



Assistant Police Chief David Clayton addresses residents as Lt. Christa Long looks on.

Photos by Todd Luck

Residents seek help in combatting crime

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Members of the East/Northeast Neighborhood Association addressed their concerns about crime last Thursday at the association's first meeting of the year. Winston-Salem Assistant Police Chief David Clayton was on hand at the meeting, held at Hooper Funeral Home, to address residents' concerns.

The neighborhood association was founded in 2005 by Marva Reid in response to crime in the community.

A current rash of home break-ins brought at least two residents to the meeting. Shirley Spease said robbers have twice entered her home.

"I wanted to hear more about what the police department plans to do," Spease said about her motivation to attend the meeting.

Reid said crime has improved over the years, but is still an issue.

"It comes in spurts ... I want to say it's gotten better," she said. "We get a different type of crime; sometimes the reason behind it is still the same. Needless to say, the struggle continues."



Shirley Spease

with the community."

Clayton is the commander of the police department's Support Services Bureau, which coordinates with Neighborhood Watches around the city. He offered common sense crime prevention tips and said that "community driven" neighborhood watches can be the "best form of crime prevention."

He used Bessie Henderson as an example. Henderson organized a Neighborhood Watch group on Rich Avenue. Clayton said her efforts were responsible for reclaiming the area from the criminal element.

"How many people did it take to turn her community around?" said Clayton. "It starts with one."

He also pointed to Mattie Young, known as the Mother of Cleveland Avenue Homes, whose efforts yielded similar results.

Clayton also fielded questions about the ongoing search for a new police chief to replace the retiring Scott Cunningham. Clayton, a respected WSPD veteran and former City of Winston-Salem Employee of the Year, said he is considering applying for the position himself.

Reid said she has concerns about the City's use of the Internet to disseminate information about the police chief search. She fears those in her community who lack computers and Internet access will miss out on opportunities to provide input. Reid said she would like candidates for chief to appear at a future association meeting to meet face-to-face with residents.

The East/Northeast Neighborhood Association's efforts to make its community a better place have been many. Members advocated for the creation of Harambee Park, a City-operated area that has become a sort of community square. The association also sponsors an annual National Night Out crime prevention event, kite days and other family-friendly events.

"(Neighborhood Associations) are the beating heart of the community," said Reid.

Reid urged her neighbors to get behind the Winston Lake Park Master Plan, which includes many improvements and additions to East Winston parks. She also encouraged them to take part in the next community clean-up event on March 23. A petition against a proposed electricity rate hike by Duke/Progress Energy was also among the meeting's agenda items, as was information about the law that requires pet owners to clean-up after their animals.

The Association meets at 6 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month. All future meetings will be held at 14th Street Recreation Center. For more information, call Reid at 336-997-2519.



East/Northeast Neighborhood Association founder Marva Reid speaks.

Burr measure calls for March 29th 'Vietnam Veterans Day'

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

U.S. Sen. Richard Burr, a North Carolina Republican and the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, has introduced a resolution to honor veterans who served in Vietnam by designating March 29 as "Vietnam Veterans Day."

March 29 marks the anniversary of the day that combat and combat support units withdrew completely from South Vietnam.



Photo courtesy of Office of Sen. Burr

U.S. Sen. Richard Burr has more seniority than any other member of the Senate's Veterans' Affairs committee.

"Despite serving honorably and bravely in Vietnam, our soldiers arrived home to a country in political turmoil and never received the recognition they deserved," Burr said. "By setting March 29th aside as a day to remember and thank our Vietnam veterans, we can show our unified gratitude for their service and the sacrifices they made on our behalf."

Burr, a Winston-Salem resident and Wake Forest University alumnus, is encouraging communities throughout the country to take measures to commemorate this day by honoring Vietnam veterans in their area. This is the third consecutive year that Senator Burr has introduced a resolution for the establishment of "Vietnam Veterans Day." His colleague Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) co-sponsored the legislation.

The US Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese in 1950; in 1965, ground combat troops were sent into Vietnam. U.S. troops were withdrawn from Vietnam on March 29, 1973, under the terms of the Agreement Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam, commonly known as the Paris Peace Accords. More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives and more than 300,000 were wounded in Vietnam.

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Nubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636
Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636

THE CHRONICLE JOIN US!



Awards Banquet Honoring the 2013 Award Recipients
Saturday March 23rd at 6:00 p.m.
Benton Convention Center

TICKET REQUEST:

Yes, I would like to attend the Awards Banquet

\$25 Admission

Includes a 6 month subscription that can be used as a gift!

Number of tickets at \$25 each _____

Number of tables (in honor of Recipients) available (seats 8) _____

Reserved by: Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # (Home) _____ Email _____

Send this completed form with check or money order payable to:

THE CHRONICLE
617 N. Liberty Street • Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Mon - Tue 9am to 5pm, Wed - Fri 9am to 4pm