

# Democratic challenger to face Johnson for East Ward seat

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

Democrat Joycelyn Johnson is getting some opposition for her East Ward City Council seat.

Democrat Donald Scales wants to represent the ward, which includes most of East Winston and even parts of Happy Hill and outlying areas of Walkertown and Kernersville.

"I feel it's time for a change, and for someone else to make a difference," said Scales, a carpenter for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. "I've always wanted to do something for my community and for the people around me, to make things better for them as well as for myself."

Scales is active in politics. He chairs his local precinct, which is ironically Johnson's precinct as well.

A Winston-Salem native and a product of the Pond community, Scales believes he can make a valuable contribution to his community as a City Council member.

Johnson, who has represented the East Ward for 16 years, says she is running for a fifth term in order to make even more contributions to the area. She is proud of her record and says it speaks for itself.

Among her proudest achievements are the development of key areas in the ward, including the extension of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive to University Parkway, which she says helped foster development, and the construction of Kensington Village, which replaced a dilapidated, crime-ridden complex on Old Greensboro Road.

But Johnson concedes that residents' perceptions of



Donald Scales



Joycelyn Johnson

the changes, or lack thereof, remain a challenge for her.

"There's still a perception that only the poor people live on the east side of Winston," explained Johnson, adding that she is still working to make the East Ward "a place of choice

as opposed to a place of last resort, to make sure that we are an integral part of what's happening in the community."

Scales wants the East Ward to become a brighter, more vibrant place, and he believes he can make that happen. If elected, he says

he wants to work with the police department to reduce violence in the area and bring new businesses into the ward, which he says lacks places to dine and shop.

"I'm optimistic about the community and about the future, because I'm a go-getter type individual," he commented. "I feel that (the people of the East Ward) should give me an opportunity to make a difference for them."

His experience as a former police officer also lends him well to the position, Scales added.

"I love communicating with people and trying to help solve their problems if I can," he remarked.

Johnson, who works as a Community Outreach Coordinator in the Department of Physician Service at Wake Forest

University Baptist Medical Center, says the community involvement has been a highlight of her time as a public servant.

"I try to stay engaged with folks throughout the years; it's not an election-time kind of thing," said Johnson, who added that she meets with community members from across the East Ward biannually. "It takes all of us trying to create a plan to make our community better," she said. "I can't do it in isolation."

Voters will pick their Democratic candidate in the primary slated for Sept. 15. The General Municipal Election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3. Scales will have an official campaign kickoff event on Monday. See the Community Calendar on page B1 for more information.

## Testing

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at the end of the eighth grade and re-administered several times throughout high school for those who do not pass.

It was this segment of the equation that caught the attention of Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church. He convened the meeting in hopes of getting a better understanding of the situation, and what, if anything needed to be done to fix it.

"I don't confess to understand all of it, but when I learned of it, it just really didn't seem fair to me. In fact, it almost sounded punitive," Mendez told the group that gathered in the church's multipurpose room. "I wanted to see how many people were affected by (this rule) ... to see if there's a major concern here."

Several school system officials were on hand to address the concerns of those who attended the meeting. Simington painstakingly explained the complex system of state rules and regulations that the school system must adhere to with regard to testing and graduation standards.

"If a student satisfies the minimum end of grade score, they will also have satisfied the competency requirement," he explained.

This past school year was the last year the competency



Photos by Layla Farmer

Rev. John Mendez is concerned about testing.

tests would keep students from graduating, Simington said, because the state is doing away with them and adopting a new set of requirements for students. Next year's crop of eighth graders will however, be required to pass end-of-grade reading and math exams in order to advance to high school.

More tests will be required of future graduates, Simington said, and those in the upcoming 2010 graduating class will have to score proficiently in five areas instead of three as this year's

class did, he said. Some community members voiced concerns about what the more stringent guidelines might do to students who were already teetering on the edge of dropping out.

