

Benson Bulletin

The Community Newsletter of Benson, VT- August 2022

Please join us for the Benson Burdock Festival & Family Day "block" dance!

This year, there will be a "block" dance on the pad by the town office. In case of rain, the dance will be moved into the community building. **Free Admission!**

August 5, 2022 6 - 10 pm

Music will be provided by DJ Bill Moore

Food vendors will be on site!

Cash Bar provided by the Wheel Inn

Benson Burdock Festival & Family Day Parade!

Sunday, August 7, 2022, Rain or Shine

"The Roaring '20's"

Benson Family Day is upon us! Come on out and celebrate the community! You can start your day off with a little shopping at our farmers market while listening to music provided by Bill Moore Music. Vendors will be up and running by 10 a.m. If you are interested in being a part of the market, contact Sue Brown at 802-537-4474.

The parade line up begins at 10 a.m. with kick off at 11:00. Do you have what it takes to be the best there is? There will be prize money for the top 3 floats. Bring your best show animals, whether it be equine, bovine, feline or any other animal to compete for prizes.

At noon, our pulled pork BBQ will begin. Dinner will consist of a pulled pork on a Kaiser roll served with sides of coleslaw and baked beans along with a dessert. The cost of the meal is \$12.

At 12:30, there's plenty of fun for the kids. Back by popular demand this year will be the sawdust pile. Come dig for the hidden treasure. There will be two different age group digs, 12:30 - 12:45 will be ages 2-5, and at 12:50 ages 6-10 will be able to dig for their bounty.

Performing from 11:30 - 2:00 will be Vermont's only JESTER, flow arts performer, actor, and movement magician, Emma Jeanne Hoops!

And let's not forget the Burdocks! You can enter all 3 categories or just one. The categories are tallest, theme related and most creative. Burdock parade entries must be brought to the front of the town offices no later than 9:30.

Ongoing all day will be the face painting, selfie photo booth, the big air bounce house with double slide, t-shirt sales, door prizes (must visit the t-shirt booth to get a ticket), cotton candy, popcorn, music and vendor sales.

For any questions or inquiries, contact Sue Brown at 537-4474 or by email at redwolf363@aol.com

Cobble Knoll Orchard

1672 East Road

Benson, VT 05450

Benson's newest business! will be open for Pick-Your-Own daily this year!

Open EVERY DAY 9 AM – 5 PM from Saturday September 3, 2022 – October 30, 2022.

Family owned and operated

Over 30 varieties available! Early season varieties include Zestars, Sansas, Macs and Honey crisp.

Fresh Pressed Cider available daily.

Baked goods, fresh cut flowers, a wide variety of sunflowers, pumpkins, decorative corn and corn stalks available at the stand this year.

Don't have time to pick?

We will have all varieties available at the stand in the farmhouse.

The orchard has an amazing view of the valley and Adirondacks. Bring a picnic and stay a while! For updates and varieties available please see our website CobbleKnollOrchard.com or visit our Facebook page.

**Benson Flea Market and Town Wide
Yard Sale
Saturday August 6**

Did you have trouble finding all the yard sales in the past? Did you wonder where all the people were for your yard sale? Well, here's the solution. The Family Days committee has created a "Fundraising Flea Market and Yard Sale Map". For \$5.00, you can have your yard sale location added to our town map. Or bring your stuff out to West Coast Taco stand (331 Mill Pond Rd) on 22A to set up for \$20 for a 10x10 spot. Hours for the flea market are from 9-4, setup will begin at 8. For more information contact Mary Ann Fish at 802 537-3059 or maf1956@yahoo.com.

From the Library Committee

You may have noticed that Green Mountain E Books has gone through some changes on how to borrow their books. "E Books" are complete novels or Non Fiction books that you download to your computer, phone or iPad. If you use this service through our library and need assistance or would like more information on how to use the service please contact Jacqueline Lussier, Librarian, at 802-537-4181.

