

BENSON *Bulletin*

Community Newsletter
Benson, VT

MARCH | APRIL 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 launch our
Seed Library Project *(see description in Benson Bulletin)*
On Saturday March 21, 2026 from 11AM-1PM.

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

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!**

Hello BENSON Community!

This winter, the school is buzzing with engaging activities that complement academic growth. From interactive literacy backpacks featuring a variety of themes to creative science classes that ignite curiosity, students are immersed in a dynamic learning environment. The combination of academic achievement and enriching activities ensures that students at Benson Village School are enjoying a fulfilling and cheerful winter season.

Recent Events:

- STEAM Event 3/17
- PBIS K - 6 field trips ice skating and bowling 2/17
- Winter STAR Assessing in math and ELA

Several afterschool clubs are starting up in March and April:

- Beading Club (December/January)
- Cooking Club (Spring)
- Girls on the Run (Spring)

Important Upcoming Dates:

- SVUUSD Board Meeting – February 19th - 6:30 pm – (Annual Meeting) Fair Haven Union Middle & High School Band Room
- Town Meeting Day March 3rd
 - Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, March 3rd! Benson Town Hall is open for voting from 10:00 am - 7:00 pm. You may obtain a copy of the Annual Report that is available on the website, at BVS, or at Benson Town Offices. You can also call 802-265-4905 or email Lisa Bowen at lbowen@svuvt.org so 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.
- Winter Conferences the week of March 9th
- BVS will host a meeting in March for the annual review of our Continuous Improvement Plan.
- NAEP for 4th grade on March 16th
- Cognia testing for grades 3rd - 5th in reading and math will occur in mid-March. 5th grade will also be taking a science assessment through Cognia.
- Kindergarten registration for BVS Friday, March 20th. This is for any child who will be 5 by August 31st. Please contact the school at (802) 537 - 2491 for an appointment
- April 8th - BVS Night of the Arts and Celebration of Learning will take place
- Prek registration for 3 and 4-year-old programs held at FHGS and CES will take place in April.

We thank you for your continued support!

Amy Roy M.Ed.

Principal, Benson Village School

BENSON READING GROUP

The reading group will meet at the **Orwell Library** on **March 26** at 6 p.m. to discuss *The Light Pirate* by Lily Brooks-Dalton. This is the VT Reads book choice for this year, and we will join with the Orwell reading group for our annual discussion. Set in the near future, this hopeful story of survival and resilience follows Wanda—a luminous child born out of a devastating hurricane—as she navigates a rapidly changing world. Told in four parts—power, water, light, and time—*The Light Pirate* mirrors the rhythms of the elements and the sometimes quick, sometimes slow dissolution of the world as we know it.

The reading group will meet at the library on **April 15** to discuss *My Friends: a novel* by Fredrik Backman. Most people don't even notice them—three tiny figures sitting at the end of a long pier in the corner of one of the most famous paintings in the world. But Louisa, an artist herself, is determined to find out the story of these three enigmatic figures.

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR



MARCH

- 2 Select Board Meeting 5 pm
- 3 Annual Town Voting by Ballot 10 am-7 pm
- 9 Senior Lunch 12 noon
- 16 Select Board Meeting 5 pm
- 26 Reading Group (**Orwell Library**) 6 pm
- 30 Select Board Meeting 5 pm

APRIL

- 13 Select Board Meeting 5 pm
- 13 Senior Lunch 12 noon
- 15 Reading Group (Benson Library) 4 pm
- 27 Select Board Meeting 5 pm



Bone Builders

The primary goals of the program are to empower older men and women to reduce osteoporosis risk through proper exercise and nutrition and to maintain their independence and quality of life. Resistance training can provide innumerable benefits to your health and help make everyday activities easier, such as picking up your groceries, doing yard work, and stepping out of bed without straining your back. It can also reduce disease risk, improve mental health and give you more balance and stability. For these reasons, you should consider adding resistance training to your routine. 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.

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. 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.

