

BENSON *Bulletin*

Community Newsletter
Benson, VT

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2024

Hello everyone!

THANK YOU for reading the Benson Bulletin.

Please support our advertisers as best you can!

We are now offering an email COLOR version of the Benson Bulletin.

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!



HAPPY NEW YEAR

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](https://www.facebook.com/BensonVermontPublicLibrary)



NEW in Children's:

Just One Flake Author: Travis Jonker

Detective Duck: The case of the Strange Splash Author: Henry Winkler

NEW in Junior's:

Juniper's Christmas Author: Eoin Colfer

Santa and Company Author: Fern Michaels

Up from Slavery Author: Booker T. Washington

NEW in Adults:

Blue Moon Bay Author: Lisa Wingate

Santa and Company Author: Fern Michaels

Up from Slavery Author: Booker T. Washington

Did you know You can borrow e-books using your library card?
Get them on your laptop, phone or kindle!

BENSON VILLAGE SCHOOL - Go BEARS!



Welcome, 2024! January rings in with our BEARS returning to school on the 2nd of the month. Girl Scouts, Cooking Club, a field trip for our 4-5-6 students to Billings Farm, and K- 6th-grade ice skating are all on the schedule. The second K - 6th STEAM Project week will occur in February with students creating Balanced Structures. Structures must have the elements of balance and artistic whimsy.

The foundational learning and development of our BVS students in grades K-6 is at the heart of everything we do. The incredible team of teachers; Laura Dailey Prek, Makayla Ackert, Kindergarten, Rachel Fowler, 1st, Hailey Godette 2nd/3rd, Suzanne Miller 4th (5th & 6th ELA) and Elizabeth Schuyler 5th/6th (4th math) provide structured and engaging lessons to bring education alive with their students. Lessons have purpose and allow students to express their thinking and share ideas, strategies, and interests. Some of the key elements for K - 6th are:

Reading and Writing: Early literacy skills are established, focusing on phonics, comprehension, and vocabulary building.

Mathematics: Basic numeracy skills are developed, including counting, addition, subtraction, and an introduction to more complex concepts.

Social Skills: Students learn to interact with peers and adults, developing skills such as cooperation, communication, and conflict resolution.

Emotional Regulation: Understanding and managing emotions becomes a crucial aspect of development.

Critical Thinking: Encouraging students to think critically, solve problems, and make decisions.

Curiosity and Exploration: Fostering a sense of curiosity to explore and learn about the world around them.

Science: Introduction to basic scientific concepts and inquiry skills.

Social Studies: Basic understanding of communities, cultures, and historical events

Citizenship: Promoting a sense of responsibility and awareness of community.

Our Special Educator/Interventionist, Amanda Eddy, and our Counselor, Laura Budde, work with students on individualized academic and/or social-emotional needs to provide a full circle of support.

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, 256 certificates have been written for students and staff.

The SVUVT budget work has been underway and a reminder that there is one budget for the entire district, not individual school budgets. You may obtain a copy of the Annual Report that will be available in early February on the Slate Valley website, BVS, or town clerk's office. You can also call 802-265-4905 or email Lisa Bowen at lbowen@svuvt.org and one can be mailed to you. Additionally, flyers will be distributed to residents' homes throughout January/February with important budget information. There is also a page on the Slate Valley website, www.slatevalleyunified.org with a complete copy of the budget as well as supporting information. Additionally, the School District Annual Meeting will be held on February 26th at 6:30 pm at the Fair Haven Union Middle/High School.

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.

Volunteer Foster Grandparents Needed. APPLY NOW!

Foster Grandparents support and mentor children in various educational settings. There are many benefits to becoming a Foster Grandparent, including:

- A non-taxable hourly stipend
- Mileage to and from site
- Holiday and leave time stipend
- Monthly in-service trainings

To participate, you must be 55 or older, volunteer 10 hours per week or more, and meet income-eligibility requirements. To learn more, please visit www.volunteersinvt.org or call 802-774-8711.

