

Community Calendar

First Friday, 6-9PM	6/2
Museum Coffee Hour, 10AM	6/2
BPRD Board, 6PM Planning Board, 7PM	6/6
Sundown in Downtown, 5:30PM —Band of Oz	6/8
Movie Night at the Grove, 8PM —Moana	6/9
Summer Reading Program Begins Summer Reading Story Time (Ages 3-8), 10AM	6/12
Town Board, 7PM	6/13
Summer Reading Craft Time (Ages 9-13), 2PM	6/14
Community Watch, 7PM	6/15
Summer Reading Special Event, 10AM Friday Night Hoops, 8-11PM	6/16
301 Endless Yard Sale Bound for Broadway—Variety Show— WJ Barefoot Auditorium	6/16-17
Father's Day	6/18
Summer Reading Story Time (Ages 3-8), 10AM	6/19
Summer Reading Craft Time (Ages 9-13), 2PM First Day of Summer	6/21
Summer Reading Special Event, 10AM	6/23
State Annual Singing Convention	6/23-25
Summer Reading Story Time (Ages 3-8), 10AM	6/26
Summer Reading Craft Time (Ages 9-13), 2PM	6/28
Town Board, 7PM	6/29
Summer Reading Special Event, 10AM Friday Night Hoops, 8-11PM	6/30



Mayor's Message

Many of you know by now that I announced that I would not run for a 6th term as Mayor. This decision came after much thought and prayer. I love Benson so much and it has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to serve as Mayor. But for me the time has come to close this door so that others can open. I announced early so that there would be time for you to think about who you want to serve as your next Mayor. During these ten years it has not been easy but we have worked together as a team (board and staff) to address problems, find ways to bring people together and work toward a positive future for Benson. I am proud of the work we have done and that work is far from being finished. So what do I think is most important for our next Mayor and town board? A positive vision for next ten years. A vision which will include all the people in Benson. A vision which embraces the growth which will come our way so that we are prepared for it and it enhances our quality of life. A vision which embraces advances in technology to make our town government more efficient and responsive. A vision which works to deliver on the slogan "the best small town in North Carolina". A vision deserving of who we are as Benson.
- William

97th State Annual Benson Singing Convention

The **State Annual Singing Convention**, which brings thousands of people to Benson each year, began modestly in a tobacco warehouse in 1921. About 200 people listened to two choirs that day. Since that time, the State Annual Singing Convention has grown and become one of the largest and oldest gospel sings in the United States. The singing is held outdoors in Benson Singing Grove at 400 E Church Street. There is no charge to attend the Sing or for contestants to enter the Sing. Singing begins at 10a.m. Saturday and Sunday with round robin singing. Over 50 amateur, semi-professional and professional groups are expected to appear this year. Ernie Haase & Signature Sound will be in concert after the Saturday competition.

Mark your calendars for **June 23-25** and join us in Benson for the 97th State Annual Singing Convention. For more information check out the website at www.gospelsingingconvention.org. You may also contact (919) 894-4389.



Fourth of July Celebration!

Join us for Benson's annual **4th of July celebration**. The Singing Grove will come alive on the birthday of the United States when the band 'Spare Change' kicks off the event. The band plays an eclectic mix of music. Their song list includes hits from artists ranging from Alabama to Adele to Queen to John Mellencamp, CCR and Michael Jackson. Residents are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets for the show. There is no admission charge. As always, the day will conclude with our spectacular fireworks display at dusk. If you would like to be a sponsor of this year's celebration, please let us know on or before June 12th. For more information contact the Benson **Parks and Rec. Department at 919-894-5117**.



Thank you to our **sponsors** for your generous donations! The Fireworks Program wouldn't be a success without your support!



It's that time again! Time for the 301 Endless Yard Sale!!

Mark your calendars now! Join us on June 16th and 17th (7AM—5PM Daily). Come out and see what all the excitement is about.

- Crafts, antiques, and Yard Sale items are encouraged
- No temporary food establishments
- No mobile food vendors
- Food permitted for sale by documented 501 (c)(3) organizations only

JUNE 16TH-17TH
7AM-5PM DAILY

301 ENDLESS YARD SALE
 500 VENDORS ALONG HWY 301

OVER 100 MILES

JOIN US... for the fifth annual 301 Endless Yard Sale, over 100 mile stretch of highway in NC through Halifax, Nash, Wilson, Johnston and Harnett Counties.

