



**Notices**

Positions are still available on various Town of Benson advisory boards. Please contact Town Clerk, Connie Sorrell, if you are interested in serving. These boards are a critical part in developing policy for the town.

**Community Calendar-**

- Town Commissioners Church of God 2/20
- Town Commissioners Meeting 2/27
- Comm. Watch Mtg. Ridge Crest Apts. 3/6
- Museum Coffee Hour 10am 3/7
- Town Commissioners Meeting 3/11

**Mayor's Message**

Get involved in your community. Make a difference. Volunteer for a board or commission. Your voice and work could be the tipping point that we need.

William

## Black History Month Celebrated At Museum

Come celebrate Black History Month on Sunday, February 23rd from 2pm-4pm as the Benson Museum of Local History recognizes the great contributions that have been made to the Benson community by African Americans .

Carolyn Ennis, retired Johnston County teacher and member of the Johnston County Heritage Commission, will be the keynote speaker. She will be speaking on Johnston County history. Benson resident Annie Pearl will be the guest of honor.

Attendees will be able to view photographs from the museum's black history collection which will be on prominent display in the Harold Medlin Photo Gallery.

**Attendees are encouraged to bring historical photos to be scanned at the open house. All**



2013 Guest of Honor Frances Williams

**original photos will be immediately returned to the owners after they have been scanned.**

Refreshments will be served. There is no cost

to attend this event. This is a great opportunity to learn about black history in Benson and celebrate our community's heritage.

**For more information please call or visit the Benson Museum of Local History at 102 West Main Street, call 919-894-1266 or email Terry Hobgood, Cultural Arts Director, [thobgood@townofbenson.com](mailto:thobgood@townofbenson.com).**

## Help Keep Benson Safe



The Benson Police Department will be continuing their Community Watch Program throughout 2014. Meetings will be held on the first and third Thursday of the month at 7pm. You can find the location of each meeting on the Town of Benson calendar on the Town webpage. BPD would like to encourage every citizen to attend.

"This program helps to bridge the gap between the residents of Benson and the police department. We find that the information we gather from these meetings not only help us address the concerns that citizens might have but also helps us deter crime from ever occurring," said Kenneth Edwards Benson Police Chief.



For more information on the Benson Community Watch Program and how you can get involved contact the Benson Police Department at 919-894-2091.

## Energy Saving Ideas: Try Them



Many people around the world made a New Year's resolution to save more money in 2014. Here are a few tips that can help you save a little extra cash this year by reducing your carbon foot print and saving on your energy costs.

- **Reduce phantom energy consumers.** Use power strip to turn off multiple devices when they are not in use. Things like TV's, phone chargers, gaming devices and computers consume energy even when not in use.
- **Use reusable bags.** Taking reusable bags with you to the grocery store can help reduce the number of plastic bags that wind up in the landfill.
- **Use bottled water sparingly.** Drinking tap water not only saves you from having to buy bottled water, it also insures you are getting the fluoride you need.

These are just a few green tips to help you put more green in your pocket in 2014.



TOWN DIRECTORY

William W. Massengill
Mayor
464-3960

Frederick D. Nelson, Jr.
Mayor Pro-Tem

Jerry M. Medlin
Commissioner

R. Max Raynor
Commissioner

Casandra 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

Senior Games/Silver Arts

The 27th annual Johnston County Senior Games are schedule for March 31- April 11, 2014.



Participants must be 55 years or older as of December 31, 2014 and have lived within the county for three consecutive months. The entry fee is \$10 per person which covers most athletic events. Additional fees apply for golf (\$10), billiards (\$2) and bowling (\$5 per event). Silver Arts contestants can enter an original work of art that was created by the artist after their 55th birthday and within two years of the event. There is a \$10 entry fee to compete in the Silver Arts. Deadline to enter the Senior Games and Silver Arts is February 28th, 2014. For more information on the Senior Games and Silver Arts contact Benson Parks and Recreation Department at 919-894-5117.

Schedule of Events

Base & Softball/T-Ball/Wee-Ball/Coach Pitch

Registration begins in February. Contact BPRD for pricing and details. All children must have a birth certificate on file with BPRD to participate.

Intermediate Line Dancing

Begins Feb. 19th. Classes held on Wed. nights 6:30-8pm. Registration \$10-res. \$15-non res.

Adult Basketball and Volleyball

Registration will begin in Feb. Volleyball is \$310/team and \$610/team for basketball Contact BPRD for more info. 919-894-5117

Yoga Classes

A new session of Yoga Classes will begin on March 4th. Classes are held on Tues. mornings 9-10am. Fee: \$40-resident, \$55 non-resident. Pre-registration is required with a minimum of 6 participants.

Daddy Daughter Dance

Will be held at BPRD on Feb. 15th.

Senior Valentine Social

Feb. 14, 6-7pm Civic Center. Free for BPRD and Active Aging members \$10 for non-members. Register by Feb. 7th at noon.

48 Years and Going Strong



In the world we live in few things are constant. This month we are highlighting a person instead of a business that has been a mainstay in the Benson community for decades. For 65 years the Benton Card Company has called Benson home. For nearly 48 of those years Robert Clark has walked the halls of the Benton Card Company. During his time there he has seen many things change but one thing has remained constant, his dedication to his customers and vocation.

Clark, a Benson a native and resident of Dunn, started working for Benton Card Company at the age of 26. He began his career as a shipper and receiver and has over the years expanded his duties.

After spending so many years at one place the question had to be asked, what has kept him at Benton, he said, "I enjoy what I do and the people I do it with. I really didn't know of anything else I would rather get into".



Robert Clark working the cutter

And for those wondering if he will be retiring anytime soon, well, he hasn't given much thought to it.

When Robert isn't working at the card company he enjoys fishing and bowling. But as he said in the interview he hasn't had much time to do either lately.

"It is increasingly rare to find someone that will stick with a company for so long. Robert sure is one of the great ones. Over the years he has become less of an employee and more of a member of the family. He will always have a place here at Benton Card Company," said Suzanne Cook, Co-Owner of Benton Card Company.