

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter November 2008

'TIS THE SEASON...TO SAY THANK YOU!

The Benson Fire Department would like to thank everyone who made their Haunted Hayride the best ever! The hard-working members of the Fire Department and the enthusiastic support of many community members contributed to a very successful – and fun – event!

Don't forget, it's never too early to start planning your site for next year!

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT!

Make YOUR voice heard! On Tuesday, November 4th you can vote in person from 10 am to 7 pm at the Community Hall. You can also vote "early" by completing an absentee ballot and submitting it prior to the close of the polls at 7 pm on November 4th.

BUDGET TIME

The Selectboard will begin work on the 2009-2010 Budget at the December 1st meeting. Our goal is to level fund as much as possible. There are, however, budget items over which we have no price control (fuel, for example) and we need to look at responsible solutions. We welcome any and all budget suggestions and ideas. Please come to the meeting, call a Selectboard member, drop a note off at the Town Office or e-mail the Selectboard (selectboard@benson-vt.com).

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
November 3	Monday	7 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
November 4	Tuesday	10am – 7pm	Community Hall	General Elections
November 10	Monday	11:30 am	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
November 11	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Busy Buddies 4H
November 11	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	History Project
November 12	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Button Up
November 13	Thursday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Policy Committee
November 13	Thursday	7:30 pm	Community Hall	Verd-Mont FCE
November 15	Saturday	10-4pm	Benson School	Craft Fair
November 17	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
November 18	Tuesday	7:30 pm	BVS Library	School Board
November 19	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Library	Reading Group
November 19	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Benson School	Turkey Bingo
November 25	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Busy Buddies 4H
November 25	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Benson School	Harvest Concert

Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on November 10th

Did your candidate win? Talk about the election results with your friends, old and new, over an early Thanksgiving lunch: tossed salad, roast turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls, pie, beverages.

Suggested donation: \$3.50.

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, November 7th: 537-2971.

BENSON MUSEUM

We are now closed for the season.

Stay cozy and warm this winter and come see us in the Spring!

CALL FOR CRAFTERS

The Benson First Response is sponsoring their annual Craft Fair on Saturday, November 15th from 10 am – 4 pm at the Benson Village School. Tables will be available for \$20 if you reserve by November 10th. After November 10th, the fee will be \$25. If you need an electrical hook-up, there is an additional \$5 charge. To reserve a table, please call Colleen Hoard: 537-3521. Set up will be either Friday evening, November 14th from 5 – 7 pm or starting at 6 am on the morning of the 15th. Lunch will be available for purchase from 11 am to 1 pm.

GARDEN CLUB WRAP-UP

The Benson Garden Club wrapped up its successful first season with a potluck supper of local foods. We visited several gardens, including raised beds, beautiful flowers, commercial organic vegetables and giant pumpkins. One of these pumpkins won fourth place at the Eastern States Expo in October.

This is an important time of year to weed your garden. While most of the vegetables have given up, the weeds are working overtime to produce thousands of seeds for next spring. Our potatoes are in the root cellar (buried refrigerator). Carrots, parsnips, beets and rutabagas are waiting to be dug. Brussels sprouts and kale are beginning to taste their best after several frosts.

As the seed catalogs start coming in through the winter months, it's a great time to plan for next year's garden. It's also a good time to make notes of this year's gardening successes and failures.

It is our hope that the spring will bring a renewed interest in gardening and more people into the Garden Club. This may not be your typical Garden Club. We are looking for a pool of volunteers who want to share their gardening experiences and expertise (weeding, planting, tilling, etc.) with others who want to start a garden or need help with a garden.

Always willing to talk gardens – Bob Phelps at 537-3155.

See you next year!

CHURCH NEWS

The Annual Meeting of the United Church of Benson will be held on Friday, November 14th. Everyone is invited to a Pot Luck Supper at 6:30 and the meeting will follow. It has been suggested that people bring LOCALLY grown food to the Pot Luck - and see how much we grow in our area!

The United Church of Benson's new Sunday School for pre-schoolers through sixth grade started on Sunday, September 14! 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 Wednesday 3 pm – 7 pm and Saturday 11 am – 2 pm



Reading Group

The group will meet on November 19 at 6:00 PM at the Library. We will be reading In Memory of Old Jack by Wendell Berry. The group is open to anyone interested.

BEFORE YOU TOSS THAT CARDBOARD....

Remember that only brown corrugated cardboard can go in the cardboard dumpster. Things like cereal boxes, pizza boxes, cake mix boxes go in the recyclables and any double waxed boxes must go in the garbage. Questions? Check with Wes BEFORE you toss!

WALK RUTLAND

Having trouble keeping your promise to yourself to get more exercise? Why not consider a team approach to help you maintain a healthy active lifestyle? Walk Rutland is a FREE team based walking program for residents of Rutland County. Contact Sandra Owens (775-0555 or Sandra@walkrutland.com) for more information or visit the website: www.walkrutland.com.

