

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

November 2009

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR...AGAIN

At the November 16th regular meeting of the Selectboard, work on the 2010-2011 Budget will begin. If you have anything you would like considered – or not considered – NOW is the time to speak up. Better yet, jot down your concerns and drop them off at the Town Office or hand them to a member of the Selectboard. It won't help if you wait until Town Meeting - or next summer - to tell the Selectboard that you want all the roads in Town curbed with marble or an in ground swimming pool installed in the Wheel Inn Park. Your Selectboard can only deal with your concerns if they are aware of your concerns, so speak up NOW! And, if you have strong psychic abilities and can help the Selectboard predict heating fuel and diesel costs for 2010-2011, please come to the meeting!

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
November 2	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
November 3	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Christmas Party Planning
November 6	Friday	5:30 – 9 pm	Benson School	Ziti Supper
November 9	Monday	11:30 pm	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
November 10	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
November 10	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Benson School	School Board
November 11	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Planning Commission
November 12	Thursday	6:30 pm	Library	Energy Committee
November 12	Thursday	7:00 pm	Community Hall	Verd Mont FCE
November 14	Saturday	10 am– 4 pm	Benson School	1 st Response Craft Fair
November 16	Monday	Noon	Benson School	Community Luncheon
November 16	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
November 18	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Benson Library	Book Group
November 18	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Benson School	Bingo
November 19	Thursday	6:00 pm	Benson School	Playground Meeting
November 21	Saturday	11am – 2 pm	Community Hall	Basket Party
November 24	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
November 24	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Town Office	History Project
November 30	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard

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 November 9th

- Be the first kid on your block to have a delicious Thanksgiving meal – and enjoy visiting with friends, old and new at the Community Hall. Proposed menu: tossed salad, roast turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans almondine, cranberry sauce, apple or pumpkin pie, milk, coffee, tea. Suggested donation: \$3.50.
- Come join us!

MORE FOOD!

Baked Ziti Supper

- The PTO of the Benson Village School is holding their annual baked ziti supper on Friday, November 6th from 5:30 – 9:00 pm. The prices are: \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids and seniors, \$20 for a family of 5 or more. If you have any questions or would like to help or can help, please contact: Alice Apjohn or Bobbi Bean (537-2251).

AND EVEN MORE DELICIOUS FOOD!!!

- On Monday, November 16th at noon, the annual Community Luncheon will be held at the Benson Village School. Chef Howard has a scrumptious meal planned and you know your friends and neighbors will be there. Tickets are \$5 and please remember that you do need to **reserve your place** by Tuesday, November 10th by calling 537-2491.

Fresh Baked Fun

- If the air smells extra sweet in Benson, there's a good reason! Volunteers for Benson Family Day are baking up all sorts of delicious treats in preparation for their bake sale November 14th, 2009 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Benson Village School – Benson Community Craft Fair. Planned offerings include Brownies, Breads and Fudge. We will also have Entertainment Books and Raffle tickets available.

- We are a fundraising committee, raising money to add events and attractions for the Benson Family Day/Burdock Festival 2010. This irresistible fundraiser is to raise money for bands, clowns, events and possibly fireworks.

- If you have any questions or are willing to donate baked goods, please contact Gina Cull: 537-2063.



BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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

Our last Book Discussion Group of this season will be held on Wednesday evening, November 18th at 6 pm. We will be reading Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code. All are welcome to join what promises to be a great discussion.

Although our Book Discussion Group won't be meeting again until the spring, there are still many wonderful choices available to you in our library. Come visit and check out a good read!

CHURCH NEWS

The Church will be holding a Pot Luck Supper, followed by the Annual Meeting on Friday, November 13th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to come and have a great meal and enjoy the fellowship of your friends and neighbors.

Our book group is beginning to study James Moore's Moments That Take Our Breath Away. We offer two times for the discussion group: Wednesdays at 10 am and Sundays at 11 am.

Sunday School is up and running from 9:30 – 10 am. Any and all children are welcome. After Sunday School, children join the worship until the hymn before the sermon. At that time they return to the Sunday School room for an activity time.

On Tuesday, November 24th at 6 pm, the Federated Church of Castleton is inviting everyone to an interfaith Thanksgiving service. If you would like to join the choir for this special service, please contact Holly. Everyone is asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the Castleton Food Shelf as an offering. A light supper will be served following the service.

Mittens, hats and scarves are once again being collected at church and will be distributed to children in Benson. All donations will be appreciated.

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church for the Sunday before Christmas (December 20th) and you would like it to be in honor of or in memory of someone, please contact Holly by December 13th.

On Sunday, December 14th at 4:30 pm we will be going caroling, spreading Christmas cheer in our community, and then coming back to the church for soup and cocoa. All are welcome to join us!

