



Across the Covered Bridge

Town of Bennington
Monthly Newsletter
May 2026



PRIORities (a message from the supervisor)

I have received a few comments recently about the 2026 town tax increase of 15.1% and that being attributed to me and the current town board. It's important that residents understand that **ANYTHING** we are currently dealing with in town finances is using the 2025 budget that was created and passed by previous supervisor Ellen Grant and the previous town board, of which Christin Domes and Jeff Burger have since been replaced. While I share your frustration with the reckless handling of our finances by past officials, it's important to differentiate between those who created the mess and those who are currently cleaning up after them. The first budget and taxes we have any control over will be 2027 and you will see **NO TOWN TAX INCREASES.....As promised!!!**



THE BENNINGTON BUZZ (new and upcoming events)



--Hometown Heroes Banner Program--

Application deadline is May 15th!!!

--Youth Baseball starts soon!!! (if the rain **EVER** stops)--

--Concerts in the park and Swim program updates soon!!!--

--REMINDER the NYS Burn Ban runs from March 16th through May 14th--



NEW MONTHLY RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT!!!



The greatest resource of Bennington will **ALWAYS** be the residents themselves. **As promised**, the focus of the town moving forward will be on the **RESIDENTS**. There are so many extraordinarily talented people in our town and it's time they were recognized and appreciated. Every month we will spotlight a new resident for their special talent and encourage you all to take

a minute of your time to learn about them, contact them, and support them in any way you can. **EVERYONE** in Bennington wins when we support each other.

Our first ever resident spotlight shines on Fermented Fields Forever.

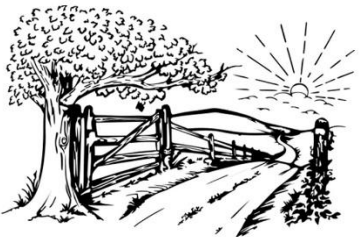
Her story, her friendly smile, and beautiful young family are heartwarming and purely Bennington. I'll let her tell her story in her own words.....

My name is Alyssa and I am a stay at home mom to my amazing little boy and a caregiver to my mother who has Alzheimer's. After her diagnosis in 2018 I began taking a closer look at the ingredients in the foods we ate every day.

What started as a desire to better understand nutrition has grown into a passion for creating wholesome food with simple recognizable ingredients. Today I operate a business called Fermented Fields Forever that grew from my vision of a small hobby farm of sustainable, homemade food and was inspired by the wild strawberries growing on our land and my love of the song "Strawberry Fields Forever".

Every baked good she creates is made with sourdough and uses minimal, whole-food ingredients she grows herself or sources from local farms. Eggs from her chickens and local raw honey are staples in her products. Gluten-Free, Dairy-Free and Vegan options available so everyone can enjoy these amazing original recipes created by Alyssa herself.

Please visit and contact Alyssa at Fermented Fields Forever on Social Media
-----ALL LINKS WILL ALSO BE ON THE TOWN WEBSITE-----
She is also a regular at many fairs, markets and events in the area.

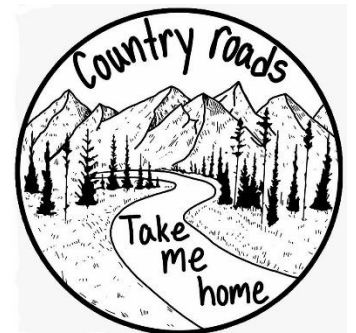


COUNTRY ROADS

(A new partnership for the future)

The unfortunate reality is the lack of financial oversight and responsible

budgetary spending control between the town and the highway department in the past has left us in a **VERY** difficult position moving forward financially. We have a plow fleet that was allowed to age **WELL** past its life expectancy



and now we are faced with astronomical CONSTANT repair bills just to keep them in service. We have accumulated massive debt in a misguided attempt to remedy this decades long mismanagement all at once and it has only complicated our efforts moving forward. Budgets have not been followed and constant overspending has not only resulted in ever rising taxes but sadly as we all know.....we can't afford to squander our resources. Every dollar wasted is a dollar that does not go where it should.....to fix our roads. For now, we will dedicate our efforts to what we have and what we CAN do. Ditching, Grading/Packing, and Culverts will take center stage as we develop a strategy to address our aging plow fleet and control spending to free up as much resources as possible for road repairs we desperately need to address.

Our Social Media growth has been amazing!!!

Over 65,000 views to our Facebook page in the last 30 days (734% increase)

Website traffic up 44% (94% NEW visitors)

Town website has been viewed by visitors from 24 different countries!!!

Hundreds of visitors signed up for digital notifications and this newsletter

Come see us at www.benningtonny.gov

More exciting changes and updates to town technology and communication coming soon!!!

FOLLOW THE TOWN ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA



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