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Nathan Stannard, President

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Doug Hathaway
1080 Stage Road, Benson VT 05743



The **United Church of Benson** is, once again, offering scholarships to Benson students interested in attending a post high school program. *These scholarships are not limited to a traditional collegiate program.* Applicants may be attending a 2 or 4 year college program, a technical school or program, or a training academy. We encourage a variety of post high school programs. The scholarships are up to \$1,000, and may be renewed yearly throughout the applicant's training or education. Students should contact the Guidance Counselor's Office at Fair Haven Union High School for the application and more information.

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

THE WHEEL INN
 Corner of Lake Road and Stage Road
 Benson, VT 802-537-2755

THE WHEEL INN

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 Open Daily (except Tuesdays)
 8am to 9pm
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 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

GENERAL STORE

2813 Route 22A
 Benson, VT 05743
802-537-4041



Jeanne Bartholomew Realty

**East Road Benson
 802-537-4938**

Jeannebrealty@aol.com



- **Fair Haven** New Listing 95 This-a-Way Lane. 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, solar panel, small dog/child fenced area, 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. 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 Improved lot with new power hub, septic with leachfield, docking system, new platform, great swimming, private beachfront. All set for your camper or possibly a seasonal tiny house. Offered for \$125,000.
- **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 Lucky St. Paddy's Day
 and a very Happy Easter!*

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

Benson Village Trust – First Fundraiser a Rousing Success!

The Benson Village Trust would like to thank all those who purchased tickets and attended our Mardi Gras Fundraiser at the Wheel Inn on February 17th. It was a big turnout and a great time!

Shout out to Kathy and crew and the many volunteers who made it happen.



Stay tuned for more updates on our progress and future fundraising efforts!



LIST OF OFFICES AND CANDIDATES FOR AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING MARCH 3, 2026

Offices

Town Moderator, 1 year (vote for not more than one) ----- John Hill
 Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year (vote for not more than one) ----- Barbara Burlett
 Auditor, 3 years (vote for not more than one) ----- Lynn Bowen
 Select Board, 3 years (vote for not more than one) ----- Benjamin Bartholomew, Diane Drake
 Trustee of Public Funds, 3 years (vote for not more than one) ----- Carrie Lafond
 Lister, 3 years (vote for not more than one) ----- Lois P Trenn
 Cemetery Commissioner, 5 years (vote for not more than one) ----- Joe Carlisle
 Select Board, 1 year (vote for not more than two) ----- Daryl F Burlett, Lisa Chalidze
 ----- Nancy Elkington, James Pritchard
 Library Commissioner, remainder 2 years of 5 year term ----- Jaci Lussier
 Library Commissioner, 5 years (vote for not more than one) ----- Write-in

Candidates

SENIOR LUNCH

The traditional Senior Lunch will be on March 9th and April 13th 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.

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Town Office Notes



- Your current **transfer station permit** expires on March 31st. New permits are now available and may be purchased from the Town Office for \$35.00 (no increase from last year). Starting July 1, 2026 Transfer Station Stickers will go up 50¢ per sticker this year. A sheet of stickers will cost \$25.00. Both dog licenses and transfer station permits can be handled by mail and/or using the secure drop box. Just give me a call for the details.
- **PROPERTY TAXES DUE MARCH 16th**: The second payment on Benson 2025-2026 property taxes is due on Monday, March 16th (because the 15th is a Sunday). 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 16th is not made until March 17th 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. The USPS has changed the way it postmarks. The postmark is now the day of processing and not the drop-off date. If you need a same day postmark, you need to go to the USPS counter and request it.
Heidi Chandler, Town Clerk / Treasurer 802-456-4094 Ext.1



The RRPC is holding the first public hearing in the adoption process for the proposed 2026 Rutland Regional Plan. At the hearing, the RRPC will accept general and specific comments on whether the proposed Plan conforms to the state planning goals in 24 V.S.A. §4302. The hearing details and draft plan are available at: rutlandrpc.org/plan2026

Event details:

2026 Rutland Regional Plan First Public Hearing
Date & Time: March 17, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
Location: Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Second Floor Large Conference Room
16 Evelyn Street, Rutland

TEMPORARY CLOSING

Due to the MERP Grant Energy Improvements, the Benson Museum will be closed temporarily, effective immediately, for packing up and storing items until the energy improvements are completed at the town office. The Public will be made aware as soon as construction is complete and the museum is set back up.
Thank you for your cooperation.

