



Benson Bulletin

The Community Newsletter of Benson, VT- December 2022

BENSON VILLAGE SCHOOL - Go BEARS!

We welcome December and celebrate 63 days of hard work, fun, and PAWsitive relationships that are at the heart of our school community. BVS has welcomed 16 new students to our school this year and many have joined our afterschool Boys & Girls Club bringing the total number of participants to 26 students. The BVS Daisy and Girl Scout Troops have been busy with activities and the girls have already earned several badges! Our American Sign Language and Beading/Crafting Clubs begin this month and will carry through early February.

Students have moved into their routines and are demonstrating their academic growth through a variety of measures. The Bridges II math program and Number Corner components allow for both unit check-ups and quarterly assessment on the grade level content. STAR 360 is a progress monitoring assessment for both reading and math that allows teachers to adjust their instruction for each student. Lexia is a reading support, added this year, that enhances each student's progress as it is individualized to their specific reading level. Mrs. Amanda Eddy, BVS Special Educator/Interventionist/Lead Teacher, and I meet weekly to review student data to ensure that both teachers and students have what they need to meet academic goals. Each teacher conferences with Mrs. Eddy during the week for a 45 minute Data Team PLC (Professional Learning Community). Our schoolwide goal is to provide each student with the most appropriate instruction based on their needs.

Project-based learning has been on full display at BVS as seen with the Tin Can Racer STEAM Week that concluded just before Thanksgiving. Our doors were opened for parent volunteers during a 3-day build process and the race day that followed. Over 20 parents/grandparents came in to support students as they designed, built and tested a variety of spool and tin can racers. Mrs. Jessica Thurston has taken the lead on orchestrating these events and has 2 more planned for this year.

Our Prek program has been running with 2 groups this year. Nine 3 year olds and eight 4 year olds attend separately 2 days a week from 7:45 - 12:45. Mrs. Laura Dailey, Mrs. Cris Andronaco and Ms. Chelsey Stack have created a fabulous program for these youngest Benson Bears and the laughter and joy that exude from these students is contagious!

Benson Village School continues to award both students and staff with PAWs certificates for demonstrating the positive character traits associated with our districtwide PBIS (<https://www.pbis.org/>). To date, 198 certificates have been written for students and staff.

The SVUVT budget work is well under way and a reminder that there is one budget for the entire district, not individual school budgets. The SVUVT Finance meetings and the SVUVT Regular Board meetings are the place to be for listening and participating during the budget season. *Your voice does matter* and we hope you will attend either in person, by phone or through the google meet link provided on the agendas that can be found here: <https://www.slatevalleyunified.org/documents/school-board/agendas/60979>

As the 14 school days in December fly by and families begin to prepare for the December break (12/21 - 1/2), we express our sincere appreciation for your support of your school. We are so very proud of what is happening here!

Amy Roy M.Ed., Principal, Benson Village School
Please visit our website: <http://benison.svuvt.org>
Also, check out our Facebook page!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



- Do you know someone who needs some help?
- Perhaps some help might be adding a few extra food items to the weekly grocery order?
- Or some extra help with filling out the Vermont State applications for help with heat?
- Do you find applying for food stamps or 3 Square confusing?

There is help nearby! Friendly, personal help is available at Fair Haven Concerned! Yes, all people living in Benson are invited to contact Fair Haven Concerned for some assistance.

Fair Haven Concerned offers people who will walk you through the applications for many Vermont State programs. Do not let your hesitation stop you from getting some assistance. Call 802-265-3666 and ask for Jeff or Michele and they can set up a time to meet with you privately to help you get what you may need. The office is on Main Street in Fair Haven right next to the laundromat and there is plenty of parking!

Grocery prices have risen greatly this year. By stopping at the food shelf, you can supplement your food supply and stretch your food dollars greatly. We have frozen meat, fresh vegetables, some dairy and bread. The food pantry is open to everyone in Vermont. We are open Monday through Fridays from 10-3. If these hours are difficult for your schedule, please call and we can make time to meet. Follow us on Facebook or call 802-265-3666.

From the Road Commissioner

Hi folks,

Cold days are upon us! Following our first snow of the year last week, the Selectboard and the highway crew felt it was best not to plow the dirt roads. Lacking a solid frost, the roads were way too soft and plowing would just tear up all of the fall efforts by the road crew. We currently still only have one town truck and the pickup, because the other trucks are in the shop awaiting electronic parts. We will do our best with what we have so please be patient and remember please don't crowd the plow!

