday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Policy Committee
June 14	Monday	11:30 pm	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
June 14	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
June 16	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Library	Reading Group
June 17	Thursday	6:30 pm	Town Office	Energy Committee
June 19	Saturday	9 am – 3 pm	Townwide	Car Show Fundraiser
June 22	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
June 22	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Town Office	History Project
June 28	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
June 29	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Community Hall	Rte 22A Meeting

Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on June 14th

Come join us for a delicious lunch and try and figure out with your friends why they are calling the cars that will be in the Car Show on Saturday, June 19th "antiques". These are the cars we drove in our teens and we certainly haven't aged that much! The proposed menu is tossed salad, baked lasagna, garlic bread, broccoli and strawberry shortcake plus milk, iced tea or coffee. Suggested donation: $3.50.

We will also have Christa Aleshire from the Council on Aging as a guest.

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, June 11th: 537-2971.

GRAND LIST 2010

Change of Appraisal notices will be mailed out by June 5, 2010. Grievance dates are Monday, June 21 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday, June 23 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Listers encourage informal questions and concerns prior to the formal grievance; most often issues can be explained and resolved before the grievance date.

You have the right to appeal these assessments. If you wish to pursue an appeal, you must file your appeal in writing with the Listers prior to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 23. *Please be aware of the importance of this date;* appeals received after 8:00 p.m. on June 23, even if postmarked by June 23, are untimely and cannot be heard. Please send a daytime phone number to schedule an appointment for a hearing with the Listers.

Inspections for the reevaluation continue. These property assessments must be completed for the Grand List 2011 (April 1, 2011), and will all be at the new building costs schedule supplied by the Vermont Department of Taxes.

The Listers need your help to finish the reevaluation. Your cooperation in making an appointment as soon as possible will make a big difference. The cost of delays, extra phone calls, and extra trips, ultimately comes out of taxpayers' pockets.

Listers welcome questions about assessments, current use, and other pertinent matters. Reach us at 537-2614 to make a convenient appointment.

Senior Bus Tour Coordinator Needed

The Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) has tentatively awarded a $600 Senior Transportation Grant for use by Benson seniors. This grant can be used for a wide variety of group trips, there are no mileage restrictions and any eligible senior may participate. All bills must be received at SVCOA by Sept. 30, 2010, and all trips must be taken by Oct. 30, 2010, to be eligible for payment with Grant funds.

Benson does not currently have a Senior Bus Tour Coordinator and we are at risk of having this grant go unused. If you would like to be Benson's Coordinator, please call Richard Griffith, SVCOA, at (802) 786-5990.

BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

We've got everything you need to be prepared to enjoy those 'lazy" summer days right here in your local library. Come in and check out our great selection and check out a great FREE read!

The Reading Group will meet Wednesday, June 16th at 6:00 p.m. This month's book is Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson.

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday, May 30th, is our regular monthly Family Sunday and we will also be recognizing, honoring and remembering all those who have served our country. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Our May 22nd Tag Sale and Bake Sale has been rescheduled for June 19th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This was necessary because of the excavation at the church – we are building a handicap accessible ramp to the fellowship hall - and coincidentally enough, the proceeds from the sale will go to help pay for the ramp!!! More coincidence? June 19th is the Car Show so we hope to see a lot of you out and about.

Bible Study will be taking a summer break and will resume in September.

We will be acknowledging the graduates on Sunday, June 6th (Baccalaureate for Fair Haven Union High School will be held on June 6th at 4 p.m. at the Federated Church of Castleton.)

June 13th will be Children's Day and we will celebrate another Sunday School year!

June 20th (Father's Day) we will take up a special offering in honor of our fathers for blankets for those in need in this country and around the world. Each blanket costs only $5 - but will bring warmth and shelter to those who have nothing due to natural disaster or war.

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship

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

JUMPING AFTER JUNE BUGS?

Whatever your reason for jumping, if you have begun to notice that your landings are not as stable as they used to be, why not give our local Bone Builders a try? We meet every Monday and Thursday morning, from 9 – 10 a.m. at the Community Hall. No need to bring your jump rope – just be ready to have some fun while you learn to strengthen your bones and improve your balance.

VERD MONT FCE CLUB

Members met on May 13th at the Community Hall. After the business meeting, Dale Sweet quizzed those present on their knowledge of the United States constitution and historical facts. The questions had been taken from the test that must be passed to become a U.S. citizen. It was an eye-opening experience for us all!

Dale Sweet, Charlotte Collett and Rita Charlton attended the VermontFCE Spring Meeting that was held in Manchester, VT.

Our June meeting has been rescheduled from June 10th to the 3rd . We will be dining out for an evening of good food and friendship. We 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."

