



# Historic Bakersfield News and Notes

**B A K E R S F I E L D   H I S T O R I C A L   S O C I E T Y**

A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

## 2023 COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Ongoing:** BHS normally meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in our building. Please call to confirm date, location and time--call 827-3042. Our meetings are open to anyone and everyone who is interested in the history and future of Bakersfield.

**Saturday, September, 2:00-4pm:** Dedication of a Historic Marker for Bakersfield Historical Society Building. We are also celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BHS with a free ice cream social.

The new marker which suddenly appeared in front of our building a couple months ago, thanks to Rodney Allen, and has been covered up ever since, will be unveiled.

The information for this marker was submitted to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation by Sue Tillotson, who did the work researching the history and multiple shared uses of the building from its construction in 1840 as the South Academy, its charter as Bakersfield Academical Institution in 1844, its life as St. George Catholic Church from 1885 to 1996, up to its most recent 25 years as Bakersfield Historical Society.



Later-that same day:

**Saturday, September, 5:00 pm**  
Aaron and Alaria Doane will give a concert in the Town Park.

**Saturday, November 11, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm:** the annual Holiday Craft and Bake sale will (likely) be held. Definite details still to come.



## Bakersfield Volunteer Fire Department Has an important new addition

By now many of us have seen Bakersfield Volunteer Fire Department's new emergency response vehicle on its way to a call. The new truck, a non-transporting emergency response vehicle, was dedicated to Todd Cosgrove for his 51 years of service to Bakersfield, at this year's Independence Day Celebration. It was partially paid for with ARPA funds.

The emergency response vehicle is the fire department's most-used vehicle as it goes out on all calls: fire calls, as well as, medical and other emergency calls, and it has to be able to reach all the remote places in all kinds of weather.

Matt Hull, Chief of the Fire Dept., and Ginger Parent, Assistant Chief, spoke to the ARPA board about the need to replace the former First Responder vehicle. They do not charge for any of their calls, so there is no financial recoup for their work.

The fire department had started a vehicle replacement fund for the last few years to try to prepare for that need, but without the matching ARPA funds would not have been able to acquire the truck they now have.



The new truck has the ability to access hard to reach places. It carries all the first response equipment. It is well equipped for emergencies with medical emergency kits and cardiac and blood pressure monitors, bandages, oxygen, blankets, trauma kits for bleeding and more. It carries air packs and other gear for fire calls. The responders can do extrication at automobile accidents.

The vehicle has the radio equipment from the old truck and a mobile command center that allows it to be used to coordinate multiple mutual aid response teams.

We are fortunate to have three EMTs on our first response team. They will be the first ones on the scene at any emergency both medical and fire.

This new vehicle will make it a lot easier for our community and for our response team.



These kids visited the Historical Society as part of the summer camp that is offered at Bakersfield through the supervisory union LEAPS afterschool program. They explored all sorts of old artifacts, tools, containers and photos at the historical society as part of their "Explorers" week.

This was a way of experiencing a sort of "time machine" effect. While looking at old objects in our collection they could think about what things they have in their own homes now to do the same job.

They especially loved the old photos of the village that Alice Foote had selected, and went around looking for the old buildings pictured in the photos and postcards.



Bakersfield Volunteer Fire Department's new Emergency Services First Responder Vehicle which has already been put into service.

# The Bakersfield Volunteer Fire Department <sup>1992</sup>

The Bakersfield Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. was originally chartered as Bakersfield Fire District #1, Inc., on January 24, 1936. It was during the 1950's that the younger members began to call themselves Volunteer Firefighters or the Fire Crew. At that time all of their equipment was stored in Mercury's Garage (now the Bakersfield Building Supply). A siren was located on the building that was sounded to alert the members of a fire. In 1961, after a large amount of effort by the members, a new 1961 Maxlum (500/500) pumper was purchased.

In 1968, Bakersfield Fire District #1, Inc., turned over all of its property to the Bakersfield Vol. Fire Dept. Inc. At the same time, a Volunteer Committee had started work on the construction of the current Fire Station.

Currently the Department has 25 members, and in 1990 purchased a new Emergency One (1,000/1,000) pumper, along with equipment such as 1,000 ft. of 4 inch hose, and a Deluge Gun. Other apparatus consist of a 1200 gallon Tanker, Utility Truck, and Rescue Van. Members are alerted of emergencies via pagers, by St. Albans City Fire/Police Dispatcher center. The Department depends on community support to raise funds to purchase much needed equipment. The main fund raisers consist of members running Bingo (Monday evenings), and their annual Cow Plop Bingo/Chicken BBQ.

Thanks to the great support of the community and its members the Bakersfield Vol. Fire Dept., Inc. is able to continue its mission to protect and serve the residence of Bakersfield.



Campers examining some of the unfamiliar and interesting objects in our collection

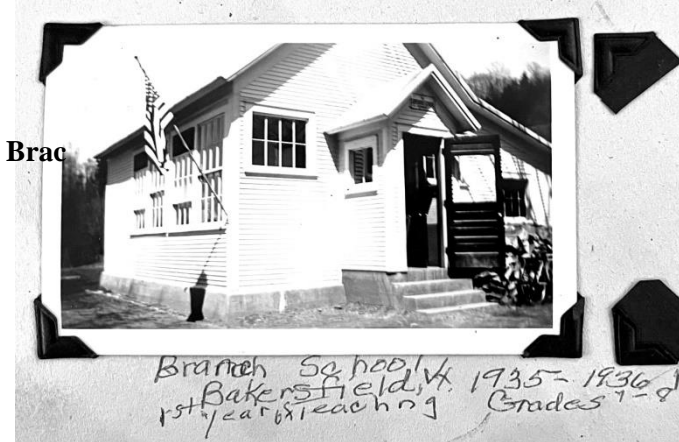


News clipping from 1992 from a scrap book made by teacher Marguerite Johnson.

