



## Mayor's Message

"This is a season of HOPE. We share good news when we say an encouraging word, give an act of kindness or share hope with those who are hurting. We want Benson to be that shining city on the hill where we are known for our hope, kindness and goodwill.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays"

-William

## Benson Commissioners Vote to Lower Electric Rates



Current and new residents will see cost savings in electric



Businesses will also realize a reduction in electric expenses

**BENSON, NC:** On Tuesday November 10, 2015, The Benson Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to lower rates for its municipal electric customers. Residential customers will receive an 8 percent reduction in their electric and save an average of roughly \$150 per year. The new (lower) electric rates will be reflected in bills beginning December 1, 2015.

"The Town of Benson is extremely pleased to lower electric rates for our customers," said Mayor William W. Massengill, Jr. "Our Board and staff have worked very hard to get us to this point. The economic impact of this decision will be felt across the community. Lower power bills in Benson will help residents and businesses alike."

As an example of how these lower electric rates will positively impact Town of Benson electric customers, currently a customer who uses 1,000 kwh per month is now paying \$138.58. As of December 1, 2015, the same bill will be lowered by \$11.88 per month (to \$126.70) and save a customer \$143 on average a year. A 2,000 kwh per month customer would see a rate reduction around \$22.38 a month or about \$268 per year.

## Community Calendar

Community Watch at Ridgecrest Apartments	12/3
Museum Coffee Hour	12/4
Christmas on Main & Parade 6pm-9pm	12/4
Pajama Story Time at Library	12/7
Town Commissioners Meeting	12/8
Senior Christmas Lunch	12/11
Community Watch at Hedges Apartments	12/17
Town Hall Closed for Holidays	12/23-12/25
Town Hall Closed for New Year's Day	1/1

## Four Seasons Florist Under New Ownership

Tracey Helms is the new owner of Four Seasons Florist, located at 119 E. Main St, since October 15, 2015. Helms' decision of ownership stemmed from a desire for "a change in pace" and to be close to home. Helms is most excited about "helping my community and utilizing my creativity."

Helms has been in Benson for nearly 16 years and has good friends in the town. Helms loves owning a business in Benson "because of its vibrant and charming downtown, and strong sense of community." Four Seasons Florist offers floral arrangements, home décor, gifts, specializes in weddings, and delivery. Four Seasons' celebrated with an open house on November 14th and has a new look inside the shop. Its Facebook page is "Four Seasons Florist & Interiors, Inc" and is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm. Phone number: 919-894-8001.



Owner Tracey Helms with Winter Floral Display



Receive a FREE I Love Benson vehicle decal! Decals are available at Town Hall or the Chamber of Commerce Offices.



## TOWN DIRECTORY

**William W. Massengill**  
Mayor  
919-464-3960

**Frederick D. Nelson, Jr.**  
Mayor Pro-Tem

**Jerry M. Medlin**  
Commissioner

**Dr. R. Max Raynor Jr.**  
Commissioner

**Cassandra P. Stack**  
Commissioner

**Will T. Chandler**  
Commissioner

**John R. Bonner**  
Commissioner  
919-464-9743

**Matt Zapp**  
Town Manager  
919-894-1606

**Connie Sorrell**  
Town Clerk

**Braston Newton**  
Assistant Town Manager  
919-894-3553

**Karissa Bergene**  
Economic Development  
919-464-1172

**Kim Pickett**  
Interim Finance Director  
919-894-3553

**Matt Smith**  
Parks and Recreation  
Director  
919-894-5117

**Chief Kenneth Edwards**  
Police Chief  
919-894-2091

**Chief Alan Johnson**  
Fire Chief  
919-894-8990

**Terry Hobgood**  
Cultural Arts Director  
919-894-1266

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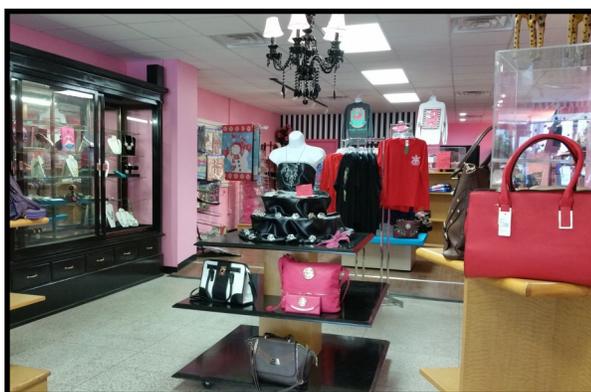
# Parks and Recreation: News and Information

## Adult Basketball & Volleyball Signups



Calling all basketball and volleyball players! Are you 18 years old or older and want to play basketball or volleyball? Benson Parks and Rec. will be offering adult basketball and volleyball this winter with registration starting in January. Games will be played at the Lee Street Gym in Benson with nights to be determined. The registration fee is \$310 per team for volleyball and \$610 per team for basketball. If you are interested in participating but do not have a team or just need more information, please contact Tim Messer at 919-894-5117.

## Tre Faye Boutique Moves to Downtown



*Inside the boutique*

Owner Rhonda Sullivan moved Tre Faye Boutique to 112 W. Main St. and opened her new doors on November 14th. Sullivan's decision to relocate downtown was influenced by her desire to "be a part of everything." "Feeling more involved in the community and events on Main Street" is most exciting for Sullivan in the new location.

Sullivan originally opened her business in 2011 on N. Lee St. and loves Benson because "of the people; my customers are the best people and so loyal." Tre Faye Boutique specializes in women's apparel and accessories. Tre Faye is open Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm and Saturday 10am-5pm. Phone number: 910-336-6008.

## Schedule of Events

### BPRD Holiday Closings

Fri. Dec. 4th—Closing at 5pm  
Thurs. Dec. 10th—Closing at 5pm  
Dec. 23-27th—Christmas  
Fri. Jan. 1st—New Year's Day

### Exercise Renewals

All current members of the BPRD Exercise Room must renew their membership by 4pm on January 30th. Any memberships not paid by Jan. 29th will be void.

### Widowed Persons Association

Meets every 4th Tuesday at 7pm at the BPRD building

### Please Donate

Please donate to our local food pantry and the clothing closet located at BPRD.

## "Caught Ya' Doing Good!"



*Surprising "Caught Ya' Doing Good" Recipient Natalie Morgan*

Natalie Morgan, owner of Morgan's On Main, is the December recipient of the new "Caught Ya' Doing Good!" program. Morgan was nominated because of her enthusiasm and interpersonal skills with customers and visitors. Morgan always speaks positively about owning a business and living in Benson. She encourages visitors to stop by other shops in downtown, tells them about upcoming events, and actively cross-promotes with other businesses. Jenny Campbell of Jenny's Sweet Creations on Main St. donates a basket or box of sweet treats to each new recipient as a thank you for excellent service.

Remember to share your story of exceptional customer service with us on the Town of Benson's Facebook page as we search for our next "Caught Ya' Doing Good!" recipient! (Photograph from left: Erin King, Town Permit Technician; Karissa Bergene, Economic Development Director; Jenny Campbell, Jenny's Sweet Creations; Natalie Morgan, "Caught Ya' Doing Good!" recipient).