

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

May 2009

Benson Memorial Day Parade

MEMORIAL DAY 2009



Benson's Memorial Day Parade will be held on Sunday, May 24th at 11:00 am. The Fair Haven Union High School Marching Band has once again graciously accepted our invitation to be a part of the parade. Everyone is invited to join in our celebration and commemoration of Memorial Day.

Memorial Day commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in military service. First enacted to honor Union soldiers of the American Civil War, it was expanded after World War I to include American casualties of any war or military action.

If you need more information about participation in the parade, please contact Daniel Britton: 537-2971.

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
May 1	Friday	Appointment	Benson School	Kindergarten Screening
May 2	Saturday	All Day	Town Wide	Green Up Day
May 4	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
May 9	Saturday	9:00 am	Town Green	Green Plant Swap
May 12	Tuesday	7:30 pm	BVS Library	School Board
May 13	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Planning Commission
May 14	Thursday	6:30 pm	Library	Energy Committee
May 14	Thursday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Policy Committee
May 11	Monday	11:30 pm	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
May 12	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Busy Buddies 4H
May 14	Thursday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Energy Committee
May 14	Thursday	7:30 pm	Community Hall	VerdMont
May 18	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
May 19	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Garden Club
May 20	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Benson Library	Book Group
May 24	Sunday	11:00 am	Stage Road	Memorial Day Parade
May 26	Tuesday	4:00 pm	Sunset Lake Rd.	Informational Meeting
May 26	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Busy Buddies 4H
May 26	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Town Office	History Project

Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on May 11th

No more “the weather is too bad to go out” excuses will be accepted! Come celebrate spring with your friends and enjoy a great meal. Proposed menu: Tossed salad, Baked Lasagna, Garlic bread, Brussels sprouts or broccoli, Fresh Fruit Salad, Milk, Coffee/Tea.

Suggested donation: \$3.50.

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, May 8th: 537-2971.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

I have dirt under my fingernails and the lingering aroma of fresh-turned dirt in spring. Spring has sprung! The Garden Club is having a Plant Swap on Saturday, May 9th on the Green, next to the Wheel Inn. If you have extra perennials, rhubarb, black raspberries, seeds etc. bring them between 9 a.m. and noon. Pick up something for yourself and maybe for Mom – Mother’s Day is the next day.

After a hot weekend, we’re all anxious to get those tender annuals into the ground. Keep in mind that the last average frost date for our area is May 9. Be ready to protect those plants in case a chill from the north accompanies the full moon. Planting with the moon and bio-dynamic agricultural planting has been going on for hundreds of years. Anyone interested in more information can contact Bob Phelps.

The Garden Club will be providing a garden for Ami Frappier, her husband and two children. Ami is new to gardening, and we will look forward to this exciting project. This project will be started in May. We will keep you up-to-date on the progress.

I have been asked about roto-tilling. If you do roto-tilling and would like me to pass this information along, please contact Bob Phelps.

May is a busy month for all. It’s easy to have the gardens that we planted in May overcome with weeds in June. Be diligent. Each visit to the garden, pull a few weeds. Carry a hoe, but do not hoe deep. Leave weeds in the hot sun a few hours or remove them to your compost pile. Your soil is a seed bank, and by hoeing shallow, you are not bringing weeds into the germination zone. Mulch with those leaves you raked up last fall, and again this spring. Use your grass clippings.

Before you spend all those dollars on chemical fertilizers, weed killers, etc., keep in mind that healthy soil means healthy plants. If you use these, use them in moderation, but by all means plant a garden.

In June we will begin our garden tours. This is not a competition, but rather a learning and sharing experience. All are welcome.

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Hall. Always ready to talk gardening – Bob Phelps 537-3155.

OPENING YOUR CAMP FOR THE SEASON?

Please add “Check that our 911 sign is up and can be seen easily” to your list of chores. Our Fire Department and First Responders work year round to help you, but they need to be able to find you – quickly!

BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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



The book discussion group will meet on Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 pm at the library. We will be reading Peace Like a River by Leif Enger, which is available now. 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.

CHURCH NEWS

Special thanks to the Arthur's and Lussier's for providing such lovely locations for our Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast.

On May 17, John Hill will be preaching and on May 31st we will be celebrating Pentecost. Since May 31st is also Family Sunday, you are all most welcome to join us.

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!



Green Up Day Saturday May 2, 2009



Saturday, May 2nd is Vermont Green Up Day. Green Up bags are available during normal working hours at the Benson Transfer Station and at the Town Office. A limited number of bags will also be available at the Village Store and at the G&L Store on Route 22A. Green Up Day was started in 1970 in Vermont, the first state to designate a day for residents to join together as a community to clean up our roads.

May 2nd is also Tire Day at the Transfer Station. Tires without rims can be left at the Transfer Station for a fee of two bag stickers (\$3) each. Please remember to buy your transfer station stickers in advance, as cash cannot be accepted at the Transfer Station.

