

**PEOPLE****In The Black**

Director reports things are on even keel at Winston Lake YMCA

**RELIGION****First Fruits**

Afro-Americans challenged to join in spirit of Kwanzaa celebrations

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Burke should resign or face recall, group says

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Alderman Vivian Burke, under fire for her actions at last week's aldermen's meeting, is being called upon to resign from her seat as Northeast Ward alderman. Some members of her ward have vowed that, should she not voluntarily step down, they will continue with efforts to have her recalled.

The Concerned Citizens of the Northeast Ward, a group of residents which organized in direct response to Mrs. Burke's actions, earlier this week sent a letter to Mrs. Burke asking her to resign from her seat on the board. The group also is preparing recall

petitions to circulate throughout the Northeast Ward.

The Concerned Citizens organized Dec. 7 to discuss Mrs. Burke's decision to side with the Republicans at the Dec. 4 Board of Aldermen meeting. Mrs. Burke's vote gained her an appointment as mayor pro tem of the board but also removed Afro-American aldermen from the chairs of the pivotal finance and public works committees.

At the meeting, the group agreed to forward a letter to Mrs. Burke asking for her resignation. The group also began preparing for a recall.

"The committee based its actions on the fact that Mrs. Vivian Burke voted with white Republicans to oust two black

aldermen from the powerful positions of chairmen of the finance and public works committees," read a press release issued by the Concerned Citizens of the Northeast Ward. "Mrs. Burke betrayed the Democratic Party, she betrayed her constituents in the Northeast Ward and she betrayed the black community."

According to the press release, Mrs. Burke was asked to attend the Sunday meeting "to try to help ward members understand her actions. Mrs. Burke chose not to attend."

When contacted at her home on Monday afternoon, Mrs. Burke said that she chose not to attend the meeting because she had been made aware that some of the individuals at the meeting would not be members of the Northeast Ward. She said that she chose not to appear before individuals who lived in other wards.



Alderman Vivian Burke

individuals at the meeting would not be members of the Northeast Ward. She said that she chose not to appear before individuals who lived in other wards.

"I did not intend to go to that meeting and subject myself to

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624 names needed

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

According to the North Carolina General Statutes, an elected official may be removed from office at any time by the electors qualified to vote for a successor of such incumbent.

Ron Seeber, city attorney, said that it is his understanding that the recall provisions outlined in the state statute also apply to the City of Winston-Salem.

The process begins with the circulation of a petition among qualified voters. In the case of the recall of Alderman Vivian H. Burke, the petition would be circulated only among Northeast Ward residents, and only those residents registered to vote would be considered qualified to sign the petition.

Secondly, 25 percent of the Northeast Ward residents casting votes for mayor in the last election must sign the petition in order for the process to continue. Therefore, the names of at least 624 qualified Northeast Ward residents must be on the petition in order to call for a re-election in that ward. It is not necessary for the resident signing the petition to have voted in the last election, only that the individual be a registered voter living in the Northeast Ward. Residents of other wards are not qualified to participate in recall efforts.

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East Ward residents to oppose I-40 jail site

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

A group of concerned East Ward residents, parents of Winston-Salem State University students and graduates of the college will meet Sunday to organize their opposition to the county commissioners' latest recommendation to put a new jail in the Winston-Salem Business Park.

Alderman Virginia K. Newell promises that opposition to the commissioners' latest proposal could be much greater than that to the previous site off Patterson Avenue.

"It's the people, not me, who are calling for a meeting," the East Ward alderman said Tuesday. "It's basically coming from people all over town. They want to know what they can do to keep this jail from being placed on the site. In the last 15 minutes I've gotten five calls from parents who have students at Winston-Salem State and citizens in my ward."

The commissioners' proposal to place the detention center and sheriff's office just east of WSSU's campus, comes at a time when university officials, its Board of Visitors and Board of Trustees are formulating a plan to better market the university to students who usually leave the area to attend other state supported institutions.

"These people are upset because this university is our sacred cow," Mrs. Newell said. "How are we to persuade students to attend the university when there's a big jail complex right next door. I hate to call a meeting during these holidays when people are planning to go away and be with family. This is supposed to be a time of peace, but what's going on is not peaceful."

Sunday's meeting will be held at 3 p.m. in the Middlefork Christian Church at 2216 E. First St. in what used to be called the Brushy Fork Community, Mrs. Newell said.

Members of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners announced Dec. 7 that they wanted to buy 50 acres in the park from the investment group Rockingham Properties. A county jail, buildings for the sheriff's and health departments, and possibly facilities for social services and other county officers, would be built on the site.

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Photo by Mike Cunningham

Farewell To The Chief

Ervin to retire Dec. 29

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

Thirty-nine years as a member of Winston-Salem's fire department, nine of which he spent as chief, have taught Lester Edward Ervin Jr. the value of an opportunity.

