

Biz 40

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parking lot, and Route 84, whose lot will be on the Macy's side of Hanes Mall. Other routes will be added to the service in the coming months.

Carson-Wilkins said WSTA will also be offering Travel Training workshops that will be available to communities and businesses to teach new riders how to navigate the bus system.

Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) is also joining in,

with discounted rates for its buses. PART is also sharing transfer points with WSTA for the first time ever, which will allow PART customers to board a WSTA bus at no cost. The shared transfer points will be located at the intersections of Fourth and Chestnut streets along with Fifth Street and Research Parkway. Christina Ware took notes during Friday's presentation. She rides TransAid, which provides on-demand rides for qualified handicap riders, but was asked by numerous friends who work to attend

the 10 a.m. meeting for them. She has local neighbors as well as friends who live in Kernersville, King and Greensboro that use Business 40 to drive to work. She said they're concerned about the closing and are considering using the bus instead. She felt WSTA's various enhancements will make things easier when the highway closes.

"I think it's going to be a great opportunity for them to lower some of the frustration that may come when 40 shuts down," she said.

WSTA information meetings:

- South Fork Rec. Center-Oct. 17, 4-6 p.m.
- William C. Sims Rec. Center-Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Hanes Hosiery Rec. Center-Oct. 22, 5-7 p.m.
- Reynolda Branch Library-Oct. 23, 4-6 p.m.
- Clark Campbell Transportation Center-Oct. 24, 5-7 p.m.



The crowd enjoys the comedy show hosted by the Big 4 Alumni Association on Friday, Oct. 12 at St. John C.M.E. Church.



A local comedian kept the crowd in stitches during the Family Fun Night and Comedy Show hosted by the Big 4 Alumni Association on Friday, Oct. 12.

Reunion

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community through outreach and community service during its Annual Big 4 Alumni Celebration.

Part of the annual celebration was cancelled because remnants of Hurricane Michael whipped through the Triad.

This year's celebration began on Wednesday, Oct. 10 with the Big 4 Day of Service. The day started at the Public Safety Center where alumni from the four schools donated more than 100 teddy bears to the Winston-Salem Police Department for children who have experienced tragedies and trauma.

Frank Thomas, who serves as the organization's sergeant at arms, said they decided to donate to the WSPD because the Big 4 is all about uplifting the community. He said, "We are so honored that we can present these bears for your violence

prevention program.

"We hope that they will be beneficial in the long run and we hope we can do this again."

That same day, alumni from the four historic schools continued to use their efforts to uplift the community with a clothing drive at the Urban League. The clothing drive, which started at 10 a.m. and continued well into the day, was designed to give unemployed seniors in the Urban League's job training program attire to wear to interviews.

Day Two of the annual celebration, which was a praise and worship service at Emmanuel Baptist Church, was cancelled due to Hurricane Michael, but the festivities continued on Friday, Oct. 12 with the Teachers and Educators Appreciation Luncheon.

The event gave former students a chance to thank the teachers and educators for their commitment to academic excellence and the values they taught during

their formative years.

Carver alumna and soon to be one of the newest members of the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School's Board of Education, Malishai Woodbury, delivered the keynote address. Following the luncheon, Rudolph Boone Sr., who was a long-time music and band teacher at Carver High School, said it was one of the best tributes ever.

"That was one of the best tributes to the Big 4 teachers," said Boone. "Hats off to the Anderson, Atkins, Carver, and Paisley High Alumni Association for sponsoring these luncheons for 30 years."

Later that same day, alumni came together again for an evening of comedy, fun, and entertainment during Family Fun Night at St. John CME Church. Following dinner, those in attendance were treated to live music and a stand-up comedian who kept the crowd in stitches throughout the evening.

The festivities ended on Saturday, Oct.

11 with the Big 4 Gala Concert and Dance at the Benton Convention Center. The headliner was local cover band P Funk, who performed their unique sounds designed to take those in attendance down memory lane and ensure the alumni had the right tunes to dance the night away.

After attending most of the events incorporated within the annual celebration, several alumni from all four schools praised the organization's officers for their hard work and dedication to make the celebration a success.

"This entire week has just been amazing. Any time you have a chance to re-connect with old classmates and friends, it's always a blessing," said a graduate from Atkins High School. "I can't wait to see what's in store for the celebration next year. I've already marked my calendar."

For more information on the Big 4 Alumni Association visit www.big4fc.org.



Zoning

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that include hotels, hospitals and colleges.

About 20 residents attended the meeting holding red plates that read "Stop UDO 283," which is the name of the zoning amendment. Eight of them argued during the public comment session that the amendment took away the people's voice in those zoning cases and could lead to gentrification in the surrounding areas.

The comments were often heated and condemned the council. Yusef Suggs accused developers of originating UDO-283. According to Planning

Director Aaron King, multifamily development in commercial zoning districts is part of the Legacy 2030 development plan. King said allowing multifamily in HB and GO was a recommendation from a report in the Development Department's annual Work Program last year and did not originate with the development community.

Carolyn Highsmith with the New South Community Coalition said she'd requested that two areas in the South Ward be omitted because she said it contradicted the area's development plan.

"You have messed up the South Suburban Area

Plan and its update," said Highsmith, who asked for a comprehensive plan for multi-use development and affordable housing.

Jon Lowder, executive director of the Piedmont Triad Apartment Association, was the one person who spoke in favor of the zoning change, saying that it wouldn't cause gentrification, but would help prevent it by increasing the amount of housing in Winston-Salem. He said housing prices go up when there isn't enough of it in a city.

"The greatest threat that will cause gentrification is a lack of housing," said Lowder.

Montgomery, who represents the East Ward and is also The Chronicle's co-

owner, said he voted against the amendment for HB districts because he was concerned about its effects on one area. He disagreed with critics of the measure, but urged those unhappy with the vote to channel that anger into action for affordable housing. Among the consent agenda items passed that night was the creation of the Winston-Salem Affordable Housing Coalition. The 11-resident coalition will advise the City Council on the use of city funds to support affordable housing.

"There are opportunities to actually get at the real concern and UDO-283, in my opinion, is not the real concern," he said.

Photo by Todd Luck
Attendees hold plates to show their opposition to UDO-283 at a City Council meeting held Monday night.



Montgomery

"The real concern is how we protect neighborhoods and communities and protect affordability in the city, and the tools for that are still able to be created."

East Ward special election request

Also during the meeting, the City Council approved adding to its legislative agenda the city's draft of a local act to amend the city charter to allow for special elections with primaries for City Council vacancies. Montgomery is stepping down to replace former State Rep. Ed Hanes in the General Assembly. Annette Scippio was chosen by her fellow East Ward Democrats to be the ward's next council member. The City Council intends for her to serve until it can hold a special election, which could include the seats of Adams or Dan Besse if either of them win their respective races this November. The

special election would have a 14-day filing period with a primary held within 60 days after that and a general election held within 60 days after that. This measure passed the council unanimously.

Another measure with proposed legislation that lets one percent of voters in a ward call for a special election for an appointed City Council member originally passed 6-2 with Besse and John Larson in opposition, who cited election costs, the possibility of opposing political parties abusing the provision and that it might make the first local act they just approved less likely to get through the General Assembly. Both council members then changed their vote once it passed, so it would have unified support when going to the General Assembly, which will need to approve those measures for them to become law.

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