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.

OLD-FASHIONED SCHOOL PICNIC

The West Haven Historical Society will hold an "Old-Fashioned School Picnic" on Sunday, June 6th at noon at the old Center School, now "The Museum", in back of the Baptist Church. Bring a dish to share and the Museum will be open.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

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

IT'S A WRAP!

The Energy Committee has recently completed two important projects, and we wanted to update you on our progress. The Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project (VCEM) was a volunteer program designed to help residents save money and energy in their homes. Energy Committee members volunteered their time from February through April, joining with other towns in Rutland County, in partnership with Efficiency Vermont, to bring this program to 8 Benson households. We installed 65 free compact fluorescent light bulbs, 4 faucet aerators and 2 low-flow showerheads, installed 40 feet of hot water pipe insulation, reviewed the home's heating usage and provided information and special incentives to save more energy. These devices will provide an estimated total of 5,100 kilowatt hours of electrical savings in the first year.

Also, the weatherization project on the Community and Town buildings is complete, finishing out a Climate Change Grant from the State of Vermont. Among the tasks completed are an additional eight inches of cellulose insulation in the attic, closing of the chimney chase, closing of various unused vents, door bottoms, replacement of fiberglass insulation with foam along the basement sill. A person from BROC performed a door- blower test where air was sucked into the building and areas around doors, hatches vents and windows was viewed through an infrared device in order to visualize leakage. These two buildings are now as tight as they can be for this round of work, though there are still things which could be done in the future to improve their performance even more.

BENSON BUSY BUDDIES

The Benson Busy Buddies have had such a great May! We learned a new way to tie-dye that was really cool. The t-shirts all came out great and everyone's was so different. We also had lots of fun learning how to make pretzels. There were some really wild shapes by the time we were done. The springtime favorite of ice cream was requested again so we learned how to do it this time with plastic balls that we could kick around. Who knew that making ice cream could be a work out!

On May 22nd five of our club members made the trek to Barre for the VT State Fashion Review. A great time was had by all and new friends were made too! The next step for the members eligible for Eastern States or the Big E will be a taping of Across the Fence. We can't wait to be on TV!

June is promising to be fun month as well as we get ready to hold our parents appreciation dinner. If you have any questions about the Benson Busy Buddies 4-H Club call 537-2089 or 537-3652. If you're interested in learning more about 4-H visit the UVM 4-H website or call the Extension Office in Rutland at 773-3349.

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

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

"A family that lived near us during the period covered by these sketches may be taken as fairly representative of "life on the farm" at that time. The family was an old one in the history of the town . . . . consisted of Mr. B. and his wife and seven children . . . . The average number of children in a family in the school district in which we lived was a fraction under four. . . . . The children in the two families attended the same district, spelling, debating and singing schools, the same church and Sunday school, children's parties, paring bees, and the girls the same quiltings and other feminine gatherings. The boys of proper age worked on the farm in summer, and did chores and attended school in winter. The girls worked in the house summer and winter, having equal privileges with the boys in attending school. Mr. B. was not wealthy even as wealth was estimated in those days. The homestead consisted of about 140 acres, at that time a very good farm but not one of the best, in that section. There were 25 or 30 acres of original timber, but not much that was valuable for lumber, a large apple orchard with pear and cherry trees, and a splendid maple sugar bush, valuable parts of it. The remainder included tillable fields, not all large ones, and permanent pasture and meadow. The house was a two story building, large and roomy. The long sloping roof joined to the back part, covered a spacious lean-to, quite common to farm houses in those days. In it, were a large kitchen and store room. The chimney stack – also common in those old farm houses, with the surrounding fireplaces, and brick oven, occupied space enough to make a comfortable bedroom. A crane still hung in the kitchen fireplace, but had put out of commission by a cook stove installed on the hearth. The beams overhead in the kitchen, upon which the ceiling was laid, had their uses. An old musket or rifle might be suspended there, and in apple paring season they were a convenient place to hang strings of apples to dry. There might be a few bunches of medicinal herbs hanging there also. (No one compelled to drink thoroughwort tea in childhood days, recalls the experience without a shudder). The family was comfortably sheltered summer and winter. There were shade trees, near enough to the house, and the supply of fuel for winter use was unlimited. The barn, stables, sheds and other out buildings were good for that period, but far from being as comfortable and convenient as are now deemed indispensable. He also owned a tract of rough land not far away, that furnished sheep pasture. A saw mill on it did custom work for other farmers. The revenue from it was not large, but people can live longer without shelter than they can without food, and the seven children are all hungry by this time. How are they to be fed year in and year out?"

