

# BENSON, NC



*From Town Hall to your home, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!*



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**12-11** Pajama Story Time  
@ Library - 6:30pm

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**12-12** Town Board Meeting @ Town Hall Conference Center - 7pm

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**12-13** Pre-School Story Time @ Library - 10am

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**12-22** All Town facilities closed for holiday

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**12-24** Christmas Eve

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**12-25** Christmas Day  
Town facilities closed

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**12-26** All Town facilities closed for holiday

## C.A. Homestead Candles



*C.A. Homestead is Chris Davis, left, and Angel Sanchez, right.*

### Hand-poured in Benson

If you've visited a shop in downtown Benson recently or were inside someone's home in the area, you may have noticed a curious smell — sweet, tangy, salty, refreshing, warm, inviting. Follow your nose and it will most likely lead you to Benson's own C.A. Homestead and their popular line of candles.

C.A. Homestead is Angel Sanchez and Chris Davis, two crafty fellows that decided to use their downtime to start a business in 2013.

"We didn't really go out much and we wanted to find something fun to do at home and also make some money," said Mr. Sanchez. "We used to burn these big brand candles. I had one on the mantle and it left a bad black soot mark. We did some research and found that it was a paraffin candle — which are made as a petroleum byproduct."

There had to be a better way to make a candle, he continued, and as it turns out, there is — soy.

"Soy doesn't soot up and it doesn't turn black," explained Mr. Sanchez. "Any soy candle is a better alternative to paraffin because it is cleaner and better for the air we breathe. It's made from the hydrogenation of the soy bean."



**The Mary Duncan Public Library** would like to invite everyone out for Pajama Story Time this month on December 11th at 6:30pm. Come join them in your best pajamas as we read some of our favorite stories together!

Pre-School Story Time will be on Wednesday December 13 at 10am for all of our younger citizens who aren't quite ready for school!



**Museum Coffee Hour** is the 1st Friday of every month at 10am.

The Benson Museum of Local History is located at 102 West Main Street in downtown Benson.

Hours:

Wednesday 11am-3pm.

Thursday 11am-3pm.

Friday 10am-3:30pm.

Saturday 10am-3:30pm.

After establishing a line of scents, the two set up at their first craft fair — Mule Days.

“I think we took three cases and we thought that was too much,” said Mr. Davis with a chuckle.

It turned out not to be enough.

“Those first six months we were just giving them away to people and a lot of (research and development). Once we got our formula down and label we brought everything to Mule Days,” said Mr. Sanchez. “That day we sold out. We thought we would sell a couple here and there, but we sold out.”



The popular “sweet tea” candle.

From that first Mule Days, C.A. Homestead candles saw something of a whirlwind in popularity, eventually leading to the attention of *Our State Magazine*, which featured the brand on its website store in 2015, and being featured on Time Warner Cable’s “Made in the Carolinas” segment on television shortly after.

Mr. Sanchez and Mr. Davis said that recognition really helped to drive sales.

Today, C.A. Homestead is selling a brand new line of candles.

“Right now, we just came up with our ‘Mason,’ line said Mr. Sanchez, pointing to a stack of 12oz mason jar candles with scents like “Sweet Tea,” “Shiplap,” and “Clothesline.”

There is also a smaller 9oz “tumbler” line.

“We basically mix scents together to create something new. Like the ‘Sweet Tea’ scent. That’s one of our most popular ones. It has a nice sweet twang to it and there are also berries in there,” said Mr. Sanchez. “We wanted scents that would trigger memories. We have an Outer Banks candle that smells beachy, ‘Clothesline’ that smells like when you used to help your Grandma, you know.”

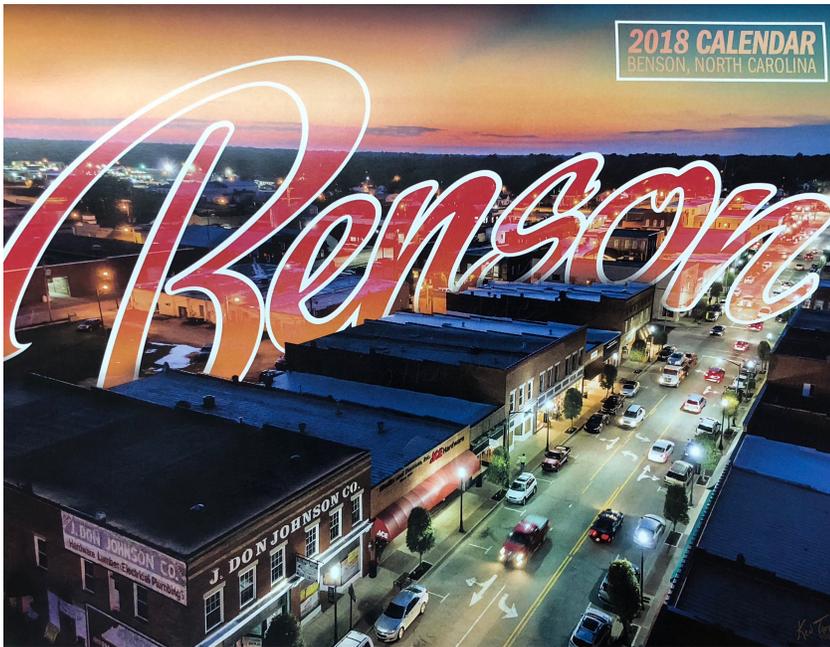
With the success of their candle line, Mr. Sanchez and Mr. Davis are looking forward to expanding their C.A. Homestead brand to include kitchen items and home decor.

