

Observations of Chipmunks in Eastern North Carolina Requested

As of last year, chipmunks in North Carolina were only known to live north and west of Wake County, however, a photograph of a chipmunk residing in Wilmington submitted to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission last May peaked biologists' curiosity. The Wildlife Commission asked for North Carolinians to report observations, and biologists soon realized the mammal's range had indeed expanded.



"Thanks to reported sightings of chipmunks this past year, we were able to confirm eight new counties for the chipmunk range map. We are excited about these results and want to expand our search," stated Andrea Shipley, a mammalogist with the Wildlife Commission. "We are specifically interested in sightings from counties east of I-95."

Chipmunks are found in both urban and rural habitats. The eastern chipmunk prefers open woodlands or forest edges, with plenty of cover and dry hillsides for gathering burrows. The chipmunk is most active in early morning and late afternoon, gathering and storing seeds, nuts, acorns and berries. Unlike squirrels, chipmunks spend most of their time foraging on the ground, climbing trees only occasionally.

Chipmunks have distinctive coloring – reddish brown fur, a black stripe down the center of its back and a set of two black stripes. They are smaller than squirrels, measuring eight to 10 inches long, including three to four inches of tail. The chipmunk's most distinguishing feature is its large cheek pouches, usually full of nuts or seeds to unload in an underground storage burrow.

Burrows provide protection from predators such as hawks, owls, foxes and snakes, and safe quarters during winter months, when cold weather brings on its state of deep sleep.

If you live in a county east of I-95 and observe a chipmunk or its habitat, please take a picture, note the location (GPS coordinates preferred) and contact the Wildlife Commission's NC Wildlife Helpline, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., at 866-318-2401 or email HWI@ncwildlife.org.

Letter to the Editor

Pastor Steve Adams Praises Public Services

As the Pastor, and on behalf of Harvest Ministries, as well as a citizen of Wadesboro, I am writing to express my appreciation for the services offered to its taxpayers.

First, over the last three weeks both Harvest and my family have had many interactions with various departments of the Town. Recently, Harvest had a major water leak that could have resulted in thousands of dollars of costly repairs and changes to our system. Within minutes of a call to Town Clerk Debbie Cox and Office Manager Donna Liles at the Town of Wadesboro, Chuck Polson and his crew arrived, assessed the situation and in a days' time resolved the matter/leak. This allowed for continued operations of the facility, the homeless shelter, and the many outreach programs that our community counts on. The customer service from Donna, Chuck, the crew, and everyone involved was excellent. Thank you Town of Wadesboro!

Less than a week after that my Uncle passed away outside of his apartment. The Wadesboro Police Department contacted my father and myself. When we arrived at the residence Detective Bradley Davidson, Captain Brandon Chearning, Officer Legrand and Officer Brewer, as well as EMS personnel were on site. Their compassion, care, and overall bravery, as these EMS officers displayed their professional doing their job was thoughtful and in that moment much needed. Officers stayed on site until the funeral home came and my father, brother, and myself were ready to leave. It was a true showing of true care for members of our community. Some officers even reached out later in the evening to check on our family, etc. Chief Spencer – Wadesboro Police Department represented well. We are thankful.

Again, in a time where tensions in many areas are high, and opinions everywhere, we wanted to take a moment and say thank you. While we are not a perfect place, and have areas to continue to work on - with confidence I believe that Wadesboro (a town of our size) is blessed with many services that other towns do not offer – we are grateful. Chief Scott Martin, Fire Marshall Hannah, and our volunteer firefighters are prompt, on task, and aware when a situation arises. It's a nice feeling to know that there are people – multiple people who will be there when needed. It does not go unnoticed. Town Manager Dave Edwards – thank you and your office/clerical staff for their efforts to assist as well. Harvest Ministries and my family simply say thank you. We do not take that as a town offers, and what its employees do for granted! Blessings to All!

Pastor Steve Adams, Family, and Congregation Lead Pastor Harvest Ministries (Wadesboro, NC)

Remembering.....
By Ed McBride



Gaddy's Wild Goose Refuge

Quite a few folks can remember at this time of year, so many Canadian geese coming south for the winter! There were thousands - as the above picture shows some close up. In fact, so close that if you look closely at the foreground you can see my shadow - showing how close I was able to get with my "box type" camera. This was the fall of 1951, some time before I got my first Argus 35mm camera.

