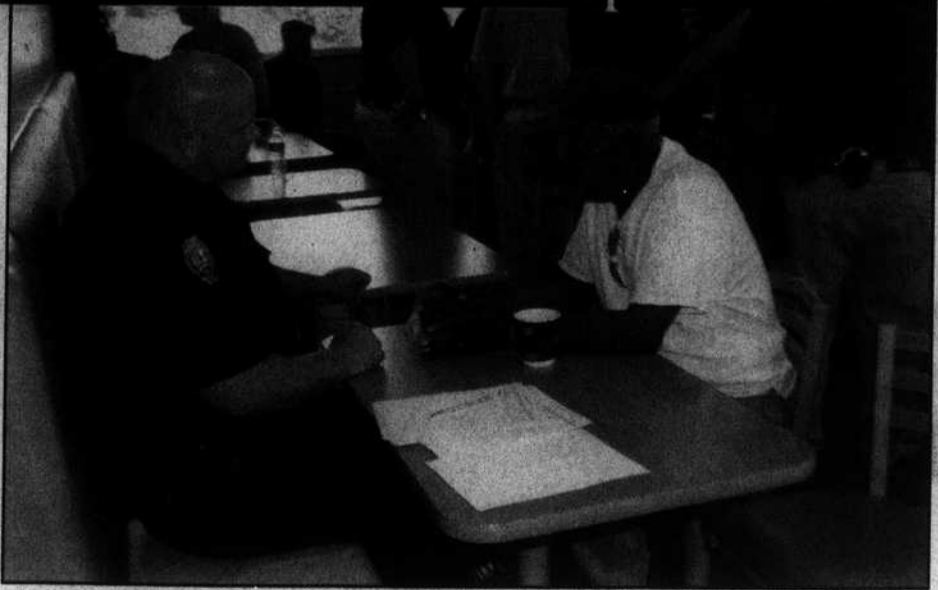


# Police mingle at East Winston 'Coffee with a Cop' event



Assistant Chief Katrina Thompson has a conversation with Al Harvey during "Coffee with a Cop" at the McDonald's on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive on Tuesday, May 16.

An officer with the Winston-Salem Police Department sits down with a resident during "Coffee with a Cop" on Tuesday, May 16.

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Officers with the Winston-Salem Police Department (WSPD) sat down with members of the East Winston community earlier this week when they hosted their second "Coffee with a Cop" event at the McDonald's on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

More than a dozen officers attended the event, designed to bring police officers and community members together on Tuesday, May 16, including Chief Barry Rountree, who will retire later this year.

"It's always good when the officers can come out and meet with citizens in a setting like this," said Rountree. "This give citizens an opportunity to ask questions, have coffee and a pastry and just enjoy themselves."

Rountree said while several community members had a list of questions for officers, several people in attendance just wanted to have general conversations with officers. One of those residents was Marva Reid. Reid who serves as president of the East/Northeast Winston Neighborhood Association, said although she has been working with the WSPD since 2005, it feels good to see others getting out and connecting with police.

"This is awesome," said Reid. "They used to have other programs like 'Chat with the Chief,' but this environment is a lot more welcoming."

While "Coffee with a Cop" is still new to the city, Chief Rountree said, they have already planned to host the event in other communities in the near future. The first event was held in March at the Whole Foods location on Miller Street.

"We had a really good turnout at the first 'Coffee with a Cop' and I knew we would do the same here in this community," he said. "There are a lot of good people in this community who want to interact with police officers."

# County considers universal recycling bids

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Residents in unincorporated areas of the county may see universal curbside recycling service starting this fall.

Forsyth County commissioners are considering several bids for the service to all 25,137 households in the county's unincorporated areas. The county ended its voluntary subscription recycling service last year after two service providers didn't renew their contracts. Providers were losing money on the service due to low participation

and a downturn in the commodities market.

In February, after many complaints about the service ending, the county decided to try a new tactic: a mandatory universal service for unincorporated county residents, which they would pay with an annual fee on their property tax bill. At the time, Minor Barnette, director of Forsyth's environmental assistance and protection office, was hoping the service could begin by July and was confident he could negotiate the price down to below \$15.

The formal bidding

process took longer than expected and Barnette reported back to commissioners with the results last week.

"We had some significant responses from several companies to the request for proposals on curbside collection in the unincorporated areas of the county," he said.

The lowest bidder, North Davidson Garbage Company, was confident it could start the service by October and would only need to charge \$2.47 a month per household, which would include providing 96 gallon carts. That

would come out to \$29.64 annually.

"I will tell you, that's a bargain," said County Commissioner Chairman Dave Plyler.

The other bids for universal service with 96 gallon carts provided were Republic Services for \$4.45 a month per household and Waste Management for \$7.85. The prices are only what the haulers would charge. What households pay would be a little higher due to administrative fees from the county.

North Davidson Garbage Company was

established in 1970 and has over 15,000 residential and commercial customers in Davidson County and surrounding areas. Any recyclables it collects are processed at its own recycling facility, which it completed in 2011.

County Commissioner Everette Witherspoon asked if the price from North Davidson might be too low for them to effectively provide the service. He was assured the county would be doing its due diligence to make sure the company can do the job.

The recycling proposal will be a part of county

budget discussions, which will begin in earnest next week.

This will not affect the county's subscription garbage collection service, which is under contract until next year. In February, commissioners did discuss the possibility of changing garbage to a universal service after that. Curbside garbage and recycling collection as a mandatory universal service could drive down the cost residents pay and reduce the amount of illegal dumping in the county.



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