(to be continued next month)

ROUTE 22A STUDY MEETING

Wednesday, June 9th, 7 p.m. in the Community Hall

Please attend this meeting. This is your opportunity to identify problems with 22A, suggest needed improvements and show support for action.

The Town of Benson, in cooperation with neighboring towns and the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, is undertaking a study of Route 22A to plan for its future, with the help of Broadreach Planning & Design (BRPD) and Stantec. The study will:

- Check current safety conditions,
- Look at future development potentials,
- Consider the influences of environmental and cultural resources, and
- Generally consider how the Route 22A corridor will look, feel, and perform into the future.

The result of the study will be a plan that outlines where and what types of roadway improvements should be considered now or in the next few years to address existing safety issues. The plan will also make additional recommendations on how the overall scenic rural character of Route 22A can be maintained into the future without sacrificing mobility for local communities or the region.

This study extends along Route 22 from the Fairhaven, Vermont/New York state line in the south to the intersection of VT Route 73 and Route 22A in Orwell in the north. While the study is looking at the regional nature of Route 22A, it will also address the concerns of the communities along its route. To help the BRPD Study Team better understand the issues that are of concern to those living in Benson, the team will be meeting with the Benson Selectboard and the community on June 9, at 7:00 PM to discuss the goals of the project in more detail. They also hope to hear from the Selectboard and anyone else that is interested in attending the meeting about local concern, special situations, or possible future problems along Route 22A that the Study Team should examine.

If you are interested in the current or future condition of Route 22A, or have questions on the corridor or the work, you are invited to join the BRPD Study Team and the Benson Selectboard on June 9. If you have initial questions on the project, email Jim Donovan, the project manager for this study, at bikeped@gmavt.net.

TOWN OFFICE CLOSINGS

The Town Office will be closed on Monday, May 31st for Memorial Day and on Tuesday, June 8th for the School Budget vote.

DRAMATIC DECLINE IN BENSON'S DOG POPULATION?

Last year there were 371 dogs registered in Benson. To date we have only 278. We are hoping that this drastic decrease is the result of human error (forgetting that you need to register your dog) and not some deadly disease. If your dog is not currently sporting a shiny new tag, please get his/her 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!

DID YOU MISS THIS?

If you weren't one of the more than 150 people in attendance in the Community Hall on Wednesday evening, May 19th, you missed a magnificent performance of Peter Pan. Organized by Tanya Bowen, the following local stars gave us all a memorable evening: McKenzie Apjohn, Kelsi Bean, Alexis Beauregard, Austin Beauregard, Aidan Bennett, Elyza Bird, Katie Cole, Autumn Cyr, Edmund Cyr, Gabrielle Ellis, Hailey Hults, Ben Lannon, Olivia Lannon, Shane Lannon, Dylan Lee, Samantha Masse, Kaitlyn Pellerin, Keilani Pellerin, Sebatian Sfier, Eli Springer, Kaitlyn Sweatt, Bridgette Thomas, Dana Witorski.

Tanya had a lot of help and support BUT without her vision and drive, this event would not have been possible. A standing ovation for Tanya!

(…and, since there were more people in attendance than normally come to Town Meeting, maybe we should have Tanya organize something for March???)

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO SHARE….

…your recipe for Baked Beans. You know that it is a prize winner, but why not get some official recognition? One of the events at the Car Show on June 19th from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. is a Baked Bean tasting/competition. There is no charge to any chef to enter. You can become a "Judge" by paying $5. This entitles you to 7 tickets/tastes and one vote. As with the Chowder Cook-Off, however, bribes are not against the rules. Move over, Joe Shaw!

CAR SHOW EVENTS

June 19th 9 am – 3 pm

- Car Show Voting: free
- Kids' Events: free
  Register at Events Table
- Baked Bean Tasting and Voting
  Chefs' Participation: free
  Tasting/Voting: $5 for 7 tickets
- Food Tent: Snacks and lunch available for purchase
- Scavenger Hunt:
  $5 ticket for the "hunt" and 50/50

For more information, call Jen (537-7044), Shirley (537-2002) or Gina (537-2063).

VERMONT DAYS: June 12th and June 13th

Vermont Days is June 12 and June 13. Vermont State Park day areas, State-owned Historic Sites, and Vermont's History Museum will be open and free to the public. Saturday, June 12th is free fishing day – the one day in the year when residents and non-residents may go fishing without a license.

Take advantage of the free access to gather with family and friends and discover a new part of Vermont, or reconnect with a place you haven't visited in a while. Locations and events are open and free for both residents and nonresidents. The weekend has something for everyone.

For more information, go to:
www.vermontdays.vermont.gov