

BENSON *Bulletin*

Community Newsletter
Benson, VT

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2023

Hello everyone!

THANK YOU for reading the Benson Bulletin. Please support our advertisers as best you can!

Just a reminder that we are now offering an email version of the Benson Bulletin (the pdf email version is in COLOR).

Those that don't want email, will be able to still get a mailed version. We realize a lot of folks in town either don't "do" email, or don't have a good internet connection, but the goal is to reduce the size of the mailing (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 an email to benonnews@shoreham.net. The more folks who go with the email option, the more we can save the town.

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

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. So send an email or call the Town Office if you want your name removed entirely.

Or drop us a line just to let us know what you think of the "new and improved" Benson Bulletin!

BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Tuesday 10 am to 1 pm
Wednesday 4 pm to 7 pm
Saturday 10 am to 1 pm

Every 2nd Monday (Senior Lunch) 10:30 am to 1:30 pm



Follow us on Facebook: [Benson Vermont Public Library](#)



NEW in Childrens:

Henry and Mudge and the Big Sleepover Author: Cynthia Rylant

NEW in Juniors:

The Secret Zoo Author: Bryan Chick

NEW in Adults:

The Five-Star Weekend Author: Elin Hilderbrand

Unbroken Author: Laura Hillenbrand

Welcome to Beach Town Author: Susan Wiggs

See info on page 7 of the Bulletin about our 1st Fall Festival!!

Did you know that you can download books through the Green Mountain Library Consortium by using your Benson Public Library Card?

We may be small but we try to have something for everyone!

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Annual Family Days Book Sale!

BENSON VILLAGE SCHOOL - Go BEARS!

And just like that the first day of school is upon us! August 30th will start the 2023 -2024 school year with Benson welcoming 87 students. The summer was filled with work around both building and grounds by Mr. Clay Williams. His dedication to ensuring a safe and inviting environment sets the tone for the year even before the staff and students return.

Benson Village School welcomes these wonderful new folks to our BEAR family:

Hailey Godette 2nd/3rd, Rachel Fowler 1st, Suzanne Miller 4th (5th/6th), Nan McCormick School Nurse, Caitlin Fabian Instructional Assistant, and Kelley Schultz Administrative Assistant.

We celebrate 6 years of announcing that our families do not need to purchase any school supplies for their children. Students do need a water bottle, a complete change of seasonal clothes (including socks and underwear), and sneakers for PE on Tuesday and Friday. If you need assistance with sneakers, please email amy.roy@svvvt.org as BVS participates in the Happy Feet program.

Boys & Girls Club will be in place again this year, specific details will be available soon.

Please check our website and Facebook page for upcoming events for both September and October.

<https://www.slatevalleyunified.org/o/bvs>

<https://www.facebook.com/BensonVillageSchool>

Our motto of Work Hard. Have Fun. Be Nice. continues to support all of the learning opportunities, dedication and enthusiasm that both students and staff bring each day.

Our focus remains constant – celebrate who our learners are, not who we say they need to be!

Amy Roy M.Ed., Principal, Benson Village School

BENSON READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet at the library on **Wednesday, September 20, 2023** to discuss *American Dirt* by Janeen Cummings. Lydia Quixano Pérez lives a comfortable life in Acapulco, Mexico, with her journalist husband, Sebastián, and her eight-year-old son, Luca. Lydia runs a bookstore and one day befriends a charming customer, Javier, who appears to have similar interests in books. However, Javier is revealed to be the kingpin of a drug cartel, who orders the slaughter of Sebastián and his family. Lydia and Luca escape the massacre, but are forced to flee Mexico, becoming two of the countless undocumented immigrants from Latin America who undertake the dangerous journey to the United States.

The Reading Group will meet at the library on **Wednesday, October 18, 2023** to discuss *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Eighteen-year-old Emmett is released from a juvenile detention center and plans to go to San Francisco with his younger brother, eight-year-old Billy. Two of Emmett's fellow inmates from the detention center, Duchess and Woolly, use Emmett's release as an opportunity to escape. After Duchess and Woolly steal Emmett's car, Emmett and Billy follow them to New York, where they have a series of adventures before leaving for California.

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

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.



