

## Ansonia Spotlight is on the Week of the Young Child

The public can enjoy Ansonia production of *The Little Red Hen* on April 12

This is a release from the Anson County Arts Council: The Anson County Partnership for Children is hosting the 51st Week of the Young Child right now, April 2-8. Again this year, they have enlisted the help of Ansonia Theatre's award-winning Artistic Director, Tommy Wooten. Tommy has written a short musical from the classic children's book, *The Little Red Hen*. By the time the children see the play they will also have read the book, and be even more delighted by the live characters played by our local talent. Kimberly Smith will play the industrious little red hen, Connie Thomas the gossipy goose, Jennifer Gilmore will play the self-absorbed cat, and Tommy Wooten lazes away as the dog.

Week of the Young Child is a national, annual celebration recognizing that the early childhood years (birth to age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The celebration focuses public attention on the needs of young children and their families and recognizes early childhood programs and services that help meet those needs.

This fun-filled week will include Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Teamwork Wednesday, Arts Thursday, and Family Friday. Children will attend the Ansonia Theatre on Tuesday, April 12 and Wednesday, April 13 to see *The Little Red Hen*. These shows are exclusively for children participating in Week of the Young Child, although the general public can enjoy Tommy's musically charged adaptation on Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

## New NCDOT License and Theft Inspectors Ready to Serve

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles' License and Theft Bureau held graduation ceremonies recently for its 28th Basic Inspector Class at DMV Headquarters in Rocky Mount. Eight new inspectors will be assigned to various regions of the state and will join 156 other inspectors who primarily investigate vehicle theft, title fraud, driver license ID card fraud, and vehicle odometer fraud.

"You will have tremendous responsibilities as a License & Theft Inspector and these responsibilities are important to the Division, DOT and most importantly, to the citizens of the State of North Carolina," said DMV Commissioner Wayne Goodwin. "Our citizens are your customers, and they depend on you for your attention and action when they are wronged, and for information and assistance when they have questions."

The new inspectors are: Justin Britt, Landen Byrd, Tina Dunn, Allen Hopkins, Tyler Johnson, Brandon Melvin, Anthony Pensabene and Brooks Yandle.

The inspectors enforce the rules and regulations governing vehicle dealers, vehicle safety and emissions inspection stations, vehicle towing and storage facilities, and vehicle repair businesses.

The License and Theft Bureau was created in 1921 by the N.C. General Assembly and celebrated 100 years of service last year.



## Anson County – County-wide Zoning Map Development

**Drop-in/Open House Sessions on April 14, 19, 26, and May 5, 2022 | 6:00 pm – 8 pm**

Over the past year, Anson County has worked to develop a draft county-wide zoning ordinance for the unincorporated areas of the County based on the approved comprehensive land use plan. The zoning ordinance draft has been completed (Phase 1), which is available on Anson County website. Work has now begun on drafting a zoning map (Phase 2) in line with the draft zoning ordinance. The County will hold a series of Drop-in/Open Houses in April/May for residents/property owner to attend to find out what their property is proposed to be zoned. *For those who are unable to attend the Open Houses, the draft map along with a property parcel list will also be placed on the Anson County's website to provide residents with their proposed zoning district. In addition, zoning district descriptions will be provided.* The drop-in Open Houses sessions will be open to the public on April 14, 19, 26, and May 5, 2022 from 6:00pm -8:00pm. Each Open House is designed to provide residents/property owners with the proposed zoning district for their property and zoning district descriptions. Anson County Planning has made every attempt, where possible, to match the proposed zoning district with the existing land use on the property. If the existing use on the property was not in line or consistent with the overall surrounding proposed zoning district pattern for an area, then then non-conforming use designation or zone was assigned. The existing use can continue to operate in accordance with zoning ordinance provisions. Residents can attend one or all of the available drop-in Open Houses below:

**Thursday, April 14; Morven, NC @ HOLLA,**  
229 Main Street Morven, NC 28119  
6:00pm – 8 pm

**Tuesday, April 19; Polkton, NC @ South Piedmont Community College L.L. Polk Campus**  
680 US 74 Polkton, NC 28135  
6:00 pm- 8pm

**Thursday, April 26; Lilesville, NC @ Lilesville Fire Department,**  
202 West Wall Street Lilesville, NC 28091  
6:00 pm – 8 pm

**Thursday, May 5; Burnsville, NC @ Burnsville Fire Department,**  
13380 NC Hwy 742 North Polkton, NC 28135  
6:00pm – 8pm

For more information, contact Larry Newton, Tax Director/Interim Planning Director at: [larry.newton@anson.nc.gov](mailto:larry.newton@anson.nc.gov) or 704 994-3211



# U. JAMES BENNETT

## ANSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

### DISTRICT 2

**IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION**

**Early Voting begins April 28. Election day is May 17**

U. James Bennett's repertoire spans a wide and varied spectrum of titles, offices and honors that more than qualifies him for a position of leadership as a county commissioner. From the time I first met him as his junior varsity basketball coach, I was impressed by his poise, demeanor and his leadership potentials. He ended up becoming the co-captain of the team. Upon finishing high school, he enrolled at N.C. A & T State University and graduated with honors in his graduating class.

