



Hundreds of people from the Triad came out to support the Juneteenth celebration and purchased cultural crafts from vendors.



Larry Leon Hamlin and his wife, Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, from the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, participated in the Juneteenth festival last year.



Members of the Rafekhi African Dancers performed an African wedding at the Juneteenth Festival.

UJAMAA

from page A1

co-founder of Ujamaa Merchants United Inc., is looking forward to even more participation this time around. More and more vendors and performers are signing up for the program. Last year, some of the performers were Toni McLauren, gospel vocalist, Kuk Sool Won Martial Arts, Larry Leon Hamlin, Rafekhi African Dancers, Little Bethlehem Christian Youth Choir, Dudley Basketball Team, Beryl's Love Dance Company, Been Caught Stealing Steel Drummers, Free Expression Jazz Fusion and Artis Hinson, nutritionist, herbalist and natural healer.

Persons interested in performing or vending should contact Jackie at 297-7835, or Felecia at 334-7745, Ext. 2312 or 378-0467, or Mark at 852-4836.

A voter registration drive, children's crafts, a health fair, children's recreation and a basketball camp were also held. The Community Crime Report and Neighborhood Community Builders sponsored a silent march against violence in the community. They lined the perimeter of Barber Park with placards containing the names, ages, race and death date of people in the community who suffered violent deaths. It was a moving sight to observe as people slowed down to read the placards as they drove into the park.

Pat Fortune, treasurer of the

Ujamaa Merchants, saw her first Juneteenth celebration when her husband was in the service in Texas. All of the African Americans who participated dressed up in red bandanas or other red attire, some in cowboy hats. They ate red food, symbolic of the blood shed to acquire freedom. She also attended one at Bowie State in Maryland, where they had cake walks, films, guest speakers such as Kweisi Mfume, music, and picnics. They served a communion of cornbread and pot liquor from their collard greens as a symbol of slavery. At Barber Park, vendors will be on hand selling delicious food, and some families will pack a picnic lunch to enjoy during the festivities.

This year's celebration will be held on Father's Day. "We want to stress the father as a role model, as a leader in the community," said Fortune.

"Jun-Jun" has an interesting history. On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger, part of Federal occupation forces, issued the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas, belatedly freeing the slaves of Texas. The Emancipation Proclamation was delivered Jan. 1, 1863 only delivering the slaves in the Confederate States. Lincoln considered this declaration an act of "military necessity" and invited the former slaves to join the Union's armed forces. On Feb. 1, 1865, President Lincoln signed the Thirteenth Amendment, abolishing slavery throughout the United States. The Civil War ended April

9, 1865, and the slaves in Texas learned of their freedom in June of that year.

Juneteenth became an official state holiday in 1979 in Texas. Therefore, on Juneteenth in Texas, state offices are closed, along with businesses, so that families and friends, towns and cities may celebrate. Lula Briggs Galloway, president of the National Association of Juneteenth Lineage in Saginaw, Mich., is leading an effort to have Juneteenth declared a holiday, but the organization has not yet been successful.

Ujamaa Merchants United (UMU) was founded on the principle of cooperative economics. UMU and the community at large have witnessed a dire need for the return of strong values and civic concern. Members of the group include Curtis Neal, Jackie S. Xanders, Pat Fortune, Mark Lacey, Pricilla Williams, Felicia Gatson, and Sandra Leath.

Members of UMU believe that the celebration of Juneteenth on Father's Day can serve a threefold purpose: 1) to provide an opportunity for African Americans to express pride in their heritage; 2) to encourage strengthening of the family structure; and 3) to reinforce the role of African-American fathers as the head of their families and as leaders in the community. UMU hopes to forge a closer tie between "ourselves, our creator, our ancestors and our community by recognizing the importance of the all but forgotten festival."

YMCA

from page A1

former Fourth Street location in 1957. Founded in 1891 by the Society of Friends of New York, William Penn became a public school in 1923 and closed in 1968.

With a lease agreement with Guilford County Schools and \$300,000 raised during a 1995 capital campaign, the YMCA converted the historic William Penn High School into a well-equipped, family-oriented facility. The 50,000-square-foot facility boasts a state-of-the-art fitness center, gymnasium, walking/jogging track, dance studios, a day care program, a lighted parking lot and room to spare. "We have more space to offer community-based groups," says Larry Jones, YMCA executive director.

