

City's utilities rates to go up in the fall



SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Utility Commission approved on Monday a seven percent increase in water rates and a nine percent increase in sewer rates, effective Oct. 1. The increase will help pay for capital improvements to the water and sewer system and cover increased operating costs driven by rising fuel prices, according to the Commission.

With the rate increase, the bimonthly water and sewer bill for the average household in Winston-Salem would be \$57.44, an increase of seven cents a day.

Utilities officials noted that even with the increase, Winston-Salem continues to maintain some of the lowest water and sewer rates in the Southeast, and the lowest among North Carolina's largest cities.

Currently the estimated average bimonthly water and sewer bill is \$93.37 in Greensboro, \$70.49 in Raleigh, \$96.85 in Charlotte, and \$89.03 in Durham.

The rate increases are contained in the \$68.2 million operating budget the commission approved

for fiscal year 2008-2009. The budget includes \$42.2 million for operating costs and \$24.5 million in debt service for revenue bonds.

Capital improvements over the next six years are expected to be \$335.8 million, including rebuilding the R.A. Thomas Water Treatment Plant, updating the Ellege Wastewater Treatment Plant, and replacing aging water and sewer lines in the city's older neighborhoods.

The City County Utilities Commission issues debt in the form of Revenue Bonds to pay for these projects. The total outstanding debt in the utilities system is \$329.9 million and is projected to be \$419.1 million in another year.

Customers with separate meters for irrigation systems will see the most significant increase. The commission voted to discontinue the discount rate for irrigation meters. Starting Oct. 1, all irrigation meters will be billed at the first-tier rate of \$1.841 per 100 cubic foot of water consumed.

The water and sewer system operated by the Utility Commission continues to be one of the most economical systems in North Carolina, based on bond ratings, its operating record, its rate structure, and its supply of raw water.



Pastor Jessup

Events will celebrate Rev. Jessup and church

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Pastor Shannon L. Jessup will celebrate his third year as pastor of Second New Bethel Baptist Church on May 17-18. The church will also be celebrating its 57th anniversary.

Both celebrations will be kicked off on Saturday, May 17 with a dinner in the pastor's honor at the Anderson Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. Dr. Nathan Scovens, pastor of Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, will deliver the message during the dinner.

On Sunday May 18, the Rev. Zavior Pratt, former Pastor of Second New Bethel, will deliver the morning message. At 4 p.m., the Rev. Leronzo Lynch, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Charlotte, will deliver the message.

Second New Bethel Baptist Church is located at 1900 New Walkertown Rd. For more information about the services, call the church at 336-722-0128.



Dr. Scovens

Doctors

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Further research found that economics, not race was the key factor.

"If you corrected for socioeconomic, poor white folks did just like poor black folks; black folks with means did just as well as white folks with means," said the doctor. "It wasn't a racial difference in cancer patients; it was socioeconomic - the same treatment gives you the same outcome regardless of race."

Though the study was declared negative - meaning that the proposed treatment was not better than old methods - Blackstock's investigation set the stage for a body of work that would challenge the old ideals about race and medicine.

"There are a number of different factors that came out that, that really corrected for why black folks didn't do well," he said. "That to me was probably one of the most significant contributions I've made; it made people think about racial disparities differently."

Blackstock is proud that he has also worked to diversify the population of doctors at WFUBMC.

McMichael, a Philadelphia native, works closely with the American Academy of Dermatology and regularly provides tips and advice for publications such as *Good Housekeeping* and *Shape* magazines.

"I feel privileged every day that I get to come to work ... that's just my natural state of being," she said. "When I can be recognized for just doing what I love to do, I'm happy with that."

But it is McMichael's interactions with her students and patients that bring her the greatest sense of accomplishment.

"I think where I get most of my good feelings from is when I help patients and when students of mine get into dermatology and get interested in dermatology," she said.

McMichael has traveled as far away as Australia to talk about the work that is being done in her field, but says her most important obligation is to the people she encounters at WFUBMC.

"I think a big part of my job is responsibility," she said. "We have so few African-American people who the medical students get to see, who the patients get to see, who the residents get to see."

We need to have somebody here representing this large group of people and teaching this large group of people and their issues."

