

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

March 2009

TOWN MEETING

March 3, 2009

Monday, March 2, 2009: 7:00 pm Selectboard Informational Meeting
7:30 pm School Board Informational Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2009: 10:00 am Town Meeting followed by
Annual School Board Meeting

Polls open from 10 am to 7 pm

The BVS 8th graders will be selling baked goods and lunch.

\$\$\$ \$ TAXES DUE MONDAY, MARCH 16th! \$\$\$ \$

See inside for more information.

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
February 28	Saturday	5:00 pm	Community Hall	Karaoke Night
March 2	Monday	7:00 pm	Community Hall	Informational Meetings
March 3	Tuesday	10am – 7 pm	Community Hall	Town Meeting and Voting
March 7	Saturday	1 pm – 3 pm	Fire Station	Rabies Clinic
March 9	Monday	11:30 pm	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
March 9	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
March 10	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Busy Buddies 4H
March 10	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Garden Club
March 10	Tuesday	7:30 pm	BVS Library	School Board
March 11	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Benson School	Bingo
March 11	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Planning Commission
March 12	Thursday	6:30 pm	Library	Energy Committee
March 12	Thursday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Policy Committee
March 12	Thursday	7:30 pm	Community Hall	VerdMont
March 16	Monday	8:30 – 4:30	Town Office	TAXES DUE
March 23	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
March 24	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Town Office	History Project
March 24	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Busy Buddies 4H
March 25	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Benson School	Bingo
		LOOKING AHEAD		
April 4	Saturday	8 – 10 am	Applebee's	8 th Grade Fundraiser

**Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on March 9th**

Bring your favorite shamrock and come enjoy a wonderful St. Patrick's Day meal! Proposed menu: New England Boiled Dinner – Corned Beef and Cabbage, Carrots, Potatoes, Irish Soda Bread, St. Patrick's Day Cake, Milk, Coffee/Tea.

Suggested donation: \$3.50.

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, March 6th: 537-2971.

YOUR CHOICES

The following people are running for local offices. Please come and vote on Tuesday,

March 3, 2009 from 10 am to 7 pm at the Community Hall.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE. CALL 537-2611.

Agent to Prosecute: one 1 year term – no one

Auditors: one 3 year term and one (unfinished) 2 year term – no one

Benson Village School Board:

one 3 year term: Jodi Goodhue, Rob Lowell, Tobi Silver

two 1 year terms: Bobbi Bean, Eric Hults, Shelbie Wing

Benson Village School Moderator: John Hill

Cemetery Commissioner: Peter Flynn

Delinquent Tax Collector: Daryl Burlett

First Constable: Daryl Burlett

Grand Juror: Daniel Britton

Library Commissioner: Jackie Lussier

Lister: Bob Phelps

Selectboard:

one 3 year term: Daniel Britton

two 1 year terms: Sue Janssen, Ed Peltier

Town Moderator: John Hill

Where is YOUR Information?

Our First Responders are an incredibly talented team, BUT their psychic skills are shaky. YOU can help them by having a list of your medications posted on your refrigerator, along with any other written directives. Don't make them waste valuable time looking for information. Help them help you.

TAX DEADLINE

Normally the second and final payment of your 2008 property taxes would be due on March 15th, 2009. Because the 15th is a Sunday, the deadline has been extended to Monday, March 16th. To avoid any penalties, be sure your taxes are either postmarked by the 16th or delivered to the Town Office by the close of business (4:30 pm) on the 16th.

CHURCH NEWS

Dan Kent was the Minister of the United Church of Benson for 36 years, starting in 1791. Thanks to the generosity of his great great-grandson, the Church now has a portrait of Reverend Kent. All are welcome to come see this important piece of Benson's history.

On Wednesday's during Lent, the Book Study Group will be meeting from 10 – 11 am in the Sunday School Room. They will be studying "The Signs of Lent". Contact Holly if you would like to purchase (\$5.50) the booklet that goes along with this study.

The Church is helping support Fair Haven Concerned and you can help too. If you shop at any Shaw's on Tuesday's, Wednesday's or Thursday's, Shaws will donate 1% of your receipts to Fair Haven Concerned. All you have to do is go online to <http://www.shaws.com/neighborhoodrewards> and enter your Shaw's number and Fair Haven Concerned's number (49001018296). If you don't have convenient access to the internet, please call Holly and she will enter your information for you.

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!

BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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



Have you noticed how much longer we have light every day? That means you only have a few weeks left before weeding time might take over your reading time.

