

# Benson Bulletin

The Community Newsletter of Benson, VT- October 2022

## BENSON VILLAGE SCHOOL - Go BEARS!

What a busy and exciting month September was! As we *FALL* into October, our Thursday yoga sessions with Miss Petra continue as well as our monthly outdoor adventure sessions with Sandra Owens. Students have adapted to routines and are continuing to enjoy lots of outdoor time through recess and other opportunities. BVS' new PE & Health teacher, Miss Kristina Knockenhauer and new Librarian, Mrs. Rebekah Nadler, have both brought their talents and enthusiasm to this wonderful group of staff and students.

Girl Scout Troop #63444 is up and running every Tuesday and the 1st/2nd-grade soccer clinic has 9 student-athletes participating. Our Boys & Girls Club is in the double digits and growing. Miss Emily Ray is the afterschool director for the B&G Club and is also an Instructional Assistant in our 3rd-grade classroom during the day.

All grades have spent the first few weeks of school designing classroom contracts around behavior expectations and work place activities. Meeting our students where they are at is always the priority at the start of any school year and our classroom teachers, Miss Makayla Ackert, Mrs. Jessica Thurston, Mrs. Jessica Sturtevant, Mrs. Elizabeth Schuyler, and Mrs. Amanda Eddy (Special Ed & Intervention) have all been working to analyze student data and design learning plans to help foster that passion for learning in all of our Benson Bears.

We encourage folks to utilize the building and have been meeting with the Benson Family Day committee on ideas for community events that could be hosted at the school. Benson will again have a Halloween event on October 28th for the younger children. Pam Arel (please contact @ [parel@svuvt.org](mailto:parel@svuvt.org) if you would like to decorate a car) will be sending out information on sign-up if you are interested in doing a decorated trunk or perhaps decorating an exterior classroom door.

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

## Town Garage Update

The selectboard received no bids for concrete work by the due date on September 6. We feel that the lack of bids was probably caused by the very short window to complete the work, stated in the bid. We are releasing a new request for bids for the concrete work, with bids being due shortly after January 1, 2023 and work to be completed sometime in the spring of 2023.

We voted to delay the construction of the garage until 2023. We have discussed the delay with Clearspan. They will recalculate the building estimate when we are ready to move forward, based on metal prices when we are ready to build. We are disappointed that the new garage will not be completed this fall but look forward to seeing construction in 2023.

# Jeanne Bartholomew Realty

East Road Benson

802-537-4938

[Jeannebrealty@aol.com](mailto:Jeannebrealty@aol.com)

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

**New Listing** in Benson, 5-6 bedroom 2 bath older home with 10 open acres, older barns and Rt 22A road frontage. This home has had some nice upgrades and is perfect for a Bed and Breakfast, a rental or an ideal Family home and office! Seller is motivated!

**New Listing** in Benson, 17 acre Country Estate with well-maintained 1900's Farmhouse. Seller has updated all systems and it is well insulated making this 4 bedroom 2 bath home an efficient one in relation to heating and cooling costs. The oil furnace does the job and the pellet stove keeps your costs down as well . Property comes with a 30 ft by 60 ft metal barn ~ ideal for all kinds of storage , as well as a work and play area! Property was the former home of Stony Point Stables and although the horses are gone the 4 stall barn with tack room, the handy pole barn and separate 'run in' are all there for you to enjoy with your horses or other livestock. There is 5 acres of fenced pasture and about 12 acres of mowed hay land with a nice little pond The 2 story home is nicely landscaped and also has an attached garage/workshop area, a large unfinished room , nice back deck and much more! It is less than a mile to Benson Landing where you can launch your boat on Lake Champlain and enjoy some of the best fishing around! Country homes like this are hard to find and this one is just on the market! Give Jeanne a call and come take a look and we can have you in there enjoying our beautiful Vermont fall season ahead!

