

THE DISPATCH



LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2011 | 50¢

Volume 128 | Number 123

WWW.THE-DISPATCH.COM

INDEX:

Calendar
Classified4A
6BComics
Dear Abby4B
4BLifestyles
Obituaries4A
6AOpinion
Sports7A
1BTelevision
Weather5B
2A

Midway's first mayor and mayor pro tem seek top spot

BY DENEESHA EDWARDS
The Dispatch

Two familiar Midway residents threw their hat in the ring to become the next mayor of the town in this year's municipal election.



NIFONG



WILKES

Norman Wilkes, Midway Town Council member, and Betty Nifong are hoping to replace Mayor George Byrum, who decided not to run this year. The non-partisan race is for a four-year term.

Wilkes, 78, of Country Lane, was elected to the board in 2009. He was instrumental by serving on the interim council in 2004 that worked to incorporate Midway in 2006, when he was appointed as the interim mayor and served for more than a year. Prior to the incorporation, he had been part of the Davidson County Planning and Zoning Board for more than 20 years.

Wilkes was born and raised in the town, and after graduating from Midway High School he went into the Air Force for four years. He is now a retired businessman and real estate developer. Wilkes, a supporter of the current mayor, felt Byrum was doing an excellent job. Prior to being elected to the council, Wilkes attended meetings regularly to stay informed with the town's business.

"I feel like if I'm elected as mayor, I can offer the leadership I've done in the past," Wilkes said. "I feel I can help make sound decisions with the council and see some things happen."

Since being part of the council, Wilkes is proud of the amenities that the town has, such as getting sewer established, having streetlights go up as well as adding garbage and recycling services. He's also thrilled to see more businesses come in. He expressed excitement about the Walmart Express and Badcock Home Furniture and More stores coming to town. Having the new businesses gives

► FAMILIAR | 3A



DONNIE ROBERTS/THE DISPATCH

The 28th Annual Barbecue Festival souvenirs include the official poster and cups, hats for men, women and children, tote bags, golf shirts, quarter-zip fleece pullovers, T-shirts, sweatshirts, aprons and bandanas. The souvenir stand will be located on the Square during the festival on Saturday.

City prepares for festival

BY DENEESHA EDWARDS
The Dispatch



In 24 hours, Lexington will celebrate its famous heritage of barbecue when uptown springs to life with the smells and sounds of the 28th Annual Barbecue Festival.

Organizers and barbecue restaurants are finishing up the details to make the event a fun-filled day and exciting time for regulars and first-timers alike. The event is free.

"It's a huge relief when you see there's a zero chance of rain," said Stephanie K. Saintasing Naset, executive director of the Barbecue Festival. "That definitely makes the event more pleasurable with making sure everything is in place. It's wonderful to get to this week. I encourage everyone to come out and have fun. Let's really enjoy ourselves in our beautiful uptown area."

Naset is thrilled to see the weather prediction of being mostly sunny with highs around 65. Morning predictions start in the 40s and begin warming up around 10 a.m.

► CITY | 2A

WANT TO GO?

The 28th Annual Barbecue Festival will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday in uptown Lexington. Admission is free. Large kiosks mapping the festival will be set up on the streets. For more information, go to www.barbecuefestival.com.



DARRICKS IGNASIAK/THE DISPATCH

Charlie Hartman, owner of Hartman Painting, and Mike Phelps, owner of Mike Phelps Painting, are shown painting at the Salvation Army building at 314 W. 9th Ave. The two men offered the services at half price after being approached by Dennis Anthony about sprucing up the building.

Welcome resident helps spruce up Salvation Army headquarters

BY DARRICK IGNASIAK
The Dispatch

Dennis Anthony of Welcome is hoping his decision to help The Salvation Army of Davidson County spruce up its headquarters on West Ninth Avenue will encourage others to assist the nonprofit.

Anthony was responsible for getting Charlie Hartman, owner of Hartman Painting, and Mike Phelps, owner of Mike Phelps Painting, out to the building Thursday to paint the trim of the exterior. The exterior trim hadn't been painted for about 20 years, said Melody Allen, secretary for

The Salvation Army of Davidson County.

"Hopefully, this will get people knowing what's going on, and they will give their time and money to

help," Anthony said.

Anthony decided to assist the nonprofit after visiting the headquarters back in July for the first time to inquire about what he could do to volunteer. That's when he noticed the exterior trim of the building needed painting.

Anthony said he sought the help of Hartman and Phelps, both of whom agreed to do the painting for half price. The work is being done at no cost to The Salvation Army of Davidson County, as Anthony is paying for the painting.

Lanier's True Value Hardware also has chipped in by providing

► WELCOME | 6A

WANT TO HELP?

Anyone who would like to assist The Salvation Army of Davidson County by volunteering or contributing financially can do so by calling 249-0336, ext. 21. Checks can be made out to The Salvation Army of Davidson County and mailed to 314 W. Ninth Ave., Lexington, NC 27292.

Uptown store to kick off 'buy local' campaign

BY VIKKI BROUGHTON HODGES
The Dispatch

Vicki Comer, owner of the Olde Homestead on South Main Street, is launching a "buy local" campaign with T-shirts and signage she hopes other downtown merchants will want to buy into.

On a trip a few weeks ago to Asheville, Comer noticed downtown merchants had coordinated signage promoting the idea of "buying where your heart is" and

even restaurant wait staff members had T-shirts with the same message.

"It was a cohesive thing for the whole downtown," she said. "I thought it sounded like a great idea for us in Lexington."

So Comer came up with a similar wording for T-shirts her staff will wear on special occasions and the shop will sell to the general public.

The staff will wear the green-and-pink shirts for the first time

Saturday, the opening day of the Barbecue Festival. The front of the shirt says "Love Lexington: Spend your (dollar sign) where your (heart symbol) is." It will have the business name on the back.

"I wanted to go ahead and kick it off on our business day of the year," Comer said, noting her staff will also wear the T-shirts for Uptown Lexington Inc. events such as strolls and the annual Christmas open house.

But Comer said she hopes

other uptown merchants will want to adopt the idea, too. She noted other shops might want to make custom shirts so they can change the colors to better reflect their business. For example, she said, The Candy Factory might want to do shirts in red and white, after their signature peppermint candy. All About Education, which sells children's school supplies and educational toys, might want to do bright primary colors.

► STORE | 3A



Vicki Comer, owner of the Olde Homestead on South Main Street, is launching a "buy local" campaign with T-shirts and signage.

We Pay CASH For Your Old Gold, Diamonds & Silver



903 Winston Road
336-248-6600

Hayes JEWELERS

"THE KING OF DIAMONDS" Since 1939

