



Town of Bennington

Communications Coordinator Report — May 23, 2022

Hello May!

May in Bennington means that spring is in full swing. The apple blossoms are amazing and if you have a chance take a drive on Carpenter Hill Road where the Southern Vermont Orchards are in full bloom.

Willow Park Playgrounds:

As part of our ongoing outreach effort regarding the playground renewal at Willow Park, a public presentation of the final design of the playgrounds was held at the upper pavilion last Thursday.

The chosen design and color scheme are the result of a public outreach process. Over 1,500 people participated in the selection and many people also submitted comments, suggestions, and ideas during the public comment period.

The final design was then fine tuned in response to the comments and suggestions received. The final design incorporates several features that include more musical/auditory components; harness swing systems; different slide options in the ages 5 to 12 large play structure; additional age-appropriate spring rockers in the upper playground; benches for seating; and changing a Volta spinner to an accessible spinner.

Town staff and Play By Design are working to have the new playgrounds installed as soon as possible. The Town will share information on timing as that information comes available. Ideally it should be 2-3 months, but we are warned to be cautious and expect possible delays due to COVID 19 and supply chain issues.

For more information about the Willow Park playgrounds renewal project and process please visit the Town website page on Willow Park located at: <https://benningtonvt.org/willow-park/>

Citizen Outreach:

This month there were 11 outreaches to citizens and there were no public record requests to my office.

A.T. Community and Business Outreach

Planning continues for the July 30 “Bennington Trail-fest” to be held at the Bennington Community Center (Rec Center) from noon to 3 pm. There will be live music, free food, activities, and info tables. Free to the public. An earlier idea of having a beer vendor as part of the event has been removed from the mix. Several businesses have joined as A.T. Community Business supporters who will be recognized during the event. A trivia contest with prizes, lawn games, and hiker related skill workshops will also be included.

250th Planning:

I continue to play a role at the state, federal, and regional levels in planning for the 250th anniversary and I have also been involved in the local 250th planning for Remember Baker that was this past March 21. A final anniversary event will be a dramatization of the Rescue and Capture of Remember Baker that will be held on June 18th at 6:00 pm in East Arlington at the Federated Church.

I have also begun work on creating a 250th committee for Bennington and the surrounding region to allow for the start of planning for specific events and to explore what “big ideas” might be possible for 2025-2027 (Capture of Fort Ticonderoga through the founding of Vermont and the Battle of Bennington) and to interface with the statewide 250th commission as they begin outreach to the various parts of the state for input.

Website Update:

We are currently still working with the team at Revize on the new unified website design. This also included a review of the content of the three existing websites and providing a detailed site plan... there are over 200 pages and 1,500 post on the site currently as well as hundreds of documents and materials. At the same time we are working on getting new images across the board and reorganizing the navigation.

Organizational Collaboration:

An early goal of mine was to have a regular show on CAT TV and a regular article in the local newspaper. Both efforts are now in full swing! As I reported last month, the first "Inside Bennington" episode had aired and that has been joined by two more plus I am using our town CAT TV membership to video tape additional meetings and events that would not otherwise be covered. I am very grateful to CAT TV for this partnership! Likewise the Bennington Banner has been extremely accommodating and I have now had three feature articles. This will be regular feature moving forward.

I am also working with the Bennington Police De-

partment on recruitment, and I will be attending a FBI-LEEDA training in June to learn more about how we can improve transparency and communication between the police and the community as a whole.

Outreach to the Community:

I did a community presentation to the VFW and have another tentatively planned with the Shires Young Professionals for the fall. Shannon and I also will be doing a followup visit to the Senior Center on June 1 as part of our ongoing effort to include Seniors each step of the way as we contemplate a possible move of the Senior Center and Meals on Wheels to a new home in the historic Ben-Hi building.

Facebook POST OF THE MONTH:

Our post of the month honored Jay and Joan Zwynenburg for their amazing achievement of 50 years in business.

Jay's has been an anchor business in our downtown for so long that it is hard to picture Bennington without it. We are very lucky to have these two amazing business people as part of our community and we thank them for all their hard work and community spirit.

Post details

Town of Bennington
Published by Jonah Spivak (P) · May 2 · 🌐

Congratulations to Jay and Joan Zwynenburg for their 50th anniversary of being in business in Downtown Bennington on Friday, April 29th!

Performance for your post

8,200 People Reached		
995 Reactions, Comments & Shares 📊		
616 Like	106 On Post	510 On Shares
193 Love	37 On Post	156 On Shares
2 Wow	1 On Post	1 On Shares
169 Comments	22 On Post	147 On Shares
17 Shares	17 On Post	0 On Shares
408 Post Clicks		
79 Photo views	0 Link clicks 📊	329 Other clicks 📊
NEGATIVE FEEDBACK		
0 Hide post	0 Hide all posts	
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page	

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Get more likes, comments and shares
When you boost this post, you'll show it to more people.

8,200 People reached | **1,403** Engagements | [Boost post](#)

👍❤️👏 143 | 22 Comments 17 Shares

Like Comment Share