

50 years later...

Sneakers
& Spring

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THE CHRONICLE

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, April 5, 2018

Leaders vow transparency in fatal police shooting

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

The community and the family of a black man fatally wounded by a Winston-Salem police officer wait for answers.

Those who know Edward Van McCrae describe him as a loving and caring father, grandfather, and brother. Although her father did have a criminal past, in a social media post Kimneika McCrae wrote: "No one's past should define the present or the future."

She continued, "If there are any findings of wrong

doings by the Winston-Salem Police Department, my family and I will seek justice for my father."

The NAACP, the Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity (MCWSV) and several elected officials held a press conference on Monday, April 2, promising transparency following the fatal police involved shooting of 60-year-old Edward Van McCrae.

During Monday night's City Council meeting, Winston-Salem Police Department Chief Catrina Thompson echoed what other leaders had been say-



McCrae



McGuire

ing. She read the release on the incident and asked for prayers for the families of both McCrae and Officer

McGuire.

"As your chief of police, I am asking for patience in allowing this

investigation to take place," said Thompson.

"The Winston-Salem Police Department is cooperating fully with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation as well as our District Attorney's Office. It is our promise that we will be totally transparent and continue to be cooperative during this investigative process. Again, I am asking for peace, calm and patience. Winston-Salem is a great community, we're not like many other communities across the country. We work together and strive to do what's right all the time."

Here's what we know from the police report of the incident: at 10:34 p.m. on Friday, March 30, while patrolling the 2000 block of Bowen Boulevard, Officer D.E. McGuire stopped a vehicle that was occupied by two men and a woman for undisclosed reasons. According to a police report, Officer McGuire saw McCrae making suspicious movements in the back seat of the car and told him to stop multiple times. After calling for backup, Officer McGuire ordered McCrae

See Shooting on A6



Community activist Yusef Suggs El and other residents had a lot of questions for Mayor Allen Joines last week during an open discussion at 14th Street Community Center.

Joines answers tough questions on 2018 bond proposal

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Members of the East/Northeast Neighborhood Association and more than a dozen other community advocates sat down with Mayor Allen Joines last week to voice their concerns with the 2018 Bond Proposal.

Last month city officials began their push for another bond package by holding a series of community meetings at various locations throughout the city. While a meeting was being

held just a few miles away at Parkview Church of God on Thursday, March 29, an impromptu meeting broke out at the 14th Street Community Center on the same night when Marva Reid invited the Mayor Joines to speak.

"City Council is doing a good job of putting out information on the bonds but it's up to us to find out how they will impact our community," said Reid president of the East/Northeast Neighborhood Association. "If you want to know

what's going on the information is there."

To begin his discussion on the bonds Joines said, "It's kind of like maintaining a house. Occasionally you may have to put a new furnace in or whatever the case may be and the city is the same way."

Joines mentioned that other metro cities in NC have bond projects every two to three years. Before 2014, the city of Winston-Salem had not approved a bond package since

See Bond on A6

Democracy on display at elections open house

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The Forsyth County Board of Elections (BOE) held an open house on Tuesday, March 27. The event featured election information, voter registration, poll worker sign-up, a demonstration on the new AutoMark machine for visually impaired voters, a look at the ballots that'll be used in the primary and refreshments.

On that same day, the State Board of Elections appointed a new Forsyth BOE based on the nominations made by local political parties.

The new members are Democrats Susan Campbell and Robert Durrah, and Republicans Stuart Russell and John Loughridge Jr. The board is evenly divided between parties because of a new law, though that may change as that law is being disputed in court.

Former BOE Chair Ken Raymond has resigned from both the Forsyth BOE and the Winston-Salem State University Board of Trustees for his new position on the North Carolina State Board of Elections and Ethics Commission.

Early voting begins April 19 at the Forsyth BOE, 201 N. Chestnut St. and will include same-day voter registration. Sample ballots can be found on the BOE's website at www.forsyth.cc/elections under "Election Info."

Below is a list of election forums and meet-and-greets made known to The Chronicle by press time:

April 10 - Candidate Meet and Greet
Morningside and Reynolds Park Road Neighborhood Association, Konnoak Hills Neighborhood Association

See Open House on A7



Campbell

CAMPAIGN

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Black reporter was there when MLK was killed

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

On April 4, 1968 - 50 years ago this week - a shot rang out aimed at the second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn.

Civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been killed, and Earl Caldwell, an African-American, was the only reporter there to witness the shooting.

Caldwell was a national correspondent for The New York Times 50 years ago, one of the first blacks on staff. He would later write for the New York Amsterdam News, New York City's lead black newspaper. His name is renowned in the annals of American journalism because in 1970, Caldwell refused to be an informant for the FBI on the Black Panther Party. The case was ultimately decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, and as a result, all reporters today enjoy certain constitu-

tional protections.

In a 2014 interview with the Black Press, Caldwell, 83, a writer-in-residence at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, recalled that fateful day when "The Dreamer" was killed on the balcony right above him.

It was Caldwell's first assignment in the "Deep South." His white New York Times editor,

See MLK on A7

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