

# Popular Government

WINTER 2008 • VOLUME 73, NUMBER 2



ON THE COVER *Sexual assault and domestic violence affect people of all ages and both sexes, in urban, suburban, and rural settings. The numerous deaths recorded on the website of the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence represent only the most extreme losses.*

## Cover Article

### 4 Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence: The Community's Role in Weaving a Safety Net

*Margaret Henderson, Gordon Whitaker, and Lydian Altman*

Leaders of a School of Government project building communities' capacity to stop sexual assault and domestic violence describe the reach of the problem and the need for shared responsibility in addressing it.

## Feature Articles

### 20 Creating Their Own Futures: Community Visioning and North Carolina Local Governments

*Lydian Altman and Ricardo S. Morse*

Government leaders often want to shape the long-term direction of their communities. How can they do that effectively? A report on visioning processes conducted in Roxboro, Wilkes County, and Wilson County provides lessons on visioning and strategic planning.

### 36 Collaborative Leadership in Sampson County

*Heather Scarbrough*

In Sampson County, North Carolina, a core group of county and school system leaders identified critical needs for school facilities. They faced limited resources. Building on a foundation of trust established through regular informal meetings, they collaborated to address the needs creatively.

## Departments

### 2 NC Journal

Updated Analysis Available of North Carolina Laws and Procedures on Property Assessment and Taxation • Six Cities Complete Pilot of Citizen-Informed Performance Measurement • Campbell Honored as Public Official of 2007 • Model Ordinance on Solid Waste Fees Available Online • New Mental Health Screening Introduced in County Jails

### 41 From the MPA Program

What Drives General Obligation Bond Ratings for North Carolina's Counties?

*Creighton Avila*

Public officials making decisions about the financing of major infrastructure projects want to know what variables can result in high or improved bond ratings. A recent study offers some guidance.

### 46 At the School

MPA Program Honors Kitchen, Vogt, Allred • Robert E. Stipe, 1929–2007

• One Member Returns to Foundation Board, Two New Members Join • Five New Faculty Members Join School • Wunsche Is New Legislative Reporting Service Director