

West Las Vegas Faces Omission From New School Listing

By Victor S. Ingram

A new middle school in West Las Vegas? An answer is forthcoming from the Clark County School Board of Trustees.

During a meeting on Tuesday, May 23 School district policy makers discussed placement of new schools throughout the valley.

A debate ensued between residents of the northwest and northeast area which were the two areas brought before the board for consideration.

After a public condemnation by WAAK-UP president Marzette Lewis for their failure to include West Las Vegas in the listing for a potential school, district officials pondered the possibility. "I cannot understand how the bond oversight committee could not recommend a new school for West Las Vegas," questions Lewis.

The bond oversight was charged with making recommendations to the district for new school construction. She asserted that there is land

available on the intersection of Lake Mead and Martin Luther King Avenues which could be donated by the City of Las Vegas.

Lewis says she has undergone preliminary discussions with Las Vegas City Councilman Frank Hawkins which have indicated that this land might be available for donation or minimal purchase. School district trustee Dr. James McMillan supported Lewis' call to construct a school in the economically depressed area. "If the land is

available, like Marzette said, then I feel we should look into the matter," says McMillan. "I motion that we build the middle school in the West Las Vegas area," continues McMillan.

After the motion, McMillan requested that a 10-day feasibility study be conducted to confirm the possibility. Board members, reluctant to address the issue during the current meeting, referred the matter to school board staff members for further investigation.

WEED & SEED

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the city, which, according to Current, would not justify the program's implementation. Weed & Seed board member Ken Young says while West Las Vegas was not the worst area for crime, statistically it did meet other pivotal requirements. These requirements included poverty ratios and economic opportunities within the community, according to Young.

Weed & Seed program director Franklin Simpson says that while some communication errors occurred during the early implementation of the initiative, staffing upgrades have been made to keep the community fully informed about the program. "We cannot go forward without all of you," says Simpson.

BLACK VOTE

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general election will allow voters an opportunity to provide approval ratings for the two longtime incumbents, or select from a list of two challengers. Joanna Wesley and Jodi Maynard emphatically doubt the commitment the two incumbents have to the city as a whole. The two successfully ran in the primary election, receiving 12 percent and 16 percent of the vote respectively. As an at-large electorate, the North Las Vegas City Council representatives must have broad appeal to a diverse voter pool. Racial and geographical demographics vary from the very affluent to the poverty-stricken. Blacks make up a significant portion of the population while the Hispanic population is growing rapidly.

Challengers question that while some areas have

No longer stigmatized by the "North Town" label, North Las Vegas becomes the home of high stakes politics.

admittedly enjoyed astronomical growth, others have lost businesses and suffered disproportionately from crime. "I don't like the way the leadership is going in North Las Vegas," says JoAnna Wesley, 43. A businesswoman and long-time resident of North Las Vegas, Wesley has taken a grass roots approach to campaigning. With a very limited campaign budget, she has spent several hours per day knocking on doors and distributing campaign literature. Her interest in politics, she says, stems from her deep sense of community service, having volunteered with community-based groups in the past. "I was

tired of being one of those people in the background," she says. Her platform? Wesley says

COLIN POWELL

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a little too hard, a little too harsh, a little too unkind. We do not yet have a level playing field in our society," he said.

While cutting welfare, the Republicans should also get rid of subsidies that favored the rich and middle class, he said.

Powell seemed to defend some affirmative action programs that seek to promote employment and educational opportunities for ethnic minorities and women. And he had harsh words for talk radio hosts and politicians of all parties who he said used intemperate language to denigrate their opponents.

Powell was particularly scathing about the afternoon television shows in which people embarrassed themselves by parading intimate secrets in public. "I get sick watching afternoon TV — these dysfunctional people that have been dredged from the bottom of the barrel of society," he said.

accountability will be the focus of her performance once elected. "People want to be heard; we need to turn the local government over to the people." She suggests a redistribution of the North Las Vegas community to make councilmen responsible for (See BLACK VOTE, Page 11)

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