I was talking to Paul Boylin the other day, and he remembered as a boy going up to Gaddy's Refuge (I am sure Jim went also) with his dad Francis on occasion, but in particular he remembered going to Lockhart Gaddy's funeral in February 1953. The geese that day

were extremely noisy until the funeral service began - at which time they were very quiet. After the funeral service was over, the noise started again as the geese marched over Lockhart's grave.

There are many stories about the geese. Marcia Martin of Brewster, MA tells of many experiences in her book "Bandy" about "adopting," caring for and loving her goose - some experiences and stories too!!

A group of folks, including Buck Wheelless, Lee Ross and Bill Thompson (deceased) at Ansonville have spent considerable time and effort in restoring the pond area - in order to welcome at least a number of geese back - which the geese are now doing!



U. JAMES BENNETT
ANSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION
Early Voting until May 14. Election Day is May 17.

CAMPAIGN PLATFORM: As County Commissioner, James will advocate and promote Anson County as the place for new industries and small businesses – creating new jobs, new opportunities and hope.

WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE FOR U. JAMES BENNETT?

POINT #1: James Bennett has worked with over five cities/towns/counties in North Carolina and has accomplished major strives for these entities by finding efficiencies in expenses. He's done this by finding cheaper means to obtain the same results without reducing service.

CAMPAIGN PLATFORM: As County Commissioner, James will work with others to avoid a tax increase. He will work hard to find ways to

make the County operate more efficiently, smarter, and vows to find ways to increase revenue for a more balanced budget.

POINT #2: James Bennett has an extraordinary ability to develop relationships with intragovernmental players across North Carolina that has resulted in increased revenues, allocated grants, cost reductions and other benefits to the entities he served.

CAMPAIGN PLATFORM: As County Commissioner, James will proactively use his contacts and relationships throughout North Carolina to discover new grants, federal dollars and

resources to benefit the citizens of Anson County.

POINT #3: James Bennett is always thinking about economic development – growth, new jobs, new benefits and building new opportunities. He will be proactive in positioning Anson County in a positive manner to garner and attract new industries to increase the tax base (revenue).

CAMPAIGN PLATFORM: As County Commissioner, James will advocate and promote Anson County as the place for new industries and small businesses – creating new jobs, new opportunities and hope.

Barbara A. Mallett, currently serves as Mayor of the Town of East Spencer.

The Town of East Spencer is embracing one of the most exciting seasons in its history and I attribute the steady leadership and long-term vision provided by Mr. U. James Bennett when he served as Town Administrator to the Board of Alderman..

Under James Bennett's leadership, we were able to garner grants and a diverse array of projects in a very short period of time. The projects he was able to create, guide and complete remain a source of pride for the Town. These include strides in housing improvements and renewal, planning, joint projects with other Rowan County localities, public safety, recreation and open space, and a substantial improvement in the Town's financial health and viability. Under his leadership, the Town was able to increase fund balance to over 13% and this set the town's projection to future growth in all areas.

During his tenure, the Town of East Spencer experienced a tremendous water leak which amounted to several thousand gallons of water lost per day, and this was placing a heavy burden on the Town's financial health. With his guidance, vision and contacts with Rural Water Associations, the leak was found and we able to recoup loss revenue. This is only one testament to his teamwork and tremendous commitment to public service.

As a County Commissioner for Anson County, he will build value in the county. James Bennett is a visionary, a builder and he will continue to be invested in the community of Anson County. James Bennett is full of energy, highly ethical and has a burning desire to help others and give back to his community.



Submitted by Barbara A. Mallett, Mayor of the Town of East Spencer

If you want the Lilesville Community (District 2) of Anson County to be represented by a commissioner who is resourceful, connectional, loyal, and consistent, vote for U. James Bennett. I have known James for 25 years and can assure you that he is up to the task.

When I was a pastor in Anson County, James and I worked together on several community projects (Amazing Grace, Martin Luther King Celebration, and 911 Remembrance Events). He was always quick to say "yes" when county leaders asked for his participation. And when he responded with this "yes," he came through with a positive spirit that engaged participants and other leaders.

When I moved from Anson County, James stayed in touch, and often enlisted my participation and advice about possibilities that would attract opportunities to the area in which he was working. James is not only a qualified professional, but is also a loyal friend to those with whom he has developed relationships over the years.

James can be relied on to bring his energy and experience to Anson County as commissioner. You will be well served and I encourage you to vote for him NOW!



Submitted by Rev. Dr. Priscilla B. Durkin (Currently Area Relationship Coordinator of the St. Augustine Presbytery of St. Augustine, Florida)

EARLY VOTING AVAILABLE UNTIL MAY 14