

Healthfest Kicks off Proposed \$12 Million Women's Health Center

▲ Boston-Thurmond area has highest concentration of African-American women of child-bearing age

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Melven Bryan is one of many women from the Kimberly-Thurmond area who didn't visit the doctor regularly.

But after participating in a health screening Saturday at Martin Luther King Jr. Recreational Center, she learned more about preventative health and vowed to take precautions.

"We need this," she said, referring to the new women's center. "It will allow us to get good treatment and learn how to take care of ourselves."

The Community Women's Health Center — which has not been officially named — is designed

to educate and serve women in the Kimberly-Boston-Thurmond area only.

More than 200 people came out Saturday to learn about the center and celebrated its coming. The new center, which will be located across from the recreation center, is scheduled to open in late January.

Carolina Medicorp Inc. developed plans for the center to help reduce the high infant-mortality rate in Forsyth County. According to Linda Carter, director of the center, the Boston-Thurmond area has the highest concentration of African-American women of child-bearing age throughout the county.

Carter said African-American women are three times more likely to experience infant death than their

white counterparts.

"It's not that these women don't care, they have other things going on in their lives such as poverty and a poor support system," she said. "That's why education is so important." Carter said the \$12.5 million center was funded by Carolina Medicorp in 1991 and has been designed by women in the area who will also govern and name the center.

"Carolina Medicorp wanted to put that back into the community," she said. "They put women in focus groups to study the problem (infant mortality) and develop ways to address it."

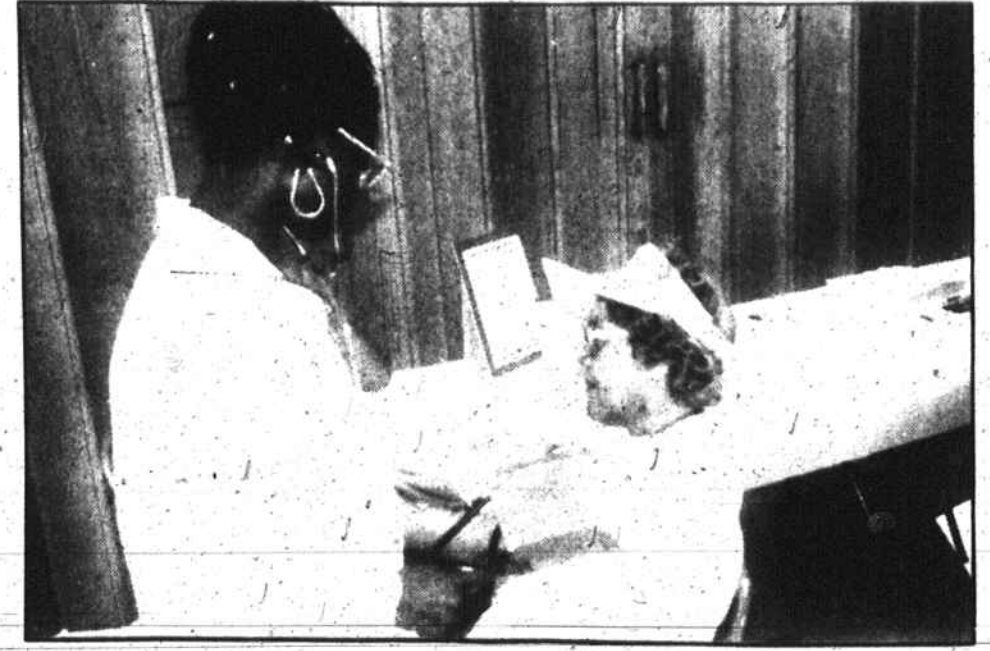
The new women's health center will feature a library and a multipurpose room to teach pre-natal care

and help prevent teen-age pregnancy. All services are free to the residents.

Volunteers from Baptist Hospital and Winston-Salem State University's nursing program gave free blood pressure and cholesterol checks on Saturday. Over \$3,000 in food and prizes were given away at the Healthfest.

Nelson Malloy, alderman of the North Ward, said the center has been embraced by the community because the residents are playing an active role in operating the center.

"The center is an excellent idea. It will educate our people to where they can take care of themselves," he said. "This will create a warm atmosphere where there is trust, respect and concern for each other."



Tamara Alexander, a nursing student at WSSU, gives Melven Bryan a free blood pressure check at Saturday's Healthfest.

Burke Steps Down from State Job, Wants to Concentrate on Ward

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Alderman Vivian H. Burke said she will retire from a state political appointment this week to spend more time with her family and put more energy into developing the Northeast Ward.

Burke, who heads the regional office of the state Department of Environment, Health and Natural

Resources in Mooresville, said she enjoyed the job, but felt it was time to retire.

"I took some time, meditated and thought about it and decided to retire," she said. "Since I have been an alderman I have worked full time. This gives me the opportunity to really do things and get more involved with my ward."

Burke has spent the last 16 years as an alderman and currently

chairs the public safety committee. She has been instrumental in improving housing conditions in poor neighborhoods.