We are also going to be continuing our tradition of preparing four Christmas baskets to be delivered to families in Benson. If you are able to donate food items for these baskets, please sign up on the sheet in the church or contact Holly.

And, our Christmas pageant will be held on December 20th during the morning worship service. The play is called "Double Take!: A Christmas Pageant as Told by Matthew and Luke" by Dennis Harton. If you would like to exercise some control over what part you play in this production, please contact Holly before she contacts you!

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

VERD MONT FCE

The Verd Mont FCE Club will meet on Thursday, November 12th at the Community Hall at 7:00 PM. The Program "Fit and Fabulous at Any Age" will be presented after a short business meeting. Anyone with an interest in Family Community and Education is invited to attend.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

If you are interested in helping plan a Community Christmas Party, please join us on Tuesday, November 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Community Hall. If you are interested in helping but cannot attend the meeting, call John Hill at 537-2976 or e-mail John at Jhill2583@yahoo.com.

COORDINATOR NEEDED FOR GREEN-UP DAY 2010

This spring Green-Up Day will be on May 1st. We are looking for someone to step up and be our Town's official Green Up Day Coordinator. This could be a perfect family project if you don't think you want to go it alone and all of our former Green Up Day Coordinators are more than willing to teach you the (simple) ropes. Call Jan Ladd (537-2611) if you would be willing to head up this fun project.

REMEMBER TO CHANGE THE BATTERIES IN YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON OCTOBER 31st!

TOO MUCH TURKEY?

If you have either eaten too much turkey or are anticipating doing so, we may be able to help you. Bone Builders is NOT a weight loss program, but we can help you improve your balance and strengthen your bones so that reaching that platter down from the top shelf, carrying all those yummy dishes to the table and picking up the peas your grandchildren toss on the floor will all be tasks you can accomplish more safely. Come and see what we're all about. Free fun and fitness, right here in downtown Benson every Monday and Thursday morning, from 9 – 10 am at the Community Hall.

KICKBOXING CANCELED

For the time being, our Kickboxing Classes will not be meeting.

TURN DOWN THE HEAT!

The Energy Committee, using its Vermont Community Climate Change Grant funds, has installed a programmable thermostat in the town office. It is set so that it will be warmer during the days that people are working there, and set back to 60 degrees when it is not occupied. Estimated savings in fuel oil, and therefore dollars: 15 to 20%.

A programmable thermostat automatically keeps the temperature at a comfortable level when you're home, but switches to an energy-saving level when you're away or asleep. You can set it to turn the heat up a half hour before you get home or wake up, so the house will be warm for you, and it won't "forget" to change the thermostat setting. We purchased ours at a local hardware store. When shopping for one for your home, select one with the options that are right for you. One type, called 5-2 day programmable, can be separately set for weekdays and weekends; another is 7-day programmable, and can be set separately for each day of the week. They range in price from about \$30 to \$60. The thermostat will pay for itself in energy savings within a year.

Some people believe that lowering the temperature at night and when you're not at home doesn't save anything because the amount of energy used to reheat the house is greater than if the thermostat is left at a constant temperature. However, years of research and numerous studies have found that the fuel required to reheat a building to a comfortable temperature is roughly equal to the fuel saved as the building temperature drops to the lower setting. The time that your house is at the lower temperature represents a savings in fuel. So the longer your house remains at the lower temperature, the more you save. It's like keeping a kettle of water boiling on the stove in case you want a cup of tea later on. It only takes a few minutes to heat the water, and then you're wasting energy keeping it hot. You'll save 11% for every eight hours of 10 degree setback.

If everyone in the U.S. used a programmable thermostat to make their heating and cooling more efficient, we would not have to import millions of barrels of oil and we would save 15 million tons of carbon emissions a year!

Next month, we'll describe other improvements we're making to weatherize the town buildings. In the meantime, borrow the Button Up Vermont CD from the library to help you get started weatherizing your own home.

8th Grade Bottle Collection

Beginning Saturday, November 7th, you will be able to "re-cycle" and help the Benson Village School 8th Grade Class raise money for their trip to Washington. There will be a container for bottles and cans located just outside the Transfer Station. All donations to this fund-raising activity will be appreciated!

THANK YOU FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Benson Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank EVERYONE who helped make this year's fund-raising event the best ever! A very diverse group of people - including our ticket takers, tractor drivers, donators of equipment and supplies, stagers of sites, traffic directors, publicity and promotion, pumpkin growers and carvers, and wagon riders - all worked together and are responsible for the success of this project. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you.

REVAL NEWS FROM THE LISTERS

About 2/3 of the vacation homes have been inspected for the re-evaluation scheduled to be finished for the 2011 Grand List. Letters have gone out to the majority of the remaining property owners, and inspections are being scheduled and completed.

