

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

• See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7 •

• See Sports on page B1 •

THE CHRONICLE

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What would be in a 2018 bond?

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

More two-way streets downtown? A second phase for Quarry Park? Millions for workforce housing? Those are just some of the possibilities for a potential 2018 bond.

The Winston-Salem City Council appointed a Citizens' Capital Needs Committee in September to review the city's \$630 million worth of capital needs for a potential bond referendum next year. The committee narrowed it down to a \$120.3 million



Mayor Joines

bond package that would result in a 4 cent tax increase.

The next step will be a workshop held on Monday, Jan. 29, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in which the council will examine the recommendations. If the council decides to move forward with a bond, it could be placed on the November ballot for voter approval.

The last referendum was in 2014 when voters approved \$139.2 million in general obligation bonds, which included new police district offices and transforming a former quarry into a new park. Most of those bond projects have been completed, but a few

like Happy Hill Park renovations, have yet to break ground.

Mayor Allen Joines said doing regular bonds is necessary to keep up with a city's capital needs. He said the committee did a good job finding needed upkeep projects.

"I think they acknowledge that you have to take care of your existing facilities before you build new ones," said Joines.

The committee ranked projects on things like reducing service costs, urgency of need, how it'd improve service and how it



This concept art shows what downtown Liberty Street would like as a two-way street.

enhances the economic, social or natural environment. Some projects, like repairing the fountains at Corpening Plaza, weren't part of the recommendations. However, many projects did make the cut. The City Council, with

input from the community, may decide to change, add or subtract from the committee's recommendations. Here's the recommendations, organized by category, with the approximate

