

Submitted photo
Oak Grove School off Bethabara Road is the only surviving structure in the county of the one-room school.



Local research project targeting segregated elementary schools of past

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

An extensive and comprehensive countywide research project is underway. Triad Cultural Arts Inc., the presenter of The Juneteenth Festival, has initiated "Celebrating Our Colored Elementary Schools."

The project will document the history and legacy of more than 30 public and private schools in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County that educated African-American children before the forced integration in the early 1970s.

Skyland School, 14th Street School, Kimberly Park, Carver Crest, Mebane, Columbian Heights, Carver, Oak Grove, St. Benedict's, Nelson's Preparatory, Diggs and the Memorial Industrial School are some of the more familiar schools being researched. A major challenge is

identifying in the county the 19 one-teacher schools that served African-American students in 1936.

Cheryl Harry, director of African-American programming at Old Salem Museums & Gardens and CEO of Triad Cultural Arts Inc., feels that these community institutions were key cultural hubs in the African-American neighborhoods, especially during the county and city's growth years between 1920 and 1950.

The laws of segregation prohibited the intergration of blacks with whites in all aspects of daily life. Thus, there were separate schools for black children and white children.

Annette Scippio is the principal researcher and project coordinator. Since there is little to no documentation of the colored schools, Scippio's goal is to collect as many stories, memories, photos and

memorabilia related to each school as possible. Knowledge of the institutions resides in the memories of former students, parents, teachers, student/practice teachers and residents. Questionnaires are being distributed throughout the community, online and to out of state students and teachers. Personal interviews are being scheduled with many elderly residents.

Some fascinating information is being uncovered, such as the role of the city's recreation department as early as 1919, in physical education and after school programs. For instance, in 1936, there were 19 one-teacher colored schools scattered in the county. Oak Grove School off Bethabara Road is the only surviving structure in the county of the one-room school.

In contrast, the colored elementary schools in the city had a significant eco-

nommic impact. For instance, in 1938, 14th Street School served 1,779 students, employed 44 teachers and the property was valued at \$358,638. Scippio says a community-wide celebration of the legacy of these institutions is planned when the research is complete. All former students, parents, teachers, student/practice teachers and community residents are asked to share their memories and memorabilia. Volunteers are distributing questionnaires to family and friends. Questionnaires are also available at www.triadculture.org.

To learn more about this initiative or to inquire about how to volunteer, visit the "Celebrating Our Colored Elementary Schools" booth at the Juneteenth Festival on Saturday, June 20, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fifth Street at the Winston Mutual Building, email wsfcolts@yahoo.com or call (336) 582 2557.

JUNETEENTH



Dr. Reginald F. Hildebrand talks about accounts from various historical documents describing the announcement of emancipation in churches and the jubilant celebrations that followed.



The crowd at the St. Philips Heritage Center at Old Salem Museums & Gardens on Thursday, June 4, listens to Dr. Reginald F. Hildebrand, associate professor of African-American studies and history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, at the Juneteenth Luncheon.

Celebrations center on history, culture

In photos above, Dr. Reginald F. Hildebrand, associate professor of African-American studies and history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, speaks at the St. Philips Heritage Center at Old Salem Museums & Gardens on Thursday, June 4, in celebration of the country's longest-running observance of the abolition of slavery: 150 years. Hildebrand read accounts from those who experienced emancipation from slavery.

Juneteenth is held on or around June 19, when Union

forces arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news of the end of slavery on June 19, 1865. Juneteenth is normally known as a large festive celebration, filled with food and entertainment as well as black history and culture. That celebration in Winston-Salem will be Saturday, June 20, with an outdoor event from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the intersection of 5th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

The 11th annual Triad Juneteenth Africana Festival will feature the Rev. Byron Williams, an award-winning

author; and honor popular 1950s R&B vocal group the "5" Royales, with a special tribute. Williams will discuss and sign copies of his best-selling book, "1963: The Year of Hope and Hostility," which won the 2014 International Book Award for U.S. history.

The Juneteenth Festival is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.triadculture.org, or call 336-757-8556.

All city pools open for the summer

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

City of Winston-Salem operated pools are now open for the summer, which officially starts on Sunday, June 21.

Patrons entering the pool must wear appropriate swimwear with a liner or have appropriate swimwear with them to be admitted into the pool area.

All pools are offering free children's swim lessons. Sign-ups for sessions will be Saturday, June 27, and Saturday, July 18. Free adult swim lessons are also available at all swimming pools. Contact the pool facility for details.

All pools will offer a Babes in Arms program for children 5 and under starting Saturday, June 20. Contact the pool facility to register. The pools also have swim teams for children 17 and under, and offer diving instruction.

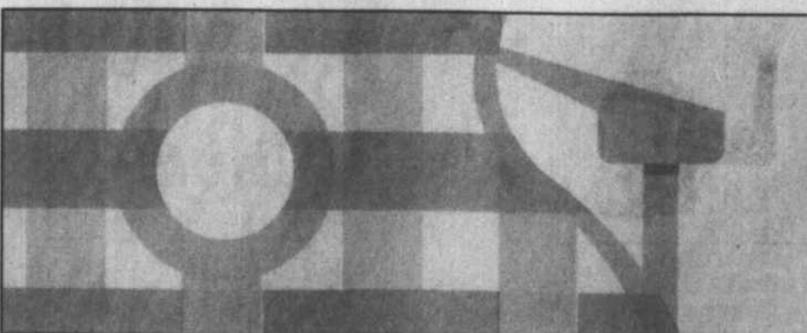
To ensure safety, parents should swim with their children. All pool patrons must obey

the lifeguards. Non-swimmers less than 48 inches tall will be required to wear life jackets in the pools. Life jackets are not required in kiddie pools or at the water play areas at Kimberley Park and Bolton Park pools.

The city will provide life jackets. Patrons may bring their own life jackets if they have a stamp indicating that the jackets are Coast Guard approved and pass inspection from the lifeguards.

Children less than 48 inches tall will be asked to take a swim test when they arrive at the pool so lifeguards can assess their swimming ability. If they pass the test, they will receive a green wristband that allows them to go anywhere in the pool. If they do not pass the test, they will receive a red wristband and a life jacket. They can go in the shallow end of the pool up to 3.5 feet.

Patrons over 48 inches tall will be required to take a swim test if lifeguards observe that they may be poor or non-swimmers.



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