



**Newsletter  
From  
Rep. Angela Bryant**

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*A 1963 Gubernatorial Visit to Parker Junior High*

*Gov. Terry Sanford visited Parker Junior High just prior to the integration of the Rocky Mount City Schools.*

*Pictured from left to right: Vickie Nowverl, Marian Thorne, Angela Bryant, Gov. Sanford, Valerie Batts, Sheila Cooper and Yvonne Hunter.*

I hope you will continue to let me know how you feel about the issues that are being debated by the North Carolina General Assembly and the challenges you and your family are facing each day. By working together, we can make District 7 and all regions of North Carolina a better place to live, work and raise a family.

***Sections Below:***

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- ***For Your Information ( Mentors Needed- MATCH; Transferring Among NC Colleges and Universities; CFNC Matches almost 1,000 “Last Minute” Applicants with Colleges; Increase in NC Financial Aid; The F.L.O.A.T.; Weatherization Assistance Program; Univ. of Maryland Young Scholars Program; Merck & Co. Inc. Patients Assistance Program; BCBSNC Health Health of Vulnerable Populations Funding Opportunities )***
- ***At the Legislature (Rep. Bryant’s Bills that Passed the House and the Senate; Bryant’s Cosponsored Bills; All Bills that have become law to date)***
- ***A Moment of Gratitude (Pam Seamans and the Alliance members, NC League of Legislative of Municipalities; Roanoke Rapids Parks and Recreation; Sonya Speed, Director of Operations)***

## In the District

### **Area Grant Received**

- The Halifax County Convention & Visitors Bureau received \$2,000 for the purchase of set and costume materials for *First for Freedom* and matched this grant amount with marketing support through advertising, billboard and signage.

### **Area Events**

- **The Hottest Party of the Summer - Sapphires in Summer Bash**, sponsored by the Phi Rho Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 9 p.m. at the Mystique Multi-Venue Complex, Hwy 125, Roanoke Rapids. Call Shekeria (252) 578-7050 or Terry (252) 532-6824 for tickets and information. Ticket prices: \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. **21 years and over please.**
- **Ladder to Leadership Selects Eastern NC for National Fellowship Program**  
The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust in Winston-Salem has developed Ladder to Leadership, a 16-month national leadership training program sponsored by the country's largest philanthropic health care funder, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Eastern North Carolina (Edgecombe, Nash, Halifax, Warren, Wayne, Wilson, and Northampton counties) has been selected as only one of nine areas nationwide for the opportunity. The program boosts individual and organizational leadership in the context of community health issues. Thirty fellows will be selected in eastern North Carolina, with the *total training investment per fellow approximating \$16,000*. All costs are fully covered. The curriculum includes face-to-face sessions, individualized mentoring, and a team project with other fellows from your county. This prestigious program seeks fellows who are early- to mid-level in their career and engaged in issues impacting health of their communities. Individuals in "executive" positions are also encouraged to apply if they have not served for more than several years in an executive capacity. Applicants do not have to be credentialed health professionals; they may work anywhere from health departments to the local schools --any organization dedicated to improving community health. The program also seeks mentors who are farther along in their career than the target pool. They will receive a \$1,000 stipend, as well as full reimbursement for any travel, meal, and hotel expenses. The application period for North Carolina is June 26 – August 7, 2009. Applications can be downloaded **at** <http://www.laddertoleadership.org/index.html>.
- **2nd Annual Youth Summit** on Tuesday, July 28th with special guest Terrence J of BET's 106 & Park. If you know a young adult that would like to attend, please pass on this information. If I'm not mistaken, you must register online to attend. For more information, visit [http://aspirenc.com/index.php?view=details&id=7%3A2nd-annual-youth-summit&option=com\\_eventlist&Itemid=55](http://aspirenc.com/index.php?view=details&id=7%3A2nd-annual-youth-summit&option=com_eventlist&Itemid=55) <http://aspirenc.com/>
- **Atlantic One Amphitheatre, Roanoke Rapids, featuring Soulja Boy, Bow Wow and J. Holiday**, July 25<sup>th</sup>. For more information visit <http://www.atlanticoneamp.com/>
- **Community Assistance Initiative forum hosted by the Golden LEAF Foundation and Halifax Count**, Thursday, July 30, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at The Centre at Halifax Community

College, Weldon, NC. For further information please contact Courtney Mills or Pat Cabe at 888-684-8404 or by e-mail at [cmills@goldenleaf.org](mailto:cmills@goldenleaf.org) or [pcabe@goldenleaf.org](mailto:pcabe@goldenleaf.org).

