

BENSON *Bulletin*

Community Newsletter
Benson, VT

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2023

Hello everyone!

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

We are now offering an email version of the Benson Bulletin (the pdf email version is in **COLOR**).

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 benсонnews@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 Adults:

Summer of 69' Author: Elin Hilderbrand

The Whittiers Author: Danielle Steel

Happiness Falls Author: Angie Kim

Did you know that the Library has computers and a printer for public use?

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

A big **thank you** to everyone who volunteered for the Fall Festival,
as well as to those that came to enjoy the festivities!

We had a great time and hope to be able to make it an annual event.

BENSON VILLAGE SCHOOL - Go BEARS!



We welcome November & December and celebrate so many days of hard work, fun, and PAWsitve relationships that are at the heart of our school community. BVS has welcomed many new students to our school this year and many have joined our afterschool Boys & Girls Club and the BVS Daisy and Girl Scout Troop. Beading/Crafting Club began in October and carries into December.

Students have moved into their routines and are demonstrating their academic growth through a variety of measures. 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. Our school-wide goal is to provide each student with the most appropriate instruction based on their needs.

Project-based learning is back at BVS and our first of 3 STEAM weeks will see the students making pom-pom catapults.

Benson Village School continues to award both students and staff with PAWs certificates for demonstrating the positive character traits associated with our district-wide PBIS (<https://www.pbis.org/>). To date, 257 certificates have been written for students and staff.

The **Benson Family Thanksgiving Meal** will take place on Tuesday, November 21st with information going out to families soon, so please check student folders and our Facebook page.

The weekly Friday Packet will continue to go out with information on current and upcoming events.

Please check our website and Facebook page for upcoming events for both November and December.

<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, November 15, 2023** to discuss *The Most Costly Journey*, the Vermont Reads selection for 2022-23. This non-fiction comics anthology presents stories of survival and healing told by Latin American migrant farmworkers in Vermont, and drawn by New England cartoonists. This collected edition brings the lives and voices—as well as the challenges and hardships—of these workers to an English-language audience, granting insight into the experiences and lives of the people vital to producing the food we eat.

The Reading Group will meet at the library on **Wednesday, December 20, 2023** to discuss *The Christmas Quilt & The New Year's Quilt* by Jennifer Chiaverini. These are 2 heartwarming novels filled with the memories and traditions of Elm Creek Manor's indomitable master quilter, Sylvia Bergstrom Compson. Infused with wisdom and rich with the flavors of the holidays, they are timeless tales that Elm Creek Quilts devotees are sure to cherish. As Sylvia has discovered, love can enter our lives at any age. Yet before she can truly delight in her present happiness, she must face the sorrow hidden in her past—her own role in the tragic circumstances that left her estranged from her sister, Claudia, until it was too late to make amends.

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

The Town of 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.

The **United Church of Benson** will be having a tag sale:

November 11th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Many (new) items!!!

For more information call Jan Ladd at 802-537-3434

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!!

SENIOR LUNCH

The traditional Senior Lunch will be on November 13th and December 11th 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.



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.

Jeanne Bartholomew Realty

East Road Benson

802-537-4938

Jeannebrealty@aol.com

- 16 acres with older barn, slab (foundation), a well, 1,000 gallon septic with leach field, power and driveway.. extensive Rt 22A frontage~ \$100,000
- 2.5 unimproved country lot, very private with dirt road frontage~ \$35,000
- New Listing Benson~ 3-4 bedroom fixer upper in the Village. Town sewer, drilled well, generator, oil and propane heat~ \$120,000
- New Listing Benson~ large (4-5 bedroom) 2 story home on 3.9 acres. Comes with additional barns, garage, workshops and more. Call Jeanne for details.
- Benson Perch Pond improved lot with private pond frontage, septic, docks, deck, power all set for your camper! \$135,000
- 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

November 11th~ Veterans Day: Thank you for your service today and everyday....

November 23rd Happy Thanksgiving from our house to yours!

