

County yet to receive detailed from page 1

Hospital.

The action plan addresses many of the facility's financial and management problems identified in a 1996 consulting report conducted by Towers Perrin, and predicts a decrease in county funding of \$3-3.3 million by 2001.

Magovern speculated on the reason for the medical center's delay. "It may be that Baptist Hospital discovered that Reynolds Health Center provides an array of services," he said.

decision is made," said administrator Dennis Magovern.

The health center is holding plans to undergo an accreditation survey by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care Inc., however, Magovern said the health center will not contract the survey, which would cost \$5-6,000 and take over four months to set up, until they find out if the county will accept their action plan or a detailed proposal from Baptist

The road less traveled: Gate to northeast Winston rusts from page 1

had been neglected for so long that it was difficult to involve business owners in planning the project.

"[Many] people there aren't tied into the public process," said DeCreny. A number of the small businesses, the group that the city targeted for involvement, are one or two-person operations and do not have spare time for meetings.

And due to past redevelopment projects, many Liberty Street merchants and residents are suspicious of city involvement. Others, said DeCreny, may have concerns that the plans would never materialize.

Still, a number of business owners and residents formed a merchant's association and advisory committee.

"Small businesses have to be there to support the community," said DeCreny. Those small businesses have already been supporting Winston-Salem's tax base, she added, and deserve the same consideration as businesses in other parts of the city.

The board of aldermen approved the appropriation of \$595,000 for Liberty Street in fiscal year 1993-94, with equal amounts also allocated for the Southeast Gateway and Community Crossing projects. The start-up funds for the Southeast Gateway project have been completely spent, said city budget director Lee Garrity, and the Community Crossing project on University Parkway is underway.

Around \$400,000 is left in the Liberty Street coffers. So far, money has been spent on Jackson Person and Associates' consulting work and design

plans. The board of aldermen approved a contract with the Memphis, Tenn., firm in October 1995, and a contract was signed early in 1996.

The remaining money has not been used because the Liberty Street project still lacks a completed implementation plan, said Garrity.

DeCreny thinks a bond could step up execution of the plan. "More should be done, or Liberty Street should be done on an accelerated basis," she said.

The proposed bond referendum would split \$5.2 million between the Liberty Street and University Parkway Corridor projects. With this \$2.6 million, phase one of the Liberty Street project would begin in the south central segment of the corridor, from 11th Street to

19th Street. The improvements would include landscaping, road widening, median construction, sidewalks, street lighting and signage.

DeCreny is concerned about perceptions held by some of the people she has been working with.

"While the University Parkway [Corridor] is a very important project, there is some thinking that they (the University and Liberty projects) are not parallel, and they should be handled on their own merit," said DeCreny.

City/county principal planner Judith Hunt, project leader for the Liberty Street project, said that the city wanted more input from citizens, and thus the project moved at a slower pace than the Southeast Gateway and University Parkway

renovations.

"I think we spent a little more time with Liberty Street," Hunt said. The other two projects also predated Liberty Street, she said.

About nine years ago, Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian Burke asked DeCreny to do a comparison of city investment in the Community Crossing and Liberty Street Corridor. In the past 15-or-so years, over 50 projects such as tree planting, park improvements and construction of new buildings have been funded by the city for the 8.3 miles of Community Crossing. In that time, only six projects have been implemented on Liberty Street.

"You know what I'll say — I think it's a shame," said Burke. "We're generating a lot of money down there, and

SciWorks hosts Black Inventors from page 1



Vivian Burke, Northeast Ward alderman, speaks to those at the Black History breakfast.

black history. The documentary chronicles churches from St. Philip's Moravian, the first African-American church, to present-day sanctuaries such as Christ Rescue Temple.

As the one American institution historically allowed to blacks, the church was the sole space in which individual potential could develop, where "the unskilled factory worker could become a major financial manager," or the domestic worker oversee the organization of large church activities and events.

"Beyond These Walls" also showcases the important role the church played in educating the community, especially in rural areas such as preindustrial North Carolina.

Education will be the theme for next year's video, and Burke plans to highlight Winston-Salem State University and its founder, Simon Green Atkins.

Summer special election for bonds from page 1

Approval of the bonds is estimated to result in property tax increases of 3 cents in 1998-99, and an additional 1 cent in 2000-2001.

It would cost about \$100,000 to hold an additional election for the bonds. The money would come out of this year's city budget, said Mayor Martha Wood.

Winston-Salem's aldermen board has historically favored special elections, said city manager Bill Stuart. He advised the board to keep the bond ballot separate from both the upcoming city primary in September and the election in November.

"I have concerns about whether or not the voting on bond issues can get mixed up with voting on people," said Stuart.

Not all special election bonds have suffered poor turnout. An election held in March 1979 to decide if liquor could be sold by the glass, instead of only purchased by the bottle, drew 32.7 percent of registered voters.

Most special elections, though, do not capture the public's interest as elections can in November. For example, a bond referendum voted on in June 1976 attracted only 11 percent of registered voters.

There is an incentive to hold the bond referendum as soon as possible: saving money. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the federal reserve board, recently announced that rates on bonds would raise a quarter of a point. City finance staff warn that the federal rate may continue to rise.

The board of elections must be notified of an election about two months prior, in order to prepare for absentee ballots. Absentee ballots are allowed from 50 days to the election. May 5 would be the opening day of absentee ballots if the election is held June 24.

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