

300,000 Motorists In County To Face Added Frustrations

Within the next 18 months Mecklenburg County will join over 100 urban areas in 24 states, required to begin mandatory auto emissions inspections in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's enforcement of the 1977 Clean air Act amendments.

Almost 300,000 motorists in Mecklenburg County and nearly 50 million throughout the country, will then face added frustrations, long inspection lines and the inconvenience of annual emissions inspections, according to the Carolina Motor Club.

The Environmental Protection Agency imposed the I-M program on those urban areas which will not meet 1982 air quality standards.

Mecklenburg County would have met the emissions air quality standards by 1987 without the emissions inspection maintenance program by introducing new automobile technology...but the government won't wait.

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In April, North Carolina's 44 reporting cities of more than 10,000 population authorized almost 4,000 construction units, State Labor Commissioner John Brooks said recently. Building was up 12 percent from the April '80 total. Houses were valued at 61 percent more than a year ago April.

Raleigh for the first time in 1981 led cities in value of authorized construction exceeding \$26 million. Charlotte followed with over \$14 million.

Three of the four categories of construction covered monthly by the state labor department's research and statistics division - multi-family dwellings, single-family homes and nonresidential construction - showed growth in both number of units and value from April 1980. Only additions and alterations dropped in unit numbers and value from the previous year, Brooks said.

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Mecklenburg County requested the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development release Federal Funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 for the county's Community Block Grant Program. A projected \$2 million was allo-

With Susan Ellsworth

Susan's Notes



Susan

cated for improvements in target area neighborhoods of the J.H. Gunn and Pottstown communities. Activities include housing rehabilitation, water and sewer facilities, street improvements, recreation improvements, neighborhood facilities and acquisition, demolition and relocation.

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Congressional redistricting -- will it be a boon to Republicans? When remapping House districts as a result of the 1980 Census one must consider industrial seats in the East and Midwest will lose 17 seats. Area residents are transferring mainly to more conservative states in the South and West.

Census figures show that in 1970-80, in the 30 congressional districts which lost 10-50 percent of their population, all are represented by Democrats. Conversely, among the 30 districts gaining the most population in the decade, 18 are represented by Republicans.

GOP National Chairman Richard Richards is predicting a net House gain in 1982 of 10-12 seats from districting alone, plus other officials added to give Republicans a lock on the House.

Flies exist in the GOP ointment. Democrats are not likely to be steam-rolled with a majority in the legislatures of many states gaining House seats.

Pollsters point out that black migration from South to North halted in the 70s may be reversing itself. This should moderate Southern policies considerable, Richards, said, blunting GOP gains there.

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list, dropped again this year as a result of the continuing slump in auto sales nation-wide.

Combined revenues of the top 100 companies is \$1.5 billion, an increase of 23 percent, nearly the equivalent to the 1980 sales of AMR, Inc., listed 225 on the Fortune 500 list.

Earl G. Graves, publisher of "Black Enterprise," said the performance of black-owned businesses mirrored the general economy, and the major problem for all minority-owned firms--access to credit--will remain through next year.

The top 10 black-owned businesses in 1980, their 1979 rank, main line of business, location and assets, in millions, are:

1) Motown Industries, 1st, entertainment, Detroit, \$91.7

2) Wallace & Wallace Enterprises, 10th, petroleum sales, St. Albans, N.Y., \$81,935

3) Johnson Publishing, 2nd, publishing, broadcasting, Chicago, \$72,974

4) Fedco Foods Corp., 3rd, supermarkets, New York, \$51,654

5) H. J. Russell Construction, 4th, construction, Atlanta, \$51.0

6) Vanguard Oil and Service, 6th, petroleum sales, Brooklyn, 50.5

7) Smith Pipe & Supply, 7th, oilfield products, Houston, \$48.0

8) Johnson Products Co., 5th, cosmetics and hair care products, Chicago, \$41.016

9) Grimes Oil Co., 9th, petroleum sales, Dorchester, Mass., \$40.0

10) Choike International Corp., 11th, defense equipment and crude oil, New York, \$35.0

The North Carolina Employment Security Commission (ESC) recovered over \$120,000 in unemployment insurance overpayments during July, reveal figures released by the commission's anti-fraud unit.

Among the 217 persons investigated who claimed unemployment insurance benefits, 79 percent were overpaid. The commission classified 69 cases as fraud and 102 as non-fraud.

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Atlanta, Georgia, will host the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees (NAPFE) National Executive Board meeting August 20-22. When top leaders of this oldest and largest independent black-led industrial labor union assemble, assessing rank and file sentiment on the tentative postal pact will highlight the agenda. Members will develop strategies to counter attack the Reagan Administration's stand on the elderly, unemployed and the working poor.

Union leaders will also begin planning for NAPFE's 35 Biennial National Convention which will convene in Atlanta next summer. This 68 year old organization has a combined membership of over 100,000 with 125 Locals in 37 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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Energy-related companies dominated the list of the top 100 black-owned businesses, published annually by "Black Enterprise" magazine. Car dealerships, traditionally the largest category on the

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