Burke will retire tomorrow. Her salary was \$43,350 a year.

Gov. Jim Hunt, who appointed Burke to the position last year, has not found a replacement, according to Debbie Crane, a spokesman for the department.

"We're sorry she's leaving,"

Crane said. "She was very well-liked in the department and the staff was pleased with her work."

Burke said she will be able to get more involved with safety and housing — two issues that heavily affect the blacks.

"There are still a lot of public safety and housing problems that need to be addressed," she said. "Most of the housing problems are in black areas. We've got a lot of

plans and I will be working closely with Nelson (Malloy) on that issue."

Burke said residents feel more police protection is an issue in her ward, but they are also concerned about police harassment.

"I'm concerned about diversity and sensitivity towards all people," she said. "When you talk about problems (in the department), they say you're trying to run it, but people don't feel comfortable. We want

them to be sensitive to everybody."

Burke said her job in Mooresville didn't stop her from working in the ward, but she wanted to be closer to family.

"I'm looking forward to spending time with my grandchild," she said. "We got a lot of things done and increased public awareness, but now I can spend more time in my ward."

Banks Get Bad Grade in Loans to Blacks

NationsBanc Mortgage Corp. received a D+ grade in the study and NationsBank of North Carolina received a B-. Earlier this year, NationsBank in an effort to improve its lending to minorities formed a partnership with the National Urban League. The two formed a community loan review board, which takes a second look at all declined loans of minorities.

"I think it is a creative attempt to come to grips with their rating," said Delores Smith, president of the Winston-Salem chapter of the Urban League and who sits on the review board.

But Smith said community reinvestment should be about more than mortgage lending. She said other areas need addressing, such as small-business loans and jobs.

"There's more than just a mortgage aspect to CRA," she said. "Entrepreneurship, small business loans and employment... in my opinion they go hand in hand. If I don't have the means to buy the house, I can't pay the mortgage."

Since forming the partnership with NationsBank, the Urban League has been contacted by other banks with talks of initiating loan review boards, but the league has balked because of its relationship with NationsBank, Smith said.

Rob Greene, executive vice president and chief financial officer

of Southern National Bank, said the study has out-dated facts and does not reflect the current loan rates.

"The time lag creates a lot of misunderstanding on what's going on with loans right now," he said. "That study does not reflect the state of events right now."

Greene said that over the first six months of this year there has been more than a "100 percent increase" over all of last year.

The report said that while it is generally true that a higher percentage of minority applicants may be of lower income than white applicants,

"it is important not to perpetuate a stereotype that equates low-income applicants with minority applicants."

It stated that because minorities are denied loans at a higher rate than whites regardless of income, issues of violations of Fair Housing laws are raised and should be investigated. The study recommended some measures banks could take to improve their ratings. They include: development of competitive products; flexible of underwriting criteria; marketing strategies targeted at low income and minority borrowers;

better training programs for loan officers; and bonuses for successful loan officers.

"Many of North Carolina's banks have demonstrated a commitment to improving their lending by undertaking some of these initiatives," Warren said. "The results of this study do not reflect our assessment of their commitment. What it does show is that even those banks that are really trying need to make some significant gains before the result of their mortgage lending performance improves relative to their peers."

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

Student Attends Leaders Conference

Pam Porter of Glenmont Road in Winston-Salem has been selected to attend The National Young Leaders Conference from July 17 to July 27, in Washington, D.C. The National Young Leaders Conference is a leadership development program for high-school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit.

Pam, a junior at Glenn High School will be among 350 delegates attending the conference from across America.

Throughout the eleven-day conference, she will interact with key leaders and newsmakers from the three branches of government, the media and the diplomatic corps.

Highlights of the program include welcoming remarks from the Floor of the United States House of Representatives and a panel discussion with prominent journalists at the National Press Club. Delegates will visit foreign embassies and receive policy briefings from senior government officials. Students may also meet with Senator Lauch Faircloth, Senator Jesse Helms and Representative Melvin Watt or an appointed member of their staff to discuss important issues facing Winston-Salem and the nation.



Pam Porter

North Forsyth Students Recognized

Amret Thompson, 1994 graduate of North Forsyth High School and Leigh Miller, 1994 graduate of Mount Tabor High School, were recently recognized as winners of the Fleet Finance Scholarship Program.

Fleet Finance awarded 100 scholarships for high school seniors in 11 states for their freshman year in college.

Fleet Finance commends these high school seniors of the value they add to their communities.

Teachers Attend Seminar

Eleanor B. Bailey of Winston-Salem, a grades 9-12 health and CPR teacher at Mount Tabor High School and Felecia P. McMillan of Winston, a grades 9-12 English and journalism teacher at Mount Tabor High School, recently attended a seminar at the North Carolina Center for Advancement of Teaching.

Bailey and McMillan were two of 12 North Carolina teachers participating in "Places for the Soul: Architecture as a Healing Art" June 12-17, conducted by senior fellow Chris Shea.