BENSON READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet at the library on Wednesday January 17, 2024 to discuss It All Comes Back to You by Beth Duke. Veronica "Ronni" Johnson, licensed practical nurse and aspiring writer, meets the captivating Violet in the assisted living facility where Violet requires no assistance, just lots of male attention. When she dies, she leaves Ronni a very generous bequest—only if Ronni completes a book about her life within one year. As she's drawn into the world of young Violet, Ronni is mesmerized by life in a simpler time. It's an irresistible journey filled with revelations, some of them about men Ronni knew as octogenarians at Fairfield Springs.

The Reading Group will meet at the library on Wednesday February 21, 2024 to discuss Horse by Geraldine Brooks. *Kentucky, 1850*. An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. When the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name on paintings of the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. *New York City, 1954*. Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance. *Washington, DC, 2019*. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse - one studying the stallion's bones for clues to his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success.

Copies of the books are available in the library. You are welcome to 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.

SENIOR LUNCH

The traditional Senior Lunch will be on January 8th and February 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.



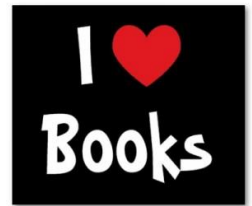
6AM - 8PM Mon - Fri
8AM - 8PM Sat & Sun

2813 Route 22A
Benson, VT 05743

802-537-4041

For the L♥ve of Books!

An event hosted by the
Benson Public Library
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd
From 10 am to noon



Join us for kids' crafts, refreshments, a book reading,
and a childrens' book giveaway!

Jeanne Bartholomew Realty

East Road Benson
802-537-4938

Jeannebrealty@aol.com

- Benson 3-4 bedroom fixer upper in the Village, home has a drilled well and town sewer, chicken coop and a storage shed. Lot has a nice garden area and includes a whole house generator. Oil furnace and Rinnai propane heat.. \$120,000
- Benson 2 unit apartment house. Great investment opportunity. Home is completely rehabbed and both units are rented. Qualified Buyers may be able to secure some Owner financing. Call for particulars.. \$270,000
- Benson 2.5 acre unimproved lot, very private with dirt road frontage.. \$35,000
- Benson Perch Pond, one acre unimproved lot with 150ft of your own private frontage. Great for camping and swimming.. \$50,000
- Perch Pond improved lot with power, driveway, septic, deck, docks and more! All set up for your camper.. \$135,000

Other listings available – give me a call!

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Thanking everyone for their business and continued support this past year! Looking forward to what 2024 has to offer! Give me a call for a "no- obligation" chat for any of your Real Estate needs!

*Wishing a very healthy and happy New Year to all!*



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## JANUARY

- 1 Town Offices Closed for New Year's Day
- 8 Senior Lunch 12 noon
- 8 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 15 Town Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Day
- 17 Reading Group (Benson Library) 4 pm
- 17 Neighbor to Neighbor (Community Room) 6 pm
- 22 Select Board Meeting 7 pm

## FEBRUARY

- 3 For the ♥ of Books (Library) 10-12 noon
- 5 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 12 Senior Lunch
- 19 Town Offices Closed for Presidents Day
- 20 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 21 Reading Group (Benson Library) 4 pm

## NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Hosted by the Benson Public Library

Join us to learn about **Race Car Driving** with some of our local drivers.

Event to be held in the Community Room on January 17th at 6pm.

*Snow date: January 24th at 6pm*



### United Church of Benson

Did You Know...?

The prophet Samuel was angry that he was called back from the dead. (Our Bible fact series number 6)

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

### Become a volunteer driver today.

One-2-One needs part-time long distance drivers for out of town appointments. You choose the rides you want to take or decline. Plus there is a mileage reimbursement of \$0.655 per mile.

