

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most homes usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees.

Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the water heater and pipes.

source: energy.gov




## Film Grant Recipients Fuel Strong Start to the Year 2021 for Production in North Carolina

Six new grant recipients to have economic impact of more than \$134 million

After pressing pause in 2020, film production has resumed in North Carolina with six recent grant recipients. With production levels at a six-year high so far this year, the latest productions to be announced as North Carolina Film and Entertainment Grant recipients will have a combined spend of more than \$134.8 million in the state while creating in excess of 5,700 job opportunities, including 1,681 well-paying crew positions for the state's highly skilled film professionals.

"The film industry has been able to safely resume production and we are pleased to see more productions coming to our state," said Governor Roy Cooper. "Film activity provides good jobs and opportunities for local businesses, while also providing a compelling global showcase for North Carolina and its abundant natural beauty."

LD Entertainment, whose N.C.-filmed production "Words on Bathroom Walls" was recently released, returns to the Tar Heel State with a new feature-length film "I.S.S." The thriller features six astronauts living aboard the International Space Station (ISS) and follows their actions after receiving distressing information from Earth that threatens their missions and their lives. Filmed in Wilmington at EUE/Screen Gems Studios, this project has been approved for a rebate up to \$3.6 million.

The second grantee, which has been approved for a rebate of up to \$8 million, is the Lionsgate Television series "This Country." The series is set to air on FOX, and recently wrapped filming with location shoots taking place throughout New Hanover and Pender counties.

Blumhouse Entertainment also returns to the state with the feature "Static", a story about a young boy who fights to escape the clutches of a serial killer with the help of past victims through a magic phone. The production is approved for a rebate up to \$4.7 million after filming in New Hanover, Brunswick, and Columbus counties.

Also returning to the state for filming is Lionsgate's project "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret," a film based on Judy Blume's best-selling novel. Production begins this Spring in the greater Charlotte area and has been approved for a grant rebate up to \$7 million.

Finally, the Charlotte area is the backdrop for the independent feature "Evolution". Approved for a film rebate of up to \$3 million, the feature tells the story of a mom determined to find a way forward for her family when her daredevil teenage son suffers a freak accident, finding hope from the most unexpected source.

In addition to the five projects currently in production or that recently completed production, a grant award has also been extended to another Blumhouse feature-film production. This yet-to-be-named project has been approved for a grant of up to \$7 million and will begin production in the second half of 2021 after being pushed from 2020 due to COVID-19.

"Despite some setbacks last year, it's great to see filming in the state finish strong in 2020 with projects to help kickstart what is expected to be a very successful 2021," added North Carolina Film Office director Guy Gaster. "As our film professionals follow proper safety protocols and guidance, the industry is able to help create substantial economic opportunities in the communities in which they film."

In addition to the announced grant recipients, production continues with two other grantees, "Virginia Cold Case" and the second season of the television series "Hightown", and recently wrapped on grant-receiving series "Delilah." Several non-grant recipient productions for national commercials and reality series as well as work done by local filmmakers have also been taking place since the industry's restart.

The North Carolina Film and Entertainment Grant provides financial assistance to attract feature film and television productions that will stimulate economic activity and create jobs in the state. Production companies receive no money up front and must meet direct in-state spending requirements to qualify for grant funds. The program is administered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce and promoted by the North Carolina Film Office, part of VisitNC and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina.

## BOWMAN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL 50th CLASS OF 1970 CLASS Reunion

Actually it's been 51 years since we graduated from Bowman High School, but last year's reunion was postponed due to Covid.

If you are interested in joining us for our reunion on October 16, 2021, please contact one of the following by May 14:

- Janet Brower Ross .....704-695-5457
- Carol Benton Black .....704-695-5345
- Kay Howell Vaughn .....704-694-8016
- Sandra Pegram Mabry ..704-695-5611
- Gayle Davis Pegram .....704-690-4783
- Fran Turner Thomas .....704-694-8803

## Home Improvement Scammers Take Money, Don't Complete Work

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises, use caution when hiring a home improvement contractor. Scams abound, especially following a major storm, flood, or other weather event when many homeowners are trying to repair their houses. But contractor scams can happen any time, so be wary of high-pressure sales tactics, up front fees, and fly-by-night businesses. Con artists will take homeowners' money and deliver slipshod work ... or no work at all.

