

Hey, Whatever it takes



Rams spring Football



• See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7 •

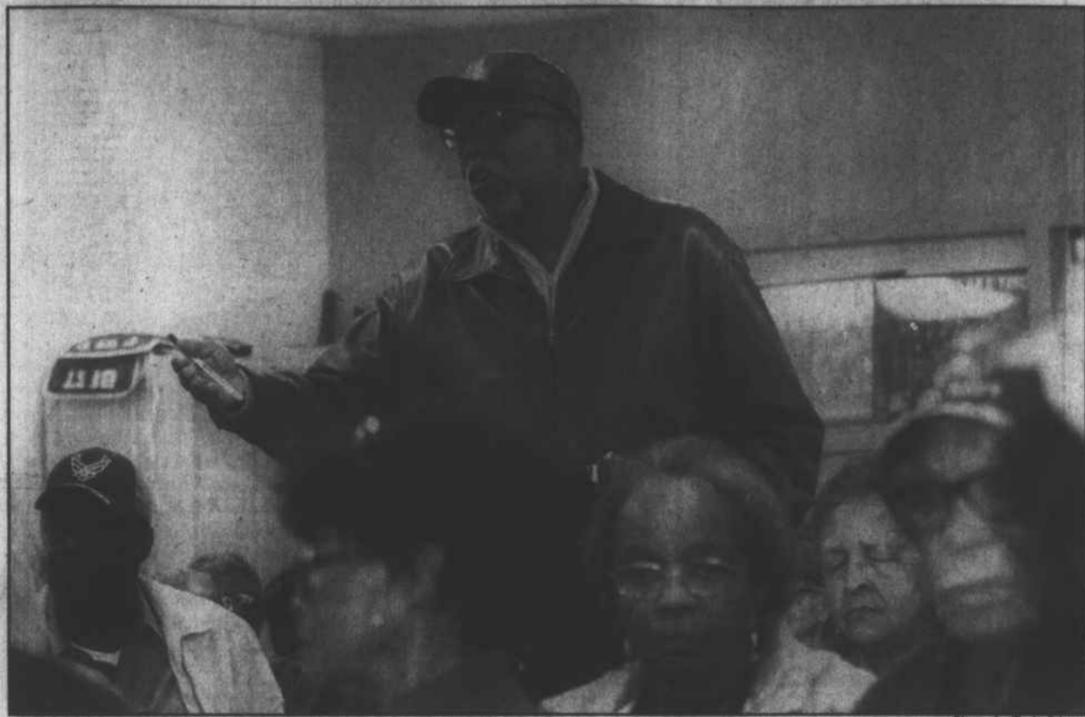
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THE CHRONICLE

Volume 43, Number 32

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, April 14, 2016



Longtime Winston Lake member and volunteer Al Jabbar voices his frustration with the executive board during a meeting held to discuss the future of the YMCA located on Waterworks Road.

200 protest, learn about HB 2 in W-S

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

On the same day that hundreds gathered in the streets of Raleigh to show support for House Bill 2 (HB 2), about 200 residents gathered at Greene Street United Methodist Church on Monday evening to protest the state law, which overrules LGBT anti-discrimination measures passed by a local government.

Community members, clergy and others took to the stage to talk about the effects the law has on the LGBT community and the entire state.

Speakers also discussed ways to fight the bill.

HB 2 was designed to prevent a Charlotte ordinance protecting LGBT individuals from discrimination and protecting transgender individuals' ability to use the restroom of the gender they identify as. The bill which went into effect April 1 says individuals can only use public restrooms that match the gender on their birth certificates.



Criminal defense attorney David Freedman discusses a court case during a protest held at Green Street United Methodist Church on Monday, April 11

Parkway United Church of Christ minister Rev. Liam Hooper, who identifies as a transgender man, told the audience that the bill invited public enforcement and vigilantism, which puts his people in danger.

"This bill preys on and exploits the fears, misconception, and confusion of the general public. HB 2 is a piece of well-crafted deflection politics," Hooper said.

Hooper noted the bill scapegoats transgender people in order to distract attention from the other instances of human rights violations.

While HB 2 has gotten nationwide attention for its effects on the LGBT community, Hooper said that the bill causes problems for other minority groups as well.

"If your skin is not white, and you don't have white male privilege, you are targeted by this bill whether you are transgender or not," he said.

The new law says there's a state policy against discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, age, "biological sex," or handicap, but prevents any civil action in state court based on that. Plaintiffs can still file

Photos by Tevin Stinson

Photo by Tevin Stinson

Winston Lake protest; YMCA \$400,000 in debt

Members voice frustrations with changes in operation and lack of transparency

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston Lake Family YMCA, which has served the African-American community for more than 90 years, is slated for some major changes this year, including changes in staff and closing an entire wing of the facility, and the community is outraged.

Here's what we know: Winston Lake Family YMCA's roots date back to 1924, when a branch opened on Depot Street to serve African-Americans in the city before moving to its current location in 1985. Once arguably the city's most well-known branch, in recent years Winston Lake has seen a decline in participation and membership. The branch has also seen some of its most popular programs simply go away because of



Vice president of YMCA of Northwest NC Darryl Head speaks during a meeting held at Winston Lake Family YMCA located on Waterworks Road on Friday, April 8.

lack of funding, such as daycare, summer camp, and Silver Sneakers.

As a result, rumors started to circulate amongst residents that the branch would be closing its doors for good. Last week, YMCA of Northwest NC executive board members notified members and staff at

Winston Lake that the branch would not be closing. However, board members are looking to close the entire portion of the building where the pool is located, cut hours, and transfer a number of current staff members. According to Senior Vice-President and COO Darryl Head, the changes would help Winston Lake overcome a shortfall of \$400,000. Head noted the Winston Lake facility also needs an additional \$500,000 for repairs that have to be completed in the next five years.

During a meeting with more than 100 members on Friday, April 8, Head said, based on a study on building usage, the pool area and racket ball courts at Winston Lake were the least utilized.

"We have data that shows the entire back side is seeing very little usage," he continued. "We do want to look at closing those spaces so that we can garner our savings."

"A reduction in grants and funding from United Way has led us to make similar changes at all 16 of our locations. A lot has changed."

See YMCA on A2

Ujima CDC close to building Emmanuel Retirement Village

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

For over a decade, Ujima CDC has dreamed about building a retirement community on Barbara Jane Avenue and now expects to break ground this year.

The City Council finance committee on Monday, April 11, voted unanimously to send a res-

olution to the full council to provide \$2.5 million in grants and loans for Ujima's first project, Emmanuel Retirement Village. The \$5.5 million project will get the rest of its capital from a private lender. The planned independent living retirement community, which will be off Old Greensboro Road, will have 28 single bedroom units in a two-story



Jones

Weston

Sadler

apartment building, duplexes with 22 two-bedroom units, and a community center. The CDC hopes to start construction this year and open the complex in early 2018.

Ujima CDC came about when Emanuel Baptist Pastor John Mendez had the idea of putting a retirement community on property the church owned on Barbara

Jane Avenue. "We saw older people leaving the community to find a suitable place to live out the rest of their years," said Ujima Vice-President Hobart Jones.

Church members began putting together a community development corporation (CDC) in 2005. Ujima CDC, named after a

See Ujima on A2

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