

Ron Reynolds announces candidacy

FORT BEND- Ron E. Reynolds will officially announced his candidacy for Fort Bend County State Representative of District 27 at a press conference on Sept. 6, at the City Hall of Missouri City, 1522 Texas Parkway. "I believe I am fulfilling the plan that God has prepared for me," said Reynolds. "Commensurate with that is my belief, to whom much is given, much is required. Much has indeed been given to me, and as a result, I have devoted my life to public service. As State Representative of District 27, I will serve the residents and business owners in Fort Bend County by advocating for high-quality education, affordable healthcare and economic empowerment for our community."

Reynolds is a product of Fort Bend County public schools and a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Texas Southern University. He received his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Texas Tech University School of Law. Notably, this past president of the Houston Lawyers Association was one of the youngest persons appointed as an Asso-

ciate Municipal Judge for The City of Houston.

This two-time Pinnacle Award winner is a successful small business owner. Currently, Reynolds is a partner in Brown, Brown & Reynolds Law Firm and co-owner of Esquire Title Company. Reynolds actively serves Fort Bend County in the following capacities: president of the Missouri City & Vicinity NAACP, Fort Bend I.S.D. Bond Advisory Committee, Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class, Richmond-Rosenberg Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class, co-chair of Fort Bend International Festival, Constable Ruben Davis Advisory Council and the Mayor's Scholarship Brunch.

In recognition of Reynolds' community service and astute business acumen, he is the recipient of numerous awards including the Missouri City Juneteenth Community Service Award, YMCA Minority Achievers Award, EEOC Civil Rights All-Star Award, Pinnacle Business Award, MLK Drum Major for Justice Award, NAACP Alex

Award for Legal Excellence, Named Houston's Top 40 Leaders Under 40 and Senator Rodney Ellis' Texas Leader of the Future Award.

If elected, Reynolds would become the first African-American state representative in the history of Fort Bend County. For more information on Ron Reynolds, call (832) 721-2667 or visit www.ronaldreynolds.com. ★



Ron Reynolds

Race relations discussion held in Denton

DENTON- "1808-2008: What's Next? (200 Years of Race Relations in North Texas)" - A lecture/panel discussion at the University of North Texas about Quakertown, a flourishing Black neighborhood in Denton during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the history of race relations in the city of Denton. Part of UNT's Fine Arts Series. Presented in conjunction with the "Saint of the Suburbs" art exhibit, the event will be held Thursday, October 25 from 1-5 p.m. at the Silver Eagle Suite on Level 3 of UNT's University Union, which is located one block west of Welch and West Prairie streets (1155 Union Circle). The cost is free, but tickets are required.

Tickets will be available beginning Sept. 10 (Monday) at Union Information Center on Level 3 of the University Union. To reserve tickets, call the center at (940) 565-3825. Contact: UNT Fine Arts Series, (940) 565-3815. In 1875, about 27 African American families from the White Rock Lake area of Dallas came to Denton, looking for jobs and a better life.

The families began buying property and building houses and churches close to the central business district of downtown Denton and the College of Industrial Arts (now Texas Woman's University). The neighborhood, called Quakertown after the abolitionist Quakers who helped slaves escape on the Underground Railroad, was a thriving community by the 1910s, with several businesses and more than 50 families. But by 1922, the community was gone, with all its prop-

erty purchased for a city park and fairgrounds for Denton.

The area became known as Civic Center Park. The demise of Quakertown, which pitted middle- and lower-class African Americans against wealthier Whites, will be among the topics at the lecture and panel discussion on race relations. The title of the event includes 1808 because that is the year the U.S. Congress outlawed the importation of enslaved Africans, said Ann Graham, a member of the Fine Arts Series Committee.

"Two hundred years later, there are complaints of racial discrimination in the Denton fire department," said Graham, visual resources curator for UNT's College of Visual Arts and Design, who had read newspaper stories about Denton citizens accusing the department of hiring very few minority applicants. Graham said she had also read "Quakertown," a fictionalized account of the community by former UNT faculty member Lee Martin, and newspaper stories about Denton's recent decision to rename Civic Center Park Quakertown Park, in honor of the area's former residents.

"The title 'What's Next?' references Martin Luther King Jr's 1967 speech in Atlanta, 'Where Do We Go From Here?'" she said. "The panel will use the visual and literary arts as a jumping off point to discuss race relations, nearly a century after the City of Denton forced Quakertown residents off their land and out of their homes." Martin, a UNT faculty member from 1996 to 2001, published "Quakertown" in 2001.

The novel tells the story of An-

drew Bell, a White banker, and Washington "Little" Jones, an African-American gardener, and their families. Jones' daughter and Bell's son, both only children, become lovers as city leaders begin plans to relocate the entire Quakertown community to make room for a sprawling city park. Now the director of creative writing at The Ohio State University, Martin told the Denton Record-Chronicle in 2001 that he learned about Quakertown at a time when he was feeling displaced after moving to Texas from his native Midwest.

"The detail that struck me was how they actually brought in sleds and rollers to move the houses. But what really stuck out to me was that they moved the town under the cover of the night. That suggests that the town wanted to hide what it was doing," he told the Denton Record-Chronicle.

