

Historic church in limbo over site's value

Continued from page 1A

If that doesn't happen, Grace Church could be headed for the wrecking ball.

"If the Board of County Commissioners does replenish our funds, the Historic Landmarks Commission will make a higher offer than what it's been willing to do in the past to purchase the church," Morrill said.

"After that, the issue will be

with the members of Grace Church and whether they are willing to accept that offer. And I think it will be a very generous offer."

Officials from Grace did not return phone messages from The Post seeking comment.

At least one commissioner doesn't see a problem with paying more than \$840,000 for the Grace site.

"It's not problematic for me

at all," Democrat Rembert said. "Grace Church is a vital part of the Charlotte community and its heritage. That site means a lot to many people, and we should do everything we can to preserve it. I truly



Rembert

believe there's a way for this to work out well for everyone - for the city (economically) and for the members of Grace Church."

Morrill said the Historic Landmarks Commission has not yet determined how much it will offer Grace Church for the site. That, he said, will largely depend on how much money the county commissioners are willing to provide.

If the Historic Landmarks Commission doesn't get the money from the Board of County Commissioners, or if Grace is not willing to agree to whatever offer the Landmarks Commission gives, then the members of the church could sell to another buyer.

That buyer, however, could be an investor who merely wants to clear the site for a

parking lot or another business venture, thus ending years of significant history in the Queen City.

"I can't predict what the outcome will be," Morrill said. "I think the church's principle desire is to have enough funds to build another church at the new site. But I just hope we can make this work, because the Grace site is too important to this city to lose."

Black fraternity subjected to racial insults at S.C. university

By James Wright

AFRO NEWSPAPERS

One of the oldest black Greek letter fraternities is challenging a rash of racist Internet messages posted on a national fraternity/sorority Web site.

The Zeta Zeta chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, based on the campus of the University of South Carolina, has been the subject of bigoted and derogatory postings regarding its move to the all-

Nagin meets evacuees in Houston

By Jesse Muhammad

THE FINAL CALL

HOUSTON — With an optimistic spirit, New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin visited Houston recently to update Hurricane Katrina evacuees on the recovery efforts of the devastated city. Hundreds filled the domed sanctuary of Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church for an opportunity to hear his address, share their frustrations and regain hope.

"Everything that you didn't like about New Orleans, let's get rid of it. Everything that you liked about New Orleans, let's enhance it. Everything you dreamed about and wished New Orleans had, let's make it happen," Mayor Nagin stated.

The visit was one of several meetings Mayor Nagin is convening outside of Louisiana as a way to assure displaced residents that the city will survive and prosper. Although his report revealed that New Orleans is facing a \$200 million budget deficit, he focused on the accomplishments since the storm — nearly 4 million cubic yards of debris have been removed; 60 percent of the city now has electricity and about 50 percent gets natural gas service. He also informed that clean drinking water is available in many of the neighborhoods and emergency services, such as 911, are functioning.

"There will be an explosion of school activity after the first of the year," he said, adding that those willing to work at minimum-wage jobs at Sears or Burger King can earn bonuses, where they will make upwards of \$16 an hour.

Mayor Nagin is focusing on three core issues with the federal government: rebuilding the levee system, solving crucial housing issues and tax incentives for New Orleans businesses.

For rebuilding the levee system, Dutch and German officials are being consulted about how to strengthen the levees to withstand a greater impact. Mayor Nagin presented the proposed development of a regional levee board that will be a consolidation of levee boards from neighboring states.

He also said Federal Emergency Management Agency officials had begun to identify safe places to set up mobile homes for as many as 6,400 returning families. He also urged everyone to start

white Greek Village. The area mainly comprises mansion-like houses owned by predominantly white fraternities and sororities.

Omega Psi Phi, founded at Howard University in 1911 by three undergraduate students and noted scientist Ernest Just, has more than 100,000 members in 700 chapters in the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

Prominent members include the Rev. Jesse Jackson, former Virginia governor and present Richmond, Va., Mayor Douglas Wilder; NBA legend Michael Jordan, former Clinton adviser Vernon Jordan, comedian-entrepreneur Bill Cosby and the late Dr. Charles Drew.

