

Council tries to please all sides in parking debate

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

It's back to the drawing board for a proposed ordinance that would allow neighborhoods to decide whether to ban residents from having parked cars in their yards.

Under the proposed ordinance, vehicles would only be allowed to park in the front yard if they are on a driveway or a permanent parking pad that covers less than 30 percent of the lawn. The rule would not be citywide. Individual neighborhood groups would petition to have the ordinance implemented.

The City Council heard from interested parties Monday during a public hearing at City Hall, but took no action. The Council voted to send the issue back to committee for further review and development.

Council members are viewing the issues from all sides.

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke said she has fielded many complaints over the years from constituents who object to their neighbors parking in their front yards. She believes the issue should be looked at on a case by case basis, as each situation is unique.

"I don't know how it's going to turn out, but it's not something I take lightly because I see both sides of it," she said.

City Council Member James Taylor said he believes the ordinance would go a long way in improving the look of the Southeast Ward he represents, especially along Waughtown Street, where front yard parking is common. He said the prac-

tice damages landscaping by stunting grass growth and leaves mud and dirt in its wake.

"It looks bad when you ride up in a historic area and you see nothing but mud and dirt. No one wants to live that way," Taylor stated. "...I don't have all the answers, but what I do know is parking on the lawn is not the answer if you want your community to be thriving and ultimately, a better place to work and relax."

Council Member Denise "DD" Adams is also a proponent of the ordinance.

"I think it's a good thing for my constituents in the North Ward, predominantly in the area around Wake Forest University," Adams said. "Most of the students there park in the yard ... I've always been affiliated with the University Area Neighborhood Association, and it's one of the things we've been talking about for years."

Supporters and opponents weighed in during Monday's hearing. Laford Tuttle, a city native who lives in Ardmore, said he isn't a big fan of the look of yard-parking,

but sometimes it's necessary.

"The reason I park on the yard sometimes is because of my wife; she's having to use a walker, so I try to get as close to the front door as possible," said the 56 year-old father of three.

He added that his family has four cars and he is wary of parking on the street.

"I don't like leaving vehicles on the street because cars have a tendency to be gone through, in fact one of my son's cars has been broken into (while parked on the street)," he stat-

ed. "It's just better to keep it as close to the house as possible."

Several who also spoke in support of the ordinance offered photographs and personal stories to highlight their concerns. Some were torn on the issue, objecting either to the verbiage or logistics of enforcing the ordinance, while others said the city should not be allowed to decide how private citizens use their lawns.

Nancy Gould, the governmental affairs director for the Winston-Salem Regional Association of Realtors, suggested that the city take a different approach by working with communities to offer incentives for creative and aesthetically pleasing parking options in the neighborhoods.

Council Member Dan Besse, who represents the Southwest Ward, said he and the other members of the Public Works Committee heard a lot of the same arguments before it hammered out the plan, which would require a vast majority of the a neighborhood's residents to sign a petition before the ordinance could go into effect in any given community.

"This proposal was a compromise explicitly coming from a committee which has two different viewpoints," he stated. "The compromised ordinance tried to take both perspectives into account."

