

# Benson Bulletin

Benson Vermont's Community Newsletter

May 2010

## BENSON GREEN UP DAY

Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> (Happy May Day!!) is Vermont Green Up Day. Green Up Day is our opportunity as Benson citizens to promote the livability of our town, and to raise public awareness about the benefits of a litter-free environment.

Green Up bags are available from Sandra Owens at "Silverware", at the G& L store on Route 22A, at the Benson Village Store, at Jan Ladd's house, and of course, at Town Office during normal business hours. Green Up Day bags with roadside litter only, can be disposed of at the Benson Transfer Station free of charge.

PLEASE drive carefully on May 1st and be on the lookout for the volunteers who are out cleaning up our town. Thank you.

## MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
May 1	Saturday	All Day	Townwide	Green-Up Day
May 3	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
May 10	Monday	11:30 am	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
May 11	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
May 11	Tuesday	7:30 pm	Benson School	School Board
May 12	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Planning Commission
May 13	Thursday	6:30 pm	Town Office	Energy Committee
May 13	Thursday	7:00 pm	Community Hall	VerdMont FCE
May 17	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
May 19	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Peter Pan
May 24	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Special Selectboard Mtg.
May 25	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
May 26	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Library	Reading Group
May 30	Sunday	11:00	Town Office	Memorial Day Ceremony
May 31	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
		<b>LOOKING</b>	<b>AHEAD</b>	
June 19	Saturday	8am – 3pm	Downtown	Car Show Fundraiser

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>

## Monthly Senior Luncheon at the Benson Community Hall on May 10<sup>th</sup>

Why cook when you can enjoy a delicious meal, catered by the Wheel Inn, surrounded by great friends, old and new? This month the proposed menu is: Tossed salad, Baked Stuffed Chicken, Oven browned potato or baked potato/sour cream, Carrots with dill, Cranberry sauce, Fresh Fruit Salad, Milk, Coffee/Tea. Suggested donation: \$3.50.

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>: 537-2971.

## TAKE A TRIP TO NEVERLAND FOR ONLY \$2

The rumor is true: Peter Pan will be making an appearance at the Community Hall on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$2 – a true bargain for an evening to remember!

And, if you find you have some last-minute-free-time on your hands, why not give Tonya a call at 537-3533 and see if she needs some last-minute-free-help.

## The Listers are Looking for Help

With only about six weeks left in the work for the current Grand List, the Listers are looking for help from property owners with unfinished credit (credit for dwellings that are only partially complete). Listers are required to visit all unfinished buildings yearly, but are only about 25% complete for the current year. Property owners are asked to return Listers' phone calls or make appointments for an inspection. *If the Listers cannot determine the level of completion of a project because they are not able to reach the owner or inspect the property, the property may be assessed at 100% complete, and taxed accordingly.*

Spring work, defined as recording changes to a property such as, but not limited to, that new deck, garage, or addition, or removal of same, needs to be complete by late May or early June. When this process is complete, Change of Appraisal notices will be sent out. Property owners will then have two weeks to question the changes through the grievance process. *All grievances, whether about property assessments that have changed, or property assessments that remain the same, must be filed in writing by the official grievance date, which will be advertised in the newspaper and posted in prominent places around town.*

Inspections for the reevaluation continue. The Listers are about one-half through the allotted time, with only 30% of properties inspected. 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 these processes (unfinished credit, Spring Work, and 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.



## BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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

The Reading Group will meet Wednesday, May 26 at 6:00 p.m. This month's book is Pat Conroy's The Water is Wide

The Library is proud to announce that we have received a grant. During Phase I of the Gates Grant, we will be receiving \$1950.00 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for new technology in the library. We had to match the grant with \$650.00 for a total of \$2600.00.

Phase II of Grant is \$1300.00 from the Gates Foundation and \$1300.00 from us for 2011.

Thank you, to everyone who helped me out in the library in the last year from painting to ceiling tiles, reorganizing books and general weekly help. I appreciate all your help. A special thanks goes out to Joan Cunningham for all the Science books and tapes.

**Jaci Lussier**  
**Librarian**

## CHURCH NEWS

During the month of May, our Wednesday morning (10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) Bible study will be heavenly! We will be looking at concepts of heaven in the Bible, other religious sources, and in current literature. Come join us and bring your own ideas of what lies ahead!!!

On Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will be holding a Tag Sale and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the proceeds going to help offset the cost of our handicap accessible entrance to the Fellowship Hall.

Pentecost is May 23<sup>rd</sup> this year and we will be celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit by wearing red to church that day - and Coffee Hour will follow - with red velvet cupcakes!

