

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter September 2008



SOLVING THE PUZZLE

With MANY thanks to Ed Peltier who came up with the idea and painted the background, to Don Ladd who built the frame and hung the final product with Ed, and to everyone who contributed a piece to the puzzle: voilà, the pieces fit! The puzzle is still in the Community Hall so you'll have another chance to enjoy it **when you vote on September 9th**.

This year's Family Day was spectacular thanks to everyone who helped: Jan Grenier and Gina Cull who organized the parade, Megan Marsh and Eric Apjohn who ran the children's games, Rick Beal, Iris Rowland, Joyce Megarry and Will Stevens who judged the parade, the CATS who donated the parade prizes, our Fire Department and everyone who helped them with the BBQ, Gina and Keith Cull and Jan Grenier who arranged the tractor pull, Loretta and Dennis Clark who revived the Burdock Festival, Bert Berardelli who organized the antique cars, our Town Clerk Jan Ladd who fielded all the telephone calls and held the event together. More "thanks" inside....

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
September 8	Monday	11:30 am	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
September 8	Monday	7 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
September 9	Tuesday	10am-7pm	Community Hall	Primary Elections
September 9	Tuesday	7:30pm	BVS Library	School Board
September 10	Wednesday	7 pm	Town Office	Planning Commission
September 13	Saturday	11-12:30	Transfer Station	Hazardous Waste
September 15	Monday	8:30-4:30	Town Office	Taxes due
September 17	Wednesday	7 pm	Town Office	Policy Committee
September 22	Monday	7 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
September 23	Tuesday	6:30 pm	BVS	Open House
September 27	Wednesday	6 pm	Library	Reading Group

Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on September 8th

Here comes Autumn! Enjoy a great meal with your friends AND get some useful tips on keeping warm this winter. **Charles "Doc" Murphy from BROC will be speaking about the weatherization program.** Proposed menu: tossed salad, eggplant parmesan, homemade bread, corn on the cob, zucchini, carrot cake, pumpkin cake or blueberry buckle, milk, coffee, tea.

Suggested donation: \$3.50.

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, September 5: 537-2971.

BENSON MUSEUM

On one of the shelves of our Museum is a special newspaper article. It is printed in color with a headline reading as follows: "Ripley's Believe It or Not". One of our prominent citizens, Mr. Frank W. Kellogg, is shown and the write-up is as follows:

"Frank W. Kellogg of Benson, Vermont, aged 79, has been elected Town Clerk 57 times. The Office has been in the Kellogg Family almost continuously for 132 years."

Mr Kellogg died in 1955 during his 58th term. On this same shelf is a fine picture of Mr. Kellogg. Stop in at the Museum and see these two special items as well as two rooms full of Benson memories.

Hours: Wednesday from 1 – 3pm and by Appointment (537-2000)

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Please remember that Primary Elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Attorney General, State Senators and Representatives and State High Bailiff will be held on **Tuesday, September 9, 2008**. Polls will be open at the Community Hall from 10 am to 7 pm.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!

NEW POLICY COMMITTEE

For those of you who follow Tom Bartholomew's "The First Hundred Tears" articles, you are aware that, through the years, Benson's Town Policies have evolved. We no longer have, for example, a whole lot of rules regarding where your sheep can roam. Your Selectboard is committed to reviewing all our existing policies to be sure they are appropriate and relevant and legal and we need your help! If you would like to serve on the Policy Review Committee, please submit a letter of interest to the Selectboard by September 8th. The first meeting will be Wednesday, September 17th at 7 pm. Questions? Call Daniel Britton: 537-2971.

CHURCH NEWS

At the United Church of Benson, Sunday School for pre-schoolers through sixth graders will be starting Sunday, September 14! We are going to be doing it a little differently this year. Parents and children can come to Church at 10 a.m. and, after the Children's Message, the children will go downstairs with teachers Meghan and Cassie, while the parents will be able to stay in worship. That will be the format for the first three Sundays of the month. Then, on the last Sunday of each month, we will be having a Family Sunday, where the children and parents can worship together. The sermon will be aimed at all ages, and the children can take part in various parts of the service. Questions? Feel free to 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!

