BENSON Bulletin

Community Newsletter
Benson, VT

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 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).

If you would like to receive the Benson Bulletin in your email going forward send an email to bensonnews@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 9 am to 12 pm
Wednesday 3 pm to 6 pm
Saturday 9 am to 12 pm
Every 2nd Monday: Senior Lunch 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Every Saturday: Storytime for Kids 10:30 am



Follow us on Facebook: Benson Vermont Public Library

Happy Fall from the Benson Public Library! As the days get colder, it is nice to curl up with a cozy book. We have many new titles available, including *The Calamity Club* by Kathryn Sockett (author of *The Help*), *Yesteryear* by Caro Claire Burke (which already has a movie deal), and *How to Love a Forest* by Vermont's own Ethan Tapper. We try to have a little something for everyone. I am always open to book suggestions. Also, this could be a great time to re-read some classics like *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen or *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling, all of which have recently been turned into miniseries on Netflix and HBO.

We have many exciting events coming up this winter:

-Every Saturday at 10:30 am we have Storytime for children. It is targeted toward elementary age, but Pre-K is welcome as well!

-Our Tech Helper Heather is here every second Monday from 11am-1pm (during Senior Lunch) to help with any and all tech problems: phones, computers, apps, etc.

-Neighbor to Neighbor on November 17th at 6 pm by Jeff Disorda. He will speak about his experiences with bears and how bears relate to our local ecosystems.

-Book Wrapping on December 2nd with Sue Fletcher. She will teach you how to wrap a book as a great holiday present. Everyone brings a book and leaves with a beautifully wrapped gift. RSVP.

Keep an eye on Benson Vermont Public Library on Facebook for book updates!

OFFICIAL TOWN OF BENSON WEBSITE – bensonvermont.gov

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!**

What's Buzzing at Benson Village School this November and December?!

Learning in Full Swing! In our K–6 classrooms, learning isn't passive—it's electric. From dynamic hands-on projects to deep academic exploration, our walls are overflowing with proof of what happens when curiosity meets hard work.

Academic Highlights: STAR 360 Progress Monitoring for grades K–6 is complete! Teachers are using this data to guide instruction and target each student's learning goals.

School-Wide Writing Goal: All students have been working on functional writing skills as well as expanding their writing with meaning and purpose. Building stamina with writing started as a challenge across the grades, but students are learning to persevere and take pride in their work, which often means spending time with editing. Our broader goal is for all K- 6 students to see themselves as writer who know how to develop an idea with purposeful choices, revise their thinking, sustain their work, and share their writing with others.

PAWsitive News! Benson Village School continues to celebrate students and staff with *PAWs Certificates* for showing our PBIS core values. As of October 31st, 173 certificates have been awarded! Way to go, Bears!

Mark Your Calendars! Benson Family Thanksgiving Meal: Friday, November 20th — keep an eye on student folders for details. We're also hosting a Book Sale with Phoenix Books that same day! Parent/Teacher Conferences: Week of November 2nd - 6th. Thanksgiving Break: November 25–27. Report Cards Go Home: December 11th. Half Day: December 22nd. Winter Break: December 22 (half day) – January 3rd.

Benson Village School is full of excitement, gratitude, and community spirit this season — thank you for being part of what makes our school so special!

With Bear Pride,
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 November 18 to discuss ***The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer The author highlights how the serviceberry tree, by sharing its abundance with its ecosystem, embodies a model of interdependence and mutual support. This ethic of reciprocity, she argues, shows us that true wealth arises from relationships, not self-sufficiency, and encourages us to reimagine our values in a way that nurtures both people and the planet.

The reading group will meet at the library on December 16 to discuss ***Small Things Like These*** by Claire Keegan. This novella explores the life of Bill Furlong, a coal merchant in 1985 Ireland. As Christmas approaches, Bill uncovers secrets that challenge his values. The story beautifully depicts hope, heroism, and the moral dilemmas faced by individuals amidst societal pressures.