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/tenting. Great swimming and fishing! \$50,000

**New Listing** on Perch Pond. Nice swimmable lot with new 30ft composite dock, new 16 by 24 deck, all new landscaping and set up for a 27 ft motorhome. Permit for a 16 by 10 ft shed, power, septic and more. \$150,000

~~~~~  
October is Halloween month! Grab your costume and your little Goblins and have some fun!

## Let's help out and Volunteer for Benson

**Volunteer** : a person who freely offers, voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service  
*source* Merriam-Webster

### *Did you know?*

Anne Munger is a volunteer who manages the Bone Builders group in Benson. She leads the group, manages the record keeping and generally supports all who utilize Bone Builders to improve their health.

Marcia Anderson is a volunteer who coordinates the various activities at the Community Hall in Benson.

The Board of Fairhaven Concerned is made up entirely of volunteers, coordinating service and problem solving with the Director, Tracy Yendall.

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

We often hear the terms food insufficiency and food insecurity. What does that really mean to us? While there are specific distinctions, for this article it will mean that families will find themselves without enough food to eat, whether it may be just sometimes or often. The numbers of our neighbors finding themselves in this situation has been steadily increasing over the past few years, but we are now seeing record numbers seeking help. We are seeing families large and small, families young and old.

In an effort to meet that need, *Fair Haven Concerned has increased the number of hours the food shelf will be open to five hours a day, from 10AM-3PM, Mondays through Thursdays.* This means that volunteers are needed more than ever. In addition to helping our neighbors and friends find the food on the shelves, **volunteers are needed to stock the shelves** and take an inventory of what is needed. In the past year, over 2,900 volunteer hours have been logged, and yet that has not helped meet the need. If you are interested, please contact Tracy at (802)265-3666. **Two or three hours of volunteering a week makes a difference.**

However, community support is always needed and most appreciated. Whether you donate financially or drop by with a bag of groceries, you are helping feed families. As the weather begins to change and temperatures drop, we know that many in our communities of Fair Haven, West Haven, and Benson will be seeking help with fuel costs. Help with fuel means offering support with oil, propane, kerosene, and electric, and even wood. Fair Haven Concerned partners with other social service agencies to support the great need. The costs of energy resources such as heating oil and propane have risen tremendously. Fair Haven Concerned also partners with local energy providers to make sure none of our neighbors find themselves without any means to heat their homes.

As fuel and energy costs rise, the Fair Haven Concerned Board is looking for new ways to raise money. This year, the Board is hosting a Fall Festival on October 28th, at the Lake Bomoseen Lodge. Ticket price of \$50 per person includes a delicious dinner, a live and silent auction, and a chance to support the mission of this organization. There will be a Halloween theme this year, with prizes for best costumes being awarded. Cocktails begin at 5PM and a buffet style dinner will be served at 6PM. If interested call Linda Peltier, at 537-4002, for tickets.



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## VOTING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

Voting procedures are the focus of a lot of attention this year. We tried to provide answers to some of most common questions below, but if something isn't clear or you have further questions, please give us a call at 802-537-2611 or email at [bensonclerk@myottmail.com](mailto:bensonclerk@myottmail.com).

*The State of Vermont will be mailing a general election ballot to each Benson active registered voter, so there is no need to individually request an absentee ballot.* If you don't receive your ballot by the first week of October, please call the office.

Please carefully read the instructions that come with the ballot.

**The number one reason that ballots are deemed defective is because the voter forgot to sign the certification envelope.**

In Vermont, your ballot must be **RECEIVED** by the time the polls close at 7:00pm on Election Day. You can return your voted ballot by:

- Mailing it in the postage paid envelope provided.
- Delivering it to the Town Clerk's office weekdays from 9:00am to 3:00pm except for Wednesday when we are here from 3:00 to 7:00 pm.