"My concern is students who might not be quite at grade level ... the students who are currently falling through the cracks," said S. Wayne Patterson, a candidate for City Council. "The students get frustrated whenever they see how many hoops they have to jump through (in

order to graduate)... whenever they don't graduate, they become my problem."

Mendez said his chief concern is with the students with strong academic records who did not get diplomas because they failed to pass the test.

"The problem that we are concerned about is the students who are doing well," he said. "They're different situations - both important - but they're not the same."

Some other audience members echoed this concern.

"What are they teaching all year to where they can be doing good in school but not pass the test?" one woman questioned.

That, Simington said, is the million dollar question.

"Quite honestly, I don't have a good answer," he admitted. "It is for us, like you, a quandary that a student could make a good grade in a (high school) course but still not receive a passing grade (on the eighth grade competency test)."

Parents of students who are having difficulty passing the test and have not received satisfactory support from the high schools that their children attend were encouraged to contact Parent Coordinator Addie Hymes, at 336-727-2154 ext. 34225.

Another meeting is scheduled at Emmanuel on Tuesday, July 9 at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

## Jena

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years had "caused Justin and his parents tremendous pain and suffering, much of which has gone unrecognized."

None of the defendants spoke to reporters.

By pleading no contest, the five do not admit guilt but acknowledge prosecutors had enough evidence for a conviction. LaSalle Parish District Attorney Reed Walters said in a statement that he could have won convictions but wanted to end the matter for Barker.

All but Shaw were assessed \$500 in court costs. The judge did not tack that punishment on to Shaw's case because he stayed in jail for nearly seven months, unable to raise bail, following his initial arrest.

Each paid the fine and court costs immediately. The

payment of restitution to Barker was also part of the deal, but the amount was not released. A lawsuit filed by Barker against the group was also settled Friday, though the terms were confidential.

The only member of the group to serve jail time was Bell, who pleaded guilty in December 2007 to second-degree battery and was sentenced to 18 months in jail.

Four of Friday's defendants have graduated from high school, and all are attending or getting ready to attend college. Purvis has completed his first year and Bell is planning to attend college this fall. Beard is a senior in high school in Connecticut.

"They can move along with their lives," said Bailey's attorney, James Boren. "And because there are no felonies they can look forward to full lives ahead."

## UNCG

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April 14, 2010, the Moscow Festival Ballet will perform for the second consecutive year at UNCG. This time, they will perform "Coppelia," a story of a life-size doll who captures the imagination of a village. The Moscow Festival Ballet was founded two decades ago, the vision of legendary dancer Sergei Radchenko for a company that would highlight the best elements of classical Russian bal-

let. All shows will start at 8 p.m., with the exception of "Porgy and Bess," which will begin at 3 p.m.

Season ticket packages will be available beginning July 1 at [boxoffice.uncg.edu](http://boxoffice.uncg.edu) or by calling 336-334-4849. Prices range from \$107 to \$158. Individual tickets will go on sale Monday, Aug. 24, and prices will vary by event. Tickets may also be purchased the night of a performance at the Aycock Auditorium box office from 7-8:30 p.m.

## Teachers

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"We are very intentional at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund in our support of African-American males in particular," commented Misha Lesley, senior director of HBCU School Reform Partnerships for TMCF. "And we don't apologize for that; we celebrate that."

During the week, participants interacted with national board-certified teachers and educators who specialize in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Teachers from the nationally-recognized UTeach program, which is based at the University of Texas at Austin and specializes in producing science and math educators, were there as well to give advice and additional training.

Twenty-one-year-old Cordaral Holloway said the program was an enriching experience for him.

"It was a very culturally well rounding experience and it opens my eyes to many aspects of education," said the Albany State University sen-



Photos by Layla Farmer

Albany State student Jordan Beard wants to be a teacher.

ior, who will graduate in the fall. "It teaches me how to become a better educator."

