

# Benton Community Voice

August 2011



## From the BCDC

By Chuck Wartner



Missing from Picture: Myrna Sysko, Jill Knight and Rose Walton

### Past Presidents:

Bill Bastian, Keith Farrey,  
Steve Malone and Steve  
Calvert.

### Current Board Members:

President Chuck Wartne  
Vice President, Steve Malone  
Secretary, Rose Walton  
Treasurer, Crystal Erdenberger  
Director, Darnell Hendricks  
Director, Jessica Polfer

At the time of the newsletter, the Labor Day festivities are fast approaching. As with each of the various events throughout the year, it is a time for the Benton Community to come together to work, play and celebrate. While this weekend has come to have its own special meaning within our community, we should be reminded of its historical significance.

Labor Day is a creation of the labor movement in the U.S. and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. The date and place of the first Labor Day holiday celebration in the U.S. is somewhat in question but one of these first celebrations was on September 5, 1882, in New York City as a demonstration and a picnic. Slowly, other communities and states followed suit, and on June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday.

The first proposed outline for the observance and celebration of the Labor Day Holiday included a street parade “to exhibit to the public the strength and spirit de corps of the trade and labor organizations of the community followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families.”

The Benton Fire Department has and continues to provide these attributes of Labor Day to the Benton community. The Labor Day weekend in Benton continues to be enjoyed by people near and far and by all ages.

The BCDC would like to welcome back Bucky Badger and the University of Wisconsin Marching Band who are scheduled to return for the parade and Mr. Obvious and Sunshine who will be this year’s Street Dance entertainment on Sunday night.

One final note, if you plan to be in Benton over the Labor Day weekend, please plan to attend the Benton Alumni and Friends banquet on Saturday night at Banfield’s Swiss Haus. Come join the fun!

The BCDC would like to thank the Benton State Bank for Donating the resources for printing the newsletters.

## From The Village President

By Gary McCrea

At this time, I would like to address the newly formed Lafayette General Store located at Belmont. The store was the former DOT Visitor Center and Park and Ride in Belmont off of Highway 151. The building was purchased by a small group of investors who have leased it to the Board of Directors of the General Store.

There are currently more than 40 vendors from the Lafayette County area who supply products sold in the store, namely wines,

pop, beer, cheeses, and meats. Other items include candy, popcorn, homemade crafts and many more items.

The store is open daily until 7:00 p.m. Of note, there is a covered wagon out front for picture taking. There is a farmer's market every Friday afternoon from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

I would encourage everyone to take a ride up to Belmont to visit the new store.



I hope everyone is enjoying the summer months. Looking forward to seeing everyone on Labor Day weekend.

## Entertainment in the Park

By Crystal Erdenberger

### ENTERTAINMENT IN THE PARK SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 7 (7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

Movie – **ANTZ**

Sunday, August 14 (6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

Music by **Tom Black**

Sunday, August 21 ( 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

**Hazel Green Opera House Puppet Show (6:00 p.m. -6:30 p.m.)**

**Swindler's Ridge Museum Video & Display (6:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.)**

Sunday, August 28 (7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

Movie – **KUNG FU PANDA**

\*Concessions will have: Popcorn, Candy, Nachos, Soda, & Water

Village Park

\*Sponsored by the BCDC



# Benton Community Fund

*a charitable endowment for the Benton area*

**P.O. Box 253**

**Benton, WI 53803**

## Benton Community Fund Off and Running

The Benton Community Fund, a component of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, is off to a great start! Launched in January 2011, the fund was established for individuals, businesses and groups to contribute time and money toward the betterment of the Benton community. Through the fund the Benton community will have permanent future funding available to meet community needs as they arise.

In typical Benton tradition, the generous support of several residents, alumni, businesses, and those with ties to our community has resulted in pledged totals in excess of \$71,000 as of June 30, 2011. Our overall first-year goal is \$100,000 with no gift being too big or too small. Donations of \$1,000 will be recognized as Charter Donors to the Benton Community Fund. (Note - It is possible to pledge over a multi-year period to minimize a lump sum amount at one time). Some examples of donations received to date have been in celebration of a classmate's milestone birthday and in memory of loved ones.

The first grant cycle was recently completed and award recipients will be announced at a reception to be held Labor Day weekend. A total of \$3,000 in awards will be distributed to worthy organizations that positively impact the Benton community.

Members of the Benton Community Fund Advisory Board are as follows: Jill Knight, Michelle Savatski, Renee Wartner, Chuck Wartner, Darnell Hendricks, Gary McCrea, Pat Neis and Rick Lawrence.