NCCAT, a unit of The University of North Carolina, provides intellectual and creative renewal experiences for teachers in a year-round series of interdisciplinary seminars. Teachers from every county in the state have participated in center programs since NCCAT was established in 1985. Richard L. Thompson is director.

"In Our Schools" is a weekly calendar of events that chronicles going-ons in our local schools. If you would like your event information included send them to: "In Our Schools", The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27102. You may also fax it to 723-9173

Health Center Director Wants Minority

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When the position was allowed to be reopened Magovern said he was looking to do some structural changes. So when County Manager Graham Pervier gives the go-ahead to Magovern to fill the spot, he hopes to be interviewing for two new employees instead of one.

Pervier said he will give permission for the position or positions to be filled once he decides on the restructuring proposed by Magovern. Pervier said last week that he does not know when he will make a final decision. Until that time, the position remains frozen.

Some things have suffered because that position hasn't been filled, Magovern said.

"We'll survive," he said. "In the meantime, I'm looking forward to getting someone."

Magovern's proposal seeks to hire two people to handle the job of assistant director instead of one. Reynolds, which is in its 19th year of service this year, has experienced substantial growth in virtually all

areas except administration. Reynolds has not only grown with new programs, there are more issues to be concerned, especially health-care reform.

"I think the new structure will put us in far better shape in continued growth and help us to keep up with health-care reform that's so much in the press," he said.

Pervier said there are yet-to-be no titles established to these proposed positions. Magovern said he is not worried about the title as long as the candidates are qualified to carry out the specific duties of the job.

If Pervier accepts the proposal, the positions would be opened up internally before outsiders can be considered. One of the positions would be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the center and services such as radiology and pharmacy, Magovern said. That person would also be responsible for aggressively pursuing more grants for the center and following up on

grants already in place.

"With some grants there are reports that have to be filled out every year, such as progress reports and basic follow-ups," Magovern said.

Other responsibilities will include making sure the center complies with OSHA regulations and meets accreditation requirements. Also, program evaluation and assessments will be a part of the duties.

For the other position, Magovern said he would like to have someone with a clinical background. This person would serve as the liaison between administration and patient services and would oversee the WIC and Family Planning programs and be chairman of the ombudsmen committee. This committee handles patient complaints. In the area of grants, Magovern said the person would be responsible for state grants, trying to secure more funds for the center through state government.

"That would bring down more state dollars to expand without having to keep going to the commissioners for local tax funds," he said.

Even with as much responsibility as the proposed new assistants will have, Magovern said he still will have a busy job. He said he will be focusing on local foundation grants and serve as a liaison with county departments and external organizations such as Baptist Hospital and Carolina Medicorp Enterprises Inc.

Magovern said the applicants who have been previously interviewed will probably be considered for these positions. He has received calls from some applicants wanting to know the status of the process. Magovern said he does not know if the personnel department has been advising applicants on the where the county is as far as hiring for this position.

School Board Contracts With Diversity

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it's critical for us to do projects like that. I think we're very fortunate."

Board member Walter Marshall felt the infusion program is a first step in helping to establish African-American history into the school curriculum.

"We've been pushing for that for a long time," said Marshall, who is black. "The staff has been working on how to infuse African-American history into the curriculum, and he's coming in to give them a helping hand. I felt it was a step in the right direction."

The schools chosen for the program are Easton, Moore, Kernersville elementary schools, Hill and Wiley middle schools and East Forsyth High School.

Grace Efird, chairman of the school board, said she saw one of Toms' lectures with teachers and

was pleased with the session.

"I have to put my stamp of approval on what he did," Efird told board members. "This is something all teachers can be a part of."

Geneva Brown, the other black school board member, said the infusion program is necessary to familiarize teachers with African-American history to adequately incorporate it into regular social studies classes.

"It's a good-looking curriculum, but you have to teach teachers how to infuse it into their classes," Brown said. "It's a first step forward at getting teachers to understand another culture."

Adams said the process of getting African-American history infused into the curriculum has been on-going for the last two years. He said the project was reviewed by

some African-American community leaders, and the pilot program will give them a chance to see if the curriculum is ready to be implemented into the regular classes.

"We're still reviewing it and once we get it to where everyone can live with it, we can start," Adams said. "We believe this will be one of the finest curriculum documents in the country, and will accurately reflect African-American history with world history."

Adams said the school system is aware of the drop-out and suspension problems that blacks — especially black males — face in school and he hopes the new curriculum will help keep blacks in school.

"We know black kids are dropping out because they lose that connection (with the current curriculum)," he said. "There's not much

relative to what they're about, and we're trying to make them a part of the process again. We have high hopes that this will bridge the gaps and create better understanding among people."

Adams said the history of local African-Americans will also be added to the curriculum.

Toms and two associates will train teachers in curriculum development and infusion Aug. 8-9 and spend additional half-day sessions with staff and principals.

The training is designed to help teachers build a knowledge base for African-American studies and to practice teaching the curriculum with feedback and evaluation from the trainers.

The board approved the \$3,400 contract, which will be funded from the Safe Schools Grant.