



BENSON CLEAN & BEAUTIFUL dba BENSON BEAUTIFICATION

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Editor: Ron Desmarais

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Ring in the New Year

One of the first things Benson Clean & Beautiful (BC&B) did to start off the year was to relocate. Our new office is located at

**298 W. 4th Street
Benson, AZ 85602**

Our thanks go to Jeannine Hamilton for this office space.

First Meeting of Year Shows Promise of Continued Success.

BC&B wasted no time kicking off the New Year with our first general meeting on January 5. Much to our surprise, we had 15 people at this meeting, several of whom were first-time guests. These guests not only joined but also were willing to work on committees. A big welcome goes out to our newest members!

BC&B on Sound Financial Footing

During the meeting, our financial report showed that BC&B is growing and we find ourselves on a strong financial footing. We closed out 2008 with slightly more than \$11,000 in our main savings account, plus another



\$15,000 from a Union Pacific Foundation grant, which is being held in a separate account. Most of these funds are dedicated to partially funding several murals being planned, so we are continually seeking funds from donors and grants to finish these projects.

Membership Drive

It was also reported at the meeting that our membership continues to grow. Invoices in the amount of \$3,175 were sent to members at the end of 2018. Already we have received nearly \$1,000 in response to that member-supported drive. These funds are set aside for the operational expenses of our organization. The growth in membership is a shining example of the continued support we receive from the Benson community.

BC&B from the Past

When BC&B first started in 2005 the objective was to clean up Benson. One of the early projects was presenting a cleaner presence on 4th Street by placing trash containers at various locations in the city. Local businesses were asked to sponsor the containers. In recognition, plaques were placed



on the exterior of the containers to show the support of these sponsors.

Near the end of 2018, an audit was done to assess the condition of these containers. It was found that the 13 original containers placed around Benson were still in place and in good condition. Only one container was found to be missing a lid. However, after years of exposure to the Arizona sun, the original plaques have faded.

Our concentration on murals has taken us beyond what the originators of BC&B started. Our mission has changed and we are headed in a new direction. Now a new organization "*Brighten the Path*" has emerged to take up the mantle of the original founders of BC&B. They have been recognized by the San Pedro Valley News Sun for disposing of 45,280 pounds of trash by the end of 2018.

So what does that mean for our original 13 trash containers? The current BC&B board feels we should support the founders' efforts to make Benson "Clean and Beautiful" by updating the plaques. To do this we will ask the original sponsors to renew their support by covering the cost of replacing the plaques. The City of Benson will continue to support this effort by

covering the cost of emptying the containers as needed.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are always needed to help with various projects and fundraising events that BC&B is working on, especially now that we are starting to do more than murals. Please consider becoming a volunteer for one of our committees or assisting with an event.

Your support is always welcome, and we'd like to stress to all who may pick up a copy of our newsletter that we are always looking for new members and volunteers. Thanks to all of you who have helped us over the years.



More Murals In The Works

Future murals in the works are:

- Early Benson Rodeo at the SSVEC building at 5th & Land.
- Hispanic Barrio mural on the CenturyLink building.
- Farming/Agricultural mural on Farnsworth Tile building.
- Mormon Battalion traveling to St David –location to be determined.
- Woman of the West – location to be determined.
- . A musically related mural on the Unlit Vapor Shop

Unfortunately, the restoration of the mural on Sarge's Side Arms has been temporarily deferred.

We are still hopeful that Midvale Telephone and upper Circle K will help sponsor a

Buffalo Soldiers & Wagon Train mural.

The murals listed here are now in the planning stages but we are continually working with local businesses that are interested or have space for a mural. For businesses wishing to participate, please note that no wall is too small or too big.



In order to carry out our mission, we are constantly seeking ways to supplement funds. Grants and corporate donations are our biggest source of revenue to cover the ever-growing cost of creating these murals, and we're hoping that Benson and Cochise County residents will also help us – no donation is too big or too small!

Maintenance of the murals is also a factor that needs to be addressed. Originally, our biggest concern was finding a place for a mural and then finding the funds to complete it. However, it is very important to keep these murals protected against fading caused by the sun's UV rays. You can see how the murals painted prior to 2013 have faded for lack of UV protection. A good example of this is on the wall of Sarge's Side Arms.

Following are some of our plans for fundraising in 2019.

Benson Pony Express Western Days, scheduled for September 21, is in the early planning stages. Last year's event was a

huge success, and we're looking forward to an even bigger and better event this year. We have already sent out sponsor, vendor and car show applications. All of these applications are also available on our website – BensonAzMurals.org. The car show is a good draw and we anticipate even more cars entering this year. Under consideration is having the cars drive through town from Lions Park on a designated loop as an additional attraction.

If you would like to help with planning Benson Pony Express Western Days, a committee meeting is planned for April 9. Please contact Cindy Allen at 520-631-5507 for additional information

Two ***5K Fun Runs*** are also under consideration – one at Triangle-T and one starting at the Benson high school. These are fun events and allow all ages to participate, even if you only want to walk. An added bonus is that the run (or walk) is a great way to get some exercise!

Sponsoring another dance event was also mentioned. Our '50's Sock Hop in 2016 was very successful and many have requested a repeat in some fashion.

The mission of Benson Clean & Beautiful is to continue to beautify Benson and to plan fun events to allow our residents and visitors to participate and to assist us in our mission

Our murals highlight our past and the pride in our community. Through your continued support, we can co-sponsor more murals, build up our community in other ways, and create a bigger sense of pride in our city.