

Benton Community Voice

January 2012



From the BCDC

By Chuck Wartner



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

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

As we begin a new year, we would like to thank Benton and the surrounding communities for your generous support in 2011. Each of the events that the BCDC sponsors are designed to enhance the visibility of Benton and to showcase our community in the hopes that more businesses and people will consider Benton as they look to relocate and to enhance the lives of our residents.

The following is a summary of the events we sponsored in 2011 and how the proceeds were utilized.

February—

Ground Hogs Day Auction

This event has been held in 2010 and 2011. The proceeds from this event have gone toward bringing Bucky and the UW Band to Benton the past two (2) years. The intent in having Bucky and the Band come to Benton is to bring more people into Benton for the Labor Day Parade and the Fireman's fundraising events in the park. In addition, it provides an opportunity for people that might not otherwise get the chance, to enjoy their performance.

In 2011, this event was successful enough to not only sponsor Bucky and the Band but also allowed for a \$2000.00 donation to the Benton Booster Club for new football bleachers.

April – Village Wide Community Garage Sales

This event is primarily provided as a community service. Any proceeds above actual expenses go into the general fund to assist in payment of general expenses.

May - Chicken & Rib BBQ at the Incubator

In addition to providing a fun filled day for the kids and adults alike, 100% of the proceeds are donated to Benton High School Scholarship funds.

August – Entertainment in the Park

This series of events, held every Sunday in August, is provided primarily as a community service.

September – Labor Day Weekend Chicken BBQ

100% of the proceeds go toward Benton High School Scholarships.



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2012 Groundhog's Day Auction



The Holidays have come and gone which tells us it's almost time for the 3rd Annual Groundhog's Day Auction. This event will be held at Banfield's Swiss Haus behind Guler's on February 11th. We have seen a tremendous amount of success from this event in the past, and are striving to make the 3rd even better.

The BCDC has donated profits from this event directly back into our community through scholarships and donations towards our own local organizations. The most visible contribution the BCDC has done in the last two years with the auction money is to hire Bucky and the Badger Band to perform in the Fireman's Labor Day Parade and 5th quarter performance. This was a huge success the last two years and we have hired them back for a third. The cost for this event is over \$3000 per year, but the rewards we gain are much more beneficial. Attendance for the parade increased which allowed more to attend the Fireman's activities in the park. We also drew many visitors from outside of our community which allowed us to show off our wonderful village and share with them our Zephyr Pride. Another donation from the auction proceeds was given to the Booster Club to help purchase the new bleachers at the football field. The bleachers were in need of replacement, and the BCDC was very glad to help out. These contributions, along with other donations to our community make this event very special. Here is the schedule for this year's auction:

The BCDC is providing FREE FOOD during the event. Banfield's Swiss Haus will have the bar open for refreshments. 50/50 raffles will be held throughout the evening.

Happy Hour and Brown Bag Auction 6:00-7:30pm

The Brown Bag Auction will consist of items sold in a live auction format but with a little mystery of what is really inside! A few treasures, a white elephant gift, a total surprise every time!

Live Auction 7:30-8:30pm

Special guest auctioneer Mark Mueller will be talking fast as you bid on some wonderful and unique auction items.

Chinese and Silent Auctions 6:00-8:30pm

We will have many items to bid on throughout the night in two non-pressure formats.

The BCDC would like to thank everyone who either donated items for the last auctions, or attended and bid on items. It's all of you that make this event successful. Let's make it even better this year. We are looking for many items to auction, large or small, expensive or thrifty. We are also looking for cash donations so we can purchase some larger items. I also challenge as many of you to bring some friends and spread the word to attend the 2012 Groundhog's Day Auction! All of the proceeds go to great causes right here in our community, and it is always a great time!

If you would like to donate items or make a cash donation, you can do so to Crystal Erdenberger at Benton State Bank, or to Darnell Hendricks at the Village Office

From The Village President

By Gary McCrea

With winter now upon us we have been lucky to not have had any significant snow fall. This is quite a relief in regards to our snowplowing budget. Hopefully this winter won't be too hard on us when it comes.

By the time you read the December BCDC Newsletter, plans will have already been started to install new lighting on Main Street. The wooden poles which are in place now are old, in bad shape

and need to be replaced. We will be looking to replace them with metal poles with a more decorative lighting system. This will result in a cost savings to operate and it will also enhance the look of Main Street.

At this time of the Christmas season, I would like to say thank you to our Village employees, John, Jim and Ryan. I have been receiving calls from residents telling me how nice Main Street

looked this year with the lighted Christmas decorations, your



work is appreciated. Thanks to our Village Clerk, Darnell and her assistant, Liz, for all they do, to the Village Board Members, and to all of you, the citizens of Benton, We can be proud of our village.

