



THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2003
Vol. XXIX No. 39

Cruel Summer

Kids in two communities may lose recreation facilities

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

This may be the last summer that young people have to enjoy two of the city's recreation centers. City Manager Bill Stuart is proposing that the North Hills and Northampton centers be shut down to spare the city \$42,000. The proposed closings are



Stinson

one of many recommendations in a proposed budget that will go before the City Council.

If approved by the council, North Hills will close in August and Northampton will close in January, once the remodeled Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center reopens. Hanes is located about a mile from the Northampton Center. Some city officials have pointed to Hanes as a possible alternative for kids that will be displaced by the possible closings.

According to the Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Department, use of both centers has declined in recent years, forcing the city to reduce the



North Hills is one of two recreation centers that the city is proposing to shut down because of low attendance.



Hashim Saleh talks to parents outside Barbara Hills on Tuesday as Sonya Toliver signs his petition.

Council is jeered at annexation public forum

Decision by members on proposal is set for next month

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Members of the Winston-Salem City Council began a public hearing on the proposed annexation Tuesday night. They went home Wednesday morning.

During the nearly five-hour hearing, the council heard from a steady stream of folks upset about plans to annex several unincorporated areas around Winston-Salem.

Supporters of the annexation, including Mayor Allen Joines, said the areas in question are more urban than rural and that many of the people who live in them take advantage of city services without paying city taxes. Those who oppose annexation said they can't afford the hefty city taxes and that the services the city would provide in return would not be worth the price they would have to pay.

Marcel Little, who waited in line with hundreds of others before the meeting to sign an anti-annexation petition, said he sees no benefits to annexation for people like him. He moved a few miles outside of Winston-Salem about a decade ago. He likes the low taxes he pays (about \$1,000 a year), but he expects that to double if he is annexed.

"I just don't see any great benefits to it," he said. Little was one of about 2,000 people who came to Joel Coliseum for the hearing. City officials expected a strong turnout. Council members voted to move the meeting from

City Hall South to the coliseum to accommodate the throngs.

There was a palpable circus atmosphere in the coliseum at times, as annexation opponents - some of whom hoisted up home-made protest signs - jeered members of the council and the brave few who spoke in support of annexation.

Alfred Harvey was booed and hissed as he advised council members to support annexation.

"If this city is going to change...we'll have to make concessions for the change," Harvey said.

More than 20,000 people would become Winston-Salem residents if the council votes to proceed with annexation on June 16. Those who would be annexed turned a deaf ear to City Manager Bill Stuart as he explained the services the city would provide to areas it annexes - things such as fire

See Hearing on A11



Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines and his wife, Clara, greet well-wishers after last week's banquet.

For the Boys



Troop 898 from Union Baptist Church prepares to present the colors at the Benton Convention Center.

'Bighouse' Gaines hopes honor helps bring more blacks to scouting

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Everyone from a GBS sports commentator to a basketball legend came to Benton Convention Center May 21 to help the Boy Scouts of America Old Hickory Council honor Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines.

The legendary former Winston-Salem State University basketball coach became the first African-American to receive the council's Distinguished Citizen Award. The award is given to an individual who embodies the main tenets of scouting, such as

See Gaines on A5

Concerns raised over the closing of centers

Northwest Child Development Council will shut down three inner-city child-care facilities

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The closing of three inner-city child-care centers may put some parents in limbo.

The Northwest Child Development Council Inc., which owns or operates 10 child-care facilities in the city, sent letters to parents earlier this month notifying them that the council's board has decided to close the child development centers at Barbara Hills, Cleveland and Model City. The council plans to shut the centers down next month, although the Cleveland facility, located in the heart of Cleveland Avenue Homes, will be kept open as a kitchen to provide meals for the council's remaining child-care facilities.

Tony Burton, chairman of Northwest Child Development Council's board, said the decision was made because the three centers are greatly underutilized as a result of what he calls a saturation of child-care facilities in the areas in which the three centers are located.

"You have a lot of different day cares that are there," he said.

About 20 children are enrolled at each of the centers being closed, Burton said. That is at least two times less than the centers can hold.

Burton said the children at the three centers will be moved to the Franciscan Child Development Center on Hattie Avenue. That center, he said, has a capacity of 143 children, but just 50 are enrolled there.

An employee at one of the centers being closed said workers at the centers have been told that they will be relocated to other facilities.

Because the council does not provide trans-



Burton

See Centers on A10

Neighborhood contest awards best-looking yards

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

The prize patrol came a-knocking on Broadus Campbell's door Saturday. Patrol members didn't have a check for Campbell, but what they gave him made him feel like a million bucks.

Campbell was one of the latest residents in an area of Waightown Street to have their properties picked in a Yard of Week contest. Campbell's yard on Martin Luther King Drive was cited for its closely cropped lawn and well maintained hedges. Campbell works in his yard at least once a week. He was happy that his hard work is not going unnoticed.

"I wasn't expecting it," said Campbell, who like the other winners got a red yard sign and a certificate.

The Waightown Street Neighborhood Association is sponsoring the con-

test with a Winston-Salem Foundation grant it received from Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods.

Yard of the Week honors have been handed out each week since late March. The association plans to wrap up the contest for this year in July, after handing out 80 awards in four categories.

"It just kind of encourages people who are keeping their yards up, bringing beauty to the neighborhood," said Liz Clayton, the immediate past president of the Waightown Street Neighborhood Association. "We want to tell people we really appreciate that."

Clayton came up with the idea of bringing the contest to her neighborhood after hearing about a similar program in Columbia, S.C. She said the contest is a perfect fit for Waightown, an area that has become one of the city's most racial-



Robert Greer and Liz Clayton look at a map of Waightown Street on Saturday as they prepare to hand out best yard honors.

See Contest on A10