



What's going on here?

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THE CHRONICLE

Volume 41, Number 30 — WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — THURSDAY, April 9, 2015

TOXIC NEIGHBORHOOD

School's neighbors outraged

Many living near Hanes/Lowrance search for answers at meeting with city

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Residents in who live near Hanes/Lowrance Middle School on Indiana Avenue are downright mad and want answers to the dozens of questions they have concerning the soil and air quality of their neighborhood.

The school is considered unsafe by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School (WSFCS) Board because of contamination issues.

On Tuesday night, March 31, the city held a town hall meeting at the Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center at the corner of Akron Drive and Reynolds Boulevard. Nearly 50 people attended the hour-and-a-half-long presentation by the Department of Stormwater and Erosion Control as representatives presented a project that will determine how much of the area is polluted and what is in the soil.

Stormwater Manager Keith Huff told residents that the main pollutants found in the ground were tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene and 1-Dichloroethene, all common chemicals that can be found in common household agents. The solvents are used in dry cleaning, cleaning of metal machin-

ery and to manufacture consumer products and chemicals.

"They're very common. They're in my household and yours," Huff said. "The pollutants give off vapors that come up through the soil column. As they migrate through the soil column, if in enough concentrations, they can make their way into a basement or through a slab in a dwelling. That's how the vapors can affect you in your home. That's if in enough concentrations."

In February, the WSFCS Board voted to move the students from the school because of a vapor intrusion from chemicals in the soil, although a consultant determined that those vapors were not at significant levels.

Questions like "Why are just now finding out?", "What about our children?", and "What are you going to do about it?" were thrown around.

Assistant City Manager Greg Turner said that preliminary records have been gathered from the city's records and the Division of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR).

"The city is in the same position you guys are. We don't regulate or control these pollutants, but we are



A man in the audience questions city employees about what is happening in the neighborhood near the Hanes/Lowrance Middle School, which is sitting vacant because the School Board deemed it unsafe.



Residents near Hanes/Lowrance Middle School gather to learn that the city of Winston-Salem will begin testing their water for toxins. Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke is standing on the left.

impacted by them, the public streets as well as your properties. What we wanted to do is find out as much

as we could about what is actually in the soil that could affect you, our employees and the contrac-

tors who work for us," he said. "We will be working with the state, inactive hazardous branch and the state

DENR to assess what these chemicals mean once we get the samples."

In order to do that, the city will implement monitoring wells in the area. The wells will determine how far the pollutant plume from 2007 has migrated and how it impacts those residents.

Kaba Ileo is the current owner of the land in question and has owned the property since 2001. Sampling of the soil conducted before then showed that the ground was polluted when it was owned by Stewart-Warner/Bassick Sack, according to the presentation.

The new owners drew up an agreement with state officials, in May 2014, to implement a plan to treat

See Neighbors on A2

\$2.2 million grant to help Early Head Start program form in Forsyth County

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Family Services, the nonprofit that administers the Head Start program in Forsyth County within its Child Development division, announced Tuesday, April 7, that it has received \$2.2 million in federal funding that will bring the Early Head Start program to Forsyth County in September.

The initial grant period for Forsyth County is for three years, and is open for

renewal.

Early Head Start (EHS) will operate year-round and serve low-income families with children from birth to 36 months of age, providing critical education and development services. EHS will serve 120 infants and toddlers and their families.

The federal funds also will allow Family Services to hire more people. "The Early Head Start grant will pay the salaries of at least 42 full-time staff mem-

bers," said Bob Feikema, president and CEO of Family Services.

Family Services will pilot a new model for Early Head Start that requires collaboration among community childcare providers to deliver the program. This model is intended to strengthen the community's system of early childhood development programs.

"We will be partnering

See Grants on A2



Bob Feikema, center, President and CEO of Family Services, visits with the 3-year-old students of Ms. Reyas, left, and Ms. Wright, at the Sarah Y. Austin Head Start Center on Tuesday, April 7. Family Services received a grant to form the Early Head Start program in Forsyth County.

Rep. Hanes calls for statewide body cameras

Winston-Salem already has them

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

N.C. House Rep. Edward "Ed" Hanes has presented a bill to the House that would call for most of the police officers in the state to wear body cameras and to activate them when interacting with residents in certain situations.

House Bill 537, which was filed last week, calls for law enforcement officers in a population



Hanes

with more than 200,000 people to activate body-worn cameras when dealing with the public.

"The thing that we've tried to focus on is this necessary interaction between the police and the community and the fact that people on both sides of that argument need to and want to feel like they're protected. We want to put both sides in the

position that they know when they're interacting with each other, that there is an eye in the sky," Hanes said.

The bill would also fund the cameras with a \$5 million appropriation from grant dollars from the Governors Crime Commission within the Department of Public Safety for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 fiscal years to purchase and maintain the cameras, including the costs related to the retention and storage of recordings captured.

See Cameras on A2

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