



Larry Leon Hamlin and his grandson listen as Mayor Allen Joines formally announces that Cherry Street's name will be temporarily changed to honor the NBTF.

The Great 'Black' Way

Street renamed NBTF Boulevard in honor of festival

T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

It doesn't have the bright lights or the hustle of Broadway, but everyone now knows that the city's downtown is once again playing host to the National Black Theatre Festival. Cherry Street/University Parkway has been temporarily renamed Black Theatre Festival Boulevard by order of Mayor Allen Joines.

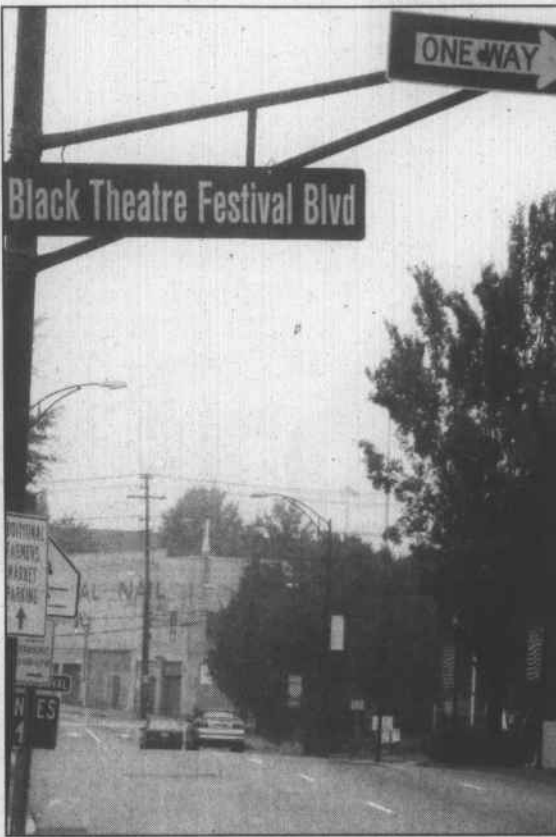
NBTF founder, producer and artistic director Larry Leon Hamlin joined Joines at City Hall July 24 as it was made official.

"I am honored that the city of Winston-Salem is recognizing the festival," Hamlin said.

The light brown street signs bearing the NBTF name have been erected side-by-side with green official street-name signs. The NBTF street signs appear near the Adam's Mark Hotel and the M.C. Benton Convention Center and down Cherry Street toward the Joel Coliseum. The signs will be up until after the festival's conclusion Aug. 9.

Everything is being fine-tuned for Monday, the first day of the 2003 festival. The hundreds of volunteers who will do everything next week from transporting actors to ushering, are getting their final training. And festival officials are making a final big push to get local people pumped up about the festival.

On Saturday, music groups and a few celebrity surprises are expected at the Convention Center for a formal kickoff event (see more details about this event on page 34 in The Chronicle's NBTF guide inside of this issue). Monday's Opening Night Gala is also scheduled at the Convention Center. The gala—during which entertainers such as Diahann Carroll and Ben Vereen are expected to



make appearances—has already sold out to the delight of Hamlin. It is the earliest sell out for the gala in the festival's 14 year history.

Hamlin has often said that he expects this festival, which will be the seventh time the biannual event will be staged, to be the biggest and best yet.

"We are excited about this year's lineup," Hamlin said. "We are going to have a Marvastic time."

Festival officials say they are expecting thousands of people to travel to the city to attend the festival. If past festivals are any indication, the visitors will spend tons of money with local restaurants, hotels and shops.

For details about festival plays, including a full schedule, check out The Chronicle's NBTF Guide inside this issue. Log onto www.nbtf.org for tickets and additional information.

Area woman travels to Africa

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

High Point University graduate Rémona Ramsey-Brooks is among a group of ten young activists from communities across the United States in Africa this month as part of the first American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Youth Exchange program. The three-week study tour is one part of the work launched under the banner of AFSC's Africa Initiative that, among other things, seeks to connect U.S. audiences with Africa engaging youth, communities of faith and people of goodwill for a better Africa.

Ramsey-Brooks graduated from High Point University with a master's degree in public administration. She is the group coordinator for the High Point Africa Initiative youth exchange program, and the part-time coordinator for the High Point office of AFSC. Her interests include women's economic issues and empowerment in South Africa and Zimbabwe, and she plans to visit the Women's Centre while in Africa. Ramsey-Brooks is a board member of Winston-Salem's Sister Cities board and a member of the Social Action Committee for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She is the mother of two young adults and has

been married for 25 years. During their trip, the group will travel to Cape Town, South Africa for a two-week course in leadership development and peace education. After two weeks, the students will take part in one-week internships with a variety of non governmental organizations (NGOs) in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Angola and Zambia.

Now in its second year, the AFSC Africa Initiative fosters collaborative reconciliation and economic development in troubled regions of Africa. AFSC works through indigenous peace builders from key areas of conflict throughout the world, including Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and areas of southern, central and eastern Africa.