CATS

The Champlain All-Terrain Sportsmen's Club wishes to remind everyone that the trails are closed for the 2008 season. We would also like to thank all of the landowners for generously opening up their land to the ATV Club. Without their support, we wouldn't have the fantastic trail system we enjoy! Thank you.

Benson Village School News

The 8th graders are well on their way toward earning the money needed for the class trip to Washington D.C. in the spring. The 8th graders' next fundraiser will be a Turkey Bingo on November 19th at 6:30 PM. The class would like to thank everyone who has donated and supported their fundraising efforts. The school will be offering a six week parenting class on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30. There will be childcare provided. The next class will be November 3rd. The first through sixth grades will be going to Castleton State College on November 7th to see and participate in activities using the National Geographic North American Map that will be in the multi-purpose room. The classes will do activities such as finding out where food is grown, locating the physical features of our countries, and developing an understanding of longitude and latitude.

Questions? Call Principal Rick Beal: 537-2491

Benson History Project

The Benson History Project got underway on October 7th with ten attendees. The focus of the project will be to gather photos, articles, and memorabilia along with information from our residents that tells the history of Benson. This information will be published in two ways – there'll be a book with several chapters on specific areas of interest such as schools, churches, houses, farms, etc. and a CD (compact disk) with recorded interviews that presents an oral history and folklore of Benson. Equipment will be purchased using a grant sponsored by the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging that will enable us to record interviews to collect the information and to publish the CD. Anyone interested in helping with this project is welcome to attend our next meeting on Tuesday, November 11 from 6:30 to 8 PM at the Community Hall. Please contact Karen Barber 537-3155 or Deanna Britton 537-2971 if you have questions, have input to share, or if you need a ride to the meeting.

VERD MONT FCE CLUB

- Members Fran Bowen, Dale Sweet, Charlotte Collett and Rita Charlton recently attended the Rutland County FCE Council Fall Festival held at the Community Center in Castleton.
- Charlotte and Rita also attended the Vermont FCE Annual Meeting in White River Junction. The theme for the two day meeting centered around environmental issues.
- The Verd Mont FCE Club meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Community Hall at 7:30 PM. The topic for the November meeting will be on examining our food source.
- The meetings are open to anyone who has an interest in issues that effect Family, Community or Education.
- 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."

BUTTON UP BENSON!

Want to reduce home energy use, but not sure where to start? Tired of cold or drafty spots around your house? Wondering what resources are available to help make efficiency improvements?

You'll learn about all this and more by attending a free *Button Up Vermont* workshop on Wednesday, November 12 at 6:30 pm at the Benson Community Hall. The Benson Energy Committee is hosting this session, one of the 100 being held statewide.

The workshop will focus on the greatest opportunities for saving energy in homes, finding and sealing air leaks, energy efficiency actions that people can take now, and where to find technical and financial resources to get started. *Button Up Vermont's* specially trained presenter will lead a slideshow to illustrate hands-on tips, bring samples of energy saving materials, and provide free educational materials for everyone attending. *Button Up Vermont* is a new program of the Central Vermont Community Action Council, in partnership with the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) and Efficiency Vermont. Funding is provided by the Vermont Agency of Human Services.

We are considering starting a volunteer group to help others button up their homes this winter. If you are interested in volunteering one afternoon a month to help your neighbors, call Whit Humphreys at 537-2864. Call Whit to find out more about this workshop.

DID YOU VOTE FOR THE WINNER?

If you elect to join our local Bone Builders Group from 9 – 10 am every Monday and Thursday morning in the Community Hall, **you** will be a winner! The program is FREE and is a great LOCAL way to improve your balance, strengthen your bones and enjoy great company.

FOR SALE

The Selectboard is selling:

- A clean-up bucket for a 555A Ford Backhoe (minimum bid = \$400)
- A 1994 Ford F250 with plow (minimum bid = \$1500)

If you are interested in either of these items, submit your sealed bid to the Selectboard by Monday, November 18th. The Selectboard reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

LIGHT SWITCH

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are still available at the Benson Village Store and the G & L General Store. (Both stores supported the Energy Committee's request to stock these bulbs and made a significant investment to carry them.) Bulbs are 99 cents each, and come in 60, 75 and 100 watt equivalents. If you replace the 6 most frequently used light bulbs in your home with CFLs, you could save up to \$250 on your energy bill over the lifetime of those 6 bulbs, about 6 or 7 years. Already replaced the most frequently used bulbs in your home? These CFLs would make great stocking stuffers!

The First Hundred Years
Decay of a Town – Part One

In March 1884, a letter to the editor of a local paper was written by E. L. Barbour which was entitled “Decay of a Town”. The letter is too long for one newsletter but is worthy of printing in its entirety. Sections will be included in this and future editions.

