

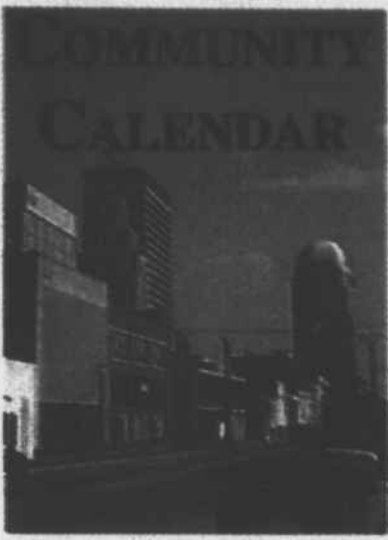
COMMUNITY FOCUS

Winston-Salem Greensboro High Point

1974 - Celebrating 25 Years - 1999

JULY 8, 1999

SECTION C



Summer Tent Event

The "Fields of Harvest" Rally presents Salem Garden Apartments Summer Tent Event, July 8-10. The program will start at 6 p.m. each night at Salem Garden Apartments, 7 Salem Garden Road in Winston-Salem. The guest speaker will be the Bishop Lawrence Tate of New Faith Chapel. For more information call Joseph Trinidad at 887-4105.

Free Tennis Lessons

The Kimberly Park Tennis Club will sponsor free lessons for youths ages 5-14 July 8-August 28. The clinics will run every Thursday from 6 p.m.-7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. All lessons will be held at Carver High School. Participants need to bring their own tennis rackets. For more information call Arnice Wall at 765-8002.

Black Leadership Roundtable of Winston-Salem Anniversary Celebration

The Black Leadership Roundtable of Winston-Salem will celebrate its second anniversary in conjunction with a reception for Republic of Liberia Ambassador Rachael Gbenyon-Diggs Friday from 7-10 p.m. at the Urban League. The Otesha Dance Ensemble will provide the entertainment. Admission is free and all attendees are asked to dress in business or ethnic attire. If you are planning to attend RSVP by July 7 to 767-6355 or 784-9373.

Author E. Lynn Harris' Book Discussed

The Carver School Road Branch Library will hold a discussion of E. Lynn Harris' fifth book, "Abide With Me," on July 13 at 7 p.m. Dr. Elwanda Ingram, an English professor at Winston-Salem State University, will lead the discussion.

Job Fair

The Greensboro Employment Security Commission will hold a job fair featuring 50-100 employers July 14. The event from 9 a.m.-noon at the offices of the commission, 2005-B South Elm-Eugene Street. For more information call 334-5777.

See Page C10 for more of this week's Community Calendar

How does your garden grow?

'Amateur' horticulturists use greenery to brighten yards

By FELECIA P. McMILLAN
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

For Elwood Ford's neighbors, his love of gardening isn't a science.

It's an art.

"His lawn always looks like a bed of carpet, and the creative shapes he uses for the shrubbery really turned my head," said his neighbor Louise Smith.

Ford, 59, is one of a host of local residents who have discovered the beauty - and pleasure - of gardening.

From the sculpted shrubbery of Ford and Smith to the vegetables that grow in perfectly-straight lines in James and Flora Trollinger's Verdun Street garden to the cactus garden of William and Emma Shouse of Jeketer Drive, eye-catching yards come in all sizes.

And they don't have to feature flowers.

Ford, 59, has always loved to work in his yard, but after retiring, he discovered a hobby that would benefit many in his neighborhood. When Louise Smith saw the tender loving care that Ford put into his lawn, she asked him to maintain her yard as well. He now maintains the yards of four of his neighbors.

"I don't tell him what to do in my yard. I just let him be as creative as he wants to," she said.

Ford cut Smith's shrubbery into an oval design. He cut his own boxwood shrubs into designs he calls "the bell curve" and "the low bucket." Although he was never formally trained in horticulture, he has become a master of landscape design, Smith says.

"When we have our 'Meet the Candidates' session for the various aldermen, we always use his yard as our stage because it is so attractive," Smith said. "All of the candidates and those who come to the session stand in awe at the work he has done."

Ford is modest about his artistry.

"I just picked it up by looking around at other lawns and blending a variety of ideas. When I travel, I am always watching yards," Ford said. "What I find attractive about a yard are the colors and the shapes they use."

His goal is to provide variety and continuity in his landscape designs. His wife, Barbara, trusts Ford's ideas about the lawn.

"I don't have anything to do with the flowers or the lawn, and I like it like that," she said. "This is his domain, and I love being in the house. He just loves it, and I love him for it. I get upset sometimes because he'll stay outside as long as he can see. This means that I have to hold dinner out late so we can eat together, but I love the work."

"I am usually out until about 10 p.m. because it doesn't get dark until after then," he said. "I'm usually trimming up, getting grass out of the flowers, putting plastic down to stop

See **Garden** on page C2



Photos by Felecia P. McMillan

Top, James Trollinger, 81, shows off the blooms on his squash plants. He expects to harvest more than a bushel of squash this year. Above, Trollinger displays part of his huge crop of spring onions.



Emma and William Shouse, left, describe the variations of cactus in their garden. Elwood Ford, right, shapes his hedge into a design he calls the "bell curve."