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802-537-4938**

Jeannebrealty@aol.com

*Looking for listings! Thinking of selling?
Give me a call for a "no-obligation" chat.*

Hubbardton, 31 acres of wooded land. Private with ROW access and shared access to a swimming beach on Lake Hortonia. Land is great for hunting and camping and includes a large (10 acres or more) beaver pond with waterfall. \$125,000

Perch Pond, one acre lot with 150 ft of Pond frontage. Recent perc test did not pass but you could build a "primitive, park an RV or go camping or tenting. Great swimming and fishing! \$50,000

Caernarvon St, Fair Haven, ready to go, renovated Colonial with 4 bedrooms, 2 story, full basement, Buderus furnace, landscaped and fenced lot \$199,000

Lake Champlain, Orwell, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, private home right on the water! Great fishing and boating and nice and remote, yet accessible year round. Owner is selling with some furnishings and ready to go! \$250,000

New Listing Ledgemere Point, Lake Bomoseen, 3 bedroom Saltbox on landscaped lot with ROW access to the lake. Walk to the frontage and put in your own dock! Year round home built by the Seller! \$400,000

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**August is Benson Burdock festival time!  
See you at the Parade!**

# THE WHEEL INN

Corner of Lake Road and Stage Road  
 Benson, VT 802-537-2755



Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner  
 Open Daily (except Tuesdays)  
 8am to 9pm

DINING INSIDE OR ORDERS TO GO

See our full menu and  
 daily specials on FACEBOOK  
 Beverages to go!!!

C'mon Over. 'Wheel' be happy to see you!!



For questions or contributions to  
 the Benson Bulletin reach out to Kate at 537-  
 2976 or email [benzonnews@shoreham.net](mailto:benzonnews@shoreham.net) Please  
 make all submissions and artwork in word format.

## WOOD ONE, INC.

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**Certified Organic**  
 464 Stage Road, Benson, VT  
 802-537-2811



**NEW DO'S HAIR SALON**  
 1-802-278-7002  
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 Benson Vermont 05743  
 JoAnne Gates  
 Mon. Tues. & Weds. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Thurs. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
[newdos00@gmail.com](mailto:newdos00@gmail.com)

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1-802-278-7001  
 1995 Stage Road  
 Benson Vermont 05743

### Fair Haven Concerned Connecting the community to:

- Food resources
- Fuel Assistance
- Utilities Assistance
- Application Assistance
- Family Budgeting Assistance
- Affordable Clothing



Fair Haven Concerned is a food shelf and community resource for connecting area residents to assistance. Our food shelf hours beginning July 1st are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10-2. Our thrift store is also open those days from 12-2. These hours are subject to change based on the number of volunteers we have.

*Speaking of volunteering*, if you have even an hour a month, we'd love for you to become a part of our family. We have morning and afternoon shifts as well as special occasions and on-call opportunities. Call 802-265-3666 or email FHCI@Comcast.net for more information.

Visit our website at: <https://sites.google.com/view/fairhavenconcerned/home> for resources, event calendars, free meal kit giveaways, thrift store updates and volunteer opportunities.

### Join us on Family Days on August 7th

The United Church of Benson will be having a hymn sing on August 7th at 10 am. Please join us before the parade. We also will be having our tag sale from 9-1, in the basement of the church. Proceeds are for our new roof. *So, make a full day of Benson Family Days and sing with us!* Thank you!

### Bone Builders

Meets on Monday and Thursday at 9 a.m. in the Community Hall. Program is free and weights are provided. Covid vaccination is required. If you wish to be part of this group, call 802-537-3021 for additional information.

**JPW**  
Accounting Services  
Jennifer Partch

**518-538-3047**  
**802-537-4021**

P.O. BOX 630      44 SUNSET LAKE RD.  
SCHROON LAKE, NY 12870      BENSON, VT 05743  
jpwaccounting@gmail.com



### Volunteer Walking Club Leaders Needed!

#### Duties

- Pick a time and place to walk twice a week. Provide the location and time to RSVP to provide to the community and participants
- Lead the walking group on a walk for approximately 30-60 minutes
- Have all participants fill out a simple informed consent form when they join

For more information, please contact us at:  
802-775-8220 ext 101  
maryesarsvp@gmail.com






## BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Tuesday 10 am to 1 pm

Wednesday 4 pm to 7 pm

Saturday 10 am to 1 pm

 Check us out on Facebook - Benson Vermont Public Library

The Reading Group will meet at the library on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 4 p.m. to discuss **The Awakening** by Kate Chopin. When first published in 1899, *The Awakening* shocked readers with its honest treatment of female marital infidelity. Audiences accustomed to the pieties of late Victorian romantic fiction were taken aback by Chopin's daring portrayal of a woman trapped in a stifling marriage, who seeks and finds passionate physical love outside the confines of her domestic situation. Aside from its unusually frank treatment of a then-controversial subject, the novel is widely admired today for its literary qualities. Although the theme of marital infidelity no longer shocks, few novels have plumbed the psychology of a woman involved in an illicit relationship with the perception, artistry, and honesty that Kate Chopin brought to *The Awakening*.

