

Mayor's Message

"I was honored that the NC League of Municipalities asked to interview me about Benson for their cover story of Southern City magazine. It gave me a chance to highlight the work that so many are doing to create a brighter future for not only ourselves but for all our children. And it gave us an opportunity to share the Benson story with people throughout North Carolina. That week, my niece in Charlotte posted on Facebook that she had seen a news story on TV about a gluten free bakery in Benson. We all know that was about JP's. So the good news is spreading and let's keep telling it. As we have all been told, you catch more flies with honey. Let's continue to work to catch a lot of good things."
-William

Community Calendar

Museum Coffee Hour, 10AM	3/3
Town of Benson's 130th Birthday	3/5
BPRD Board, 6PM	
Planning Board, 7PM	3/7
Pre-School Story Time at the Library, 10AM	3/8
Daylight Saving Time	3/12
Pajama Story Time at Library, 6:30PM	3/13
Town Board, 7PM	3/14
Museum Board, 6PM	3/20
Pre-School Story Time at the Library, 10AM	3/22
BPRD Senior Games	3/27
Town Board, 7PM	3/30
Keep Benson Beautiful Town Wide Cleanup Day, 8:30AM-Noon	4/1



A Retailer Positively Impacting Its Community



From the outside you would think it's just another Dollar General store. A place where you can find most of your everyday needs at a reasonable price. Once you step inside the **Dollar General** in Benson, you can figure out why this store is not like the rest. What sets them apart from the 12,400 other Dollar General's in the nation? Heart and an enthusiasm to take care of their guests. Customer service seems to be going extinct and great customer service is hard to come by nowadays. You know the kind of service that puts a big smile on your face and a memory in your head that you will never forget? You know you will always go back and support the businesses that made you feel so special. It's a positive experience that you want to share with your loved ones. That is what great customer service is all about. Dollar General is also big on giving back to their community. Did you know that our Benson store is

part of the **Dollar General Literacy Foundation**? This foundation was established in 1993 in honor of Dollar General's co-founder, J.L. Turner. Turner was functionally illiterate with only a third grade education. He had these goals in mind when creating this foundation: increase access to programs that are designed to help youth and adults who struggle with basic literacy and education. He also wanted to ensure individuals are able to read at proficient levels to obtain their high school diploma or equivalent. Dollar General supports Literacy in 43 states. Grant programs are available to qualifying non-profit organizations in states where a Dollar General is located. A portion of every purchase that you make at our local Dollar General goes toward this great foundation. A store that has a big heart for its customers and community is refreshing and something you don't see very often. That is what sets them apart from many other retailers. It's also something to be proud of. So, next time you're looking for a great deal on your favorite products, seeing those familiar smiling faces, all while supporting a great and worthy cause, consider stopping in to your local Dollar General right here in beautiful Benson. For more information on the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, visit www.dgliteracy.org.



Tourists Flock To Local Bakery

Once you visit **JP's Pastry**, you will understand why people come from near and far just to try these yummy treats. Inviting atmosphere, a state of the art kitchen, and delicious and healthy baked goods. JP's Pastry is the only Gluten-Free bakery in the Carolina's. It has also brought nearly a dozen jobs to Benson since it's Grand Opening. **Katherine Giddens**, an 18 year old from Mount Olive, NC was excited to hear about JP's from Facebook. Katherine was diagnosed in 2010 with Celiac Disease, an autoimmune disorder. She is also allergic to dairy. So, finding a local bakery that provided baked goods that were 100% Gluten-Free was important to her and her health. Next time you're driving through down town and you get a sweet tooth, stop in to JP's and say hi!





TOWN DIRECTORY

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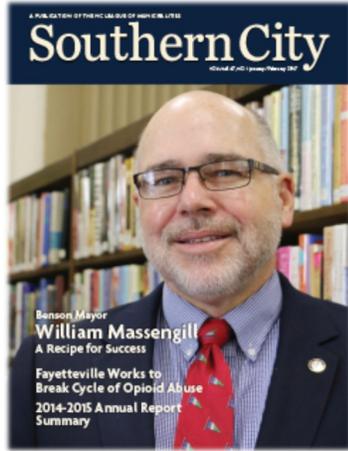
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Have you checked out the new issue of **Southern City**? A Publication of The NC League Of Municipalities. Our very own Mayor, William Massengill is front and center! Inside the magazine, Mr. Massengill discusses his plan for success for the Town of Benson. Ben Brown, a NCLM Advocacy Communication Associate covered this story. The Mayor is quoted saying he wants our town to be a place where his children want to come back and live. He added, "if you want something to change, you have to be willing to sometimes step up and make it be different. " In a world that is changing and evolving, we have to also make sure our town is changing and evolving for the better each and every year. To read this great article in its entirety, pick up a copy today or read the publication online at www.nclm.org.

New! History Corner...

Are you a **history** fanatic? Do you love all things history? Well, we have a treat for you! Each month we will share a fun fact about our beloved Benson that you may or may not know. Do you have something to share? Email your stories to Tiffany Johnson, Social Media/Facilities Coordinator at tjohnson@townofbenson.com.



The Town of Benson derives its name from Alfred Monroe "Mim" Benson, a farmer who purchased a 402-acre tract of land in 1874 along the Smithfield-Fayetteville Road. (From www.visitbenson.org)

This March is the 130th anniversary of the Town's founding!

Need something to do on the first Friday of every month? Come Down Town! There is so much to enjoy right in the heart of Benson.



Don't Forget...**Daylight Saving Time** is Sunday, March 12, 2017!

Did you know?

Daylight Saving Time is a system set up to reduce electricity usage by extending daylight hours. The idea of daylight saving was first conceived by Benjamin Franklin in 1784.



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