

County struggles with recycling efforts

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Forsyth County is having difficulty maintaining contractors for its recycling program in the unincorporated parts of the county.

County commissioners were told about the issue during their Thursday, June 16, briefing. The county's current recycling contractor, Waste Industries, has agreed to serve out its contract, which runs out at year's end, but will not be renewing it. County commissioners are considering recycling options for those who do not live in a city or town in Forsyth County.

Minor Barnette, director of Forsyth's environmental assistance and protection office, outlined the problem. Waste Management, the world's largest waste management company, was the recycling contractor in 2012. It charged \$2.65 a month per household but only had 13 per-

cent participation. The 2,900 households weren't enough for the company to make money and it discontinued the contract the next year.

After that, Waste Industries was the only bidder. It charged \$8.65 and had 12 percent participation. Barnette said there were several problems, aside from low participation, like the distance trucks drive to collect, since the subscribing households are so far from each other. There's also a problem in the recycling industry with a downturn in the price of commodities like plastic, cardboard and paper that makes it more difficult to turn a profit.

Barnette said he was still in discussions with Waste Industries to see if a way



Marshall



Witherspoon

can be found to keep its services. Without recycling pick-up, residents in non-incorporated areas would have to rely on county drop-off recycling centers near Lewisville, Kernersville and at the Hanes Mill Road landfill. These three centers can be a twenty minute drive for some residents, Barnette said.

County Commissioner Walter Marshall thought a mandatory recycling program with a required fee could be an option.

"I think the only way we're going to solve that problem is to face it head on," said Marshall.

County Commissioner Everett

Witherspoon said if a voluntary fee program couldn't work for a giant company like Waste Management, it's going to be hard to find any company it could work for. He also thought a mandatory program is the way to go.

"That's the only way you can make this program stick," said Witherspoon.

Other municipal governments often pay for recycling with a mandatory fee or with the regular property tax residents pay. According to Winston-Salem Recycle Today Director Dereck Owens, the city also utilizes Waste Management, which it pays \$1.5 million to out of the general fund. The city also receives 33 percent of the revenue from the recyclables. There's no fee or special tax city residents have to pay. He said Winston-Salem has 90 percent participation in its voluntary recycling program, which collects 1,000 tons of recyclables a month.



As a recipient of the 2016 Cedric S. Rodney Unity Award, LaRue P. Cunningham thanks the Old Salem Juneteenth Steering Committee after receiving her award on Thursday, June 16.



Dr. Jon Sensbach describes what life was like in Salem for slaves before and after the abolishment of slavery in June 1865. Sensbach is a professor of history at the University of Florida.



Dr. T. Sharee Fowler addresses the crowd after receiving the St. Philips' Cedric S. Rodney Unity Award during the Juneteenth Luncheon held at the Old Salem Visitors Center on Thursday, June 16.

Luncheon features community leaders

Juneteenth Luncheon honors two local women

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Two outstanding community leaders were honored for their contributions to the city of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County last Thursday during the Juneteenth Luncheon held at the Old Salem Visitor Center.

LaRue P. Cunningham and Dr. Sharee T. Fowler were presented the St. Philip's Cedric S. Rodney Unity Award.

The award was named

after the Rev. Dr. Cedric Sydney Rodney, who served as pastor of St. Philips' Moravian Church from 1968 to 1976 and 1984 to 2003. Rodney was considered a "bridge builder" who upheld the ethics of the Moravian Church. As pastor of one of the oldest black congregations in the United States, Rodney stressed the importance of community and cooperation, which helped shape the history of Winston-Salem and make this community a better place.

During the luncheon, held inside the James A. Gray Jr. Auditorium, Cunningham and Fowler received a handcrafted pot-

tery plate and wooden stand created by artisans and craftsmen in Old Salem's Trades Department. After receiving the prestigious award, Cunningham, a twice retired teacher, thanked Old Salem and others for honoring her.

"I am honored to be receiving this award here today," she said. "This is a day I will never forget."