Weather permitting, there will be an informal "thank you" hamburger and hot-dog roast outside the Town Office at Noon on Green Up Day for Benson residents who participate in the cleanup. Soft drinks will also be provided.

Please drive slowly on May 2nd and watch out for the volunteers who are out cleaning our Benson roadways. Please contact Jan Ladd at 537-2611 to sign up for Green Up Day.

Let's all get out there on May 2nd and beautify Benson!!!!

Benson Village School News

On Friday, May 1, Kindergarten registration and screening for all Benson children who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2009 will be held at Benson Village School. If you have not been notified by mail and wish to register your child or if you know of someone who has a kindergartener, please call the school: 537-2491. Please be sure to bring your child's birth certificate and immunization records.

The Benson-Orwell EEE program will be conducting screening for children 0-5 years old living in Benson or Orwell. If you have a child 0-3 years old that you would like to have screened, please call 537-2491. Screening appointments will be scheduled on an individual basis for these children. This is a free service to all residents of Benson and Orwell.

The preschool screening involves activities that are both fun for young children and help us learn about a child's motor, cognitive and language skills. Vision and hearing will also be screened. The screening for 3 – 5 year olds will take place by appointment on Thursday, May 7th from 8 am – 3 pm. Please call 537-2491 before May 1st to schedule a screening for your child. Please bring your child's immunization record and birth certificate with you to the screening.

Our 5th and 6th grade students will be going to Green Mountain College on May 5th for the Ecosystem Expo. They will then leave for Boston on May 21st, they too would like to thank all who supported and helped raise money for this wonderful trip.

The 8th Grade will leave for their Washington, D.C. trip on May 13th and returning on May 16th. **They would like to thank all community members, businesses and parents who have supported them and helped them raise the funds to make this trip possible!**

7th Grade will be going to the Paramount theater to see Team VSO performed by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra on May 14th.

The Combined Chorus will perform at FHGS on May 20th at 7pm.

The 8th Grade is continuing to work with Pete Sutherland on the Ballad for Lake Champlain. There will be a public performance of the ballad at a later date.

Please visit the BVS Website at <http://benson.arsu.org> where you will find our lunch Menu's, Weekly Newsletters, Monthly newsletters and School Board information.

If you want more information – minutes of meetings, schedules, opportunities in Town - please remember to visit our Town's **NEW** website: <http://www.benson-vt.com>

VERD MONT FCE CLUB

The Verd Mont FCE Club will meet on Thursday, May 14th, at 7:30 PM, in the Community Hall. A program on "Buying Safe Food" will follow a brief business meeting.

At their most recent meeting members voted to support Fair Haven Union High School's Project Graduation with a monetary donation.

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."

UP OR DOWN?

Whether you're getting ready to reach up to pick those cherries or down to pull those weeds, your balance can always use a little encouraging. Why not join our local Bone Builders 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!

A GOOD EXCUSE –

not that you need one – to escape boring chores can easily be found if you join Walk Rutland - a FREE team based walking program for residents of Rutland County – always has room for new members. 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.

READY FOR THAT BATHING SUIT?

If you are looking for a one-hour workout that incorporates aerobic conditioning, strength and abdominal work, come join the local kickboxing class.

When: Wednesday's from 6 – 7 pm, May 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, 29th

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

REMINDER FROM THE TOWN OFFICE

By now you should all have your new annual dog registration as well as your new annual Transfer Station permit. If you haven't renewed these, please do so NOW so that we don't have to waste time and money tracking you down!

The First Hundred Years

Eleven Schools become Nine

The Town of Benson had eleven school districts and schools for nearly the first 100 years. For the 1890 – 1891 school year, there were no school attendance and administrative reports filed for the Doane School (district nine) and the Stiles School (district 7). These schools were both located on the East Road. District Nine School was located approximately where Melvin Corey's house is located and District Seven School was located on the west side of the East Road at Crandall Road. These two school districts voted to become one district and the new school was located on land owned by Oscar Bump and became known as the Bump School. The District Nine school building was moved to this site and the first year of school at the Bump School was the 1892 – 1893 school year. The sale of the district seven school is recorded at page 653 Book 13 of the Benson Land Records.

“Having been authorized by the vote of districts no's 7 & 9 in the Town of Benson, Vermont at a meeting thereof legally holden for that purpose on July 17th, 1891 and in consideration of the sum of sixteen (\$16) dollars I have bargained and sold and do hereby sell and convey to the said Daniel Wait of Benson aforesaid the school house formerly owned by District 7 in said Town of Benson and now the property of united district no's 7&9. In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this 15th day of October 1891.

N. O. Donald, L.S.

Witness

James R. Coates

O.H. Burny

Received and recorded the foregoing Instrument Nov. 18 A D 1892 at 11 o'clock & 30 minutes pm.