*Join today and make new friends along the way!*

For more information, call: 802-774-8179

# 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!!

## INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR TOWN OFFICE?

Town Meeting and Presidential Primary 2024 will take place on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. **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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 Peltier  
Thomas Bartholomew  
Brad Barrett  
Edward B. Peltier  
Vacant  
Cheryl Murray  
Barbara Burlett  
Jayme Van Noort Purdy  
Robin Wilson  
Susan Brown  
Vacant

*Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## NOTICE TO VOTERS TOWN OF BENSON

By vote of the Benson Selectboard, there will be a floor meeting held for Town Meeting 2024. Articles will be voted on the floor, in person, by registered voters of Benson.

Elections of Town Officers will be by Australian ballot with the polls open on March 5, 2024 from 10am to 7pm at the Benson Community Hall.

You may choose to request your ballot by phoning the Benson Town Clerk's office at 537-2611, or pick ballots up in person.

Voted ballots may be returned by mail, delivered in person to the Town Office (or to the polling place on Election Day), or left in the secure drop box located at the corner of the Town Office Building. Beginning on February 14<sup>th</sup>, you may also vote in person at the Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours.



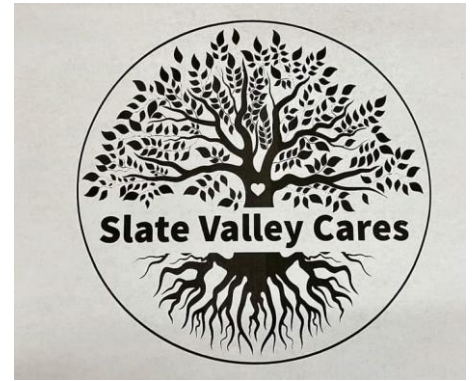
### TOWN OF BENSON JOB OPPORTUNITY

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, 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.

No experience is required, but some knowledge of the real estate field is a plus. Please call the listers at 802-537-2614 or email [listeners@shoreham.net](mailto:listeners@shoreham.net) for more information, or make an appointment to come into the office.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

As we start this New Year, we would like to share some thoughts on our mission here in Slate Valley. Our first goal is to help to alleviate food insecurities within our local communities. Not only to offer food, but to do it with dignity. In the past year, Slate Valley Cares, previously known as Fair Haven Concerned, underwent significant transformations to better align with the communities we serve. We changed our name but also revamped our approach, focusing on creating an inclusive and dignified experience for our community members. This involved reimagining how we distribute food and redesigning our facility, which is now called the Right to Food Center, moving away from the term "food shelf".



One of the key changes made to our food distribution system was the creation of the Community Kiosk. This piece of infrastructure not only allows our community members to shop with greater dignity, mimicking that of a grocery store checkout, but also allows our store to function with fewer staff and volunteers. This simplification and streamlining have allowed us to expand our store hours, nearly tripling community access.

Our efforts have been widely recognized, garnering praise from esteemed organizations such as the Vermont Food Bank, as well as key political figures like Governor Phil Scott and Senator Peter Welch. Our innovative approach has attracted interest from organizations across the state, prompting visits to our Right to Food Center to learn from our systems and methodologies. These changes have not only enhanced the visual appeal of our space but have also fostered a culture of openness and inclusivity within our organization, as well as increasing overall accessibility to our community. This shift is evident in the growing number of households and community members we serve. Over the past year, there has been a significant increase, with the number of households and individuals served per month more than doubling.

Consider stopping in for a tour or for a visual tour of our new, innovative approach to serving our community with dignity, please refer to the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2TPFxyZVQ>

Gary Gates  
Residential & Commercial  
Licensed and Insured

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## Gary's Appliance Service

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## CERTIFIED ORGANIC

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# Doug's TRUCKING & EXCAVATION

DRIVEWAYS • LANDSCAPING  
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Doug Hathaway  
1080 Stage Road, Benson VT 05743