Copies of the books are available in the library. You are welcome to join us for an interesting discussion.

### Benson Historical Museum

Take a trip down memory lane and revisit Benson's history. The museum will be open Thursdays 1 to 3 p.m. or by appointment. Call 802-537-3021 for questions or to make an appointment.

### Senior Lunch




The traditional Senior Lunch will be on August 8th at 12 noon. It's held in the Community Hall first floor. The cost for seniors, those over 60 years of age, is \$3.50 but families and friends under 60 are welcome as well for \$4.00. Please reach out to Marcia Anderson to make reservations by the Friday before at 802-537-2313.

**GUNS • SUPPLIES • AMMUNITION**

**HOURS:** Wednesday 1:00pm - 4:00pm  
 Thursday 3:00pm - 7:00pm  
 Friday 3:00pm - 7:00pm  
 Saturday 1:00pm - 4:00pm




**ALSO BY APPOINTMENT**  
 Call and ask for Greg

**LICENSED FIREARMS DEALER**  
 WILL DO TRANSFERS & CASH PURCHASES

**GUN STORE**

Next Door to G&L General Store  
 2813 Route 22A North, Benson VT  
 802-558-7160

## **NEW! Culinary Corner**

this from Amanda, one of our neighbors

With so many wonderful things from the garden this time of year, how about something Blueberry!

### **Lemon pecan Blueberry Bars**

- 1 cup butter softened
- ¾ cup powdered sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup finely chopped pecans, save out 1 tbsp
- 1 ½ cup Blueberries (thaw if using frozen)
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup lemon juice (fresh squeezed is best)
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. baking powder

\*\*\*\*\*

Pre heat the oven to 350°

Mix the vanilla and baking powder with ¼ cup of flour and set aside.

Beat the butter until fluffy. Beat in the powdered sugar. Gradually beat the 2 cups of flour. Stir in the pecans. Press this mixture onto the bottom of a lightly greased 13x9 pan. Bake until golden, about 20 minutes. Remove from oven and top evenly with the blueberries.

Mix eggs, granulated sugar, lemon juice, and the vanilla and baking powder mixture. Beat on medium speed for 2 minutes. Pour mixture over the blueberries. Sprinkle with remaining pecans. Bake until set and topping is lightly browned, about 30-35 minutes. Remove from oven and cool in the pan, dust with powdered sugar if desired. Store in the refrigerator.



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### **Route 22A Widening Project Update**

Preserving this information for reference.

Cheryl Murray

Rutland TAC member (Benson)

Benson Planning Commission

\*\*\*\*\*

The VTrans web page regarding all Route 22A projects currently in the works can be accessed at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/vt22a>.

Bruce Martin

[bruce.b.martin@vermont.gov](mailto:bruce.b.martin@vermont.gov)

802-595-9653.

Has expressed his willingness to answer questions regarding these projects. Mailing address.

Vermont Agency of Transportation

c/o Bruce Martin

219 North Main St

Barre VT 05641

If you have tried one of the featured recipes and enjoyed it, please give a shout out to the Benson Bulletin email at [benonnews@shoreham.net](mailto:benonnews@shoreham.net) and I'll include your review in the next bulletin. Or, if you have a favorite recipe you would like to share, I know people would enjoy trying it themselves!

### EARLY VOTING FOR THE STATE PRIMARY

Most everyone who requested an early ballot by using the postcard sent by the Secretary of State should have already received their Primary ballot, but there is still time to vote early. You can:

- Call the Town Clerk at 537-2611 and ask to have ballots sent to you.
- Pick up your own ballot at the Town Office.
- Vote at the Town Office up until 3pm on Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri from 9am to 3pm and Wednesday 3-7pm.

