

# BUSINESS THIS WEEK

## Beatties Ford Road NCNB Renovation

CHARLOTTE - NCNB National Bank plans a major renovation of its Beatties Ford Road office to provide better customer service, said Deborah H. (Debbie) Hanna, Charlotte area consumer banking director.

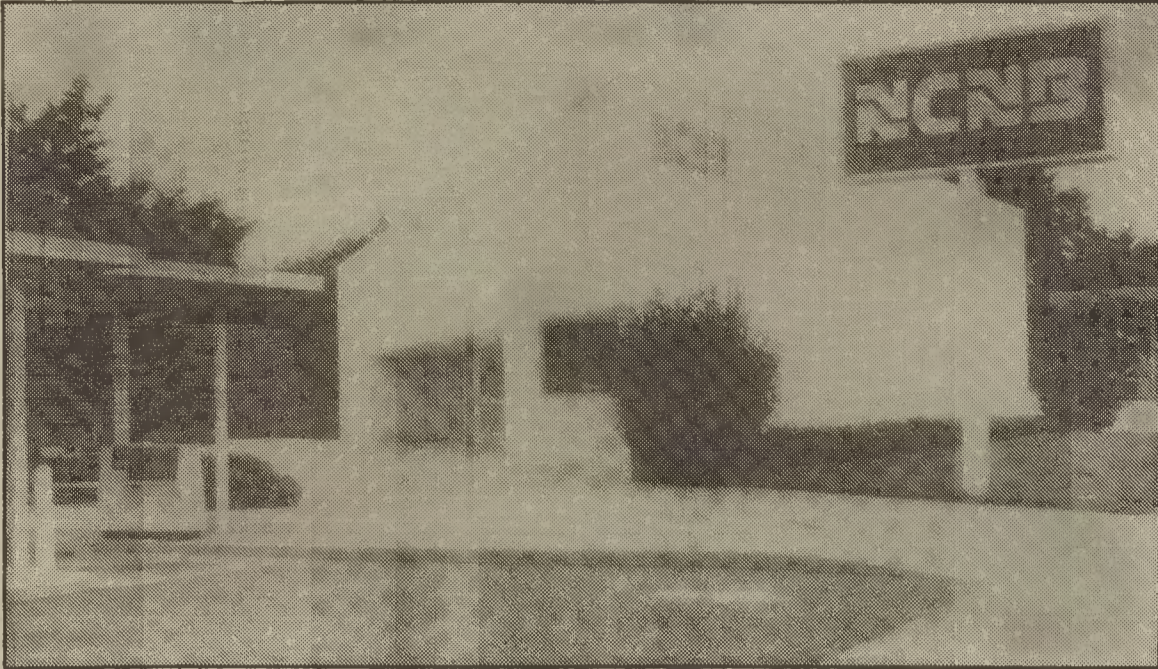
Early fall is the starting date for the renovation, which will cost more than \$100,000, Ms. Hanna said.

"We want to give our customers at the Beatties Ford Road office more privacy and expanded services," Ms. Hanna added. "That is the objective of this renovation, which is the biggest by far for any Charlotte-area branch this year."

The front wall of the office at 2249 Beatties Ford Road will be moved several feet outward to provide more lobby space, Ms. Hanna said. This will allow expanded teller service, give customers more privacy and allow creation of another office, she explained.

The vault will be expanded, bringing a significant addition of safe deposit boxes, she said.

Pap Parrish, manager of NCNB's Beatties Ford office, said the branch will expand its hours, effective August 1, and will no longer close between 1:30 and 3 p.m. daily. New hours will be 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday. The Beatties Ford Road branch is one of four NCNB offices in Charlotte suggested as alternatives for customers of NCNB's North Tryon St. office, which closed at the end of the June 30 business day. NCNB's North Tryon custom-



The Beatties Ford Road office of NCNB will soon undergo major renovation.

Photo/CALVIN FERGUSON

ers have been notified that alternate sites -- in addition to Beatties Ford Road -- are the Northeast office at 3401 The Plaza, the main office in the NCNB Tower at the Square and the UNCC office at 13020 University City Blvd. NCNB's North Tryon branch is one of its oldest in Charlotte, Ms. Hanna said. But an NCNB-commissioned market study showed many customers who use the North Tryon branch are just as close or closer to NCNB's Northeast office, which features much more space for better customer ser-

vice, she added.

Throughout June, Ms. Hanna said, NCNB associates from the four alternate offices worked part-time in the North Tryon branch, to help North Tryon area customers get acquainted with them. Pictures of the managers at the alternate offices are displayed prominently at North Tryon.

NCNB has placed everyone who worked at the North Tryon office in other positions in the Charlotte area, she said.

## NAACP Sues S.C. Cities Over Voting

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) --- The NAACP has filed suit against the city councils of Bennettsville, Gaffney, Kingstree, Saluda and Union, claiming they failed to overhaul voting systems which discriminated against blacks.

"This was to send a message to other cities," said William Gibson, chairman of the NAACP's national board of directors and president of the South Carolina Conference of Branches of the civil rights organization.

"We figured if we filed five simultaneously, we could get more attention," he said Monday.

Gibson, a Greenville dentist, said the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People filed the suits Friday in federal district court. The Gaffney and Union suits were filed in Greenville, the others in Columbia.

The NAACP has vowed to eliminate at-large voting systems in favor of single-member districts in local governments, Gibson said.

Gibson said 24 local governments -- city, county and school districts -- have gone to single-member districts since the NAACP started pushing more than two years ago. But he said more than 200 local governments still have at-large voting.

The federal lawsuits were filed after the five city governments "failed to call or successfully pass a referendum changing their election system to single-member districts," Gibson said.

"This is step one in the process," Gibson said. "Step two is to make certain that you adjust these people's attitudes, whether they be black or white, to what your concerns are and get the message over to them that merely because they are black they will not be sustained in those offices unless they deliver the black agenda. Or if they are white and they are representing those districts, that they must be concerned and their voting records must reflect that."

"So, step one is get them in place. Step two is educate them," he said. "Step three is to make sure, if they don't do what is right, you vote them out and get you some more. That's power."

The cities of Kingstree, Saluda and Union held single-member district referendums that failed. According to NAACP officials, Gaffney and Bennettsville rejected the NAACP's efforts to have their respective systems changed voluntarily.

Since November 1988, the NAACP has filed lawsuits against the Charleston County School Board and County Council and Lancaster City Council.

Nelson B. Rivers, III, executive secretary of the state NAACP, said the extinction of at-large districts could double the number of blacks elected to public office in this state within four or five years.

"By the end of the century, we plan to eliminate for all intents and purposes all at-large discriminatory systems in this state," Rivers said.

Not only can the NAACP change voting systems if it wins the lawsuits, but it also can make money, Gibson said. He

said judges usually make cities pay the NAACP court costs after a case, and the NAACP attorneys usually get less than the judge-

awards in fees. The NAACP gets the difference.

"The national office is committed to this project," Gibson said.

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