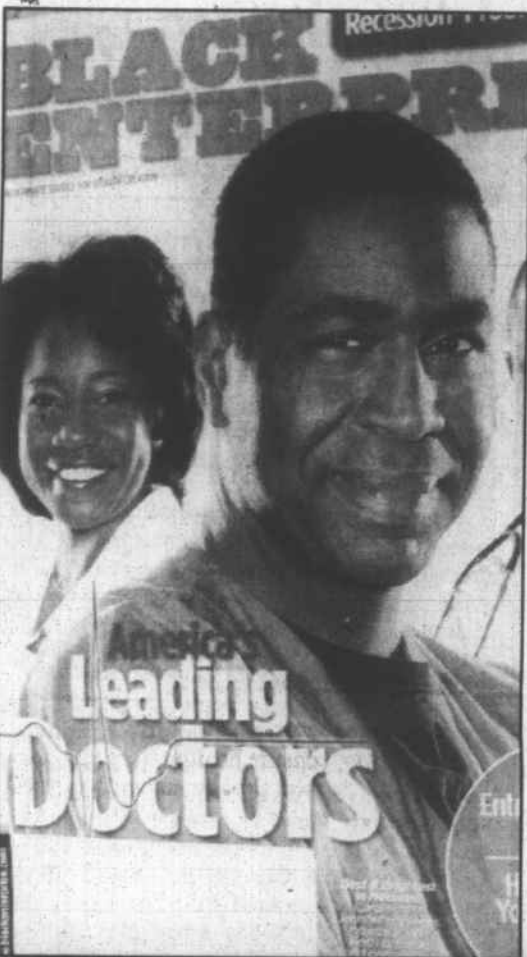


Photo by Layla Farmer

Dr. Amy McMichael says she loves going to work each day.

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Friday, May 30 • 7-9 p.m.

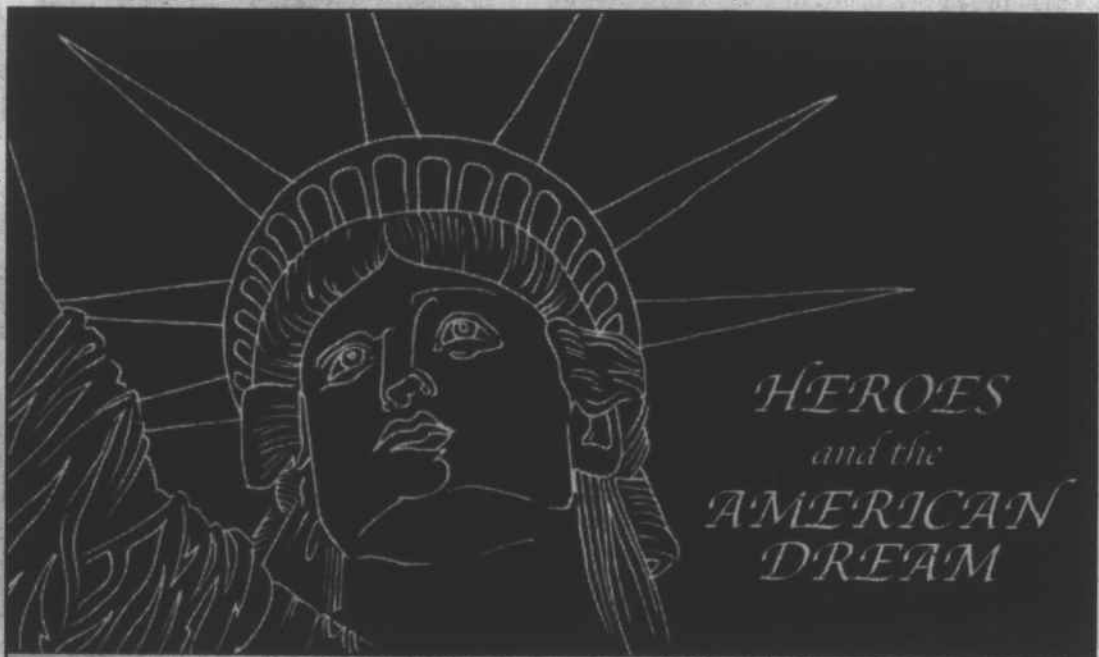
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