

A neighborhood is born in southeast Winston-Salem

Twenty-two houses under construction in the Morningside neighborhood are the seeds of a new neighborhood.

In what once was a vacant field off Pleasant Street, the Pleasant Hills subdivision has emerged, making the American dream of home ownership a reality for several local families. The homes are the result of an innovative public-private partnership between the Housing Partnership of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County Inc.,

Habitat for Humanity and the City of Winston-Salem.

"This is a wonderful blessing," said Beatrice Rice as she chatted with friends in her new driveway. She and other new homeowners expect to move in by the end of the month.

Rice, a single mother raising two children, said owning her own home is "like a dream come true." "I had been trying to figure out how I was going to do it all by myself."



Home ownership is more than a dream on Billy Drive in the new Pleasant Hills subdivision.

As it turned out, she didn't have to do it all by herself. Rice has the assistance of Habitat for Humanity. And in return, she has helped others accomplish the same goal.

"Where else could I get a 20-year, interest-free mortgage?" Rice asked. She added, "This is one of the greatest programs around."

State Rep. Larry Womble agrees. Womble was on hand Sunday for the dedication of the new subdivision, which was fol-

lowed by a tour of several homes, and refreshments.

According to Womble, the new property owner isn't the only one who benefits by cooperative community efforts to make such affordable housing available.

"This is land that wasn't providing any income for the city," Womble said. "Now, in addition to providing the residents with a place to stay, the city can gain rev-

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Blacks in Triad view new political landscape

▲ Crossing color line may have positive impact on city

By SHARON BROOKS HODGE
The CHRONICLE editor

There used to be a political entity known as "the black vote," but it's gradually becoming an icon of the past, says Bill Andrews.

He's reluctant to admit it, but Andrews may have been instrumental in dismantling the black political monolith in Winston-Salem. Last week, as the results of the municipal elections were being tabulated, Andrews wasn't where he would have been in years past. A well-known Democrat, Andrews broke with tradition. This time around, he waited for the returns with supporters of the Republican candidate, mayor-elect Jack Cayanagh.

"I'm not pinning accolades on my own shoulder; I just decided to be honest with myself and my fellow citizens," explained Andrews.

Andrews wasn't the only displaced black Democrat. Other African Americans, albeit few in number, joined Andrews in crossing old, established political lines. These folks may be pioneers of a new political era, Andrews suggests, explaining that black voters are increasingly considering specific issues, not blanket allegiances.

"I believe people are becoming more aware of what's going on around them," Andrews said in an interview with the Chronicle this week. "Instead of voting for the person we feel we're supposed to support, we're thinking about who we feel will be better for the broader community. That's not always determined by race and party."

The long-term result of that new outlook on politics, says Andrews, could be a tremendous

Mavericks challenge elections and traditional black leadership

GREENSBORO — Two black men refuse to go along with politics as usual in Greensboro.

The municipal elections may be over in most parts of North Carolina, but that's not the case in Greensboro. John Harris and Keith Bryant both filed complaints with the Guilford County Board of Elections this week. And for each, the fight is bigger than merely getting elected.

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Community walks for health

More than 1,000 students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters participated in the North Carolina A&T State University walk-a-thon last Saturday in Greensboro. Proceeds will go to the school's Fitness and Wellness Center campaign. The center will benefit both the university and the broader community.

Police chief defends the use of pepper spray

Police Chief George Sweat isn't giving up OC, commonly known as pepper spray, despite repeated requests from two black organizations and other Winston-Salem residents.

"OC works," Sweat told city aldermen serving on the board's public safety committee. The board chamber was filled to capacity Monday evening as the committee heard from the Police Department and city residents on an issue that has drawn allegations of racist behavior by local police.

"There is a responsibility on the part of the public to conduct itself in a certain fashion."

— George Sweat
Chief of WSPD



City residents and the men who protect them listen to Chief George Sweat justify the department's use of pepper spray.

remarks, Sweat noted that the substance is used by several other agencies in the region. In addition to the State Bureau of Investigation and the Highway Patrol, law enforcement officers in Burlington, Lexington, and Greensboro use pepper spray, Sweat said. If the use isn't being challenged elsewhere, he argued, it shouldn't be banned in Winston-Salem, either.

According to Sweat, if the public is worried about the risks associated with pepper spray, indi-

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Victory may be only temporary

By HERBERT L. WHITE
The CHARLOTTE POST

Affirmative action, under constant attack by conservatives as reverse discrimination, won a small victory in the House of Representatives last week.

But it's only temporary.

The House Judiciary Committee achieved a small victory in the House of Representatives last week.

But it's only temporary.

The House Judiciary Committee voted to table the "Civil Rights Act of 1997" sponsored by Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., which would have banned the consideration of race or gender in federal hiring and contracting. Four Republicans — George

Gekas of Pennsylvania; Stephen Buyer and Ed Pease of Indiana; and Elton Gallegly of California — defected from their party's leadership to side with Democrats, effectively killing the bill until next year.

The 17-9 vote surprised affirmative action supporters, but committee member Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C., cautions the debate isn't over.

"I don't think we should become overly confident," he said. "What it means is this piece of legislation can't be voted on in this session."

Another bill could be introduced before Congress adjourns this month, but that's not likely, Watt said. Although Republicans helped table the

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N.C. Transportation Department to investigate all board members

RALEIGH (AP) — In the wake of two resignations over possible conflicts of interest, the secretary of transportation says he will investigate all members of the Board of Transportation.

This investigation comes on the heels of concerns raised by black legislators that minority contractors get less than their fair share of state road work.

The two members — Odell Williamson of Brunswick County and Carroll Edwards of Union County — resigned within the last three weeks following news reports that they used their positions on the board to push road projects for their own benefit.

A third member — Charlie Grady of Raleigh — was not reappointed to the board earlier this year because of questions about his involvement with the department's purchase of some land in the path of the Outer Loop.

And The Charlotte Observer has reported that two more members — Ronald Leatherwood of Waynesville and G.R. Kindley of Rockingham — may have influenced road projects that benefited their businesses or clients.

"We're looking at everybody so that we can clear

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