

# The Charlotte Post

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Rayford Means, a Philadelphia judge and Charlotte native, wins re-election, while Franklin McCain, an original member of the Greensboro sit-in movement, wins another honor.

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Eve Cornelious, whose silky voice can be heard at the Excelsior Club, is working on some new projects with some of the biggest names in jazz.

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Rosenwald Schools, reminders of what education was like for rural blacks at the turn of the century, are all but extinct. But in Charlotte, Ben Hoover is working to preserve the old McClintock School.

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West Charlotte, No. 1 in The Post's Magnificent Seven poll of Mecklenburg high school football teams, plays upset-minded and No. 2-rated South Mecklenburg Friday at Memorial Stadium.

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Theresa La Nette Drakeford, a student conservationist is our choice.

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## Disparity gets minority vendors' attention

By John Minter  
POST CORRESPONDENT

The Black Political Caucus wants to hear what African American contractors and vendors have to say about a study documenting discrimination in how Charlotte spends public money.

Public meetings will be held Dec. 5 and Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church

West on Oaklawn Avenue.

The meeting will lead up to the Charlotte City Council's public hearing on the M/WBE Disparity Study presented to the council last month.

The presentation sparked division among council members along racial lines as District 4 representative Nasif Majeed tried unsuccessfully to push council to adopt the study's recommen-

dations before the Republicans took control Monday.

Council member Hoyle Martin, District 2's representative, said the M/WBE program could be in danger under the new council.

"The Republicans have made a big deal of the fact

that this is a Republican-dominated council and that there will be changes," Martin said. "They may use the disparity study to send a message.

(Council member Stan) Campbell said 'we are going to do things differently.'"

The study by D.J. Miller &

Associates of Atlanta explains wide disparities in the number and size of contracts awarded by the city to minority contractors and vendors.

The U.S. Supreme Court has said such a study is necessary if a city wants to use race as a factor when awarding public contracts. Charlotte's Minority/Women's

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Metrolina Minority Contractors and Business Associates will also discuss disparity. See story on Page 3A.

## Ready for the grand opening



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Francine Hemphill puts the finishing touches on a faceted glass window at Friendship Baptist Church Monday. The church recently underwent a major renovation that took a year to complete while services were conducted at the McCrorey YMCA. The new Friendship will hold its first services this Sunday. More on Page 8A.

## Earle Village gets last installment of federal grant

City plans to use \$34.6 million to renovate public housing community

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Earle Village has moved a step closer to being transformed into a new neighborhood.

The U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development Wednesday approved the final installment of a \$34.684 million grant to refurbish the 26-year-old public housing community. The government's \$807,170 Urban Revitalization Grant (URG) follows a \$33.87 million grant made in the 1993 fiscal year. The grants are meant to revitalize severely distressed or obsolete public housing developments.

The Charlotte Housing Authority, which applied for the grant, plans to turn 28 two-bedroom units into 14 three-bedroom homes, convert the community center/management building into a day care center to support the Family Self Sufficiency program and build a new community center. The proposed community services program will also include day and night care for children, job training, recreation facilities, drug counseling, literacy and tutoring and educational programs.

Earle Village, a 409-unit complex located on 35.8 acres near the heart of the city's central business district, has come under fire for criminal activity, drug abuse and as a magnet for the homeless. The grant money will also be used to put more police in the area and restructure its configuration to make it easier to spot potential problems.

## Economic hardships likely to make holidays busier for Christmas Bureau

By Herbert L. White  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

While thousands are starting the Christmas shopping season, Lynda Witbrodt is bracing for a different reality.

Witbrodt, coordinator of the Christmas Bureau, expects thousands of needy families to come calling during the holidays for food and gifts. Last year, 14,180 Mecklenburg County families were served. Judging by the requests for aid this year, that number will be eclipsed.

"With our registration, we'll probably serve more families than we did last year," she said.

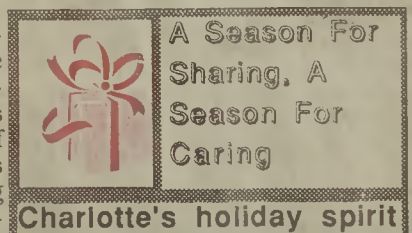
Families are registered by computer for food vouchers, which will be determined by the number of members. Children will receive toys and gifts donated by the Salvation Army's toy shop; a book per child, donated by The Charlotte Observer and a

Christmas stocking donated by WSOC-TV and the Salvation Army.

Witbrodt said the economy's uncertain recovery is responsible for the increase in applications among families.

"Corporate downsizing and layoffs are forcing more people to come to us for help."

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## Senegal is full of life, activity

By Adrienne George-Bourne  
SPECIAL TO THE POST

VILLE DES PECHEURES, Senegal - The people laughed and sang to the loud, rhythmic music. It seemed that the entire fishing village was dancing on the beach a hundred feet or so from the Atlantic Ocean.

It was a celebration of life - this Senegalese naming ceremony - that my husband, Christopher, and I happened upon during the early evening. We were introduced to the village elder, Younouss N'Gouf, as visiting African

Americans, and he immediately made us leading participants in this happiest of African ceremonies honoring his week-old granddaughter.

"Your being here is good for the baby," Mr. N'Gouf, said, putting his granddaughter, Anta, into my arms. "It is good for my family and it is good for your family."

I was overwhelmed. I am a sophomore at the University of the District of Columbia where I am preparing for a writing career. Earlier this year, I wrote one of seven winning essays, in a national contest sponsored by Pepsi-Cola Company, on

"Increased Political Participation, The Most Significant Contribution to Civil Rights in the Last 20 Years."

The prize was a seven-day, all expense paid trip for the seven writers - with one guest each - to the West African nation of Senegal.

Holding the beautiful baby girl wrapped in four layers of elaborately-woven cloth, and sleeping peacefully throughout most of her official introduction to the world, I was led by Mr. N'Gouf to the front of the festive crowd during my first evening in Senegal.

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Younouss N'Gouf (center) with Christopher and Adrienne George-Bourne during the naming ceremony in Senegal.