



Photo by Damon Ford  
Greensboro Police Chief Robert White talks Diane Flowers (left) and Mary Elizabeth Black (right) during National Night Out.

# Greensboro takes 'Night Out'

By DAMON FORD  
THE CHRONICLE

Hundreds of people across Greensboro came out of their homes to take part in the National Night Out last week.

Greensboro Police Chief Robert White and law enforcement officers were at various sites in the neighborhoods mingling with residents and talking about how to better serve communities.

"A part of National Night Out is really an attempt for the residents to know each other so they can establish relationships, so when things are occurring in their neighborhood

they look out for each other and in turn they establish the same type of relationship with the police officers and they call us," White said. "When somebody goes out of town they tell the other people they are going out of town so the residents can look out for each other in their homes. We're not out here 24 hours and seven days a week so we are counting on the residents to help us do our jobs."

Eighty-year-old Helen Mills has participated in "Night Out" for several years and says it has had a positive impact on her neighborhood.

"It's been going for quite a number of

years," she said. "It makes a difference. We should have more get together so we can get to know each other."

Mills is a member of the Ole Asheboro Street Neighborhood Association which sponsored a site. She says she's lived in this area for over 50 years and is disturbed by some of the changes in her neighborhood. Crime has become more prevalent, she said.

"It did get worse but it's better now," she said.

White, who took office in June, spent the evening traveling to sites throughout Greens-

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75 cents  
Vol. XXIV No. 40

WINSTON-SALEM GREENSBORO HIGH POINT

Vol. XXIV No. 50

# THE CHRONICLE

The Choice for African American News and Information

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THURSDAY AUGUST 13, 1998

## Pilgrimage makes its way to Winston

By DAMON FORD  
THE CHRONICLE

A group of modern-day pilgrims taking a year to trace the path of slavery over three continents will visit Winston-Salem this weekend.

Members of the Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage have traveled hundreds of miles since the event began two months ago in Massachusetts.

The marchers say their journey is designed to honor Africans who lived as slaves or died as captives on harrowing voyages to the Americas, known as the Middle Passage.

"I've done more crying since the pilgrimage started than I have in the last 10 years," said Aaron Jones, 27, of California, one of 58 pilgrims that traveled to North Carolina.

The Rev. John Mendez, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, says the arrival of the marchers will be good for the city.

"I think it's long overdue," he said. "It's a real plus in bringing about healing in the African American community. Much of the racism we face today comes from this holocaust. People should come out and support it."

The marchers will discuss their experiences on the road at Emmanuel Saturday and participate in a press conference Friday at the City Visitors Center.

The pilgrimage started in Amherst, Mass., in late May. Marchers will make stops at sites where lynchings took place, slave auctions were held or where slave quarters once stood. While at the sites prayers and spiritual offerings will be given. Participants will walk almost 15 miles a day.

The group plans to sail from New Orleans to some Caribbean islands in November, then on to Brazil and Senegal. The pilgrims plan to arrive in South Africa next May.

Not all the travelers have walked the entire route. Some started in Massachusetts, dropped out for a while, and rejoined the group farther south. Some started after the group left New England. Others walked a section of the route and returned to their homes and jobs.

Already, the group has prayed at former slave auction sites and lynching trees and passed through stations of the Underground Railroad.

In Winston-Salem, the group will visit Old Salem, one of the state's oldest slave holding communities and tour Happy Hill, which was founded more than 100 years ago by emancipated slaves from Old Salem.

"This is a journey that most people of African



Mendez

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## All equal?



Photo by Bruce Chapman  
Students line up in front of Diggs Elementary on the first day of school. A new report shows that Diggs and other predominantly black schools have a tough time raising money through the PTA.

## Redistricting yields imbalance in funding

By KEVIN WALKER  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Participation by parents in the PTA and other volunteer programs is minimal at the city's predominantly African American schools, a recent report concluded.

The equity committee, a group of more than a dozen teachers, parents and community representatives, presented its findings in an annual report at last Tuesday's city-county school board meeting.

The school board formed the committee nearly four years ago to look into issues of equity after the implementation of the system's controversial redistricting plan.

That 1995 plan virtually eliminated busing in favor of neighborhood schools, but the school board vowed to make a commitment to racial integration.

A commitment, the report suggests, that is not being lived up to.

"We see great value in maintaining integrated schools and we urge the board to take steps to control this trend toward one-race schools," the report states.

Using the results of a questionnaire sent to principals at 14 elementary schools, the committee found, among other things, that many schools with

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## YMCA's Orange heads to Cincinnati Winston Lake director named vice president

By DAMON FORD  
THE CHRONICLE

After seven years of service as Executive Director of Winston Lake YMCA, Marcellette Orange is leaving.

"The excitement is there for a new opportunity but it's also a sad day," she said. "This has been my home for seven years. I've grown to know the people in the city and the Y. I'm going to miss them. I'm leaving my heart here."

Orange was recently named Associate Vice-President of Operations of the Greater YMCA of Cincinnati. She will supervise six of the Cincinnati's 21 YMCAs.

Her last day is Aug. 17. "You hate to lose someone like her, but you have to feel good about the new opportunities given to them," said Brian Cormier, President/CEO of YMCA of Greater Winston-Salem. "For seven years she's done a fine, fine job over there."

YMCA officials have already begun a national search for Orange's replacement and hope to fill the slot by early November.

"We're looking for someone who will garner strong community relationships and will improve membership and participation numbers," Cormier said. "We also want them to be able to keep a strong program base."

Orange's impact was immediate. When she walked through the door of the Winston Lake Y in 1991, a \$302,000 deficit awaited her. But Orange didn't let that faze her.

"Within five years I've paid that deficit off," she said. "In the same time we've used half a million dollars for renovations and new equipment. We're still upgrading."

During her tenure, membership at the Y has increased 57 percent. Now more than 900 local residents are members of the Y and countless more participate in Winston Lake's unique programs. With the help of a competent staff she has been able to start and keep programs like the Annual Character Development Summer Games rolling.

"We had a good foundation of programs when I came," Orange said. "I just tried to enhance the programs we already had - increase the quality of them."

She says the toughest part of leaving is the children, many of whom she's worked with since they began in Winston Lake's preschool program.

"There are so many," she said holding back tears. "This is hard because the kids are real special to me. I don't know if I can say that there is one thing that

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## Black Bethanians vow to fight decision

By KEVIN WALKER  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

All her life, Lillian Miller has been a resident of Bethania, a small historic town tucked between Forsyth and Stokes counties.

Miller, a soft-spoken elderly woman, remembers when the old dilapidated school house down the road from her used to be filled with young, smiling black faces.

With a twinkle in her eye, she can easily recall walking with her grandmother through paths and woods to get to the then one-room Bethania AME Church.

Like her parents and their parents before them, Miller expected to spend all of her life in this historically black region of Bethania. But now, that is unlikely.

The Bethania that Miller and many other African Americans call home is no more, according to the N.C. Supreme

Court. Miller was not a part of the suit, but says the decision hurts.

"I would rather be a part of Bethania, but I don't think we have a choice now," Miller said.

The court's decision, handed down on July 30, gave the city of Winston-Salem the go ahead to annex nearly 1,500 acres of land once considered Bethania. Among the annexed acreage are the Oak Grove and Washington communities, as well as other black areas within the town.

It was also the latest round in a bitter legal battle that had pitted many of Miller's neighbors in the town against one another.

The saga began in 1994, the year the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen approved a plan to annex the town. State law prohibits the annexation of incorporat-



Photo by Bruce Chapman  
Historic Bethania AME Church barely lies within the boundaries of the new Bethania.

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