

Change: Morningside gets facelift

By DAMON FORD
THE CHRONICLE

Changes are afoot for Greensboro's Morningside Homes.

Thanks to a \$76 million grant, 670 new and renovated housing units will be in place at the 47-year-old public housing complex and neighboring areas Lincoln Grove, Tolbert and Eastside Park by the year 2003.

The changes are just what the doctor ordered, says Morningside Homes council president Evelyn Taylor.

"I haven't been able to contain myself," she said. "It will feel so good to see people ride

by and hear them say 'how can I get in?' It's going to be beautiful. It's going to be a drug free community."

Twenty three million dollars will come from the Housing and Urban Development's Hope VI Program. The program's focus is to transform public housing back to its original purpose of providing temporary low cost housing for families as they work to better their economic situations.

Greensboro taxpayers are chipping in another \$12.5 million and private financiers such as N.C. A&T State University and Bennett College and other resource agencies will

provide more than \$35 million in additional funding.

The money will be used to demolish and construct new housing units, streets and sidewalks.

"The Greensboro Housing Authority is ecstatic at having the opportunity to help revitalize one of our older neighborhoods with the Hope VI fund," said Elaine Ostrowski, GHA director. "There will not be any trace of public housing after the work is done."

And that suits Linda Jones just fine. She has lived in Eastside Park for five years. She

See GHA on A10



Greensboro's Morningside community will get a facelift thanks to a \$23 million Housing and Urban Development grant.

75 cents

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

Vol. XXV No. 2

THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African American News and Information

e-mail address: wschron@netunlimited.net

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 1998

It's a classic



N.C. A&T's new-look offense, led by senior quarterback Rodney Woodruff, spanked NCCU Saturday during the Aggie/Eagle Classic at Raleigh's Carter-Finley Stadium. The Aggies beat the Eagles by a score of 40-10 before a crowd of almost 50,000. Woodruff, pictured above with A&T Chancellor Edward Fort, was named the game's Most Valuable Player. Woodruff passed for 142 yards and three TDs. For more on black college sports, see C1AA This Week on page B1.

Milestone: Vote secures future of historic cemetery

By JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

In a vote hailed by members of the Black Leadership Roundtable as a victory for the common man, the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen voted Tuesday to expand New Evergreen Cemetery.

The board voted 4-3 in favor of the expanding the historic black cemetery by 13 acres.

Located in the heart of East Winston, New Evergreen, the first public cemetery to accept blacks, had long been a source of pride for the African American community.

"It shows you can fight city hall and win," said N.C. Rep. Larry Womble, D-Forsyth. "It shows it is possible to prevail and win. It's a major victory for African Americans and the community. It shows that people can make their concerns heard."

The hoopla over the cemetery's future began in May when board members tied 4-4 on a vote to purchase the additional land for expansion. The tie meant the proposal did not pass and led to a series of rallies, press conferences and a massive petition drive to force a revote on the expansion. Had board members not voted in favor of the proposal, the cemetery would have reached capacity in less than two years. And city officials estimate the cemetery would have lost the city more than \$1 million to operate over the next 10 years.

Mayor Jack Cavanagh, who held the tie-breaking vote, was on vacation and did not vote the first time the measure



Burke



Womble



Cavanagh

See Evergreen on A9

Challengers take aim at minority congressmen

The primary for the newly revamped 12th Congressional District will be held Tuesday. The hotly contested race marks the first time incumbent Mel Watt faces a strong Republican challenger, and experts estimate less than 5 percent of the eligible population will make it to the polls. We asked area residents if they planned to vote and for whom.



Robert Settles

"I plan to vote. Basically I vote for the best candidate that's going to help me out as far as my needs as a resident of Forsyth County. He may be a Republican or Democrat but I'm going to vote for the person I feel is going to handle the issues."



Gregory Parker

"I'll vote next Tuesday, but I have no comment on who I will be voting for. I do think voting is very important. We have a voice and we should put down who we want to represent us."



Robert Dogens

"I moved here about a year ago and I voted in the last primary election and I'll be voting in this primary election. I read something about Mel Watt and I know a little about his record and I will be voting for him."

By DENNIS PATTERSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH - They were the first black members of Congress from North Carolina this century, and as the century winds down, Reps. Eva Clayton and Mel Watt are facing primary challenges in districts that have been controversial since they were drawn with black majorities in 1991.

And if they survive the primary election next week, both Democrats face challenges from Republicans who believe their redrawn districts can be won by the GOP.

Watt's district has been redrawn twice since he first won election in 1992. The new district stretches from Charlotte to Winston-Salem, while the old one ran from Gastonia to Durham along Interstate 85.

The district drawn in 1997, which he never got a chance to campaign in, was 46 percent minority, while the new district approved in June is 35 percent minority.

The changes helped draw not only a primary opponent for Watt, but six

Republicans interested in the seat.

"It's obviously a more difficult campaign than the ones we have run for the last four years," Watt said. "The district is different and the Republicans believe they have a chance. I don't think you can assume anything."

Watt would have faced no primary opposition had the election been held in May, but the redrawn district convinced Ronnie Adcock of China Grove to challenge Watt in the Democratic primary.

Adcock, a first-time candidate who works at Freightliner, said he thought Watt's voting record was too liberal for the district.

Only two Republicans had filed to challenge Watt in the original primary. But the redrawn district drew four more Republicans into the campaign.

"We got joined by a group of people that I call political opportunists," said John Kozlowski of Lexington, one of the original candidates. "My feeling is that since people have only one thing to vote on

Sept. 15, they will have to have a reason to show up. Unlike the others, who are talking conservatism, I can show a history of living it."

Scott Keadle of Salisbury, who also was on the original ballot, said he believed the early start and the shift of more Republicans into the district had helped his campaign.

"We just need to keep working hard and maintain our grassroots support," Keadle said.

State Rep. Steve Wood, R-Guilford, said the general election campaign would be a "classic liberal versus conservative."

"That's one of the reasons I was intrigued about the race," Wood said. "If I won the primary, it would feature the most conservative member of the North Carolina House against the most liberal member of the U.S. House. The incumbent has to campaign in new territory, too. It's not a cakewalk, like he's had before."

Tom Bush, the chairman of the Mecklenburg County commissioners, said he

was running television ads and making personal calls to help push voter turnout, which some analysts say could be as low as 5 to 7 percent.

"I have talked personally with Mel Watt where if I am the Republican nominee, I have agreed I will do no attack ads unless he does them first," said Bush, a former member of the Florida state House. "That campaign will be on the high road and deal with issues and not personalities."

Jim Cohen, a former Rowan County commissioner, said he was a different kind of candidate.

"My message to the voters is, if you're looking for a congressman to mix and shake and compromise and fit in with the current crowd, then I'm not your man," Cohen said. "Nobody in this field of six people has as much fight in them as I do."

Mike Jackson, the other Republican candidate, did not return phone calls from The Associated Press.

See Election on A10

INDEX	
News	A-1
Opinion	A-6
Forum	A-7
Business	A-8
Calendar	A-11
Sports	B-1
Religion	B-7
Classifieds	B-9
Comm. Focus	C-1
Health	C-3
Entertainment	C-5
Family Fun	C-6