



File Photo

The Boston Roundup annually draws a large crowd.

Boston Roundup will be held on Saturday

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The 21st Annual Boston Roundup will be held Saturday, Aug. 16 beginning at 2 p.m. at Drayton Pines Park off University Parkway. More than 5,000 people are expected to attend.



Wright

"The purpose of Saturday's fun day is to provide an opportunity for former and current residents to come together, old friendships can be renewed, new friendships can be formed, and we can continue to strengthen our community" said Sharon

D. Wright, president of the Reunion Committee. "Thanks to our community-minded sponsors, the event remains free, and nothing is sold on the field so that all our residents can enjoy a fun day that is uniquely Boston."

Health and civic sponsors will be on hand with valuable information, and a number of elected officials are slated to address the crowd. Musical performances will be held on two separate stages. The 13th Street Stage will feature gospel, and the 14th Street Stage will feature

R&B. At 6 p.m. in designated locations of the park, school supplies will be given away to children. Each year, the committee makes a donation to a pre-selected school and church in the Boston Community.

Guests should pay attention to posted park rules when entering the park; they include "no dogs are allowed." There is limited space in the park, so families have designated areas to meet and set up tents. Attendees are being asked to car pool because of limited parking space.

Committee members, families and friends will worship on Sunday, Aug. 17 at 10:30 a.m. at Friendship Baptist Church, 1317 Cherry St.

Voting

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order to consider the injunction as a means to keeping the playing field equal."

"It is a concern for me that he did not choose to put the injunction in place to make sure everything was the way it was before the law was passed," Bass said. "I didn't even like his response. He said he wasn't sure whether there was issue or not so he would let things remain the same in order to see if there was a problem. I thought that was really unfair."

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, president of the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP, also took issue with the judge's rationale.

"If one elderly or young person, black, white or Latino decides she won't vote because of the shorter early voting weeks, the elimination of same-day voting, the confusing ballots without straight party voting and other sections of this voter suppression law that are still standing because of today's court decision, that is indeed an irreparable harm," he said in a statement. "The harm is irreparable to the voter...and to our democra-

cy. Similarly, people who have heard all the talk about having photo ID's and decides they can't vote this November because they don't have one, will suffer an irreparable harm."

Linda Sutton, a local organizer for Democracy NC, said the ruling did not surprise her.

"I expected it because the judicial system has become so partisan, from the Supreme Court all the way down," she said.

She is disappointed, though, that the justice system has refused to affirm a right that many fought and died to obtain.

"It is sad and very disappointing that our judicial system can't uphold the rights of our voters and making sure that all of the citizens have a right to vote and making sure there are no variables in their way ... Minorities have been disenfranchised for so long. We had to fight to get it and now have to fight to keep

it."

The judge's decision means that groups like Democracy NC and the NAACP have their jobs cut out for them. Even before the ruling, they had pledged to register thousands of new voters across the state. The NAACP's Moral March to the Polls campaign has already dispatched volunteers to every corner of the state to help with registration efforts.

Bass hopes voters' disappointment propel them to the voting booth.

"The biggest impact that we could have right now would be challenging people about their voting. There is no need to dwell on what has happened now, we have to move forward," he said.

The voter registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 10. Registration forms are available online at www.co.forsyth.nc.us/elections.

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



Photos by Chanel Davis

Dot Johnson with co-workers Joe Low and Tracey Hawkins and her daughter Rhonda Johnson.

Johnson

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NCHSM oversees several Winston-Salem housing developments, including assisted living complexes and units for the elderly and homeless. During her long career, Johnson opened and managed the 144-unit Millbrook Apartments in 1978, becoming one of the city's first black apartment managers.

She spent eight years at Millbrook, before moving on to work with and at complexes like Granville Place Apartments, University Place Apartments, Koerner Place, Vespers Apartments, Gladstone Apartments and Mock Place Apartments.

Her duties were vast. She helped residents move in and planned activities and programs like health fairs and monthly luncheons. She even transported residents to local grocery and drug stores.

"I like working with people and the elderly. I learned from my experiences," she said.

Martha Rokahr was among the friends, residents and colleagues who feted Johnson at her retirement celebration, which was held at Granville Place. Rokahr said Johnson has not changed since the two meet during Johnson's first days with the company.

"She could always talk me down when I got crazy about things that people were doing or things that were happening," Rokahr

said. "We just had a good time together. I can't believe that she stuck with it this long. I learned a lot from her about how to deal with the elderly."

Teresa Wood, Johnson's supervisor and the company's director of Resident Services, said it will be impossible to replace her.

"We have been really good friends," Wood said. "We have had the same ideas about how we should be treating our elderly folks; that is one of the reasons we have gotten along extremely well. We are all going to miss her."

Johnson has not made any solid plans for the future. One thing is clear: the lively Johnson is unlikely to sit still for long.

"I like people, and I like working with people, so I will probably go from (here) to my church, Goler Metropolitan AME Zion," Johnson said.



Rokahr

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