

What will happen to the M/WBE program when she's gone?

By SHARON BROOKS HODGE
THE CHRONICLE Editor

Friday will be Janet DeCreny's last day as an employee with the City of Winston-Salem.

She is the second person in roughly a month to walk away from a city job connected with the Minority Women Business Enterprise program. The position left vacant by the resignation of Derwick Paige remains unfilled. And now the city also must replace DeCreny, who supervised the program.

Although DeCreny has been reluctant to air the department's dirty laundry, other

people have not been so shy.

Norma Smith, for one is upset by DeCreny's resignation. Smith is chairman of the East Winston Task Force, which has several projects for economic development in the works.

"We're at a very critical point trying to start initiatives," said Smith. "Without Janet, the process is going to slow down and we may not be able to implement our plans on the schedule we had established."

For example, Smith noted that the East Winston CDC is working on the Liberty Street project. Additionally, the group is trying to put a business in the vacant Food Lion grocery building. She's concerned that the absence of

personnel may hamper her group's efforts.

Part of the reason for the turnover in this department has been the overwhelming responsibilities. In addition to supervising the M/WBE coordinator—when the position is filled—DeCreny also has been the person in charge of the small business loan program and the Section 3 contracting program.

Smith and others contend that it's unrealistic to expect one person to be able to do a thorough job in all of these areas.

Assistant City Manager Allen Joiner said that city officials have recognized this and are making changes.

The new M/WBE coordinator will

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Janet DeCreny's days of promoting economic development of Winston-Salem are about to end.

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The Choice for African-American News and Information

THURSDAY JANUARY 15, 1998

East Market St. planners need input

A community meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31 on the campus of N.C. A&T State University.

By SHARON BROOKS HODGE
THE CHRONICLE Editor

GREENSBORO — With careful planning, East Market Street could become a diversified economic center.

And that's what economic developers and city planners are hoping will happen, said Sue Schwartz, a planner for the City of Greensboro. The community will have a chance to participate in the design and development of the East Market Street corridor later this month when a team of distinguished planners returns to the Gate City.

"The challenge will be to define what the community wants this area to be," said Schwartz, who explained that the 1952 design of East Market street was one of the nation's first attempts at urban renewal.

"It was an experiment that didn't work," she added.

In the early 1960s, six lanes of asphalt were put down, effectively separating N.C. A&T State University—the corridor's largest employer—from a variety of



Tyrone Smith, left, and Luther Falls, are trying to promote the Triad's black businesses.

Duo wants to boost business

By SHARON BROOKS HODGE
THE CHRONICLE Editor

GREENSBORO — A pair of entrepreneurs say they want to do more than just talk about strengthening the viability of the area's home-grown businesses.

Tyrone Smith and Luther Falls have teamed up to encourage networking among local companies, existing resources and people who need the goods and services provided by African-American firms.

"Basically, we saw a need in the area of trying to reestablish the link between the African-American business and the Afro-American community," said Smith, president of the Watchful Network. "The amount of money that we make in this country is in excess of millions of dollars. But we don't hold on to it enough to cultivate and build our businesses. We spend it."

Smith and Falls believe that because the black community has not been diligent in circulating its dollars, there isn't money available to make local businesses thrive.

"In this case, you will always be dependent upon someone else to do for you what you should be doing for yourself," said Smith, who is a North Carolina A&T State University graduate now in business for himself. He helped form the Watchful

Network to make sure he was doing all he could to make his and other fledgling ventures sustainable.

Falls is a native of Greensboro and graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill. He spent several years in Pittsburgh while earning his master's degree in business administration. Falls returned to the Triad in 1994.

"When I came back, I heard about the Dudley Products Business Expo in '94 and dragged my father out there because I wanted him to go to the luncheon with Harvey Gantt," recalled Falls. "Tyrone had a booth set up. We started talking there."

That chance meeting inspired the men to put their heads together and collaborate on creating business opportunities in Greensboro. Inspired by the event in Kernersville four years ago, now the Watchful Network sponsors a business expo in Greensboro each February. Falls and Smith insist that such venues are vital to the survival of small business.

Last year, the group met at the Board of Realtors regional facility in the Oak Branch business park. This year, the group has reserved the Depot, in downtown Greensboro, for the Feb. 20 event.

According to Falls and Smith, dealing with African-American professionals is not a high priority for the broader community. However, by having an event in a high traffic area like the Depot they hope to create an opportunity for better exposure.

Fed Ex considers the Triad

RALEIGH (AP) — Federal Express is looking at six airports in North Carolina and South Carolina to build a new national hub that would bring up to 1,500 jobs, according to published reports.

Jess Bunn, a spokesman in FedEx's Memphis, Tenn., headquarters, confirmed this week that the company hopes to start construction on a distribution center in one of the two states in spring 1999 and open it by fall 2001.

According to the newspaper, FedEx is considering these locations: in North Carolina, Raleigh-Durham International

See FED EX on A2



Victor Johnson, left, responds to a TV reporter after filing for office.

Candidates hit the campaign trail

By SHARON BROOKS HODGE
THE CHRONICLE Editor

Across the Triad, people who want to hold elected offices are tossing their hats into the political arena.

Victor Johnson is among them. Johnson is hoping to hold on to the school board seat he was appointed to in March.

"We spend a lot of money on education, but we're not getting any results," said Johnson, explaining why he wants to remain on the board. "We need to upgrade the performance of minority students."

Johnson's vision "for the children in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System is to ensure that they are educated in an environment where their strengths are enhanced and their weaknesses are identified and improved, Johnson said.

During the past six months, Johnson said he has honored his previous campaign pledge to

investigate the school suspension process.

"As a result, suspensions for the second quarter of the 1997-98 school year have been reduced by 29 percent as compared to the same period in 1996-97," said Johnson.

Other people who have made their candidacies official include:

Ella Scarborough, a five-term member of the Charlotte City Council is challenging Republican Lauch Faircloth for the seat he now holds in the U.S. Senate.

Scarborough said Faircloth is out of touch with the concerns of working people. Faircloth has made his efforts to abolish the Internal Revenue Service a top priority. Scarborough, however, said that is not what North Carolinians consider important right now.

Standing up for civil rights is listed at the top of her campaign literature.

"Jobs, that's what's important," said Scarborough, who was in Winston-Salem this week to read to children at a day care center.

Although economists are

forecasting a strong economy and site low unemployment, Scarborough said that those numbers do not reflect the many black people who have not had a job to lose. She said their interests have not been adequately represented in the U.S. Senate.

Scarborough is one of about a half dozen Democrats who have filed or announced they will seek to unseat Faircloth this year.

Faircloth also has drawn an unexpected primary opponent in his bid for a second term.

Republican Leonard D. Plyler of Statesville filed for the U.S. Senate seat last week, setting up a GOP primary for the nomination.

Judge William Z. Wood Jr. has filed for reelection in 1998 as a resident superior court judge for the 21st Judicial District, which is comprised of Forsyth County.

Wood was first elected to the superior court in 1990, and is seeking his second eight-year term in the non-

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