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 11 Town Offices Closed for Veterans Day
- 11 Tag Sale United Church of Benson 9-1
- 13 Senior Lunch
- 13 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 15 Reading Group Benson Library 4 pm
- 23 Town Offices Closed for Thanksgiving
- 27 Select Board Meeting 7 pm

DECEMBER

- 2 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 11 Senior Lunch
- 11 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 15 Sewer Payment Due
- 20 Reading Group Benson Library 4 pm
- 25 Town Offices Closed for Christmas Day
- 26 Select Board Meeting 7 pm




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

2813 Route 22A
Benson, VT 05743

802-537-4041

Gary Gates
 Residential & Commercial
 Licensed and Insured

Gary's Appliance Service

Master Electrician 1-802-278-7001
 Major Appliance Repair 1995 Stage Road
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802-537-2008 • 802-342-6976

Doug Hathaway
 1080 Stage Road, Benson VT 05743

BENSON VILLAGE STORE UPDATE

- The group of fifteen energetic community members met with Ben Doyle from the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) and kicked off a campaign to begin the rebuilding of the Benson Village Store.
- A partnership has been established and we are now registered with the State of Vermont as an official non-profit organization and we are currently awaiting our 501(c)3 status. A local lawyer has been retained to assist in this process.
- Two members have attended conferences where PTV has shared valuable information from other community sponsored enterprises.
- Four community members attended a day-long visit to four general stores in Vermont that have worked with Preservation Trust of Vermont in order to keep their stores prosperous in their small towns. They shared the process and success of working together with PTV.
- The feedback and support from multiple agencies around the state has given us incredible support and positive feedback that encourages us to continue with our goal. We have our work cut out for us, but we know we can do it with us all working together.

We will keep you up to date as we move along.....

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

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



WOOD ONE, INC.

**Managed Vermont Woodlands
and Forestry Services**
Nathan Stannard, President

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- ◆ 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

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR TOWN OFFICE?

Town Meeting and Presidential Primary 2024 will take place on Tuesday, March 5th. **If you've been thinking about running for a town office, nominating petitions must be filed with the Town Clerk by 5:00 pm on Monday, January 29th, 2023.** Town positions to be filled in 2024:

Town Offices

Moderator (one-year term)
Selectboard (one-year term)
Selectboard (one-year term)
Selectboard (three-year term)
Lister (three-year term)
Lister (one year remaining)
Auditor (three-year term)
Delinquent Tax Collector (one-year term)
Trustee of Public Funds (three-year term)
Library Commissioner (five-year term)
Cemetery Commissioner (five-year term)
Cemetery Commissioner (three years remaining)

Current Incumbent

John Hill
Linda Swarm
Thomas Bartholomew
Brad Barrett
Edward B. Peltier
Vacant
Cheryl Murray
Barbara Burlett
Jayme Van Noort Purdy
Robin Wilson
Susan Brown
Vacant

Thursday, January 18th is the last day for voters to file a petition with the town clerk to have an article appear on the ballot for Town Meeting. Petition must contain signatures from at least 5% of registered voters in the municipality.

TOWN OF BENSON JOB OPPORTUNITY

Benson is seeking a lister to fill the remaining 1 ½ years of a 3-year term - with the option of running again at the end of this term. Flexible hours, now averaging 10 hours per week but with the option of additional hours as arranged; all work is here in Benson. The position has potential for more responsibility at the local level, or advancement to the district or state level. Pay scale at this time is \$14.70/hour, subject to change by the Select Board. Must be a Benson resident.

The most important qualification is an interest in Benson and the fair and equitable maintenance of the Grand List - which is the basis of the tax rate set by the Select Board. For the new lister this means learning about appraisal methods and property assessment administration in Vermont, shared detailed records work, interaction with Benson townspeople, and working collaboratively with others.

No experience is required, but some knowledge of the real estate field is a plus. New lister training is on-the-job in Benson together with compensated continuing education at free state-sponsored classes, leading to the title of Vermont Master Property Appraiser.

The new lister is supported not only by the other two Benson listers, but by district and state advisors, by the Vermont Assessors and Listers Association, and by other listers throughout the State.