- **Transportation Survey Being Conducted in Halifax County** The Transportation Planning Branch of NCDOT, in cooperation with Halifax County is developing a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for the county. The CTP is a long-range plan that identifies major transportation improvements that will be needed over the next 25 to 30 years. As part of the study to develop the plan, this month and until August 14, NCDOT is conducting a public survey regarding transportation needs in Halifax County. Input from the survey will be used to determine transportation issues that are important to the citizens, officials, and businesses of the county, and will be used in developing the plan. **Survey forms will be available for pick-up at various locations throughout the county, such as post offices or town halls. For Halifax County citizens who would like to participate online, they may submit their input by going to the following web site: [www.surveymonkey.com/halifaxcountysurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/halifaxcountysurvey). For more information contact Ann Whitley at 252-234-5967**
- **Communities for a Better Tomorrow Kickoff Event**, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 12noon, 235 Shorewood Drive Littleton, NC. RSVP by July 27<sup>th</sup>. For more information contact Marquita Mbonu (919) 834-6623 ext 232 or email to [intern1@ncchild.org](mailto:intern1@ncchild.org).
- **Shows - The Roanoke Rapids Theatre “Down Home Blues Day”**, Sat., Aug. 15, 2009 at 2:00pm, with Midnight Star, Ali Woodson, Jahn Kattke and Mr. Lee & Co. and Bobby Blue Bland, Percy Sledge and Denise LaSalle at 7:00pm. The Gatlings’ Championship Rodeo, Sept. 12 & 13, 2009, at The Carolina Crossroads adjacent to the theatre. Tickets are on sale NOW at Ticketmaster or by calling the Roanoke Rapids Theatre box office at 252-538-4040.
- **“Having Our Say” by Sarah L. and A. Elizabeth Delany Play Auditions** August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the theatre of the Imperial Centre for “Having Our Say”, by Emily Mann, adapted from the book, **Having Our Say**, based on the lives of Sadie and Bessie Delany. The production opens on Friday, Sep. 18<sup>th</sup>, and runs for two weekends. For more information or to borrow a copy of the script, please call David at 972-1156.
- **The 3rd Annual State of Our Community Luncheon hosted by The Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce** - featuring 4 speakers, the Chair of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners, a Mayor from one of the 7 municipalities, a Chair of one of the 3 school Boards and the Chair of the Chamber of Commerce, Thursday, August 27 at the Kirkwood Adams Community Center from 12:00 – 1:30pm. For more contact Allen Purser at 252-519-2611 or [apurser@rvchamber.com](mailto:apurser@rvchamber.com).

**\*\*\*A VERY SPECIAL REQUEST FROM, THE LATE, DONICE M. HARBOR, \*\*\***  
***Director for the Office of Citizens and Faith Outreach***

***Donice Marie Harbor Endowed Scholarship Fund***

*The kick-off fund-raiser will be Sunday July 26 2009, 5:00 pm at Zydeco Downtown 208 Wolfe Street, Raleigh (City*

Market)

If you are unable to attend, please send a contribution to Donice Marie Harbor Endowed Scholarship Fund, Division of Development and University Relations, Fayetteville State University Alumni House, 2nd floor 1200 Murchison Rd, Fayetteville, NC 28301. If you have any questions or need further details please call Carolyn Smith at 919-906-0152.

### **Ethics Tip**

*When a legislator determines he or she has a conflict of interest that prohibits the legislator from acting on a legislative matter, the legislator should recuse himself or herself under the appropriate house rules, Senate Rule 29 and House Rule 24.1A.*

*Additionally, the legislator should not discuss or vote on the matter in committee, or on the house floor, and should not discuss the matter with other legislators outside committee or the floor.*

**Please contact the State Ethics Commission at 715-2071 if there are any questions.**

### **Statewide Events**

- **N.C. Recognized for Increased College Participation of Low-Income Students:** North Carolina had the second highest increase in college participation rates for students from low-income families in the U.S. from 1999 to 2007, according to Postsecondary Education Opportunity, an independent research organization. N.C.
- **2009 North Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations Conference:** August 3-5, 2009 at The Embassy Suites, 204 Centerport Drive, Greensboro, NC 27409. The conference will explore the shift in federal priorities aimed at addressing the Nation's growing inequities and research involving the relationship between climate change, energy, transportation and workforce housing policies. For more information contact Carol Ingram 919-831-9710 or visit [www.ncarcdc.org](http://www.ncarcdc.org).

