

Forsyth Court Volunteers Receive Awards For Service To Youth

By KAREN M. HANNON
Community News Reporter

Several volunteers were honored at a recent Forsyth Court Volunteers reception held at the Reynolds Park Recreation Center.

Roland Ingram, Debbie Vernon, Reggie Lowery, Clarence Gilliam, and Robert Eller received awards for their outstanding volunteer service to youth in the community who have been in trouble with the law.

Ingram and Gilliam drive vans that take male and female juveniles, who have gotten in trouble, to visit prison twice a week. Ingram says it gives the youth the chance to see what prison life is like.

"The inmates talk to them," Gilliam says. "The guards lock them in a single cell, handcuff them, put shackles on them to let them see what it's like."

But Ingram says it hasn't seemed to be much of a deterrent.

"Sometimes it's too late," Ingram says. "Seems like I've seen a few turn around."

Gilliam says he and Ingram even do a little counseling. He says sometimes the youth they transport just need someone to talk to.

Reggie Lowery works with the



Recipients who received awards for their service with the Forsyth Court Volunteers are (l. to r.): Roland Ingram, Debbie Vernon, Reggie Lowery, Clarence Gilliam, and Robert Eller.

Governor's 1:1 program, where he works one-on-one with a young man for a year. He is only required to volunteer four hours a week, but he says he usually averages 25 hours.

"I go to school with him, take him out bowling, to the mall, and other activities," he says. "We spend

time at my house, in tutoring classes, and at church, just to show him a different side of his normal environment."

Lowery says a personal drive led him to volunteer.

"I saw a need in the community — especially in the African-American

community — that many of them (youth) were headed in the wrong direction. There was a burning desire in me to help where I could."

Robert Eller was awarded the honor of Volunteer of the Year. Eller works with the Work and Earn

It program, which places teens who have been sentenced for crimes to do their community service in a recreation center.

"Most of them think they're there to wash windows or clean floors," Eller says "but I tell them we've got a custodian. I need an aid."

He says his program provides teens with leadership skills and teaches them responsibility and accountability.

Eller says the youth he works with need some direction.

"The only thing these kids have needed is somebody to say, 'This is your responsibility, this is what you need to do, and this is how it needs to be done,'" Eller says. "They need to be told what to do and be trusted to do it."

Rich Smith, the manager of the Work and Earn It Program, says Eller has been an excellent role model for the teens.

"He has given the kids the opportunity for growth, which is the whole premise for our program," Smith says. "The juvenile system is set up for treatment, not punishment. Having people (volunteers) who care is what makes a difference. These are people who devote

their time. That shows us that you have a commitment to the future."

Debbie Vernon received an award for her work with the now defunct court monitoring program of the Juvenile Justice Council. Vernon sat in on juvenile cases twice a week and kept records of youth offenses and sentences. The organization used the data to form statistics for development of programs. These statistics helped inform the agency of the needs of the youth.

Forsyth Court Volunteers was established in 1974 as an alternative to training school. The agency's main purpose is to keep troubled youth at home in their own communities instead of sending them to training schools.

Belinda Williams, the manager of the Governor's 1:1 Program says the agency attempts to place juveniles in a stable environment with positive role models.

"We want to show them that because they got in trouble, they are not bad people," Williams says. "The energy that they used to do what it was that they did, they can turn that energy around into something more positive and constructive. They are good people, but they just made bad decisions."

Winston Salem Native Ron Smith Retires From Air Force

Captain Ronald S. Smith was honored at a retirement ceremony at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, on Dec. 18. Smith had served 21 years in the United States Air Force.

Smith retired from a position as Chief of Command Disaster Preparedness, Plans and Readiness Division, Directorate of Operations Support, Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, at Headquarters Air Force Intelligence Command at Kelly Air Force Base.

Smith is a native of Winston-Salem and graduated from Atkins High School in 1969. He earned an

associate of science degree from San Antonio College, an associate of applied science degree in radio communications from Community College of the Air Force, a bachelor of science degree in mathematics, computer science, and system design from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and a master of science degree in business administration from Webster University. He is also a graduate of the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama and the Disaster Preparedness Officer School at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado. Smith enlisted in the Air Force



Captain Ronald S. Smith

in 1971 and completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. After receiving training as a communications electronics ground radio technician, he was assigned to the bioenvironmental science division, School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base as electronic support for the centrifuge.

Smith was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1983 and was assigned as the Officer in Charge, Disaster Preparedness Division, 67th Combat Support Group at Bergstrom Air Force Base. In 1987, he was assigned as the

Chief of Air Base Operability Division, 6170th Combat Support Squadron, 51st Tactical Fighter Wing at Suwon Air Base in Korea. In 1989, he assumed his current

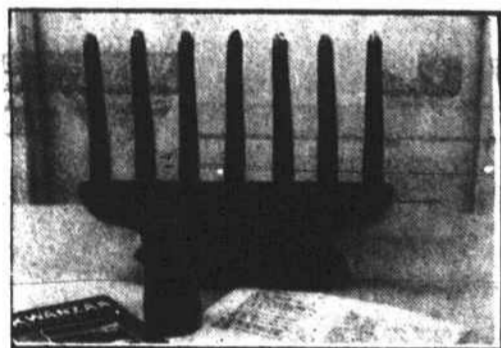
duties. His military awards and decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters.

