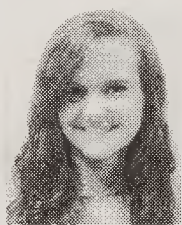




Shopping for friends and relatives does not have to be stressful or lead to bankruptcy if one considers some simple suggestions.

the high LIFE

“How unfortunate it is that members of the film industry have become so mentally blocked that their negotiators merely replace some stars, modify a few settings, and apply some new graphics before throwing the old reels out to dry.”



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Holiday festivities across the Piedmont provide entertainment, holiday joy for all

BY LINDSEY STADLER
Reporter

Taking place right here in Greensboro are a variety of holiday season events. The 23rd annual Festival of Lights, which took place downtown in Center City Park on December 2, featured the music of over 20 performing groups, free hot chocolate provided by the Salvation Army and 107.5 KZL, and Santa Claus himself, who took holiday requests from children. The festival began with a performance by the NCA&T Fellowship Gospel Choir. New to the schedule was FestQuest, a scavenger hunt that encouraged people to visit a variety of historical buildings and the businesses that now occupy them. Clues were printed in the “News & Record,” and then scavenger-hunters collected QR codes. Those individuals who collected them all won prizes that downtown businesses and restaurants donated. Another new addition was an area devoted to featur-

ing a “Hot, Hot Holidays” theme, which included palm trees, chili pepper lights, and leis. The steel drum band Hot Pink Flamingos and the horn band Peacemakers also performed, providing tropical sounds. Games like cactus ring toss and limbo were also popular. Lighting the 38-foot tree donated by the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation was the highlight of the evening.

Opening on November 16, the outdoor ice skating rink downtown is available to the public through January 29. It is the largest outdoor rink in the state. Holiday-themed plays also crowd the calendar, such as “Christmas from Dublin: A Traditional Irish Christmas” on December 1 at the Carolina Theatre; “A Christmas Carol” at Triad Stage until December 24; “The Nutcracker” ballet on December 9-11 and 16-18; and a special showing of “The Santa Clause” also at the Carolina Theatre on December 10 for free admission.

Menorah lighting and Hanukkah festivities will take place at Center City Park, beginning at 4:30 pm on December 22. Candlefest took place on December 3 at the Arboretum, where visitors enjoyed refreshments while viewing the beautiful walkways lined with over 4,000 luminaries. Live music, along with horse and carriage rides, was available as well.

Greensboro Symphony put on its 24th annual Holiday Concert, sponsored by Sealy and Fox 8, at the Coliseum on December 9. Admission to the concert was free with the donation of a food item to the Salvation Army. According to an article on VisitGreensboroNC.com, last year’s concert earned over \$21,000 and collected more than 70,000 cans of food.

Greensboro Jaycees Holiday Parade, a downtown tradition for more than 35 years, took place on December 3 from 12-2 pm. The parade, like always, took place downtown and fea-

ture floats, dancing teams, vehicles, Macy’s-style balloons, and marching bands. Some of the balloons included in the parade were the Grinch, Santa, and Raggedy Ann. On December 21, Temple Emanuel will be hosting a Congregational Chanukah Party featuring menorah lighting, a costumed Judah Maccabee telling a story, music, food, arts and crafts, games, and more.

People willing to travel a short distance from Greensboro to Clemmons, North Carolina for some holiday fun will not be disappointed with a trip to Tanglewood Park, one of the largest light shows in the southeast. On its 20th anniversary, the park will transform into a winter wonderland through the first of the new year, displaying breathtaking light displays and wintery, holiday scenes. Children will have an opportunity to see Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides. A Christmas tree lot will also be available to the public.

Teen Grant-Making Council provides funds to young people who contribute to the community

BY MAC BALL
Sports Editor

Thanks to the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, high school students and area teens are helping improve youth-led organizations in the Guilford County area. Teenagers from Grimsley, Page, Greensboro Day School, Northern, Northwest, and Western Guilford, along with home-schooled students and the Guilford and GTCC early colleges, comprise The Teen Grant-making Council. Community Foundation member Traci Poole and the Foundation board give at least \$5000 dollars to the group each year, with the possibility of gaining another \$1000 every month depending upon attendance. A minimum of 75% of the group must attend meetings on time as a prerequisite for the money.

Whirlie students include senior Steven Buccini, junior Mac Ball, sophomore Elizabeth Reeve, and freshman She’Neka Williams. Along with the other members, they meet monthly at the Community Foundation office downtown where they discuss philanthropy and seek new ways of reaching out to youth and publicizing the grant applications.

“I think it’s really neat that teens are entrusted with a lot of money to make a difference. I get to work with many different people from a lot of different backgrounds and help other teenagers make a difference in our community,” said Buccini.

Most people in the group would agree with him, as they have morphed into a united front, unlike the beginning of the year when the members were not very familiar with

each other; several were nervous to open up to complete strangers. Through the past few months, the organization has been able to achieve more goals in their meetings and have currently distributed grant applications to interested groups hoping to gain up to \$2000 each.

Qualifications for the grant are twofold. Middle school or high school students must run the groups applying for the funding and the money must support a legitimate project the group is planning that will help or reach out to the community.

TGC’s leader Traci Poole has been working with the group since its beginning six years ago when the Community Foundation board agreed to give a group of teenagers a certain amount of money to learn about philanthropy; conse-

quently, the students helped the community in a positive manner. While some think it is too risky for a group of high school students to hold such large sums of money and to give it away freely to other high school students, TGC and Poole disagree.

In their sixth year, the group has granted almost \$50,000 to Greensboro’s youth and thus noticeably affected the lives of elementary school students, along with underprivileged children enduring poverty. Also, the council has provided money to the Grimsley Robotics Team for the past few years, helping its members participate in large, costly events.

Fortunately, for these high school groups, the Community Foundation board agreed to ensure the council’s future for at least three more years.