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Habitat breaks ground on new development in Northeast Winston

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BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Last week Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County broke ground in the Stone Terrace neighborhood, where they plan to build more than 70 homes over the next few years.

Located near the Ogburn Station community, Stone Terrace was started in 2006 by a private developer who was unable to keep building during the housing crisis. Habitat was able to acquire the property last year and has plans to build 75 homes over the next five to seven years. During the groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, March 5, Executive Director Mike Campbell said he was proud to be a part of a team that's dedicated to bringing affordable housing to Forsyth County.

"Habitat for Humanity Forsyth is committed to making an impact in this city in affordable housing and its economic mobility and creating safe communities," Campbell said.

Habitat serves families earning between 35% - 80% of the area me-

dian income. Families accepted into the program attend a series of classes on home ownership and financial literacy. Families are also required to spend time working on other homes and help build their own homes. Participants then purchase the home through a low-interest mortgage from Habitat. Monthly costs for the mortgage payment and utilities average only \$400-\$500 a month.

According to a city housing assessment, Winston-Salem will need an additional 14,000 housing units by 2027. In addition to Stone Terrace, Habitat plans to continue building and repairing homes in the Bowen Park, Dreamland, and Boston-Thurmond communities to help the city reach that goal.

Mayor Allen Joines applauded Habitat for their continued efforts to bring affordable housing to the area.

"The City of Winston-Salem and Habitat has had an extraordinary partnership for decades.

"I understand that here in Winston-Salem, Habitat has built over 500 homes.



Last week representatives of Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, the City of Winston-Salem and future home owners broke ground on a new development in Northeast Winston.

Photo by Tevin Stinson

That's 500 homes, right ... but think about how it has impacted and changed the lives of 500 families," Joines said. "We've found as we've come in and worked in neighborhoods, we turned neighborhoods around, we turned families around, we've seen the kids do much better in school, there's less crime in those neighborhoods as

you introduce homeowners into those neighborhoods. So Habitat does more than provide homes, they're really making a huge social impact on our city."

City Councilwoman Barbara Burke, who represents the Northeast Ward where Stone Terrace is located, thanked Habitat as well. She said, "Today we are grateful to Habitat

for helping to increase the housing supply in order to close the current gap.

"This is a great investment in our community, so today we celebrate, especially in the Northeast Ward."

Jeanette Brown, who will be one of the first homeowners in Stone Terrace, said she's completed all the hours needed to

complete the program and she's excited to be a homeowner.

"It feels good to have something of my own and not have to rent. I have something now I can leave my kids and my grand-

Black Empowerment Network to focus on promoting economic mobility in minority communities

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem native Algenon Cash has launched a new initiative geared toward educating Black communities and families on public policies that promote economic mobility.

Cash, who is an investment banker with Wharton Gladden, said he started the Black Empowerment Network (BEN) after having a conversation with former U.S. Congressman Mark Walker, following the murder of George Floyd. Cash said Walker reached out and asked if there were any policies he would recommend to ad-



Photo by Tevin Stinson

Algenon Cash speaks during the Black Empowerment Network's launch event held last month at J&S Cafeteria

dress some of the disparities in the Black community.

"To be honest, I wasn't sure what to suggest or recommend to him," Cash continued. "I tend to be more of a centrist in terms of how I think about policymaking and there's not a lot of centrist research policy groups that are out here. So we just kept talking over the summer and eventually we came up with the idea for the Black Empowerment Network."

According to Cash, BEN has already identified several areas that are most impacting to the Black and other minority communities, including police re-

form, home ownership, entrepreneurship, and health care, just to name a few. He said although BEN will be doing some research, the network will be more about action.

"We want to research those areas, but we also don't want to get too bogged down with just researching it because I feel like we've done a lot, that we know what the issues are, we know what the ideas are, we just need to put some of the solutions into action and actually do something about it. We want to build a network where we can act on these issues," Cash said.

Although Cash is a Re-

publican, BEN will be a bi-partisan effort. The initiative has already gained support from former Winston-Salem City Councilman and State Representative Derwin Montgomery, a well-known Democrat, and Rev. Odell Cleveland, who will both serve on the BEN Leadership Committee.

"Quite frankly, I don't think the Republicans or the Democrats have a monopoly on good ideas, so we believe we need to be diverse on how we approach these things, so I wanted to build a diverse leadership committee," said Cash while discussing

BEN leadership.

"I wanted it to be diverse across the state, so hopefully by bringing us together, the best ideas will bubble to the top."

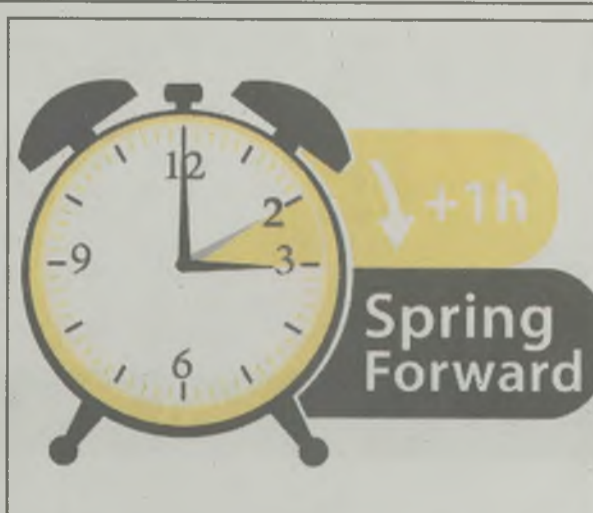
During the launch event for the Black Empowerment Network held last month at J&S Cafeteria in High Point, the keynote address was delivered by Clarence Henderson. Henderson, who also serves on the BEN Leadership Committee, participated in the Greensboro sit-in movement that led to the integration of lunch counters across the South in 1960. He said in any situation, you have to have

a strategy, and moving forward, the Black community has to find a strategy for economic mobility.

"The next civil rights movement is economic empowerment for the Black community and you have to understand how that works," Henderson continued. "It's understanding the free market and capitalist system which doesn't care who owns it."

For more information, visit the Black Empowerment Network Facebook page or contact Algenon Cash at acash@whartongladden.com.

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