

Minority business group announces fund-raiser

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce's East Area Council announced that it will hold its annual benefit golf tournament on Sept. 28 at Winston Lake Golf Course.

This year, a portion of the proceeds from the 13th Annual Governor's Open Golf Tournament will go to The Children's Museum of Winston-Salem, the domestic violence division of Family Services Inc., and the Vivian Burke Business Scholarship at Winston-Salem State University. Last year's golf tournament raised nearly \$10,000.

"We are pleased that for the 13th straight year, the East Area Council is holding a golf tournament in Winston-Salem to benefit organizations that make a difference in our community," said Mosé Belton-Brown, chairwoman of the East Area Council's steering committee. "This year, we are proud to have selected organizations that can make tremendous positive changes in our community for years to come."

"If you take a close look, you'll see that these organizations are closely linked," she

said. "If we invest in the nurturing of our youth, then they will be less likely to be involved in domestic violence as adults."

Construction of the 24,000-square-foot museum will begin this fall at the corner of Liberty Street and Brookstown Avenue, and the museum will



Belton-Brown

open in late 2003. It will offer exhibits and programs designed to develop critical-thinking habits, strengthen language skills and reinforce a child's natural curiosity.

Gail Chavis, executive director of the museum, said, "We are delighted that the museum has been selected as a recipient of the proceeds from the East Area Council's golf tournament."

Family Services is the only provider of domestic violence and family violence programs in Forsyth County, and operates a shelter for battered women

and children. The work performed in treating child and adult trauma has been highly regarded in the community.

Al Renna, president of Family Services, expressed appreciation to the East Area Council, saying the money is needed to help in the area of family violence programs in Forsyth County.

Last week, WSSU announced that it had established a scholarship named for Burke, a longtime member of the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen and a supporter of minority businesses in the city. It is aimed at needy students who are enrolled in the university's school of business and economics and are interested in starting a business.

The 2002 Governor's Open will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m., and play will begin at 8:30 a.m. In association with this year's tournament, the East Area Council will hold a players' reception from 6-9 p.m. on Sept. 27 at McMillan's Cafe at 401 W. Fourth Street.

"The reception will signal the re-emergence of the East Area Council with a reinvigorated mission and a determined focus to play a major role as a

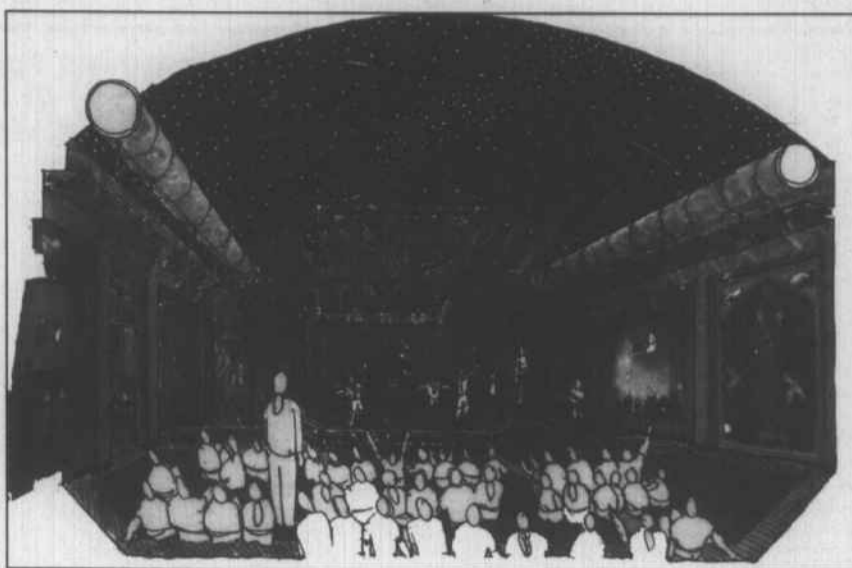


Image courtesy of the Children's Museum

Slated to be built off of Brookstown Road, the Children's Museum will feature several interesting exhibits. Above is a rendering of what visitors may expect.

member of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce," Belton-Brown said.

The East Area Council has been a part of the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce for about 15 years. It is

made up of chamber members with a mission to promote the interest and development of minority-owned businesses by fostering opportunities among minority-owned businesses and all chamber members.

For additional information or sponsorship opportunities, call the golf tournament chairperson, Darryl Little, at 722-9600 or the chamber's Jill Atherton at 728-9206.

McCord

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answer to the question to be "yes" so badly, she was afraid to ask it.

"Are they alive?"

"No."

"All my life, working in the mills, working in the nursing home, people would say, 'Linda, you don't look black.' I cussed them out. I told them, 'I'm not white.' Now I have to go back and apologize." She laughs her mother's infectious laugh.