FIRE PREVENTION SAFETY TIPS

As cooler weather approaches and fuel oil costs stay high, we are all looking for ways to heat our homes. The Benson Volunteer Fire Department urges everyone to use caution when using alternative heat sources. Here are a few things to consider when deciding how to heat your home this winter. We will be putting fire prevention safety tips in the Benson Bulletin through the winter in an effort to help prevent home fires this year.

- When buying a new space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory and is legal for use in your community.
- Install your stationary (fixed) space heater according to manufacturer's instructions or applicable codes or better yet, have it installed by a professional.
- Plug your electric-powered space heater into an outlet with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Use the proper grade of the proper fuel for your liquid-fueled space heater, and never use gasoline in any heater not approved for gasoline use. Refuel only in a well-ventilated area and when the equipment is cool.
- In your fireplace or wood stove, use only dry, seasoned wood to avoid the build-up of creosote, an oily deposit that easily catches fire and accounts for most chimney fires and the largest share of home heating fires generally. Use only paper or kindling wood, not a flammable liquid, to start the fire. Do not use artificial logs in wood stoves.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container, which is kept a safe distance from your home.

AUDITOR WANTED

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.

BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Open Wednesday 3 pm – 7 pm and Saturday 11 am – 2 pm



Reading Group

The group will meet on September 27 at 6:00 PM at the Library. We will be reading Eleanor – The Years Alone by Joseph P. Lash. The group is open to anyone interested.

Summer Reading Contest Prizes

Congratulations to all the great readers in Benson! The following prizes were awarded on Family Day:

Bridget Thomas won the Grand Prize: a bike donated by Coca-Cola and G&L General Store.

Jake Apjohn won the \$30.00 gift certificate to a local bookstore.

Kelsey Bean won the \$25.00 gift certificate to a local bookstore.

Jonna Grenier won the \$20.00 gift certificate to a local bookstore.

Additionally, each person who read 2 or more books was awarded a Gift Certificate for a Creemie at G & L Store. Thanks, G & L!!!

Leftover Books

There are boxes of leftover books at the library available for free. You must, however, take the whole box – no picking and sorting! Books not finding a new home will be on their way to the Transfer Station.

Benson Village School News

Summer vacation is over! The first day of school was August 26th. The school was ready and the staff is excited about another upcoming school year. The school has nine staff members who are either new to BVS or returning in a different position. Soccer team practices will begin Tuesday, September 2nd. The soccer team's new coach is Britnie Colarusso who is a recent graduate of Castleton State College. The eighth grade would like to thank the community for all their support of their fundraising events during Benson Family Day. The class will be holding other events during the upcoming school year. The music program at Benson Village School has greatly benefited from the generous donations to the Benson Music Fund. If you would like to make a contribution or donation to further the interest of students in music, please call the school.

OPENING FOR SECOND CONSTABLE

If you are interested in being Benson's second Constable, please submit a letter of interest to the Selectboard by September 8th.

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

September Energy Tip:

Weatherizing Your Home for Winter

BROC (Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council) – “Community Action in Southern Vermont” offers help for weatherizing your home this winter. Professionally trained staff will assess your home’s energy efficiency and then meet with you to design a plan that will save energy, make you more comfortable and save you money in the process.

BROC’s weatherization program is FREE if:

- you are a 1 person household with less than \$24,720 gross income from all sources or a 2 person household with less than \$29,124 gross income; other income guidelines apply for larger households.
- anyone in the household receives Social Security disability, or you receive fuel assistance through the state.
- and, if you rent, you must obtain permission from your landlord for the work to be done.

For those who don’t qualify for the free weatherization program, BROC will do an energy audit of your home for \$350, make recommendations, give an estimate for BROC to do the work, and provide you with information on low interest loans to have the work done.

Energy efficiency measures include sealing drafts and air leaks, improving or replacing the heating system, installing insulation, and improving indoor air quality to reduce moisture problems. Other programs available through BROC to help you stay warm and keep the power on are:

- Seasonal Fuel
- Crisis Fuel
- Shareheat

Call Ed Fuller at BROC, 775-0878, for more information and inquiries.