Since moving, the YMCA has increased its community outreach. In January, for example, the agency began a tutorial fitness program for youth needing to improve homework habits. Besides enlisting volunteer tutors, the YMCA sponsored memberships for 30-45 Griffin Middle School students, providing wholesome activities to keep adolescents off the streets. The agency also provides weekly meeting space for Upstream, a Greensboro-based program that represents a last chance for teenage males who are under the supervision of the judicial system.

The YMCA's welcome mat has also brought the monthly meetings of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, North State Police Officers, lodges and other groups to the YMCA. In addition, local consultants and community agencies have held seminars on health, fitness, money management and home ownership.

Buzzing with activity, the YMCA is gearing up for summer with a 10-week day camp. For boys and girls ages two to 12, the camp runs from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and provides campers with breakfast, lunch and snacks. In addition to daily activities at the YMCA, campers will go roller skating, swimming and to a movie each week. In addition, field trips will take the campers to the zoo, Carowinds and Emerald Pointe. Through sports, Jones adds, the campers will also learn lessons in character.

While campers learn to be good sports, the YMCA's men's basketball league will pit area teams against each other. "It's probably one of the Triad's most competitive men's basketball leagues," says Jones. The teams, usually sponsored by local businesses, attract professional, semi-professional and college basketball players. The games begin June 16 and will continue on most Monday and Wednesday evenings through Aug. 2.

While activities like the basketball league and coed volleyball offer heated competition, the fitness center gives health-conscious YMCA members a chance

to look and feel their personal best. The fitness center, which is open six days a week, is popular among both men and women. "The fitness center," says Jones, "opened up an avenue for many females who had not been associated with Carl Chavis to come in and use equipment that is not intimidating."

In addition to Camstar equipment that builds muscular and cardiovascular endurance, the center also has a weightroom featuring free weights. Some members seek personalized fitness consultations for programs suited to their needs and goals.

While parents work out in the fitness center, their children can learn karate, dance or basketball. "The coed karate class," says Payne, "is one of our most exciting new additions."

The YMCA has also offered adult programs in martial arts, self-defense, aerobics and lunchtime basketball.

During the school year, day-care and afterschool programs serve an estimated 185 youth. Those programs had been stretched to the limit in the YMCA's old 18,000-square-foot facility on Fourth Street.

Last year's move, however, not only added square footage but merged two of the community's most respected institutions into one place. For local citizens who remember Washington Drive's heyday, the YMCA's move also offers a glimmer of hope that the once thriving corridor can be revitalized.

RECREATION

from page A1

between Old Salem and the North Carolina School of the Arts.

Over \$1 million would be used for renovating Bowman Gray Stadium's field house; widening concourses, adding handicap seating, a new press box and expanding restroom facilities. The remaining \$1.1 million would be used to acquire and develop a new multi-field soccer and softball complex.

The Winston Lake Park group is getting a jump on their project.

The project is split into two phases, said SECCA's outreach coordinator Mark Linga. First, the group had to come up with a solution to the park's entrance, which is difficult to see from the road. The small, plain sign that marks the complex is also barely visible.

"In developing the project, the kids had an opportunity to work with the Recreation Department," said Linga. "They learned the fundamentals of design and looked at ways of beautifying the area."

William Richmond, the city's landscape architect, began drawing up the plans in April, around the time the group formed. In

preparing for the project, "the kids read up on symmetry, lines and balance," said Richmond.

The group split into three groups to work on designing a new, eye-catching sign for the park's entrance off Waterworks Road. They first presented these designs to their parents, who played the role of an appearance commission.

Then it got real. Nancy Day and Kathy Helms of the city-county planning board came to the Winston Lake YMCA to critique the signs.

The first group to present sign designs consisted of Tosin Durotope, Jessica Martin and Jordan Hutchinson. The three decided on yellow and brown, the colors already used on other Winston Lake Park signs.

The next set decided to match the flowers that will be planted around the sign, and employed a tricolor scheme: blue sky and green mountain separated by a yellow sun. "If we had more time, we would have done something about that lake," said Cameron Russell. Partner West Hutchinson nodded in agreement, and said the lettering design of the word "Lake" made the sign too hard to read.

Group number three abandoned their thumbnail sketches at the last minute, said Chante' Thompson. Instead, they designed a sign with regatta banners draped over a sun peeking above the words "Winston Lake Park Complex." Trees lined the bottom of the sign, and the letters filled the space in between.

