

UFO?

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THE CHRONICLE

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Family accuses government of wrongdoing

Part Two

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

Editor's note — This is Part 2 of The Chronicle's examination of what happened to elderly Winston-Salem citizen Napoleon Wilson, how he was allegedly abused while under the guardianship of the Forsyth County Department of Social Services, and allegations that his estate

was illegally mishandled under the auspices of the Forsyth County Clerk of Superior Court's Office.

This examination is part of a larger series of stories by The Chronicle probing growing evidence of mismanagement at the Clerk's Office dating back at least a decade, that may have resulted in the estates and properties of elderly



Wilson

or disabled African-Americans being squandered, and black families being hurt.

Sandra Jackson didn't know what was going on, but one thing she did know was that her cousin, Napoleon Wilson, 81, was nowhere to be found.

It was August 2005. According to an August 23 notarized letter

from a psychiatrist at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center (WFUBMC) to the Forsyth Clerk of Superior Court, cousin Napoleon was brought in to the unit there five days earlier, "... after law enforcement became concerned about his mental status," the implication being that the elderly Wilson had been picked up by Winston-Salem police after allegedly displaying disturbing behavior.

But when Jackson heard from

See Family on A10

W-S HISTORY



Photo by Todd Luck

Former Reynoldstown resident James Grace recalls the neighborhood's heyday.

Reynoldstown gets historic marker

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

Reynoldstown, a neighborhood originally created for tobacco workers that has a rich African American history, got a historic marker on Saturday, November 15.

The marker unveiling was held at the corner of Cameron Avenue and Eighth Street at one of the entrances to the neighborhood. Reynoldstown, originally called Cameron Park, was built in 1919 by the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company as a neighborhood of rent-to-own bungalows to ease a housing shortage. Initially most of the homes were rented to white Reynolds employees. But by 1937, the neighborhood had become populated by black homeowners.

The shift happened after Atkins High School was a built just a few blocks away in 1931.

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commissioner Langdon Oppermann said that black teenagers would

walk through the neighborhood, which is on Cameron Avenue between 8th and 10th streets, to get to school. She said this resulted in white residents moving out and in about a year the neighborhood had become predominately black. She said black residents not only bought the houses, but also the side lots in which they built houses in the styles common to the 1940s. She said the alternating architectural styles are still present in the neighborhood today.

"This neighborhood visually tells a story, it tells a story of a switch from the white to African-American, from renter to owner," said Oppermann, who helped get the neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

Oppermann said well-known past residents in the neighborhood included former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Togo West, funeral home owner Clark Brown and

See Marker on A10

Spaulding, Cooper almost face off at event

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

The closest state Attorney General Roy Cooper and former State Rep. Ken Spaulding have come to a debate thus far was last Saturday morning in Chapel Hill during the Bi-Annual Convention of the African-American Caucus of the Democratic Party. Indeed, caucus members from across the state passed a resolution urging both Democratic candidates for governor to schedule debates prior to their March 15th primary date next year.

Spaulding, a successful Durham attorney from a prominent African-American family, has been running for the opportunity to be the party standard-bearer to unseat incumbent Republican Gov. Pat McCrory since he began his candidacy two years ago. He's also been challenging Cooper to debate since the attorney general announced his candidacy over a month ago.

Thus far, Cooper has ignored Spaulding's challenges, so after he addressed caucus members at the Sheraton Europa Saturday morning, with Spaulding sitting right in front of him at a table, Cooper said "Thank you," and immediately headed for the door.

But not before Spaulding, who followed with his remarks, opened with a rhetorical jab, publicly challenging the attorney general to stand and debate.

"Well I see that the attorney general is leaving," Spaulding quipped before Cooper could leave the room, as many in the room chuckled. "The true meaning of run and hide," later adding, "Run right out of this meeting ... hide from a debate, will not debate me. I wonder why?"

During his earlier remarks to statewide caucus members, Cooper reiterated how North Carolina's gubernatorial race in 2016 will be "the most watched" in the nation, given the state's high political profile. He blasted Gov. McCrory and the state Legislature for helping rich people at the expense of the poor, and how that had to change. Cooper also talked about his upbringing in Eastern North Carolina, and the values of hard work and fairness that he learned then, and still carries on today.

He made no acknowledgment of opponent Spaulding, who was sitting right in front of him as he spoke and asked for the statewide caucus' support.

During his remarks, however, Spaulding immediately sought to distinguish himself from the attorney general, calling him the "establishment candidate" of the state Democratic Party who already had the support of most prominent black elected leaders across the state.

"Let me say to you that I'm not a politician. I'm not going to [stand] here and say the politically correct things to say," Spaulding declared. "I want to be a public servant, and in the process of that, I think you want a candidate who's going to be his true self, and tell it like it is. This is not a beauty contest."

Noting that Cooper had said that he was the "best

See Event on A2



Ministers voice concerns about Business 40 project

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

Members of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) recently sat down with ministers of churches that have been directly affected by the Business 40 Improvement Project.

With construction in the early stages, a number of ministers in the area have already seen the project affect their congregations in the worse way.



Because of the road construction near the

"The impact, as of now, has been drastic," said the Rev. William Brown, pastor of Rising Ebenezer Baptist Church. "I have had a number of frustrated members call with complaints about the road construction in the

church, located on Free Street, members and visitors have a hard time getting to the church. Brown said he came to the meeting to find out more information to pass on to his congregation.

"With all of the traffic and commotion, it can be disturbing, especially for older members. Change comes hard for our seniors."

NCDOT Engineer Pat Ivey recognizes the

See Concerns on A2

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