(Yes, there are weeds hiding under all that snow.)

Come in and check out a great read before Spring forces you outdoors!

BENSON BUSY BUDDIES 4-H CLUB

By Dolly Wing

In February the Benson Busy Buddies have now all decided what our sewing projects will be, and we have been working hard on them. We are also going to start making a cookbook filled with family or favorite recipes. If anyone would like a copy just let us know, we should have some ready by fair time.

RABIES CLINIC

As you know, your dogs must be registered by April 1st (\$8 for a fixed dog, \$12 for an un-neutered dog). The Benson First Response is sponsoring a Rabies Clinic at the upper Fire House on Saturday, March 7th from 1 – 3 pm. Your dog can have a rabies shot for \$8 and you can register your dog at the same time.

Benson Village School News

Every Wednesday afternoon from 2:30-3:30 children in grades 3-8 have been enjoying participating in our Snowshoe Club. Mrs. Disorda leads the children in some great outdoor activities and exercise.

Also on Wednesday afternoons we have our Strummer's Club from 2:30-3:00. This club is for guitarists who have their own guitar and know a few chords. If you don't know any chords, it would be best to start out on one of our school ukuleles. Parents are welcome to join in this Strummer's Club as well!

The 8th Grade will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's Restaurant on Woodstock Ave. in Rutland on April 4th from 8am-10am. Tickets are \$6.00 each and can be purchased from any of our 8th Grade class members, or in the office at school. You can also buy tickets at Town Meeting, during the 8th graders Bake and Lunch Sale.

Upcoming dates to remember:

3/20 – ½ day of school, Teacher In-service

3/27 – BVS District dance, 7pm

VERD MONT FCE CLUB

The Verd Mont FCE Club will meet on Thursday, March 12th, at 7:30 PM, in the Community Hall. **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."

SNOW REMOVAL

- Yet another reminder: if you clear your driveway by plowing the snow into the road, you are subject to a ticket and a fine. Take the few necessary minutes when you are finished clearing access to your home to clean up the snow you've pushed into the road. Not only is it the law, but once it freezes, the Town Crew cannot remove it and it creates a hazard for other drivers.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

- As you are filing your Federal and State Taxes, please remember to fill out and file the HS 122 (to qualify you for the lower local tax rate) and the HI 144 (to qualify you for the tax prebate).

PARKING BAN

- Please remember that from November 15th through April 15th 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.

ARE YOU READY...

To enter the local Irish jig contest this St. Patrick's Day? Our local Bone Builder's can give you an inside edge by helping you improve your balance. 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 get your day off to a positive, upbeat start!

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Walk Rutland - a FREE team based walking program for residents of Rutland County – always has room for new members. Take advantage of our lengthening days and improve your heart health while enjoying some great company. Contact Sandra Owens (775-0555 or Sandra@walkrutland.com) for more information or visit the website:

www.walkrutland.com.

KICK YOUR HEELS UP!

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 , March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

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

BENSON GARDEN CLUB

The Benson Garden Club is planning to meet on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 pm in the Community Hall. Everyone is welcome – we're looking to expand the number of participating gardeners. Among other things, we'll discuss a perennial plant swap and a raised bed garden at Benson Heights. Bring your ideas with you.

This year the Garden Club is planning to start a 10 x 10 foot garden for a Benson resident. We will donate all the labor, seeds, 2 tomato and 2 pepper plants. If you're interested in starting a garden or helping with one or want to talk gardening, call Bob Phelps:b537-3155.

The Benson Garden Club, where the dues are dirt and the vision is a garden in every yard.

Hope to see you on the 10th.

DUMP PERMITS ARE IN

New annual permits are now available - \$10/household. Please remember that if you recycle you can save a lot of money for yourself (see the Energy Committee's article in this newsletter) and for the Town. The Town pays \$88/ton to have garbage hauled away and only \$25/ton to dispose of recyclables. You need your new permit by April 1st.

The First Hundred Years

Did You Know...?

The original survey of Benson dated Bennington May 5, 1780 shows the Town with 25,214 acres; the current estimate is 29,210 acres. The 1780 grant for the Town gave ownership of the land to 75 individuals with 5 equal shares for school and gospel purposes. The land was divided between the 75 individuals with lots set aside for school and gospel services. The owners were mostly real estate investors and after paying for surveying and dividing the Town into lots, the lots were either deeded to one of the 75 owners or set aside for school or gospel purposes. Only eight of the original 75 owners settled in Benson; the others sold their land to people wishing to settle in Benson. The land established for school purposes was leased to individuals at a fixed rental forever. In 1848, the school land was listed as 369 acres for Town Schools, 222 acres for Country Grammar Schools and 300 acres for the University of Vermont. Town School rent was \$91.29. Grammar School rent was \$48.00 and UVM rent was \$49.00. The Town School rent covered a significant portion of Town School expenses for many years.

