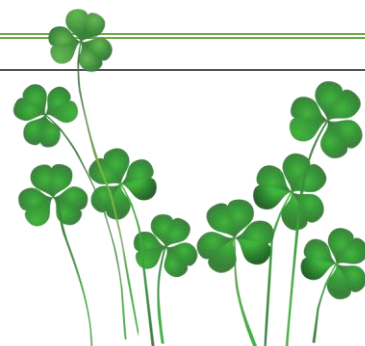


BENSON *Bulletin*

Community Newsletter
Benson, VT

MARCH | APRIL 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!

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 Adults:

Black Knights: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen Author: Lynn Homan

Hidden Figures: The True Story

of Four Black Women Author: Margot Lee Shetterly

The Longest Ride Author: Nicholas Sparks

Frozen River Author: Ariel Lawhon

The House in the Pines Author: Ana Reyes

Did you know... You can use the library internet anytime?

The password is on the door for use even when the library is closed.

Thank you... to everyone who provided support, either with helping or by attending our For the Love of Books event!



BENSON VILLAGE SCHOOL - Go BEARS!

Hello BENSON Community! So much has taken place since returning from the December break. The second K - 6th STEAM Project of the school year took place the week of February 12th. The culmination event, a museum walk of the balanced sculptures, on Thursday the 15th was very well attended by BVS families. Everyone enjoyed the innovative and imaginative use of materials by K-6th students to create balanced structures.

A field trip to Hildene, The Lincoln Family home is in the works for 5th & 6th Graders in March as they continue their study on the history of Vermont. Several afterschool clubs are starting up in March and April: Theater Club, Sewing Club, Velocity Club, and Girls on the Run. The BVS Night of the Arts and Celebration of Learning will take place on April 24th. BVS will host a meeting on March 25th for the annual review of our Continuous Improvement Plan. An informational letter will be going out to families on March 7th.

Cognia testing for grades 3rd - 5th in reading and math will occur in mid-March. This replaces the previous assessment known as SBAC. 5th grade will also be taking a science assessment through Cognia.

Kindergarten registration for BVS will take place on Friday, March 29th. Please contact the school for an appointment time. This is for any child who will be 5 by August 31st. Prek registration for both the 3 and 4-year-old programs is taking place on Tuesday, April 2nd. Again, please contact the school for an appointment (802-537-2491).

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, March 5th! Benson Town Hall is open for voting from 10:00am - 7:00pm. You may obtain a copy of the Annual Report that is available on the website, at BVS, or at Benson Town Hall. You can also call 802-265-4905 or email Lisa Bowen at lbowen@svvvt.org and one can be mailed to you. 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.

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



BENSON READING GROUP

The Reading Group will meet at the library on Wednesday March 20, 2024 to discuss Mud Season by Ellen Stimson. In self-deprecating and hilarious fashion, Mud Season chronicles Stimson's transition from city life to rickety Vermont farmhouse. When she decides she wants to own and operate the old-fashioned village store in idyllic Dorset, pop. 2,036, one of the oldest continually operating country stores in the country, she learns the hard way that "improvements" are not always welcomed warmly by folks who like things just fine the way they'd always been. Follow the author to her wit's end and back, through her full immersion into rural life--swapping high heels for muck boots; raising chickens and sheep; fighting off skunks, foxes, and bears; and making a few friends and allies in a tiny town steeped in history, local tradition, and that dyed-in-the-wool Vermont "character."

The Reading Group will meet at the library on Wednesday April 17, 2024 to discuss The Book of Hope by Jane Goodall & Douglas Abrams. Filled with moving and inspirational stories and photographs from Jane's remarkable career, The Book of Hope is a deeply personal conversation with one of the most beloved figures in the world today. While discussing the experiences that shaped her discoveries and beliefs, Jane tells the story of how she became a messenger of hope, from living through World War II to her years in Gombe to realizing she had to leave the forest to travel the world in her role as an advocate for environmental justice.

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

Rutland Regional Plan Survey Launched

Community Input Needed to Help Inform the Priorities of the Region

RUTLAND, VT - The Rutland Regional Planning Commission is asking residents to participate in the Rutland Regional Plan 2026 Online Survey. Survey results will be used to guide policies and actions for the 8-year plan update, which is intended to help shape coordinated and efficient community economic development. The plan is a vision for the future with broad goals to facilitate that vision.

