



HISTORIC BAKERSFIELD NEWS & NOTES

2026 Community Events

- Bakersfield Historical Society monthly meeting
Wednesday, February 18,
10:30 AM
- Annual Sugar on Snow Party
Sunday, March 22, 1-3 PM
- Green Up Vermont
Saturday, May 2nd
- Memorial Day
Monday, May 25th
- Brigham Academy Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Luncheon is held on the last Saturday in June every year. This year that will be June 27th at the Bakersfield Historical Society, Corp. building located at 80 East Bakersfield Road. The meeting starts at 11:00 AM followed by a Buffett Potluck Luncheon provided by the Historical Society. Cost of the Luncheon is by donation.
- Sat., July 4: Bakersfield's Annual Independence Day Celebration. Attendees typically enjoy music, local food and ice cream, patriotic activities and a fireworks show.



2025 BHS Year in Review

Here are some of our many achievements this year:

* After researching various methods and equipment needed to better control the temperature in the Historical Society's main room, on hot summer days, a long-bladed ceiling fan was determined to be the best option. Electricians Brian Steele and Dan Shook teamed together to install the unit during this Summer. The fan has been very effective in cooling the room.



* On June 14th, the Bakersfield Cemetery Commission coordinated with the Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA) to come to Maple

Grove Cemetery and work with volunteers on a cemetery restoration project. Local volunteers were taught methods to properly clean headstones with D/2 and to straighten many of the older slab headstones. The Historical Society supported this project by providing a complimentary luncheon. VOCA volunteers will return in June 2026 to provide additional training and support.



* The BHS annual Sugar on Snow Party was held last year on March 24,



2025, this annual fund raiser again featured local favorite The Rusty Bucket Band, fresh Bakersfield maple syrup donated by Rodney and Deanna Allen, donuts donated by Food City in St. Albans and coffee, cider and pickles donated by our members. Our Sap Bucket Raffle was again

A Great Pumpkin in Town!

You may have missed that Bakersfield's own James Bean won the Vermont Giant Pumpkin Growers Weigh-Off this past Fall. Hosted at Sam Mazza's Farm in Colchester, James Bean's 1814 pound pumpkin set a new state record for the annual event.

Source: Sam Mazza on Facebook at <https://tinyurl.com/2aoscuxr>



successful in raising funds to maintain and repair our building. Members of The Rusty Bucket Band picked the winners for many nice, donated prizes.

The VT Teddy Bear was again a favorite prize. The 2026 party will be held Sunday, March 22nd from 1-3pm at our building.

A Rainy Halloween did not Dampen Spirits

The Bakersfield Historical Society was pleased to open and share the building for H. F. Brigham Library's annual Halloween Trunk or Treat event,

October 31st, when rain made the parking lot a soggy plan.



Photo from HF Brigham Library on Facebook.

Town Plan

Being Updated

Did you know the Town Plan is being updated? The Bakersfield Planning Commission made available a survey to residents in September. It requested both general and specific feedback from residents for a number of items. In November, the commission hosted a pizza and pie dinner to help explain the process in November,



Town Barn in the Park: Renovations Now Hibernating until Spring

Since 2023, a small group of tenacious, dedicated Bakersfield history buffs have committed to restoring the Barn next to the Common. Restoration began in 2025, continued through the summer and is now dormant for the winter months.



Photo Credit: Carolyn Bronz

A 2023 Technical Assistance Survey was funded by the Town of Bakersfield Conservation Commission and Preservation Trust of Vermont. That report identified the viability and scope of work needed to restore the 22' x 33' 'Carriage and Horse Barn'. Found to be made of Spruce and Hemlock, it was deemed 'very restorable'. In 2025, three anonymous local donations helped materials to keep renovations moving forward all summer. Local Nick Bokron, a retiree from Ironworkers Local 7 Union in Boston has been volunteering his experience and efforts to the project. Lance Lawyer on the Select Board has been acting as General

attended by fifty residents. The Planning Commission has compiled the results of the seventy-nine survey responses received. Cell phone coverage and few local businesses appeared to be most important to respondents. The full report is available at the Town office.

BHS News

Building Update

An enormous ceiling fan was installed to cool summer event participants. Also, both Larry



Westcom and Rosaire Paquette provide in-kind donations of their time every year, with Larry supporting the annual opening and winterizing of the building and Rosaire providing landscaping.