It's not how wide to make it.

It's how to make it wide.

Come to the city Transportation Department's drop-in meeting Wednesday, August 6 to review the proposed plan for widening Old Walkertown Road between Carver School Road and Old Rural Hall Road. Transportation staff will be present to answer questions and collect public opinion.

4 to 7 p.m. August 6
Woodruff Center for Forsyth Technical Community College
4905 Lansing Drive, Winston-Salem.

Questions?
Call Geoffrey Burdick at 727-2707.

News Clips

Compiled from staff wire and submitted reports

Michelle Jinks named director of media relations

The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference announced last week the appointment of Michelle Jinks as the conference's director of media relations.

Before joining the MEAC staff, Jinks was manager of team operations for the Charlotte Sting of the WNBA.

Jinks began her career in sports nearly 10 years ago in media relations at Florida A&M University, as the coordinator of women's sports information. After her tenure at FAMU, she moved to the conference level, serving as assistant director of media relations for the Atlantic Sun Conference from 1998-2000.

Additionally, Jinks has extensive work experience, which includes stints with ESPN X Games in 1995 as a press officer; serving as tournament coordinator

for the Marquis Grissom Celebrity Golf Classic (1998-1999); an NCAA representative for Women's College Basketball Championship—first/second rounds and a stringer for the Associated Press.

The Miami, Fla., native is 1993 graduate of Florida A&M University with a bachelor of science degree in broadcast journalism.

Mack to appear on television

Dr. Sir Walter Mack, Jr.,

pastor of Union Baptist Church, will be a guest on the Praise the Lord program on Trinity



Mack

Broadcast Network (TBN) tomorrow. The program will be air at 10 p.m. It the network is cable channel 8 for people in the area.

Union Baptist Church, "A Church Determined to Live for Christ," is located at 1200 N. Trade St. Dr. For more information on Mack and church programs and schedule, visit the web site www.unionbaptistwsc.org.

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation awards sabbaticals

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has awarded grants of \$15,000 each to five leaders from North Carolina's nonprofit community through its Z. Smith Reynolds Sabbatical Program. The awards are made annually to five nonprofit leaders, allowing them to take extended breaks from their demanding jobs to relax, revitalize and gain new energy.

This year's winners are

- Stella Adams, executive director of N.C. Fair Housing Center in Durham.

- Kenny House, clinical director of Coastal Horizons Center in Wilmington.

- Vickie Pait, executive director of Families First in Whiteville.

- Michele Rivest, executive director of Orange County Partnership for Young Children in Chapel Hill.

- Kenneth Rose, executive director of Center for Death Penalty Litigation in Durham.

The sabbatical may last from three to six months. Recipients structure their time away as they choose to travel, work on special projects, spend time with family, read, relax or simply reflect.

Recipients of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation sabbaticals were selected on the basis of the need for a break from the stresses and challenges of their work environment, the innovation and creativity they have demonstrated in their past work achievements, and their potential to continue to make significant contributions to public service.

Telemarketers stopped from targeting Hispanics

RALEIGH—A telemarketing scam that targets Spanish-speaking consumers who want to learn English has been ordered out of business in North Carolina.

In a suit filed last week, Cooper alleges that F.G.H. International broke state laws by deceiving consumers and failing to register as telephone solicitors with the Secretary of State's office. Cooper is asking the courts to stop the company permanently and require them to pay penalties. Named as defendants are F.G.H. International, which also operates as Financiera Gubernamental Hispana and GF&C International, and its presidents, Franco Morales and Johnny Rojas, all based in California.

"These scammers are preying upon a group of consumers who are new to our state, eager to learn our language, and unfamiliar with just how low some telemarketers will stoop to steal,"

said Attorney General Roy Cooper. "To make their phony offer sound legitimate, the telemarketers even claim that their victims have been chosen by the government to receive language classes."

The complaint alleges that F.G.H. International has marketed a program to teach English to Spanish speaking North Carolina residents since at least the fall of 2001. Telemarketers working for F.G.H. International tell prospective customers that they have been specially selected by the government to receive subsidized language training but that they must pay a quarter of the cost out of pocket, a total of \$1,200. The telemarketers sometimes offer a program to train auto mechanics using a similar pitch. In reality, none of the customers cauted by the telemarketers have been selected by a government agency to learn English or other skills through any F.G.H. International program.



Cooper



Man of the condo

Man of the house

Home Mortgages. It's a pretty incredible thing, buying a home. And with a mortgage loan from First Citizens, it can be incredibly simple. Our application process is easy, and we can even pre-qualify you over the phone. We'll keep you updated on the progress of your application and give you fast answers to all your questions. We even have mortgage bankers dedicated to first-time homebuyers. To apply, just stop by your local First Citizens branch or call us at 1-888-FC DIRECT.



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