Attest *Harry S. Howard*, Town Clerk

The District eight school was also closed following the 1890 – 1891 school year. The district eight school was located on south Stage Road. Eight of the nine remaining schools were closed in the second 100 years leaving the Benson Village School. The last one room school (the Bump School) closed in 1956.

Benson Busy Buddies 4-H Club

News Reporter, Raven Collett

The Benson Busy Buddies have had a very busy month! We all finished our sewing projects and took part in the Fashion Review at Visual Presentations. Three members, Jacinda Brown, Sadie Brown, and Raven Collett, are going on to State Day in May. They can't wait. Right now the club is starting its own cookbook and we are doing fun baking projects. At our last meeting we made snickerdoodles and designed our own cookbook covers! We can't wait to do our next project.

Energy Tip of the Month: Plan Ahead

Everyone is relieved that the \$4.00 a gallon gas prices and \$4.50 a gallon heating oil prices have dropped back down. But, don't be fooled by the current prices or lured in to a false sense of security. Many oil industry experts predict that crude oil prices will be between \$75 and \$80 a barrel by the end of 2009, bringing gas prices back up to a minimum of \$2.50 a gallon and heating oil prices up close to \$3.00 a gallon.

The near panic we saw last summer and fall, when everyone was trying to find a way to pay our energy costs has changed. But, even at today's prices, energy costs are still one of our largest household expenses.

Planning ahead is as important as ever. The following tips will help you be prepared to handle future increases in energy costs. If you are:

- ✓ Buying a car or truck, try to buy the most fuel-efficient vehicle that meets your needs. Think about your needs. Do you need the size vehicle you're driving, or would your needs be met with a smaller vehicle?
- ✓ Doing any work around your house, be sure to insulate well and install vapor barriers. Caulk windows, doors, and cracks in boards. Cement cracks in the foundation. Buy energy efficient windows if you're replacing them. Check on tax credits that might help you pay for home improvements.
- ✓ Building a house or an addition, maximize the number of windows on the south face to increase the amount of "free heat" you can get from the sun.
- ✓ Buying new appliances, look for Energy Star rated appliances. Ask the sales person what rebates are available on Energy Star appliances. Often the rebate can offset most of the extra cost of an efficient appliance.

Perhaps most important, before you purchase anything that uses energy, ask yourself, "Do I really need this?" Sometimes the answer will be, NO!

Remember, last year's high energy costs are not gone forever, only for a while. Plan ahead and be prepared when prices go up next time!

Fair Haven Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Benson residents with a valid Benson Transfer Station sticker may dispose of household hazardous waste at the Fair Haven Transfer Station on Saturday May 23rd, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. This is NOT Benson's Hazardous Waste Disposal Day which is scheduled for September 19th from 11:00 am to 12:30 p.m.

CENSUS 2010

Between April and July 2009, U.S. Census employees will be visiting every housing unit in Benson. In order to conduct the 2010 Decennial Census, the Census Bureau must know the address and physical location of each place where people live or stay. Census employees will be wearing official identification and will carry hand-held computers to capture physical addresses and their GPS coordinates.

Please cooperate with the census takers – the information they obtain often helps us – BUT never hesitate to ask for their identification.

SUNSET LAKE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

On Tuesday, May 26th at 4:00 pm there will be an informational meeting held on Sunset Lake Road at the outlet. Daryl Burlett and members of the Selectboard will be present to discuss the work planned at that location for this spring and summer.

In our ongoing efforts to stabilize the road and to reduce silt run-off into the lake, we have obtained a grant from Better Backroads that will enable us to install several new culverts, a new spillway and to improve and stone line the ditch.

Come and bring your questions/concerns!

Democracy For A Day? It Lasts For a Year!

Town Meeting is where the most important decisions of the Town of Benson are made. Officers and town positions are voted by ballot throughout the day, but the actual town budget is discussed, possibly amended, and then either voted for or against at Town Meeting itself.

The budget amount determines the taxes that each property owner in Benson must pay to fund town business. Each and every voter attending can speak their mind about the town budget. Nothing could be more momentous than that! But, attendance is generally low with perhaps only 10% of voters attending and participating in Town Meeting. The majority of voters and taxpayers are not exercising their rights as citizens or making their opinions known about the Town Budget.

During last Town Meeting, the voters asked the Selectboard to look at ways to increase future attendance. We'd like to know your thoughts on Town Meeting, regardless of whether or not you attended. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey on the reverse side and share your thoughts.

You can drop your completed form off at the Town Office, Benson Village Store, G&L General Store, or mail it to the Town Office at PO Box 163, Benson VT 05731. If mailing your response, please write "Town Meeting Survey" on the front of your envelope. Please respond as soon as you are able.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **June 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than May 22nd. To submit your news, please either e-mail the information to

benonnews@shoreham.net or call Sue Janssen at 537-3111

Submit your ads to Shirley Vladyka: ShirleyV@shoreham.net