“We’re in the process of branching out. Before, all we did was make candles. Now, it has built itself into a whole brand,” said Mr. Sanchez.

“We wanted to combine what both of us were interested in. I love to cook so we have been uploading cooking videos to our C.A. Homestead Youtube channel. We try to get one recipe up there a week,” added Mr. Davis.

“Plus, a lot of our friends that we met making candles, their brands are what we’re going to bring in. We have a friend that makes a spicy relish for instance — all products that we use and love as well,” continued Mr. Sanchez.

C.A. Homestead candles, as well as other products, are available through their official website — [www.shopcahomestead.com](http://www.shopcahomestead.com). Candles can also be purchased at Rebecca’s Vintage Market in downtown Benson, Uwharrie Mercantile in Troy, Grounds Cafe in Wendell and Sweet Tea & Cornbread in the Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh.



Check out this year’s cover image for the **2018 calendar** - available later this month. Watch for the announcement on the Town of Benson’s Facebook page!

PRESENTS  
**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!**  
 Directed By: DH Johnson

**— 4 GREAT SHOWS —**  
 Sat. DEC. 2 AT 7:30 PM | Sat. DEC. 9 AT 7:30 PM  
 Sun. DEC. 3 AT 3:00 PM | Sun. DEC. 10 AT 3:00 PM  
 W.J. Barefoot Auditorium  
 303 East Church Street, Benson  
 ADMISSION \$12.00 Reserved Seating // [www.thebensonarts.com](http://www.thebensonarts.com)

THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY:  
 THE JOHNSTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL  
 THE NORTH CAROLINA ARTS COUNCIL  
 THE BENSON FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

For Tickets Call The **BENSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** (919) 894-3825

## Food for Fines December 4-9

It’s that time of the year again at the Mary Duncan Public Library! Food for Fines! the library will accept one non-perishable food item per \$1 of fines forgiven and donate it to the BAMA Food Pantry!

## BAMA Holiday Events

### 12-9 Community Toy Drive and Distribution

Donation boxes are located in downtown Benson near Main and Market Streets. Donations may also be delivered to the Chamber of Commerce office in downtown Benson. Please help those in need by providing new, unwrapped toys for children. Cash donations are also accepted for the purchase of new toys.

Distribution: BAMA will be using the former school building located at the PK Vyas Park near the Benson Fire Department at 319 South Elm Street.

### 12-13 Community Christmas Candlelight Service 7-8pm

Benson Signing Grove located at 400 East Main Street. Light refreshments will be shared - cookies, cocoa and snacks.

## Mayor's Message

Citizens of Benson,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to be your Mayor. It is an honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve you, and I look forward to working together to achieve great things in and for Benson.

There has been a lot accomplished in the last few years and we want to build on those successes. There is still a lot to be done.

Economic Development is a very important part of our plans for the future growth of Benson, and we will be working very hard to bring new jobs and economic growth to Benson.

A community team effort will be a necessary ingredient to make these plans come to reality. Are you willing to be a part of these plans for our future?

The infrastructure improvements are underway for water, sewer, and storm water. This will require some patience as the work is done. We need your support.

You have my commitment to work hard for you, ask for your input, and communicate our plans as they are developed.

Benson is a special place to live and work. Together, we can continue to make Benson a place we are truly proud of.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a holiday full of joy and blessings.

***Jerry M. Medlin, Mayor***  
**Town of Benson**

## Your New Benson Mayor and Board of Commissioners



### Benson Elected Officials

Dean McLamb, Maxine Holley, Jim Johnson, Mayor Jerry Medlin, William Neighbors, Casandra Stack, Max Raynor

## TOWN DIRECTORY

Jerry M. Medlin - Mayor - 919 - 894 - 3511  
Casandra P. Stack - Commissioner - 919 - 820 - 0909  
Dean McLamb - Commissioner - 919 - 820 - 4646  
Dr. R. Max Raynor Jr. - Commissioner - 919 - 894 - 3753  
Maxine Holley - Commissioner - 919 - 894 - 2832  
Jim Johnson - Commissioner - 919 - 894 - 4431  
William Neighbors - Commissioner - 919 - 701 - 2854

Matt Zapp - Town Manager - 919 - 894 - 1606  
Braston Newton - Assistant Town Manager - 919 - 894 - 3553  
Terry Hobgood - Town Clerk/Cultural Arts - 919 - 894 - 3724  
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**