Please direct any questions regarding the reappraisal to the Listers' office (537-2614). The Listers are available to answer general or specific questions on the phone or in person, and appointments can usually be scheduled at a mutually convenient time. Some frequently asked questions:

Q: Why does my property have to be inspected again? It was just inspected last year.

A: If your property was inspected during the course of regular spring work and no changes have been made, it may not be necessary to re-inspect. Call the Listers to discuss.

Q: How much will the re-evaluation cost the town?

A: The Town receives money each year from the State. This money can only be used for reappraisal. The Listers do not expect that additional funds will be needed from taxes raised in Benson.

VOLUNTEERS??

A Fundraising Committee has been formed with the approval of the Selectboard. This Committee will raise money through fundraising events for Town events, projects and improvements. If anyone is interested in volunteering or has any ideas that they would like to share, please contact Gina Cull @ 537-2063.

PROJECT GRADUATION 2010

FHUHS Project Graduation 2010 has several upcoming fundraisers: 2 raffles and a bottle drive. The first raffle is for a black and white Coach bag. Tickets are \$5 and the drawing will be on November 29th. The second raffle is for 100 gallons of fuel oil. The tickets are \$10 each and only 300 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held in December. The bottle drive will be held on Saturday, November 28th. Please contact Tanyia Bowen if you need a pick up. For tickets or information, please contact Robert or Tanyia Bowen (537-3533) or Lisa Pellerin (537-4161).

Two ads here

NEWS FROM FAIR HAVEN CONCERNED

Applications for those interested in receiving a Christmas food basket or the Christmas Giving Tree are now available. Please stop by or call 265-366 if you would like an application OR if you are willing to donate to this project. Please note that these are Christmas, not Thanksgiving baskets. The Eagles Club is putting on the Thanksgiving dinner, including the possibility of takeout meals. Please contact them (265-7966) for Thanksgiving information.

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.

BENSON VILLAGE SCHOOL NEWS

“Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn.” Elizabeth Lawrence

This is a busy month at BVS! In addition to the Ziti Dinner and the Community Luncheon and the Bingo, there is a lot more happening! The Tiger Teen Theater will be giving a presentation for grades 6-8 on November 10th. On November 12th, Grades K – 2 will go to the Paramount Theater to see If You Give a Pig a Pancake. On November 12th the Tiger Teen Theater will return to present “Safe and Sound All Around” to grades K – 5 and on November 17th students and parents will have a presentation from Technicool. Grades 5 – 8 go to the Paramount Theater on November 19th to see Doktor Kaboom. The 8th Grade District Dance will take place on November 29th.

At its regular meeting on October 13th, the Benson Village School Directors approved Policy 6144: The Role of Religion in the School/Religious Observances and Symbols Policy. If you would like a copy, please contact the School or the ARSU Office.

2009 Benson Community Craft Fair

Sponsored by the Benson First Response

Saturday, November 14, 2009, 10 am – 4 pm at the Benson Village School

Reserve your space by November 9th 10' x 10' spaces - \$20

Set up times Friday 11/13/09 from 5 pm – 7 pm or

Saturday 11/14/09 beginning at 6 am

For more information, contact: Colleen Hoard (537-3521) or
Ed Peltier (537-4002)

To reserve your spot, please complete the registration form below and return it, with a
check made out to Benson First Response, to:

Benson First Response Craft Fair, PO Box 199, Benson, VT 05731

Business name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Type of Products: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Do you require an electrical hook-up (\$5): yes _____ no _____

Number of spaces @ \$20* : _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

*Reservations made after the November 9th deadline will cost \$25.

Spaces are available on a first come, first served basis and we would appreciate it if you
bring your own tables.

BENSON VILLAGE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

An informal meeting was held on 10/20/09 and though we had a successful turnout, we
are hoping to get more parents, teachers and residents involved in this process. Thank
you to those that showed up for your time and thoughts on improving the
playground/ball field. We have several ideas and challenges ahead and this will be a
continued ongoing process with monthly meetings. The next meeting will be held on
Thursday, November 19th at 6:00 pm at the Benson Village School. If you are
interested in being part of the committee or perhaps in volunteering your ideas,
suggestions, time or resources, please come and share your thoughts. If you have any
questions or if you cannot attend the meeting and would like to give your suggestions
or ideas, please feel free to call: Amy Munger @ 537-3456 or Gina Cull @ 537-2063.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **December 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than
November 23rd. To submit your news, please either e-mail the information to
benso news@shoreham.net or call Sue Janssen at 537-3111
Submit your ads to Shirley Vladyka: ShirleyV@shoreham.net

STOP!!!

Yes, the intersection of Lake Road and Stage Road in beautiful downtown Benson **IS** a real official 4 way stop. No, there will not be a flashing red light suspended over the intersection. Yes, the road has been painted and signs will be in place before the snow flies. What does this mean? **STOP** – or be stopped and receive a ticket.