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Southside development to have large Goodwill presence



(From left) City Council Member James Taylor with Goodwill CEO Art Gibel and Goodwill Campus Manager Nate Williams.

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Goodwill Industries of Northwest North Carolina will officially open its newest retail store tomorrow, ushering in a new era of redevelopment and community partnerships for the agency.

The 11,000-square-foot building – built to the highest energy conservation standards – is located at 7528 Woughtown Street. It sits adjacent to the old Goodwill store, which will be torn down to make room for new development in the coming weeks, explained Goodwill CEO Art Gibel.

“We’ve had that store on Woughtown for decades. It’s old. It does great business for us but it’s highly inefficient because of the age of the building and the lack of parking around,” Gibel said. “We just jumped at the opportunity to be able to buy that property to build a new store.”

Goodwill has big plans for the 4.5 acres. The agency will oversee a sec-

See Goodwill on A7



Carolyn Highsmith (center) speaks at a recent Ministers Conference meeting.

Outcry spurs tax value upticks

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Residents in Monticello Park have been granted some relief from the devaluation of their homes, following a decision by the Forsyth County Board of Equalization and Review last week.

Many homeowners in the community, which is situated off Carver School Road, saw their home values drop to between \$30,000 and \$50,000 – about a third of their 2009 tax values – during the county tax assessors’ 2013 revaluation process, according to Tax Assessor John Burgiss. Earlier this month, the Board, which is charged with reviewing tax lists, hearing appeals from property owners and making any necessary appraisal changes, requested that tax assessors reinvestigate 14 communities where appeals and public outcry over the 2013 revaluations had been most widespread. Monticello Park was in the number, and, after visiting the community and assessing the homes more closely, tax assessors recommended that the Board reinstate a significant portion of value to 50 homes whose owners did not participate in the appeals process.



Shaw

“It’s a substantial increase, almost doubling what the one-third value, but we still have a value on these properties that is lower than 2009, even after these changes,” Burgiss said.

He said the community had only three eligible sales during the two year period (2011 and 2012) that assessors used to calculate the home values, leaving a greater margin for error in the tax assessors’ process. A second neighborhood, which Burgiss declined to identify, is also likely to see its values increase following a recommendation Burgiss and his team will make to the board on June 28.

“This is not unusual but it’s also not common. It’s not something we’ve done a lot of,” he said of the recommendations. “(But) we always said if we found something that justified it being redone, we’d bring it to the board.”

June 28 will also be the deadline for

See Taxes on A9



Local Moles pose for a photo in hues of the group’s signature emerald color.

Moles Photos by Dennis Dove/Dink Digital Productions

MOLES CREATE MEMORIES

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Prominent women from across the Southeast donned their trademark emerald and white and flocked to the Twin City last weekend for the 63rd Annual Conclave of The Moles, Inc.

More than 500 Moles and their significant others, known as Mules, convened in Winston-Salem June 20–23 for the Conclave, which, true to the social organization’s mission, was chock full of galas, luncheons and outings.

“It’s all about having fun,” said Conclave Co-Chair Lisa Caldwell, who has been a Mole for the past two decades. “Our motto is ‘Enjoy yourself... it’s later than you think,’ and that’s basically what we do – we enjoy each other and just socialize.”

As its motto suggests, The Moles, Inc. is a historically African American social club with chapters throughout the nation. Moles and Mules meet monthly to share a meal and



British soul diva Marsha Ambrosius performs.

See Moles on A2

Former rivals to face each other again in East Ward



BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

The race for the East Ward City Council seat is shaping up to be a repeat of 2009.

Both City Council Member Derwin Montgomery and Joycelyn Johnson, whom Montgomery beat four years ago, announced their plans this week to run for the seat. Montgomery was an undergraduate student at Winston-Salem State University when he upset incumbent Johnson in the Democratic primary. The win in the heavily Democratic ward ensured him a seat on the City Council and a place in history, as he

See East Ward on A10



City Council Member Derwin Montgomery (far left) and Joycelyn Johnson (left) address supporters at separate events this week.

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