Family Sunday, the last Sunday of each month, will be Memorial Day, May 30<sup>th</sup>. This is a service more geared to children and young people - yet enjoyed by all! Come join us for worship before the ceremony on the lawn of the Town Office!

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**

## VERMONT GREEN UP DAY CELEBRATION

May 1<sup>st</sup> will be recognized as the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vermont Green Up Day. The State is sponsoring a special 40th Anniversary celebration on the State House lawn in Montpelier on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 3 pm to 5:30 pm, rain or shine. Free events include performances by Banjo Dan and the Midnite Plowboys, and Bill Shontz. There will be food vendors at the site, including the Ben and Jerry's Scoop Truck. The state has also created a blog site to share Green Up Day remembrances at <http://greenupvermont.blogspot.com>.

## 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.

## WOBBLY WEEDING WOES?

We do truly understand that some of you may want to use the “my balance isn’t so good” excuse so that you can read rather than weed this season, but... Come and join us at Bone Builders if you would like to keep your options open. We meet every Monday and Thursday morning, from 9 – 10 a.m. at the Community Hall. No garden tools required – just a willingness to have a good time while you strengthen your bones and improve your balance.

## VERD MONT FCE CLUB

Members met on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Community Hall. After a brief business meeting, Fran Bowen presented an interesting program on libraries and their significance in Vermont.

This led to a discussion of favorite books and authors.

Verd Mont will be hosting the spring Rutland County FCE dinner meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

The next regular meeting will be on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Dale Sweet will present the program.

\*\*

**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.”

## SCHOOL NEWS

The staff and students at Benson Village School would like to send out a heartfelt THANK YOU to the students at Stafford Technical Center and Mr. John Bixby, their advisor, for all the help to upgrade our playground over April vacation. We would also like to thank the community members who volunteered with equipment, food and especially their time and energy! We love the new playground!!

## ENERGY TIP – THE POWER OF HALF

A few months ago, there was an article in the Sunday Parade magazine about a family, the Salwens, in Atlanta, Georgia, who sold their home and moved to one that was half its size and price, donating the difference to charity. They spent about a year researching where the money would go – working at their local food bank, serving meals to the homeless, and helping to construct houses for Habitat for Humanity. They ultimately chose The Hunger Project, with their funds going to 20 villages in Ghana, helping these people move from poverty to self-reliance.

I've been thinking a lot about this article, and how this concept might apply to the environment as well as helping people. Perhaps individually we are not able to take as big a step as the Salwens did, but collectively we could make many small contributions. How about lowering your carbon footprint by combining trips made in the car, or riding a bicycle or walking? If you use half as much toothpaste or shampoo, there are fewer empty containers in the landfill. Or keep a rag under the sink to use for wiping up spills, instead of using and discarding paper towels.

How about halving the hours of TV you watch, and volunteering with the time you save? Or planting a bigger garden and donating some of the food to a neighbor or the food shelf? RAFFL (Rutland Area Farm and Food Link) has organized a local program to redistribute donated food in the greater Rutland area. Perhaps you have an abundance of stuff. As you do your spring-cleaning, consider donating some of the clothes in your closet to someone less fortunate.

If this idea starts you thinking, call or email with your ideas and I'll share them in an Energy Tip in the coming months.

(Karen Barber, 537-3155, [bobandkaren@shoreham.net](mailto:bobandkaren@shoreham.net))

## BENSON BUSY BUDDIES

The Benson Busy Buddies 4-H Club has been off to a great start this spring. Twelve members sewed for the Rutland County 4-H Fashion Review and they all did great. Going on to State Day in May will be Kelsi Bean, Sadie Brown, Raven Collett, Gabby Ellis, Jonna-Lynn Grenier, Sam Masse, and Dolly Wing. They will be headed up to the Barre Auditorium on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to show off their awesome outfits. If you see one of the girls just ask them what they made, they might even show you! For the month of April the club is taking a bit of a breather as we gear up to next learn some new cooking skills in May. If you have any questions about 4-H or the Benson Busy Buddies call either 537-2089 or 537-3652 and leave a message. You can also visit the official Vermont 4-H website at [uvm.edu/extension/youth](http://uvm.edu/extension/youth) and learn about upcoming events!

## C.A.T.S. CLEAN UP

On May 1<sup>st</sup> the Club will meet at Vladyka's from 9 a.m. - noon to pick up green bags. The next Benson C.A.T.S. meeting will be on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at the Cat Shack.

## The First Hundred Years

### H.J. Wilkinson

H.J. Wilkinson – “I was born in the town of Highgate, Franklin County, Vermont, Nov. 25, 1828. Two years later my father moved his family to Benson, Rutland County where I lived until I was about nineteen years old. May 24, 1847 we left Vermont for Wisconsin –“

Mr. Wilkinson died at the age of 94 in Whitewater Wisconsin in 1923. In 1910 he wrote a series of articles for the Whitewater Register about life in the Town of Benson in the 1830 through 1847 time period. The next few newsletters will include excerpts from these articles.