The survey is an important piece of the overall development process. Information collected will help inform a plan that features equitable policies to best serve the region's communities.

The survey will be complemented by several outreach efforts led by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission staff, including community open houses and pop-up events. As these activities are scheduled, they will regularly be updated on the Rutland Regional Plan 2026 website: rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

"It is crucial that we hear directly from the residents we serve. We recognize that each of our 27 towns face a variety of challenges and that there isn't a one-size-fits-all solution," said Devon Neary, RRPC's Executive Director. "Our hope is that the community will share their thoughts with us so we can integrate those challenges and potential solutions into the 2026 plan update."

The survey will be open through March 31, 2024 and can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RutlandRegionPlan2026>

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission is one of eleven regional commissions serving Vermont municipalities. Regional planning commissions are a local resource for towns and, in a state without county governments, a critical link between municipal affairs and state government. More information about the Rutland Regional Planning Commission can be found at rutlandrpc.org.

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



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 March 12th and April 8th 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.

Jeanne Bartholomew Realty

East Road Benson
802-537-4938

Jeannebrealty@aol.com



- Benson Perch Pond~ improved lot with private frontage, ROW access, septic with leach field, Electric Hub, new docks and deck.. nicely landscaped and all set for your Camper to hook up. Enjoy peaceful, non - motorized Perch Pond for swimming, fishing, camping and canoeing etc. offered for \$135,000
- Benson Perch Pond ~ one acre unimproved lot with 150ft of your own private pond access. Soils do not perc but great spot for camping and parking your camper/tent.. ~ offered \$50,000
- Benson ~ 2.5 acre unimproved lot with lots of privacy.. Dirt road location.. lots of possibilities! offered for \$35,000

Properties continue to sell very well in the area and new listings are needed and appreciated!

Give Jeanne a call for a "no-obligation" confidential chat!