From the Benson Energy Committee

FARMERS’ MARKET

Our season is drawing to a close but there are still many delicious and wonderful items available to you each Saturday morning from 9 - noon. Everyone is encouraged to participate, either as a seller or buyer.

On your way to the dump transfer station, sell a few pumpkins to pay for your gas and learn to knit a hat (free knitting lessons available) to keep yourself warm so you can lower your thermostat this winter!

MORE FREE TIME...

...now that your gardening chores are winding down? Why not join our local Bone Builders Group from 9 – 10 am every Monday and Thursday morning in the Community Hall. The program is FREE and is a great LOCAL way to improve your balance, strengthen your bones and enjoy some good company!

LIGHT SWITCH

For only 99 cents, you can save \$42, reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases, and reduce the amount of mercury going into the air we breathe. How?

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) will be available for 99 cents each at the Benson Village Store and at the G & L General Store for a limited time. Bulbs will be available in 60, 75 and 100 watt equivalents. Each household is limited to 6 bulbs. Small businesses may purchase up to 25 bulbs each. By switching one light bulb to a CFL, you will save around \$42 in energy costs over the lifetime of your new CFL, about 6 or 7 years. If you replace the 6 most 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. Fixtures that use the most are the best places to save money.
- CFLs can be used in any standard light socket.

- CFLs use about 75% less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. By using these bulbs, you are helping the environment by reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. If everyone in the country replaced just one light bulb with a CFL, we could save enough energy to light 3,000,000 homes. Because of the small amount of mercury in the bulb, when it comes time to dispose of a burned-out CFL, take it to the specially marked bin at the transfer station.

So what's your hurry? The savings start as soon as you change your light bulbs!

- Sponsored by the Benson Energy Committee – Jean Butman, Karen Barber, John Hill, Whit Humphrey, Khanti Munro, Lois Trenn. With special thanks to Efficiency Vermont for providing the bulbs, and to the Benson Village Store and G & L General Store for selling them.

SEEING THINGS?

If you thought you looked up at the truck passing your home this past month and saw “Town of Orwell” rather than “Town of Benson”, you were not hallucinating. At one point last winter, we helped out our neighbors to the North and they “thanked” us by supplying (at NO charge), 2 men and a tandem truck with fuel for a day's worth of work. Neighborliness is a good thing!

COMMUNITY HALL NEWS

If you use the Community Hall, even if your organization has “always” used the Hall on the seventh Friday of the fourteenth month, and “everyone” knows that you do, you **MUST** contact Russ Symons (537-2744) and schedule your use of the Hall. Russ has volunteered to handle the scheduling but he needs your cooperation so that there will be no surprises!

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.

ZONING TRAINEE NEEDED

If you would be interested in learning how to be our Zoning Administrator, please contact the Selectboard and/or speak with Daryl Burlett for more information.

FAMILY DAY FOLLOW-UP

The Benson Fire Department would like to thank **everyone** who made this event a success, particularly Dick Bowen, Jim and Tammy Pritchard, the Lamoureux family and all the people in Town who contributed pies, butter, sour cream, pickles and baked beans, and Camp E-Wen-Akee who helped with the clean-up and, even more especially, anyone we have forgotten to thank!

Thanks to the CATS for awarding:

\$100 to the First Place Float: Benson Queens

\$50 to the Second Place Float: Home Sweet Home

\$25 to the Third Place Float: Falkenberry Farm

Honorable Mention for the Best Bribe: Hilly Billy Cats

Thanks to the Clarks for re-inspiring all of us to use our Town Flower! Burdock Awards: Tallest (113 ½”) – the Jordan Boys; Best Edible – Amy Lannon; Most Creative – Megan Wooster and Tabby Bowen; Most Comical – Jan and Lynn Grenier; Best Attire – Lee Scott; Best Wannabe – Evan Hansen; Best Overall – Evan Hansen, Jean Ray, Emily Josky; Honorable Mention – Jan Burlesen.

And, obviously, without the support of everyone who attended and participated in our Family Day, it could never have been as wonderful as it was!

THANK YOU!