

IN OUR SCHOOLS

Board of Education Meets

The city/county school board will meet today at 6 p.m.

Holiday Performance

On Friday, Dec. 3, at 9:30 a.m. Students from the Children's Center will be giving a performance of "The Tree of the Holidays" for the Board of Realtors at the Elks Club, Silas Creek Parkway. For more information call Jane Pfefferkorn at 727-2629.

Seasonal Music

Fourth- and fifth-grade chorus students from Brunson Elementary School will be presenting a program of seasonal music at Hanes Mall on Friday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. For more information call Jane Pfefferkorn at 727-2629.

Book On Tour

On Friday, Dec. 3 at 11 a.m. Piney Grove School Media Center will be hosting a Scholastic Book on Tour. Parents, students and teachers will have an opportunity to see the latest work by popular authors and illustrators of books for young readers. For more information call Constance Hash at 993-0372.

Blue Skid Dance

On Friday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. Kimberley Park Elementary School will be seeing a performance by Blue Skid Dance called "Endangered Animals Get the Blues." For more information call Jane Pfefferkorn at 727-2629.

SAT Testing

Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) will be given at two locations, Reynolds and Parkland high schools, on Dec. 4 at 8 a.m.

Band Concert

On Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. selected middle and high school band students will be participating in the All County Band Concert at Wake Forest University, Brendle Recital Hall. For more information call Jane Pfefferkorn at 727-2629.

Board Meeting

On Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 8:30 a.m. the Board of Education Curriculum Committee will meet.

PTA Meeting

Mineral Springs Middle School will be having a PTA meeting on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at the school gym. All parents, students and faculty are invited. Also at the PTA meeting the Band, Choral and Strings will be performing.

Variety Show

The Third Annual Holiday Spectacular, a dazzling song and dance variety show celebrating the winter holiday, will be presented by the Reynolds High School Show Choir and Dancing Boots Dec. 9-11, at 7:30 p.m. at Reynolds Memorial Auditorium, 301 N. Hawthorne Road. Admission is \$4 adults, children 5 and under free. For more information call 727-2061.

School Performs at Mall

The Hill Middle School Band and 8th Grade Honors Chorus will be performing at Hanes Mall near J.C. Penny on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 11 a.m. Come out and hear these young people perform the music of the season, under the direction of Madeline Gerald. Also the Hill Middle School Orchestra will be performing at Hanes Mall on Thursday, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m., under the direction of Jean Mock.

SAT Prep Offered

Dr. Jean D'Arcy Macaulaitis, professor of New York University & president of MAC Testing and Consulting Inc. in Sea Bright, N.J., will conduct a SAT test preparation workshop Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Work Force Development Center at 516 N. Trade St. at 1:30 p.m. It is next door to the Urban League.

The program is geared for laymen, professionals and parents, who are serious about scoring higher on the SAT, PSAT and SSAT. The public is invited and the admission is free.

For further information, please call Dr. David N. Peay, 788-3697

"In Our Schools" is a weekly calendar of events that chronicles going-on in our local schools. If you would like your event or information included, send them to: "In Our Schools," The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636. You may also fax it to 723-9173.

Cancer-Causing Soil Dumped in E. Winston

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money." Williams said that although the soil was contaminated with petroleum, the cleansing procedure did not cause an odor or release harmful contaminants into the atmosphere.

Residents are not convinced. "We're very upset that he would come into our neighborhood, a black neighborhood," said Charles R. Pierce of 2437 New Walkertown Road. "...we're trying to maintain decent homes."

Virginia Newell, East Ward alderman, said the process released an odor and residents of the area felt disrespected because Williams did not consult with them.

"The smell is unbearable. In that area there are a number of senior citizens who are retired and already have respiratory problems," Newell said. "We think they were being totally insensitive because it was a residential area and an African-American community."

Tony Disher, president of Soil Solutions, a local company contracted by Williams Oil to clean the soil, said the

steam distillation process heats the soil until it breaks up the hazardous material. It is then stored into tanks.

Williams said there was no odor produced by the steam and the soil and water were not contaminated.

"There was no contamination in the atmosphere. The carbon filters out before it is released into the atmosphere," he said. "I have no idea where the complaints came from. There was no odor from the steam. If so, it would have produced a yellowish-brown look."

Last week, Newell met with a group of residents from the area and they said they would pursue legal action if the cleaning persisted. Williams called Newell Nov. 22 and said the cleaning would immediately stop.

"She voiced her concerns and we felt that if there was that much concern in the neighborhood, it was in our best interest to stop the operation," Williams said. "We had permission from the state and the county; we did all the necessary stops. We would not do anything on a main street that would be illegal."

Carmen Carouth, an official with the city public works department, said the oil company didn't need a permit from the city although they were cleaning soil in the city limits.

"Anytime you remove underground storage tanks you have to follow state regulations," she said. "The state regulates underground storage tanks. The city does not have jurisdiction."

Williams said he brought the soil to his property in East Winston because his lot on Akron Drive was too small for the tanks and there was not enough paved surface to clean the contaminated soil on.

"If I felt we had done something wrong, I would not have put it there," Williams said. "There are no animosities. We have been committed to the citizens throughout the years and we responded to the situation based on their concerns."

Williams said the soil should be removed from the area by next week. He will now have the soil cleaned in Lexington.

Lynne H. Lazzara, an environmental and soil scientist with Soil Solutions,

said gas-contaminated soil could cause cancer if released, but added there are no environmental health risks from soil cleaning.

