

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

October 2009

Thank you, Joan and Henry!

On Sunday, September 27th, Joan and Henry Daley graciously allowed our Fire Department, working with instructors from the Vermont Fire Academy as well as with teams from Castleton, Fair Haven, Orwell and Poultney, to burn down their house. This provided invaluable interior and exterior hands-on training for the members of our department as well as for many firefighters from surrounding towns.

Joan and Henry hope to be in their new home, on this site, by November and we wish them all the best.



MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>DAY</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>PLACE</u> | <u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u> |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| October 5 | Monday | 7:00 pm | Town Office | Selectboard |
| October 6 | Tuesday | 10–11:30 am | Community Hall | Flu Shots |
| October 6 | Tuesday | 6 – 7 pm | Benson School | Community Night |
| October 6 | Tuesday | 7 pm | Community Hall | Listers' Public Meeting |
| October 7 | Wednesday | 6:30 pm | Benson School | Bingo |
| October 8 | Thursday | 6:30 pm | Library | Energy Committee |
| October 9 | Friday | 7 – 10 pm | Town Office | Haunted Hayride |
| October 10 | Saturday | 9 am – 2 pm | Church | Bake & Yard Sale |
| October 10 | Saturday | 7 – 10 pm | Town Office | Haunted Hayride |
| October 12 | Monday | 11:30 pm | Community Hall | Senior Luncheon |
| October 13 | Tuesday | 7:00 pm | Benson School | School Board |
| October 14 | Wednesday | 6:30 pm | Community Hall | Christmas Party Planning |
| October 14 | Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Town Office | Planning Commission |
| October 19 | Monday | 7:00 pm | Town Office | Selectboard |
| October 20 | Tuesday | 6:00 pm | Benson School | Playground Meeting |
| October 21 | Wednesday | 6:00 pm | Benson Library | Book Group |
| October 27 | Tuesday | 6:30 pm | Town Office | History Project |
| October 28 | Wednesday | 6:30 pm | Benson School | Bingo |
| LOOKING AHEAD | | | | |
| November 6 | Friday | 5:30 – 9 pm | Benson School | Ziti Supper |
| November 14 | Saturday | 10 am– 4 pm | Benson School | 1 st Response Craft Fair |
| November 21 | Saturday | Noon – 2 pm | Community Hall | Basket Party |

**Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on October 12th**

Even if you aren't so old that you remember sailing over here with Cris, we'll bet you'll enjoy the delicious meal and the wonderful company you can find in the Community Hall. Proposed menu: Tossed Salad, Chicken and biscuits, green beans, baby carrots, cranberry sauce, apple dessert, milk, coffee, tea. Suggested donation: \$3.50. Come join us!

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, October 9th: 537-2971.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

If you are not willing to admit that you are old enough to sit down and enjoy the monthly senior luncheon but you do have a little free time on the second Monday of every month, your help is needed. Volunteers to put up and take down the tables and chairs, set the tables, get the food from the Wheel and help with clean-up will be greatly appreciated! Please call Deanna Britton (537-2971) if you can help. Thank you.

BENSON MUSEUM NEWS

Our Museum days are coming to a close for the year. It has been a good year and we have worked on making scrapbooks of what we hope will be of interest to all when the work is completed.

Special thanks are extended to Cynthia Burns and Lica Dodd for their many hours of helping in the Museum.

I feel that Benson is very fortunate to have such a nice building for this project. Visitors often mention what a nice place we have. We will be at the Museum through October. Please stop in if you can.

Wednesday's from 1 pm to 3 pm

BAKED ZITI SUPPER

The PTO of the Benson Village School is sponsoring 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, please contact: Alice Apjohn or Bobbi Bean (537-2251).

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>



BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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

If this cool weather is encouraging you to stay in and curl up with a good book, come browse our selections. We are ready to offer you one of the world's most economical forms of entertainment! And if you didn't get enough of a "fright fix" on the Haunted Hayride, why not join our book discussion group? We will be meeting on Wednesday, October 21st at 6:00 pm at the library and this month we are reading Skinwalkers by Tony Hillerman – a murder mystery guaranteed to thrill!

CHURCH NEWS

We are very pleased to announce that Joan Brown is now our organist. Welcome, Joan! If any of you have been thinking of joining our choir, now would be a great time to do so. Practice starts at 9:30 am every Sunday morning.

