



Community Calendar

1-8
Pajama Story Time
at Library
6:30pm

1-9
Town Board
Benson Conference
Center
7pm

1-10
Pre-School Story Time
at Library
10am

1-15
MLK Jr. Day
All Town Facilities
Closed

1-24
Pre-School Story Time
at Library
10am

1-31
Leaf Collection Ends



Mayor Medlin Announces Office Hours

Benson's Town Hall is a busy place. Stop by on any given day and you'll see staff bustling about — meeting with residents, planning the next major project, discussing economic development, and organizing events, among many other daily tasks.

If you find yourself in Town Hall on Friday, there's someone else you're likely to see — Benson Mayor Jerry Medlin.

The newly elected Mayor Medlin has certainly "hit the ground running" to keep abreast of his town's rapid growth and, as a testament to his dedication to transparency and approachability, beginning this month he will be available every Friday at Town Hall for questions, concerns, or a simple chat.

"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," he said earlier this month in his regular "Mayor's Message" column in the Benson newsletter.



Mayor Medlin likes to say he is always "looking forward" — using the past as a template for growth. With his new Friday office hours, he said he hopes to remain at the forefront of that growth, while inviting every Benson citizen along for the ride.

"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?" he said.

The Mayor's office is located inside Town Hall at 303 East Church Street, up the steps past the Utilities and Planning offices, on the right. There — from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Friday — you will find Mayor Medlin.

"I chose Friday because I think it's a day that's easier for people to come by and talk," he said. "You have my commitment to work hard for you, ask for your input, and communicate our plans as they are developed."

The first task at hand? Helping to oversee the \$6.5 million in grant and project funds in the works — everything from the implementation of downtown wireless internet to stormwater drainage improvements.

Mayor Medlin added he not only wants to help shape the future of Benson, but ensure that the community's voice is also heard in the process — loud and clear.

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

Mayor's Message

I hope you and your family had a great Holiday Season.

I am really interested in getting feedback from the people in the Town of Benson on what they would like to see done this year and in the future.

I am making plans to start having office hours at Town Hall every Friday from 8:30am to 5pm for residents to come by and share their thoughts with me.

In addition, there is a lot of interest in electricity cost in Benson. I have been looking at what can be done for you to save money.

We will be providing information in the coming communications on how you can participate.

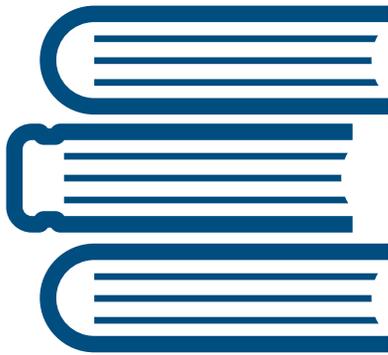
We have 1,826 connected customers for electricity and 923 of those have Load Management Switches.

The customers that have switches are saving \$180 per year, so how about the other 903? You can get the savings also — and everyone saves.

Call Erika Simoni at (919) 894-3553 and she will sign you up.

—Jerry

LIBRARY



The Mary Duncan Public Library would like to invite everyone to **Pajama Story Time** this month on January 8th 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 Wednesdays January 10th and 24th at 10am for all of our younger citizens who aren't quite ready for school!

MUSEUM



Museum Coffee Hour 1st Friday of every month (January 5th and February 2nd) at 10am.

The Benson Museum of Local History's **digital photo and yearbook** collection can be found on the Digital NC website.

More than 1,000 photos -
<http://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/benson-museum-of-local-history/>

MOVIE MAGIC is Back for Take Two!



Singers will perform more hit songs from the movies in this multi-media musical variety show. It's a great show for all ages who love going to the cinema.

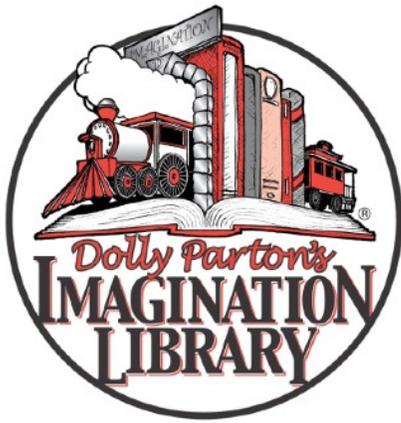
Directed by B.D. Rogers

W.J. Barefoot Auditorium
303 East Church Street
Benson, NC 2750

Friday Jan. 26 - 7:30 pm
Saturday Jan. 27 - 7:30 pm
Sunday Jan 28 - 3:00 pm

TICKET INFORMATION
919-894-3825





Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is now available in Johnston County! Register your child today to receive one FREE book every month until their 5th birthday! To register call (919) 202-0002 or visit <http://www.smartstart.org/#initiatives>



HEY BENSON!

Your brand new
2018 Town Calendar is here!

Copies are available at Town Hall, the Mary Duncan Public Library, and the Benson Chamber Office in downtown.

Go grab one while
supplies last!



Meet Benson's New Linemen!



Congratulations to Ryan Seegars (left) for graduating from Nash Community College's Electric Lineman Career Development Program in mid-December!

The extensive 16-week program saw 40 people begin, but only 15 graduate!

Ryan began work with the Town of Benson following Hurricane Mathew in 2016. He started as a temporary laborer. Now, he is a full time member of the Benson Electric Department. **Go Ryan!**

Anthony Steffenilla (right) — who also graduated from the Lineman Program in December — is the newest Town of Benson Electric Department intern. **Welcome Anthony!**

