

About to erupt?

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WSSU Baseball

See Sports on B1

2015 FOOTBALL \$40 GENERAL ADMISSION SEASON TICKETS



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THE CHRONICLE

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WSTA changing most bus routes

Public input meetings scheduled throughout city

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Transit Authority is preparing for the first ever major overhaul of its routes, and the public is being invited to give its input.

WSTA will be holding more than 20 meetings around the city to get public comments on the proposed changes, which will go into effect later this year or early next year. WSTA General Manager Art Barnes said that WSTA

has made small changes to its past four decades, become inefficient. "Instead of forest, we've been trees for a long time," he said. "So we decided to est, and some of wanted to do is how we can efficient, and that routes to our major generators ... like malls and hospitals, social services."



Barnes

Some of the routes go back decades, back to the Safe Bus Co., the precursor to the WSTA. Safe Bus was a pri-

incremental routes over the but that's over the years. dealing with the dealing with the time," he said. deal with the for- the things we take a look at become more means some direct

vate, black-owned bus company founded in 1926 to provide mass transit for the black sections of the city during segregation. The company would operate until 1972, when it was bought out by the city and became the WSTA, which now makes more than 2 million passenger trips a year and provides service seven days a week.

Barnes said making incremental changes had caused some routes to lengthen and caused passengers to take longer to get to their destinations. He said the goal with the new routes will be to have shorter travel time, better passenger access and increase the frequency of bus service. This will all be done at the current cost of the transit system, using the same amount of miles driven and worker hours. There won't be an increased cost to passengers

See Routes on A2

UNREST IN BALTIMORE



AP Photo/Patrick Semansky

A man walks past a burning police vehicle, Monday, April 27, during unrest following the funeral of Freddie Gray in Baltimore. Gray died from spinal injuries about a week after he was arrested and transported in a Baltimore Police Department van.

Hopes of peace before justice fall with riots

BY E. R. SHIPP SPECIAL TO THE AFRO-AMERICAN NNPA MEMBER

BALTIMORE — Just hours before Baltimore went upside down, the Rev. Lisa Weah prayed at Freddie Gray's funeral "that Baltimore will be a model of how to move forward and to be better than what we've been."

After many more rich words that fed the soul and fired the resolve Monday [April 27], we went into the great unknown hoping for a miracle.

But a nightmare had been unfolding even as we heard such inspiring words from the Rev. Jamal Bryant, who was anointed by no less than the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. as a worthy standard bearer in these times; from Billy Murphy, the lawyer who claimed he did not know how to preach but set the

Perspective

house afire anyway; from Rep. Elijah Cummings; and from Jackson himself.

The Baltimore Police Department had sent word out that law enforcement personnel were being threatened by a frightening coalition of Crips, Bloods and the Black Guerrilla Family. About the same time, someone sent word out to school-age Baltimoreans to meet at the Mondawmin Mall for a "purge."

So even before Freddie Gray's casket was low-

See Unrest on A5

Council to vote on contested rezoning issue in E. Winston

BY CHANEL DAVIS THE CHRONICLE

Two different agencies are hoping that the Winston-Salem City Council will vote Monday, May 4 in their favor when it comes to the property at 939 Cleveland Ave.

The Housing Authority of Winston-Salem's (HAWS) Board of Commissioners voted to sign a petition of protest against the rezoning of the property at 939 Cleveland Ave. at a special meeting that was called on April 21. A petition of protest triggers a super majority of the City Council in order for the rezoning to pass, thus it would require six members to pass instead of five, the mayor would have to vote.

The petition could prevent The Salvation Army from purchasing the daycare building from Greater Cleveland Christian Church and turning it into an estimated 90-bed facility to house homeless individuals directly across from the Oaks at Tenth property.

"The reason that this building interests us is because it's a place we have the money on hand to buy, it's adequate for our needs because it has nine rooms already where we can have 12 people per room and it has a kitchen already in," said Major James Allison. "Some of the folks in the neighborhood and Housing Authority think that it would deter the plan (Cleveland Avenue Initiative Masterplan) and the investors from coming and investing in the neighborhood. I don't believe that would happen."

The Salvation Army leased 901 Cleveland Ave. back in October with hopes to purchase the adjacent property in question. The goal is to relocate the nonprofit's family shelter there. The purchase of the building would be temporary, although there is no current date as to when The Salvation Army would leave. The organization is hoping to raise funds to create a future building to hold its administrative offices, family shelter and emergency assistance offices.

"The Salvation Army is committed to serving homeless women and families. This is a great opportunity for us to continue to do all of that," Allison said. "We don't plan to be there one day longer than we have to. It will take some time to build and hold the campaign, though."

The organization said that the facility will provide better access to public transportation, the Department of Social Services and the Department of Mental Health.

Also, the organization touts the proximity to its administrative office as another reason to have its facility there.

"This gives us the ability to provide better services through those emergency facilities while they are staying with us," Allison said. "They are all a straight shot from where the building would be. The icing on the cake would be the two lovely playgrounds for the children that are with us."

Larry Woods, CEO of the HAWS, said that the petition is not against the agency but against having the shelter there.

Residents oppose rezoning. See page A9

See Rezoning on A9

Community honors Geneva Brown: educator, Sunday school teacher, golfer

BY FELECIA PIGGOTT-LONG, PH.D. FOR THE CHRONICLE

In spite of the rain and the chill factor, more than 200 administrators, educators, former students, former employees, family members and friends made their way to the auditorium of the Simon G. Atkins Academic & Technology High School on Saturday, April 25, to honor the legacy of Geneva Anita Bland Brown.

On this special day, two crystal vases of pink and green gladiolus rested on each side of the

podium. Easels of Brown's paintings of landscapes, portraits and a still life lined the stage of the auditorium. Moore School musicians and singers walked onto the stage to sing "I Believe I Can Fly" and raised lit candles as they sang "A Candle for Remembering." One student stepped forward to say, "We know that Mrs. Brown loved all children. She taught us that if we believe in ourselves, we will fly."

The Rev. Dr. Bill J. Leonard, Professor at

Photo by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle

A portrait of the beloved Geneva Brown sits outside the Simon G. Atkins Academic & Technology High School auditorium on Saturday, April 25, 2015.



See Brown on A8

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