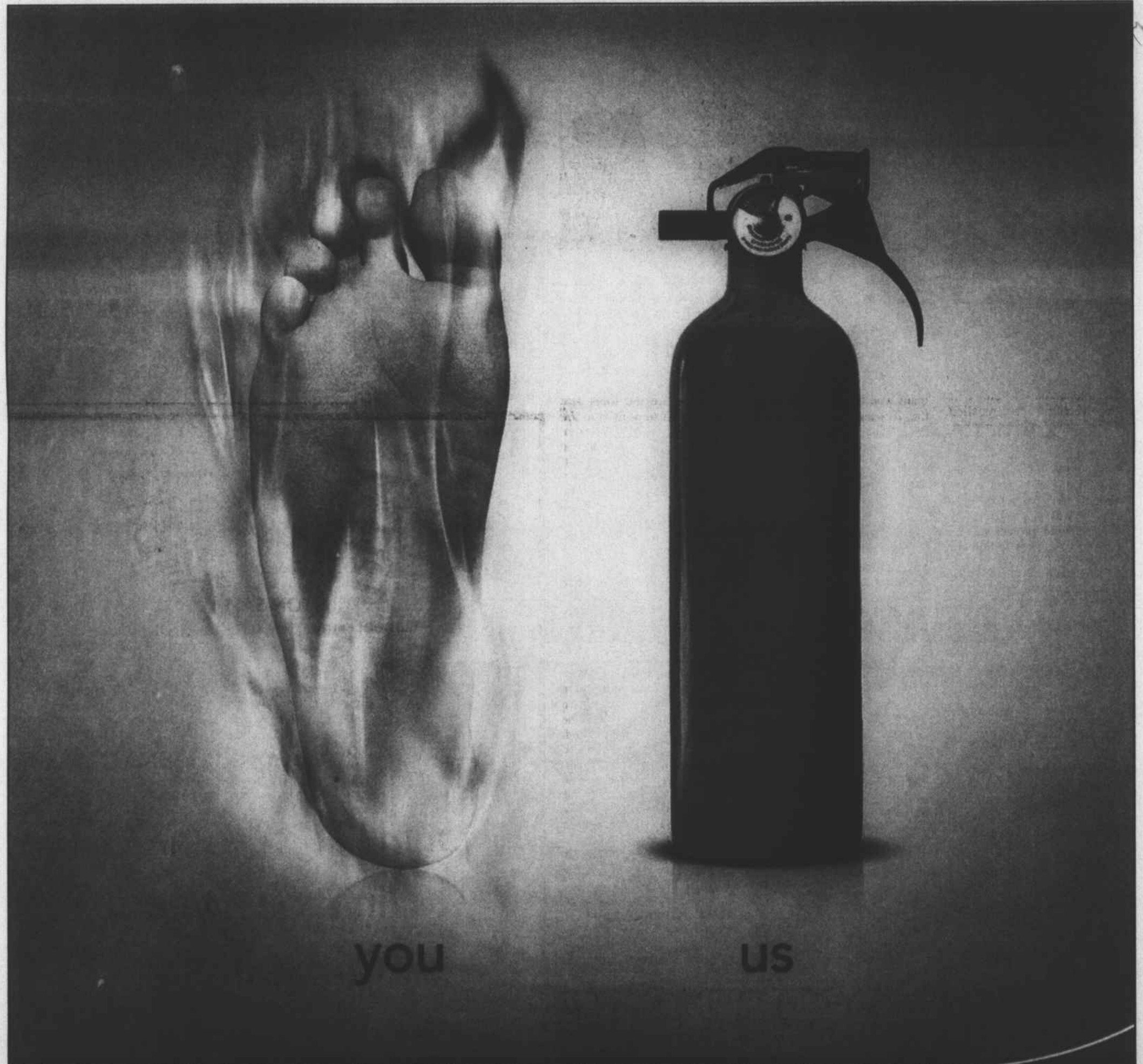


Taylor



The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

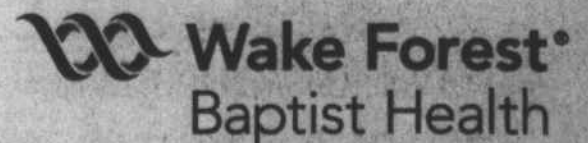
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636



If you're suffering from foot or ankle pain, we can help.

Wake Forest Baptist Health offers a comprehensive range of foot and ankle care for patients of all ages. Our orthopaedic surgeons and podiatrists are experts in ankle replacement, athletic injuries, trauma, hammertoes, bunions, plantar fasciitis and many other types of foot and ankle problems. For an appointment with a Wake Forest Baptist foot and ankle specialist at one of our many Triad locations, call 716-WAKE or visit WakeHealth.edu/Feet.

To make an appointment, call 888-716-WAKE or visit WakeHealth.edu



A Mission to Care. A Mission to Cure.