### **For Your Information**

- **Mentors Needed – Mentoring Activities Tailored for Children in Halifax (MATCH),** - MATCH is seeking loving, caring, positive role models to make a difference in the lives of boys and girls in Halifax County. Volunteers are asked to do complete an application, pass a background check and attend Mentor's Training. Contact: 252-445-5455 ext. 225.
- **Transferring Among NC Colleges and University Now Easier with CFNC.org** - College students thinking of transferring from one North Carolina college or University to another have a new online tool at CFNC.org to check how their college credit may transfer.
- **CFNC Matches Almost 1,000 “Last-Minute” Applicants with Colleges** – CFNC's “College Redirection Pool” provides an additional opportunity for denied or last minute applicants to be

matched with a college they may not have initially considered. Students who participate are connected with NC Colleges and universities that have open admission slots and often find new college options. In 2008, CFNC helped nearly 1,000 students find their place in college. For information visit CFNC.org or call 866-866-2362.

- **20.6% Increase in N.C. Financial Aid Applications** - As of late June, 204,583 FAFSA forms have been filed by N.C. college students for 2009-10 school year, an increase of 20.6% over those filed for the previous school year. FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is required to apply for all federal and most state and institutional need-based financial aid.
- **The F.L.O.A.T. Alliance (Females Learning to Overcome All Temptations) Meetings**: Every second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm at SWIM's Healing Place (327 Eastern Avenue, Rocky Mount, NC 27802). Anyone that provides support, programs, services, employment and trainings for female ex-offenders are welcome to participate. Please call (252) 972-7946 to register.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program** – is a program to assist people with weatherizing their homes, is accepting applications. Applications can be picked up Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at St. Mark AME Church, 1150 Tarboro St. between the hours of 10:00am – 3:00pm. Applications may be picked up on Thursdays at the Nash County Extension Center. For information call 252-977-7941. For information on the Halifax Weatherization Program please contact Gail Walker at (252) 537-1111..
- **University of Maryland Young Scholars Program** targets rising juniors and seniors who have a strong academic record and a desire to excel to experience college life while earning three academic credits. Fourteen courses are offered for three weeks. Visit [www.ysp.umd.edu/pr](http://www.ysp.umd.edu/pr).
- **Merck & Co., Inc Patients Assistance Program** will allow many more people to receive Merck medicines for free. Patients who lack prescription drug insurance may now be eligible for the Merck Patient Assistance Program if their household income is at or below 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) which is set by the US government. Merck & Co., Inc. also has a simple enrollment process and offers free delivery of Merck medicines for enrolled patients to their home or doctor's office for up to one year. Visit [www.MerckHelps.com](http://www.MerckHelps.com) or call Craig M. Hansen at 800-787-5400 for forms and information.
- **Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina- Health of Vulnerable Populations Funding Opportunity**: Applications due: August 15, 2009. Proposals sought to increase access to health care for vulnerable populations in NC, or that increase the appropriate consumer use of health care resources by vulnerable populations. Visit BCBSNC website <http://www.bcbsncfoundation.org/health-of-vulnerable-populations/grants/>.

### **At the Legislature**

Session Laws enacted as of 7/20

## Bryant's Cosponsored Bills

Bill	Short Title	Action	Date	Action Text
H9 (= S96)	<a href="#">No Texting While Driving.</a>	R	06/19/2009	Ch. SL 2009-135
H88 (= S221)	<a href="#">Healthy Youth Act.</a>	R	06/30/2009	Ch. SL 2009-213
<b>H135</b>	<a href="#">Broadband Service Providers.</a>	R	06/11/2009	Ch. SL 2009-80
H303 (= S593)	<a href="#">Honor Kay Yow.</a>	R	04/14/2009	Ch. Res 2009-9
H380 (= S252)	<a href="#">Strengthen Local Emergency Management.</a>	R	06/26/2009	Ch. SL 2009-196
<b>H439</b>	<a href="#">State Health Plan/Taxpayer Recovery Act.</a>	R	06/11/2009	Ch. SL 2009-83
H482 (= S740)	<a href="#">Reinstatement of Sick Leave/School Emp'ees.</a>	R	06/19/2009	Ch. SL 2009-144
<b>H576</b>	<a href="#">Remove Endorsement For Denied Access LME</a>	R	06/26/2009	Ch. SL 2009-189
<b>H1079</b>	<a href="#">Energy-Efficient State Motor Vehicle Fleet.</a>	R	06/30/2009	Ch. SL 2009-241
<b>H1129</b>	<a href="#">Clarify Silver Alert-All Ages.</a>	R	06/19/2009	Ch. SL 2009-143

### **Other Bill Information**

**HB 1389 – Finance Energy Improvements with Assessments** passed the House this week. The legislation is based on a concept that has been used in California. It would authorize a city or county to loan funds to property owners for the upfront costs of installing renewable energy sources or energy improvements, with repayment through a contractual assessment. Stimulus funds may be available, and this is intended to provide sufficient authority for local governments to establish such programs.