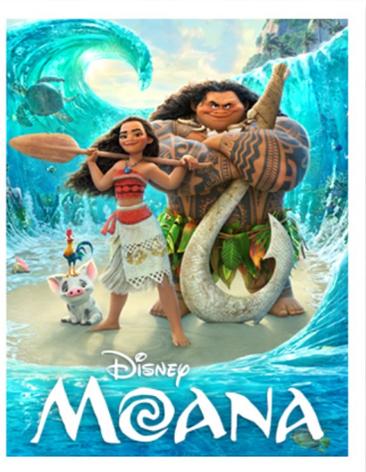
Explore North Carolina's country roads where families, antique dealers and non-profits will line the roads with collectibles and rare finds... you may find your treasure along the US Highway 301 Endless Yard Sale!

PARTICIPATING COUNTIES
 HALIFAX | NASH | WILSON
 JOHNSTON | HARNETT



Vendors are still needed! To reserve your vendor space and to learn more about this event, check out: www.301endlessyardsale.com.

Parks & Rec Events...



* **June 9th**, bring the whole family to the **Singing Grove** to watch **Moana!** *



Finding Dory
 July 21



The Secret Life of Pets
 August 18



Friday Night Hoops
 June 16th & 30th
 8:00 PM—11:00 PM



For more information, contact Parks & Rec Department at (919) 894-5117

Sundown in Downtown

2017 Concerts

Benson Singing Grove



Thursday, June 8th— Band of Oz
 Chance to win a 4 Day Cruise to the Bahamas (from Charleston)



Library Corner...

“Build a Better World” Summer Reading Program

The Mary Duncan Public Library will be hosting a range of programs from June 12th-July 28th for people of all ages. From magic shows to planetarium shows, there will be something for everyone this summer! All programs are free to all. For more information about the summer reading program contact the library at 919-894-3724.

June 16 Morehead Planetarium
Mobile Planetarium Show
2 Groups: 10am & 11am

June 23 Book Time
with Ronald McDonald

June 30 Professor Obediah's
Magical Emporium

July 7 Rags to Riches
Theater Performance



Magnificent Museum...

Museum Coffee Hour:

1st Friday of every month (June 2nd) at 10am.



Join us on the...
FIRST FRIDAY OPEN
Downtown Benson
Shops Open Late
Swag in the Stores
Food Trucks and More!
townofbenson.com

Don't forget about...**First Fridays!!**

Checkout Downtown Benson the first Friday of every month for great deals, Food Trucks and so much more! Shops will be open late from 6-9pm!

- June 2nd
- July 7th
- August 4th



TOWN DIRECTORY

William W. Massengill
Mayor
919-464-3960

Frederick D. Nelson, Jr.
Mayor Pro-Tem
919-264-2616

Jerry M. Medlin
Commissioner
919-894-3511

Dr. R. Max Raynor Jr.
Commissioner
919-894-3753

Cassandra P. Stack
Commissioner
919-820-0909

Will T. Chandler
Commissioner
919-894-2660

Dean McLamb
Commissioner
919-820-4646

Matt Zapp
Town Manager
919-894-1606

Terry Hobgood
Town Clerk/Cultural Arts
919-894-3724

Braston Newton
Assistant Town Manager
919-894-3553

Kim Pickett
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

The Town of Benson
303 East Church Street
PO Box 69
Benson, NC 27504
Phone: 919-894-3553
Fax: 919-894-1283

Public Works Announcements...



Free Compost to all Benson Residents and Benson Business Owners!

Swing by the Porter Street Yard Waste Facility on **June 3rd and June 17th (9AM—12PM)** to receive your free compost. Available in any quantity as supply allows. Staff will be available to assist with loading material.



Updates...



Public Meetings:

- Town Budget will be presented to the Board for consideration on Tuesday, June 13th at 7pm.
- The Final Outline in our Strategic Economic Development Plan will be presented on Thursday, June 29th 7pm-9pm.

Both meetings are scheduled to be held at:

Benson Town Hall—Conference Center
303 E Church Street, Benson, NC 27504

History Corner...



A new batch of photographs from the Benson Museum of Local History has been added to DigitalNC. These photographs depict a wide variety of people and places, and range in time from the late 1800s, when the family from whom the town of Benson received its name was alive, up to the Bicentennial of the American Revolution.

This collection of photographs can be found at: <http://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/benson-museum-of-local-history/>



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