

Thu, Nov 17, 2011

*NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY*



*Representative Angela R. Bryant*

*House of Representatives*

Proudly Representing Halifax and Nash Counties

District 7



*Volume V, Issue 2*

*November 17, 2011*

## NEWS FROM RALEIGH...

I always welcome your comments, project updates, suggestions, and visits. My office door and electronic door are always open to you! As always, thank you for your support!

## **Representative Bryant at the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Retirement Celebration for Charles Johnson**

Mr. Johnson has served this great state in various capacities - Longtime Community & Democratic Party Activist; the Past President of the International Association of Bedding and Furniture Law Officials; the Past President of The Improved Order of the Red Men; Chairman of the NC Democratic Party Sustaining Fund and Executive Committee Member; Member the Nash Community College Foundation Board, the Nash Community College Board of Trustees, the Nash County School Board, and the Rocky Mount Planning Board



*Rep. Bryant pictured with Charles Johnson, Elaine Marshall (Secretary of State), Betty McCain (Former Secretary of Cultural Resources).*



*Rep. Bryant presented Charles Johnson with a "Certificate of Acknowledgement and Congratulations".*

## AROUND THE DISTRICT & MORE

- **Roanoke Rapids Chamber 2011 Chairman's Beach Ball – The Centre, Weldon, NC.** Saturday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm -11pm. For ticket information call [252-537-3513](tel:252-537-3513).
- **Diabetes Awareness Month,** Friday Nov. 18 at 10:30am – 12, Nash County Cooperative Extension. Admission is FREE. Call for more information and registration: Jerome Garner at [252-459-1547](tel:252-459-1547). Come learn how to manage your diabetes through healthy cooking.
- **Christmas Parades in Halifax and Nash Counties - Tillery Volunteer Fire Department** will host a **Christmas Parade** on November 19th at 2:00pm call 826-5654 or 826-3208 for more information. **Enfield Civil Club** will sponsor the **Enfield Christmas Parade** on Sat. Nov. 26th 1:00pm for more information call Calvin Pittman [252- 578-1537](tel:252-578-1537). **Roanoke Valley Patriots** will sponsor the **Roanoke Rapid's Christmas Parade,** Sun., Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm for information contact [252-586-7258](tel:252-586-7258) or [pat@rrchristmasparade.com](mailto:pat@rrchristmasparade.com). The **Town of Scotland Neck's Parade,** will be on Sun. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm for information contact [252-826-3152](tel:252-826-3152). The **City of Rocky Mount's Christmas Parade** will be on Sun. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm for information call 252- 972-1151 or email [events@rockymountnc.gov](mailto:events@rockymountnc.gov). The **Town of Sharpsburg's Christmas Parade** will be on Sat. Dec. 10 at 1:00pm for more information contact the Town Clerk at [\(252\) 446-9441](tel:252-446-9441). The **Town of Halifax's Christmas Parade** will be on Sat. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm, for more information contact Sharon Vick [252- 583-6571](tel:252-583-6571).
- **The Union Mission Thanksgiving Community Meal,** Wed. Nov. 23rd from 11-3:30pm, at 1310 Roanoke Ave. Roanoke Rapids for more information call [252-537-3372 ext.23](tel:252-537-3372).
- **Kids Night Out,** every Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm at Jennie's Beans and Buns, 116 North Dennis Street, Enfield. For ages 5-12. Refreshments provided. Contact Laquasha Hudson at [252-813-5324](tel:252-813-5324) for more information.
- **Weldon City Schools' School Based Health Center Open House,** Sat. Dec. 10, 10:00-1:00pm, at Weldon Elementary School, 805 Washington Avenue. For more information contact Terry Alston at [252-536-4821 ext. 232](tel:252-536-4821) or [alstont@weldoncityschoools.k12.nc.us](mailto:alstont@weldoncityschoools.k12.nc.us).
- **Halifax County Arts Council - NC Symphony Holiday POPS,** Sat. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm. For information visit their [www.ncsymphony.org](http://www.ncsymphony.org) or call [252-535-1687](tel:252-535-1687) for tickets. Ticket prices: reception and concert - \$40.00, reserved tickets mezzanine - \$10.00, reserved seating floor - \$20.00.