Pictures from Marguerite Johnson's collection

Below is the Branch School. The text reads "Branch School Bakersfield, Vt 1935-1936 1st year of teaching grades 7-8"

Note: the building, also known as Ovitt School, Branch Brook School or Schoolhouse #12, still exists as a private residence, although not at its original location. The Common School which was next to the Historical Society Building is gone.



Last Common School  
School I taught Bakersfield, Vt  
Retired June 1974 1976-1977

Below: Marguerite Johnson's contract for that first year of teaching in 1935 \$625 for the school year. As it states-\$17/week, \$18 for 20 or more pupils.

Above: The Common School. The text reads "Last School I taught Retired June 1974 Common School Bakersfield, Vt 1976-1977"

Duplicate (For the Teacher) **CONTRACT FOR TEACHING**  
(This form is approved by the State Board of Education)

Agreement, in triplicate, between Marguerite Johnson of Bakersfield, Vt.,  
teacher, and the board of school directors of Bakersfield, Vermont.

1. Said Marguerite Johnson agrees to teach in Branch School and said board agrees to hire said teacher, for the period of one school year a total of 35 school weeks, beginning the 1st day of September, 1935 and ending the 30th day of June, 1936 <sup>\$625</sup>

2. The rate of salary shall be Seventeen (Eighteen for 20 or more pupils) dollars (per year) (per month) (per week).

3. Said teacher agrees to learn, accept and observe faithfully the requirements of the board of school directors and of the laws and regulations of the State, and to exemplify commendable conduct and high ideals during the duration of this contract.

4. Said school directors agree for themselves and through their superintendent of schools to furnish said teacher fair and reasonable aid, advice, support and facilities in order to assist said teacher in fulfilling the requirements of this contract.

5. Should the said school be discontinued or temporarily closed by authorities other than said board of school directors, or by causes not controlled by said board, the teacher agrees to make up the time so lost in such manner as the school directors may require.

6. Said board of school directors may, without liability to said board or town, terminate this contract for inefficiency, failure to fulfill reasonably the conditions of this contract, conduct unbecoming a teacher, or for other adequate cause, after said teacher has been given fair opportunity to be heard and upon consideration and approval of the commissioner of education. This contract may also be terminated in accordance with Section 4193 of the Public Laws.

7. On resignation submitted, said teacher may be released from this contract after reasonable notice, provided said board accepts said teacher's resignation.

8. Said teacher (holds) ~~temporary~~ certification of the following grade: Professional Probationary which will expire on the 30th day of June, 1937

Signed this 22nd day of April, 1935  
By the following school directors or duly authorized person:  
H. D. Ovitt  
J. C. Bennett  
A. C. Caputo

Signed this 26th day of April, 1935  
by Marguerite Johnson Teacher.  
Approved this 4th day of April, 1935  
David W. Newell  
Superintendent or Supervising Principal of Schools.

## BAKERSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### Officers 2023

President: Gary Foote  
Vice President: Jerry Brigham  
Secretary: Amber Foote  
Treasurer: Linda McCall

### Board of Directors 2023

Deanna Allen Ann Mittelstadt  
Tami Brennan Joyce LaMonda  
Alice Foote Lisa Stone  
Newsletter Editor: Mary Schwartz  
Website Editor: Amber Foote

## JOIN THE BAKERSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

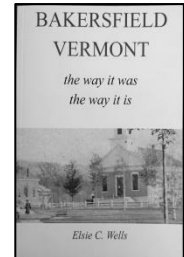
Bakersfield Historical Society  
P.O. Box 70 Bakersfield VT 05441  
Website: <https://historicbakersfieldvt.org/>  
Find us on Facebook:  
Bakersfield Historical Society, Corp.  
(802) 827-3042

### Support Your Historical Society

We depend on memberships, town taxpayers, grants, gifts and fundraisers to preserve our town's history, to heat and maintain our building, for educational programs, community use and much more.

### PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE by Bakersfield Historical Society

- Elsie Wells *Bakersfield: the way it was, the way it is* \$25 (shipping is included) The book is also available for purchase at H.F. Brigham Library.
- Map of Bakersfield Village – reprint of Beers Atlas color \$10



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Cut here and send to the Bakersfield Historical Society, PO Box 70, Bakersfield, VT 05441

### 2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

BENEFACTOR \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ PATRON \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

I PREFER TO SUPPORT BHS WITH A GIFT OF \_\_\_\_\_

Our Restoration Gift Campaign is to help in the restoration and use of Bakersfield's landmark building in order to preserve the past for the benefit of present and future generations. Donations marked "for restoration" will go toward the building restoration/repairs fund and not into the general fund.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Bakersfield Historical Society is a non-profit 501(C)(3) corporation. Gifts and memberships above the family level are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. You can increase the level of your support if your employer has a matching grant program.

<https://historicbakersfieldvt.org/>