We are grateful to the below donors who have pledged/contributed to the fund during the first six months:

John & Elaine Carter	Mick & Judy Vaughn*	Kyle Knight
The Milestone Agency	Workhorse Software	M. Robbins & Company
Andrew & Ruth Newman	Phoebe McCrea*	Jeannette Schleifer
Gary & Ann Neis *	Dave & Marie Keleher*	Johnson Block & Company
Michael & Ann McCrea*	Tom & Alicia Wilson*	Jennifer Sysko
Randy Curwen	Chuck & Renee Wartner*	Lucy Walkup
Bob & Jill Knight*	BCDC*	Ambrose & Lois Rupp
Robert & Isabel Dare	Ryan Knight*	Prudential Financial*
LaVon Morrow	Dan & Patty Behrens	Kraft Foods*
Benton State Bank*	Larry Redfearn	Top Notch Plumbing

cont'd page 6

## Email Addresses

By Rose Walton

The BCDC would like to consider itself green. We would really like to start to minimize the amount of paper that we use and we are asking you to help us. We would like to email as many copies of the newsletter as possible so we are asking that you send your email address to me at [rose@woodworthinsurance.com](mailto:rose@woodworthinsurance.com). Beginning with the Spring 2012 issue of the newsletter we will begin to email the newsletter. We will still only be doing two

newsletters a year so you won't be bogged down with emails from us.

On a similar note if you have an address change, name change or you would like to receive the newsletter and don't currently, please email me or mail the change to me at Woodworth Insurance Group, Inc. Attn: Rose Walton PO Box 62 Benton, WI 53803.

If you know someone that would like to receive the newsletter either by email or mail send me their information as well.

One quick side note: Chuck Emery was kind enough to upgrade our logo to a media ready version. Basically this means that it is a much cleaner, nicer image. Please take a minute to look at the logo on the first page and if you see him, thank him for the time he donated to doing this.

## Benton Public Library Received DRA Grant

By Sherri Timmerman

The Benton Public Library has been awarded a 2011 Dubuque Racing Association grant in the amount of \$1,498.

The Dubuque Racing Association directs the operations of the Mystique Casino and provides grant funding opportunities for various City of Dubuque entities and for a number of Tri-State area organizations and charities. Since its inception in 1985, the Dubuque Racing Association has awarded area grants totaling over \$523 million.

The DRA grant award for the Benton Public Library helped

fund the purchase of chairs for the new non-fiction area that was added during recent library upgrades. The library, serving Benton and its rural-area communities, has made



significant improvements that allow for a more up-to-date, relevant library experience for its patrons. Some of that experience

was realized through the Dubuque Racing Association grant award.

Over the past several years, a number of local projects have been funded by the Dubuque Racing Association grant program. Residents of Benton recognize the charitable role the DRA and the Mystique Casino play in the Tri-State area and appreciate the grants that have been awarded the Benton community. The Benton Public Library would especially like to thank the Dubuque Racing Association for being selected as a 2011 grant recipient.

## 2011 Benton Halloween Hooley

By Chuck Wartner

Join us again at the local Benton pubs for another fun filled evening of spooks, goblins and ghouls on Saturday night,

October 29<sup>th</sup>. Once again, the BCDC and participating pubs will provide live music and a costume judging contest. So now is the

time to start planning your costume for this years hooley!

# 83<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL BENTON ALUMNI BANQUET



This Year's Honored Classes: 1961, 1976, 1986, 1996,  
and All Classes 60 Years and Back

**Date:** Saturday, September 3, 2011

**Place:** Banfields' Swiss Haus

**Time:** Doors will open at **4:00 P. M.**

Family style meal at **6:00 P.M.**

**Cost:** \$14.50 per person

**RSVP:** To make your reservation,  
please complete the form below  
and return it with payment by August 24  
to:

**Jim Sysko**

**P. O. Box 33**

**We hope many former Zephyrs will come home and  
enjoy the many festivities on Labor Day weekend!**

**Attendance was up again last year – hope to see you!**

Benton Alumni Banquet Reservation – Make checks payable to Benton Alumni Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Persons Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$14.50

Maiden Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and send with payment to: Jim Sysko \$\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed

P. O. Box 33

Some local alumni are putting  
together a video presentation  
of "1961" – you won't want to  
miss this!

Benton Community Fund (Cont'd)

Gary & Marlene McCrea	Jim & Retta Monahan	Carol Alexander
John & Peggy Richards*	Leo & Sandy Scanlan	C R Eckstein*
Scott & Ronda Pedley*	Gardiner Appraisal Service	Quality Motors
Jeff & Michelle Savatski*	Bill & Mary Foltz*	Rick & Lisa Lawrence*
Village of Benton*	Casey Funeral Services	Stephanie Daresh

SW Wisconsin Enhancement Fund\*

\*Charter Donor

Questions regarding the Benton Community Fund can be directed to:

Jill Knight	Kelly Sponsler
Advisory Board Chair	Donor Services Representative
Benton Community Fund	Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin
(608) 759.4391	(608) 778-3344
<a href="mailto:bentonwi79@yahoo.com">bentonwi79@yahoo.com</a>	<a href="mailto:kellysponsler@cfsw.org">kellysponsler@cfsw.org</a>

**The Benton Community Fund**

For *good*. For *ever*.

