

Aldermanic Candidates

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the Democratic ticket, appears to have the edge over her rivals, primarily because of the powers of incumbency and four years marked by moderate economic growth and the absence of any major scandal. If she wins, she will face Charles S. Smith, a Republican.

Among the aldermanic races that directly affect African-Americans - North, Northeast, East and Southeast wards - perhaps the most exciting race is in the East ward. The seat in that ward went up for grabs when Virginia K. Newell, longtime alderman, announced in July that she wasn't going to run for re-election.

Those vying for the seat are Jimmie Lee Bonham, owner of Hair By Jimi, Larry Cunningham, owner of Chick's Drive-In, Joycelyn Johnson, a social worker at Baptist Hospital and Norma Tanner Smith, a computer consultant at Winston-Salem State University.

Cunningham was the only candidate not to show Tuesday night at Mt. Zion Baptist Church for a candidates' debate. Bonham, Johnson and Smith answered questions from the audience and a moderator concerning crime, dilapidated houses, education and city services.

Perhaps the most innovative idea expressed during the forum came from Smith, who suggested that hours for city offices be extended beyond the usual 5 p.m. closing time to accommodate citizens who have to work and can't take the time off to find out what services are available.

Larry Womble, the Southeast ward alderman, faces an uphill fight in his district where there are four others vying for his seat - two democrats and two republicans.

"Things are going very well," Womble said earlier this week. "I feel very good, very positive, about the thrust of my campaign."

The number of candidates running for Womble's seat attests to a

perception of vulnerability, especially after the All-American City imbroglio in which Womble was accused of thwarting Winston-Salem's chances of winning the award by writing to the All-American officials and outlining the city's faults.

Jim Conrad, owner of Conrad's Hair Design East, and Rasheed Bey, a Republican, met with a handful of

citizens from the Northeast Ward on Monday night. Conrad, a Democrat attempting to unseat Alderman Vivian Burke, told the gathering that he wasn't a politician.

"They can't buy me. I don't have that plantation mentality," he said.

Without mentioning her by name, Conrad accused Burke of selling out. Burke didn't attend the

meeting. Burke, who is chairman of the Public Safety Committee, was at a regularly scheduled meeting that night.

Because he is a Republican, Bey will face either Burke or Conrad in November's general election. Bey's platform centers around "economic empowerment." Bey maintained that his party affiliation will not discourage people from voting for him because people will vote

"according to the issue."

"I'm a Booker T. Washington Republican," he said, referring to the civil rights advocate and founder of Tuskegee Institute, and a Republican.

Burke said her campaign is going well, and she's busy making appearances at various events and "doing the same kind of things I've been doing every day." She

explained that her schedule was busier, but it's not much different than when she's fulfilling her regular aldermanic responsibilities.

North Ward Alderman Nelson Malloy, Jr., a Democrat, has no opposition and won't have to campaign until the fall, at which time he will face one of the two Republicans vying for his seat.



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Singer to Perform at Church



Voncile Belcher

Voncile Belcher will be the special guest for the Hanes Memorial Church Chorale (HMC Chorale) Anniversary Celebration, Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. in the church auditorium.

Belcher's unique style and versatility won her acclaim as the "Old Lady" on the song, "Look Where He Brought Me From" on the Georgia Mass Choir's album entitled We've Got the Victory. The single became a hit on the gospel charts and enabled her to experience an even greater feeling through traveling and performing.

Belcher has been singing her way to the top all of her life. She loves to sing gospel music and feels that she will always sing gospel.

During her childhood, she enjoyed singing for her family in Alabama. She sang for her father, who was a noted minister, and her mother, a respected missionary worker. Samuel, her brother, remembers being sang to all the time by his sister.