## DID YOU KNOW??

# Piedmont Natural Gas Projects Lower Winter Bills For 2011-2012

Piedmont Natural Gas just issued its annual winter bill forecast; this year's forecast is good news for our customers in that we are projecting that residential bills (for the typical residential customer and assuming normal winter temperatures) could go down by up to 10% this winter compared with their winter bills from a year ago. The really amazing news, however, is that compared with billing rates in effect 3 years ago, in 2008, our current residential billing rates range from 20 percent to 30 percent lower - - based on those figures, the winter bill for a typical residential customer of Piedmont's could run about \$100 to \$200 less than their winter bill in 2008! I've pasted a copy of the release in this email for you. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please call me, George Baldwin, Managing Director - Government Relations and Sustainability, at [704-731-4063](tel:704-731-4063) or email me at [george.baldwin@piedmontng.com](mailto:george.baldwin@piedmontng.com).

## Turning Point Workforce Development Board – Projections through 2018

*The Turning Point Workforce Development Region is comprised*

*of*

*Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton and Wilson Counties.*

### Top Jobs in the Region through 2018

The top jobs listed here consider three important factors: the projected growth rate of jobs, the projected total openings, and the historical change in the entry-level annual wage. The projected growth rate and total openings are based in the period between 2010 and 2018. These jobs require education and training beyond high school.

Ø Accountants and Auditors - Salary Range: 41,392 - \$55,061

Ø Computer Software Engineers Applications - Salary Range: \$55,276 - \$74,155

Ø Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education - Salary Range \$32,888 - \$42,220

Ø Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers - Salary Range: \$29,605 - \$36,745

Ø Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Vocational Education - Salary Range: \$31,807 - \$43,247

Ø Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts - Salary Range: \$58,804 - \$79,151

Ø Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants - Salary Range: \$17,560 - \$22,223

Ø Registered Nurses - Salary Range: \$44,311 - \$53,696

Ø Special Education Teachers, Preschool, Kindergarten, and Elementary School - Salary Range: \$30,383 0 \$41,170

Ø Training and Development Specialists - Salary Range: \$31,164 - \$43,630

## **Region at a Glance: Highlights by 2018, All Occupations**

Total projected employment – 137,644

Total openings\* – 27,340

Most employed occupation – Retail Salesperson, 4,226

Fastest growing occupation - Self-Enrichment Education Teachers, 32.6% more positions

Occupation with most total openings\* – Cashiers, 1,760

Occupation with highest median annual wage – Optometrist, \$129,869

\*Openings are growth and replacement

## **Top Industries**

Industry	Total Employment
Educational Services	11,500
Ambulatory Health Care Services	7,430
Hospitals	5,160
Food Services and Drinking Places	9,340
Administrative and Support Services	5, 790

*Information taken from Employment Security Commission of North Carolina (ESC) Labor Market Information Division (LMI); [www.ncesc.com](http://www.ncesc.com).*

## **NC Rural Economic Center Grants Awarded in Halifax County**

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Regeneration Development Group, Inc.'s Allied Health Workforce Training and Job Creation project, received a \$50,000.000 grant from the Community Mobilization program within the NC Rural Economic Development Center. This grant will support the training of 40 dislocated workers and the placement of 30 new jobs.

Regeneration Development Group, Inc.'s, Building Bridges-Connecting Opportunities project, received a \$35,000,000 grant from the Community Development Corporation program within the NC Rural Economic Development Center. This grant will support operation and administration cost.

## **Ethics Tip**

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Legislators are reminded that holding office may involve interactions with minors and youth staff. Legislators should give extra attention to their conduct around all youth. (Principle and Guideline 9)

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## **LEGISLATIVE RECAP**

### Hurricane recovery

The working group overseeing the state's response to Hurricane Irene response met most recently this week. A representative of the Governor's Office will present an update on the state's response and its cost at the Oct. 27 meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee on Governmental Operations. To date, the total estimated cost of recovery is \$139 million. The state's share of that is \$29.6 million. The state is also preparing an aid package that it will present to federal legislators next week.

