

People

CLOSE-UP

WSHA touted for housing program

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

The staff and administrators at the Winston-Salem Housing Authority are tickled pink about the recent award the department received for crime prevention and even more excited still about their successful efforts at "taking a bite out of crime" in the city's public housing projects.

The authority's Crime Prevention Program recently was selected to receive a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regional Performance Award.

David L. Thompkins, the executive director of the WSHA, said he is definitely pleased about the authori-

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-- David L. Thompkins

ty's recognition, but that the task of alleviating crime in the housing units is far from finished.

"We've been working with residents to see if we can get drugs out of the developments and to see if we can get rid of any other crimes that go on," said Thompkins. "We have gotten great cooperation from the residents but we want to continue to work to provide crime-free housing areas."

Thompkins said the local authority was cited for a project which was officially begun in May of last year. But he said it actually took three years for the crime prevention program to be implemented. Thompkins said the WSHA and the Winston-Salem Police Department in 1985 began a concentrated effort to form a partnership to monitor criminal activity within housing units. A Crime Prevention Coordinator was appointed to coordinate the various program components such as establishment of a neighborhood watch program, the

opening of the Winston-Salem Council on Drug Abuse offices in each project community, improved exterior lighting and the distribution of information on crime and drug abuse prevention.

Additionally, to kick off the program and to recognize public housing youth for their outstanding performances in academics, sports and leadership, the housing authority hosted its first annual Crime Prevention and Commissioners Awards Festival last July. More than 1,000 people attended the program.

The authority intensified that effort by providing T-shirts to residents bearing slogans such as "Crime Free Public Housing" and "Say No to Drugs." Thompkins said the campaign was intended to heighten awareness of crime among residents and to encourage a level of pride within neighborhoods. The program also caught the attention of the regional housing officials and earned the local authority a first place finish in the region for crime prevention performance.

"It is with great pride that I present these awards to the Housing Authorities of Winston-Salem and Raleigh (selected in the Community/Tenant Relations category)," said Raymond A. Harris, regional administrator/housing commissioner, DHUD. "...Through the leadership of David L. Thompkins, the residents and the local community, (the authority) has developed and implemented outstanding programs which will improve the quality of life in the city."

Thompkins said that the authority was honored by the selection and that the staff and administrators would now work to develop an even stronger link between parents, police officers and the housing authority in deterring crime. He said he is convinced that crime does not have to be a given when it comes to housing projects.

"I think crime can be beaten," Thompkins said. "But increasing the police force in the housing projects is the only way to do it. The police have got to beef up their patrols in the housing units. They have to put more police officers in the projects. I don't think crime in any area is here to stay but you have to establish



David L. Thompkins, director of the Winston-Salem Housing Authority, and members of his staff examine a notification of their crime prevention performance award (photo by Santana).

ish deterrents."

Thompkins said that the housing authority had the power to evict residents if their family members were convicted of certain crimes, such as selling drugs. He said there had been instances in the local units which had required that an entire family be evicted because one family member had been convicted of a serious crime. The policy, he said, helped to place responsibility for policing the neighborhood with the residents themselves.

"We can evict residents if they violate certain federal or state laws," he said. "If a child is caught dealing drugs the entire family can be evicted. That's why we encourage parents to keep up with their children and to know what they're involved with. If they realize how much is at stake they may try to keep up with them and make sure they don't get involved with drugs or with street gangs. We don't close our eyes to the fact that when the police catch people doing things, some-

times they are our residents."

Thompkins said that a key to the success of the local authority's crime prevention program is the relationship that the staff has developed with the residents of the housing projects.

"We get good cooperation from our residents that helps," said Thompkins. "We're in the process of strengthening that cooperation but right now we have residents who will call the police and tell them what things are going on in their neighborhoods. That's part of our Neighborhood Watch Program. Residents are really starting to get involved."

The Winston-Salem Housing Authority recently received its awards at a recognition program Thursday, April 14, at the Airport Hilton in Greensboro. Other housing authorities of Memphis, Tenn., and St. Louis and Brookhaven, Miss., also were selected for their IV Performance awards.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

• Pink Broomstick, a support/education group for mastectomy patients, family members and friends, will meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Glade Street YWCA. Dr. John Wright will present a program on "Breast Reconstruction." The free program is sponsored by the Forsyth Cancer Service. For more information call 725-7421.

• Orientation for volunteers at Forsyth Memorial Hospital will be held at 9:30 a.m. and at 5:45 p.m. Help is needed in the outpatient center, the surgical waiting room, radiology and at the information desk. For more information call 760-5738.

• Africana, a live black history game show, will return to the WSSU campus at 8 p.m. in the lecture room of the Hall-Patterson Communications Building. For more information call 750-3350.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

• The Hopewell Moravian Church Softball Team will hold the Second Annual Chris Ensore Memorial Softball Tournament to benefit the American Diabetes Association from 6 to 10 p.m. The tournament will run Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 7 p.m. The tournament will be held at Griffith Elementary School on Clemmonsville Road.