In March of 1951, Chief

Ervin and seven other men were "I think the city of Winston-Salem has been fortunate to have someone of his caliber given the opportunity to prove that Afro-Americans could be professional firefighters. Not only did Mr. Ervin prove that, but he went several steps further, emerging as the chief of a nationally acclaimed fire department. At month's end, Chief Ervin will retire from his legacy as a history-making firefighter."

-- Alexander Beatty

Senior High School in 1943, served in the U.S. Army and received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Virginia State University in Petersburg.

Early in his career, Chief Ervin was cited for his exemplary work as a firefighter. He and two

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Violence increases at area high schools, Carver student arrested

By TONYA V. SMITH
Chronicle Staff Writer

A 17-year-old, Afro-American student at Carver High School was arrested Tuesday for possession of weapons, drugs and drug paraphernalia and intention to sell marijuana.

On the same day at Glenn High School, a black student used his crutches to injure a white student badly enough to warrant a visit to a hospital emergency room.

And so ends another week of violence in the city's high schools.

A deputy sheriff, one of three on duty at Mount Tabor High School to deter further violent acts, was summoned by principal Robert F. Clemmer to report to Carver. The arrested student was garnishing a baseball bat, a glow-bar and a "billy stick" — similar to

a police officer's baton, said Susan K. Carson, director of Communication Services for the city-county system. She declined to comment further on the incident.

Cpl. Butch Sims, the school officer at Carver, said he arrested Christion Lamont Bradley of 3831 Sawyer Street. The senior was arrested for possession with intention to sell marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and carrying weapons on school property, the corporal said.

Mr. Clemmer said he greatly regretted having to call in law enforcement officials to arrest a student but felt, "that with the amount of drugs on the young man, he had intentions to sell them. We had a serious problem here and we needed help."

Kurt W. Telford, an assistant principal at Christion, was walking out of the boys restroom with a

suspicious looking pouch, Mr. Clemmer said.

"He was very cooperative and when I asked him to let me see it he did," Mr. Clemmer explained, saying that when asked, the young man told the principal of the weapons he had in his car. "We didn't have any proof, but several students had told us that he may be involved with drugs and that he had weapons in his car."

Mr. Clemmer said the entire situation has greatly disturbed him because Christion is not a bad child. In fact he played the scarecrow in Carver's recent presentation of "The Wiz" at the Stevens Center.

"I hated to do this and have been working with this young man all semester trying to get him to come around," Mr. Clemmer said. "Maybe this had to happen, to shake him up and get him out

of this drug business.

"Carver has sort of been immune to stuff like this, but now I'm realizing that the drug problem here is much larger than we would want to admit. We've got to do something. We need the support of families, churches, everybody to make some headway with this problem. Maybe I can talk with our new mayor, but something has got to be done. I'm sure what's happened to this young man will prompt other students to come forth with more information and hopefully they'll be deterred from using drugs."

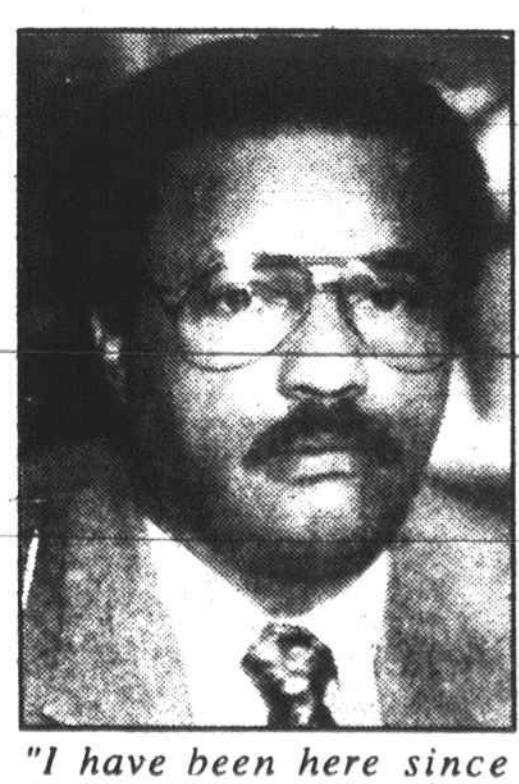
Three Glenn students, two of whom used to be members of the football team, were suspended for fighting. Two Afro-American students were walking together and one was on crutches because of an ankle injury, Ms. Carson said. For

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"We have let our students know by the actions we've taken that that kind of behavior can not be tolerated and will not be tolerated."

-- John C. Jessup



"I have been here since 1980 and I would say that 95 percent of the fights here have involved the opposite sex."

-- Samuel G. Puryear