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THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2005

Oldham comes home for Dell

She will be one of company's most visible faces locally

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Local folks who don't already know Donna Oldham will have ample opportunity to meet her in the months and years to come. As the senior



Oldham

communications consultant of Dell North Carolina. Oldham will be one of the most visible faces at the new Dell super plant off of Union Cross Road.

"People will see me a little bit of everywhere," she said last week. Oldham will not officially start her new job until Aug. 1. She was in town Friday for a Dell news conference to showcase the company's first batch of employees.

The city native is currently the director of the communications department at Duke University Hospital, where she has worked since 1998. Oldham thought that at age 48, she was pretty much settled at Duke, a hospital with an international reputation. But then came Dell - whose global reputation isn't that shabby, either.

"Dell was the only company that interested me enough to pull me away from Duke," she said. The job's location was a plus as well for Oldham. Her parents, Warren "Pete" and Gladys Oldham, are longtime, respected city residents. Her sister, Leslie Oldham Bolden, also lives here. Pete Oldham is a retired educator and former state rep-

See Oldham on A9

Woman likens fight with city to 'rape'

Couple say demolition was unjust

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

It's been seven months since Cornelia and James Webster's house on Cameron Avenue was torn down by the city of Winston-Salem. The couple claim the city did not give them adequate warning about the 85-year-old house's fate. All that remains at 810 N. Cameron Ave. is a grassy lot and a \$4,700 demolition bill from the city.

The Websters say they want the city to compensate them for

the belongings that were stored inside the house when it was demolished.

"Everything was destroyed.... I want to challenge the city's existing city code which they used to do what they did up here," said Cornelia Matthews Webster, whose father is local civil rights activist Carl Matthews. She has likened the situation concerning the house to an assault.

"I have been abused and I feel that I have been raped by the city of Winston-Salem."

See Webster on A4



Photo by Courtney Gaillard

Cornelia Matthews Webster is upset that the city demolished her house with her belongings still inside of it.

Reunion goes on despite changes

Historic Happy Hill is in a state of renewal

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Change is hard to swallow for George Lee Barr and Donald Durham. Saturday during the 12th Annual Happy Hill Reunion they set up a well-used stereo and speakers to play oldies from the '60s and '70s - countering hip-hop music that seemed to be blaring from several other parts of Happy Hill Park.

"They are playing that other stuff, so we want to play stuff that people our age will enjoy," said Durham, as the sounds of jazz sprang from the speakers.

Cultural changes are not the only things that the two men are concerned about these days. Both spent the bulk of their lives in Happy Hill, the city's oldest



Photo by Kevin Walker

Dajere Jackson plays with family friend little Samorian Kirby during Saturday's Happy Hill Reunion.

African-American neighborhood. But the old neighborhood is unrecognizable these days. A multimillion dollar Housing Authority of Winston-Salem (HAWs) HOPE VI project has cleared away the heart of Happy Hill - row upon row of public housing units that were known as Happy Hill Gardens.

"I cry every time I come through here," Barr said.

HAWs plans to replace the units with a mix of new homes, town houses and apartments that will be targeted toward people of various income levels. The project is being billed as a new and better Happy Hill, but Barr is unsure

about that.

"It is hard to tell," he said. "I don't know if it is going to be better than before."

The annual reunion brings together the thousands of people who grew up in the historic community. Held over two

See Reunion on A11

Shaw alums honor two of their own



Dr. Nancy Gannaway sits beside her husband, Robert.

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Two graduates of Shaw University were honored Saturday at an awards dinner hosted by the city's alumni chapter. The awards came as a surprise to the honorees.

Organizers had told Dr. Nancy Gannaway that Reekitta Grimes - Shaw's director of alumni chapters and planned giving - would be the evening's honoree. They told Grimes that Gannaway would be honored. The reality was that both Gannaway and Grimes were honored for their support of Shaw, a private, Raleigh-based Baptist school that holds the distinction of being the South's oldest black college.

About 30 alumni and friends of the school gathered for the evening event at Les Arbres Club (or "The Tree"), a historic African-American social spot. Mable Johnson, who runs The Tree with her husband, Brick, is a 1947 Shaw graduate.

Guests included Claude Flythe, special assistant to Shaw President Clarence Newsome and the acting vice president for student affairs. Flythe pinch-hit for Newsome, who had a scheduling conflict and could

See Shaw on A10

Kimberley Park barely misses making history

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Kimberley Park Elementary nearly made the city-county school system history book with its recent performance on the ABCs of Public Education test.

The school was 0.4 percentage point away from becoming the school system's first Equity Plus school to be named an Honor School of Excellence under the nearly decade-old state testing program. The new distinction goes to schools where at least 90 percent of the students test at or above grade level.

In Kimberley Park's case, even almost making his-

See Schools on A10



Martin



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