See Bond on A8

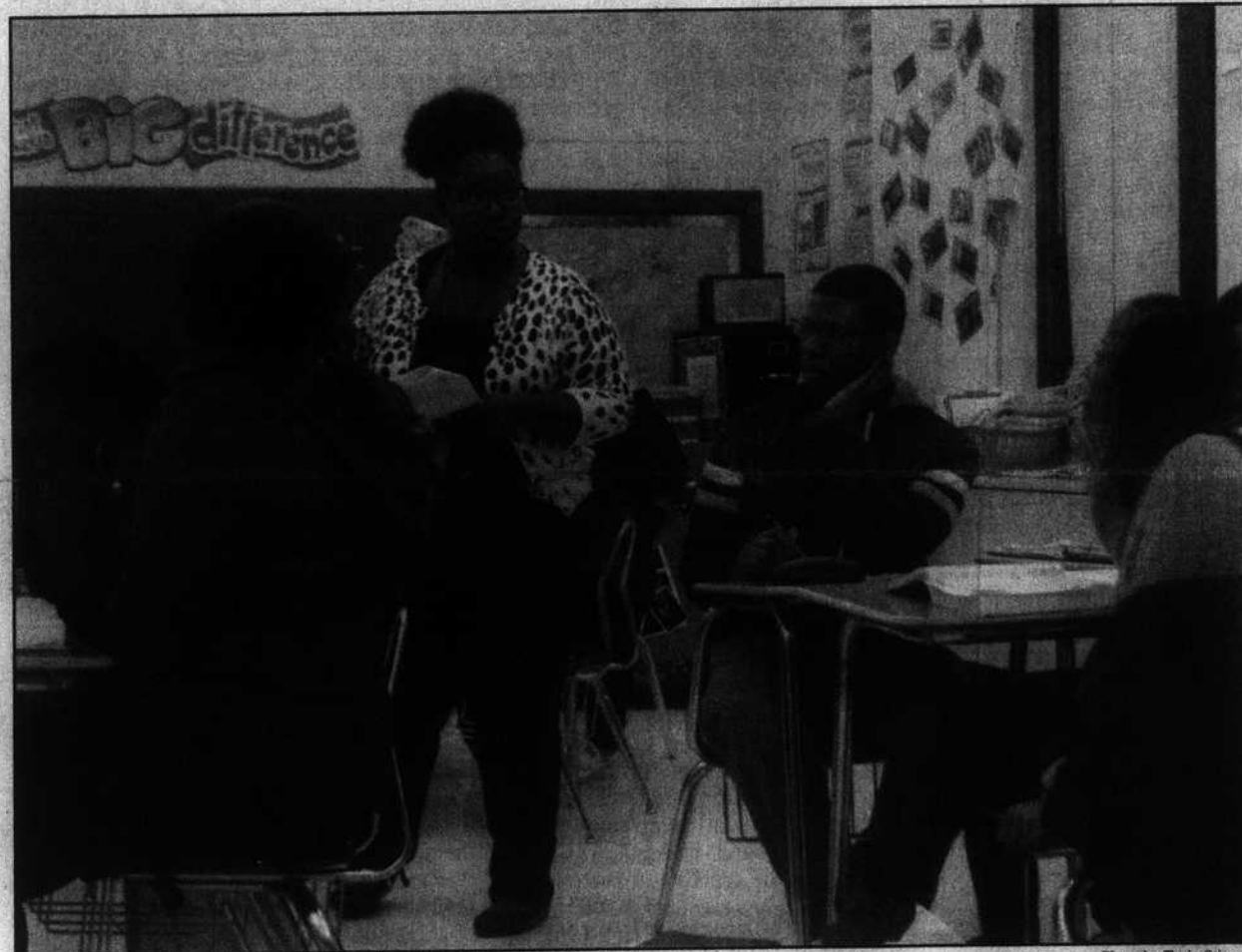


Photo by Tevin Stinson

Teacher Jessica Ridgeway, far left, teaches African-American literature at Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy. It is unlike many other elective courses offered across the district.

African-American literature comes to Prep

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Seniors at Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy (WSPA) have the opportunity to take an English course that is unlike anything else being taught in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district. If you were to walk into Jessica Ridgeway's first period English, class you would see what I mean.

For the first time, Ridgeway, who is a third-year teacher at WSPA, is teaching an African-American literature course. Ridgeway said she got the idea for the course after introducing her junior Advanced Placement (AP) course to a number of African-American classics last year.

She said after witnessing her students engage and have constructive conversations, she knew it would be a good idea.

"The AP students really enjoyed the African-American literature I gave them last year, so they wanted a course just for that their senior year," continued Ridgeway. "And that's what we did. I fought for it and we got it."

Although the course may be tougher than the average elective course, the juniors from Ridgeway's 2016 junior AP English course were eager to sign up for the class. After each lesson, students are required to present a Socratic seminar, where they are required to come up with

See Prep on A8

Liberty Market in transition once again

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The city is once again considering its options for the Liberty Street Market after the contract with its latest manager ended.

The market consists of two shelters the city built on a lot it owns at 1591 N. Liberty St., which originally opened in October 2014 with a variety of farmers and other vendors, but closed the following year after low vendor and customer turnout. After that, the city continued to rent it out for various events.

This year, the city accepted an unsolicited proposal from RaVonda Dalton-Rann's R and Company LLC, to once again hold a farmers market there. The contract was



File Photo

The Liberty Street Market is in another transitional phase after another attempt at hosting a farmers market there ended.

for \$1,800 a month to manage the market for a six-month trial period, which ran out on Oct. 31. All revenue from vendor and rental fees went to the city.

The market reopened on Saturday, July 8, with a shelter full of urban farmers, most of whom were graduates of the Cooperative Extension's Urban Farm school. Dalton-Rann said farmers came as they had produce, but that number decreased as time went on and fall approached.

She said she kept it open on Saturdays even if it was

See Market on A8

New season for Chronicle, other community mainstays

BY DONNA ROGERS
THE CHRONICLE

2017 started with President Barack Obama, beloved leader of the United States, adored by the black community, leaving that office. Donald Trump won the Electoral

2017 Looking back

College but not the popular vote. Many people didn't think Trump would replace Obama, who said Obama was not born in the United States.

Amid that scenario, the biggest overhaul of bus routes in Winston-Salem Transit Authority's history

began on Jan. 2. There are 30 newly drawn bus routes with more than 1,000 bus stops. The routes have been redesigned to cut down on ride time and include new crosstown routes. Winston-Salem Transit

See 2017 on A8

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