"I just started eating chitlins - now I find out I've got a taste for the wrong food." She laughs again.

"All those years I rode in the back of the bus. They didn't know they had a poor white woman sitting back there with the black women. I've been impersonating a Negro for 47 years."

Joking is McCord's defense against the sadness she feels, the bitterness, the confusion. She now has answers to many of her questions. She's gotten to know her, younger brother and sister,

two nieces and a nephew. She's seen her parents' graves in Surry County and where she was born. Still, she's not at peace. She asked a lawyer if there was anything she could do, anyone she could sue, but there isn't. Too much time has passed.

"I'm not ashamed of the fact that I was raised black. I'm ashamed the state deprived me of my own family," McCord said. "I still don't fit in. A few months ago, these three black ladies made the comment that I was a token n—. A few weeks passed and this white guy called

me a white folk's n—. I'm trying to figure out something in my own heart."

McCord grew up black in an era when black people were mistreated (as inferior). Would she have gone further in life as a white person? It's something

she wonders about, but doesn't dwell on. She has six children, 12 grandchildren, a husband, a home. She's lived a good life.

"In a sense, I think I came out ahead of the game. I learned survival by being black and I learned a lot of respect for

everybody."

So whom does she see when she looks in the mirror? A black woman? A white woman?

"I'm just Linda," she said. "I want everybody to call me Linda. I don't have a race. I'm just Linda."

Robinson

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of the House allowed him to be cut out of the 93rd District to clear the way for their "friends" to have a shot of being elected.

"Politics is politics," said Robinson, who says he doesn't take the perceived slights personally because others were also cut out of their districts. "I'm sure there are some black legislators who didn't know what was going on."

After he was drawn out of the Republican stronghold, Robinson planned to pull out of the race. His change of heart was spurred by the lofty regard he has for men and women of the armed forces. Robinson, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, said events such as the recent death of Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the first black Air Force general and the leader of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, helped him realize that what he faces in the 72nd District is simply a molehill compared with the mountains that Davis and Robinson's father (who fought alongside Gen. Davis) and other service people had to scale.

"The fact that you have a lot of voters of another party in a district is a mere inconvenience compared to their sacrifices," he said.

Robinson said he is not completely without any roots in the Democratic district. Since the early 1990s he has been the president of the N.C. Education Reform Foundation, an advocacy organization that has pushed for the right of parents to send their young ones to charter and private schools.

"There are hundreds and hundreds of voters in the 72nd District whose children are going to charter schools because Vernon Robinson made it happen. I think there will be some residual benefits from that," he said.

Educational reform will be Robinson's major issue.

"You really can't run for alderman and talk about (education reform). You can't run for school board or county commissioner to really talk about that," Robinson said. "Really the only time you can have dialogue with black women voters...on that issue, which I believe is a pivotal issue for this race, is in a legislative race."

The topic of educational reform is timely. Recently the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it was not unconstitutional for public money to be used to pay for religious school education and a recent poll showed that more African Americans than ever are in favor of vouchers - a system that would allow parents to use public money to help pay for pri-



File Photo

Vernon Robinson speaks from his seat on the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen. He was recently re-elected.

ivate school education for their children.

Robinson said he gets frequent calls from black mothers in East Winston who need money to help send their children to Quality Education Institute, a private Afrocentric elementary school.

Robinson contends that he is the only candidate running in the district who believes in true educational reform, although one of the Democratic candidates (Earline Parmon) started and ran a charter school for more than a decade. Robinson believes that public schools have failed black children and private schools may be the answer. He says many blacks agree with that point.

"I hope that every black woman voter in the 72nd District, by the end of this campaign knows three numbers - 5 (the percentage of black eighth-graders proficient in math), 11 (the percentage of black fifth-graders proficient in reading), and 40 (the percentage of black ninth-grade males who graduate from high school after four years)," Robinson said.

His data are from the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Those familiar with Alderman Robinson may think that candidate Robinson is a kinder, gentler person. During his nearly five years on the Board of Aldermen, he has unleashed his conservative points of view on a number of issues. He opposes efforts by the city to spur racial diversity not only through city contracts, agencies and loans but also on volunteer city committees and commissions. He has also been a

staunch opponent of using city money to help finance nonprofit agencies. Some of the agencies that rely on public money to operate provide social services to a great number of black clients.

Robinson maintains that his issues have not changed now that he has to win over black female Democrats instead of white male Republicans. He says he still believes in smaller government and lower taxes, both of which he says will help black families. He also says he still is a strong advocate for the city's firefighters and police officers, many of whom are black, according to Robinson.

Robinson, however, did not support the efforts of three black police officers who were demoted by the police chief in 1999 for failing to keep a rap concert at Joel Coliseum under control. While the other African Americans on the Board of Aldermen argued that the officers should be given back their ranks (which eventually occurred), Robinson sided with the chief's right to make the decision.

