

A New 'Branch'

Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority officially open their new headquarters, the Ivy Center, in Chicago. Pictured are Chicago dignitaries and sorority members, including Winston-Salem resident Barbara Phillips, third from the right, a former national president of the sorority.

Heaviest voting

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assistant to former NAACP State Field Director Charles McLean.

Only Victor Johnson and incumbent Vivian H. Burke are running in the Northeast Ward, but their race has featured the most lengthy, spirited and competitive campaign thus far in this election.

THE NORTH WARD

When Larry Little announced that he was not running for reelection, he endorsed Patrick Hairston for his seat.

Hairston, 61, who ran unsuccessfully for county_commissioner last year, seems to be running this campaign as an incumbent. Accordingly, the other candidates in the North Ward seem to be running against Hairston as if he is an incumbent.

Hairston has not released a written platform but said he will support the things he has supported "all my life."

"I have been addressing the issues all my life and I don't plan to change," said Hairston. "The problems we face in the North Ward are not new problems; they have existed all along. The present board has done a good job and the North Ward has been blessed with a strong alderman If I am elected, I will do no

Furqan, 47, also known as George Fulp, said he is concerned about housing, business development, revitalizing downtown and street improvements in the ward. Most people don't understand the duties and responsibilities of an alderman, he said, and he plans to change that. Unlike the current alderman, said Furgan, he plans to make himself available to the people.

In addition to running the Pyramid Institute of Barbering, Furgan is a laboratory technician at R.J. Reynolds Research and Development.

Bailey, 27, in unemployed. His platform addresses several areas: crime prevention, affordable, decent housing, the preservation of communities and conservation of resources, education, fire and health protection and downtown development.

Bailey said he does not support the city's set-aside law for minorities and women.

"If there is a sleeping giant on the Democratic ticket, it has to be me," he said.

Rakestraw, 58, said he supports increased police protection, additional housing for the elderly and zoning to protect neighborhood rights. If elected, Rakestraw said, he wants to make sure the North Ward has a

"highly visible" alderman. Republican Knox, 29, has devised a 10-point platform that includes stable taxes, more housing in the black community, better-maintained roads, better management of taxpayers' money, three-year tax revaluations, industrial recruitment and making city officals more responsive to the citizens.

Knox, a former member of the Young Democrats, worked on Gov. Jim Martin's gubernatorial campaign.

Williams-Henry is a former Democrat who became a Republican earlier this year. She said she considers herself a "liberal Republican" and her platform focuses on helping small and minority-owned businesses, reducing unemployment, creating housing through public and private ventures and easing the North Ward's traffic problems.

THE NORTHEAST WARD

The Northeast Ward race began last year, when Victor Johnson announced that he would challenge incumbent Vivian Burke. Insurance agent Joe Daniels also announced his candidacy but later withdrew, citing

a lack of time and finances.

Johnson, a high school assistant principal, and Burke, an elementary school guidance counselor, have similar platforms: decent, affordable housing, jobs, especially for young people, minority business development and increased police protection and city services.

Where the two differ is on Burke's record as an eight-year

Burke's campaign slogan has been "Let The Record Speak For Itself -- Elect Vivian Burke." In other words, said one of Burke's campaign staffers, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Burke points to the recent construction of a new recreation center for the Carver community as proof of her ability to get things done.

"The things that have happened in the Northeast Ward show that there is leadership," she

Johnson, on the other hand, contends that the leadership in Please see page A15



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By Gregory Davis

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