Black Rep Holds Auditions

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company will hold auditions for its eighth annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration on Thursday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m. in the Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Dr.

Artists of all performing disciplines are encouraged to audition, including actors, dancers, singers, musicians and literary artists.

The performance will be held Friday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Arts Council Theatre.



Community

EVENTS CALENDAR December

How to Schedule Your Events: Send you information, concisely and neatly printed or typed, to the Chronicle Calendar, 617 N. Liberty St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102, before 5:00 p.m., the Monday preceding the week in which your event will occur. Our FAX number is (919) 723-9173.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

4 p.m. — First Night '93 Piedmont, an alcohol-free arts celebration for the family, will be held New Year's Eve at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum and Dixie Classic Fairgrounds until midnight. The festivities include over 50 acts, such as Ricky Skaggs, and many other artists, including musicians, actors and artisans. A \$5 button gets patrons into the entire festival and all entertainment. The midnight finale includes skydivers, hot air balloons, confetti canons and a grand finale show. For information, call 945-9900.

7 p.m. — The East Winston Branch Library and the Diggs Art Gallery, located on the campus of Winston-Salem State University, invites you to the 13th annual Kwanzaa Celebration. Bring the entire family and your favorite covered dish. The Diggs Art Gallery is located on the ground floor of the O'Kelly Library. For information, call 727-2202.

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

6:30 p.m. — The Northwest North Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross, 690 Coliseum Dr., will hold an adult CPR course on Monday, Jan. 4, and Wednesday, Jan. 6, until 9:30 p.m. Participants must preregister and pay prior to the date of the course. For more information, call 724-0511 and ask for the office of Health Services.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

2 p.m. — The City of Winston-Salem's

Neighborhood Government Services Office, 2301 N. Patterson Ave., invites you to the workshop, "Small Business Loans," presented by Janet DeCreny of the City's Economic Development Office. Free. For information, call 727-2975.

6:30 p.m. — The William C. Sims Recreation Center, 1201 Alder St., will hold Family Night for five consecutive Tuesday evenings through Feb. 2, until 8 p.m. Weekly activities will include a parent support group, games, door prizes, refreshments, and workshops on communication skills and teaching lifeskills. Childcare is also available. Come and join the fellowship. Call Ben Piggot, director, to make your reservations at 727-2837. The program is sponsored by STEP ONE Substance Abuse Services.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

6 p.m. — Alderman Vivian H. Burke of the Northeast Ward and the Rev. Betty Gaddy, chairman of the Carver School Road/Castle Heights Neighborhood, will hold a meeting at Solid Rock Baptist Church, 3010 Carver School Rd. The meeting will be held to promote unity within the neighborhood and to combat recent illegal activities and disturbances.

ONGOING EVENTS

The YWCA of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County, 1201 Glade St., is accepting registration for yoga classes. Learn traditional postures to develop muscle tone, flexibility and balance that helps to stretch and strengthen the entire body. Classes will be held Jan. 4 through Feb. 8 on

Mondays and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and Jan. 5 through Feb. 4 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. The fee is \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members. For information, contact Heather Moricle at 722-5138.

The Forsyth County Democratic Party is holding registration through Jan. 5 for a chartered bus trip to the Presidential inauguration in Washington on Jan. 20. The buses will leave Winston-Salem at 3 a.m. on the morning of Jan. 20 and will return at approximately 7 p.m. The cost for the trip is \$60. All interested persons should contact either Democratic Headquarters at 724-5941 or Gary Jackson at 721-3715 before Jan. 5.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The YWCA of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County, 1201 Glade St., is starting a new movement class designed for the larger-sized individual. This class is designed to encourage participants to get healthy. The class begins Jan. 2 and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. The fee depends on the length of the fitness pass. For information, contact Heather Moricle at 722-5138.

A showcase exhibition by the North Carolina Black Repertory Company will be on display at the Arts Council Boardroom Gallery, 305 W. Fourth St., from Jan. 8 through Feb. 12. The exhibit is a profile of the company from 1979 to today. The show will include photographs from past productions and festivals, as well as past reviews. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For info., call 722-2585.

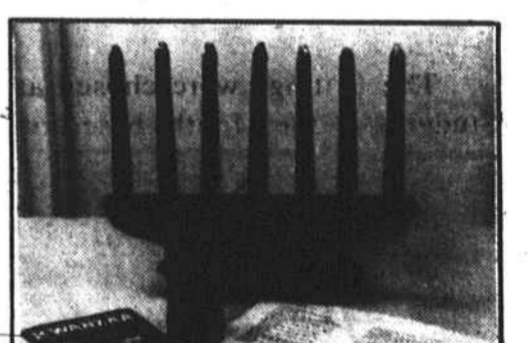
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COUPON EXPIRES JANUARY 6, 1993

The East Winston Branch Library and the Diggs Gallery located on the ground floor of the O'Kelly Library on the campus of Winston-Salem State University present the Thirteenth Annual Kwanzaa Celebration, Thursday, December 31, 1992 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Bring a covered dish. The entire family is invited to attend. Come help make this year's Kwanzaa Celebration the best.

Season's Greeting
A personal thank you to all of my customers and friends for allowing me to serve you in 1992. Wishing you a safe, joyous holiday and a prosperous 1993.
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