



Mount Tabor getting ready

-See Page B10



Friendship Baptist has a new pastor

-See Page A3

GET YOUR SEASON TICKETS

www.wssurams.com

THE CHRONICLE

Volume 40, Number 48

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, August 7, 2014

Public feedback window to close on Business 40 revamp

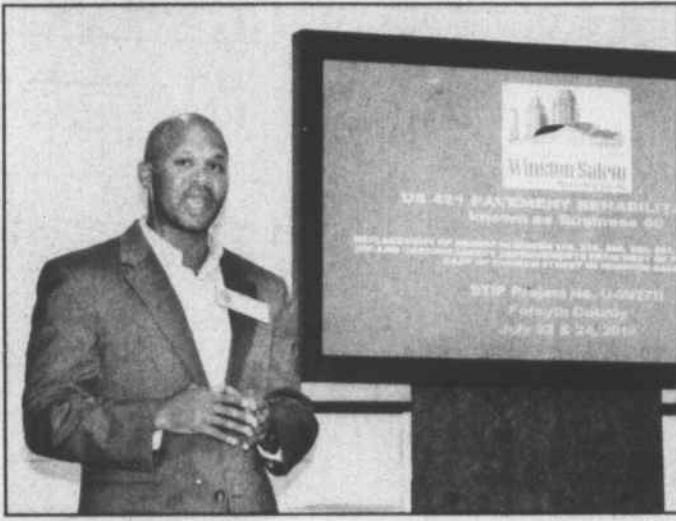
Main entranceway into downtown still to be determined

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The public is still weighing in on a Business 40 improvement project that could close sections of the busy thoroughfare for up to two years.

North Carolina Department of Transportation officials began informing local residents about the project, which is now slated to begin in 2016, in 2007, when a series of public meetings were held and residents were surveyed about various construction options.

A 1.2-mile section of the Business 40 corridor between West Fourth and Church streets will close for up to two years so that improvements to bridges and ramps can be made. Officials had floated a piecemeal option that would have kept at least a lane of the



NCDOT's Jamille Robbins addresses locals.

Photo by Todd Luck

highway open during the construction process, said NCDOT Division Engineer Pat Ivey. That option would have taken at least six years and come with a higher price

tag. Residents who were surveyed choose the current plan – the one that will virtually shutdown the highway.

"This project started on day one with an unprecedented

public outreach campaign," Jamille Robbins of the NCDOT's Human Environment Section said at the latest public meeting about the project on July 24 at the Miller Recreation Center.

According to NCDOT numbers from 2011, 73,500 vehicles per day use Business 40. NCDOT's policy is to not reroute traffic through residential areas for safety reasons. During construction, detours via non-residential roads will be utilized. Though the detour roads have not yet been determined, work is being done to make sure the city can handle the additional traffic.

The Liberty Street Bridge at US 52 has been replaced; improvements have been made to US 52 at Martin Luther King Jr. Drive; and the

See Bus 40 on A2



Fleming El-Amin sits on the three-member Board of Elections.

Early voting plan unpopular

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Some Forsyth County residents are fuming about a proposed early voting plan that they say is unkind to Democratic-friendly, minority communities.

The plan was approved last month by all three members of the Forsyth County Board of Elections, including Democrat Fleming El-Amin. It calls for 10 early voting sites in October – Old Town Recreation Center, Sedge Garden Recreation Center, the Mazie Woodruff Center, South Fork Recreation Center, Polo Park Recreation Center, the Kernersville Senior Center, the Clemmons branch library, the Lewisville branch library, Walkertown branch library and the Board of Elections headquarters downtown.

Only the Mazie Woodruff Center off Carver School Road sits in a vastly African American community, and critics say the racially diverse south side of the city is altogether ignored.

El-Amin is defending his vote. He says the other alternatives that were considered would neither have included a Sunday of early voting nor any non-suburban early voting sites.

"Given that there would be no inner-city voting besides the Board of Elections with the first plan, by all means, (the current plan is) a good plan," El-Amin said. "Is it the best plan? By no means, but it is better than what the chair (Republican Ken Raymond) had proposed."

El-Amin said he presented two options to the Board of Elections, one that included an early voting site at Winston-Salem State University's Anderson Center and another that included a site at the Winston Lake Family YMCA. Both El-Amin and county staff included the Southside branch library in initial plans, but none of the three sites made their way into the current proposal.



Sutton



The future homes for veterans on Cameron Avenue.

Photos by Todd Luck

More help pours in for 'Heroes' project



Pastor Barry Washington holds a check with Wells Fargo Business Banking Managers (from left) Clarence McDonald, Leslie Hayes, Rusty Edwards and Steve Koelsch.

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Wells Fargo Bank pitched in money and manpower Friday to help convert dilapidated houses on Cameron Avenue into affordable units for military veterans.

Whole Man Ministries is behind the Homes 4 Our Heroes project. Five houses were slated to be demolished by the city before the Ministries proposed the project, which will cost \$631,000.

The rain on Friday morning didn't discourage 18 Wells Fargo employees from aiding renovation efforts at three of the houses. The bank also presented Whole Man Pastor Barry

See Veterans on A8

See Voting on A8

Davenport hopes internships help foster success

Photo by Chanel Davis
John Davenport Jr. (second from left) poses with interns **Darian Thompson**, **Lazar Trifunovic** and **Sam Starks**.



BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

John Davenport Jr. is determined to pay it forward. "Everyone is not going to have parents who are connected to the system. I am one of those kids, and it wasn't until someone said I should do an internship with the Department of Transportation that I thought about it. I applied, got a job and that changed my life," Davenport said. "What is important to me is that I don't want these students to wait and go to college before they get that con-

See Interns on A7

SELF STORAGE

We Rent U-Haul Trucks!

Professional self-storage.

MOVE IN SPECIAL

\$25

for first month

ASSURED STORAGE

of Winston-Salem, LLC

(336) 924-7000

www.assuredstoragews.com

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 9am-3pm
Gate Hours: 5am-10pm
4191 Bethania Station Road • Winston-Salem



022*008*****FIRM ECRLOT 0076A**C007
ADMINISTRATION
FORSYTH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
660 W 5TH ST
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101-2705 60