## Buses

from page Al

residents and enhance the city's offerings for visitors.

"Anytime a service is offered seven days a week and 365 days a year, you can expect it to be more useful for both livability and convenience," he stated. "We're glad to offer this service for the first time. We hope that people will take advantage of it."

City native Randy Smith says he is looking forward to the implementation of Sunday service.

"It's about time they catch up with the rest of them - with Charlotte and other cities," said the grandfather of 13, who rides the bus daily Monday-Saturday. "Just because it's Sunday, people still need to get around."

Reading, Penn. native Earnest Hancock only

recently began riding the bus to save gas money, but says he is also planning to utilize public transportation on Sundays.

"I think it'll help people out, helping more people get downtown when

stuff is going on," said Hancock, Forsyth Technical Community College student.

City native Bobby Wilson has been advocating for the city to add Sunday service for years. Wilson recalls paying a dime to ride on the Safe Bus - a black-owned bus company that was eventually absorbed by the

Juneteenth

suggestion, he changed it into the shape of a Zulu shield to represent of the power of theater to change lives. The logo, filled with images representing different aspects of theatre, has been the signature of the massive NBTF ever since. Williams comes from a long line of woodcarvers, having served as an apprentice under his broth-

er. He wants to keep the art form alive; therefore, he

now has apprentices of his

own. He hopes to return to Winston-Salem's next

Juneteenth to conduct a live carving demonstration.

to educate attendees about

the current struggle. A

number of organizations

set up displays to tout

some of today's most

pressing social issues. The

NAACP set up a display

right beside one for

Carolina. Both groups are sounding the alarm about

what they say are efforts by

Republicans in the General

Democracy

Juneteenth did its part

from page Al



Earnest Hancock poses at the Clark Campbell Transportation Center.

WSTA - on Sundays. He said he was thrilled that city buses will soon be running seven days a week.

"I am overwhelmed that it's going to happen because it opens a new chapter in Winston-Salem, a serious new chapter,"

declared the 68year-old, who plans to use the bus to get back and forth to services at his church, Stephen Missionary "It's Baptist. good for the city, it's good for the green - the envi-

ronment - and it puts us on par with other cities of our size. Across the board, our city will be greatly enhanced."

Turner said he expects it will take roughly four months for the city to hire and train drivers and solidify routes, pushing the expected rollout of Sunday service to October or November.

The new budget also includes merit raises of up to three percent for city employees, a measure that is long overdue in the eyes of Taylor, who represents the city's Southeast Ward.

"If we want to retain our brightest and our best employees, we have to pay people, and this budget addresses that," Taylor said. "It made me feel good to be able to turn to our city employees (during the budget meeting) and say thank you."

Overall, the budget received higher marks than usual from Council members, in part because of the work of the Citizens' Organizational Efficiency Review Committee (COERC), a nine-member committee that worked to identify opportunities for increased revenue for the city and areas where services and/or expenses could be cut. Among the COERC recommendations that the city adopted in its fiscal year 2013-2014 budget were a \$5 increase in maximum parking fines, increased fees for cemetery plots and grave openings and increased fines for weeded-lot violations.

"I'm definitely happy with the budget," commented Taylor, noting that he has voted against the last two budgets. "This year, we actually came back and found well over \$1 million in savings, just by cutting some of the fat."

Making cuts in other areas allowed city leaders to keep taxes increases relatively low, according to City Council Member Derwin Montgomery. Because most homes in the city have been devalued following Forsyth County Tax Assessor's most recent revaluation, many homeowners will actually be paying less for property taxes despite the increase, added Montgomery, who represents the city's East Ward.

"Their recommendations have been very pivotal in keeping the tax rates from going up to revenue neutral," he said, referencing a commonly used taxing procedure that allows the government to still receive the same amount of money despite changes in property values and other factors. "...This budget, for the majority of the citizens of Winston-Salem when it comes to the taxes that they're paying, they will feel nothing changing, or they will see a decrease.

The budget also included funding for several projects, including revitalization efforts on the Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Corridor and the Creative Corridors initiative, in addition to water and sewer and storm-water management projects and improvements at Winston Course. Golf Lake said he Montgomery would've liked to have seen more funding go to infrastructure development and maintenance, which he says is greatly needed city-

"It's going to probably come down to us looking to bring a bond to voters within the next year or so in order to get some of these projects done," he stated. "It's about \$500 million across the city in needed capital investment. We're just chipping away at that, but there's a lot that needs to be invested in."

The City Council voted to not accept merit raises for itself.

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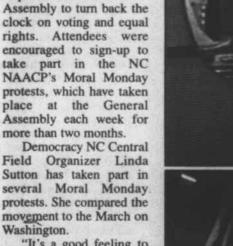


Sutton Charles Shelby

Left: - LaVon Williams with his famous logo.

Below: The Safe Bus exhibit among was Hampton's Louretta favorites.

update on his slow recovery from a traumatic 2011 car wreck. He said he was doing well and hopes to be recovered enough by the next Juneteenth to do "the slide" across the stage.



North

"It's a good feeling to be with people who are fighting for causes you believe in like that," said

Juneteenth drew attendees from far and wide. Last year, Alabama resident Louretta Hampton was in Winston-Salem visiting her sister-in-law, who suggested they attend the Juneteenth festival. Hampton asked, "What's a Juneteenth?"

She was dazzled when she discovered the answer. Hampton said she was taken in with the event's historical displays, especially the one for blackowned Safe Bus Company, which operated Winston-Salem from 1926 to 1972 and was the largest black-owned transportation company in the world. Hampton said she has

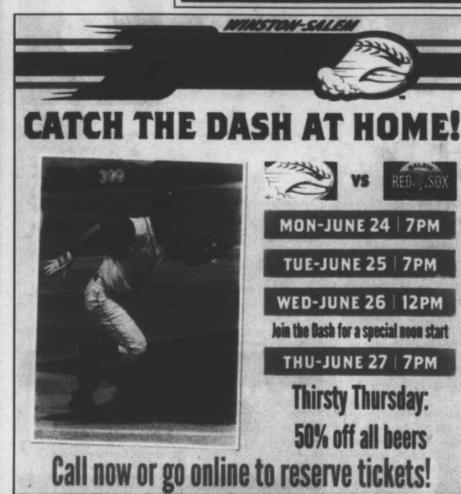
made a vow to attend the local festival every year. She has followed through with that commitment so far. She was back at Saturday's event; where she stated that she likes that the festival focuses on black history beyond slav-

"It (is) giving me a sense of my culture," she

orary and lifetime chair of the local celebration, welcomed afternoon attendees to the celebration.

"We're here to have a good time," he said. "I want you to laugh, I want you to enjoy yourself, be with your great-grands and your family ...and your children and get good food."

The former state repre-Larry Womble, hon- sentative also gave an



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