

BENSON *Bulletin*

Community Newsletter
Benson, VT

MAY | JUNE 2023

Hello everyone!

The Benson Bulletin has a new editor. Kate Hill will no longer be doing it, but I would like to thank her for the volunteer effort she has provided in the past! We all appreciate being current on local Benson news and so I volunteered to take over where Kate left off. We hope to publish an edition every two months.

We are going to do an email list sign up, and transition more towards an electronic version which will be sent to all who send me an email address. Those that don't want email, will be able to still get a mailed version. I know a lot of folks in town either don't "do" email, or don't have a good internet connection, but the goal will be to reduce the size of the mailing substantially (and therefore the cost to the town of printing and postage). We want everyone who wants one, to get one, whether through email *or* regular mail.

If you would like to receive the Benson Bulletin in your email going forward, send your name with subject line BULLETIN EMAIL ADDRESS to benсонnews@shoreham.net. The more folks who go with the email option, the more we can save on postage and other costs.

Those names not submitted for an email version will remain on the mailing list and continue to receive the paper version for now.

There is a Benson Bulletin page on the website, and it has all the recent editions online. Each edition will be available as a pdf file. This will be another option for people to read it. If you don't want email, and you don't want it mailed, you will still be able to access it through the website. I hope to hear from all of you soon.


Thank you, Cheryl Murray



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*

For Reading Group meeting on May 31, 2023

The Reading Group will meet at the library on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 to discuss [Black Cake](#) by Charmaine Wilkerson. In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a tumultuous story about a headstrong young swimmer who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder. The heartbreaking tale Eleanor unfolds, the secrets she still holds back, and the mystery of a long-lost child challenge everything the siblings thought they knew about their lineage and themselves. This debut novel is a story of how the inheritance of betrayals, secrets, memories, and even names can shape relationships and history.

For Reading Group meeting on June 21, 2023

The Reading Group will meet at the library on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 to discuss [Educated](#) by Tara Westover. In this memoir, Tara tells the story of the events of her life from a vantage point in her late twenties, occasionally interjecting to comment on the process of trying to arrive at an accurate version of the past. Tara was born the youngest of seven children to parents whom she refers to as Faye and Gene (pseudonyms). The Westover family lived on a farm in rural Idaho, where Gene made a living salvaging scrap metal while Faye worked as an unlicensed midwife and herbal healer. Gene suffered from paranoid fears about interference from the federal government, and as a result he refused to allow his children to attend school, receive birth certificates, or receive medical attention. Gene was also a devout Mormon who believed in radical self-sufficiency and an impending Day of Judgement.

Copies of the books are available in the library. We'd love to have you join us for an interesting discussion.

BENSON VILLAGE SCHOOL - Go BEARS!

This BVS article comes with a smattering of news for May and June as the Benson Bulletin moves to a bi-monthly format (thank you to Cheryl Murray!). We are excited about all of the events happening during the next 2 months:

- Girls on the Run for grades 3rd - 6th April - June
- Girls on the Run 5K
- Kindergarten Registration May 5th
- 3rd - 6th Echo Center field trip
- Kathleen & Milo from Caring Canines of Southern Vermont
- K- 6 Pine Hill PE Day
- K- 6 Trip to VT Skydiving in Addison, VT
- Middle School Step-Up Day for 6th grade
- High Notes Music field trip
- Crystal Beach/Trout Release 6th grade celebration
- BVS Family Picnic
- BVS Bike & Groove event
- BVS PBIS Celebration Day
- Mrs. Carol Richards Pianist
- June 20th Last Day of School

The last weeks of school often provide students with the greatest opportunities to showcase their growth. Students are applying the skills they have been developing in both reading and math with confidence. It is wonderful to visit classrooms and watch students "lead" the instruction for their peers. Partner work and team-building activities support the strong connections between students and give room for authentic problem-solving.

Classrooms have been heading outdoors to look for signs of spring and begin the shift to enjoying instruction, weather permitting, all around our campus. The nature trail will soon be in shape for many visits as we welcome back the extensive variety of birds in our area. We invite the community to come and ride bikes, play games, swing, and enjoy the playground over the summer months.

