



City Manager Lee Garrity praises Al Beaty.

City remembers Beaty

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Alexander "Al" Beaty was remembered fondly Sept. 3 at the Patterson Avenue facility named in his honor.

Beaty, who served as an assistant city manager for more than 15 years, died Aug. 28 after a short illness. He was 71.

In 2009, the City Council voted to name the new Public Safety Training and Support Center for Beaty in appreciation of his years of service.

His friends, family members and colleagues gathered there last week for a memorial service. Many shared reflections, including Mayor Allen Joines, Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke and City Manager Lee Garrity.

Beaty was a Winston-



Vivian Burke with Al Beaty at the 2009 dedication of the building named in Beaty's honor.

Salem native who graduated from both Atkins High School and Winston-Salem State University.

Before his long career with the city, Beaty was an educator and an

Experiment in Self-Reliance administrator. On his watch as assistant city manager, the police Downtown Bike Patrol and Citizens' Police Review Board were launched.

Schools

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"I think that we are making incremental rate increases and are putting special attention on our students as they get closer to graduation," said Spencer Hardy, who is in his first year as Parkland's principal. "We want to find those avenues to assist (students) toward graduation by gathering resources to keep them from dropping out or not finishing on time."

Hardy said, programs are in place to help students graduate. A week-long freshmen orientation is offered before the start of the school year to allow incoming students to become acclimated with the curriculum and complete pre-testing. The school also offers tutoring - and even transportation for students who stay to be tutored. A family engagement coordinator is also employed at Parkland.

"We have to make sure those students have a firm foundation coming into high school, that they feel comfortable, they have some idea what is expected of them and we need to make sure we provide a welcome environment," Hardy said.

Carver High School improved its rate to 80.7, nearly seven points higher than last year's and nearly 14 percent higher than it was in 2008. Its Jacket Academy at Carver saw a slight dip this year, after posting a perfect 100 percent rate in 2013.

New Carver Principal Travis Taylor said he is still not satisfied and is aiming for 90 percent next school year.

"We are specifically targeting our students who we know may have a propensity to drop out," he said. "Those are our students with low-academics, low-attendance



Montague-Davis

rates and those students who have behavioral issues. We are putting together a circle of support for those students so that they can be successful, get back on track and find different avenues for them to move forward. We hope that in four years, we will be a 90-90-0 school, having 90 percent of our students graduate in four years, 90 percent of those students going on to a 2 or 4-year college or military after graduation and 0 percent of our students having to take remedial courses once they move on to college."

Carol Montague-Davis, the assistant superintendent for secondary schools, said schools' effort to retain students are being supported with extra resources.

"We are putting some programs in place like putting money in for graduation, grade recovery and we have different types of initiatives to help kids graduate," she said.

Montague-Davis said that the system understands that the graduation process does not start in 12th grade and that efforts are being made to reach students as soon as they enter high school.

"We are paying attention more to our ninth graders because we know that is the age where most kids decide whether or not they are going to continue on because they hit the age of 16," she said.

"At that point, it becomes their decision by the state of North Carolina. We want their decision to be that they want to stay in school and finish."



Photos by Chanel Davis

Southside Discount Pharmacy is stocked full of merchandise.

Below: Employee Michelin Michaux counts pills to fill a prescription.

Freeman

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explain it, talk to them and try to save them money."

Freeman opened Southside Discount Pharmacy two months ago with the support of her husband, Scottie.

Located at 3085 Waughtown St. in the Southeast Plaza Shopping Center, the pharmacy looks no different from the well-known chain drug stores. Vitamins, over-the-counter medications and medical supplies line store shelves. Snacks and soft drinks are sold, and an assortment of items on one wall sell for only \$1 each.

The difference, Freeman says, is the service and personal touches. The pharmacy offers free in-store blood pressure and blood sugar checks. Immunizations are given there and most types of insurance, including Medicaid and Medicare, are accepted. There is also free delivery to patients' homes and a "price match promise."

Freeman, a native of Nigeria who received her pharmacy training at Campbell University, said with her own business, she can engage and educate patients while promoting good health.

"I don't feel like I can be compared to (large retail pharmacies) because what I offer is different and more personalized," she said. "I



try to really get to know my patients and their needs. You can't get that at the chains."

Scottie Freeman said that opening a pharmacy had long been his wife's dream.

"It is something we have always talked about," he said. "My initial thoughts were how much hard work, commitment, planning and motivation will be required to make this dream become a success. Immediately after that, I thought about how capable Ahunna is of running a pharmacy and how motivated we are to do more for our community."

The Southside is the city's most racially diverse sector. That is one of the things that appeals to Freeman, whose staff of three includes two Spanish-speakers.

"We wanted to be in a community that would be able to benefit from us,"

she said. "We want them to know that we are here for them and will be a patient advocate for sure ... They deserve that service."

Freeman says the pharmacy is already being well-received by the community and feedback has been positive. Her husband is not surprised.

"I believe with Ahunna's desire to better the lives of her patients, her outstanding business acumen, and amazing, genuine personality, this venture will be a success ... As the business grows, her impact on the community will continue to grow."

Reach the pharmacy at 336-830-8774 or via email at southsidediscount@msu1.com. It is open Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The store is open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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