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



NOVEMBER

3 Town Offices Closed (Election Day)
9 Select Board Meeting 5 pm
9 Senior Lunch 12 noon
11 Town Offices Closed (Veterans Day)
18 Reading Group (Benson Library) 4 pm
23 Select Board Meeting 5 pm
25-27 Town Offices Closed (Thanksgiving)



DECEMBER

6 Breakfast with Santa 9 am
7 Select Board Meeting 5 pm
14 Senior Lunch 12 noon
16 Reading Group (Benson Library) 4 pm
21 Select Board Meeting 5 pm
24-25 Town Offices Closed (Christmas)
31 Town Offices Closed (New Year's Eve)

Doug's TRUCKING & EXCAVATION
DRIVEWAYS • LANDSCAPING
DITCHING • WINTER LOGGING
802-537-2008 ▪ 802-342-6976
Doug Hathaway
1080 Stage Road, Benson VT 05743

BENSON GENERAL STORE
6AM - 8PM Mon - Fri
8AM - 8PM Sat & Sun
2813 Route 22A
Benson, VT 05743
802-537-4041

WOOD ONE, INC.
Managed Vermont Woodlands & Forestry Services
♦ Hardwood Delivered (Green & Seasoned)
♦ Camp Wood for Sale
♦ Logging Services
PO Box 111
Fair Haven VT 05743
802-265-4455 Cell 802-375-5211

SENIOR LUNCH

The traditional Senior Lunch will be on November 9th and December 14th 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.



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.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

A Benson Family Day Fundraising Event

December 6, 2026 9:00 to 11:00 am

Yeah, you heard that right, SANTA CLAUS is coming to town! And we are rolling out the red carpet for our favorite jolly guy!

Join us for a festive morning of fun at our breakfast with Santa event! Breakfast includes pancakes, with real Vermont Maple Syrup, sausage, and a beverage all for $10 per adult (13 and up), $5 for kids (5-12, under 5 years old free).

Our Family Deal is $25 for a family of 4, (2 adults and 2 kids).

Enjoy a delightful breakfast, and a craft table for the kids. There will be activities, pictures with Santa and a special reading of Santa's favorite Christmas story at 10:00. Santa will be bringing a sweet treat, straight from the North Pole, for every child that joins us!

Benson Village School 32 School Street, Benson VT

BENSON MEMORY TREE

Sponsored by The United Church of Benson

DECEMBER 6, 2026 at 4 pm



$1.00 per bulb for Loved Ones
Make checks payable to:
United Church of Benson
BOX located at The WHEEL INN
Email terrip@shoreham.net or
call Terri at (802) 537-2291
to benefit United Church of Benson Scholarship Fund



Jeanne Bartholomew Realty
East Road Benson • 802-537-4938
Jeannebrealty@aol.com

- **Sudbury** 3242 Young Rd. Three bed, 2 bath double wide on 10.1 very private acres. Small barn included.Home has been well maintained and ready to move right in! $269,000, yearly taxes $3,197.48.
- **Fair Haven** New Listing 12 Cedar St. Built in 1875, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, story and a half on large lot home has been raised and new concrete foundation put in with radiant heat in basement, and HWBH. The rooms have been sheetrocked and floors need finish work. Includes older chicken coop/storage shed. Price $128,900, yearly taxes $3,290.64.
- **West Haven** 25 surveyed acres with a 4 bedroom septic design on quiet dirt road. This property is a couple miles off Rt 22A and ready for your home or recreational use. Beautiful hay meadow and colorful woodlot combo. $200,000 and additional adjoining 25 acres with another 4 bedroom septic design offered for $210,000, or both parcels for $350,000.
- **Benson** Lake Champlain – 9 acres of open and wooded land with beautiful long range lake views, close to Benson Landing. Soil will perc, power and roughed in driveway , income producing, long road frontage, subdividable. Price $150,000.
- **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. $120,000 make an offer.
- **Benson** 2.5 acres – your chance to buy a very private recreational parcel on a quiet dirt road just outside the Village.. park your camper , build your home (Permits required). Offered for $35,000.
- **Hubbardton** 24 acre lot with 70ft concrete slab, 750ft road frontage, could be two lots, comes with shared rights to a sandy Lake Hortonia beach. Some terms possible $159,000.

Other land parcels and listings availalble. Give me a call!

Wishing Everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and Joyful Holiday Season!

Future Benson Village Store Update

As we move into the final quarter of 2026, the Benson Village Trust (BVT) is happy to report on progress toward our mission to rebuild the Benson Village Store with news and photos from our latest fundraising event.