### HOW TO RETURN YOUR EARLY BALLOT

- First, make sure you've filled out the certification envelope and sealed your voted ballot inside. For the Primary, each voter is mailed ballots for all three parties but you are only allowed to vote one ballot. The two ballots you don't use **must** also be returned in the "Unvoted Ballots" envelope.
- You or anyone of your choosing can hand-deliver your voted ballot to the Town Office. There is now a secure drop box at the southwest corner of the building where ballots can be returned even if the office is not open. We'll be checking it daily, and several times during the day on Election Day. Ballots can also be returned directly to the Community Hall polling place from 10AM to 7PM on August 9th.
- Your ballot can be returned by mail in the envelope provided. If you choose this option, please allow plenty of time for delivery. **IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED YOUR BALLOT MUST BE RECEIVED (NOT JUST POSTMARKED) BY 7PM ON AUGUST 9TH.** As soon as the polls close, teams of election officials tally the votes on the Primary ballots and the results are then immediately sent to the Secretary of State.
- If you have questions about early voting or about elections procedures in general, please let me know. Heidi Chandler, Town Clerk

|           |           |       |                                     |                                    |
|-----------|-----------|-------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Thursdays |           | 1-3pm | Benson Museum Opens                 | Every Thursday for the summer      |
| Monday    | August 8  |       | Last Day to Vote in the Town Office | For the Primary Elections          |
| Monday    | August 8  | 7pm   | Selectboard Meeting                 | Town Office                        |
| Monday    | August 8  | noon  | Senior Lunch                        | Community Hall, <i>first floor</i> |
| Thursday  | August 18 |       | Deadline for submissions to the     | Sept edition of the Bulletin       |
| Wednesday | August 17 | 4pm   | Reading Group                       | Benson Library                     |
| Monday    | August 22 | 7pm   | Selectboard Meeting                 | Town Office                        |
| Monday    | Sept 5    |       | Town Office closed                  | Labor Day holiday                  |

**PROPERTY TAX RATES FOR 2022-2023**

| <b><u>HOMESTEAD RATE*</u></b>         | <b><u>2020-2021</u></b> | <b><u>Last Year</u></b> | <b><u>This Year</u></b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Municipal Rate                        | .7165                   | .7777                   | <b>.8302</b>            |
| Education Rate                        | 1.4064                  | 1.4481                  | <b>1.2859</b>           |
| Local Agreement<br>Rate               | <u>.0003</u>            | <u>.0009</u>            | <u><b>.0006</b></u>     |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>\$2.1232</b>         | <b>\$2.2267</b>         | <b>\$2.1167</b>         |
| <b><u>NON-HOMESTEAD<br/>RATE*</u></b> |                         |                         |                         |
| Municipal Rate                        | .7165                   | .7777                   | <b>.8302</b>            |
| Education Rate                        | 1.5784                  | 1.6235                  | <b>1.4802</b>           |
| Local Agreement<br>Rate               | <u>.0003</u>            | <u>.0009</u>            | <u><b>.0006</b></u>     |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>\$2.2952</b>         | <b>\$2.4021</b>         | <b>\$2.3110</b>         |

The municipal rate was calculated and set by the Selectboard on July 11, 2022 and raises the funds to cover the amounts voted at Town Meeting for the general expenses of the town, the Highway budget, and all appropriations such as those for the Library and the maintenance of the cemeteries. This rate is the same for both Homestead and Non-Homestead properties.

The local agreement rate compensates the state education fund for the \$20,000 reduction in assessment (not taxes) that Benson has voted to give its disabled veterans. This is also the same for all properties.

Education rates are set by the State, taking into account local per pupil spending plus their analysis of how close to fair market value our Grand List is (Benson's common level of appraisal). A property which the owner has declared to be their principle residence with the Vermont Department of Taxes pays the Homestead rate. All other properties pay the Non-Homestead Rate.