On Sunday, October 4th, we will be celebrating World Communion Sunday and, since it is the first Sunday of the month, we also encourage you to bring a non-perishable food donation for Fair Haven Concerned.

On Saturday, October 10th, we will be holding our Fall Tag and Bake Sale from 9 am to 2 pm. RADA items (cutlery, soy candles, cookbooks, soup and dip mixes) will also be on sale. If you have something to donate for the sale, please drop it off on a Sunday or Wednesday morning. Baked goods should be delivered the morning of the sale.

Our book study group continues to meet on Wednesday mornings. We are reading Moments That Take Your Breath Away by James W. Moore. No prior experience is necessary if you'd like to join us.

Everyone is always welcome each Sunday at 10:00 am.

Questions? Call Holly Noble at 446-3575.

SCHOOL NEWS

There are many exciting things happening at the Benson Village School this October! On October 6th, BVS will host a Community Night at 6 pm. Come see what opportunities your community has to offer.

Our 5th Grade students will begin going to StarBase at the Rutland Armory on October 6th and every Tuesday through November 10th. StarBase's mission is to raise interest and improve knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering and math. They also work with team building and making healthy choices.

The week of October 26th is Red Ribbon Week, the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. Our students will be involved in a variety of activities.

Please remember that if you do not have a child in school and would like to receive the weekly school newsletter, all you have to do is contact Deb Robbins: 537-2491.

BENSON BUSY BUDDIES

The Benson Busy Buddies 4-H club has been very busy! The Fair has come and gone for us this year and we won some great awards! The club won the booth award this year which had the theme of "Learning by Doing". Come see the trophy cup we won at the Community Night at the school! We also had some big winners in different departments, Jonna-Lynn Grenier won a top award for her "People" photo of her baby brother, Raven Collett won the top Junior Sewing Award and took 3rd place in the Decorated Cookies. Our Cloverbuds even got in on the action with Miranda Scott winning the Cloverbud Incentive Award for her no-bake cookies. Lots of the other members took home beautiful ribbons as well! Please remember to congratulate a member if you see one.

The club is now gearing up for National 4-H Week and our upcoming Open House/Halloween Party. We are also planning lots of fun activities for the Holidays! Look in the School newsletter for dates and times of our 4-H meetings.

TAKE THE CHILL OFF...

...these brisk fall mornings. Come and join our local bone builders – they guarantee that they'll warm you up. 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 (and often silly) start. Fun and fitness, right here in downtown Benson every Monday and Thursday morning, from 9 – 10 am at the Community Hall.

BARBERSHOP BONANZA

If you enjoy listening to Barbershop Quartets, you're in luck. On Saturday, October 17th at 7 pm at the Rutland Middle School, the Rutland Curbstone Chorus will be putting on quite a show. Benson's Bob Butman sings with this group and he tells us that 4 choruses will also be participating. Tickets are \$10 for kids and seniors and \$15 for adults. If you have any questions or need tickets, please call Bob at 537-2113.

DO YOU FEEL LIKE KICKING UP A FUSS?

Instead of fussing, why not come join our local Kickboxing group? Classes will meet on October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th. If you are among those who think that having this activity right here in Benson is a good thing, please come out, get involved – and have some fun! If you've been looking for a one hour workout which incorporates aerobic conditioning, strength and abdominal work, come join us!

When: Thursday's from 6 – 7 pm

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

ARE YOU IN HOT WATER?

Heating water accounts for about 14 to 25% of the average home's energy use. Here are a few tips on how to save some money and reduce carbon dioxide emissions:

- Lower your water tank temperature to 120 degrees F. Heat loss is greater the higher your temperature is set. Reducing the tank temperature will reduce heat loss and prevent scalding, as well as save money and reduce CO2 emissions.
- If your electric water heater was manufactured before 1989, install an insulating blanket. You can find one at a hardware store. If you have an oil- or gas-powered heater, you may need a professional to install an insulating blanket.
- Insulate the first five feet of hot water pipes with foam sleeves, making sure the foam doesn't touch the exhaust on a gas water heater.
- Turn the water heater setting to "Off" or "Pilot" when you go on a trip.
- Install a low-flow shower head on your shower. You can save as much as one-third of your shower water usage.
- Try reducing the amount of time you spend in the shower. By staying in the shower for five minutes instead of ten, you can save as much as 300 pounds of CO2 generated annually. Or try a sea shower – use the water to get wet, then turn it off while you scrub and shampoo, and turn it back on to rinse.
- Make a bigger change with a better payback: Upgrade to a tankless or solar hot water heater. A tankless, or on-demand, hot water heater heats water when you need it, rather than constantly heating a tank of water. When you turn on your hot water tap, cold water moves through a pipe and is heated by gas or electricity just before it gets to you. On-demand water heaters deliver a constant supply of hot water. The Department of Energy says that on-demand water heaters can be 24 – 34% more energy-efficient than conventional tank water heaters in homes that use 41 gallons or less of hot water daily. Or consider a solar hot water heater, and eliminate almost all emissions from water heating.

If you would like help installing foam sleeves on your hot water pipes or an insulating blanket, call Karen Barber at 537-3155. I have done these in my own home.

Reminder: The Benson Library has a great DVD from Button Up Vermont called "Simple Weatherization Measures to Button Up Your Home", which can help you prepare your home for the coming winter. Stay warm, save money, and reduce your carbon footprint.

Benson Family Days 2009 History Quiz Tie Breaker Question

On the History Quiz we offered at Benson Family Days, the following was the tie breaker question and answer:

Question: How many Town Officials were appointed or elected at the 1800 annual Town meeting?

Answer: 73

We have been requested to provide additional information concerning the answer.

Individuals were appointed or elected to the following positions.

Moderator(1), Town Clerk(1), Select Men(3), Treasurer(1), Listers(3), Constable(1), Collector(1), Grand Jury(3), Highway Surveyors(12), Committee to examine accounts for and against Town(3), Fence Viewers(3), Pound Keeper(1), Leather Sealer(1), Weights and Measures(1), Tithing Men(3), Haywards(6), Pound Keeper fourth district(1), Committee to audit overseer of poor accounts(3), Committee to locate pound location in center of town(3), Committee of three to settle with the treasurer(3), Grand Jurors(8), Petit Jurors(9), Trustee district three(1) and Sexton(1) for a total of 73, I think.

FOR SALE

The School is selling a used commercial dishwasher. If you are interested, please contact
Kim Doty: 537-2491.

PLAN AHEAD

Christmas is coming and if you are interested in helping to plan a Community Christmas Party, think about what you'd like to see included and come to a meeting to help plan the party. We will meet on Wednesday, October 14th at 6:30 pm at the Community Hall. If you want to help but can't get to the meeting, contact John Hill: 537-2976 or e-mail John at Jhill2583@yahoo.com.

A REMINDER FROM YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Unless you are planning to participate in a controlled burn, **now** is the time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms!

**BUY LOCAL AT OUR BENSON FARMERS' MARKET
SATURDAY MORNING, 9 – 12, WHEEL INN PARK**

WELCOME, GINA!

At its regular meeting on October 5th, the Selectboard officially welcomed our new member: Gina Cull. The Selectboard had previously accepted – with great regret – Ed Peltier’s resignation. Gina will fill the remainder of Ed’s term.

BENSON FAMILY DAY 2010

Thank you to all that showed your appreciation with regards to all my time and efforts of organizing the parade and other events for the 2009 Benson Family Days. This would not have been possible without the funds that were voted in at Town Meeting Day 2009 for the (2) town parades. Without the funds it is nearly impossible!

With that in mind please remember to vote it in again for 2010. In addition to the funds that hopefully will be voted in again at Town Meeting this year, I will be organizing some fundraising events throughout the year so that we can add more and exciting events for next year’s Family Day.

I will have a bake sale booth at the Benson Community Craft Fair on November 14, 2009 from 10-4 at the Benson Village School as well as a Basket Party on November 21, 2009 at the Benson Town Hall (see more details in this newsletter). Please come out and show your support!

If anyone is interested in volunteering or has any ideas that they would like to share, please contact Gina Cull @ 537-2063.

