



Notices

The approved increases in fees for the Benson Parks and Recreation Department will begin January 1, 2014. Contact the Benson Parks and Recreation Department for more details on particular fees.

Community Calendar

Comm. Watch Mtg.
Hedges Apt 12/19

Christmas (State Holiday)
12/24-26

News Year Day (State Holiday)
1-1

Museum Coffee Hour
10am 1/3

Town Commissioners Meeting
1/14

Mayor's Message

I feel honored that you have allowed me to serve another term as your Mayor. It is a privilege to be able to work with people who want to make Benson an even greater place to live, work and raise a family. During these next two years I ask for your continued advice and involvement. But most of all I ask for your prayers for wisdom and discernment for all of us in town leadership. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

William

New Water Lines Are On The Way!

The Town of Benson is working hard to replace aged and failing water lines within its system. A capital improvement plan has been completed, identifying the areas of greatest need. Due to cost, the scope of work has been broken out into three phases:

Phase I- Portions of Hill St., West Church Street and Harnett St. (near Food Lion)

Phase II- The Main Street business district service area, portions of East Church Street

Phase III- Portions of Holmes, Branch and North Streets

The first phase of work will take place on the west end of Hill Street and West Church Street. The H.G. Reynolds Company has been contracted to replace the main water line in the street, valves and meters within this area. Construction

will take place between November 2013 and May 2014.

The Phase I Waterline Replacement Project will cost \$1.5 million and is funded by:

\$600,000 CDBG grant from the NC Department of Commerce

\$500,000 NC Rural Center grant

\$356,000 match from the Town of Benson

\$52,000 contribution by Johnston County



Work crew replacing water lines

Questions about the current project can be directed to Don Johnson, Public Utilities Director by calling Town Hall at 919-894-3553. Thank you for your consideration during the construction process.

Shop Small This Holiday Season



Small businesses are the backbone of our community and economy. Many of the local business owners here in Benson are also the sponsors of many of our community events, ball teams and community outreach programs.

This holiday season we are asking you to shop in locally owned stores right here in Benson and support the local business men and women who give so much to our community throughout the year.

Any business with the Shop Small logo (shown above) in their window is a locally owned store. Support your neighbor this season and shop in those stores.

Together we can make this holiday season a great one!

Oglesby Leaves Commission



Serving as a Benson Board of Commissioner takes time, energy and patience. Commissioner Doug Oglesby embodied all these traits during his six years of service on the Benson Board of Commissioners. The Town of Benson would like to thank Doug and his wife, Brenda for their service to our community. During Oglesby's tenure he has served on various boards and championed a wide variety of causes. His service as a Board of Trustee at Johnston Community College and decades of experience in the private sector made him an invaluable asset to the Benson Board. "Doug was a great leader in the community as well as on the board. He will be sorely missed," said Town Manager, Matt Zapp. As Oglesby steps down Benson will have a new commissioner to fill his seat. Jerry Medlin, of Lincoln Street, will be sworn in at the December meeting of the Benson Board of Commissioners to fill the vacant at large commissioner seat.



TOWN DIRECTORY

William W. Massengill
Mayor
464-3960

Frederick D. Nelson, Jr.
Mayor Pro-Tem

Jerry Medlin
Commissioner

R. Max Raynor
Commissioner

Cassandra P. Stack
Commissioner

Will T. Chandler
Commissioner

John R. Bonner
Commissioner
464-9743

Matt Zapp
Town Manager
894-1606

Connie Sorrell
Town Clerk

Braston Newton
Planner/Zoning
Administrator

Joseph B. Stallings
Economic Development
and Media Coordinator

Ashley M. Heath
Financial Director
894-3553

Matt Smith
Parks and Recreation
Director
894-5117

Chief Kenneth Edwards
Police Chief
894-2091

Chief Alan Johnson
Fire Chief
894-8990

Terry Hobgood
Cultural Arts Director
894-1266

The Town of Benson
303 East Church Street
PO Box 69
Benson, NC 27504

Phone: 919-894-3553
Fax: 919-894-1283

Parks and Recreation: News and Information

Improvements Coming To Dr. P.K. Vyas Park



Examples of Outdoor Exercise Equipment **only three communities in the state of NC to receive the Blue Cross Blue Shield Outdoor Nation Grant.** The grant in the amount of \$7,500 will go toward the purchasing of outdoor exercise equipment. This equipment will be located at the Dr. P.K. Vyas park on Elm and Lee Streets. **“We are continuing to promote healthy living in our community. This grant will help us with this by providing our residents access to high quality exercise equipment at no cost,”** said Matt Smith Benson Parks and Recreation Director. Residents should see the installation of the equipment in 2014. **For more information on the grant and the Benson Parks and Recreation Department contact Matt Smith at 919-894-5117.**

The Benson Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce that Benson was one of

Imagine Benson: Dr. P.K. Vyas Park Vision Slated

In order to develop a community vision for the former middle school property located along Lee and Elm Streets, the Town of Benson has contracted with the NCSU School of Design. **On Thursday January 16, 2014, three separate meetings will be held at the site.** Specific meeting times are forthcoming.

Current uses at the site include the Benson Fire Department, the Dr. PK Vyas MD Park, the community gymnasium, outdoor recreational fields, a playground, two picnic shelters and a walking trail. Programs housed under roof include the Not Just Another Community Center (NJACC) and the Partnership for Children (PFC).

Residents, civic groups, community leaders, town staff and other interested parties are encouraged to participate. Help the Town of Benson plan for the best use and design of the 10-acre property. Input will be gathered from all attendees. So **mark your calendar to participate on January 16, 2014.**

Morgan's On Main Comes To Main Street



Business Booster

As the holidays approach the need to find that perfect gift item will become that much more important. Benson shoppers now have a new location to find that perfect gift. **Morgan's On Main opened their doors in November of this year.** Since their opening they have been providing customers an unparalleled shopping experience.

Natalie Morgan, owner of Morgan's On Main has lived in the Benson community for well over a decade. She has over five years as a small business owner and decided to open her first store on Benson's Main Street. When asked why she chose Benson Morgan said, **“I wanted to open my store in Benson because it has a thriving downtown with a strong and supportive business community”.**

Morgan's On Main is a unique store featuring antiques, collectibles, & high-end resale items as well as handmade creations from some fantastic local vendors. Many of the vendors in Morgan's are from the Benson area. Shoppers



Natalie Morgan outside of Morgan's on Main

will be able to find everything from seasonal items to furniture and everything in between. Don't have cash on hand? Don't worry. **Morgan's on Main accepts cash, check and credit cards.**

As the holidays come around let us all remember that small businesses are the backbone of our economy and community. **We must support those business by patronizing them. This year shop small with a small business owner, shop at Morgan's on Main.**

Morgan's On Main

121 E. Main St.
919-701-1240



Open Mon.—Sat. 10am - 5:30pm

Bring this newsletter in for 10% off an item