



Members of Fairchild Hills watch as groups dance and sing during Community Day

Neighborhood Pulls Together

By SHANNON HICKERSON
Chronicle Staff Writer

Three years ago in Fairchild Hills it was common to see people buying, selling and doing drugs right on the street.

Since then, things have changed because the community pulled together to make the neighborhood a better place to live.

"I've seen the community change," said Scheherazade Bonner, member of the community. "Most of the time there would be shooting

every night and I'd hear the police sirens all the time."

"There's still a lot of work to be done," Edith George said. "But, you don't see people shooting up drugs and all of the ugly things that used to happen here. Now, things are more positive."

Many attribute the change in the community to Dorothy Bonner, a resident who decided to turn things around.

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School Board Says Yes to Afrocentric Program

▲ Dale Folwell only objector to plan

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The City/County School Board, minus Dale Folwell, said yes to a curriculum committee recommendation to begin an Afrocentric School program in the fall of 1996.

"This is a very significant step, said the Rev. Carlton A.G. Eversley, who has been lobbying for such a program as a member of the Coalition on African American Education. "It does, in fact, focus on the needs of black children in a way the school system has never done before."

The recommendation came after two board members, School Superintendent Donald Martin and other administrative staff visited two Afrocentric school located in Trenton, NJ and Philadelphia.

Curriculum Committee Chairman Geneva Brown said the board needed to move ahead with the issue so that the education process of the concept can begin.

"We've been talking about this for a long time," she said. "In order to start in the 1996-97 school year we need to study and we have a lot of things to plan."

Folwell said he was not ready to vote on the issue because he needed more information.

"And as a parent I feel anything that has to do with pointing out the differences in people rather than the similarities is a step backward," he said.

Jeannie Metcalf, one of the board members who took the trip, called herself the "cynic" of the group. She said she had some of the same concerns as Folwell, but after the trip her perspective



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—Dale Folwell

changed.

"I was very much surprised," she said. "I was impressed it wasn't that much different from normal school. It wasn't anti-American or anti-white. It adds to the African American experience from their culture."

Metcalf added that she views the program as a way to help kids that seem to be "falling through the cracks."

The program in Forsyth County will be somewhat modeled after Harry Elementary School which operates its Afrocentric program as a school within a school. Harry and the other school visited, Afrikan People's Action School, use the standard course of study in their system said Elementary School Division Director Daisy Chambers.

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Piedmont Foot Patrol Celebrates First Year

▲ Community benefits from unit

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Queen Black enjoys coming out to sit on her porch in her Piedmont Park home. A year ago it was a luxury she couldn't afford.

"It was too dangerous," she said. "You couldn't sit on your porch after the sun went down. It was shooting like the wild, wild west."

The reason Black says she is now able to enjoy the comfort of her porch is the police officers who patrol her neighborhood by foot.

"With the foot patrol there has been 100 percent change," Black said. "I'm disabled, but if I had to get a job to keep them here I would."

The Piedmont Park Foot Patrol unit celebrated its first anniversary last Friday complete with complete with food, drinks and fun. On June 13 of last year, after many inquiries, Piedmont Park residents received three foot

patrol officers into their community. Now the foot patrol membership has grown to seven with the officers working nine-hour shifts from 5:30 p.m. until 2:30 a.m.