TOWN BUILDINGS UPDATE

From the Energy Committee

Charles Murphy from BROCC has done some training and a blower door test on the Town Office. A blower door test will give us a baseline for air leakage in the building. After the weatherization is done, a repeat blower door test will let us know how well the building was tightened up. Weatherization on the Community Hall has started. We’ll keep you posted on the details.

Weatherization is underway at the Town Office! To provide a baseline for how much the building will be tightened up by the weatherization, Charles Murphy from BROCC did a blower door test before the work started. We’ll keep you posted on the progress of the weatherization, and publish the results of the repeat blower test.

FLU SHOTS

Flu shots will be available at the Benson Community Hall on Tuesday, October 6th from 10 – 11:30 am. Questions? Call RAVNAH at 775-0568

Would You Like To Help Revitalize The Benson Village School Playground?

An informal meeting will be taking place on Tuesday, October 20th at 6:00 pm at the Benson Village School to discuss the school's playground. We are hoping to form a committee of volunteers to work together with our community in hopes of revitalizing the grounds. 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 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

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.

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.

Questions for the Listers about the Reappraisal?

Get your answers here!

- What: Public meeting to discuss the Reappraisal
Where: Community Hall first floor
When: October 6, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Why: Express concerns, get answers
How: Short presentation followed by Question and Answer session
What else: *Refreshments will be provided. Think of this as joining us for dessert.*

Following the inspection of seasonal camps, the Listers plan is to inspect the rest of the town in sections, roughly, as much as possible.

As questions from the property owners arise, they will be addressed in future publications of the *Bulletin*. Two important points to start out with:

- The State is mandating this reappraisal, to assure that the assessments throughout the town are equitable, and that no group of properties is unfairly assessed.
- The money for this reappraisal comes from funds provided by the State for this purpose.

THANKS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Benson Fire Department would like to thank the teams from the Castleton, Fair Haven, Orwell and Poultney Fire Departments who participated in our controlled burn on Sunday, September 27, 2009. Their support and teamwork were instrumental in making this event a successful training experience for all. Thank you.

BASKET PARTY

This event is being run to raise money for Benson Family Day 2010. It will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at the Benson Community Hall. Doors open at noon; drawing begins at 1:30 pm

Please mark your calendars and come show your support. Hope to see you there! There will be more information in November's Benson Bulletin but for now, if you are interested in helping or are willing to donate an item, gift certificate, door prize or BASKET, please contact: Gina Cull @ 537-2063

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.

HAUNTED HAYRIDE

Well, because of all the problems we have been having with the Beaver Meadow Monster, we thought we would have to cancel the hayride this year. Thanks to the vigilance of the landowners whose property backs up to Beaver Meadow Pond, however, we are fairly certain we can guarantee the safety of most of the participants in this year's fundraiser for the Benson Fire Department. That underwater solar powered electric fence seems to be helping too.

Ticket prices have NOT increased: they are still \$5 each and, if you would like to double your donation to the Benson Fire Department and eliminate the line, you can purchase a ticket for \$10 for the first wagon either evening. Contact Sue Janssen (537-3111) for these tickets.

Remember that you don't need to eat supper before you get in line. Chef Pritchard will be on the slab with his crew of 8th graders who are ready to serve you as they earn money for their Washington trip. And any shoppers in the line can take advantage of the craft vendors who will be set up in the Community Hall from 6 – 9 pm.

So, come on out and support the Benson Fire Department, the Benson Village School 8th Grade Class and the Benson Family Day Fun Fund while you have a fantastically frightful good time – and remember to keep your toes inside the wagon!

CALL FOR CRAFT VENDORS

Are you interested in setting up a booth/table to sell your arts and crafts at the Benson Community Hall on Friday, October 9th & Saturday, October 10th during the Haunted Hay Ride? Reserve your space by October 8th. 10x10 spaces for ONLY \$20 for both nights! Doors will open at 6 pm and close at 9 pm. Proceeds to benefit Benson Family Days! No food vendors, please – our 8th graders are in charge of refreshments!

For more information, contact: Gina Cull @ 537-2063

TRAFFIC CHANGES

On Friday, October 9th and Saturday, October 10th from 6 pm to midnight Stage Road will be ONE WAY heading north from the intersection of Stage and Lake Roads. Also, Old North Lake Road will be closed to anyone not holding a special permit issued by the Fire Department.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **November 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than October 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