*\*A tax rate is the amount of property tax owed per \$100 of property valuation. At this year's rates, a property assessed at \$100,000 would owe \$2,116.70 at the homestead rate and \$2,311.00 at the non-homestead rate.*

**TAX BILLS WILL BE MAILED BY THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST AND THE FIRST PAYMENT WILL BE DUE SEPTEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE?**

In addition to voting on state and national offices, Benson will also choose its five Justices of the Peace at the General Election in November. Most people probably think of JPs in terms of their authority to perform marriages, but the office is actually one of the oldest in Vermont and involves other very important responsibilities. Benson's Justices are election officials for the town and serve on the Boards that determine tax appeals and hear requests for abatements. The number of justices in a given town is determined on the basis of population, and all towns elect their justices every two years as a part of the General Election. Anyone interested in serving in this important position should pick up a petition to get on the ballot at the Town Office or by visiting [sos.vermont.gov/elections](https://sos.vermont.gov/elections). **Petitions and consent forms from independent candidates must be filed with the Town Clerk by 5:00 pm on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.**



### **Town Garage Update**

We signed the Master Agreement with ClearSpan for the purchase of the town garage and a separate Master Agreement for the erection of the building. We are waiting to receive blue prints from ClearSpan in order to put other components of the building out to bid. We hope to have the blue prints very soon.

### **Selectboard Update**

The Selectboard hired Carrie Lafond as the new Selectboard assistant. Carrie began work on June 30. Email Carrie at [Bensonselectboardasst@gmail.com](mailto:Bensonselectboardasst@gmail.com) with any questions or correspondence.

The Board voted to use the asphalt millings from the RT 22A repaving project on Sunset Lake Rd beginning at the Orwell town line and down along Sunset Lake. *This decision was made after consulting with the State to confirm that the asphalt millings did not pose a risk to the lake's water quality.*

We voted to allow First Light Technology to bury fiber optic cable under State Rd, for a distance of 1.7 miles from the location of the cell phone tower. This will allow First Light to complete the installation on a cell tower in Orwell, improving cell phone service along RT 22A.

Dog registration. Letters are being sent to dog owners who registered their dogs in 2021 but have not registered them in 2023. We hope that all owners of unregistered dogs comply with State Law and register their dogs.

We contracted with Pike Industries to pave portions of Lake Street. Paving should begin before the end of July.

We sent out a Request for Proposals for trucking gravel to roads and trucking winter sand. This is a four month contract, rather than a 12 month contract we've used previously. The Board felt that fuel prices might come down in the next three months and that it would be more cost effective to not ask truckers to estimate out for a year given unknown fuel prices.

We've selected Hubbard as the new vendor to pick up compost material at the transfer station.

We are continuing to try to find a way to get the burned out structure on Stage Road cleaned up.

## NOTICE TO VOTERS

**A statewide primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 09, 2022 to select Republican, Democratic, and Progressive Party candidates for the following offices:**

|                     |                     |                      |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| U.S. Representative | State Treasurer     | State Senator(s)     |
| Governor            | Secretary of State  | State Representative |
| Lieutenant Governor | Auditor of Accounts | High Bailiff         |
| Attorney General    | U.S Senator         | Probate Judge        |
| State's Attorney    | Sheriff             | Assistant Judge      |

The Secretary of State's election office will be sending all registered voters a postcard how to request a ballot. If you don't get a postcard, it means that there is probably a problem with your voter registration information in the Statewide Checklist system (most likely a mistake in your mailing address). It's important to get this corrected now because the State will be using those addresses to mail ballots to everyone for the General Election in November. If you chose to vote by mail for the Primary, here's a couple things to keep in mind:

- Each voter is mailed ballots for all three parties but you are only allowed to vote one ballot. The two ballots you don't use must be returned in the "Unvoted Ballots" envelope or your vote can't be counted.
- Ballots must be received (not just postmarked) by the close of the polls at 7pm on August 9th. You can return your ballot by mail or drop it in the secure drop box you'll see at the corner of the Town Office building. We'll be checking it daily, and several times during the day on Election Day.

In addition to asking for a ballot to be mailed to you, you can cast your vote by:

- Voting at the Town Office up until 3pm on Monday, August 8th. The office is open Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri from 9am to 3pm and Wednesday 3-7pm, and there is a handicapped entrance at the rear.
- Voting in person at the Benson Community Hall on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Polls will be open 10am-7pm.
- Please call 802 537-2611 or mail (bensonclerk@myottmail.com) if you have questions.

*Some thoughts for all of us in Benson*

*“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.” — **Audrey Hepburn***

*“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” — **Gandhi***

*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart.” - **Elizabeth Andrew***

*“Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds.” - **Bill Clinton***

*“Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud.” - **Helen Dyer***