- Leaving it anytime in the secure drop box located at the southwest corner of the Town Office building. The box is checked daily.
- Delivering it to the polling place on Election Day, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**If you would rather vote in person on Election Day, the polls will be open as usual from 10:00am to 7:00 pm at the Community Hall. Just bring the ballot you were mailed with you and fill it out in the voting booth. There will be ballots available for those who don't have a ballot with them.**

If you are not a registered voter, there is still plenty of time to register before the Election. Registration can be done at the Town Clerk's office or through the Secretary of State's website at [sos.vermont.gov](http://sos.vermont.gov).

Heidi Chandler, Town Clerk

**JPW**  
Accounting Services

Jennifer Partch

**518-538-3047**

**802-537-4021**

P.O. BOX 630  
SCHROON LAKE, NY 12870

44 SUNSET LAKE RD.  
BENSON, VT 05743

[jpwaccounting@gmail.com](mailto:jpwaccounting@gmail.com)



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### Senior Lunch

The traditional Senior Lunch will be on October 10th 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

## News from the Road Commissioner

We're all starting to feel the cooler temps of fall move in, apple season and colorful ridges are headed our way . As most of you have heard by now, our road foreman has moved on. I would like to take a moment to thank Jeff Noble for his service to our community. The Highway Department is facing many struggles at the moment due to aged equipment falling apart in many ways. The Selectboard has rented a grader for the short window of time left to prepare our roads for fall and winter. We are busy with ditching, culvert replacements and hauling moving material. Sand for winter will be hauled in soon. We installed a DI drain system on Lake Road to control water flow last week along the Anderson residence. The material for this job was purchased roughly 12 years ago by a former road foreman and unfortunately was never installed. The Highway Department appreciates the positive comments we have been receiving the last couple weeks and will continue to do the best we can in the time left before cold weather. I would also like to thank the Orwell Highway Department from lending a helping hand when we needed it the most.

Brad Barrett, Road Commissioner




## 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, October 19, 2022 to discuss **The Lost Man** by Jane Harper. Brothers Nathan and Bub Bright meet for the first time in months at the remote fence line separating their cattle ranches in the lonely outback. Their third brother, Cameron, lies dead at their feet. In an isolated belt of Australia, their homes are a three-hour drive apart, the brothers were one another's nearest neighbors. Cameron was the middle child, the one who ran the family homestead. But something made him head out alone under the unrelenting sun. While they grieve Cameron's loss, suspicion starts to take hold, and Nathan is forced to examine secrets the family would rather leave in the past.

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

## THE WHEEL INN

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



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8am to 9pm

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daily specials on FACEBOOK

## 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.

Motivation will almost always  
beat mere talent.

Norman Ralph Augustine

## ***NEW!*** Culinary Corner

*this from Kate, one of our neighbors*

Some of you know that I am mostly “gluten free”. I made this decision several years ago to help with chronic joint pain. Reducing inflammation has been successful for me! This is one of my favorite recipes.

### **Gluten Free Chocolate Chip Cookies**

2 ¼ cups gluten free 1:1 or “Measure to measure” baking flour (I prefer the King Arthur brand)  
 1 tsp baking soda  
 1 tsp salt  
 1 cup (2 sticks) of softened butter  
 ¾ cup sugar  
 ¾ cup brown sugar ( I prefer light brown)  
 1 tsp vanilla  
 2 eggs  
 2 cups of chocolate chips ( I have been known to also add peanut butter chips)

Beat butter, sugar, brown sugar and vanilla until creamy. Add the eggs 1 at a time. Add the dry ingredients gradually and beat until well blended. Stir in the chips. Place parchment paper on your cookie sheets. Use 2 tbsp of dough rolled into a ball and place about 2 inches apart on the cookie sheet. Bake at 375° for exactly 12 minutes. Cool on the baking tray for about 5 minutes and transfer to wire racks to finish cooling.