After graduating from college, James found jobs that allowed him to gain invaluable experience in working in leadership roles in business, industry and civic settings. At one time in his early experiences, he served as Interim County Manager in Anson County. James has received numerous awards for outstanding service from several counties including Town Manager in Red Springs, N.C., County Manager in Martin County N.C. and Town Manager in Marshville, N.C., just to name a few.

His work in Anson County includes leadership roles in both the Amazing Grace and the M.L.K. committees. Both of the aforementioned committees offered programs in the county that allowed both young adults as well as adults to participate in theater with the goal of promoting racial harmony.

James Bennett is certainly qualified to serve as County Commissioner. His outstanding service in the public sector, his experiences in county management, his interactions with diverse groups in communities, his ability to address problematic issues in communities, and the experiences he can provide in problem solving in addressing complicated issues certainly would lend themselves to having such a leader who is anxious and willing to take on such issues.

It is my opinion that James Bennett is willing and able to work with county leaders in an effort to address issues with other board members that will bring opportunities and progress for the citizens of Anson County. Therefore, I ask that you give serious consideration to his candidacy and cast your vote for James Bennett for County Commissioner of Anson County representing the Lilesville Community (District 2) in Anson County.

Frank Richardson.  
Teacher/Coach/ Retired



John McNeill served 42 years on the Town of Red Springs Governing Board, including eight years as Mayor. In his capacity as Mayor, he hired and worked with James Bennett.

Mr. McNeill is a past Chair of the Robeson County Democratic Party and valued by numerous political candidates for his organizing skills and insights. He also serves on the Robeson County Committee of 100 Board and the NC Southeast Partnership Board. He is also a businessman and owner of McNeill Jewelers.

James Bennett became Town Manager of Red Springs in 2012. James was the first African American and the fourth Manager for Red Springs in the previous five years. He inherited a town that had just barely escaped financial default two years prior to his arrival, and with more than its share of personnel problems due to inept management.

James met these problems and a host of other issues with energy, insights and hard work. Like so many rural communities, Red Springs had a lot of needs for its citizens but few resources to meet those needs. James tackled this by finding ways to reduce operating cost without impacting our citizens. He saved thousands of dollars by refinancing a lot of the town's debt at lower interest rates. He renegotiated contracts with vendors and found less expensive providers to, again, produce large savings. He set a tone with the town's employees who saw his efforts and took it upon themselves to serve our citizens more efficiently.

James Bennett also worked hard to attract new industries to our town and spared no energy to show prospects our desire to have them in our community. His efforts also led to expansions and worked with other industries in assisting them in resolving problems with Duke Energy. Efforts like this showed other industries that our community is one that partners with and works with our industries that supply needed jobs for the citizens we serve.

James helped our town in many ways. One of his best attributes is his ability to work with others. He developed relationships with countless other public servants and the people of Red Springs. He brought people together that ultimately helped our town overcome various problems.

The most important attributes of James Bennett is his energy, ethics, and his burning desire to help others. We have all seen elected officials and bureaucrats who talk the talk but cannot produce results. Their ability is criticizing the system when they fail; which in reality is an excuse for failing to produce and provide their constituents with the very things that so many may need. James Bennett has not only the desire to help others but the proven energy, ability, and experience to get it done.

Submitted by John McNeill



Anson County has the potential for significant growth in economic development to improve the quality of life for its citizenry and to attract top talent for local industry and commerce.

The county needs experienced leadership to advance this goal - someone who has demonstrated relationship building capacity to connect Anson County to the right opportunities across a diversified network.

James Bennett embodies these qualities. A native Ansonian and former Anson County Manager, he has a wealth of experience in local government that could serve this county well.

For me, it's about who can hit the ground running from day one to make Anson County a better place to live holistically.

That person is U. James Bennett.

Submitted by Kimberly Harrington



**EARLY VOTING IS APRIL 28 TO MAY 14**