

Eastland response strong after 1 week



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Eastland Mall security officer Edwin Nichols looks out over the shopping center Tuesday. Incidents involving teenagers on the mall property spurred Eastland management to launch an Internet site and telephone hotline to solicit suggestions from the public.

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said Eastland officials will look at ideas received from the feedback line and web site. He said mall managers

will meet with civic and city leaders to make policy decisions by the end of May.

"We want to have teens come out and act as cus-

tomers," he said. "We can't allow groups of youth to misbehave in our mall."

Eastland is expanding and is an important part of east

Charlotte's development, McCluskey said, citing that Burlington is planning to open a store in the upper level of the former JC Penny's store.

McCluskey hopes to get good ideas from the community that will help with coming up with short term and long term solutions to prevent problems in the mall.

Charlotte area teens have been making headlines lately because of incidents in area malls, including Eastland. In January, a fight erupted at Concord Mills during the premiere of urban youth film "You Got Served."

Then on March 20, a group of teens were involved in a fracas that involved about 100 people, prompting mall security and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police to increase security at the mall.

McCluskey said the increased security didn't hamper business at Eastland. "It's been business

as normal," he said. "We enjoyed a very good business week when the youth were off from school."

Have something to say? Call the Eastland Mall Feedback Line at (704) 568-1129

On the web:
Eastland Mall
www.eastlandmall.com

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New program gets birth and foster parents involved in raising children

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When foster parents and birth parents work together, she continued the child benefits as does the parents.

"Sometimes these are young parents who were never shown how to be parents. By seeing the foster family, they learn more appropriate parenting skills," she said. "They learn that a two-year-old having a temper tantrum is normal."

And, Horton added, by having interaction between the foster parents and the child's natural parents, the child is not conflicted about loving both sets of care givers.

"When the child sees that the foster parents and their birth parents respect each other, they don't feel disloyal to their parents for liking their foster parents or disloyal to their fos-

ter parents for looking forward to their visit (from the biological parents)."

Horton said foster parents are asked to keep the child's parents updated on the child's progress in school. "We ask them to invite them to games and assemblies at school," she said. "Share dialogue about grades, doctor's appointments and therapy sessions."

Horton said many foster families are already incorporating shared parenting into their life style. She said she has one family that invites the birth mother over to have dinner with them.

"We like to have the parents involved as much as possible," she said, adding that some families are more flexible than others and have schedules that allow more interactions.

Banquet honors educators, scholars

By Herbert L. White
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An African American teachers organization is adding scholarship dollars to its recognition of education excellence.

The Greater Charlotte Alliance of Black School Educators host its second Celebration of Excellence in Education program Friday at the Adam's Mark Hotel at 6 p.m.

The group will also award \$1,000 scholarships to five high school seniors. Organizers expect about 300 people from the education and business arenas, including Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Superintendent James Pughsley, who was honored last year.

The Charlotte group is affiliated with the National Alliance of Black School Educators, which consists of 6,000 members and 100 affiliates across the U.S. Its primary purpose is to increase motivation and academic achievement of African American students by helping teachers and parents address issues that impact academic achievement.

"We're the first group that brought together African American leaders in education together," said Melissa Dunlap, principal at Ashley Park Elementary School and the local organization's membership chairperson. "Our focus is on helping African American students."

GCABSE will also recognize four community cate-

gories: building administrator of the year, friend of education, teacher of the year and sponsor of the year. It will also announce details of a partnership with UNC Charlotte's Teacher Cadet program.

The local group is looking to boost its ranks by recruiting teachers from private schools and area colleges.

"We're looking to add university professors to our membership, along with charter school and private school teachers," Dunlap said. "Anyone interested in helping minority children achieve."

For information on the GCABSE, call Dunlap at (980) 343-6018 or chapter President Daisy Walker at (980) 343-3854.

Greensboro commission tries to answer fatal 1979 confrontation

THE CAROLINA PEACEMAKER

GREENSBORO - When Mayor Keith Holliday asked him to serve on the Selection Panel for the Greensboro Truth & Reconciliation Commission as his representative, Judge Lawrence McSwain agreed for two reasons.

"Well, first, when the mayor asks you to do something you have to say yes," he quipped, before turning serious. "The other reason is that to a lot of people, this is an important thing. For a large number of people, until they feel like a neutral body has investigated this, they won't accept the official story that's been put out."

"This" is the Nov. 3, 1979, killings of five communist labor activists and the wounding of ten others by Ku Klux Klansmen and members of the American Nazi Party.

"The official story" is that the victims, like the attackers, were a depraved set of "extremists" who only got what they deserved for endangering innocents on that Saturday morning in the now-demolished Morningside Homes.

McSwain, who grew up in Kings Mountain and moved to Greensboro in 1966, remembers being an intern in the district attorney's office

when he saw the shootings on television.

"I just remember thinking, 'This is a terrible thing to happen in Greensboro,'" he said.

In contrast, he thinks the Greensboro Truth & Community Reconciliation Project is a good thing.

A good thing got better when McSwain agreed to serve on the Selection Panel, then to serve as its chairman. The panel, with representatives appointed by 14 organizations and segments of the community, is working to choose the seven members of the TRC.

The commission, expected to be seated in June, is the neutral body that will review documents and hear testimony to determine the truth of what happened, then suggest opportunities for both the individuals involved and the entire city to reconcile and heal.

The panel has nearly 70 nominees to choose from, and its selections are central to the success of the project. McSwain's leadership in making those selections is a blessing.

"We were thrilled to learn that Judge McSwain was chairing the panel," said the Rev. Nelson Johnson, a survivor of the attack and director of Greensboro's Beloved Community Center, one of the initiating organizations for the project.

Dr. Kaplan

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