Benson Museum

The Benson Museum summer hours are 1-3 p.m. on Thursdays or by appointment. And it's FREE! Call 802-537-3021 for an appointment or questions.

Doug's
TRUCKING
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DRIVEWAYS • LANDSCAPING
DITCHING • WINTER LOGGING
802-537-2008 • 802-342-6976
Doug Hathaway
1080 Stage Road, Benson VT 05743

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%!



Preserving God's Creation

Taxidermy

Cathy Gearwar
~ Wildlife Artist ~

289 South Stage Road
Benson, Vermont
802-537-2145

Jeanne Bartholomew Realty

East Road Benson

802-537-4938

Jeannebrealty@aol.com

- New Listing in Benson ~ 5 bedroom 2 bath home with possibility for more bedrooms! Drilled well and 2 town sewer hookups. Great opportunity for a large family home or possible business venture! Home sits on a nice landscaped one acre lot right in the center of "Downtown Benson" .. Easy year round access on paved road and close to all that our little town offers! Seller is completely rehabbing , including new heat system, wiring , plumbing , foundation repair, paint and sheetrock , flooring and more. It is a daily "work in progress" ! Offered for \$250,000 (this will include all the rehabbing and home will be ready to move in to very soon!)
- New Listing in West Haven ~ 126 acres of woodland and meadow located on Main Road. Formerly a part of the Old Gardner Farm. This property has extensive Hubbardton River frontage and is accessed easily year round. Preliminary soil testing looks favorable for a homesite. Old fencing and hiking and ATV trails are still in place. Fields need attention and when it stops raining that can happen! Motivated Seller .. Listed for \$275,000
- Benson ~ one acre unimproved lot on Perch Pond~ property is suitable for camping, parking a camper, building a dock.. enjoying peaceful Perch Pond with 150 ft of your own private frontage. Power poles on the lot and plenty of firewood. Seller firm on price ~ \$50,000
- Benson ~ 418 acre Organic farm with 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! Call Jeanne for details
- Benson ~ 74 surveyed acres with a new private driveway. This drive takes you right to the top of the hill and open field where the view is perfect for a new home! Beautiful hardwood trees and nice open hay land, plus fenced pasture makes this a very diversified and appealing piece of land. Road frontage on two dirt roads .. lots of possibilities! Listed price ~ \$350,000 (Sellers may consider some terms to qualified Buyer or offer with less acreage.)

Welcome back students, teachers, staff and bus drivers!
Wishing everyone a great School Year, and a

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



COMMUNITY CALENDAR


SEPTEMBER

- 4 Town Offices Closed for Labor Day
- 5 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 11 Senior Lunch
- 15 1st Property Tax Payment Due
- 18 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 20 Reading Group @ Benson Library 4 pm

OCTOBER

- 2 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 9 Senior Lunch
- 9 Town Offices Closed for Columbus Day
- 14 Library FALL FESTIVAL 10 am – 1 pm
- 16 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 18 Reading Group @ Benson Library 4 pm
- 30 Select Board Meeting 7 pm

**The United Church of Benson
awarded three \$1,000 scholarships
in 2023. They were awarded to:**



**Sarah Glover
Elizabeth Munger
Savanah Hillier
Congratulations!**

**SCOTT PERRON
PLUMBING & HEATING
Benson, VT**

802-558-4055 (cell)

service renovations new installations fully insured



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.
newdos00@gmail.com



Cobble Knoll Orchard
APPLES! 

Fresh Pressed Cider
Homemade Cider Donuts
Homemade Apple Pies
Our Own Pumpkins, Squash
& Maple Syrup

Local Honey, Vermont Artisan Cheese, Crackers, Jams, Pickles
 plus Benson, VT Tee-shirts and Pottery Mugs too!

Open for the season Friday-Monday 9-5
Come visit us at 1672 East Road in Benson

*We have a beautiful view overlooking Benson and
the Adirondacks. Bring a picnic to enjoy it!* 

Follow us on Instagram or Facebook, and check the
website at cobbleknollorchard.com for current availability.

BENSON VILLAGE STORE UPDATE

As many of you are aware, our town lost our beloved Benson Village Store in a fire in 2018. Many people have felt the loss of a place to grab groceries, pick up mail, get a hunting and fishing license, and hear about neighbors. We have formed a committee that is actively working on bringing back our store to the village.