*I am pleased to show my support of the Benton Community Fund, a component of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, Inc., by making a pledge to the **Benton Community Fund**.*

Please accept this pledge or donation of  \$1,000  \$500  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

This pledge or donation is made (check one) in  memory of **OR**  honor

Please send notification of this gift to: \_\_\_\_\_

Multi-year pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ over **3** years. My first gift will be made \_\_\_\_\_ 201\_\_

**Please bill me:**  Quarterly  Semi-Annually  Annually

**Please return this pledge form or donation to the Benton Community Fund and mail to:**

**Benton Community Fund, P.O. Box 253, Benton, WI 53803**



All donations to the Benton Community Fund, a component of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

# Benton's 115th Annual Labor Day Celebration Benton, Wisconsin Sept. 3– Sept. 5, 2011

Saturday Sept. 3	Saturday & Sunday	Sunday Sept. 4	Monday Sept. 5
Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament Cole Acres 7 AM –2 PM	Fever River Puppeteers “Rapunzel” 11:00 AM on Saturday 2 PM Saturday and Sunday	Street Dance Mr. Obvious & Sunshine	UW Marching Band After Parade Ridge Rangers 1:30-4:30 PM Frankie Brandt 6:00-7:00PM

## Saturday, Sept. 3

Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament (4 Person Best Shot)  
Cole Acres Country Club.....7:00 AM-2:00 PM

Swindler’s Ridge Museum  
Main Street.....10:00AM– 4:00PM

1851 Village School House Museum  
Village Park.....10:00 AM– 4:00 PM

Fever River Puppeteers (“Rapunzel”)  
Hazel Green Opera House.....11:00 AM & 2:00 PM

Benton High School Alumni Banquet  
Banfield’s Swiss Haus...Doors open at 4:30 PM, Meal at 6:00 PM

## Sunday, Sept. 4

Swinder’s Ridge Museum  
Main Street.....10:00AM-4:00PM

1851 Village School House Museum  
Village Park.....10:00AM-4:00PM

Fever River Puppeteers (“Rapunzel”)  
Hazel Green Opera House.....2:00PM

Chicken BBQ  
Village Park.....4:00PM –6:00PM

Street Dance (Mr. Obvious & Sunshine)  
Main St.....8:00PM-Midnight  
Must be 21 to attend. No exceptions

## Monday, September 5 Village Park unless otherwise noted

Parade MainSt.....9:30AM	Swinder’s Ridge Museum Main Street.....10:00AM-4:00PM
UW Marching Band.....After Parade	Duck Races Horseshoe Bend Bridge.....3:00PM
Bingo.....10:30AM-7:00PM	1851 Village School House Museum Village Park.....10:00AM-4:00PM
Craft Fair.....10:30AM-5:00PM	Ridge Ranges.....1:30PM-4:30PM
Rides & Midway games.....all day	Frankie Brandt.....5:00PM-7:00PM
Pasty Dinner St. Patrick’s Hall.....11:00AM	Drawings & Parade Winners Announced.....7:00PM
Fr. Mazzuchelli’s Rectory/Historical Display Near St. Patrick’s Rectory.....11:00AM-4:00PM	

## ***Swindler's Ridge Museum In Jeopardy***

The Village of Benton has a unique and wonderful history. The first settlers arrived in 1824 and the village was permanently settled 20 years later. Over 185 years of memories surround Benton.

Swindler's Ridge Museum was created to preserve these memories. The museum, which was Benton's American Legion building, is located at 25 West Main Street. It provides a variety of exhibits and displays to explain the past history of Benton and the surrounding area.

The museum mining exhibit highlights Benton claim as the Mining Capitol of Wisconsin. Home life in the early part of the century is captured in the parlor display. The general store takes you back to the "good old days," and the military display honors men and women of Benton who served their country. There are also many small collections of Benton memorabilia.

**As you are aware, the museum is operated and maintained by volunteers and donation monies. Over the past years, we have lost many of the volunteers due to age and donations have dropped significantly. *The Swindler's Ridge Museum needs your help!* We are looking for volunteers and/or monetary contributions to help keep our Benton history alive.**

Please give your time and/or monetary contribution today and become actively involved in preserving and exhibiting the heritage of Benton.

***Contributions can be mailed to:***

**Swindler's Ridge Museum**

**P.O. Box 241**

**Benton, WI 53803**

If you would like to be a volunteer, please contact Leo or Sandy Scanlan at 608-759-2722.

Museum Hours:

Friday – Monday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Memorial Weekend thru Labor Day Weekend

Please take time to stop in and explore the museum. You will feel yourself step back in time when you walk through the door.

Thank you.

Swindler's Ridge Museum Committee: Leo Scanlan – Director, Sandy Scanlan – Secretary & Treasurer, Vicki Farrey and Renee Wartner





BCDC  
PO Box 241  
Benton, WI 53803

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*www.bentonwi.us*

## 2011 Tree of Love Ceremony Donations December 4th, 2011

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Or

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Message (please keep short): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contributor's name and address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return to: BCDC  
PO Box 241  
Benton, WI 53803

I wish to have my donation go toward the  
 Tree of Love Scholarship  
 Keith Farrey Memorial Scholarship