From the Listers: This spring – What’s happening with the reappraisal?

A professional appraiser hired by the Town will be here to begin property inspections. One or more Benson listers may accompany him on his visits.

Property owners will be notified when their area of town will be worked on, and there will be information on the website. Appointments will be made if possible. Buildings will be measured and photographed from the outside.

The goal of this reappraisal is to have a fair and equitable assessment of the Town. To accomplish this, the appraiser will assess each property using whatever information he can gather, including as many interior inspections as possible, and his many years of experience. How much access the appraiser has inside buildings is up to the individual property owner.

The more accurate the information collected is, the fairer and more equitable the results will be – not to mention less work for you as a taxpayer going through the Grievance and Board of Civil Authority process.

There will be more reappraisal inspections later this year, and next spring. All reappraisal information will be used for the Grand List in June 2027. As always, any questions or concerns are welcome at the lister office, 802-456-4094 ext 4, listers@shoreham.net, by chance or appointment.

Advertising in the Benson Bulletin: If you are a Benson business owner and have an interest in advertising in the Bulletin (6 editions per year), please call the Town Office for information and we'll get you on board!



Slate Valley Cares has been very busy during the last few months. We served over 1,000 family members in January alone and registered 28 new households. January and February typically are months where families often struggle for food with the increased heating and electric bills piling up. This winter has been very cold and food prices have continued to rise.

Our fundraising goals continue throughout the year. There is a Music Bingo held monthly in the winter to help raise money for the food center. The evening's event typically raises about \$700 and we are grateful to Lake Bomoseen Taproom for sponsoring this event. On Sunday, March 15th the next Music Bingo will be held at 5 pm, Join us!! It is not very competitive at

all, and you will laugh!

Starting in April, on the second Saturday, Slate Valley Cares will be sponsoring a Drive Thru Meal Deal. Held at the Park in Fair Haven, there will be a full meal to go for under \$15. Look for signs and check our Facebook page for the menu and times. The Drive Thru Meal Deal will continue every second Saturday of the month through October. Again, all monies raised go to the food center to feed others.

Plan on visiting our **Thrift Store** located at 49 Main Street, Fair Haven for great deals on gently used, quality clothing. The thrift store is open during all hours of the food center. All money raised is used to purchase food for the food center. You get a great deal on clothing, shoes and accessories and also help others with your purchases.

Slate Valley Cares is open to all who need help in providing food for their families. We are open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-2 and Wednesdays from 9-3:30. If you or someone you know is struggling with food insecurity, please let them know we can help.

Thank you to our outstanding community for supporting this important service for our neighbors throughout the entire year!

Benson Planning Commission News

The Benson Town Plan was last updated in 2017. By state law, it must be updated every eight years. The Planning Commission has been working on this project for more than a year, in conjunction with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC).

We hope to have it ready for the first public review in April. The Commission will hold a public hearing to discuss the changes and take feedback. After that, any changes deemed appropriate will be made to the document, and it will be submitted to the Select Board.

The Select Board will review it and hold another public hearing, after which the updated Town Plan will be submitted to the RRPC for approval, meeting the requirements of state law.

Though following the original outline of the plan, there have been quite a few changes and updates made and it has been a collaborative effort. Members of the commission are Cheryl Murray, Ted Kellogg, Jean-Sebastien Valois, Brad Barrett and Steve Murray.

We will announce the public hearing dates on the website and the Town of Benson Facebook page.



Come to the Benson Library for our Seed Library Opening!



Celebrate the beginning of Spring with us as we introduce this exciting new offering.

The day includes:

- Seeing the seed space.
- Learning how it works.
- Sharing the joy of growing or wanting to start.
- Great conversations and time for questions.
- Refreshments and snacks.
- An invitation to take home; a packet of seeds, information and inspiration.

Join us: Saturday, March 21st from 11am-1pm

All ages welcome, children should be accompanied by an adult.