Thank you, Brad

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Doug Hathaway
 1080 Stage Road, Benson VT 05743

How We Voted

Of Benson's 805 registered voters, 451 ballots were cast in the General Election of 2022, or 56 % 182 people voted in person on November 8th and 269 using the absentee voting process. Thank you to all the ballot clerks and voter counters, and *most especially to all the counters that volunteered.* Here are Benson's top vote getters in some of the races. The Secretary of State's website (sos.vermont.gov) has detailed results for all contests.

U.S. Senator

Gerald Malloy	248
Peter Welch	187

Governor

Peter Duval	15
Kevin Hoyt	24
Phil Scott	340
Brenda Siegel	6

State Senator

Brian "BC" Collamore	244
Joshua Ferguson	139
Bridgette Remington	115
Anna Tadio	120
David "Dave" Weeks	210
Terry K. Williams	278

Representative to Congress

Becca Balint	164
Liam Madden	228
Ericka Redic	29

Lieutenant Governor

Joe Benning	286
Ian G. Diamondstone	10
David Zuckerman	140

State Representative

William "Bill" Canfield	369
Write in	5

Heidi Chandler, Town Clerk



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 JoAnne Gates
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Selectboard Highlights

Use Caution when driving on roads this winter.

The Selectboard has been notified that we may not be able to get an adequate amount of road salt this winter. There are three factors:

1. There is a shortage of salt
2. Railroad workers may strike delaying shipments of salt to Vermont
3. There is a shortage of truck drivers to deliver salt from rail terminals.

We may have to use a blend of salt and sand on the roads, rather than straight salt. This will increase the amount of time it takes for the salt in the mix to clear the roads.

Please drive carefully and slow down when the roads are slippery.

And a few winter reminders...

Parking Ban: The Town of Benson's Traffic Ordinance states: no person owning, operating, or controlling a motor vehicle shall park, or cause to be parked, said motor vehicle on the traveled portion of any street or highway within the Town of Benson from November 15th through April 15th inclusive. Any such motor vehicle may be removed at the owner's expense.

Sand Pile: The Town maintains a small clearly marked stockpile of sand at the Highway Garage for the personal (not commercial) use of the residents. Citizens may manually load sand from this designated pile into their personal vehicle. For your safety, please be aware of Town trucks entering or leaving, and remember that **THE MAIN SAND PILE AND THE SALT PILE ARE STRICTLY OFF LIMITS TO THE PUBLIC.**

Plowing: State law prohibits plowing or blowing snow into or across Town or State highways, shoulders or sidewalks. Although this is hard to avoid, material should not be left such that it creates an obstruction or mound.

Jeanne Bartholomew Realty

East Road Benson

802-537-4938

Jeannebrealty@aol.com

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

Benson, country estate on 17 open acres. This well maintained home consists of a 4 bedroom two story home, a large metal barn suitable for lots of storage, cars, RV, boats etc., a 4 stall horse barn and more. Seller has done many upgrades over the years and it is now time to pass it on to another family to enjoy. Located a short distance to Lake Champlain and a few miles from the Village. A great location for many endeavors!

Benson, 5-6 bedroom older home with 10 acres of scenic country land.. situated on the knoll on Rt 22a this property affords a lot of opportunities for work and play! Great location for rental use, office set up, family home, farm and more. Sellers have completed many upgrades and improvements and are now ready to let it go ! They are motivated and this could be just what you are looking for!
\$299,000

Benson, Perch Pond lot for sale. Sellers have done all the work.. driveway, septic, power, docking system and more. This property has wonderful swimming and offers plenty of peace and quiet! A great get away anytime of the year!
\$150,000


I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support in my Real Estate business. It's a pleasure to know so many of you folks and always fun to meet new ones! Congratulations to all the "new " folks that moved to Benson this year. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all... see you at the 'downtown' Parade!



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, December 21, 2022 to discuss **The Paper Bag Christmas** by Kevin Alan Milne. Dr. Christopher Ringle is the last person you'd expect to find moonlighting as Santa Claus at the mall on the day after Thanksgiving. But it is there that he meets a young man named Molar Alan, who desperately needs a new perspective on the underlying value of Christmas. Dr. Ringle recruits Mo and his older brother as volunteers at a nearby children's hospital for the holiday season. At the hospital, Mo is tasked to help bring holiday cheer to the young cancer patients on the fifth floor. His biggest challenge is befriending a decidedly angry girl who is so embarrassed by her scarred appearance that she hides her face behind the safety of a paper bag.

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

Need ideas for a Holiday Gift?

Copies of the History Project Committee's publication, *Remembering Benson*, are available by sending a \$20 check made out to the Town of Benson to the Benson Town Clerk PO Box 163, Benson, VT 05731, and we will mail a copy to you. Copies of the *Souvenir Benson* book (originally published in approximately 1929) are also available by mail for \$15.