Gluten free baking can be challenging, which is why more people don’t utilize it for inflammatory health issues. To be successful here are just a few suggestions that I have learned along my journey.

1. Always always, always follow the directions as written. Gluten free flour is different from regular flour.
2. Don’t try to cook more than 1 pan at a time.
3. Dough must be room temperature. If you have refrigerated it you must return it to room temperature. However, you are better served to not refrigerate the dough!

**Good Luck and Bon Appetit!**

## **Cobble Knoll Orchard**

**1672 East Road  
 Benson, VT 05450**

Cobble Knoll Orchard is open EVERY DAY rain or shine from 9 AM – 5 PM September 3 – October 30, 2022.

Early season varieties include Zestars, Sansas, Macs, Honeycrisp and Autumn Crisp.

*Don’t have time to pick? We will have pre-picked available at the farmstand.*

Fresh Pressed Cider available daily.

Now offering homemade cider donuts and fresh homemade apple pies on the weekends! Sunflowers, pumpkins, decorative corn and corn stalks available at the stand this year.

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](http://CobbleKnollOrchard.com), Facebook or Instagram page.



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**WARNING  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
OCTOBER 20, 2022**

**The legal voters of the Town of Benson in the County of Rutland and the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Community Hall in said Town  
on  
Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 7 p.m. to transact the following business:**

Article 1: Shall the Town of Benson disapprove the traffic and parking ordinances dated June 27, 2022, as adopted by the Selectboard on July 11, 2022.

Article 2: To transact any other business proper to be done at the Special Meeting.



Preserving God's Creation

## Taxidermy

Cathy Gearwar  
~ Wildlife Artist ~

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## Selectboard Highlights

Most of the attention on the Selectboard, other than road conditions, has been focused on the revision of the Traffic and Parking Ordinance. This Ordinance covers issues regarding the use of town roads, including: speed limits, location of stop and yield signs, parking regulations, use of ATVs on public roads, and snowmobile regulations. The original Ordinance was adopted on August 30, 2004. The ordinance was updated in 2010, 2015 and again in July 2022. In August 2022 a petition was signed by around 50 voters requesting a vote to repeal the Ordinance was presented to the Selectboard. The selectboard has scheduled a Special Town Meeting on October 20, 2022 at 7:00PM at the Community Hall. The Selectboard has been advised by legal council that if the Ordinance dated in July 2022 is voted down, we will revert back to the Ordinance approved in 2015. A full copy of the Ordinance is available at the Town Clerk's office. Changes made in July 2022 are:

### Stop and Yield Signs:

The intersection of Coates Hill Rd and Stage Road was changed from a stop sign to a yield sign.

The intersection of Stage Road and Frazier Hill/North Crossroad will have stop signs installed in both directions on Stage Rd. The stop signs on Frazier Hill Road and North Crossroad will be replaced with yield signs.

### ATV Regulations:

The section of Lake Rd from Stage Rd to Mill Pond Road was opened for ATV use.

The wording was changed so that signs are not required at roads allowing ATV use. Signs are required only at roads where ATV use is not allowed.

A section listing roads where ATV use is not permitted was added.

A local annual registration of all ATV's was implemented. Owners need to register their vehicles with the Town Clerk, providing a current VT registration and proof of insurance. A \$10 annual registration fee is required.

### Under the revisions approved in July 2022, ATV's may be driven on the following roads:

(Changes made in 2022 are underlined).

- All gravel surfaced Town of Benson highways are permitted for ATV use.
- The paved portion of East Road is permitted for ATV use.
- The paved portion of Sunset Lake Road is permitted for ATV use.
- The paved portion of Lake Road westerly from the intersection of Carter Street to the end of the pavement.
- The paved portion of Lake Road easterly from the intersection of Stage Road to Mill Pond Road is permitted for ATV use.
- The paved portion of Stage Road is permitted for ATV use.

### ATV's may NOT be driven on the following roads.

- Route 22A in any location in the Town of Benson (State Jurisdiction)
- Route 144 from Route 22A easterly or westerly to the Hubbardton town line
- Lake Road from Stage Road to Carter Street
- Hulett Hill Road from Stage Road to Route 22A.







