

# New program under way

From Page A1

90 percent of those on the waiting list. The city had sought 100 units of subsidized housing, but appeared pleased to receive that number. No new housing will be constructed with the city funds, but eligible families will receive subsidy certificates to offset their rent payments.

"The certificate is more like a housing license," said Dave Thompson, director of the city Housing Authority. "Section 8 is about the only way you can help the really, low-income people, because they don't have any money."

The number of such families and the problems affecting them appear particularly severe in the city.

Our research indicates that family disorganization is especially acute in the City of Winston-Salem," the city's grant application stated. "In the 1970-1980 decade, the City of Winston-Salem actually lost population (albeit, less than one percent), but the total number of households increased an astonishing 18 percent. Although the number of family households remained essentially stable, there was a dramatic increase in the actual number of married couples (10.6 percent), and a corresponding increase in the number of single households."

Winston-Salem has "an extraordinarily high percentage" of single-parent families in relation to the rest of the nation, city officials say.

Single-headed households accounted for 29.2 percent of the city's 33,328 families in 1980 -- representing a 43 percent increase since 1970. One reason for that, the officials say, may be that Winston-Salem has one of the highest divorce rates in the state.

And while more parents are divorcing, more children are being raised in one-parent families -- with one-parent incomes in many cases. Nineteen percent of families with children under 18 years of age were headed by single parents in 1970, but by 1980 the proportion had risen to 35 percent.

Compounding the problem, 92 percent of the city's single-parent households were headed by women in 1980 -- women who generally earn less than men.

Gary Brown, the former city director of community development who now works in Colorado, said one-third of the children enrolled in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system lived in single-parent households and that 99 percent of them lived with their mothers.

More than 40 percent of the city's female-headed families had incomes below the poverty level in 1979. The mean income of female, single parents in 1979 was \$9,288, compared to \$10,772 for single parents of both sexes and to \$28,375 for married couple families.

An estimated 60 percent of all female-headed families with

related children now live in subsidized, public housing, city officials say.

Because a large proportion of single-parent income is used to pay rent, many single parents are either forced to obtain welfare or to take low-paying jobs which leave little time for upgrading job skills through higher education or vocational training. Child care poses still another problem and the cumulative effect is to lock many single-parent families into a cycle of poverty.

"Poverty is one of the driving forces of family disorganization," according to the grant application, "and, increasingly, family disorganization leads to poverty, especially for families headed by a female."

"The social and economic costs of this phenomenon are staggering and, when viewed in terms of lost human potential, anguishing."

To break that cycle, the city has recruited a 37-member task force of city officials and private citizens to develop guidelines and implement the program. To do that, the task force must find means to provide child care, counseling, job training and job

placement.

Just how that will be done remains to be seen. Samuel Pierce, the federal Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in a city press release says Winston-Salem "will have a great deal of flexibility in designing its program," but that HUD will provide technical assistance.

A key element of the program is the task force's ability to generate community support for the proposal -- both volunteer and corporate support.

Step-by-step, the task force will have to:

- Conduct a local needs assessment.
- Develop community objectives.
- Design a plan of action to meet those objectives.
- Identify and secure commitments of local public and private resources.
- Oversee the program's administration.
- Develop a comprehensive program linking housing assistance, child care, a plan to select program participants, transportation services, employment and skills training and job development and placement.

# Mother Daughter

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# Mother Daughter

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# Reassessing the party

From Page A1

Why are blacks the only ones waking up on Wednesday morning with a headache? The Jews don't wake up worried because their man lost. They have people in all camps. And that's what we need.

"Some blacks need to be Democratic. Some blacks need to be Republican and some blacks need to be independent. We have to be in a position where people will bargain for us like they do the Jews and Hispanics."

John Cavanagh, chairman of the Forsyth County Republican Party, agrees.

"The Democratic Party, for the most part, has been out of step with the general thinking of the people, not only in North Carolina but in the entire nation," says Cavanagh. "The Democratic Party needs to re-evaluate its position with regard to the traditional values of America and to recognize that these values have deep roots in our heritage. And, when we attempt to abuse those values, that America will react as it did in 1980 and again in 1984."

"When blacks voted straight Democratic, they gave Brown as much support as they did (Neal) Bedinger (a white Democratic candidate for county commissioner)," says Little. "Why should we give a white man as much support as we give a black candidate?"

"Look at Jones," Little says. "He got over 35,000 votes and no more than 3,000 of them came from black folk. He got the white vote and he ran ahead of conservative Marvin Ward in the county. For every one vote that Lafayette got (in the predominantly black precincts) (Ted) Kaplan and Ward got 10. Only at Carver and 14th Street did that margin narrow -- where Jones got one vote, they got two."

"We can't even support our own. We are more loyal to the party than we are to our own race."

Cavanagh says Jones' loss was a disappointment to the Republicans.

Please see page A14

## FACTS OF LAW



By Gregory Davis

A LEGACY is any gift left to someone by will. The person intended to receive the gift is the LEGATEE.

Recent tax law changes can have dramatic impact on the economic aspects of separation and divorce. The complications provide one more reason to seek expert legal counsel in separation/divorce situations.

A driver's license may be terminated by expiration of its term, by an infraction, by abandonment, or by the death of the driver.

If you wish to change your legal name, you must apply to the court, which normally will grant the change unless it is clearly unreasonable.

A law in the state of Connecticut says that if you are a beaver, you have a legal right to build a dam.

A question of law? Bring it to:

Gregory Davis  
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