

BENSON *Bulletin*

Community Newsletter
Benson, VT

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2026

Hello everyone!

THANK YOU for reading the Benson Bulletin.

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 benzonnews@shoreham.net.

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. Each edition is archived there. If you don't want email, and you don't want it mailed, you can still access it through the website. You can call the Town Office if you want your name removed entirely.



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](#)

**Mark Your Calendars: Benson Library will host our next
NEIGHBOR-to-NEIGHBOR event on
Wednesday, February 4th.**

Check our Facebook page and signage in front of the library for more information.

The Library Board would like to thank Carrie Becker for her years of dedication to the Library.
She was a great asset and will be deeply missed.

Visit [Benson Vermont Public Library on Facebook](#) for book updates!

Community Wifi has come to Benson!

The new wifi is hooked up and operational at the Town Offices and the Town Garage. You can now access the public wifi if you are close to the Town Offices, and the community network is now available at the Library also. The wifi name is **BENSON** and the wifi password is **BensonStrong**.

Town of Benson Phone Number

802-456-4094

Town Office Ext 1 • Highway Ext 2 • Library Ext 3
Listers/Zoning Ext 4 • Fax Ext 7



BENSON VILLAGE SCHOOL - Go BEARS!



Benson Village School **GO BEARS!**

Benson Village School continues to be a welcoming, supportive community where students are known, valued, and encouraged to grow. Our staff works closely with families to create engaging, purposeful learning experiences that meet students' academic, social, and emotional needs. This year, our strong schoolwide literacy focus has expanded through reading buddies, increased Silent Sustained Reading time, enriched classroom libraries, and hands-on phonics activities. Across the building, adults model kindness, resilience, and positive behavior, supported by our shared arts, wellness, and enrichment staff who provide students with a well-rounded educational experience.

Supporting student growth in reading and math remains a central focus, guided by data-informed instruction, collaboration among educators and specialists, and ongoing communication with families. Our commitment to positive school culture was recognized with Silver Level PBIS Recognition, with students earning over 300 Pawsitive Office Awards by December. Community connections continue to thrive through events such as Open Houses, the Thanksgiving Luncheon and Book Fair, and expanded afterschool clubs. Student leadership opportunities and a focus on well-being, creativity, and confidence ensure BVS remains a place where students work hard, have fun, and are kind—values that continue to guide us as a school community.

We thank you for your continued support!

Amy Roy M.Ed.

Principal, Benson Village School

Work Hard. Have Fun. Be Nice. Please visit our website: <http://benson.svuvt.org> and check out our [Facebook](#) page!

BENSON READING GROUP

The reading group will meet at the library on **January 21, 2026** to discuss *The Great Divide* by Cristina Henriquez. The Great Divide explores the lives of the laborers, fishmongers, journalists, protesters, doctors and soothsayers who lived alongside the construction of the Panama Canal - those rarely acknowledged by history even as they carved out its course.

The reading group will meet at the library on **February 18, 2026** to discuss *All Who Believed: a Memoir of Life in the 12 Tribes* by Tamara Mathieu. In August of 2000, Tamara Mathieu and her husband gave up everything they had and joined the Twelve Tribes, a worldwide religious organization, with their 17-month-old son. They were just 23 years old. Fourteen years and three more children later, they fled back to "the real world".

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

Selectboard Highlights

The Selectboard is very busy with Budget planning and getting ready for Town meeting.

Jaci Lussier was recently appointed as a Library Trustee until the next election.

There is still an open position as Animal Control Officer, please check with the Selectboard Assistant or Town Clerk for other openings and ways to make a difference in town.

Reminder the winter parking ban is in effect and cars should not be parked on the traveled portion of the road.

Public sand is available at the town garage and is marked as public sand, please do not take it from the highway's pile as you will put our road crew and yourself at risk from the pile collapsing!

Starting in January the Police Department from Fair Haven will be on patrol in our community.

