

# The Charlotte Post

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75 CENTS

## Starting from scratch

Redrawn 12th Congressional District could extend eastward

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

A N.C. House redistricting plan would replace the majority-black 12th Congressional District thrown out last month by the U.S. Supreme Court with one which stretches from Charlotte to Robeson County.

The new district would be 51.7

percent white; however, House leaders consider it a majority-minority district since it would be 38.6 percent African American and 7.9 percent Native American.

Rep. Mel Watt of Charlotte, who represents the current 12th, would be in the redrawn district under the House plan that will be presented in federal

court. On Monday, the three-judge panel will hear arguments on whether to redraw the state's congressional districts immediately or wait until after the November elections.

The N.C. House, controlled by Republicans, favors redrawing now and has submitted the plan to the court.

Watt said the plan submitted

to the judges was drawn by the rules committee, not the redistricting committee, as he expected.

"I was surprised," Watt said Wednesday. "I have not had time to prepare a response. We just received the letter on July 22."

"We continue to believe the

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Proposed  
District 12

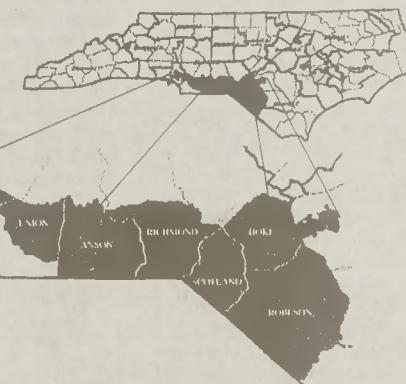


ILLUSTRATION W. MICHAEL HARRIS

## Trash station rankles

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Opponents of a proposed garbage transfer station off Statesville Road got a chance to speak out on the issue Wednesday night, but the station's developers already has a construction permit.

The 11-acre site is already being prepared and the transfer station could open in August to serve not only Mecklenburg County, but surrounding county's as well, up to 1,200 tons in a 10-hour work day.

The trash is not stored on the site, but trucked to landfill or incinerators in other areas. But material could be stored in transfer trailers up to 48 hours under the proposed operating permit.

And, "waste exhibiting strong offensive odors shall be expeditiously processed to minimize the likelihood of odorous nuisance conditions," according to a draft of the operating permit.

The station will be located west of Starita Road on the south I-85 Service Road.

The site's zoning classification is I-2, a heavy industrial category which allows recycling centers, including trash and garbage transfer centers.

About three acres of the site will be developed.

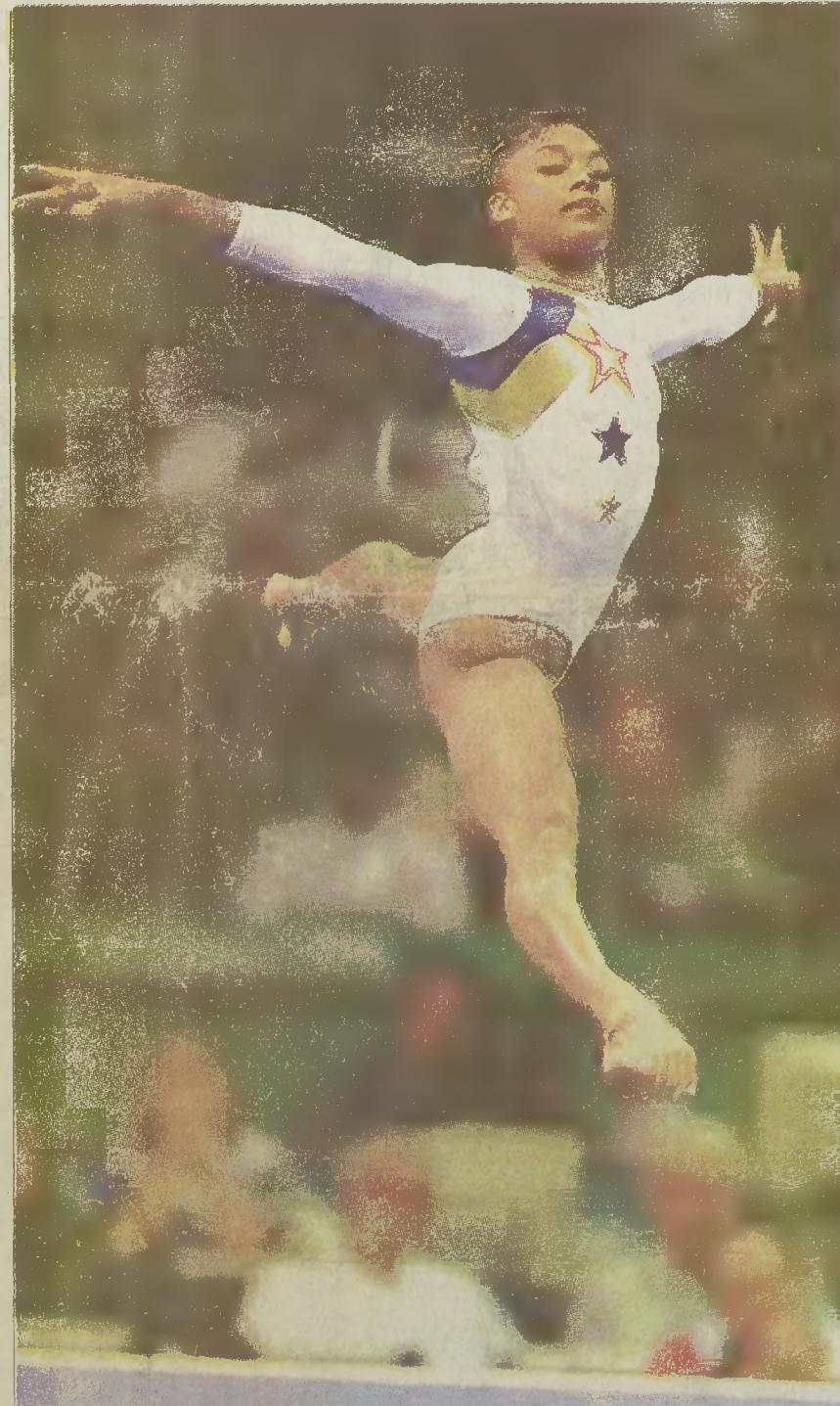
Westside residents, which has already sued to rid the area of a landfill, see the station as another nuisance that will hinder growth and restoration in their communities. They point to the airport, wastewater and water treatment plants, major highways and heavy industrial concentrations already on the westside.