More than 80 people showed up to support us at ***'Sit for A Spell'*** for a "lively" chair auction, silent auction and barbeque dinner with live music on October 11th. The event featured 25 uniquely beautiful chairs painted by local artisans, generously donated silent auction treasures, and a meal of pulled pork enjoyed by all. This followed our ***'Sipping at Sunset'*** event held at Cobble Knoll Orchard on August 28th where a huge turnout of supporters enjoyed tasty food, ciders and an incredible sunset view over the orchard.





These vibrant gatherings were only possible due to the enormous efforts of our BVT fundraising/event committee: Lynn Bowen, Lia Mcfarline, Julie Disorda, and Kerry Dunseath. We also thank Tad Fyles for providing the tent, Kathy Stannard for all her help and support on food and drinks, Dave Bartholomew for the pulled pork, and Amy and Rick Bartholomew at Cobble Knoll Orchard. ***As always, we are very grateful to everyone who attended and for your generous support of the Benson Village Store project!***



In other important news, we recently announced the selection of the Operator of the future Benson Village Store. Our Benson neighbor, Kerry Dunseath will serve as the primary Store Operator, assisted by her son Albert Valois, with the input and support of her husband, Jean-Sebastien Valois. We're very fortunate that our new Store Operator team are active members of our community and have significant retail and finance experience. The BVT looks forward to partnering with Kerry, Albert and Jean-Sebastian to accomplish our shared goals of providing the Benson community with a welcoming gathering place offering high quality, affordable food and everyday essentials while supporting local farmers and food producers.

We are committed to sponsorship and support of events that bring the Benson Community together and we look forward to sharing more updates soon regarding fundraising, construction, and the future timelines for the opening of the store.

If you're interested in donating or just want more information, reach out to us at info@bensonvillagetrust.org. Remember: Follow us on Facebook, check out our website or contact us directly via email!

SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



SCOTT PERRON
PLUMBING & HEATING
Benson, VT
802-558-4055 (cell)
service
renovations
new installations
fully insured



Deer Hunting Widows'

Pampered Chef Bingo Fundraiser

with Carol Murphy

November 14, 2026 at the Benson Village School
32 School Street Benson, VT

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

Benson Family Day is holding our 4th annual Pampered Chef Bingo Fundraiser!
Carol Murphy is once again helping us raise money.
All proceeds will benefit Benson Family Day. Come support Family Day
so that bigger and better things can continue to be offered!

Bring your family, bring your friends, bring your friend's 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.
Nine 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.



Let's Play Bingo!



BENSON'S 9th ANNUAL TRACTOR OF LIGHTS PARADE

LINE UP AT BENSON TOWN GARAGE @ 4:30PM.

ALL ARE WELCOME-NOT LIMITED TO TRACTORS, BUT MUST BE LIGHTED.

PLEASE CALL GINA CULL @ 802-537-2063 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO LET HER KNOW YOU WILL BE PARTICIPATING.



SUNDAY DECEMBER 6, 2026

PARADE STARTS AT 5 PM

PARADE ROUTE STARTS AT CORNER OF STAGE ROAD & HULETT HILL AND GOES DOWN INTO TOWN AROUND KELLOG'S DRIVEWAY AND BACK UP THE HILL. PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL WHEN LEAVING AND ALLOW ROOM FOR THE TRACTORS/LIGHTED VEHICLES TO GET BACK UP THE HILL. THANK YOU!

Slate Valley Cares

The holiday season is approaching, and Slate Valley Cares is preparing to help local families enjoy Thanksgiving through our **Adopt a Family for Thanksgiving** program. We invite community members to adopt a family or donate food or funds to help make the holiday brighter for our neighbors in need.

Join us for our **Basket Raffle on November 7th at the Castleton Legion!** Your participation helps support the families who depend on our services.

We're also excited to announce that **Music Bingo returns November 8th at Lake Bomoseen Lodge and Tap Room!** Join us once a month throughout the winter months for a fun evening of music, bingo, and community spirit while supporting Slate Valley Cares.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support. Together, we can make a difference for the 180 families we serve each week!

Connect With Us!

49 Main Street Fair Haven, Vermont 05743 Jasmin Durkee, Director

Facebook: @Slate Valley Cares Email: hello@slatevalleycares.org Website: slatevalleycares.org

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Big news for the Rutland Region! The Vermont Land Use Review Board and Public Service Department have approved the 2026 Rutland Regional Plan, adopted by town representatives serving on the RRPC Board of Commissioners on May 19, 2026.