THE WHEEL INN

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Bone Builders

Meets on Monday and Thursday at 9 a.m. in the Community Hall. The program is free and weights are provided. Strength training exercises will improve bone mineral density and help prevent fractures, help strengthen your core and prevent or delay cognitive decline. Less than an hour of strength training per week may reduce risk of heart attack and stroke by 40 to 70%! If you wish to join our group, call 802-537-3021.

Senior Lunch

The traditional Senior Lunch will be on December 12th 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.

It's Time for Holiday Recipes

These are from Meghan, one of our neighbors

Old Hungarian Stamped Cookies

I got this recipe when I was travelling in Hungary. An elderly woman at a market was selling wooden cookie stamps with designs embossed on them and gave me the recipe when I bought a stamp. While a cookie stamp makes these beautiful, you could use virtually anything to texture the cookie and make it visually appealing, or just eat the cookie in its original form. This recipe specifies that you could choose to add fresh 1 tablespoon lemon juice and grated lemon peel, a tablespoon of honey, 1/3 cup of cocoa, honey, grated almond, or grated coconut. Another variation I've seen is to make an indent and fill these cookies with jam.

Ingredients:

3 ½ cups flour
 1 cup confectioners sugar
 1 ¼ stick of softened butter
 1/3 cup shortening
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 2 eggs

Directions:

1. Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees
2. Mix the ingredients until they are well combined and the dough can be easily rolled out to a thickness of ¼ inch.
3. Cut out the cookies with a cookie cutter, then stamp them to give them a pattern.
4. Place cookies on a baking sheet and bake them for 8-10 minutes. This time might vary depending on your oven, so watch them closely.

Mulled Wine

This alcoholic drink is a staple across much of Europe during the winter. It's served at winter outdoor events and is a great way to warm up after a day outside in the snow.

Ingredients:

- 1 bottle of a medium-bodied red wine (I use Pinot Noir)
- ¾ cup water
- ¾ cup white sugar
- 1 orange
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1-2 star anise
- 8-10 whole cloves

Directions:

1. In a medium saucepan, combine the water, sugar, and spices. Bring to a boil while stirring constantly, then reduce heat and continue to simmer.
2. Cut the orange into round slices and place them into the mixture, then cook until it thickens slightly like syrup.
3. Pour in the wine and stir, heating gradually until steaming. Do not boil!
4. Once it is steaming, use a ladle to pour it into mugs. You can choose to serve the floating spices and oranges or not.

United Church of Benson

Please join us for a Christmas Eve Service Saturday evening at 7pm at the United Church of Benson.

There will be no service on Christmas Day.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah from
 The United Church of Benson.

Local Cheerleaders are Celebrating

Exciting news for the Slate Valley family! Four cheerleaders, Breanna Munger, Samantha Senn, Vanessa Duel and Maddie Charlton have been nominated to attend CheerHawaii USA in 2023! This is an accredited College Prep program and an awesome opportunity for these four students. Their fundraising has begun as the tuition is \$2,900 each, by using the High Mowing Organic Seed Company. Based in Wolcott, Vermont, the High Mowing Seed Company is organic. If you are shopping for seeds for the coming spring, please consider buying from this fundraiser going on now until December 16th. To order go online to highmowingseeds.com or call 866-736-4454 option 4. For questions, please call Mary Ann Munger at 802-353-9178 or talk to Breanna Munger.



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Road Equipment Update

Repairs continue on the highway department equipment to get ready for winter. In addition, the Selectboard has purchased a 2004 John Deere model 772 all-wheel drive road grader with wing attachment and a 2013 International 7400 dump truck at auction from Vermont State surplus. We anticipate that these pieces of equipment will be delivered the week of November 28. These items will be paid for using money from the equipment reserve fund. We believe these are good upgrades that will provide several years of service to the Town.

JPW
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PO Box 111
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(802) 265-4455 Cell (802) 375-5211

Town Calendar of Events

Sunday	12/4	4 pm	Memory Tree Lighting
Monday	12/12	7 pm	Selectboard
Monday	12/12	noon	Senior Lunch
Wednesday	12/21	4 pm	Reading Group
Monday	12/26		Town Office closed
Monday	12/26	7 pm	Selectboard

Town Meeting 2023

Town meeting 2023 will be on Tuesday March 7, beginning at 10 am, in the Community Hall. *If you are planning to run for any open offices remember the deadline to submit your request is Jan 30th and your petition must have at least 9 signatures.*

If you plan to submit a petition for consideration at Town Meeting, the deadline is January 19th and the petition requires 50 signatures.

I will be skipping the January newsletter so our contributors and editorial staff can concentrate on a relaxing holiday!

For questions or contributions to the Benson Bulletin reach out to Kate at 537-2976 or email benso news@shoreham.net