



Community Calendar

5-13 - 5-19

National Police Week



5-5

Community Day at Vyas Park 10am - 1pm

5-8

Blessing of BPD Badges 5:30pm

5-8

Town Board Benson Conference Center 7pm

5-9

Pre-School Story Time at Library 10am

5-14

Pajama Story Time at Library *Special puppet show event! 6:30pm

5-18

Movie Nights in The Grove begin!



5-28

Memorial Day All Town facilities closed

CAUGHT YA DOING GOOD!

You've probably seen Benson resident Joyce Washburn downtown. She's hard to miss with her distinctive purple stroller and little white dog — Susie Q — inside.

Ms. Washburn moved to the Benson area in March of last year and quickly found the town a great place to take morning and afternoon walks.

"To walk to 301 from my house is about a mile-and-a-half, but I walk around more than that," she explained.

By her own estimations, she walks about three to five miles a day with Susie Q, who is blind, tagging along in the stroller when the weather is nice. She often eats her breakfast and lunch in the Singing Grove.

"We get a sausage biscuit every morning — and (Susie Q) gets the sausage and I get the biscuit," she said with a chuckle.

As a part of these frequent walks, Ms. Washburn began picking up cans and litter.

"I pick up cans too and save the pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, then I recycle them," she said. "I gradually started picking up trash too."

She has a route she follows each time she goes out with places to discard the bags of litter.

"She's constantly picking up trash," said Benson Chamber President Loretta Byrd, who has spotted Ms. Washburn more than once from her office in downtown.

Chamber assistant Betty Wheeler has noticed the same from her desk facing the front window.

"She always comes by here and she has a wave and a smile for me," she said.

But there's more to Ms. Washburn's charity than picking up cans and litter. She manages a surprise every now and then.

"One night she came in and introduced herself to us and told us she walks three to five miles a day with her dog," recalled Lindsay Tart Royal at her shop, Royal Boutique & Co., next to the Chamber office downtown.

"She said she noticed we had an empty Easter basket on display in our window," she continued. "She had a grocery bag full of these fabric eggs and an Easter Bunny that she had sewn together and asked if I was interested in them."

Mrs. Royal asked how much Ms. Washburn wanted for the items.

"She says you don't owe me anything and just gave them to me," she said.

For this reason and many more — Joyce Washburn is our May 2018 "Caught Ya Doing Good" award recipient.

We found her in the Singing Grove in late April and presented her with a gift basket from Jenny's Sweet Creations. Thank you Joyce (and Susie Q) for not only keeping Benson beautiful, but for putting a smile on peoples' faces while doing so!



Joyce Washburn with Susie Q





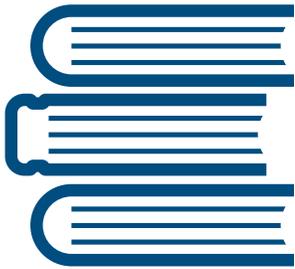
PARKS & RECREATION

Bring your blanket and chairs and come out to Movie Night in The Grove on May 18th! This month's movie will be Despicable Me 3! Enjoy **free popcorn** and an awesome outdoor movie! The fun starts at dusk!

Note: Benson Parks & Rec is currently planning its **Fourth of July** celebration. If you (or your business) are interested in sponsorship opportunities please contact (919) 894-5117.

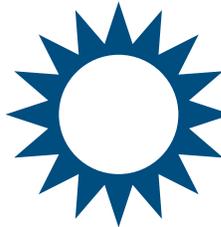


LIBRARY



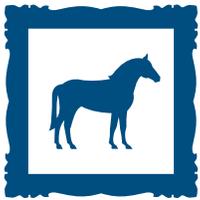
The Mary Duncan Public Library would like to invite everyone to **Pajama Story Time** this month on Monday May 14th at 6:30pm. Come join us in your best pajamas as we read some of our favorite stories together! **Pre-School Story Time** will be May 9 at 10am for all of our younger citizens who aren't quite ready for school!

UPCOMING SUMMER READING SCHEDULE



Mondays: Story Time (ages 3-8) 10am
Wednesdays: Craft Time (ages 9-13) 2pm
Fridays at the Civic Center are as follows. All times are 10am:

- June 15: Rumpelstiltskin (Marionette Show)
- June 22: Folksongs (Bright Star Theater)
- June 29: Mad Science
- July 6: Jeghetto's Puppet Show
- July 13: American Songbook (Bright Star Theater)
- July 20: Chris and Neal Magic Show
- July 27: Fossil Dig



MUSEUM

Museum Coffee Hour 1st Friday of every month (May 4th and June 1st) at 10am.

The Benson Museum of Local History's **digital photo and yearbook** collection can be found on the Digital NC website. To see more than 1,000 photos visit: <http://www.digitalnc.org/institutions/benson-museum-of-local-history/>



2017 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The 2017 Consumer Confidence Report is now available to read and review. The report is a snapshot of last year's water quality.

Included are details about your sources of water, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources.

