

**Hill**

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the former Latham campus.

System officials are also considering combining Cook and Brunson elementary schools. Brunson sits on a flood plane and will eventually have to be moved, Martin said, but the system lacks the funds needed to renovate and expand the Cook building to accommodate the influx of new students the merger would create. Also, many Brunson parents have objected to the idea of sending their kids to Cook, which is only a stone's throw away from Brunson, but is considered a world away by some. Brunson is located on Hawthorne Road in a largely white, West End neighborhood. Cook is on Thurmond Street in a historically black community.

Because the Philo structure is already in sound shape with recent upgrades to its facility, no additional funds will be needed to facilitate the merger, he said. The schools have almost identical demographics (nearly entirely black and Hispanic student bodies), and Hill's Title One funding would follow it to the new campus, Martin said.

Carol Montague-Davis, assistant superintendent of Secondary Education, believes the merging of the two magnet focuses will benefit the students and enhance the curriculums.

"What will happen here is we can get the best of both worlds," she told the modest group that assembled for the meeting. "By bringing the merger together, we're giving the students the opportunity to experience more things than they would in the school they're in now."



Photos by Layla Farmer

Superintendent Don Martin (above) and Carol Montague-Davis, assistant superintendent of Secondary Education, address those who gathered at Hill last week.



Attendees questioned officials about whether various courses would be offered, where displaced employees would end up, and what would happen to the money the school system saved.

Martin said the system's normal turnover rates would provide opportunities within the system for the few positions that would be duplicated through the merger, but the bulk of teachers and staff members would remain at Hill-Philo. The money the system saved through the

measure would help to offset the staggering amount of cuts that are expected to be needed in the coming fiscal year, which could total as much as \$7 million, Martin said. "Bus service would be offered to students from both residential populations just as they are now, he added.

City Council Member James Taylor, a graduate of Hill, says he opposes the merger. Taylor, who represents the city's Southeast Ward, where Hill is located, says he believes the added time former Hill students would spend en route to the new school could be detrimental to them.

"I think it could be a burden transporting kids to another school," he commented. "The longer you have to be transported to school, you may not be as

attentive during the day."

Critics of the school system's more than decade-old redistricting plan aren't fans of the merger either. They say that had redistricting not made inner-city schools virtual ghost towns, there would be no need to merge the schools.

Hill Principal Ingrid Medlock said she believes that in the long-run, the merger will benefit students.

"The magnet programs at these two schools coming together ultimately gets the children at both schools the 21st Century education that they deserve," she stated. "Bringing them together is a huge plus for our schools. The students are about to be wowed."

The Board of Education is expected to vote on the issue by Jan. 24.

**SCA**

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the brain and other vital organs and, if not immediately treated, death can result within minutes," said Dr. Marcie Berger, a Milwaukee-area cardiologist.

Close the Gap staffed an educational booth and distributed free materials throughout the tournament. Free blood pressure screenings were also offered by volunteers from Milwaukee's Froedtert Hospital.

"We often hear that people are surprised Close the Gap is raising awareness of heart disease among young athletes when they appear to be so healthy and fit. This is

precisely why we are here," said Dr. F. Roosevelt "Rosey" Gilliam, a Close the Gap steering committee member. "Heart disease can affect the young and the old, and it causes more deaths in Americans of both genders and across all racial and ethnic groups than any other disease. However, if individuals can learn their risk factors and the symptoms of heart disease, they can become proactive in controlling their heart health. This is especially important for women, black Americans and Latino Americans, who often experience disparities in cardiovascular care."

Learn more about SCA and heart disease risk factors at [www.your-heart-health.com](http://www.your-heart-health.com).

**Commuters**

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carpool, vanpool, bike, walk or take transit with a reliable ride home in the event of an emergency.

NCDOT initially provided funding to develop [www.ShareTheRideNC.org](http://www.ShareTheRideNC.org) in 2005 and continues to support the program. The database is administered by Triangle Transit, the

provider of regional bus and ridesharing services in the Triangle region.

Since Gov. Bev Perdue took office, NCDOT's Public Transportation Division has awarded more than \$310 million in grant funds to local public transportation systems. These grants enable systems to provide people in all 100 counties access to education, job opportunities and health care.