Here is a bit of what has been going on:

- Kathy Knapp purchased the property in an effort to protect it for the town. She has agreed to sell the property to the committee bringing the store back
- A grant was applied for in December of 2022. At that time, the thought was to move the old jewelry store across the street and use that building as a new general store.
- Although we failed to qualify for that particular grant, the application put us on the map around the state with a number of organizations who support these kinds of projects.
- In March of 2023, a meeting was held at The Wheel, and was attended by representatives of the VT Preservation Trust, The Vermont Council on Rural Development, Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Rutland County Community Development and Planning, and several others. Brian Collamore and Bill Canfield (local legislators) also attended. The meeting was extremely positive. All were in favor of our project, and the unanimous advice was to “think bigger” and go for grants for new construction. We were told, unequivocally, that we have “the right project, at the right time, and money is available”.
- Last month, Ben Doyle of VT Preservation Trust brought Lyssa Papazian to address our committee. Lyssa was instrumental in getting Putney’s General Store rebuilt (TWICE!). She also was involved in running the new store. She brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to share with us.
- VT Preservation Trust recently hired an appraiser to value the site of the old store for purchase.
- In September, VT Preservation Trust is sponsoring a “field trip” for our committee (as well as similar groups in other towns) to tour general stores around the state so that we can learn from other projects.
- Many of you might already have filled out a survey (at the dump or at Benson Family Day). This survey asks people to check off goods and services they wish to see in a new General Store. It serves a dual purpose – firstly to let us know what people would actually like to see and use, which will help with the design of the new store, and secondly this survey will provide data that will greatly assist us in the grant writing process.
- We are currently in the process of looking for an attorney to assist us in getting a 501c3 created. In the interim, VT Preservation Trust has agreed to act as fiduciary sponsor.

PLEASE – IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO – Take a moment and click on the link below and fill out the survey online. It will only take a minute or two and is EXTREMELY helpful!

SURVEY LINK:

[Benson Village Store Community Survey](#)

Anyone with questions, suggestions, or an interest in getting involved can reach out to

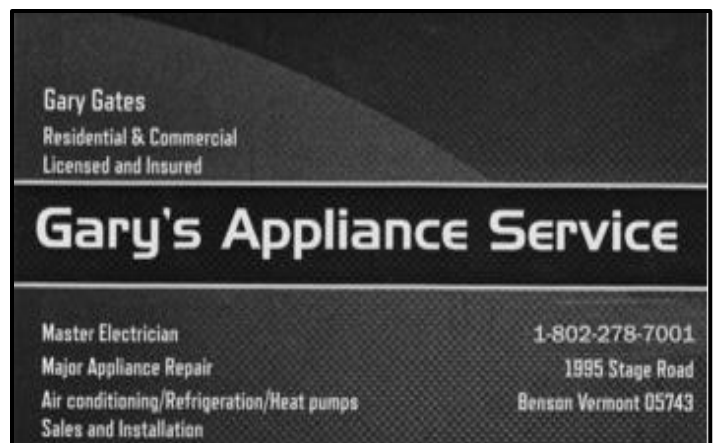
Jean McKeever at jmckeever2@icloud.com

or

Linda Peltier at LRP4002@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Your Benson Village Store Committee



BENSON FAMILY DAY ~ THANK YOU!

Family Day has come and gone. The weekend long event was a huge success! We, the Benson Family Day Committee, wish to thank all those involved in one way or another.

We would like to thank Cheryl Davis from Peace of My Art Studio who hosted a fundraiser paint and sip. The paintings were then voted on by the public at Family Day. Congratulations to Andrea Budge, first place winner! Second place winner was Allie Krans, third place winner was Amy Messier. You can pick up your paintings at the town office! We would like to thank Brown's Family Farm for the prize donation.



We would also like to thank the CATS ATV Club for their generous donations to the best of the floats in the parade, Doran Bros. Inc., Carrie LaFond, Bill Moore -the DJ, Donny Parker, Lisa Hall and Shara James for organizing our parade, Heidi Chandler, our Grand Marshalls and Sally Kubin and Guy Charlton, Bill Sheldrick and Jack Helm for driving our Grand Marshalls, Cindy Cassidy, Jerod Glover, Sam St. Peter, Brent Munger, Sam Bartholomew, Donny Fish, Brad Barrett, Donny Bartholomew, Norm Brown and a **HUGE** thank you to everyone who was in the parade!