“Decay of a Town”

The Town of Benson was settled in the year 1775. With a fertile soil and bordering on Lake Champlain, it soon became one of the most important towns in Western Vermont. The population increased with great rapidity so that in two decades it numbered nearly two thousand people. Much manufacturing was done and it was the best point for selling goods in Rutland County. It was situated upon the main stage and mail route between Troy and Montreal and shipped lumber, grain, etc. to all points between these cities and retailed more goods than any other town in the county.

How does this compare with the business of today, when a man has to make a journey of ten miles to buy a lemon?

In regard to manufacturing eighty years ago, one man had five mills for the manufacture of lumber; foundrys existed for the manufacture of agricultural tools, etc. Manufacture of clothing, of boots and shoes existed in the town. Now a man cannot get a pair of shoes soled or buy a hat, save one made of straw, within the town. Benson at one time had the largest church in the state, save one at Middlebury, and the churches were filled with worshipers. Now, although the sizes of the churches have been greatly reduced, the clergy preach to empty pews.

AUDITOR STILL WANTED AND NEEDED

We would LOVE to stop running this blurb, but we need your help! We currently have 2 elected auditors, John Kubin and Bob Butman, and we would really like a third prior to budget time. Your responsibilities would include reviewing the budget figures and preparing the Town Report. If you would be willing to be appointed to fill out a term which will expire in March 2009, please contact the Selectboard.

Zoning Administrator

The Planning Commission is requesting “Letters of Interest” for the position of Zoning Administrator be submitted to the Town Office by December 1st. If there is adequate interest, interviews will be scheduled for the December Planning Commission meeting. Please contact Daryl Burlett or Tom Bartholomew for additional information or with questions.

BENSON BUSY BUDDIES 4-H CLUB

The newest members of the Busy Buddies participated in the Vermont State Fair for the first time and reported that they had lots of fun. The club's educational exhibit placed second over all, winning a cash award that was most welcome for the Treasury. The exhibit, titled "The Power of 4-H", used a cartoon theme depicting "Super 4-Hers" at a club meeting.

Members helped to co-host the 2008 Rutland County Awards Night held at the Bomoseen Grange Hall on October 23rd. Eliza Bird and Miranda Scott received first year Cloverbud certificates. Gabrielle Ellis, Jonna-Lynn Grenier, Amanda Hillier, Samantha Masse and Dolly Wing received first year member certificates. Sadie Brown was recognized for five years in 4-H and Kayla Hillier received an eleven year completion pin for her years in the club.

Plans are being made for project work and activities for the upcoming year. In November there will be a cookie baking session with the results being distributed to the elderly and shut-ins just before Thanksgiving.

The Benson Busy Buddies 4-H Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Community Hall. Cloverbud 4-H is for youth 5-7 years of age and standard members are between 8 and 18 years old. Come and check us out!

TURKEY BINGO AT BENSON VILLAGE SCHOOL

Gobble, gobble, gobble! Our 8th graders are continuing their fund-raising efforts for their trip to Washington, DC. Turkey Bingo will be held on Wednesday, November 19th at 6:30 pm at the School. TWENTY TURKEYS will be available for prizes! Please remember, if you are willing to donate items for "regular" prizes for future months' bingo nights, you should contact Billi Jo Goad: 537-2723.

KICKBOXING COMES TO BENSON

You've been telling yourself all summer that you'd try it when it got cooler. Well, it's cooler and The Benson Recreation Department is getting set to begin another session of Cardio Kickboxing/Aerobics. This one hour workout incorporates aerobic conditioning, strength and abdominal work. It's sure to help you begin to lose some of that extra weight you accumulated from all the great summer picnics, while increasing your energy level. New and different routines are planned to keep the program fresh. Based on the level of interest, classes are scheduled to run through May!

When: Wednesday's from 6 – 7 pm November 5th and 12th and December 3rd, 10th and 17th

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

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT...

- ❖ in 1825 the Town voted to purchase a hearse for the Town and in 1826 voted to build a house for the hearse?
- ❖ in 1845 the Town School census was 452?
- ❖ in 1847 the Town voted to pay the Listers \$12?
- ❖ in 1848 the Town voted against an act of legislature to give part of Benson to Orwell?
- ❖ in 1894 the Town roads were measured as 63 and 121/320 miles?

ALTERNATIVE HEAT SOURCES

Your Fire Department wants to help ensure we all have a safe and warm winter season. It is important to make sure all primary and alternative heat sources are properly maintained and are functioning as intended.

Turn off space heaters whenever the room they are in is unoccupied or under circumstances when manufacturer's instructions say they should be turned off. Portable space heaters are so easy to knock over in the dark that they should be turned off when you go to bed, but make sure your primary heating equipment for the bedrooms is sufficient to avoid risks to residents from severe cold.

Do not use your oven to heat your home.

Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside, that the venting is kept clear and unobstructed, and that the exit point is properly sealed around the vent, all of which is to make sure deadly carbon monoxide does not build up in the home.

Inspect all heating equipment annually, and clean as necessary.

Test smoke alarms monthly; install a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.

Business cards of John Hill and Will Stevens

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

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

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