Holloway and the other program participants were feted during a closing graduation last Friday, marking their successful completion of the Institute.

"When you enter the classroom, you'll be taking on a daunting role - teaching. We want to help you be the best that you can be," Interim WSSU Provost Jessica Bailey told the group. "Teaching can and should be one of the most rewarding professions that there is. Your legacy as a teacher in fact will touch generations to come."

Jordan Beard, another senior at Albany State, says he didn't initially set out to become an educator.

The former computer science major discovered his love for youth after participating in a summer service project working with military children overseas.

"Working with children, there's always something new everyday. You never get bored with it," Beard said. "That's why I went into education."

Being a part of the institute has made him more confident about entering the working world later this year, he added.

"I learned some new information that I didn't know, and it just helped me to build my portfolio," he related.

TMCF Founder Dr. N. Joyce Payne was slated to

appear as keynote speaker Friday, but a family emergency prevented that eventuality. In her absence, Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Hammond, dean of the WSSU School of Education and Human Performance, addressed the students.

"You have demonstrated all that is good with this (occupation)," she told the students. "...you know the elements of good teaching, and you have already demonstrated your commitment to the profession."

Jackson-Hammond serves as co-chair of the Teacher Quality and Retention Institute. She shared pearls of wisdom and common sense teaching strategies based on her nearly 30 years in the education field.

"Seize the moment; seize the day; seize the opportunity to positively change the life of a child," she declared, "because when you change the life of a child, you change the world."

For more information about the TMCF, visit [www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org](http://www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org).

## Lee

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between a white Atlanta woman and her black chauffeur.

It ends on a Thanksgiving in the 1960s, with the chauffeur feeding Miss Daisy a piece of pie.

The trash can almost stayed on the curb. Paramount offered Lee the biggest budget for his film, but executives there wanted to change the ending.

"They just couldn't understand why Mookie throws the trash can through Sal's window," said Hollywood veteran Tom Pollock, who gave the



film the green light when he was chairman of Universal

Pictures. "Quite honestly, I didn't understand either, until it was explained to me by Spike."

Pollock agreed to give Lee creative control. After the film was done, Pollock only had one problem. At the time, the movie ended the morning after the riot, when Mookie visits Sal at his burned-out shop and demands his \$250 salary for the week.

"The movie offered no hope whatsoever at that time," Pollock said. "All I said at the time was, 'This is a really powerful film, but we can't go out of here being totally depressed that there is no future for this country in terms of race.'"

Lee responded by adding two quotes at the end. The first, from Martin Luther King Jr., who preached nonviolence: "The old law of an eye for an eye leaves everybody blind." The second, from Malcolm X, advocated self-defense against "bad people" who block racial progress: "I don't even call it violence when it's self-defense, I call it intelligence."

"It got misconstrued that it had to be either Dr. King or Malcolm," Lee said. "It was never meant to be that you had to pick one or the other. These are the two most prominent African-American leaders of the 20th century, and they both wanted the same thing."



Submitted Photo

Miss North Carolina Katherine Elizabeth Southard.

## Queens

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workout costume that won her a preliminary fitness award earlier in the week. During the evening gown and onstage question portion of the pageant, she answered a question about her platform, the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of America.

Puryear, 15, is the daughter of Felicia Ewings and the granddaughter of James and Barbara Ewings of Trinity. Other top finishers were:

• 1st Runner-up: Miss Eastern Carolina's Outstanding Teen, Arlie Honeycutt;

• 2nd Runner-up: Miss Wake County's Outstanding Teen, Ashlea Arizaga;

• 3rd Runner-up: Miss Johnston County's Outstanding Teen, Ciara Ellis;

• and 4th Runner-up: Miss Mecklenburg County's Outstanding Teen, Maddison Sheppard.

On Saturday night, Miss Raleigh Katherine Elizabeth Southard won the Miss North Carolina Pageant. Southard is a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She will compete in the Miss America Pageant in Las Vegas in January.