

New Hill residents plan rally

BY SHAWN DALEY

EDITOR

Residents of New Hill are continuing their fight this week against a proposed sewage plant being built in the heart of their community.

A protest rally is scheduled for Friday at 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of New Hill.

Also on Friday, the New Hill Community Association is holding a barbecue fund-raiser at the New Hill Baptist Church (NHCA) from 4-7 p.m.

The towns of Apex, Cary, Holly Springs and Morrisville are moving forward with plans to condemn land in New Hill to make room for the Western Wake Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The rally and fund-raiser are being viewed by NHCA officials as important steps in the battle to keep the sewage plant out of the community's historical district.

The protest rally, said NHCA publicity chairperson Tonya Forbes, marks the first involvement of the black community in the fight.

"Not a lot of the black community showed up (at earlier meetings)," said Forbes. "We've been communicating mostly through e-mail and a lot of the black population in New Hill doesn't have access to computers or e-mail.

"So we've contacted leaders in that community and they organized an event with the New Hill First Baptist Church and several other smaller black churches in the area. The rally will serve both as a protest and as an informational meeting."

The fund-raiser is also important since money raised will go toward hiring an attorney.

"Several more landowners just recently received letters telling them they were also going to lose their land," said Forbes. "It's important we raise enough money that will allow us to move forward with the first legal steps."

The First Baptist Church of New Hill is located on New Hill-Hollemon Road in New Hill, about ¼ mile west and across the street from Apex Fire Station No. 2.

New Hill Baptist Church, site of the BBQ fund-raiser, is located at 3700 Old US 1 Highway, New Hill.