

# THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, August 15, 2019

## Yard of the Month project instills pride in Boston-Thurmond neighborhood

BY JUDIE HOLCOMB-PACK  
THE CHRONICLE

"Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?" Members of the Safety and Beautification committee of the Boston-Thurmond Community Engagement Roundtable are on a mission to find out.

They recently started a new project called the Yard of the Month to bring attention to some of the well-kept yards in their neighborhood. Like a pebble thrown into a puddle that creates ripples, the impact of highlighting these yards is that other neighbors have started to improve their yards, also.

Going down a few of the streets, Lauretta Strong and David West, two of the Safety and Beautification committee members, pointed out changes they were already noticing throughout their neighborhood. A strong sense of community is developing, as well as more pride in their homes, yards and gardens.

West said the committee has developed the mission of improving the quality of living and enhancing the overall appearance of the Boston/Thurmond community, encouraging neighbors to take pride in their homes and neighborhood, and celebrating those who have committed to maintaining yards in a way that complements the community.

The Yard of the Month project runs from May through September. Recognized in July were:

\*"Pop" at 2029 Thurmond Street, a beautifully simple yard. "Pop" also helps his neighbors main-

tain their yards by mowing several yards on his street.

\*B.J. Simmons, 436 W. 25th St., for the creativity in his yard design.

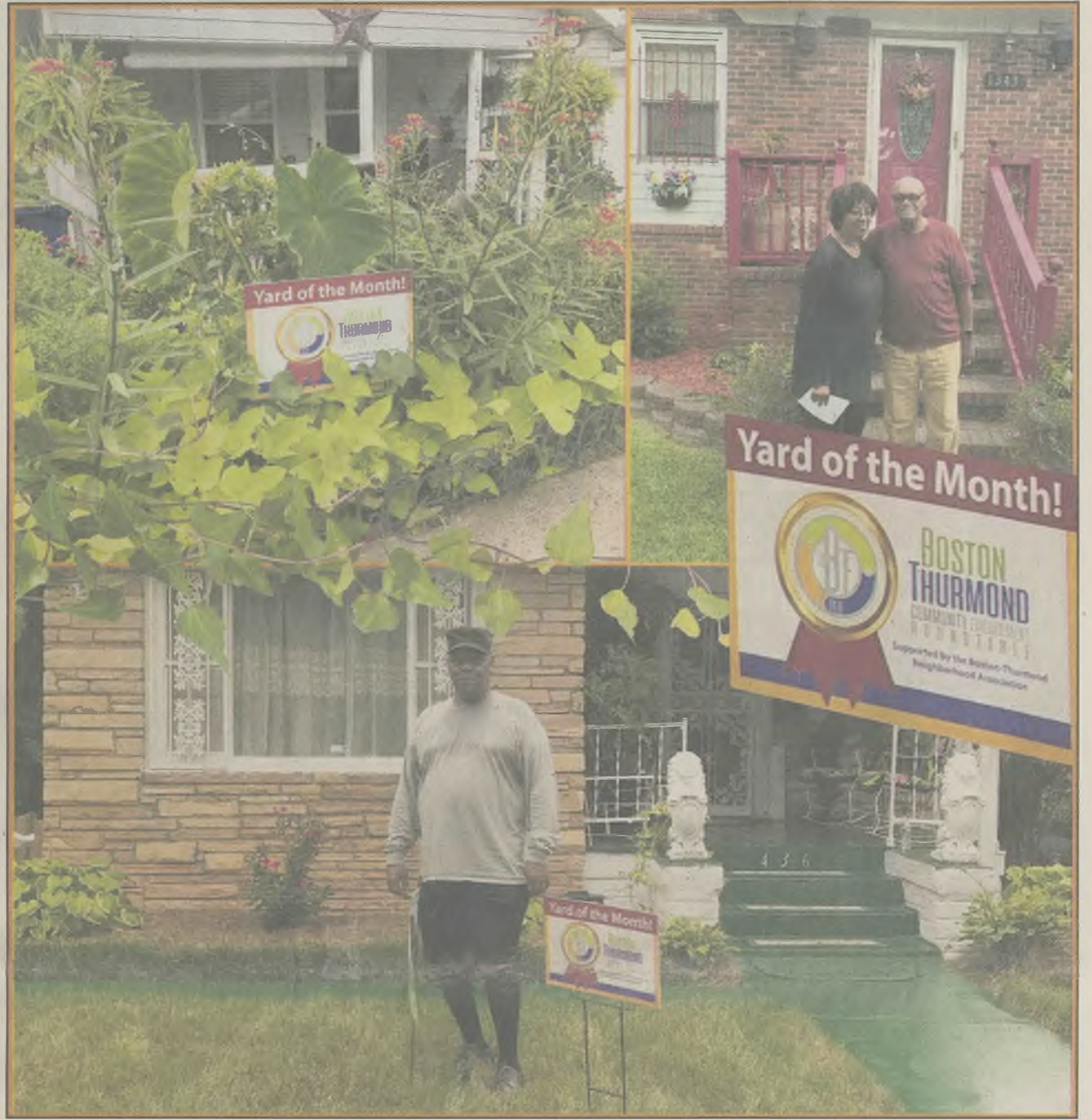
\*Charles Bennett, 1430 Garfield St., a neat cottage home with decorations throughout the yard and a vegetable garden in the back.