“It is true that old methods were slow and laborious, and the reward not always in fair proportion to the effort made to secure it.” “..the impression seems to prevail among young people of today, both on and off the farm that the farmer of 70 years ago was compelled to a life of drudgery by the manner in which he did his work, and conducted his business, in providing shelter, food and raiment and other living expenses for his family and was left little time for social life and it’s pleasures. Such an impression would not be in accord with recollections of the writer.” “..they took as keen an interest in social events as people do now, and thoroughly enjoyed social life and events in their way” “They were accustomed to labor and did not invariably consider it a hardship.”

“A canal connected the lake with the Hudson River at Troy and river, canal and lake, formed the main route in summer, for through travel and traffic between Montreal and New York City. The limited number of winter travelers were accommodated by stage lines over roads that paralleled the lake and not far from it. There was not much freight moving in the winter” “Merchants bought their supplies in New York in the spring and fall when they could be forwarded by water” “..farmers had little to send away at that time of year” “Wool was generally sold soon after shearing, and butter and cheese in the fall.” “More than four-fifths of the nearly 1500 people in the town, got their living by farming.”

“Although it could hardly be classed among the best farming sections of the state, it was above the average” “That, too, uneven for convenient tillage furnished pasturage for sheep, which were kept in large numbers and young cattle.” “Good crops of small grains and “Yankee corn” were raised and any desired supply of garden vegetables.” “Early in the history ... considerable wheat was grown ... and the surplus had a market further south.” “..in the early forties not enough was raised to entirely supply local demands” “..the flour from Geneva Mills could be purchased at the lake landings.” “..farm life in large parts of the state had many features in common.”

“The almost incredible number of saw mills, grist mills, black smiths and wagon shops, cording machines, pulling mills, cabinet or furniture makers, school houses and schools is evidence of similar methods of getting a living, employed by a large part of the population.”

(Continued next month)

## APPLAUSE FOR THE BVS PLAYGROUND

On Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> the Benson Village School playground received a much needed refurbishing. We had a beautiful spring day and a long list of repairs and projects to do; thankfully we had a huge outpouring of support to accomplish it. We would like to begin by thanking the Skills USA students from Stafford Technical Center. These students took this project on with enthusiasm and carried it out beautifully. Without their months of preparation and willingness to dedicate a day to volunteering, the project would not have been a success. Thanks again to the 45 STC students who made it out to Benson on the 12<sup>th</sup> and to the dedicated STC faculty who worked alongside their students.

We would also like to thank the many community members, BVS students, organizations, and businesses who helped with this project: Robert and Rebecca St. Peter, Orwell Sand and Gravel, Benson PTO, C.A.T.S, Boy Scout Troop 109 and Rick La Rock, Dan Ransom, Eric and Christina Shaw, Will Tyler, Denis Miller, Sierra Gregoire, Megan Wooster, Wesley Gates, Jan and Donny Ladd, Russ Symons and Paul Millette, Jeff Noble, Sue and Melvin Corey, John and Nancy Smith, Kim Doty, Keith Cull, Brent Munger, Jaci Lussier, Abey Munger, BobbiJo Bean, John Hill, Debbie Arthur, Carole Fortier, Tony Szabo, Colleen Howard, Kierstin Hart, Eliza and Tim Bird, Courtney Bean, Haily Hults, Meagan Marsh, Jake Apjohn, McKenzie Apjohn, Jen Whitehurst, Nathan Bouregard, Lynn La Rock, Gagnon Lumber, Mike Smith, G & L General Store, Gilmore Home Center, and Country Ag Services.

Thank you for a great day!

Sincerely,

Amy Munger and Gina Cull

## FAMILY DAY FUND GETS STUFFED

The Family Day Fundraising Committee's most recent event attracted the attention of Channel 3 (WCAX) reporter Molly Smith. What a great day: children ranging in age from 2 to 65 stuffed and fluffed 36 animals and added \$248 to the Family Day Fund.

Special thanks to Jeff Noble, Jen Whitehurst, Gina Cull, Jan Ladd, Brianna Pomykala, Shirley and Larry Vladyka and to everyone who helped make this fun event successful.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **June 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than May 21<sup>st</sup>. Submit your ads to Shirley Vladyka: [ShirleyV@shoreham.net](mailto:ShirleyV@shoreham.net) To submit your news, please either e-mail the information to [benso news@shoreham.net](mailto:benso news@shoreham.net) or call Sue Janssen at 537-3111.