We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and to providing you with this information because informed customers are our best allies.

If you have any questions about this report or anything concerning your water, please contact Town Hall at (919) 894-3553. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility.

Read the full report at:
<http://www.townofbenson.com/DocumentCenter/View/549>

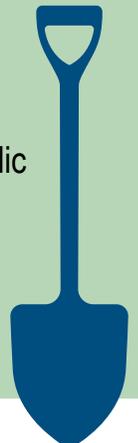
FREE COMPOST PROGRAM

If you are a Benson resident or a Benson business owner, you are eligible to receive free compost! This program will run the **second and the fourth Saturday in May from 9am – 12pm.**

Available in any quantity as supply allows. Staff will be available to assist with loading material.

Porter Street Yard Waste Facility
199 East Porter Street, Benson

If you have any questions, contact Public Works Department at (919) 894-3553





DOG PARK ADDITIONS!

Check out these awesome additions to the Benson Dog Park! From top left: hand-painted fire hydrants by Benson Middle art teacher Magen Pike, benches in both the large and small dog runs, and a planter donated by Chuck Lee Services. Oh, and we couldn't resist snapping a picture of a visitor enjoying the new upgrades! That's Thor — a good boy stopping in Benson on his way from Florida to Massachusetts!



NEW EMPLOYEES INTRODUCED



During the Board of Commissioners meeting on April 26th, Town Manager Matt Zapp introduced three new town employees to the Board — Lineworker Anthony Steffenilla, Public Works intern Marshall Gibson, and Police officer/animal control officer Zach Brogden. Welcome to Benson guys!

Mayor's Message

National Police Week

There are over 900,000 police officers serving communities across the United States — including the brave men and women that serve the Town of Benson.

National Police Week was first established in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy.

The officers that serve the citizens of Benson play an important role in not only providing protection, but also in being peace keepers — promoting community goodwill while protecting life and property.

The elected officials and the citizens of Benson wish to express their gratitude to those that sacrifice their own safety to protect the safety of this community.

As Mayor, I proclaim and recognize the week of May 13th through May 19th as Police Week in the Town of Benson.

I urge all citizens to celebrate and reflect on the sacrifices of our police officers and thank them for their service.

—Jerry Medlin

Town Directory

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Mayor Pro-Tem
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Dean McLamb
Commissioner
919-820-4646

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

Maxine Holley
Commissioner
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Jim Johnson
Commissioner
919-868-6902

William Neighbors
Commissioner
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Town Manager
919-894-1606

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

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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
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Chief Alan Johnson
Fire Chief
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KEEPING BENSON BEAUTIFUL IN 2018



On the morning of Saturday April 21st, Benson's Lee Street gymnasium was filled with the sound of an impromptu basketball game, the smell of coffee and sausage biscuits, and the sight of neon yellow t-shirts and orange safety vests — this was the beginning hours of the town's annual spring cleanup day.

For Keep Benson Beautiful's eighth year, more than 80 volunteers joined town staff and elected officials in cleaning up some key areas. A large group, including a team from Walgreens, scoured roadsides along Chicopee Road, North Johnson Street, Main Street, South Lee Street, and South Elm Street.

Mayor Jerry Medlin led a group of South Johnston Optimist Club members to clean and organize the Johnston County Partnership for Children classrooms at South Lee Street, while another large group — including scouts from Cub Scout Pack 19 and Boy Scout Troop 19 — made their way to Benson's Dog Park to freshen up the small and large dog runs.

Litter was lifted, limbs and sticks were stacked, mulch was spread, plants were watered. At the Dog Park in particular, volunteers cleaned up several trailer loads of limbs and debris, while others helped to shape the entrance by spreading fresh mulch around the gates and newly installed planter.

Saturday's beautification also worked to highlight the latest additions to the Dog Park. Bench seating, trash and recycling cans, and two fire hydrants have all been installed — sure to be enjoyed by canine residents and visitors alike.

After working through the morning, volunteers met back at the Lee Street Gym for lunch — pizza from Benson's own Jordana's Italian Restaurant and deserts from local favorites JP's Pastry, Jenny's Sweet Creations, Sheryl's Catering, and Food Lion.

Prizes from a long list of sponsors were handed out to volunteers to conclude the event.

A big thanks to Jenny's Sweet Creations, Food Lion, White Swan, Benson-Four Oaks News & Review, Benson Dentistry, Cornerstone Cafe, Betty's Hairstyling, Jordana's, Salon 219, United Community Bank, JP's Pastry, Miller Parts & Paint, Benson Chamber of Commerce, Campbell University, First Citizens Bank, BB&T Bank, Advance Auto Parts, Char-Grill, Lowe's Home Improvement, Outback Steakhouse, PNC Bank, Benson Florist, Tre-Faye Boutique, El Charro Restaurant, Holloman Exterminators, First Federal Bank, Unifirst, Walgreens, Sheryl's Catering, Carlie C's IGA and Dixie Diva's Boutique.