Martin will be one of four speakers for the lecture/panel discussion. The others are Denton activist and businessman Willie Hudspeth, who is among a group of citizens bringing legal action against the Denton Fire Department for racial discrimination; former Dallas attorney Bernestine Singley, editor of "When Race Becomes Real," a collection of essays by African-American and White writers focusing on their racial identities; and artist Zoë Charlton, whose mixed media drawings explore social and racial interactions and focus on politics of gender and class and historical events. For more information call (940) 565-3815. ★

Texas State NAACP 71st Annual Convention held in Rio Grande Valley

AUSTIN- The Texas NAACP will pay tribute to Craig Watkins, Earnest Deckard and the late Sam Bean. Mr. Watkins will be receiving the Texas Heroes Award, which honors those who have made great changes for the entire state of Texas. Mr. Deckard and Mr. Bean will be receiving the NAACP Texas Heroes Award, which recognizes the efforts of those who make a substantial difference within the NAACP community. These heroes exhibit the qualities of a leader dedicated to bettering the lives of all Texans. Committed to the cause of civil, social, economic and political equality, Texas Heroes walk as shining examples of stewardship and humility.

Craig Watkins, the District Attorney of Dallas, has demonstrated his devotion to equal treatment under the law. He is the first African-American to be elected to the district attorney post in Texas. Since his election to the post, he has brought an air of integrity and a demeanor of fairness. Most notably, partnering with the Innocence Project, he has spearheaded a special integrity unit that reviews wrongful convictions. Since taking office, Mr. Watkins has seen DNA evidence clear two men convicted of rape. Those exonerations pushed Dallas County's total to 12, higher than any other U.S. county and all but two states, according to the national Innocence Project in New York. Watkins has garnered national and international attention from German TV, New York Times, CNN, 60 Minutes, Washington Post, L A Times, Chicago Tribune just to name a few.

Earnest Deckard, one of two NAACP Texas Heroes this year, has been consistently at the forefront of labor relations. As a skilled orga-

nizer, Mr. Deckard brings heart and motivation to every initiative. He is constantly on the front lines of the civil rights struggle. He is also president of the NAACP in Tyler and serves on the board of the Emmett J. Scott Cultural and Educational Center. He explains his involvement in the community as a "gift from God to see the need." Deckard has received numerous accolades for his work, most notably in increasing the number of black voters and pushing for minority rights. He has served in leadership of Tyler Organization of Men, Smith County Central Labor Council, the Democratic Party in Smith County and Rose Bud Civitan Club. He is on Tyler Police Department Advisory Council and Tyler Economic Development Council.

The late Sam Bean, the second NAACP Texas Hero, pioneered the inroads on social and civil rights. Sam Bean served as President of the Beaumont Branch NAACP for 18 years, and during this time, he led the Branch in winning several national honors. Active in humanity and political projects locally, regionally and statewide, Sam has been honored by numerous organizations and has appeared on many radio and television programs as well as in many publications. All three will be honored at the Texas Heroes Banquet, which culminates three days of State Convention activities which is being held at the new state of the art McAllen Convention Center. The Banquet is October 13, 2007 from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm and will be held in McAllen, TX at the Renaissance Casa de Palmas Hotel.

For more information, call (469) 682-0257 or (512) 322-9547. ★

District D community meeting

HOUSTON- District D Community Meetings with Council Member Ada Edwards is scheduled for Saturday, September 15, 2007. The focus of the meeting will be a presentation of six years of completed projects and assessment of pending projects. Mayor Bill White and representatives from various City departments will be in attendance. The time scheduled for the meeting is 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The meeting will be held Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center, 2020 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX. For more information, contact Council Member Ada Edwards' Office at (713)-247-2001. ★

C.O. Bradford runs for D.A.



C.O. Bradford

HOUSTON- C.O. Bradford, former chief of police of the Houston Police Department, kicks off his campaign for Harris County District Attorney on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at the Downtown Aquarium, 410 Bagby@Memorial. The event will be held on the third floor of the Nautilus Ballroom. For more information, call (713)621-1161. ★

Congressman Al Green hosts Military Day

HOUSTON- On Friday, September 14, 2007 Congressman Al Green (TX-09) will host his third annual Military Academy Day from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at: The Power Center, 12401 South Post Oak Rd. This program is free and open to all eligible high school seniors. Dependents of Military Retirees Dependents of Medal of Honor Recipients Dependents of Purple Heart Recipients

Representatives from West Point Military Academy, Annapolis Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy and the Merchant Marine Academy will be on hand to provide information and answer questions

from potential academy candidates. For more information please contact Congressman Green's office at (713) 383-9234. ★



Congressman Al Green

New laws affect patients

Senate Bill 10 by Senator Nelson: Maximizes state and federal aid to help insure more low-income Texans; trims Medicaid costs by promoting illness prevention and healthier lifestyles; shares costs among business, government, and health care groups ("three-share" programs) to help expand insurance coverage to small-business employees; directs the state health department to create positive incentive programs — e.g., for smoking cessation or weight loss — to promote healthier lifestyles among Medicaid clients; and urges health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and other Medicaid health care payment plans to provide more preventive health services to their enrollees. .

House Bill 2042 by Rep. Dawonna Dukes (D-Austin): Provides for an electronic database of physicians and health care professionals who participate in Medicaid.

House Bill 109 by Rep. Sylvester Turner (D-Houston) and Sens. Kip Averitt (R-Waco) and Leticia Van de Putte (D-San Antonio): Restores many of the en-

rollment and eligibility restrictions placed on CHIP in 2003. The bill also extends 12 months' coverage to eligible children. More than 120,000 Texas children should gain health insurance as a result.

Senate Bill 1731 by Sen. Robert Duncan (R-Lubbock): Ensures that employers, their employees, and Texas patients have access to health care information about medical service costs and patient out-of-pocket expenses. The bill is an important first step toward ensuring transparency in the health care market.

House Bill 1594 by Rep. John Zerwas, MD (R-Richmond): Requires physicians joining a medical group established in a health plan's network to be recognized as network members while the plan is processing their credentials. TMA believes Texas needs new physicians to see patients as quickly as possible, and this ensures patients are not billed as if they had seen an out-of-network physician while the new physician is being credentialed. ★

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