Please call the listers at 802-537-2614 or email listeners@shoreham.net for more information, or make an appointment to come into the office.



Preserving God's Creation

Taxidermy

Cathy Gearwar
~ Wildlife Artist ~

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

SCOTT PERRON PLUMBING & HEATING Benson, VT

802-558-4055 (cell)

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renovations

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fully insured



The months of September and October were a time of coming together and building relationships. Our 3rd Annual Fall Festival was very successful, adding nicely to the Operating Account. Thank you so much to our local businesses, The Wheel Inn and The Barn at Kingston Farm for their incredible support of our festival. Many people from town were there to bid on some beautiful auction items. Our little town of Benson is very supportive of Slate Valley Cares. The food and music was a great deal of fun, all for a good cause! *Thank you!*

Our storefront got a new look, as the hearts are all gone, and the trees have taken their place. The new name and logo are very reflective of the areas we serve. And old relationships with both the Slate Valley Unified School District and the local

religious leaders have been rekindled. As we pass the fall equinox, we look toward colder weather and, hopefully, new strategies for supporting our community members with heating fuel and utilities.

A number of people have been asking about donating to our holiday drive. If you are interested in adopting a family, please call the office at 802-265-3666 and Jeffrey will explain the program to you. If you not sure about adopting a family but would like to contribute, consider some smaller gift cards to a local business for gas, food or a pizza. These will be combined with other gifts to share this holiday season.

If you are interested in donating food items for community members at Thanksgiving, please consider these suggestions:

Turkeys, turkey breasts, roaster chickens, or game hens (many are people who live alone and these are the perfect size) *meat should be frozen*

- Cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy chicken broth
- Boxed brownie mixes or other ready to make desserts
- Butter, flour, sugar

The Thrift Store is bursting at the seams with gently used clothing for sale at very reasonable prices. Consider stopping in to shop as we all get ready for winter. There are jackets, hats, boots and lots of sweaters. Our food center is available 5 days a week with a nice selection of dairy, frozen meat and fresh produce.

We had very festive months during September and October, with much to celebrate. We continue to serve many families in the Slate Valley Region. We greatly appreciate the kindness that is shared throughout our community. If you need a helping hand, call 802-265-3666.

The **Memory Tree**, sponsored by the United Church of Benson, will be on December 5th at 5 pm. For more information please call 537-2291. The **Candlelight Service** will be on December 24th at 7 pm.

United Church of Benson

Did You Know...?

Jesus did not know the End Times date.
(Our Bible fact series number 5)

Leave a message for us at:
(802) 537-2455

Honor our Veterans

In 1954 Dwight Eisenhower called upon all citizens to observe November 11th no longer as Armistice Day—the official end of World War I—but as Veterans Day, stating in his proclamation that on that day we should "solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom." **On this Veterans Day, all members of the Benson community are invited to gather at the Veterans Monument in front of the Town Office at 11:00 am on Saturday, November 11th for the reading of the Honor Roll and the laying of a wreath.**

If you would like to lead the reading of a section of the Honor Roll in honor of a family member who served, please contact Heidi Chandler at the Town Office 802-537-2611.

Deer Hunting Widows

Pampered Chef Bingo Fundraiser

with Carol Murphy

November 11, 2023

at

Benson Village School



Doors open at 6:00, Bingo begins at 6:30

Benson Family Day is having a Pampered Chef Bingo Fundraiser!

Carol Murphy is once again helping us to raise money!

All proceeds will benefit Benson Family Day & Burdock Festival!

Come support Family Day so that bigger and better things can be offered!

Bring your friends, bring your friends' friends, bring them all!

Have some great fun while winning greater prizes!

Play 10 games of bingo. Cost to play is \$20 per person. This buys 10 sheets of 3 cards each. Each person has 3 chances to win for each game of bingo played. Usually, 9 regular games of bingo are played and the 10th game is a cover all. The cover all game will have a bigger, better prize than the previous games.

There will be smaller raffle prizes given away throughout the event.

Refreshments for sale along with water and soda.

Questions? Email Sue at redwolf363@aol.com

LET'S PLAY BINGO!!!