## imary offers competition

Continued from page 1A

entrepreneur and former president of the Metrolina Contractors Minority

In District 4, where Greg Phipps will leave his seat when the new council is sworn in, three Democrats -Michael Barnes, Maxine Eaves and Joyce Waddell are campaigning to replace

The non-partisan Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board also offers some intrigue. In District 2, incumbent Vilma Leake, who fought off a challenge to

have her removed from the board because of alleged residence irregularities, is cam-



Dawson

has been criticized as a divsisive force on the often-contentious board, may still have the upper hand. As an incumbent in a

winner-take-all race, Leak's

challenge is to keep a core

group of supporters in place while the competition has to build a critical mass of voters for change.
"What an incumbent

wants is not one opponent, but two, three or four,' Arrington said

In District 3, longtime community activist Dwayne Collins is challenging incumbent school board member George Dunlap. Dunlap said he doesn't mind competing for the seat.

"I don't mind having an opponent," he said. "Let's put our issues on the table and let the voters decide?

Caucus.

Although it's rare for incumbents to lose in Charlotte primaries, there is a precedent. In 2003, Lynn Wheeler lost a bid for an atlarge city council seat, which she blamed on her support for the uptown arena

Whether that will happen in a heavily Democratic district with a plurality of African American voters remains to be seen.

"Is there more competition in the black community? Yeah," Arrington said. "The real measure of competition is can you defeat an incum1404 Beatties Ford Rd., Suite 200, Charlotte, NC 28216 NorthWest Gateway Professional Center Office Visits by Appointment Only

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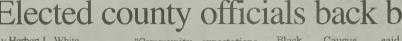
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By Herbert L. White

Black elected officials from Mecklenburg County have thrown their support behind the county's bond referendums

At a meeting of county offi-cials and legislators, all but Mecklenburg County Valerie Commissioner Woodard, a vocal critic of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools spending, pledged to support the measures. They will also lobby voters and community organizations to support the bonds.

Most of the discussion focused on CMS's request for \$427 million for construction and renovations, which would address rapid growth in the suburbs and upgrades for urban and "middle ring" schools. While county commissioners and school board members have haggled over how much money should go to schools, black political leaders say the needs are immediate.

"To delay the inevitable would be more costly in financial and social terms," school board member George Dunlap said in a statement.

#### Roberts passes on CBC meeting

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supreme Court chief justice nominee John Roberts rejected a request to meet with representatives of the Congressional Black Caucus before his confirmation hear-



In a letter to Judge Roberts dated Aug. 25, caucus Chair Rep. Mel Watt. (D-N.C.) and Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C). the

Chair of the CBC's Judicial Task Force. requested Roberts meet with them as the official representatives of the CBC

"The members of the CBC are especially disappointed that Judge Roberts would not meet with us because we viewed the meeting as a critically important opportunity

Please see JUSTICE/6A

#### Awards honor Charlotte's best, brightest

Continued from page 1A

The 2005 honorees are: · Corporation of the year Microsoft

• Entrepreneur: Ron Leeper CEO; R.J. Leeper Company

· Educator: Anne Alston, West Charlotte High School Sportsperson:

Simpson, Charlotte Boxing Academy · Community service orga

nization: Kendall Phills, The Bobby Phills Foundation · Top Senior runner up-Deborah J. Nelson, Harding

University High School • Top Senior of the Year-Shannon J. Nelson, Harding University High School

"Community expectations for school safety, alone, justifies reducing the overcrowding in many of our schools."

Added Commissioner Wilhelmenia Rembert: 'School safety, equal educational opportunity and student achievement will be held hostage by refusing to pass the bonds.

N.C. Rep. Beverly Earle, chair of the Legislative

Rev. Bula Legrand

SGA Secretary

and Chaplin

the decade.

projected enrollment boom of 50,000 students over next

Mecklenburg

is obligated to do all it can

keep pace with

said

"We can ill-afford to have a school district that does not live in our community," she said. Central Piedmont

ties in which high quality

teaching and learning can

take place wherever children

Community College, law enforcement and land bonds were also endorsed, which include funding for water quality at the Mountain Island Lake watershed.



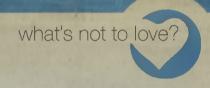
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