



# STAYCONNECTED

Ward 1 Newsletter Feb. 2021 / Issue 2 / Volume 2

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Council Member Andre Knight



ROCKY MOUNT, NC  
THE CENTER OF IT ALL

Dear Neighbors,

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month, and this year is no exception. While there is a lot to be proud of, it is hard not to reflect on how the challenges of 2020 ranging from the coronavirus pandemic, removal of confederate monuments, and civil unrest impacted our nation and our community. While we remained optimistic, the event on January 6, 2021 will forever be in our minds.

Finding common ground can often be difficult, but it allows everyone to focus on the issues at hand. From politics to policies, we have been divided; however, we can all agree as the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "There can be no justice without peace, and there can be no peace without justice." Unlike in the past, we are in the unique position because people are talking which allows us to truly address social equity, unemployment, crime, as well as healthcare and other issues in our community.

So, during this month of celebration, I encourage you to reflect, reconnect and refocus. Great things are underway, starting with Black Lives Matter Movement and Stacy Abrams both being nominated for the Nobel peace prize. Also, for the first time in history, the United States elected a female and person of color as Vice President, giving us even more reason to celebrate.

While I have reflected a lot on the national landscape, in our Ward and throughout the City, we have several individuals who have and continue to make a difference in our community. I'd like to recognize a few living and past Black History Makers in Ward 1 and our community:

- **Lonnie Braswell**
- **George Brown, Sr.**
- **Dr. J.E. Bryant**
- **Lieutenant George Cooper**
- **Guion and Ella Davis**
- **Charles (CC) Davis**
- **District Attorney Robert Evans**
- **Helen Gay**
- **Maggie Gillian**
- **Grover Hammond**
- **William and Gardenia Hobbs**
- **Charles Jacob**
- **Jessie Jones**
- **Minnie Knight**
- **Denry Lawrence**
- **Catherine Lucas**
- **Earnest Taylor, Sr.**
- **Earnest Taylor, Jr.**
- **Johnnie Thorne**
- **Herbert Tillman**
- **Honorable Carol Adam White**

There are so many more! It was hard to choose! So, as we continue to celebrate Black History Month, please take the time to recognize that we are in this journey together.

## CALENDAR

**Monday, Feb. 22 / 4 p.m.**

*City Council Meeting*

**All meetings are held in the George W. Dudley City Council Chamber, third floor Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building**

The Business and Collections Services Department will utilize the Community Development Block Grant CARES Act to assist utilities customers within the city limits who meet income requirements. The program is designed for low-to-moderate income households impacted by the loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible households may receive up to \$500 toward delinquent City of Rocky Mount utilities that became due after March 31, 2020 and remain unpaid. For more information on eligibility requirements, visit [rockymountnc.gov](http://rockymountnc.gov) or contact our Business Services Center at 972-1250.



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