Since retiring after 30 years of service to Granville, Davidson and Forsyth County Schools, Cunningham currently serves as a volunteer and mentor at Kimberly Park Elementary School.

She also finds time to support Little Dresses for

Africa, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Christian organization that provides relief to vulnerable children by making dresses out of pillow cases for children in Africa and beyond, who have limited to no clothing of their own. Since joining the organization, Cunningham has created more than 1,000 dresses.

"I can, and most positively will impact the world around me because I have not done my part until the whole is done," Cunningham said.

The second recipient, Fowler, works with the United Way of Forsyth County and serves as the partnership director with

Forsyth Promise, a collaborative network committed to supporting the success of every child from cradle to career. She also serves as an adjunct assistant professor of sociology at her alma mater, Salem College. After accepting her handcrafted plate, Fowler said she will continue to fight for social justice and equity.

"I have a personal mission to enrich the lives of the people in this community who need it most," said Fowler. "I will continue on this path until that mission is complete."

Following the presentation of the awards, University of Florida history professor Dr. Jon

Sensbach delivered the keynote address. Sensbach teaches the graduate course on early America and has taught a graduate seminar on the Black Atlantic as well as undergraduate courses on the Atlantic slave trade. During his address, Sensbach discussed what life was like for slaves in Salem before and after slavery was ended in June 1865.

The Juneteenth Luncheon is held in partnership with Winston-Salem State University. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States.



Photos by Tevin Stinson
Fathers and sons hold hands and pray following the father and son brunch held on the campus of Winston-Salem State University on Saturday, June 18. My Brother's Second Chance, a nonprofit organization designed to provide positive male role models for those in need, sponsored the brunch.

Local organization honors male mentors

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

For young men growing up without a father, Father's Day isn't always a pleasant celebration, but for some kids that hole is filled by special men who volunteer as mentors.

Just one day before Father's Day, My Brother's Second Chance (MBSC), a local non-profit organization, held a brunch on the campus of Winston-Salem State University to celebrate those who volunteer as mentors for young boys in the community.

MBSC was started by WSSU Hall of Fame football star Antonio Stevenson

in 2010, with a vision to save lost youth by providing knowledge and life skills that will prepare them to become productive, successful adults.

Over the years, MBSC has conducted over 170 workshops and seminars, performed over 100 hours of mentor training sessions, and mentored over 500 youth. The organization also feeds families in need and takes children in the area on college visits. On some occasions, mentors have even attended PTA meetings.

Stevenson said he decided to start the non-profit organization because he grew up without his

father and understands how hard it can be, not having a



Stevenson,

male role model in the home. He said, "If it wasn't for my grandfather, uncle, mentors, and coaches growing up, I would not be the man I am today."

"When I needed someone to talk to, they were

always right there. So many people had a direct impact on my life. I attribute all my success on and off the field to the mentors I had."

A four-year letterman with the Rams, Stevenson earned a number of conference and national honors as a defensive lineman. Along with a number of All-CIAA Team Honors (1991-1994), in 1992 he was named a Black College Sports All-American.

Today, Stevenson works as a case manager at Goodwill Industries. He also is a personal trainer at the Jerry Long YMCA and helps coach at Parkland High School athletes.

During the brunch held in the Donald J. Reaves Student Activity Center, Stevenson said, "You don't have to be a old man to be a role model or an good influence. All it takes is a little effort."

He then urged fathers and mentors to continue to give back.

"Today is a day we celebrate not only fathers, but good influences," noted Stevenson. "I'm begging you fathers and mentors to continue to give back. Continue to get better every day at being a role model for these young men because they need our help."

Following the powerful

words from Stevenson, the fathers, mentors, young men and others in attendance joined hands and formed a giant circle. Before leading the group in prayer, a longtime friend of Stevenson's, Reginald McCaskill, pledged to make a \$100 donation to MBSC. Following his announcement, others pledged to make \$100 donations to the organization as well.

"I believe in what Antonio is doing," McCaskill said.

For more information on My Brother's Second Chance visit www.mybrotherssecondchance.com.