

Citizens group lobbying for bonds

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Forward Together Winston-Salem has been launched to encourage residents to pass the five bond referendum items voters will be asked to consider this fall.

Three community volunteers are co-chairing the effort: Steve Strawsburg, Sarah Smith and Waleria Spaulding.

"No matter where someone lives in the city, they will benefit from these bonds," said Spaulding, a longtime community servant who



Spaulding

heads the Music Ministry at Union Baptist Church. "The projects to be funded are prioritized by urgency of need and

include improvements to roads, parks and greenways, sidewalks, housing, public safety and job creation all across the city."

The group cites that the City of Winston-Salem, according to recent estimates, faces more than \$709 million in capital projects that current revenues are insufficient to fund. The five separate bonds totaling \$139 million, reflect the priorities set by City Council, input from residents during public meetings and recommenda-

tions of a volunteer citizen committee that reviewed the city's needs in 2011. They include funds for new business development, street repair and neighborhood upgrades.

If voters approve all the measures, there will be a 2.5 cent city tax hike, meaning a family with a home valued at about \$127,000 would pay \$32 more a year.

For more information about Forward Together Winston-Salem, go to WinstonSalemBonds.com.

Voters

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Democrat Mary Dickinson said she was relieved by the ruling but isn't changing her strategy. She's challenging Republican Debra Conrad for the 74th District N.C. House seat. A longtime Democratic Party volunteer, she's a veteran at canvassing local communities for other candidates. Now she and her team are going door-to-door in neighborhoods, including her own, on her own behalf. Registration forms are always at hand during these canvassing outings.

Dickinson is predicting that 2014 won't be a 2010 repeat for Dems. She says people are fired up.

"My side of the coin is never happy," she said. "It's when there's a high voter turnout that we win. I'm always supporting people voting, and I don't care what their affiliation is. If there's high voter turnout, my side will win."

GOP candidates are working hard to get out their voters too. Republican John Davenport, the current Board of Education vice-chair, is one of six candidates running for three at-large seats on the School



Mary Dickinson poses with Roderick Brice, whom she while canvassing in the Vienna Precinct.

Board. He currently represents District 1 and thinks the work he has done on the board is his greatest advantage. He is a frequent presence at schools and prides himself on being available to the public. Davenport is still using traditional election methods — mailers, billboards, yard signs — to get his name before voters.

He is hoping for high voter turnout, especially among

Americans, who he says have struggled too hard for the right to simply ignore it. He wants voters to take time to learn about candidates and approach them with an open mind.

"I don't think you want to give your vote away," he said. "You really want to think about it and know who you're voting for and make sure you're voting for a person and not just a set of ideas someone has given you."



Franco

Voter turnout is also important for candidates in the non-partisan judicial races. Attorney Valene Franco is running against Assistant Forsyth County District Attorney Ted Kazakos for the newly-created 21st District judicial seat.

Franco has a social media presence and her signs are an omnipresence around the city, but she's still making a big push with door-to-door voter registration.

"The farther that you get down the ballot, the more impact that candidate has on your daily life," said said. "... A midterm election is just as important as, if not more important, than one when where the president is on the ballot."

Residents must have voter registration forms at the Forsyth County Board of Elections (which is in the Forsyth County Government Center at 201 N. Chestnut St.) by the end of the business day tomorrow (Friday, Oct. 10). Forms are also available online at <http://www.co.forsyth.nc.us/elections/>.

IN MEMORIAM

CROWDER

Mrs. Lena Belle Thomas Crowder was married to the late Raymond Crowder and from that union was one devoted daughter, Rayonette J. Crowder.

Eight ministers participated in her home going service. Rev. I r a McCullough and Rev.



Finney; and her sisters Jeannette T. Lewis and Flonnie T. Anderson and extended family Pat and Warren Renwick and Marjorie Plowden.

Musical tributes included songs by Spirit of Wentz Memorial United Church of Christ and their director, Dr. Constance McKoy. She

Francis Williams, Mt. Zion pulpit associates; Dr. Telika McCoy Wiggan, Mt. Peace Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., Dr. Bonnie Laney, Ministries of Transformation Church in Lexington, N.C., Elder Robert Edmond, Kimberly Park Holiness Church, Rev. Damian Anderson, associate minister, United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. Sir Walter Mack, Jr. Union Baptist Church and Dr. Serenus T. Church, Sr. minister at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, who delivered the eulogy. Other tributes were from Dr. Vivian Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Lowman Pauling, neighbor, David Ader, Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools, Dr. Linda Bowman-Hopkins, former student; God-sons Eric Johnson and Clifton Brown; God-daughters, Aminah Faal Sonko from the Gambia, West Africa; Lolita Douthit-Higgins, Donna Hargrave and Katrice

was a life member of NWOA, Inc.

Her legacy includes church, family, friends, education, career, civic, social, local, national and international accomplishments.

She was referred to as a woman of virtue — Proverbs 31:10 and wore an outfit befitting her style and grace.

Lena took her final ride on a horse-drawn carriage from her beloved church to her resting place.

Her family and friends saluted her one more time with the celebratory release of gold and white balloons.

Rayonette Crowder wishes to thank the community, family and friends with special thanks to the Mt. Zion Baptist Church family and Russell Funeral Services.

Lena Crowder was an ordinary woman with an extraordinary life.

Lovingly submitted
The family



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ARTS & SUNDAY series

EVERY SUNDAY
IN OCTOBER
1-5 P.M.
ARTS DISTRICT
TRADE STREET
WINSTON-SALEM
NORTH CAROLINA

OCT 5 BLUES-A-PALOOZA

TWIN CITY BUSKERS
HARMONICA SHOWDOWN
WITH JOHN OLSON,
EDDIE MARTIN, ABE REID
AND BUBBA SPEAR
FEATURING MIKE BENNETT
& THE B-STRING ALLSTARS
AND BIG RON HUNTER

OCT 12 HOME COOKIN'

THE BILLIE FEATHER
ALL STARS
KHIANA NOEL MEYER

OCT 19 CAROLINA ON MY MIND

GARY SIBLEY AKA DANIEL RASSUM
SHILOH HILL
ABEBI STAFFORD & HIS MAGIC KEYS

OCT 26 MASQUERADE ON TRADE

RJ REYNOLDS ARTS BASED HIGH
SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GROUPS
MASQUERADE CONTEST
(CHILDREN, ADULTS AND PETS TOO)

KIDS CORNER EVERY WEEK

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
WWW.THEAFASGROUP.COM