THINK "FIRE SAFETY" FIRST

With winter drawing to a close (finally!), it remains very important to think "fire safety" first. The following are useful reminders of things we can all do to make sure we stay fire safe in our homes and properties.

Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces. Leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.

Safely Burn Fuels

- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.
- Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home.

Protect the Outside of Your Home

- Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.
- Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester.
- Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

Protect the Inside of Your Home

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Consider installing the new long life smoke alarms.
- Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE – **RETHINK!**

Congratulations to Benson residents for recycling about 40% of their trash! That's better than some towns, but we can do better. Let's set a goal to improve to at least 50% in 2009.

- **It's Easy** – Single-stream recycling: everything goes in one bin (except as noted below)
- **Save Money** – At \$1.50 per bag, recycling saves cash
- **Better for the Environment** – Less trash buried; less methane pollution created from decomposing trash; landfill space conserved
- **Recycling costs the town less** – Benson's trash expenses (your taxes) are much lower for recyclables

What can be recycled for free?

In the big bin:

- **Glass bottles and jars (all colors)**
- **Plastics (symbols 1 – 7, including plastic bags with recycling symbols)**
- **Boxboard such as cereal boxes (un-corrugated cardboard, except for beer/soda boxes)**
- **Paper, newspapers, magazines, and junk mail**

In separate bins:

- **Corrugated cardboard** in the cardboard bin
- **Metals** in the metal dumpster
- **Rechargeable and lithium batteries** in a separate container

Electronics *must* be recycled. A small fee applies.

Reduce and Reuse –

Think about the amount of packaging you are buying when you make purchases.

- Grocery shopping– bring your own reusable bags: buying a reusable bag for \$1.00 is a worthwhile investment for the health of our planet.
- Buy things made from recycled materials when you can – many paper products contain recycled materials.
- Cut down on junk mail - an estimated 100 million trees are cut down each year to produce junk mail. See [www/ecocycle.org/junkmail](http://www.ecocycle.org/junkmail) for 10 steps to get rid of junk mail. One simple step is to notify catalog companies and ask to be removed from their mailing list.
- Carry tap water in a reusable bottle. It's better for you, and cuts down on production and recycling of plastics.

Do you have other suggestions to share? Contact Karen Barber at 537-3155; we'll publish your ideas in a future issue.

Use it up or wear it out, make it do or do without.

We used to hear that as children, but it's still good advice for today's world.

A BIG THANK YOU

The Benson Fish and Game Club and the Benson Youth League would like to thank everyone that supported us during our Down Home Derby this year. Many thanks to all of our sponsors, and those of you who sold derby tickets for us. All donations and everyone's time volunteered during that weekend was a big help. A big thank you to G&L General Store for also selling raffle tickets for us that weekend, same for Benson Village Store for letting the kids from the youth league sell tickets in the store on that weekend. Down Home Derby appreciates everyone and everything that the community does to support this fishing weekend. Again thanks, and hope to see everyone at the next year's derby.

Down Home Derby Winners January 31 & February 1, 2009

Northern Pike:	Josh Faryniarz 16.68 lbs Brent Doran 14.45 lbs	Rick Bartholomew 14.67 lbs Zack Munger 12.98 lbs
Walleye:	Dick Turner 11.34 lbs. Jason Davignon 10.05 lbs.	Joe Shaw 11.05 lbs
Perch Group of Three:	Jason Chambers 2.72 lbs Ed Lamphere 2.15 lbs.	Jason Roberts 2.18 lbs Dylon Welch 2.09 lbs.
Other:	Kevin Eaton 12.13 lbs (Catfish)	Joseph Smith 8.57lbs(Trout)

Kids Down Home Derby Winners

Northern Pike :	Alec Burns 13.84 lbs	A.J. Munger 11.2 lbs
Walleye :	Caleb Wright 7.15 lbs	Kyle Hendee 6.23 lbs
Three Perch :	Aaron King 1.66	Cody Gregoire 1.39
Other:	Colton Riley 5.96 lbs(bowfin) Austin Beayon 3.81 lbs(Pickerel)	

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **April 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than March 23rd. 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

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