From the President

By Chuck Wartner Cont'd from Page 1

September – Labor Day Weekend Street Dance

The proceeds from the Street Dance go toward general expenses and donations. See summary of donations at end of article.



October – Halloween Hooley, Halloween Parade and Pumpkin Carving Contest

Provided primarily as a community service to bring people into Benton to patronize our local establishments.

December – Wreath/Garland sales

Provided as a community service and the proceeds go toward general expenses and donations.

December – Tree of Love

100% of the proceeds go toward the Keith Farrey and Tree of Love Benton High School Scholarships.

December – Christmas Caroling, Santa and Holiday Decorating (Trees, lights, etc.)



Provided as a community service.

In addition to these events, the BCDC provides funding for spring plantings and various other decorations to enhance the community. In 2011, the Benton State Bank offered a promotional CD. A portion of the interest was donated to the BCDC and earmarked for the Benton Community Endowment Fund as part of the \$5,000 donated by the BCDC. Also in 2011, the BCDC compiled a coupon book filled with coupons from local

businesses. Due to the less than stellar sales of these books, it has been decided to direct fund raising efforts towards the Ground Hogs Day Auction.

Brief 2011 Financial Summary:

As you can see, the BCDC invests almost all of its net proceeds back in to the Benton Community. These donations, along with the countless hours that are donated by volunteers, continue to make Benton a great place to live, work and play.

Thank you again for all of your support. Hopefully, you now have a better understanding of who we are, what we do, and what the proceeds from various events support. Please consider continuing to support us either by attending these various events or by becoming involved – all are welcome. Monthly meetings are held at the Benton Incubator Building on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Benton Community Wide Garage Sale

Saturday, April 28th, 2012

Registration Form

Sale Address: _____

General Listing of Items Featured (clothes, tools, toys, furniture, miscellaneous, etc.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Each sale location will be identified with a number on a map of Benton (**A numbered sign will also be available to be picked up at the Benton State Bank for you to put out at your garage sale**). A listing will be attached to each map indicating address and items available for sale, (ex. #1 - 123 Main St. – clothes, toys and miscellaneous). Each entry will cost \$10.00 to help defray set-up costs. Maps will be available at Benton State Bank, Village Office, Post Office, and Zephyr Depot.

Please complete and return this registration form, with **registration fee of \$10.00** by April 13, 2012 to:

Mail:

Crystal Erdenberger

74 Park Street

Benton, WI 53803

(608) 642-0687

Drop off at:

Benton State Bank

42 W. Main Street

Benton, WI, 53803

– OR –

NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Sponsored by the Benton Community Development Corporation (BCDC)

*Please contact Crystal Erdenberger if you are interested in participating in a flea market type garage sale at the Village Park on Saturday, April 28th, 2012. Citizens that live outside of Benton or in low traffic areas are encouraged to participate.

Tree of Love

By Kay Brink

The 2011 Tree of Love celebration was held on Sunday evening, December 4th. Prior to the tree lighting ceremony, approximately a dozen community members traveled to Southwest Health Center Nursing Home in Cuba City to sing Christmas carols to the residents.

Upon arriving back to Benton, a total of 131 memorials and/or honorariums were read to a small crowd assembled around a beautiful tree donated by Chuck and Renee Wartner and a warm fire prepared by Aaron and Crystal Erdenberger. Attendees were able to enjoy hot chocolate and home baked Christmas treats donated by various BCDC members.

Donations to the tree of love celebration are applied to two existing scholarship funds, at the donors' request. This project began in 1999. The \$300 Tree of Love scholarship recipient for 2011 was Angelic Soppe. The \$300 Keith Farrey Memorial scholarship was awarded to Jandell Robey. Donations received during 2011 totaled \$1,135 which will be added to the fund balances. To date, total donations received exceed \$14,883!

The BCDC would like to thank all who assisted with making our 2011 celebration a success. Reminder: tax deductible donations are accepted throughout the year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Thank you Benton State Bank



The BCDC would like to thank the Benton State Bank for their generous donations of time and money to make the Community Voice possible. The Benton State Bank has been a large contributor to the BCDC since our inception in 1992.



BCDC
PO Box 241
Benton, WI 53803

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Benton, WI
53803
Permit No. 20

Change Service Requested

Current Resident

Visit us at
www.bentonwi.us

2012 Tree of Love Ceremony Donations
December 2nd, 2012
\$5.00

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