Other listings available.. give me a call and let's see how I can help you!!

~~~~~  
*Happy St. Paddy's Day  
Happy Spring and a very Happy Easter to everyone!*



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## MARCH

- 4 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 5 Town Meeting Day 10 am (town offices closed)
- 12 Senior Lunch 12 noon
- 15 2<sup>nd</sup> Payment Property Taxes due
- 18 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 20 Reading Group (Benson Library) 4 pm

## APRIL

- 1 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 8 Senior Lunch
- 15 Select Board Meeting 7 pm
- 17 Reading Group (Benson Library) 4 pm
- 18 Neighbor to Neighbor (Community Room) 6 pm
- 29 Select Board Meeting 7 pm

### NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR!

Hosted by the Benson Public Library

Event will be held in the Community Room on April 18th at 6:00 pm.

For updates on the speaker please keep an eye on the Town of Benson, Vermont website and Facebook!



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

---

**2813 Route 22A**  
**Benson, VT 05743**

**802-537-4041**

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

802-558-4055 (cell)

service                      new installations  
renovations                      fully insured

**United Church of Benson**

**Did You Know...?**

There are 42 different miracles recorded that Jesus performed. (Our Bible fact series number 7)  
Leave a message for us at:  
(802) 537-2455

**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](mailto: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!!

## CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT FOR TOWN OFFICE

Town Meeting and Presidential Primary 2024 will take place on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

These are the candidates who are on the ballot for town positions:

### Town Offices

Moderator (one-year term)  
Select Board (one-year term)  
*(vote for not more than two)*  
Select Board (three year term)  
Auditor (three-year term)  
Trustee of Public Funds (three-year term)  
Library Commissioner (five-year term)  
Cemetery Commissioner (five-year term)  
Cemetery Commissioner (three years remaining)

### Candidate(s)

John Hill  
Linda Swarm Peltier, Jim Pritchard,  
Jean-Sebastion Valois, Jack Helm  
Brad Barrett  
Cheryl Murray  
Jayme Van Noort Purdy  
Robin Wilson  
Susan Brown  
Hannah Brown



## Town Office Notes

- Are you the owner of one of Benson's nearly 300 dogs? **Dog tags for 2024 (Yellow this year!) have arrived at the town office.** All dogs that are six months of age or older must be licensed on or before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required for registration which costs \$9.00 for spayed or neutered animals and \$13.00 for all others. The first time a dog is registered in Benson a spay/neuter certificate must be shown in order to receive the lower rate. Not sure if your pet needs a shot this year? Call the office to see what we have on file or to notify us that you no longer own a dog.
- Your current **transfer station permit** expires on March 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 the office a call for the details.

➤ MORE TOWN OFFICE NOTES ON PAGE 6

➤ **PROPERTY TAXES DUE MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>:** The second payment on Benson 2023-2024 property taxes is due on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 March 15<sup>th</sup> is not made until March 16<sup>th</sup> you will owe an additional 9% interest and penalty. PLEASE NOTE: There is now a secure drop box located at the southwest corner of the Town Office building where tax payments may be left at any time. Join us Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> at our 238<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting. The Town Office will Closed on Town Meeting Day

**Drive through annual Rabies Clinic is Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00AM-11:00AM, at the Community Hall. \$10.00**

**IN ADDITION TO REGULAR HOURS, THE TOWN OFFICE WILL BE OPEN:**

SATURDAY MARCH 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
 FRIDAY MARCH 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
 SATURDAY MARCH 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM

On March 23rd Dog registration and Transfer station permits will be available.

**Please remember to bring your annual Town Report to the meeting!**

Heidi Chandler  
 Clerk/Treasurer  
 802-537-2611

Town Office Hours:

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



**HAPPY EASTER!**



# Is Spring Around the Corner??? I hope so!!

As we enter into Spring, we would like to remind everyone that Slate Valley Cares runs a wonderful thrift store. Second Chance Thrift is located right inside our food center and all money goes directly into providing services for our community. The clothing racks are sorted into various sizes and types of clothing, just like any other retail store.

Everything from baby to adult clothing is available at a *greatly* reduced rate. Prices range from \$2 and up. Most adult items are \$4. Yes, you can buy a gently used coat or a dress or a designer pair of jeans for under \$6. Buying clothes in today's market or online is very expensive and often not of the best quality.

Do you like vintage or funky style clothes that are as individual as you? Come look through our racks and we are sure you will find something just right for you. Parents – kids grow so fast, here is a place to find something that fits for now. We also carry some formal wear and athletic wear! There are shoes and jewelry to accessorize those outfits, as well as scarves, belts and pocketbooks. Spring is a great time to update your wardrobe, so stop by Slate Valley Cares and visit Second Chance Thrift!!

We do have a food center that is available to everyone that is in need of food. Visiting the food center can help to extend your current food budget. Our hours for both the food center and the thrift store are 10-2 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 10-5 on Wednesday and Friday.

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>



## RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN 2026 COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Every eight years, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission updates its visionary plan for the future of the region. The strategies outlined in this plan guide decisions on how communities will grow and develop.

### Shape Our Future Together



#### WHAT IS THE RUTLAND REGIONAL PLAN?

A guide to shape a healthy, equitable and resilient region. It outlines strategies for achieving our collective goals as they relate to community economic development.



#### WHY SHOULD I ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE?

Attend one or all of our events to help shape the future of our region. You have the answers to what is valued and what changes are needed to ensure our community remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play!

Need special accommodation or assistance per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)? Email us at [plan2026@rutlandrpc.org](mailto:plan2026@rutlandrpc.org) at least 72 hours prior to the open house date.

Visit [rutlandrpc.org/plan2026](http://rutlandrpc.org/plan2026) for more information about how you can help shape the future of the region.



### Brandon

Saturday, February 10, 2024

10:00 a.m. - 12 noon  
Brandon Inn @ 20 Park Street

### Castleton

Saturday, March 2, 2024

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Village School @ 47 Mechanic Street

### Middletown

Saturday, March 16, 2024

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Town Office @ 5 South Street

### Wallingford

Saturday, March 30, 2024

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Gilbert Hart Library @ 14 S Main Street

### Rutland City

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Paramount Theatre @ 30 Center Street

## 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

The Benson Family Day Committee will be at Town Meeting with coffee & doughnuts and hosting a bake sale! Come show your support for Family Day while at the meeting or stopping in to vote. (If you would like to donate baked goods to the sale, drop them off at the town hall before the meeting. Meeting begins at 10 am.)