Brad Barret has been appointed as the Emergency Management Director and Jim Pritchard the Emergency Management Representative.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1 Town Offices Closed New Years Day
- 5 Select Board Meeting 5 pm
- 12 Senior Lunch 12 noon
- 19 Town Offices Closed Martin Luther King
- 20 Select Board Meeting 5 pm
- 21 Reading Group (Benson Library) 4 pm

FEBRUARY



- 2 Select Board Meeting 5 pm
- 9 Senior Lunch 12 noon
- 16 Town Offices Closed Presidents' Day
- 17 Select Board Meeting 5 pm
- 18 Reading Group (Benson Library) 4 pm



Bone Builders

A new year is a great time to embark on an exercise journey. The primary goals of the program are to empower older men and women to reduce their osteoporosis risk through proper exercise and nutrition and to maintain their independence and quality of life. Program goals also include having healthier bones, reducing the risk of falling, increasing strength and improving balance, feeling better and to having more energy and the opportunity to socialize. We meet on Monday and Thursday downstairs in the community hall from 9:00 to 10:00. The program is free and weights are provided. If you wish to join our group, call 802-537-3021.

Town of Benson Winter Operations Reminder

From November 15-April 15 the winter parking ban is in effect. No vehicles can be parked on the traveled portions of any street or highway to facilitate snow removal.

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Nathan Stannard, President

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Doug Hathaway
1080 Stage Road, Benson VT 05743

Mercy Ecospirituality Center
presents
An Evening of Scottish Music
with
If You Must Know

While firmly rooted in the fertile ground of Scottish traditional music, harpist Rachel Clemente and piper Dan Houghton's gritty, avant-garde musical interpretations put them at the forefront of Celtic folk musicians in New England. They are both avid tunesmiths and their repertoire reflects this as it features many original compositions as well as traditional melodies.

6:00 PM January 23, 2026
Tickets \$20 per person

Info:
Mercy Ecospirituality Center
56 Howard Hill Road
Benson, VT 05743
802-537-4531



Jeanne Bartholomew Realty

East Road Benson

802-537-4938

Jeannebrealty@aol.com



- **Fair Haven** New Listing 95 This-a-Way. Home is a 2-story unfinished with 4869 sq. ft. on a one acre lot. There is also a 45ft by 27ft garage, a driveway and lawn. New windows and doors and many building materials included. No water or sewer. A great project with lots of potential, offered for \$150,000.
- **Benson** 10.13 improved acres with driveway, well (with new pump), power pole on lot (not hooked up), primitive post and beam cabin, new storage shed, pond and more! Deed gives you a permanent easement to access the town sewer line. You will need to engineer the piping to the sewer line and check on availability. Pond was formerly used for swimming and needs aerating/treatment to bring it back. Sellers have kept the pathways mowed for easy year round access. Very private and offered with new generator and new (unused) woodstove. Nice combo of open and wooded land, offered at \$125,000. Seller may consider financing with 50% down.
- **Benson** 2.5 acre mostly open unimproved lot with dirt road frontage. Ideal spot for your camper and family get-togethers – keep it rustic or possibly build a home. Nice level lot with trees bordering. Offered for \$35,000.
- **Benson** Perch Pond A one acre unimproved lot just waiting for your Perch Pond project. Lot has 150 ft of private pond frontage... put in a dock, set up your camper or tent and enjoy a peaceful time in the woods on the pond offered for \$50,000.
- **Benson** 97 acres of woodland with marketable timber. Property is very private and located on a town dirt road outside the Village. Call for further info.
- **Hubbardton** 23 acres with a 70 ft. poured concrete slab. Located on Camp Road in Hubbardton. This lot can be subdivided into 2 lots. Lot comes with beach rights to nice swimming at Lake Hortonia, lots of possibilities. \$189,900.

Properties continue to sell well, and have buyers of all kinds!
Land parcels, large or small needed for 'ready to purchase' buyers!
Lake lots and homes needed!

*Thank you everyone for your business and continued support.
Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year!*

Give Jeanne a call for a "no-obligation"
confidential chat about any of your
real estate needs!

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!!

