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Winston-Salem Chronicle

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"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

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Black Postal Workers Claim Discrimination

▲ African-Americans are targeted in missing money probe, and EEOC complaints have been filed by Postal Service workers against management

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Executive Editor

Several African-American employees at the U.S. Postal Service in Winston-Salem say they have been targets of racial discrimination, verbal intimidation by management, and have been unfairly targeted in investigations into the disappearance of thousands of dollars.

Over the past several weeks, the *Chronicle* has talked with at least a dozen current and former

Postal Service workers, mostly from the North Station on Patterson Avenue. All of the employees interviewed were African-American, and all of them shared a common complaint: African-American Postal Service workers are the targets of a bevy of discriminatory practices by management.

As expected, the current employees did not want their names printed for fear of reprisal from their supervisors. However, many of them during the interviews supplied the *Chronicle* with hun-

dreds of pages of court documents, internal memorandums and numerous letters stemming from congressional inquiries over the past two years.

Postmaster J. Mark Matics refused to answer a reporter's question when he was contacted about two weeks ago about whether an investigation was under way to address some of the workers' allegations.

"I don't have any comment," he said. "I'm not

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Workers at North Station have complained about post office management.

Road Improvements Vital to Economic Development

▲ Alderman Vivian Burke and other city officials toured roads in eastern Winston-Salem last week

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian Burke wants safer streets and better housing in eastern Winston-Salem.

She has monitored the area for years and has stepped up her push for better living since 9-year-old Kenneth William Wright was struck and killed by a vehicle while crossing the street trying to get to his school bus stop in August.

Last week, she toured the area with city officials to show them specific concerns of many residents. Burke, who is chairman of the public safety committee, said that on New Walkertown Road areas around the 2000 block near Second New Bethel Baptist Church and the 2500 block near the Wilco service station are hazardous areas where accidents can easily occur.

Just two weeks ago, a woman was killed in a traffic accident while pulling her car onto New Walkertown Road.

"It's hard for people to see coming out these areas," Burke said. "These are busy intersections, and with so

many people traveling the street now, we need to give drivers a better view."

Burke said there were dead-end streets on the predominantly black eastern side of the city while similar streets are turned into cul-de-sacs on the predominantly-white western side.

East Ward Alderman Joycelyn Johnson said the roads are improving, such as the revitalization of 14th Street. However, she said in general the roads in the east compare unfavorably to those on the west side.

"I think the area is beginning to look better," Johnson said. "There are still a lot of infrastructure improvements that need to be made, but things are improving."

North Ward Alderman Nelson Malloy also said the streets in the west are also kept up better, but added that problems go beyond the streets. He said the streets are representative of the city's neglect of the eastern section of the city.

"I get a lot of calls about streets not being paved," he said. "When you ride through the east you see dirty roads and there's trash everywhere, but on west side you

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Assistant City Manager Al Beatty, Alderman Vivian Burke and director of transportation Brent McKinney stop to look at some of the streets in eastern Winston-Salem last week.

Church, Cops Work to Rid Area of Drugs, Prostitution

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Rev. Seth O. Lartey says he is tired of seeing prostitution, drug activity and trashy areas around his church.

Lartey, pastor of Goler Memorial AME Church on Patterson Avenue, feels the church members have a responsibility to that neighborhood as if they live there.

He held a meeting last Wednesday with church members and police officers and urged them to adopt Patterson Avenue from Seventh to 10th streets.

"We want to adopt this area, and that includes everybody and everything in this, because we are one big community," Lartey said. "Anything in the area that's not wholesome, we want to get rid of it."

Lartey coined the program "Outreach Jerusalem" as an attempt to take the gospel outside church doors and spread it throughout the surrounding community.

He also met with police officers to see how they could work together to help clean up the area.

Sgt. Jerry Pegram of the Winston-Salem Police Department, who

commands a unit in the area, said prostitution and crime have gone down, but he said the police and community must work together to

"We know it will work because we have prayed about it. We have God behind us and that's the only thing we need."

completely erase the problem.

"This area is notorious for prostitution and drugs. It always has been," Pegram said. "We need to get

more community involvement because you are the eyes and ears of the police department when we're not here."

Pegram said the number of prostitution arrests has declined due to sting operations with women police officers posing as prostitutes.

He said the sting has enabled police to arrest from four to 21 people a night. But the problem hasn't disappeared; it only moved to Ivy Avenue or 13th Street, he said.

"We targeted the Johns, or men coming for whatever they come for, and that has made an impact," Pegram said.

"We can stop them, but it has only moved them somewhere else. This problem has been around for a long time."

Frank Stowe, president of Goler's men's ministry, believes that by going on the streets and confronting the problem, they can eventually

drive it out of the city.

Stowe plans to put between 25-30 men on the street at night to witness to prostitutes and drug users. He believes others across the city will follow and they will force the illegal activity to cease.

"It's time to come out of the (church) building and get out here and do something," Stowe said. "We know it will work because we have prayed about it. We have God behind us and that's the only thing we need."

Stowe said the men may begin patrolling the streets as early as next week.

Education, Crime Key Issues in At-large Race

▲ Plyler, Whitaker seek commissioner's seat

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

After serving in many leadership positions on volunteer boards in Forsyth County, Dave Plyler said he felt it was time to run for public office.

"I felt I've reached a point where I've done everything I can do in the non-profit sector," he said.

Plyler's opponent, Democrat Garry

Whitaker, said Plyler's community service record does not necessarily make him the best man for the commissioner position.

"Experience is a wonderful thing to have," he said, "but without a vision it's not particularly helpful."

"There needs to be leadership for change in our diverse community. I firmly believe I have the perspective needed at the

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This Week In Black History
November 1, 1945
First issue of *Ebony* magazine published by John H. Johnson. The first issue sold 25,000 copies.

Political Newcomers Vie for Clerk of Superior Court Seat

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Forsyth County will have a new clerk of superior court after Nov. 8, and the race is full of political neophytes who feel it's time for a change.

Dean Rutledge, an independent, has practiced law for 12 years, specializing in family and criminal law. Rutledge, 40, says the job is perfect for a lawyer because in many instances, the clerk is a judge. The clerk of superior court presides over probate court, determines the

validity of wills and nominates the county's 14 magistrates.

The clerk is responsible for handling the public administration relating to many monetary domestic orders, maintains records pertaining to real estate, participates in the issuance of papers and participates in the enforcement of domestic orders.

"I think the clerk ought to have legal training, and I'm the only candidate who has that,"

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