"In a lot of the compounds at different sites, there are carcinogens, which could cause cancer, kidney and liver failure or a number of things," she said. "But at that site, there was no danger. All of the piles (of soil) were covered with plastic and it was completely safe." Lazzara said she went to the site several times and the only odor she found in the area was a strong organic smell that came from some dump trucks moving soil — not associated with Williams Oil — that came to the Wilco store.

Newell is pleased that the cleaning has stopped, but said businesses need to have more community concern.

"It was a disrespect for the people going in there and buying his goods," she said. "What we need to do is tell our business people to respect the citizens and their health."

Cooper Climbs To Top Fireman

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degree in art with a minor in education in 1971. From 1971-73, he taught at Anderson High School.

During Cooper's tenure as a teacher, a friend used him as a reference for a job at the Winston-Salem Police Department. When officers showed up to ask Cooper about his friend's character, his own interest was aroused.

"I became interested in what they were talking about," he said.

When he joined the force, the responsibilities of the police and fire departments were combined, so an officer had to deal with crime as well as know how to put out a fire. He got a taste of what it was like to be a fireman.

He spent six years on the force and

he sadly recalls that one of his first drug busts involved arresting a man who had been his student at Anderson.

"It was discouraging. . . . It made me feel as if I hadn't done any good as a teacher," he said.

In 1980, he joined the fire department and steadily rose through the ranks until he was promoted deputy chief in 1990.

"One of the things that motivated me," Cooper said about those years of working his way up the chain of command, "was the firefighters who had gone before me. The type of people they were, you couldn't help but want to be like them."

Former Chief Lester Ervin, the first

African American to head the city's fire department, was one of his role models.

Of the 267 fire department employees, about 37 percent are African American, Cooper said. He said that figure stacks up against other fire departments of comparable size. There is, however, work to be done in improving those numbers in the upper ranks, he said.

One of his first tasks, he said, is to mend the fences that were damaged by a lawsuit that was filed in 1990. A group of platoon supervisors maintained that they were not exempt employees and were entitled to overtime pay. The courts, however, ruled this year in favor of the department, which had maintained that the supervisors were management.

Nordlander Says Police Need Your Support

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was his letter. That was the last straw," he said. "The others I could deal with . . . but (the letter) was the one that people talked about the most."

The review board is also an issue that Nordlander says is not at the top of his agenda, but he strongly disagrees with it.

"I think it was a few people who were disgruntled and wanted a review board," he said. "I think it's very important not to have any political faction over the police department. That's why we have internal affairs. They don't need that on their backs along with the crimi-

nals as well."

Nordlander said it was an uphill battle, so he campaigned by going door to door to make himself known. The Southeast Ward is predominantly white and a democratic ward. Nordlander, who is white, said race didn't help him defeat one of city's four black aldermen, it was his platform and the controversies surrounding Womble.

"If the vote depended on racial lines, he wouldn't have become an alderman," he said. "I don't like racism used as an excuse. A lot of times people cry racism because they can't stand on anything else."

Nordlander said that he wants to rid the ward of crime and help bring jobs into the area.

"The only way to handle crime is to have a deterrent to the criminal," he said. "We need to give the benefit of the doubt to police officers. They're only human and we expect them to make mistakes. But they still need to know that the board of aldermen will stand behind them."



Larry Womble

Rules To Live By During The Holiday Season

Some people are still enjoying some of the holiday food and company and relaxing with happy anticipation of the coming Christmas Season. This is a good time for you to take inventory of the child and adult electric hazards around your home. Let the family join you in finding and correcting these hazards.

foot or in wet shoes or sandals on concrete, stone, terrazzo, tile, metal or dirt. Remember that a turned-off device is connected to electricity until it is unplugged.

Don't be careless with any electrical device in the bathroom while you are wet, barefoot or touching any part of the plumbing.

Use extreme caution when operating such outside devices as drills or hedge trimmers. Read all safety instructions, and don't remove the third prong, the ground of a three-prong plug.

A lot of persons will be using one extension cord for the Christmas tree and other decorations and items in the household.

First aid rules for electrical shock:

—Control you emotions—don't touch the victim if he's still in contact with the electrical device or live wire.

—Turn off the current at the switch if possible. Otherwise, use a nonmetallic object, preferably a wooden pole or board to remove the power source from the victim. Try not to move the victim. He may have broken bones or interior burns that could kill him if he is moved incorrectly.

—Have someone call an ambulance and specify the precise nature and location of the accident. The ambulance crew can bring special resuscitation equipment. But don't leave the victim if you are alone. The

next two or three minutes are vital.

—If the victim has a pulse or his heart is beating but he is not breathing, immediately begin mouth-to-mouth breath assistance. If there is no pulse, external cardiac massage must also be employed—the full cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) according to medical authorities, should be done by a qualified person. After heartbeat and breathing are restored, stay with the victim. Keep him quiet, warm and comfortable until medics arrive to take charge.

Take time now to make a special check of your home and find and weed out the electric hazards that could electrocute you, your child or a visiting child in your house



HOME ECONOMICS

By JOANN J. FALLS

Did you know that there are several ways you can accidentally electrocute yourself right in your own home this Christmas. Last year hundreds of Americans were killed by electric current, and thousands were treated in hospitals for painful permanent scars from electrical injuries. Many, many small children are injured each year by:

—Chewing the unattached ends of extension cords.

The child's saliva conducts electricity creating a high temperature flash that burns the child's mouth area. New extension cords now being manufactured are required to have covers to block the NOT-IN-USE slots in the cord receptacle end. But millions of old extension cords do not have this precaution.

These are some basic precautions that you should teach your child and each member of the family to observe:

—Never touch any electrical items, washer, dryer, shaver, grinder, drill, or whatever while standing bare-

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