Robinson knows that voters in the 72nd District have not always seen eye to eye with him, but he says other issues are petty compared with educational reform, which he says is the first step in changing the fate of the black community.

"Is the survival of your children and grandchildren, keeping our sons out of prison so our daughters have somebody to marry, is that an insignificant issue? Is that equal to the other issues? I don't think so. I think that is the number one issue," he said.

NOTICE MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED FIRMS

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is seeking minority and women-owned firms (M/WBE) to bid on upcoming highway projects throughout the State. The Locations of the projects are:

Project No.	County/Route	Type	Location	Metric/English	GOALS BY PERCENT		
					DBE	MBE	WBE
6.051045	Dare	Construction of Passenger/Vehicle Ferry	Hatteras Inlet Operation	English		0%	
8.1040902	Currituck	Grading, drainage & paving	US-158 at NC-168 in Barco	English	3%		
6.051016R	Dare	Grading, drainage, curb & gutter, milling & resurfacing	US-158 from the Wright Memorial Bridge in Southern Shores to US-64/264 in Nags Head	English		5%	3%
6.252001R	Brunswick, Iredell, Johnston, New Hanover	Guardrail & dynamic message signing	I-40 & I-77 near Statesville, I-40 & I-95 near Benson & US-17NC-87, US-1774/76, US-421 & NC-132 near Wilmington	English		0%	0%
6.321005R	Franklin, Nash	Milling, resurfacing, Shdr reconstr. & pvmnt markings	4 sections of US-64	English		5%	3%
6.331005R	Wayne	Shoulder reconstruction & resurfacing	US-117 from the Duplin Co. line to US-13	English		5%	3%
8.1313801	Johnson	Resurfacing with ultrathin bonded wearing surface novachip	I-95 from 1500 feet south of mp 100 to the Wilson Co. line	English	5%		
8.1403502	Wake	Widening, grading, drainage, paving & culvert	NC-55 from southeast of SR-1108 (Wake Chapel Rd) to northwest of SR-1114 (Ralph Stephens Rd)	Metrics	8%		
8.2370703	Granville	Grading, drainage, paving & structure	Bridge over Island Creek & approaches on SR-1430	English	9%		
8.2405003	Wake	Grading, drainage, paving & structure	Bridge over Powell Creek & approaches on SR-2226	English	9%		
8.2420703	Bladen	Grading, drainage, paving & structure	Bridge over Colly Creek & approaches on SR-1532	English	8%		
6.621008R	Forsyth	Milling, resurfacing & pavement markings	NC-67 from I-40 Bus/US-421 to 0.2 miles north of SR-1528	English		5%	3%
8.1792602	Catawba	Grading, drainage, paving & structures	Bridge over NC-127 and approaches on Main Ave. in Hickory	English	5%		
8.1802202	Cleveland	Median guardrail & guiderail and rail retrofit	US-74 from east of Cleveland/Rutherford Co. line to US-74 business & from SR-2245 to Cleveland/Gaston Co. line	English	9%		
8.1811702	Catawba, Gaston, Lincoln	Median guardrail	US-321 from NC-275 in Gaston Co. to Catawba Co. line	English	9%		
6.781008R	Alexander	Shoulder reconstruction, milling & resurfacing	NC-16 from the Wilkes Co. line to NC-90	English		5%	3%
6.801007R	Cleveland	Shoulder reconstruction, milling & resurfacing	US-74 from NC-226 to SR-1161	English		5%	3%
6.821006R	Iredell	Widening, resurfacing & shoulder reconstruction	1 section of NC-901	English		5%	3%
8.2871102	McDowell	Widening, grading, drainage & paving	SR-1001 (Sugar Hill Rd) from I-40 to US-221/NC-226 (Marion Bypass)	Metrics	5%		
8.7386003	Madison	Grading, drainage & paving	US-25/70 bypass/NC-213 from west of SR-1393 (Smith Hollow Rd) to east of SR-1601	English	5%		

*** MONDAY, August 15, 2002 6 PM - MIDNIGHT ***

North Raleigh Hilton - 3415 Wake Forest Road - Raleigh, N.C.

LETTING DATE: August 16, 2002

Prime contractors will be available to receive quotes for trucking, sub-contracting and materials. M/WBE's needing more information and/or technical assistance may come to Room 522 to meet with representatives from the Bennington Corp., NCDOT's Supportive Provider. (919)832-6027

NCDOT Office of Civil Rights & Business Development 1-800-522-0453

Certification of highway contracting firms: Richard Chrisawn
 Certification of supply/service/engineering firms: Robert Mathes
 Comments or concerns: Delano Rackard: Director