**SB 661 - Allocate Water Cost/Landlord Tenant Changes** was recently signed by the Governor and becomes effective October 1, 2009. It makes a number of changes to landlord/tenant laws but has one provision directly affecting orders that can be issued under a local minimum housing ordinance. Existing law provides the option of ordering that certain properties be repaired or vacated and closed. Under SB 661, the order may only require that the property to be vacated and closed if continued occupancy during the time allowed for repair will be present a significant threat of bodily harm. We understand the intent of this provision is to prevent retaliatory evictions by landlords when a tenant complains of the need for repairs.

**H1305 – Fixing the Beach Plan** would help ensure solvency for the Plan by allowing it to charge rates adequate to match risk at the coast, build reserves and buy reinsurance to respond to the major storms. The bill requires the insurance industry to be part of the solution. Under this legislation, the industry would give up rights to the Plan surplus, currently about \$750 million. Insurers also would contribute as much as \$1 billion each year in the event of a catastrophic event. If losses exceeded the surplus PLUS the \$1 billion in insurer assessments PLUS the available reinsurance, all property insurance policyholders in the State could be assessed as much as 10% on their policies. This surcharge would stay in effect until the losses under the Plan due to the named storm are paid. **No policyholder would be charged any surcharge unless losses exceed the total of surplus +\$1 Billion + reinsurance.** To put this in perspective, if North Carolina experienced Hurricane Hazel (the worst storm in North Carolina history) this year, the Beach Plan's losses in 2009 dollars would total \$1.4 billion. The Plan would probably pay \$500 million in claims out of its \$750 million surplus (leaving some surplus available as a cushion) and then insurers would pay as much as \$1 billion, covering the losses. **Consequently, if the worst storm in North Carolina history occurred this year, no North Carolinian would pay a dime of surcharge. The alternative is to build the risk of an assessment from a catastrophic storm into the rates charged to policyholders across the state.**

### **A Moment of Gratitude**

What a quick study you are. Thank you for listening to our request for you to ask about health dept. inspections of existing hookah bars. Your questions were perfect and you appropriately opened the door for the Dept of Public Health to answer questions about inspections. Thank you so very much for hearing us in

the minimal time we had before the hearing.

AND, thank you for thinking on your feet and proposing the amendment to raise the legal age for hookah bars to 21.... Your proposal on your feet during the hearing was the next best thing to improve the bill.

THANK YOU so much for your dedication to removing exposure to secondhand smoke from public places and the targeting of youth by hookah bars in NC.

Thank YOU!

**-Pam Seamans and the Alliance members and partners!**

H1330 – Utilities/Collectors/ Debt Collection and it has been sent to the Governor for her signature. The legislation prohibits utilities, including cities, from certain practices that could make a customer responsible for the delinquent account of another person. The city may not terminate a customer’s service because of an unpaid balance incurred by another person who lives with the customer, unless they were members of the same household at a different location when the balance was incurred, the person was a member of the customer’s current household when the service was established and the person had an unpaid balance for service at that time, or the person is or becomes responsible for the bill for the service to the customer. Similar provisions limit the ability to require a customer to agree to be liable for another person’s delinquent account in order to continue the service. Thanks to Rep. Angela Bryant for working with us to clarify the language.

**NC League of Legislative of Municipalities**

The City of Roanoke Rapids Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank you as a representative of Halifax County for your support of the arts in our community during this year’s session of the General Assembly.

With legislator support, our county was awarded funds for arts programs. The portion of these funds awarded the Roanoke Rapids Parks and Recreation Department were used to provide musical entertainment and marketing materials for our Summer Concert Series “Fridays in the Park”. The Grassroots Arts Program Grant funds along with several local corporate sponsors help us to provide clean, family-oriented arts programs for our community.

Our county was also awarded funds for arts programs to provide two craft workshops for senior citizens in Roanoke Rapids and the surrounding communities. These workshops were held in May and June. The Grassroots Arts Program Grant funds, along with a local senior citizen association, help us to provide these craft workshops for our senior citizens in Halifax county. Thank you again for your support of the arts in North Carolina and especially Halifax County.

**Roanoke Rapids Parks and Recreation**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the financial support we received for our *Art A Week* endeavor June 22-26. The *Grassroots Grant* enabled us to introduce and expand an appreciation of the arts with our community youth. The week was a huge success, as we explored African, Native-American, Folk and Modern art. The kids created their own works of art and were very appreciative of the opportunity given

to them. The Boys & Girls Club of Halifax County gives our community youth a safe, positive place to belong. We also feel it is important to broaden their knowledge in different areas such as the arts. Thanks for your support in accomplishing this goal!

**Sonya Speed, Director of Operations**