**Cancer**

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licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in females and males, ages 9 - 26 years. This vaccine protects against four types of HPV, including the two that cause most cervical cancers and genital warts. Condom use can also protect against HPV infection. About 30% of cancers will not be prevented by the vaccine, so it is important for all women to continue getting screened with regular Pap tests.

legè health office at your earliest convenience. For women without insurance, cervical cancer testing is now available for free or at a very minimal cost through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBC-CEDEP). More information on this service can be obtained from your local health department. Early detection of cervical cancer can save lives!

Do you need further information or have questions or comments about this article? Please call toll-free 1-877-530-1824. Or, for more information about the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity please visit our website: <http://www.wakehealth.edu/MACHE>.

**Where can I get tested?**

Pap smear, HPV testing, and HPV vaccination are provided by trained health care providers. Schedule an appointment with your doctor, local clinic, or col-

**Playhouse**

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Jahari Taylor-Reid as Travis Younger; Adrian Dion Quarles as Joseph Asagai; Andrew Sheran as George Murchison; Brannon Eaton as Bobo; and Mat Tabat as Karl Linder. The moving men are portrayed by Kirby H. Thompson and Waunzo Sherard.

The Stained Glass Playhouse is located at 4401 Indiana Ave. The play will be staged on the following Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. - Feb. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18, and on the following Sundays at 3 p.m. - Feb. 5, 12 and 19.

Tickets are \$15 and \$10 for seniors and students.

For reservations Call 499-1010.



Photos by Layla Farmer

Dozens gathered for the first Neighborhood Watch Meeting of 2012.

**Watches**

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"I'm going to do what I can to try to keep where I live secure, because I feel like my job is to protect my home and my family," he said. "...All we want to know is if we can have a safe community."

McCoy is not alone in his unrest. About six months ago, a handful of his neighbors came together to form a Neighborhood Watch in Lasley Ridge. The group recently appointed McCoy, a retired Navy serviceman, as its chair. The 64-year-old grandfather of three joined fellow Neighborhood Watch members and leaders from communities across Winston-Salem Monday evening for the city's first Neighborhood Watch Association meeting of 2012.

"I came because I wanted to represent my community and to be able to pass on to some of those who are interested in what I've learned," McCoy explained. "I've looked forward to this meeting and I got quite a bit out of it."

Unlike past gatherings, the Jan. 9 meeting, held at the Alexander R. Beaty Public Safety Training and Support Center on Patterson Avenue, had an open format, allowing all



Rev. Chris McCoy (left) with the WSPD's Charles McCoy.

those present to provide input on training topics that will be highlighted in the coming year. Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Charles McCoy (no relation to Charles McCoy) said he hoped that allowing the citizens to select the topics that will be covered during the bimonthly gatherings would increase their level of engagement in the meetings.

"We're trying to let them pick something that they're interested in to try to draw more people," explained McCoy, a 18-year veteran of the Winston-Salem Police Department.

The city is home to 180 Neighborhood Watch organ-

izations. Typically 35-50 citizens attend citywide Neighborhood Watch gatherings, McCoy said. In addition to helping reduce-crime, McCoy said the existence of Neighborhood Watches fosters positive working relationships between the police and citizens and helps to establish a greater sense of community.

"The best thing about neighborhood watches is helping neighbors help neighbors and working with the people to make their communities safer," he said. "I love going out engaging people and talking to them about safety."

The more than two dozen in attendance suggested a variety of topics for future meetings, from topics related to gang activity to learning about the Department's

Internal Affairs process after a citizen files a complaint. Home security, fraud and scam protection were also discussed as possible meeting topics. A lively discussion ensued, as Department officials entertained questions and even accepted some accolades from the public.

"I just want to give acknowledgement to the Police Department," one man told the officers that were present. "We had two storage buildings in my neighborhood broken into. They were just cleaned out, and (the Police Department) recovered everything. You do a great job."

Mark Snow, Crime Prevention's newly-appointed sergeant, returned the praise to Neighborhood Watch members. He said their attentiveness and concern are making a difference in the city's war on crime. That very morning, a citizen's intuition about a suspicious vehicle led police to apprehend a burglar who had just finished robbing a home. All of the property stolen from the home was recovered, Snow reported.

"That started off as just a vehicle that was out of place," he related.

The next Neighborhood Watch Association meeting is scheduled for March 12 at the Beaty Center, 1200 N. Patterson Ave., at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Department at (336) 773-7835.



Snow

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For more information call CityLink 311