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LOTS OF POTS



Barbara Eure, owner of Warehouse Arts, carefully molds and shapes pottery crafts on display at her new location at Tobacco Square (photo by Art Blue).

"Although some aldermen say the plaza could attract new businesses, the operating expenses of the plaza might also exceed by as much as threefold the amount the city has allocated to the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce to recruit new industry."

Plaza could cost more than recruitment funding

By ALLEN H. JOHNSON
Chronicle Executive Editor

■ Related story below, left.

SEVERAL items in the current city budget concerning housing, aid to the poor, economic development and community development will cost less than the projected annual operating expenses of the One Triad Park water plaza.

For instance, the city will allocate \$105,000 to the Experiment in Self-Reliance for fiscal year 1986-87, nearly \$6,000 less than the \$110,990 it may cost annually to pay the water, electric and maintenance bills for the water plaza.

ESR is a social agency that provides employment training and emergency aid to the poor and elderly. Its services include weatherization, job training and placement, emergency shelter and financial assistance and housing relocation among others.

Eighty percent of its clients are black. ESR's executive director told the Chronicle in September that reductions in federal spending on social programs have cut his agency's budget drastically.

"Since Reagan became president, our budget has been cut by 40 percent, and we lost 20 people on our staff," said Robert B. Law, who succeeds Louise G. Wilson as head of ESR.

Some of the aldermen have criticized the expenditure for the water plaza as a misplaced priority. Others argue that it is a viable investment that in the long run will lure new industries and jobs to the city as well as increase its tax base.

The plaza is part of a \$100 million development that will include a parking deck and a 20-story office tower as its first phase.

The four black aldermen are split on the issue of how much to spend on the plaza.

Southeast Ward Alderman Larry W. Womble and Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian H. Burke question the wisdom of the investment. East Ward Alderman Virginia K. Newell and North Ward Alderman Patrick T. Hairston support it.



A construction worker at the One Triad Park waterfall: The electric pumps already have been installed (photo by James Parker).

The aldermen agreed with Triad Park's developers to finance and maintain the water plaza and parking deck, though some say they were unclear on the costs involved when they approved the expenditure.

In addition, the operating budget for housing rehabilitation in the city budget calls for \$42,170 in operating costs for the

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City manager offers alternatives for plaza

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The city is considering ways to cut the operating costs of One Triad Park's water plaza, which could total more than \$100,000 if operated year round, 24 hours a day.

Several of the aldermen say they were not given sufficient information last year about the expected cost of running the plaza.

In January, the board agreed to operate and maintain the water plaza and to build a parking deck adjacent to a soon-to-be-completed, 20-story office tower.

The bulk of the plaza's operating expenses involves the electricity needed to operate the plaza's five pumps. The water plaza includes a 19-foot waterfall, small fountains and "watersteps."

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Virginia K. Newell



Patrick T. Hairston

N.Y. cabbies shun black customers

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Many taxi drivers refuse to serve black riders because of a fear of crime in black neighborhoods, the president of the Independent Taxi Owners Council said in an interview broadcast Sunday.

"It's not because they're racist or discriminatory, because they're black themselves in many cases," said Howard Fogel, whose group claims to represent half of all medallion taxi drivers. "It's a fear of where they may be going."

Fogel made his remarks in

response to comments by Gorman Gilbert, chairman of the city Taxi and Limousine Commission, or TLC, who appeared with him on the WABC program "Eyewitness News Conference."

Gilbert noted that undercover TLC investigators were turned down 16 percent of the time they sought to go outside Manhattan in a recent crackdown.

"Can I ask you a question?" Fogel said to Gilbert. "Were those inspectors black?"

"It was a mixture," Gilbert replied. "About half of them were black -- a little over half."

"I would say that was one of

the reasons they were turned down -- not where they were going," said Fogel.

Fogel said that more cab drivers would go to outer boroughs if they were allowed to respond to radio calls, but that only a reduction in crime is likely to convince them to pick up more black passengers.

Fogel also implied that Gilbert could not be trusted to distribute the 1,800 new taxi medallions that Mayor Edward I. Koch has proposed creating. Gilbert recently took over as head of the Taxi and Limousine Commission

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QUOTABLE: "We didn't land at Plymouth Rock, (Malcolm X) often told black audiences, 'Plymouth Rock landed on us.'"

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Committee deadlocks on magnet-school issue

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The school board's Curriculum Committee were evenly divided Tuesday on whether to withdraw an application for federal funds to help racially balance three middle schools.

The 2-2 tie vote resulted in no recommendation being made to the full school board on the issue.

Committee Chairman Thomas C. Voss and committee member Grace C. Eford voted to withdraw

the grant application while committee members Jane D. Goins and Mary Margaret Lohr opposed such a move.

The school system is applying for a \$1.1 million grant from the Department of Education under the Magnet Schools Assistance Program. If the application is approved, it would allow the system to implement high-technology programs in Cook, Kennedy and Hill middle schools.

School officials hope the high-

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Irate customers have a beef over alleged raw deal from local meat market

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Several irate consumers say they're getting a raw deal from a local meat company.

Wilson Vaughn, executive director of the city's Better Business Bureau, said last week that he has received six complaints from customers of Tri-City Beef at 4370 Old Walkertown Road.

Arthur Knott owns the store.

"I have complaints from people who went in to buy specials and walked out with contracts that bind them," Vaughn said. "They say that they were kept so busy and their attention diverted so that they did not realize until they got home what they had signed."

Vaughn cited Barbara and Stanley Vance of 1056 Betty Drive as

an example.

The Vances walked into the meat store expecting to pay \$118.40 for 160 pounds of beef and walked out with a contract for more than \$2,000, he said.

Mrs. Vance said she had seen a Tri-City Beef ad in a local newspaper. She and her husband called to inquire about the ad and an appointment was set up. Mrs. Vance said that the special she was interested in was advertised as 160 pounds of meat for \$118.40. She said the special also included an additional 100 pounds of free meat.

"When we went in they took us back in the freezer and showed us some meat," she said. "They said, 'You don't want this; you want this over here.'"

Mrs. Vance said she and her husband were shown some hanging meat.

She said she and her husband were also promised another 160 pounds of meat at half the price they were paying for the special.

The meat was cut and she was given a pen to help label the packages, Mrs. Vance said.

"After they finished, they took my husband into this little room, presented him with a contract which was not read and he signed the contract," she said. "We realized when we got home that we had been had."

"They keep you busy so you don't know what's going on," she said. "They keep your mind occupied."

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