



### Mayor's Message

"I saw a movie recently where one of the characters reminds another "we are all here for a higher I saw a movie recently where one of the characters reminds another "we are all here for a higher purpose". As we celebrate Black History, I think about those brave men and women, who had a clear vision of their purpose and because of their fulfilling their purpose, bettered the lives of many."

-William  
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## Benson Commissioners Lower Electric Rates



Current and new residents will see cost savings in electric



Businesses will also realize a reduction in electric expenses

**BENSON, NC:** The new (lower) electric rates were reflected in bills beginning December 1, 2015. Residential customers will receive an 8 percent reduction in their electric and save an average of roughly \$150 per year.

"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

Museum Coffee Hour	2/5
Pajama Story Time at Library	2/8
Town Commissioners Meeting	2/9
Pre-School Story Time	2/10
Community Watch at Eastwood Subdivision	2/11
Daddy Daughter Dance at BPRD	2/13
Pre-School Story Time	2/24
Town Commissioners Meeting	2/25
Community Watch at Benson Church of God	2/25
Black History Month Open House at Museum	2/28

## Benson Celebrates Black History Month



Open House  
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2016 from 2 pm-4 pm  
Be sure to stop by for the Annual

Open House. The legacy of local activist Harvey Johnson will be honored. Johnson was instrumental in reforming the way Benson's Town Board of Commissioners is elected, and ensuring there was fair and equal representation for all citizens of Benson. This event is free and open to all!

## Upcoming Events at the Library



- Feb. 8th at 6:30pm: Pajama Story Time
- Feb. 10th at 10 am: Pre-School Story Time
- Feb. 24 at 10am: Pre-School Story Time



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



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# Parks and Recreation: News and Information



Senior Games: Horseshoe Event

The 29th Annual Johnston County Senior Games are scheduled for April 6-22, 2016. Senior games is open to all Johnston County residents 50 years of age or older who have been a resident for at least three consecutive months. Participants compete in their own gender and age categories, divided into five-year increments: 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, etc. The age group that you will be competing in is based on your age as of December 31, 2016. The official sports for this year's local games are as follows: bocce, basketball throw, cycling, corn-hole, billiards, bowling, tennis, croquet, football throw, golf, horseshoes, racquetball, shuffleboard, spin casting, softball throw, swimming, table tennis, pickle ball, track and field events and 3 on 3 basketball. The entry fee of \$10.00 per person covers most athletic events and Silver Arts. There is an additional fee for golf (\$15), billiards (\$2), and bowling (\$5 per event). **The deadline to enter is March 4, 2016.**

## "Caught Ya' Doing Good!"

Danny Wood, co-owner of Wood's Muffler on Hwy. 50, is the February recipient of the new "Caught Ya' Doing Good!" program. Wood has been in business in Benson with his brother for over 30 years. He was nominated because of his exceptional service skills and going above and beyond for customers. Stories surfaced of Wood assisting a motorist who needed to get back on the road quickly. He was able to help the traveler get their vehicle safely back on the road in just a few hours. The traveler even told us that he went back a few weeks later to see Wood about a part needed to repair his classic car. Wood said he loves what he does everyday, and to him, "It's not work if you love what you do."

Jenny Campbell of Jenny's Sweet Creations on Main St. donates a 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! (Photo: Danny Wood in the Shop)

The 22nd Annual Silver Arts will cover Heritage, Literacy, and Visual Arts and entries must be the original work of the artist, must be a work created after the artist turned 50 years old, and must be completed within two years of the local Silver Arts qualifying date of March 2016. Performing Arts entries must be live performance by the participant. There is a \$10.00 entry fee to compete in the Silver Arts.

## Registration Continues

Baseball and softball will begin practice in March with games beginning in April. T-ball and Wee-ball will begin practice in April with games beginning in May. T-ball is for ages 5-6 and Wee-ball is for ages 3-4 and the cost is \$20.00 for residents and \$35 for non-residents. Softball is for girls ages 7-15 and the cost is \$40 for residents and \$65 for non-residents. Coach pitch, midget, little, junior, and senior league baseball is for children ages 7-17. The cost is \$40 for residents and \$65 for non-residents. Age cut-off date for T-ball, Wee-ball, coach pitch and baseball is May 1, 2016. Register early to avoid being put on the wait list. Please bring your child's birth certificate if we do not have a copy.



Photo Credit: P. Bisesi