BENSON

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

2813 Route 22A
Benson, VT 05743

802-537-4041



Benson Village Trust – 2025 Year in Review and A Look Forward to 2026

As 2025 draws to a close, the Benson Village Trust (BVT) would like to reflect on the major highlights of the year, and thank the Benson Community and our broad group of committee members, friends, supporters and donors for their partnership, engagement and support.

2025 was a busy year for the BVT as the Benson Village Store rebuilding project ramped up:

Building

- In January, we brought our architectural firm (SHKS Architects) on board and formed a Building Committee of local experts and volunteers. We now are close to finalizing the architectural design for the store and look forward to sharing it with the community.

Fundraising

- In June, the BVT was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission to support the construction of the Store.
- In October, we received an \$800,000 private pledge from a donor advised fund. These funds together with our Vermont Preservation Trust (VPT) grant of \$500,000 and private donations brings us to approximately \$1.9M in funding for the Store project, and very close to the target of \$2.25M needed to complete the project. While the pathway to finalizing the building plans (and the costs) is still fluid, the Trust believes that with value engineering, we will be able to manage costs while encouraging the participation of local trades and crafts, of which we have an abundance.

Community events

- In June, the BVT began hosting a weekly Pop Up Farmer's Market at the site of the Store which ran through October. The Pop Up Market was a great success, bringing back a bit of the sense of community which faded with the loss of the Store in 2019.



- In August, thanks to Ted and Jaine Kellogg, a model of the new Store made an appearance as a float in the Family Day Parade. Since then, it found a natural home at the site of the Store and has kept the project front of mind at other community events in Benson.

BVT Board Committees

- As of December, we now have five volunteer committees: the Building Committee, Communications Committee, Community Engagement/Events Committee, Fundraising Committee and Business Development committee, all planning for 2026!

Looking ahead to 2026, the BVT is planning several events, leading up to the groundbreaking which is targeted for June. An Open House is in the works for early 2026. This event will bring the Benson community together with the BVT, SHKS Architects, VPT leaders and others associated with the project to share plans and exchange ideas.

Community events and local fundraising activities are also being planned for 2026, with a Groundbreaking Celebration and BBQ which is anticipated for June 2026.

Stay tuned for more information on these events!

SENIOR LUNCH

The traditional Senior Lunch will be on January 12th and February 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 for \$4.00. Please reach out to Marcia Anderson to make reservations by the Friday before at 802-537-2313.



INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR TOWN OFFICE?

Town Meeting 2026 will take place on Saturday, February 28th for floor votes and March 3rd for Australian ballots. **If you've been thinking about running for a town office, nominating petitions must be filed with the Town Clerk by 5:00pm on Monday, January 26th, 2026.** Town positions to be filled in 2026:

Town Offices

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

Current Incumbent

John Hill
Daric Brown
Jim Pritchard
Daryl Burlett (Appointed)
Lois Trenn
Lynn Bowen
Barbara Burlett
Brad Barrett
Pamela Stefanek (Appointed)
Jaci Lussier (Appointed)
Janet Ladd

Monday, January 12th 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.

TRASH / RECYCLING UPDATE

Benson is a member of the Rutland County Solid Waste Alliance. Our trash and recycling center is located at the end of Glenn Road and is open on Wednesdays from Noon - 4 pm and on Saturdays from 8 am - 4 pm.

Residents need to purchase a yearly permit which is available at the Town Offices for \$35 per year, valid until March 31. Trash bag stickers are sold at the Transfer Station, Town Offices and also at the Benson General Store (formerly G&L). Each bag needs one sticker, which are two dollars apiece. Any item containing Freon requires 10 transfer stickers.

We have free disposal for batteries and electronics. Recycling is single stream and also free of charge. There is a compost station available for disposal of food scraps.

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Master Electrician 1-802-278-7001
Major Appliance Repair 1995 Stage Road
Air conditioning/Refrigeration/Heat pumps Benson Vermont 05743
Sales and Installation

DOG LICENSE FEES will be \$11 for neutered or spayed dogs and \$15 for unneutered ones registered by April 1, of which \$7 must be remitted to the state.

After April 1, the prices increase to \$13.00 for neutered or spayed dogs and \$19.00 for unneutered.

CERTIFIED ORGANIC
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