

# Officials say vote for FTCC bond is vote for county's future

BY LAYLA FARMER THE CHRONICLE

When it comes to the hotly contested presidential race between Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama, very few undecided voters remain.

However, there are likely many within the community who have yet to consider how they will vote on the very last issue on the Forsyth County ballot: a \$62 million bond referendum that would be allocated to Forsyth Technical Community College.

The bond would cover the cost of renovation of the Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County Administrative and Career Center

Building on Street. Miller which would be absorbed nearby Forsyth Tech. The school would also use bond money for the removal of several buildings on campus that becoming

too old to be useful to its booming population, says FTCC President Gary Green. The Career Center, which is also outgrowing its current space, would be moved to another site, which is yet to be determined, as would the administrative offices.

"It's a good building structurally, but ... it's beginning to show the age," he said of the career center building. "It's in need of renovation even if it's going to continue in its current use."

The bond is needed in order for the community college to adequately serve its flourishing student population, Green said.

"We're at capacity for our

"As we plan for the longterm growth of our main campus, that's the area that really makes the most for the people who will be coming here."

The bond has been criticized by some in the community who believe, given the dire economic status of the nation, now is not the time to be asking for taxpayer dollars.

State Rep. Dale Folwell has been one of the bond's most vocal adversaries. Folwell is calling for Forsyth Tech to have the bond issue removed from the ballot. The added cost to taxpayers about \$20 more a year for

someone who owns a \$150,000 home - is too much to ask in these lean economic times, he says.

County But Commissioner Bailey Beaufort believes that finansupporting cially Forsyth Tech will help strengthen the economy

"Forsyth Tech trains people for jobs and things of this nature ... it will boost the economy," he remarked.

Passing the bond is the right choice for the the school, said Bailey, who also serves on the FTCC's board.

(Forsyth Tech is) just exploding with students," he stated. "If this bond doesn't pass, we'll be set back five or six years as far as the county's concerned."

The current economic status is one of the greatest contributors to the growth of the school, now home to more than 8,000 students in college credit courses alone, says Green

"We have sort of an

main campus ... and we're inverse relationship with the landlocked," he commented. economy," he said, citing layoffs and lack of security among the reasons people choose to attend community colleges. "Anytime you ... have a recession, (citizens) turn to the community college to get the skills they need ... to get back into the workforce.'

While he concedes that taxpayers must be cautious with their money right now, Green contends that the FTCC Bond is a worthy cause

"The investment we are asking taxpayers to make is very small, compared to what Technical Forsyth Community College can provide for the community," he said. "Forsyth Tech has a great record of being good stewards ... of taxpayer money. I think people see that when they come here and when they interact with the college. I'm very confident that we'll have support at the polls."

Hematology/Oncology

Infectious Diseases

Internal Medicine

Nephrology

Neurology

Neurosurgery

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Orthopaedics

Otolaryngology

Pathology

**Pediatrics** 

Plastic Surgery

Psychiatry

Pulmonary Medicine

Radiation Oncology

Radiology

Rheumatology

Urology

Vascular Surgery

# City says it will tighten purse strings

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The City of Winston-Salem has initiated a hiring freeze and several other measures in

an effort to reduce spending. The step is being taken as the nation's economic fortunes continue to look

City Manager Lee D. Garrity said last week that the freeze applies to all vacant positions and any that may become vacant. Positions at the police and fire departments are the only exceptions.

A freeze has also been placed on capital purchases and leases, with the only exemptions being public safety vehicles such as fire engines.

Other cost-cutting measures include: - A freeze on travel and training. Trips already scheduled will be reviewed for

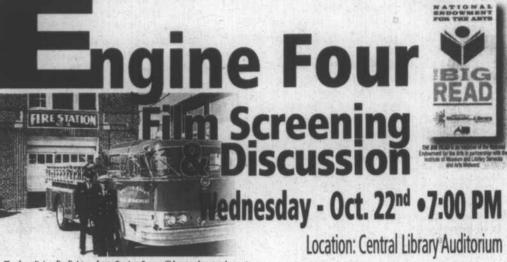
approval. - A five-percent sequestration of discre-

tionary operating spending. - A restriction on purchasing authority limits. All purchases will require a review by the city manag-

An administrative review of all service contracts.