\*Phyllis and Nate Fleming, 1343 Underwood St., which the committee nicknamed "Christmas in July" for the decorative red wrought-iron security guards over the windows that match a welcoming red front door, red porch, and colorful planters under each window. The Flemings have lived in their home for 41 years.

The Boston-Thurmond neighborhood is divided into four quadrants and a winning yard is selected monthly from each quadrant. The yard is marked by a distinctive Yard of the Month sign and the homeowner receives a \$50 gift card as a reward.

The committee, which falls under the umbrella of the Boston-Thurmond Community Engagement Roundtable, has a limited budget and West said a donor who prefers to remain anonymous has generously donated the money to cover the gift cards for the winners for this season. Committee members are: Lauretta Strong, David West, Ola Brown, and Mary Ford. Strong said the committee "... needed to figure out a way to engage the neighborhood." She added, "We seek out and find the people who are genuinely interested in making the neighborhood better."

West and Strong noted that one of the prior win-



Photos by Judie Holcomb-Pack

Yard of the Month recognizes Boston-Thurmond residents who beautify their yards and neighborhood.

ners was in a known problem area for the residents at one time, but he has influenced neighbors to improve their yards and clean up their neighborhood by showing he cares and has pride in his home. That small pebble has created

ripples that are spreading throughout the community.

The Boston-Thurmond Neighborhood Association meets the second Monday of each month at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center and

the Boston-Thurmond Community Engagement Roundtable meets monthly at various community stakeholders' locations (schools, churches, recreation centers). Committees include: Communications, Revitalization, Education

and Health and Wellness. The Safety and Beautification committee would welcome new members. Neighbors who would like more information can contact Diane Fitzhugh at fitzemail399@gmail.com.

## Community celebrates the life of Julius "Juice" Sampson Jr.

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

More than a thousand people filed into Union Baptist Church on Tuesday, Aug. 13 to celebrate the life of Julius "Juice" Sampson Jr., a local barber who was shot and killed in the parking lot of a Winston-Salem restaurant.

Sampson, 32, who was a barber at Supreme Legacy Barbershop, was known throughout the community as a family man who cared about his community and would go the extra mile to lend a helping hand to those in need. A newlywed and father of three, Sampson was a graduate



Photos by Tevin Stinson

A horse-drawn carriage carrying Julius "Juice" Sampson Jr. makes its way down Trade Street earlier this week. Sampson's funeral was held at Union Baptist Church.

of North Forsyth and after high school he attended N.C. Central University. He was also a 2017 graduate of Winston-Salem Barber School.

In the days since his untimely passing, hundreds of people, including local and state elected officials, have reached out publicly and personally to send condolences to the Sampson family.

"Tough day for our

city for our bro family, for our community, need the strongest prayers to celebrate the great life of Julius "Juice" Sampson," wrote Terrence Petree on Facebook. "We will have to hold each other up, we're all hurting. We love you bro."

Sampson fell victim to senseless gun violence on Tuesday, Aug. 6. According to police, around 4 p.m. officers with the Win-

ston-Salem Police Department (WSPD) responded to a report of a disturbance at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, 192 Hanes Mall Circle. Before officers could arrive, the call was upgraded to a report of gunshots being fired and upon arrival, officers found Sampson unresponsive and suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. Emergency medical personnel pronounced Samp-

son dead at the scene.

Robert Granato, a 22-year-old white male, was arrested at the scene and is being held at the Forsyth County Detention Center with no bond.

It is believed that the altercation between Sampson and Granato began when Sampson defended a waitress or bartender who was being verbally abused by Granato inside the restaurant. After the verbal

argument spilled outside, Granato pulled .22 caliber handgun and fatally shot Sampson.

Sampson's death near Hanes Mall marked the 15th murder in Winston-Salem this year. Within hours of the altercation, word began to spread that Granato is racist and that fueled the dispute with Sampson. Although racial epithets were used by both men during the altercation, and a photo has surfaced of Granato wearing a shirt the reads "Murica," a term often used to imply extreme patriotism, during a press conference last week Chief Catrina Thompson said at this time there is no evidence to believe Sampson's murder was motivated by race.

On the day of the funeral, a line to get into the church started to form more than two hours before the service was scheduled to begin. Because there was no room in the sanctuary, many people were forced to watch the ceremony on a TV screen

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