We now plan to focus on painting exterior trim and repairs to the bell tower. Additionally, some roof leaks continue to damage and stain the interior ceiling of the building and will need attention. You can earmark a donation for this project which will improve the level of matching grant funds that we may request.

Contractor for the project. Work began in a damaged corner, and was moving along until winter weather set in.

Originally it was a horse barn, with a hay loft. Now owned by the town, the long term goal is for it to serve as a convenient and enjoyable historic space for Bakersfield residents to enjoy, at least in warmer weather. According to Elsie Well's book, the barn was built by William Narramore in 1895, who also built the Gates' farm dairy barn nearby. For a time Dr. Abernathy, the town's physician in the 1900's, used the barn to house his buggy horse for house calls.

As an icon representing our agricultural roots, the Historical Society (BHS) supports restoration of this town building, toward serving as a valuable community asset in the future.

2025 the Long Summer of Drought

The 2025 drought started in July, and 100 percent of Vermont experienced Serious Drought conditions by September 16th, with 78 percent of the state in Severe Drought, noted the UVM Extension Service. According to the National Weather Service, droughts can lead to "water supply shortages, agricultural losses, recreation disruptions, groundwater contamination, public health concerns, and fire risks. The Department of Agriculture has since reported direct farm losses of the drought were \$18 million.

UVM Extension Service, retrieved 12/24/2025 at <https://tinyurl.com/ye2yd7c9>

National Weather Service, retrieved 12/24/2025 at https://www.weather.gov/media/btv/DGT/DGT_BTV_10302025.pdf



Brigham Academy News

Vermont entrepreneurs Jason Savoy and Jeff Patterson have signed an agreement with the town giving them a year to obtain funding and an

acceptable plan to renovate the Academy to modern use. One basic requirement is that it shall provide some housing for the 55+ community. The two developers have since reached out to Bakersfield Historical Society for information about the rich history of the Academy.

BHS 2025 Officers and Directors

President Gary Foote
 Vice President Jerry Brigham
 Secretary Alice Foote
 Treasurer Linda McCall

Board of Directors

Deanna Allen
 Rodney Allen
 Tami Brennan
 Ann Mittelstadt
 Joyce LaMonda
 Mary Schwartz

Newsletter and Website Editor:
 Amber Foote

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Join us!

We depend upon memberships, charitable donations, private and state grants, fundraisers, the work of volunteers and town taxpayers to maintain the Historical

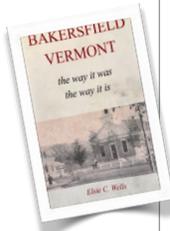
Society building and collection for community use and to preserve our town's history by safekeeping local artifacts and information. We are a small, committed group. We would love new members of all ages, for any time commitment you can offer.

* We meet the third Wednesday of every month at the Bakersfield Historical Society Building, usually at 10:30am, except in winter.



Bakersfield History Items

This year we have been again fortunate to receive many donated items. They include; Brigham Academy yearbooks, scholastic and achievement pins (pictured), lithographs of the Academy, a local maple candy tin, many photos, a wooden sign, postcards, student work and ink wells (pictured). If you are going through family items and find a historic photo, object or document about past Bakersfield life to donate, please contact us 827-3042, 9am to 5pm (M-F), or email us through our website.



History for Sale

Bakersfield: the way it was, the way it is by Elsie Wells...\$25
 Beers Atlas Map: Bakersfield Village color reprint... \$10
 Historic Bakersfield Village, UVM color pamphlet...\$10



Membership Application and Renewal, Gift Donation & Publication Order Form

Choose from these options:

I enclose my 2026 Annual Membership Benefactor \$100
 Patron Family \$20 Individual \$10

I wish to support BHS with a Gift of \$_____.

I wish to support the Restoration Campaign with \$_____, to help in the restoration and use of Bakersfield's landmark building, to preserve the past for present and future generations.

Enclosed is \$_____ to purchase: Elsie Wells' book
 BEERS Atlas Map UVM pamphlet [prices include shipping]

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State and Zip _____ Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Complete and send this form with your check made payable to the Bakersfield Historical Society, PO Box 70, Bakersfield VT 05441.

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 your support level if your employer has a matching grant program.