• Forsyth Tech's Reading Tutor Training Session will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at Forsyth Tech's West Campus, room 36. A session will also be held Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The 10-hour session will review the Laubach approach to teaching a non-reader how to read. After completing the session students will become a certified tutor. Books and other materials will be provided during the workshop session. For more information call 760-2373.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

• Piedmont Plus Senior Games will hold a "Piedmont Plus Chickin' Pickin'" at Tanglewood Park. The event begins at 4 p.m. and food will be served at 5 p.m. at shelter #1. Tickets may be purchased for \$6 and are available at The Elms or the Area Office on Aging. For more information call 727-2505.

MONDAY, APRIL 18

• The West Forsyth High School PTA will discuss "Stress in Teenagers: Understanding and Coping or How Much Longer 'til They Graduate?'" at 7:30 p.m. in the school's auditorium. A panel will be present to discuss the issue.

• "Stress Management & Self-Esteem" will be the topic of discussion at the American Cancer Society's "I Can Cope" series. For more information call 761-1528.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

• The Women's Network will hold their fourth annual spring dinner event at 5:15 p.m. at the Benton Convention Center. The dinner will feature nationally known humorist and former Miss North Carolina Jeanne Robertson. Her topic will be "Humor: An Effective Strategy for

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SOCIAL NOTES

East wins oratorical contest

The East Winston Noon Optimist Club sponsored its annual oratorical contest March 22 at the East Winston Library.

The topic for this year's contestants was "Destiny -- Choice, Not Chance."

The contestants for this year were boys 15 years of age and under.

The winner of the contest was Andrew East, who delivered a speech on war. He was awarded the Optimist Gold Medalion.

East will advance to partici-

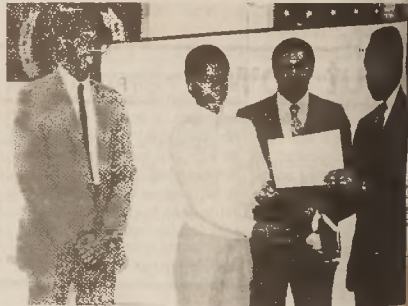
pate in the zone contest which will be held in Greensboro.

East is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Teddy L. East and is a student at Carver High School.

The judges for the contest were Gloria Devane, Marrette Aldrich and Elwanda Ingram.

The coaches were Millicent King and Belinda James. Linda Morrison was the timekeeper.

Committee members for the contest were Dannie Wood and Robert Leath of the Optimist Club.



Robert Leath, Dannie Wood and Toussaint Holland congratulate Andrew East, second from left.

WSSU to present the Winston-Salem Symphony, Margaret Harris

Winston-Salem State University will present the Winston-Salem Symphony with guest conductor/pianist Margaret Harris and the WSSU Choir at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 17, in the K.R. Williams Auditorium.

The program is the sixth presentation in the Performing Arts Series of Lyceum Cultural Events. A reception in honor of the guest artist will be held in the Green Room of the auditorium immediately following the concert.

The WSSU Choir will be directed by Dr. James Kinchen Jr. and Maestro Peter Perret, now in his ninth season as music director



Harris

and conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony.

Harris is a multi-talented artist, and an established performer who held her first piano recital at the age of three. She is the author of numerous works, including concerti, ballets and themes for prospective television shows. Harris earned her bachelor's degree in 1964 and her master's a year later from the Juilliard School.

Her career includes such hallmarks as being the first Afro-American woman to conduct a major American symphony orchestra and one of the first Afro-American females to enjoy an extended stay on Broadway as a musical director

and conductor. She has performed solo recitals throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, also has appeared on radio and television around the world.

Harris' biography can be found in publications such as "Who's Who in the World," "Musical Post" and "Notable Americans in the Bicentennial Era."

She has received numerous awards for achievement and performance, most recently the Distinguished Honor and Merit Order of Knights of Malta.

Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7 the day of the show. Students and groups of 10 or more receive a \$2 discount.

ABOUT TOWN

Warren Moore receives national achievement recognition

The United States Achievement Academy has announced that Warren G. Moore has been named a United States National Award winner for his achievement in the field of art.

The award is a prestigious honor that very few students are able to attain. The academy recognizes less than 10 percent of all American High School students.

Moore, the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Green Moore of Winston-Salem is a student at Carver High School. He was nominated for the honor by his art instructor, Dwayne Hawks.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history,"



Warren Moore displays some of his artwork which was instrumental in earning him national recognition for outstanding achievement (photo by Santana).

said Dr. George Stevens, executive director of the academy. "The United States Achievement Academy award winners should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellent achievement."

Selections are made based on the recommendations of teachers, coaches, counselors and school sponsors. Criteria for nomination include a student's academic performance, interest and initiative and cooperative spirit and ability.

Dr. Miriam Chapman, nationally noted educator, discussed "Writing Strategies" at the event.

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