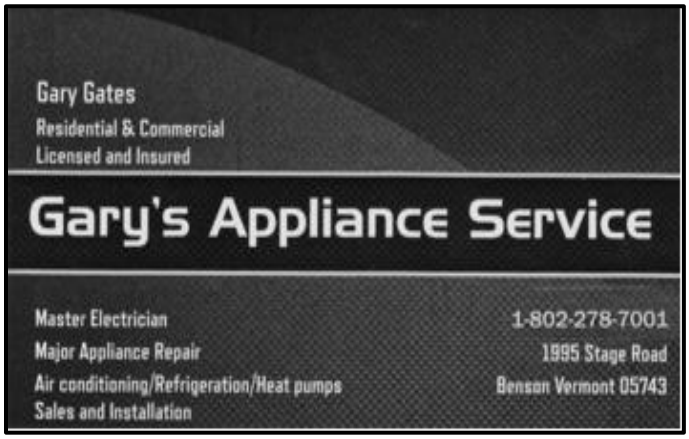
The Plan—including the Regional Future Land Use Map—is a practical roadmap for building stronger communities and a stronger economy. It gives towns and local partners a flexible, locally led way to turn shared goals into real results.

This is not a one-size-fits-all plan, and it is not about stopping growth. Our Region needs more housing, thriving businesses, reliable infrastructure, and smart investment in every community—from Mount Tabor, our smallest town, to the City of Rutland, our largest. Each municipality has an important role, with growth shaped by its own size, resources, needs, and character.

Thank you to everyone who helped create a Plan for the Region, by the Region. Approval is a major milestone—but it is only the beginning. Now is the time to turn the Plan into action, and everyone has a part to play. Learn more, share your ideas, and get involved!

Explore the Plan and see how you can get involved: https://www.rutlandrpc.org/programs/regional-planning/

WINTER ROAD CREW OPERATIONS: 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. All mailboxes need to be properly secured before winter. Damage incurred from heavy snow coming off plows will not warrant repair/replacement. If you have any questions you can email bensonroads@gmail.com.



THE WHEEL INN

Corner of Lake Road and Stage Road

Benson, VT 802-537-2755

THE WHEEL INN

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!!

VOTING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

Voting procedures are the focus of a lot of attention this year. We tried to provide answers to some of the most common questions below, but if something isn't clear or you have further questions, please give us a call at 802-456-4094 Ext. 1 or email at bensonclerk@myottmail.com.

The state of Vermont has mailed a general election ballot to each Benson active registered voter, so there is no need to individually request an absentee ballot. If you haven't received your ballot, please call the office. Please carefully read the instructions that came with the ballot. ***The number one reason that ballots can't be counted is because the voter forgot to sign the certification envelope.***

In Vermont, your ballot must be RECEIVED by the time the polls close at 7:00 pm on Election Day. You can return your voted ballot by:

- Mailing it in the postage paid envelope provided.
- Delivering it to the Town Clerk's office weekdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, except for Wednesday when we are here from 3:00 to 7:00 pm.
- Leaving it anytime in the secure drop box located at the southwest corner of the Town Office building. The box is checked daily.
- Delivering it to the polling place on Election Day, November 3rd .

If you would rather vote in person on Election Day, the polls will be open as usual from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Community Hall. Just bring the ballot with you that was mailed to you and fill it out in the voting booth. There will be ballots available for those who don't have a ballot with them.

If you are not a registered voter, there is still plenty of time to register before the Election. Registration can be done at the Town Clerk's office or through the Secretary of State's website at sos.vermont.gov. – Heidi Chandler, Benson Town Clerk

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!

Honoring our Veterans

Over 95 years ago now, on Nov 11, 1918, the weary soldiers of World War I, (The Great War), were finally allowed to lay down their arms. Beginning the very next year, not just in the United States, but all over the world, that day, Armistice Day, became a day of solemn remembrance. By the 1950s, it was painfully obvious that World War I had not been the "war to end all wars", and in 1954 Dwight Eisenhower called upon all citizens to observe November 11th no longer as Armistice Day, 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" and that we should also on that day "re-consecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

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 a.m. on Wednesday, 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 by calling 802-456-4094 Ext 1.

UNITED CHURCH OF BENSON NEWS

Tag sale on Nov 28th from 9-1. This will be our last sale for a while. Everything half price!
Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm on December 24th. All are welcome!
Regular Sunday service resumes on December 27th at 10 am

