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Nineteen Hundred And Eighty-Two: A Busy, Up-And-Down Year

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Although 1982 contained the same number of months, weeks, days and minutes as the 1,981 years that preceded it, the year had more than its share of major news stories, particularly where the black community is concerned.

Among the noteworthy developments in 1982: After spending more than two decades on the drawing board, the East Winston Shopping Center finally materializes, providing the centerpiece for economic revival in the black community. Principals in the center's success story include East Ward Alderman Virginia K. Newell and her Committee To Promote Black Ownership, Mayor Wayne A. Corpening, the East Winston Restoration Association and Minneapolis-based developer Mark Vieno.

As the grading for the center begins, black contractors express concern that they might be excluded from the project, but those fears are dispelled and the construction proceeds ahead of schedule.

As for the hope that the center will be black-owned, Alderman Newell says efforts to attract enough investors

to ensure black ownership of the center are continuing and that she expects that goal to be reached by the end of June 1983.

Four black candidates score impressive wins in the Nov. 2 general elections with the black community not only voting heavily, but selectively, largely avoiding its traditional tack of supporting the straight Democratic

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ticket. That strategy, many say, is the key to victories by school board member Beaufort O. Bailey, state House members C.B. Hauser and Annie Brown Kennedy and County Commissioner Mazie S. Woodruff.

The elections also featured the formation of a vital, new organization in the black community. The Black Leadership Roundtable Coalition, chaired by Alderman Larry D. Little, works with the NAACP in its voter

registration drive, interviews and endorses candidates in both the primaries and the general election and revels in triumph late Nov. 2 as all of its endorsed candidates except one emerge victorious.

The Roundtable may herald the changing of the guard in the black community's leadership.

A man dubbed the East Winston Bandit makes a bad crime situation in the black community worse with a string of armed robberies that baffles police for more than two months. Although the masked man does not seriously injure his victims, he fires his gun while fleeing on more than one occasion and during a school parking lot robbery knocks a female victim to the pavement and kicks her in the head.

The crimes appear to have stopped and any of a number of suspects arrested on other charges could be the bandit. But no one can say for certain.

Winston-Salem State University's Coach Clarence "Big House" Gaines is inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in May. Gaines is college basketball's winningest active coach with 688 wins.

The Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen passes a fair housing ordinance, although dissenting board members

Bob Northington and Ernestine Wilson maintain that it isn't needed.

That's a bit like saying you shouldn't keep a fire extinguisher around because there's no fire.

Three of the town's promising young black ministers — G.G. Campbell, Michael Curry and Warner Durnell — depart for greener pastures.

Some say that it was simply time for change in these men's lives. Others, including us, partially blame an inflexible, intolerant, conservative element in Winston-Salem's black community that strangles new ideas.

The city adopts an affirmative action plan, although black Aldermen Vivian Burke and Larry Womble vote against the plan because they feel it isn't strong enough.

The East Winston Restoration Association, under the leadership of Geneva Hill, prevents the conversion of the St. Benedict the Moor convent into a home for emotionally disturbed Willie M. youth, contending that East Winston already has too many burdens to bear.

We agree.

The Voice of Minority Contractors and Suppliers, desperately seeking business for its membership, pickets

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