Helms liked that each of the designs had an element of playfulness. "I think parks should be fun, and I don't see any reason why park signage should be conservative," she stated.

"I think they look good," began Day. She continued with the critique, "You may need to work on your letters." Day suggested ways in which the young designers could make the letters stand out more visibly.

In addition to the sign design, the project includes planting flowers, trees and bushes around the park's entry. The goal of the city and the group is to announce the park complex from a variety of approaches.

Most of the participants have some goals of their own. Durotope, a freshman at Mount Tabor, joined the group as practice for her future career.

"It was real fun," said Durotope. "I want to be an architect, so this was good." She

CHECKS

from page A1

Crooks' immediate situation. Oxford wrote Crooks personally in February 1996, saying, "We join you in your sentiment that retailers should not be forced to provide race and gender information on checks presented for payment." Oxford asked Crooks to "join us in asking [the magistrates] for change."

Simultaneously, Oxford initiated an intense lobbying campaign to change the law through his company's trade group, the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association — by way of its president, Fran Preston. State Rep. Henry M. "Mickey" Michaux, D-Durham, 23rd District, sponsored HR Bill 790 in the North Carolina General Assembly.

Last week, Lowe's commitment to work for the change paid off when Gov. Jim Hunt signed into

law HR Bill 790, which buries the longstanding practice. According to the new law, "only the name and mailing address of the check passer ... and an acceptable form of identification ... such as a valid North Carolina drivers license, will be needed." "The check acceptor," under the provisions of the bill, "shall not be required to write or print the race or gender of the check passer on the check or draft."

However, individual retailers may still choose to identify customers by race and gender notations on checks. Municipalities, beginning Oct. 1, 1997 — when HR 790 becomes effective — will be forbidden to require this practice of retailers. In Florida, where Lowe's has stores, retailers are still required to designate check-writing customers by race and gender. Lowe's has stores in some 25 states.

GUILFORD

from page A1

County attorney Jonathan Maxwell had conflicting interests in the matter and could not represent the board of commissioners, he added. Attorney Ron Ligon represented the commissioners in court.

Arnold served a term as the commissioner liaison to the Social Services board until Dorsett replaced him in July 1995. He first charged Dorsett and Barnett with mismanagement of the Department of Social Services' finances.

Now commissioners are changing their tune, said Barnett, who has served on the board since July 1996. He said some commissioners have admitted that they are trying to remove the director of the department and the Rev. Michael King, chairman

of the Social Services board.

Two of the five positions on the board are appointed by the county commissioners, two appointments are filled by the governor and the state office, and the fifth is elected by a consensus of the other four. If the four cannot come to an agreement, the chief superior court selects the fifth member.

Unlike other county entities, the Social Services board is self-governing; the power of the commissioners begins and ends with appointments.

The commissioners originally charged Dorsett and Barnett with insubordination. Several months ago, the commissioners passed a resolution asking the social services board to postpone hiring a director. The board continued with their plans to offer the position to interim director

Joyce Lewis.

"On the other hand, we had been criticized so many times for taking so long [to appoint a

director]," said Barnett. Lewis had filled the interim position for about a year before the board hired her.

**NOTE TO GREENSBORO AND HIGH POINT READERS:**

Welcome to the pages of *The Chronicle*. While flipping through, you may notice that the majority of our news comes from the community. We feel this is our greatest strength. By allowing input from people who are not professional reporters but are intimate with local news because they are part of it, *The Chronicle* indeed becomes a community newspaper.

As we expand, we would like to invite you in Greensboro and High Point to share your news with us and be a part of the family.

Send community news submissions to:  
*The Chronicle*  
P.O. Box 1636  
Winston-Salem, NC 27102

Fax: 723-9173

Our deadline for receiving community news is Monday at 5 p.m., so mail things in plenty of time, or fax it. Please see "Community News Guidelines" to help insure that your news is included.

**SUMMER SCHOOL!**  
Register Now! Classes begin June 18th  
9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Grades to be held at  
**TRIAD ACADEMY**

• Economics / Legal	• Algebra	• Biology
• Political Systems	• Geometry	• English 1-4
• US History	• Physical Science	

Also accepting applications for the '97-'98 School Year  
★ Acceptance will be selective. ★ Small class settings.  
Call (910) 748-8888 for More Information  
**TRIAD ACADEMY**  
639 S. Green Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101