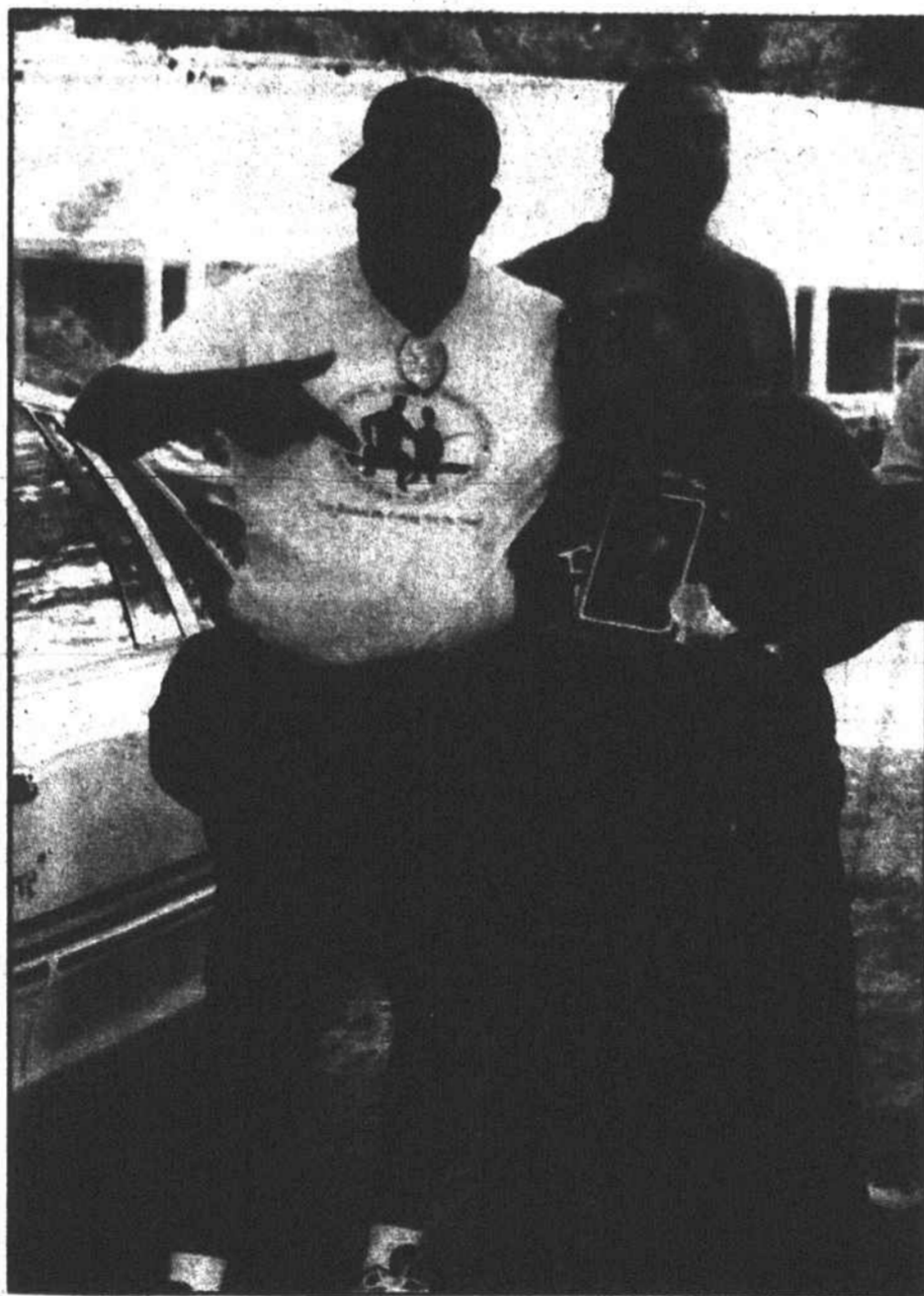
"That's when we find most of the problems said Sgt. Charles Vance, who is in charge of the patrol. "It's when people need us the most."

Senior Police Officer Ross King, a member of the foot patrol agreed that there have been some positive changes in Piedmont Park.

"Before, at sundown it was like a ghost town," he said. "Now people are not afraid to go out. Now people come out here all times of the night."

Vance said more people feel safe, officers have made positive relationships in the community with residents and children. And in its first year there have been no murders in the neighborhood.

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Sgt. Charles Vance jokes with Resident Council President Queen Black after he presents her with a plaque from the foot patrol. Black also presented Vance with a plaque.

Early Start Moves to Family Services

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The school board got out of the pre-school business Tuesday night.

Board members agreed to give the responsibility of its pre-school program Early Start and an exceptional children's program for handicapped 3 and 4-year-olds to Family Services.

Board member Geneva Brown said it's a winning situation for all involved.

"In a town this big you can get more mileage and do more things when all of the pre-K programs are under one umbrella," she said. "The school system needs its space, and Early Start could become Head Start's growth."

Head Start, a federally funded pre-school program, also falls under Family Services.

Superintendent Donald Martin added that this will also be a positive experience for students in the Exceptional Children's program. Instead of being bussed to one site they will have access to

several locations with other students.

Early Start, after much debate and criticism, began in January at several sites with the help of \$750,000 from the county commissioners. The school system contributed \$350,000. After an evaluation in the fall, the school board was going to decide whether the program should continue. However, there would be no assistance from commissioners.

According to a prekindergarten proposal, 224 preschoolers at eight sites will be served. Because some of those slots will be reserved for the exceptional children's program, Elementary Division Director Toni Bigham said the number of slots for Early Start will be reduced from the approximate 200 students that were served in the school system this past year.

However if a grant proposal that will be submitted to Smart Start is approved, more students

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Church Conference Focuses on Youths

▲ Adults encouraged to give young people guidance

By JOHN HINTON AND SHANNON HICKERSON
Chronicle Staff Writers

Children have young, immature minds and often need help from adults in making wise decisions, Bishop LeRoy Jackson Woolard told nearly 500 people gathered last week at the Second Annual Youth Convention in Winston-Salem.

"Somebody is going to have to help them," said Jackson, the jurisdic-

tional prelate of the Greater North Carolina Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ. "When you set your priorities in the right perspective, God's going to come in. That is the thrust of the church."

When the young participants of the conference held in the Benton Convention and Civic Center returned home, they would need guidance from their parents and relatives, Woolard said.

"You have built upon that founda-

tion at the convention," he said. "It has been a mixture of the old and young rejoicing in God. It makes me happy to see children. When you hang around enough young folks, you become young also."

At a youth seminar, Evangelist Sandra Henderson said that children must avoid peer pressure and abstain from premarital sex, drugs, and alco-

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Bishop Woolard addresses the participants of the Second Annual Youth Convention last week.

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This Week in Black History

June 30, 1974
A black man shot and killed Mrs. Martin Luther King, Sr. and deacon Edward Boykin during church services at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta.

The assailant, Marcus Chennault of Dayton, Oh., was later convicted and sentenced to death.