Our amazing Librarian, Rebekah Nadler, will be hosting 3 Library evenings in August for families to come and check out books or just enjoy some reading time together; August 8/3, 8/10, 8/17 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. We strongly encourage families to read with their children every night and even more so as the school year winds down. Young readers need consistent practice reading to a family member and also being read to.

BVS will be hosting an opportunity for community members to join in a conversation around events and fundraising in conjunction with the Benson Family Days. Please visit our Facebook page for details.

As always, the BVS staff appreciates our community for your continued support!

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

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 June 12th and July 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.

Benson is now Online!

You may have heard that the Town of Benson has a new website. It is located at www.bensonvermont.gov and it's our hope that you can use it to find all the town information you need in one location on the internet.

Features include: a calendar with all select board meetings, town clerk payment reminders, and other town events; a comprehensive list of town documents, including agendas and meeting minutes; links to schools, emergency management and local places of interest; and of course, Latest News and Current Updates to keep you informed.

In addition, we have started an official Facebook page. You can find it by searching Facebook for Town of Benson, Vermont. We hope to use Facebook, in conjunction with our website, to get timely information out to the people of Benson, including weather-related info, emergency management, and public events.

As we have limited resources to monitor social media (both from a staff perspective and the fact that our internet signal stinks), we plan to start out small. Our Town Clerk and Road Crew Foreman will have access to be able to make posts and we hope to do more as we go along.



NEW DO'S HAIR SALON
1-802-278-7002
1995 Stage Road
Benson Vermont 05743
JoAnne Gates
Mon. Tues. & Weds. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Thurs. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

United Church of Benson

Did You Know...?

More and more archaeology
backs up the Bible.

(Our Bible fact series number 2)

Leave a message for us at:
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THE WHEEL INN

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GREEN UP DAY 2023 SUCCESS!

Thank you to all those individuals who volunteered their time and contributed to cleaning up roadside trash on Green Up Day! Also thanks to the CATS Club for their yearly efforts and to the town road crew for their help!

PLEASE DON'T LITTER!

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ON MAY 27, 2023

At the Town Meeting in March, Benson voters chose to reduce the annual General Fund Budget to zero, and to also reduce the Town Highway Budget to zero. Therefore both budgets failed and the (mostly) new select board was tasked with presenting new budgets to the taxpayers at a Special Meeting. That meeting date has now been set as noted below in the warning. The select board and Town Clerk have included here also a Budget Summary, outlining the budget they will be presenting on May 27th to the voters.

The select board has spent a lot of time researching and speaking to each department in order to come up with a budget that they feel is realistic and within the town's means to implement.

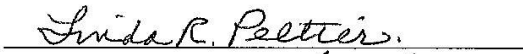

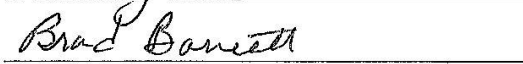
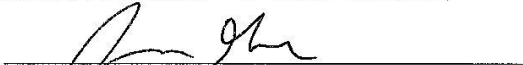
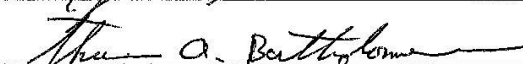
Please if you can, make it a priority to attend this meeting. You will see there is also an article (#3) that is asking if the town should transition to voting these two annual budgets by Australian Ballot instead of voting on them at Town Meeting on the floor. This is at the request of many voters who feel because they can't attend town meeting on a Tuesday morning, that their voices are not heard on the two major pieces of town spending allotments.

**WARNING
MAY 27, 2023
FOR THE BENSON SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

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 the 27th of May, 2023, at 10 a.m. to transact the following business:

- Article 1: Shall the Town vote to approve the expenditure of \$433,690 for the General Fund Budget of which \$278,303 shall be raised by taxes?
- Article 2: Shall the Town vote to approve the expenditure of \$799,270 for the layout, repair and maintenance of Town Highways of which \$538,944 shall be raised by taxes?
- Article 3: Shall the Town of Benson adopt its General Fund Budget Article and Town Highway Budget Article by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(c)?
- Article 4: To transact any other business proper to be done at the Special Town Meeting.
- Town Garage Discussion
 - ARPA Funding Discussion

Dated at Benson, Vermont this 24th day of April, 2023.