In a message to all city employees, Garrity said, "City government budgets are feeling the same strains that each of us are feeling in our personal lives. Our expenses are up and our revenues are down. A pre-

liminary analysis by our Budget office estimates that if the current trends continue, we could end this fiscal year on June 30, 2009, with a \$2.4 million budgetary loss.'



The four living firefighters from Engine Four will be our honored guests: Raphael O. Black, Willie J. Carter, Robert L. Grier and John R. Thomas.

The Winston-Salem Fire Department presents "Engine Four" a documentary on Winston-Salem's first integrated fire station. City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tempore Dr. Vivian H. Burke, Fire Chief John W. Gist and Deputy Fire Chief John Lucas will lead a discussion on the history of the Winston-Salem Fire Department.



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## CATARACT SURGERY ALLOWED US TO **ENJOY OUR FAVORITE ACTIVITIES AGAIN**

IOHN AND VIRGINIA THORNTON LEAD ACTIVE LIVES, but cataracts severely limited their ability to enjoy favorite hobbies. So they turned to the ophthalmologists at Wake Forest University Eye Center, part of Wake Forest Baptist. After successful surgery, both are now doing the things they love - fine woodworking for John and reading for Virginia.

Cataract removal is one of the most common operations performed in the U.S. - more than 3 million people have this procedure every year. It is also one of the safest and most effective surgeries when performed by an expert eye surgeon.

Drs. Susan Burden, Paul Dickinson, Matthew Giegengack, Timothy Martin, and Keith Walter, board-certified ophthalmologists, have expertise in diagnosing and treating cataracts. They will discuss treatment options with you and help you decide which type of cataract removal and artificial lens replacement option is best for you.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 336-716-4091 or 336-723-1041, or visit wfubmc.edu/eye. And whatever your insurance, chances are we take it.

### Two Winston-Salem locations:

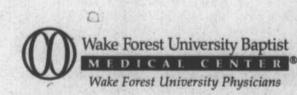
Wake Forest University Eye Center, 6th Floor Janeway Tower, Medical Center Blvd., Winston-Salem, NC, 336-716-4091

Coliseum Eye Associates of Wake Forest University Eye Center, 631 Coliseum Drive, Winston-Salem, NC, 336-723-1041

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John Thornton, Virginia Thornton, Dr. Paul Dickinson

Since 1993, Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center has been consistently ranked as one of America's best hospitals by U.S.News & World Report.



# Stroke

The reunion was open to all FMC patients who suffered a stroke between April 2007 and April 2008, more than 1,200 people in all.

"It's a room full of stories," Chase commented. "You can learn so much from watching people who are making that journey."

Though many of the survivors had never met before, they came together like old friends, Chase said.

"The best part was just watching people bonding, she related. happened natural-

people migrated together because they shared this common thread."

Being around others who understand the challenges they face is therapeutic for survivors, according to FMC Stroke Navigator Educator) Vanessa Cloud.

"They need to know that they aren't in this alone," "There are so she said. many people who have strokes; stroke is the face of you and me.'

Seeing the patients making their way to recovery was especially rewarding for her, Cloud added.

"It's been so good seeing the faces from the last year," she declared. "Seeing them go from hospital gowns to seeing them better... It just gives me a chance to say, Wow."

Two volunteers worked closely with Cloud in the planning of the reunion. Beth Crady and Farndill

Holly, both stroke survivors, have been volunteering with the hospital, visiting stroke patients and nurturing their own recoveries all in one fell Crady, the mother of two

teenagers and a former Family Services employee, suffered a stroke 11 months

"I can't do the things I used to do; it's very hard," she related.

have to have patience."

Though her motor skills are almost completely intact, Crady still struggles with aphasia, a side effect of stroke that impairs a person's

language skills. "I can understand everything but it's hard for me put the words together and say them the way I

want to," she explained. Planning the reunion served as a positive outlet and reminded her of her life before her stroke, Crady

"It was a lot of fun. I did a lot of things like that when I was working, so I understood everything, even though I could not help out as much as I wanted to," she related. "I'm glad I can see

people doing so good." For Holly, working with the patients was a chance to uplift people who often feel down as he did after his strokes (he suffered two in a

matter of months). "It's been great; I've been able to give patients advice ... and a lot of hope," he remarked. "It gives people hope when I tell them my story. It feels good."