**How the Scam Works:** Home improvement scams can start with a knock on the door, a flyer, or an ad. The contractor may offer a low price or a short timeframe. One common hook is when the scammer claims to be working in your neighborhood on another project and has leftover supplies.

Once started, a rogue contractor may "find" issues that significantly raise the price. If you object, they threaten to walk away and leave a half-finished project. Or they may accept your upfront deposit and then never return to do the job. Following a natural disaster, scammers persuade homeowners to sign over their insurance payment.

### Tips to Spot This Scam:

- Watch out for "red flags." Say no to cash-only deals, high-pressure sales tactics, high upfront payments, handshake deals without a contract, and on-site inspections. Not all "storm chasers" are con artists, but enough are that you should be cautious any time a home contractor contacts you first ... especially after a natural disaster.
- Ask for references and check them out. Bad contractors will be reluctant to share this information and scammers won't wait for you to do your homework. If you can, get references from past customers, both older references to check on the quality of the work and newer references to make sure current employees are up to the task. Check them out at [bbb.org](http://bbb.org) to see what other customers have experienced. And always be sure to get a written contract with the price, materials and timeline. The more detail, the better.
- Know the law. Work with local businesses that have proper identification, licensing and insurance. Confirm that your vendor will get related permits and make sure you know who is responsible for what according to your local laws and that your vendor is ready to comply.

Find trusted, vetted home improvement contractors near you and read tips on hiring a home improvement contractor at [www.bbb.org/near-me/home-improvement](http://www.bbb.org/near-me/home-improvement).

### Two BBB victim reports:

• **Victim 1:** Total Dollars Lost: \$13,125, Method of Payment: Apple Pay; Means of Contact: In Person; Scam Target: Individual

Scam Description: This person founded my information through home advisor website. He texted me and offered to give the best price for service of a deck and concrete work. Then he came to my house and did the measurements. He sent me a very format contract. Then he needs a 50% deposit via Apple Pay to buy supplies. I gave it to him immediately. He said the job will be done but it dragged for 2 weeks. He only take the old decks apart then he left. He didn't come back because he said the supplies was sent to the wrong house. He needs me to send him more money to retrieve it because he used all \$13,125 on supplies. I asked for the receipts and he wouldn't provide it. Then after three weeks of texting back and forth he said I need to hire another contractor and there is no money he can refund me.

• **Victim 2:** Total dollars lost: \$5,000; Means of Contact: In Person; Scam Target: Individual  
Scam Description: A man came to our door and talk with my husband about cleaning out his truck due a concrete mix on the truck and wanted to keep it from setting up in his truck. He had been working up the street. My husband said it was ok. Later the man came back and told my husband that he would let him have it \$12.00 and later \$9.00 my husband said ok at those prices, they finished putting the materials down and ask my husband to sign a contract. Then he inform my husband that it was \$ 12.00 to \$ 9.00 per square foot for 61 feet. The cost was \$5000.00. First of all we did not call or contact this person to come to our house regarding any concrete work and never received any form of contact signed. Informed this man that my husband is not able to make decisions of this kind. My husband was very upset and went to the bank to get a loan for this amount. Been a disable veteran and had no earned income credit so the bank told him they could not lend the monies. The bank manager call to inform me the my husband was at the bank the my husband had the bank employee to call so I would not worry. She told my husband to go home and your wife will handle this. I was at the food store when this happen. My husband came home and told me about this. Then the man came to the door and said he wanted his monies. I told him the we did not have this kind of monies. I contact BBB and made a report to the police. The Chief of Police told me not to pay any monies.

## Mother and Son Together Again

The Family of Margaret and Clifford Tillman would like to let you all know how grateful we are for the love and support that has been shown to our family in our time of bereavement. You all put so much joy in our hearts.

We Love You All.



## SEE TO IT



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## FEED MY LAMBS THRIFT STORE OPEN SATURDAY MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

Storage Unit Items For Sale  
Furniture, Dishes, Etc.



Food for sale: hot dogs, homemade chili and slaw, homemade pound cake, drinks



\$100 Food Lion Gift Card Raffle



Outside Yard Sale.  
Open Spots Available!  
Call Lisa For Details.  
704-695-1820

When: Saturday May 1st

Where: Feed My Lambs, 2290 Hwy 74 W, Wadesboro NC 28170

What: Yard Sale

Time: 9AM - 2 PM

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Monday-Friday  
8:30 - 5