	Linda Peltier
	Guy Charlton
	Brad Barrett
	Jerod Glover
	Thomas Bartholomew

2023-2024 BUDGET SUMMARY

			2021-2022 Budget	2021-2022 Actual	2022-2023 Budget	Proposed 2023-2024
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>						
		<u>General Selectboard Expenses</u>	89,225.00	76,254.10	99,107.00	99,600.00
		<u>Town Office Expenses</u>	36,940.00	36,406.45	41,190.00	40,970.00
		<u>Community Hall Expenses</u>	12,000.00	31,188.69	12,550.00	12,370.00
		<u>Transfer Station Expenses</u>	80,200.00	55,066.25	81,100.00	77,300.00
		<u>Town Officers</u>	72,930.00	68,355.20	77,900.00	83,800.00
		<u>Payroll Expenses</u>	53,800.00	50,581.63	65,900.00	56,400.00
		<u>Fire Department</u>	51,730.00	51,463.76	56,700.00	61,000.00
			396,825.00	369,316.08	434,447.00	431,440.00
		<u>Zoning Expenses</u>	2,250.00	1,475.00	2,250.00	2,250.00
		Total Expenses	399,075.00	370,791.08	436,697.00	433,690.00
		Less Anticipated Income	124,325.00		123,825.00	120,025.00
		Less Carryover	22,139.00		25,546.00	35,362.00
		GENERAL FUND RAISE BY TAXES	252,611.00		287,326.00	278,303.00
<u>HIGHWAY FUND</u>						
		<u>Personnel</u>	122,220.00	105,439.14	126,700.00	136,500.00
		<u>Operating</u>	48,000.00	51,848.11	48,050.00	65,070.00
		<u>Equipment Service/Parts</u>	49,000.00	51,915.79	72,000.00	78,700.00
		<u>Road Work</u>	102,000.00	97,033.30	115,500.00	120,500.00
		<u>Road Materials</u>	263,500.00	154,425.74	263,500.00	348,500.00
		<u>Equipment Loans</u>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		<u>Equipment Reserve Fund</u>	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	50,000.00
		Total Expenses	604,720.00	480,662.08	645,750.00	799,270.00
		Less anticipated State Aid	116,000.00		116,000.00	124,000.00
		Less carryover			18,614.00	136,326.00
		HIGHWAY FUND RAISE BY TAXES	488,720.00		511,136.00	538,944.00
		TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	741,331.00		798,462.00	817,247.00

MEMORIAL DAY IS MONDAY, MAY 29th

Sunday May 28th we will hold a ceremony at 11:15 at the Town Office. All are welcome to attend.
On this day, we honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The Town Office will be closed on May 29th in observance.

TOWN OFFICE NOTES

- Are you the owner of one of Benson's nearly 300 dogs? **Dog tags for 2023 are blue this year.** All dogs that are six months of age or older must be licensed on or before April 1st. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required for registration, after April costs are \$11.00 for spayed or neutered animals and \$17.00 for all others. If you no longer own the dog, please let us know (537-2611).
- Your current **transfer station permit** expired on March 31st. New permits are now available and may be purchased from the Town Office for \$35.00 (no increase from last year). Both dog licenses and transfer station permits can be handled by mail and/or using the secure drop box. Just give me a call for the details.
- **SEWER BILLS DUE June 15th:** The second payment on Benson 2022-2023 sewer bill is due on Thursday June 15th. There is no grace period — all payments not made in person at the Town Office or postmarked by that date incur a one-time 8% penalty and immediately begin accruing interest charges at the rate of 1% for the first three months and 1½% per month thereafter. That is, if the payment due on June 15th is not made until June 16th you will owe an additional 9% interest and penalty.
- **Reminder:** There is a secure drop box located at the southwest corner of the Town Office building where sewer payments may be left at any time.
- Join us Saturday May 27th at 10 AM for a Special Town Meeting (details elsewhere in Bulletin).
- Sunday May 28th there will be a brief ceremony at 11:15 a.m. to honor Memorial Day at the Town Office. All are welcome to attend.
- The Town Office will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance of the Federal holiday.
- The Town Office will be closed on Monday, June 19th in observance of the Federal holiday.
- **Please remember to bring your 2021-2022 Annual Town Report to the Special Town Meeting.**

Heidi Chandler
Clerk/Treasurer
802-537-2611

Town Office Hours:

Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 9AM – 3PM
Wednesday 3 – 7PM

Benson Beautification Brigade!

