

Harris Says: Park And Recreation

Commission Is Ineffective

By Jacquie Levister
Post Staff Writer



Ken Harris

...Mayoral candidate serving on boards and commissions," he offered. Reluctantly he suggested that the names of those registered for the new Talent Bank should be signed up to attend schools specializing in their area of interest once that can be begun.

The only commitment Harris was willing to make for vacancies that may appear in the interim was to be sure a diverse group of people from all areas be represented.

In relationship to the Charlotte Area Fund's need for support, Harris again was non-committal while wondering aloud if it does indeed offer services that the city cannot. However he did state that while he had not made a decision about the Area Fund he felt the conflicts that have developed are due to bureaucratic jealousies between the two bodies.

After reiterating the statement "the Black Political Caucus as a body has only endorsement powers," he added that he feels is a part of the Caucus's bylaws that only Democratic candidates he endorsed.

Present was an obvious contrasting view of the Black Ministers Coalition. "The Black Ministers Coalition is made up of hard working people who are influential and concerned about issues rather than partisan politics," Harris offered.

Zealously objecting to the date," Harris stated "I considered running for Mayor in the spring and talked to a group of bi-partisan leaders who seemed disinterested. As a result of that meeting I felt there was no need to create a campaign. Then in the summer I decided to file for the District 5 seat on the council to remain active. However, that same group of disinterested people began calling Tuesday before filing deadline and

According to Harris the Talent Bank will not accomplish widespread participation. "The need is for a leadership school for people interested in

encouraged me to run. Having considered it already I called the Chairman of the Republican party and informed him of my decision."

A firm believer in delegating responsibility, Harris credits his ability to make such delegations for his being able to offer his services to the City of Charlotte now as its Mayor. "On April 1, 1975 I gained full responsibility for the business (New England Life Insurance Agency) and did not have time to serve on council. Since that time I have hired four staff managers. It is this kind of leadership I will take to the office of mayor," he volunteered.

Putting to rest the idea that a Republican mayor of Charlotte would be ineffective, Harris referred to the fact that we have had a Republican congressman from our area for 25 years concluding, "If anyone thinks Jim Whittington can get more funds than me they don't understand his ties with Jimmy Green are in direct conflict with that of the governor."



PILOT GOSPEL SINGERS

First row left to right Janice Geter, Deborah Ivey, Sharon Redfean. Second row - Mrs. Louise Managrum, Mrs. Ozzie L. Blount, Mrs. Elizabeth Monteith and Mrs. Addie L. Foster. Back row Fred Henderson.

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Over 60 Years Of Age

750,000 Citizens Live Alone

Special To The Post

RALEIGH -- She is 75 years old and lives alone.

Her children have moved away and she has no family to turn to. She doesn't drive a car. Inflation has eroded her small social security check. During this past severely cold winter, she had an even rougher time making ends meet because of additional fuel bills. She is eligible for Food Stamps but does not participate.

North Carolina has over 750,000 citizens over 60 years of age. Many of them face the same problems as this lady.

Economically, the state's older adults do not fare as well as those of many other states. Almost one-third (33 percent) of North Carolina's elderly have incomes below the poverty level compared to a national average of only 18.7 percent.

The pinch of inflation, the energy crisis and non-existent or inadequate retirement pensions, force a large percentage of our elderly citizens to live in dire poverty circumstances.

One-third have chronic health problems, with over half of these being directly related to

poor nutrition.

Yet, very few of the state's elderly participate in the Food Stamp program which is designed to help people with low incomes purchase adequate food to meet their nutritional requirements. Only approximately 6 percent of the state's elderly who are considered eligible participate in the program.

Why not? Misunderstanding of eligibility requirements, transportation and pride are considered to be the major reasons according to those who work with the Food Stamp program in county social services departments across the state.

A statewide effort is being started this month to make sure that senior citizens understand the Food Stamp program and how it can help with their nutritional needs.

Nathan Yelton, Assistant Secretary for Aging for the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, and Robert Ward, director of the Division of Social Services of the Department, are spearheading the statewide effort.

Letters have gone out to all 100 county social services departments, staff members working with projects for the

aging, local councils on aging and Title VII nutrition site project directors urging a cooperative effort in helping to make senior citizens more aware of the Food Stamp program.

This effort also calls for making the program more accessible to the elderly by providing adequate certification and issuance locations throughout the counties and transportation where needed.

One of the main thrusts will be to have local Food Stamp eligibility workers visit Title VII communal dining sites to explain the program and take applications. There are 238 such sites across the state where a hot meal is provided each day for senior citizens.

Recreation

Commission

Offer Two Classes

Charlotte Park and Recreation Commission announces two classes to begin at the Tuckaseegee Recreation Center, 4820 Tuckaseegee Road.

A belly-dancing class will begin October 24 and will run for six weeks.

The \$50,000 you'll spend on cars: How to manage it.



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