To Keely Flynn and Shara James for being brave and sitting in the dunking tank! We would like to also thank Carol Murphy for hosting fundraisers for us and all of you who partook in them! We would like to thank our farmer's market vendors for giving up their Sunday to come set up for us! They were: Upstairs Alchemy, To The Brim, Saywat Farm, Laura's Healthy Harvest, VT Creation Studio, Hi 5 Classic, Cobble Knoll Orchard, Clem Levesque, Kelly Raiche Cotton Candy and Brown's Family Farm.

And thank you to the Benson Fire Department for coming back to do the barbeque, which we have all missed and were so happy to see them come back! Thank you to all those who helped with the barbeque as well: Krista and Grady Glover, Dave & Kathleen Batholomew, Abey Munger, Samuel St. Peter, Claire Bartholomew, Brent & Amy Munger, Colleen Howard, Cris Andronaco, Samantha Senn, Breanna Munger, Lynn LaRock, Linda Peltier, Jim Pritchard, Kirk Bartholomew, and lots of generous businesses; The Wheel Inn, Brown's Farm Stand in Castleton, Shaw's, Maplewood Ice, Allison Cosey (flowers), Hathaway's (meat), and all the folks that donated pies (Abey has those names).

It literally takes a village and the help received was truly appreciated and we truly appreciate those who stepped up.

We are on to planning for next year! So, mark your calendars for August 2-4, 2024! If you would like to help or have any ideas or suggestions, let us know. You can reach us through our facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/Benson-Burdock-Festival-Family-Day-187540371769604>

Many, many thanks from Susan Brown, Amanda Bartholomew, Mary Ann Fish, and Hannah Brown

SENIOR LUNCH

The traditional Senior Lunch will be on September 11th and October 9th 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.

CERTIFIED ORGANIC

464 Stage Rd, Benson 802-537-2811



Beef and Pork
Call for Pricing

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6AM - 8PM Mon - Fri
8AM - 8PM Sat & Sun

2813 Route 22A
Benson, VT 05743

802-537-4041

BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



welcomes all children and families to our

FIRST FALL FESTIVAL!!!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

10AM TO 1PM

RAIN OR SHINE!!

*JOIN US FOR PUMPKIN CARVING AND DECORATING,
FALL CRAFTS, GAMES, REFRESHMENTS, AND MORE!!*

No charges for any activities or refreshments



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



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!!

RSVP of Rutland County

RSVP and The Volunteer Center is searching for volunteers for many different volunteer opportunities throughout Rutland County. We have the perfect fit for everyone. Contact us today 802-468-7056.

Here is the Foster Grandparent volunteer opportunity:

Want to volunteer helping children in school or daycare settings?

** \$4.00/hr stipend (non-taxable!)

** Travel reimbursement to and from the site

** 50 paid leave days per year

** Monthly in-service trainings

Requirements:

** 10 hours per week minimum

** Must be at least 55 years of age

** Must meet income eligibility (No more than \$2430 per month for one person household, \$3287 for two person household)

** No education or experience requirements

Contact:

Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program

Call Deb at 774-8711 or email debfgp@gmail.com

Or visit our website:

<http://volunteersinvt.org/FGP>

If you enjoy being around children, have lots of patience, and the willingness to give and get hugs, give us a call!

PROPERTY TAXES DUE SEPTEMBER 15th

The first installment of 2023-2024 property taxes is due on Wednesday, September 15th.

There is no grace period. In order to count as timely (and avoid interest charges)

payments must be delivered in person to the Town Office by the close of business on the

due date (5pm) or carry a legible USPS postmark of September 15th or earlier. If you

handle your bill paying electronically you should be aware that the envelopes used

generally do not carry a postmark. They cannot be considered on time—regardless of the

date on the check — unless they arrive at the Town Office on or before the due date. If

you'd like a receipt, please include a SASE with your payment, or you're welcome to call

the Office at 802-537-2611 to make sure your payment arrived safely.