Fellow Bensonites!



Please consider coming to the inaugural meeting of the Benson Beautification Brigade. We will be meeting right after the Town Budget Meeting on May 27th. Light refreshments will be provided.

Many people have expressed interest in undertaking a few projects to improve our town. Ideas have included planting flowers, fixing up the playground, picking up trash, and creating a lending library of items such as canes, crutches and wheelchairs for people to use.

If you have any interest, bring your ideas and your willingness to help and join the meeting! Anyone who can't attend that day, but is interested, can email me at jmckeeper2@icloud.com.

Jeanne Bartholomew Realty

East Road Benson

802-537-4938

Jeannebrealty@aol.com

- Benson Perch Pond~ one acre lot with 150 ft frontage, power runs thru.. great for camping, swimming and fishing~ \$50,000
- Benson Perch Pond~ all set up for your camper! Beautiful private lot with sandy beach, power, docking system, septic, landscaped and nice platform for your camper! ~ \$135,000
- Benson ~ 74 surveyed acres. Nice open and wooded land, high tinsel fencing on most of it. Spectacular views! Road frontage on two dirt roads..Possible building site, farming venture and more. \$350,000
- Benson~ 418 Organic Dairy Farm, beautiful fields, extensive Hubbardton River frontage, comfortable farmhouse, dairy barn and milk house set up, heifer barn, grain silos, fenced pasture, meadows and woodlot. Plenty of road frontage ideal for many Agri-business ventures! Conserved with the Vermont Land Trust. Call Jeanne for details.
- Fair Haven~ house for sale... just listed! Call Jeanne for details

*Benson and surrounding area properties are selling very well! Listings needed and appreciated!
Call for a "no-obligation chat" for any of your Real Estate needs*



Memorial Day~ a day to remember and honor all of the brave Military that gave their lives for our Country and our freedom~ fly your flags high!

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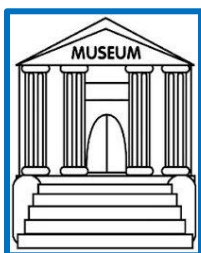
There is a change coming soon....can you keep a secret?? We are changing the name of Fair Haven Concerned to more clearly identify our mission.

Can you believe that 40 years ago, Fair Haven

Concerned was started on the back burner of one caring person's stove??? Yes, it was on the stove that a large pot of homemade soup would evolve to become the organization that feeds, helps to clothe and generally supports our families, friends and neighbors. In the month of April, 321 families were served. As a way to celebrate our 40th birthday, we are changing our name. As we all know, Fair Haven Concerned has worn many, many hats over the years. Acting primarily as an emergency food pantry, helping people access support in housing needs, fresh water, and in heating their homes.

Another essential support being offered is helping people navigate the various barriers to receiving state and federal help. Oftentimes, while one may clearly qualify for food programs, the process of getting that help is monumental. FHC has helped many families be able to get the support that they need to feed their families. Having a friendly person offer that support is important.

Our offices at 49 Main Street in Fair Haven offer a food pantry, a clothing thrift store and a friendly and knowledgeable face to help solve a problem. Someone is at the office Monday through Friday from 10 until 4. Food pantry hours are 10-2 Monday through Friday. We also have some evening hours, as well as some hours on Saturday. Please call us at 802-265-3666. At the food pantry you can find baking items, canned goods, frozen meats, pet food, and even some prepared meals, ready to go! So what is the new name? Stay tuned for the unveiling in June.....It will be a PARTY!!



Benson Museum

The Museum will reopen for the season on Thursday, May 25th. The hours are 1-3 p.m. on Thursdays or by appointment. Call 802-537-3021 for an appointment or questions.

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802-537-2811

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