The new house is a project of the fraternity's national organization. Scheduled for completion in the fall of 2006, it will be the first black Greek organization to have a house in Greek Village and one of the few black Greek houses in the country located in a pre-

dominantly white fraternity/sorority area of a major, state-sponsored university.

Lewis Anderson, director of membership services for Omega, said the fraternity is reserving comment about the messages, but he did say: "We have made contact with the president of the University of South Carolina and have alerted the local media. We are not going to abandon the project."

Some postings on the Internet site www.fratty.net have expressed disdain at having the Omega house or any other black-owned facility in Greek Village.

• "The spooks, i mean Q-dawgs, are building a house" (Re: USC Greek village/Reply No. 2 on Oct 24, 6:38 p.m.).

• "There goes the neighborhood" (Re: USC Greek village/Reply No. 4 on Oct 24, 8:20 p.m.).

• "I propose throwing a cotton picking party for them when they move in. a thousand pounds of cotton in the

front yard. sure jesse jackson will be here in a heart beat, but it will be funny as hell watching them pick it up" (Re: USC Greek village/Reply No. 7 on Oct 24, 11:41 p.m.).

• "That cotton idea is funny as **** and a great way to set the tone for their time here. Hopefully, the house never actually gets built, though. It will only bring loud niggers, even louder n**** b****, and trashy *** wiggers and white-trash girls around. But hopefully Darwin was right and these spooks will wind up tearing the house down in a week or two. Much longer than that and we'll have to do it for them. What do you say guys? Heres to ridding the village of our african-american infestation" (Re: USC Greek village/Reply No. 8 on Oct 25, 1:02 a.m.).

• "I'm going to hang a black dummy out my window when they are ready to move in" (Re: USC Greek village/Reply No. 9 on Oct 25, 9:26 a.m.).

• "Hah. yall ready for this? nothing but crack viles and

broken forty bottles in the street, gunshots in the middle of the night, overgrown plants and weeds on the lawn, niggers walking around with crunk chalices. Pimped-out 95 Accords, and unsanctioned parties at 4 a.m. in the morning on Tuesdays. I hope the Zetas don't discover jungle fever and hang with them negroids looking for some sex" (Re: Q-Dawgs in the Village/Reply No. 4 on Oct 23, 10:42 p.m.).

The Web site is based in California and serves as a chat board on Greek organization issues.

Dennis Pruitt, USC's vice president for student affairs, said, "We are not going to allow students to engage in behavior that threatens or intimidates other students."

Jerry Brewer, USC director

of student life, said that the \$2 million facility will contain living spaces for 40 students, plus gathering places and food service for non-resident Omega members and meeting and entertainment spaces.

USC Director of Greek Life Gena Rynnion said she hopes the house spurs other organizations into action.

"That Omega Psi Phi has chosen to build a house in the Greek Village means that their organization and alumni believe in their students at the University of South Carolina and are willing to make this kind of investment, financially and otherwise," Rynnion said. "My hope is that the construction of this house will spur other historically black sororities and fraternities to do the same."

Advertise

Buy an extra copy of
"The Post" to share
with a friend!

MAKE-YOUR-OWN-HOLIDAY-MUSIC
SALE

HURRY IN FOR BEST SELECTION! Save on thousands of gifts like guitars, keyboards, sheet music and instruments. Including top brands like Yamaha, Fender, Ibanez, Takamine and Pearl. Trust us, they'll inspire your kids a lot longer than a video game. Sale ends Dec. 31st.

SPEND \$100, GET A \$10 GIFT CARD!

Music & Arts Centers
FIND YOUR VOICE

UNIVERSITY CITY THE SHOPS AT UNIV. PLACE, 9015 J.M. KEYES DR. (704) 547-1616 MUSICARTS.COM

The Charlotte Post
Staff Celebrates The Holiday
at
Outer BOUNDS
Sports Bar & Grill

The OuterBounds Staff went overboard to greet the Post and make the evening enjoyable.

PHOTOS: WADE NASH