Don Willard, a spokesman for Mecklenburg's Department of Environmental Protection, said USA Waste Services, the country's largest such company, bought the company which had proposed the transfer station as an alternative to the landfill the county plans to build on U.S. 521 in south Charlotte.

That company was Chambers

See TRASH on page 3A

## Worth weight in gold



PHOTO/MADE NASH

Dominique Dawes of Silver Spring, Md. made history Tuesday as the first African American to win an Olympic gold medal. Dawes helped the U.S. women capture the first overall gymnastics title for the first time ever, ending 44 years of dominance by the former Soviet Union.

## Donation draws the ire of AME Zion Church members

Petition to remove Bishop started

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Bishop George Battle's \$100,000 contribution from a S.C. AME Zion Church mission fund to a convicted embezzler has drawn complaints and a promise to seek his removal from office.

"He said he prayed over it, but I don't know who he prayed to to give that kind of money to any one person," said Sam Jennings, a former trustee chairman at the Pineville AME Zion Church in Rock Hill.

Jennings said Battle used poor judgement in giving such a large contribution to one person.

Battle oversees about 230 churches in S.C. and Georgia. The AME Zion Board of Bishops is meeting this week in Washington and will decide on appointment of its 12 bishops. Church leaders have been mute on the donation and several had left for Washington when called for comment.

Battle withdrew the money from church accounts with the approval of two church elders and used it to pay back a portion of the \$600,000 embezzled by Delores Hairston, a member of his former church, Gethsemane AME Zion Church in Charlotte.

With the \$100,000 payment, Hairston's two-year sentence was reduced and she now lives in Atlanta. Hairston was a First Union branch manager when the theft occurred. She pled guilty and was sentenced to two years in prison, which was cut in half and she was released last year.

Battle, who could not be reached for comment, has said he acted

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## Scholarship fund helps students realize dreams

By Jeri Young  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

"I think I have this thing in me," says 17-year-old Jessica Brown of Dalton Village. "If they can have it, I can have it too."

Brown is one of 57 students to be honored Sunday during the Charlotte Housing Authority's 13th Scholarship Fund Annual Awards Day Celebration and Reception. The event starts at 5 p.m. Sunday at First Baptist Church West, 1801 Oaklawn Ave.

The scholarship fund, the brainchild of former CHA employee John Crawford, offers need-based awards to public housing students hoping to continue their education.

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PHOTO/SUE ANN JOHNSON

Jessica Brown, with grandmother Mary Brown, won a Charlotte Housing Authority scholarship. Jessica will attend Peace College in Raleigh.

## Core communities flex muscle

By John Minter  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Shortly after 20th century began, developer John Nolen - designer of Myers Park - conceived of Charlotte as a 2-mile radius community bounded by a tree-lined parkway.

The idea didn't come completely to fruition, but by the end of World War II, Charlotte was a city with a 2-mile radius centered at the Square.

Now, leaders from neighborhoods as diverse as Washington Heights and Elizabeth, Dilworth and Tryon Hills, have revived the concept and organized the Queen City Congress.

The Congress includes 42 center-city neighborhoods, roughly

within 2 miles of the intersection of Trade and Tryon streets.

Mattie Marshall, a Washington Heights leader, is the Congress' treasurer. Washington Heights is off Beatties Ford Road, just beyond the Brookshire Freeway.

Some other neighborhoods include Morningside-Commonwealth and Chantilly; Plaza-Midwood; Seversville, off Beatties Ford Road; Wilmore and Belvedere Homes, and Westover Hills, off West Boulevard.

On May 20, 1995, the communities signed a "Declaration of Interdependence." The date of the signing is the same as when the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was signed more

than 200 years ago.

Congress President Shirley Fulton, a Superior Court judge from the Wesley Heights community, said, "The Queen City Congress came about as a result of (Dilworth architect) Ron Morgan and I doing some work on my neighborhood... talking about progress and getting frustrated by the lack of progress and the time it was taking to get anything done."

"We decided to check out other neighborhoods to see how things were going for them. We met in Anderson's Restaurant in March 1995, six or seven people from different neighborhoods, and talked about different problems."

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PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Queen City Congress members Chris Burns-Fazzi (Elizabeth), Ron Morgan (Dilworth), Shirley Fulton (Wesley Heights), Mary Hopper (Dilworth) and Mattie Marshall (Washington Heights) lobby on behalf of inner city neighborhoods.