\_ State and federal officials continue to meet with those harmed by the hurricane. Six additional community meetings are scheduled through Oct. 29. These meetings will be in Winton, Washington, Kill Devil Hills, Swan Quarter, Columbia and Grantsboro. Please let me know if you would like additional information about them.

\_ A toll-free number for questions about flood insurance claims has been established. It's open from 8 am-7 pm Mondays-Saturdays until Nov. 23. The number is [855-336-2002](tel:855-336-2002).

\_ The deadline to register with FEMA for federal financial assistance has been extended to Nov. 30.

### Hurricane Irene facts

\_ 38 counties have received federal disaster declarations.

\_ 210,000 tons of debris has been cleared from public roadsides

\_ Removal of debris from some private roads is ongoing

\_ 52 temporary housing units are occupied in Beaufort and Pamlico counties and 73 more have been approved for placement

\_ 157 families are in transitional shelter. The program has been extended until Oct. 29 because of the limited availability of affordable rental housing in Beaufort, Dare, Halifax, Hyde, Pamlico and Tyrrell counties.

\_ Seven of the 27 disaster recovery centers opened to assist those who suffered losses in the storm remain open. These sites are in Chocowinity, Manteo, Swan Quarter, Columbia, New Bern, Halifax and Grantsboro.

\_ 32,176 people have registered with FEMA for state and federal assistance

\_ 15,928 visits to Disaster Recovery Centers

\_ 23,946 damaged homes have been inspected and paperwork sent to FEMA; 363 homes awaiting inspection

\_ \$25.4 million approved in federal disaster grants to homeowners and renters

\_ \$23.5 million in Small Business Administration loans

## New Laws

Several new laws go into effect Oct. 1, ranging from hunting laws to changes in medical malpractice. For a full list of laws that go into place on that date, visit [www.ncleg.net](http://www.ncleg.net) and click on the link under "News & Information" titled [2011 Legislation with Effective Dates from July 1, 2011 through January 1, 2012](#).

## Session schedule

The new majority continues to lengthen the amount of time they want legislators in Raleigh. Though many people in North Carolina want and expect a part-time legislature, the General Assembly has been called back to Raleigh three times already and at least three more meetings are scheduled before the start of the 2012 session. The next session for now is scheduled for Nov. 27 and we are told that we will be in town for about three days. We are expected to consider a plan to fix the payment schedules for teachers after legislation approved this year prohibited them from receiving full paychecks in August. We are also eligible to consider disaster relief legislation, legislation concerning the state's gaming compact with the Cherokee Tribe in western North Carolina, redistricting, veto override votes and other matters. Sessions have also been scheduled for February and April. Since adjourning regular session, legislators have been called into special sessions for a total of nearly three work weeks. Each day of session costs the state an estimated \$50,000.

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## A BIG Thank You to Our Veterans

Thank you to all of our nation's veterans for their service to our country. We have a great number of veterans in our state because of the presence of our large military bases. Always remember those young people stationed at Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and other smaller bases in our state. These service members play a critical part in the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and deserve our thanks.

## **2011 Legislation 'Effective November 1, 2011' – Employment Security Commission/JOBS REFORM**

### **S.L. 2011-401 (SB 532) ESC/JOBS REFORM.**

An Act To Reform The Employment Security Laws Of North Carolina By Creating The Division Of Employment Security Within The Department Of Commerce, Transferring The Functions Of The Employment Security Commission To That Division, Making The Division Subject To Rule Making Under Article 2a Of Chapter 150b Of The General Statutes, And By Making Other Modifications And Conforming Changes To Align The Employment Security Functions Of State Government Under The Direct Leadership Of The Secretary Of Commerce.

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## **JUST A WORD OF THANKS**

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We, the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the role you played in helping to make our 13th Annual NC Economic Community & Environmental Justice Summit a very successful event. We could not have done it without you! We believe everyone left the Summit inspired to fight harder in our respective communities for environmental justice.  
Gary R. Grant, Executive Director.

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**Contact:** Representative Angela R. Bryant, House of Representatives, NC House District 7

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or Karon Hardy, Legislative Assistant at [bryantla@ncleg.net](mailto:bryantla@ncleg.net)

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