Regular Town Office hours are:

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday 9:00am—3:00pm

Wednesday 3:00pm—7:00pm

In addition, the office will be open to accept tax payments on Wednesday, September 15th

from 9am-5pm.

PLEASE NOTE: There is a handicapped entrance at the rear of the Town Office building.

PROPERTY TAX RATES FOR 2023-2024

<u>HOMESTEAD RATE*</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>This Year</u>
Municipal Rate	.7777	.8302	.8667
Education Rate	1.4481	1.2859	1.3258
Local Agreement Rate	<u>.0009</u>	<u>.0006</u>	<u>.0008</u>
Total	\$2.2267	2.1167	\$2.1933
<u>NON-HOMESTEAD RATE*</u>			
Municipal Rate	.7777	0.8302	.8667
Education Rate	1.6253	1.4802	1.5732
Local Agreement Rate	<u>.0009</u>	<u>.0006</u>	<u>.0008</u>
Total	\$2.4021	\$2.3110	\$2.4407

The municipal rate was calculated and set by the Selectboard on July 24, 2023 and raises the funds to cover the amounts voted at the Town Meeting and Special 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 \$2,193.30 at the homestead rate and \$2,440.70 at the non-homestead rate.

TAX BILLS WERE MAILED BY THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST AND THE FIRST PAYMENT WILL BE DUE SEPT 15th.



The flooding in Vermont over the past two weeks has been devastating, but the response has illustrated the strength of communities across the state as neighbors help neighbors work through the aftermath.

To support community recovery efforts, FPF launched an emergency feature – the **Regional Disaster Response Board** – to facilitate mutual aid across communities and share vital updates. Just post to your local Forum, and any disaster-response-related postings will show up on your region's board. If you're looking for ways to support neighbors, check out the **Regional Disaster Response Board** today. You'll see requests for assistance (along with many updates) from all the Forums across your county. As FPF member Penny in Underhill recently noted, *"There is something very important to the psyche about helping out an actual neighbor, and FPF is perfect for that."* Learn more about the new Disaster Response Boards [here](#).

Your neighbors, The Team at FPF

P.S. Need help recovering from the flood? Whether you could use help hauling flood-damaged items, recommendations for driveway repair work, or simply a home-cooked meal, try **posting to your forum**.

WOOD ONE, INC.
**Managed Vermont Woodlands
 and Forestry Services**
Nathan Stannard, President

- ◆ LAWN AND YARD MAINTENANCE
- ◆ COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL BRUSH MOWING//TRACTOR LOADER/BRUSH LOADER
- ◆ CLEARING/GRADING/YORK RAKE
- ◆ DRIVEWAY MATERIALS/MULCHES
- ◆ FIREWOOD DELIVERED ON TIME

**PO Box 111
 Fair Haven, VT 05743
 (802) 265-4455 Cell (802) 375-5211**



Many people have asked why did Fair Haven Concerned's logo change? Here is the new logo and some thoughts on the change. The circle is a sacred symbol of the interdependence of all forms of life; it is considered a symbol of unity and inclusion. In indigenous tribes, it represents family, community. The circle symbolizes the infinite nature of existence. We've been here, serving those in need, for 40 years; we will keep going as long as there is need – forever.

Trees are symbols of growth and the interconnectedness of everything. Trees symbolize togetherness and serve as a reminder that one is never alone or isolated, but rather is connected to the community. The branches represent growth and expansion, shaped by experience and vision for the future.

Roots represent grounding in a community from which it receives sustenance and support that enables the tree to flourish and develop; a community without which the tree could not survive.

And, lastly, trees have always evoked a sense of calm and peace, something Slate Valley Cares hopes community members feel in the space we provide.

And the heart? It is the center of everything we do, representing the care and compassion that has endured the test of time, representing that, even when things change, the original mission of Fair Haven Concerned lives on.

Please stop in today, as we have a new look and a new system. Also available will be our annual fundraiser, Fall Festival tickets!!

Yes, the Fall Festival is back on Sunday, September 24th at Kingston Barn in Benson. Snake Mountain Bluegrass is playing and The Wheel Inn is serving up their famous Chicken and Biscuits! Join us. Call 802-265-3666 for tickets...it will sell out fast!