



Submitted Photo  
Dr. Felecia Piggott-Long (center) with Teen Theatre members (from left) Asha Piggott, Chris Good, D'Arriah Ellis, Khalil Caesar, Royal Hairston, Anna Jolly, Jordan Speas and Kevin Caesar.

## Black Rep Teen Theatre to read plays

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company Teen Theatre will read three plays at the Central Library, 660 West Fifth St., on Saturday, June 9 at 2 p.m.

The collection of plays is entitled "Village Vignettes" and includes a sampling of African American musical traditions, from hip-hop to gospel. Dr. Felecia Piggott-Long, a longtime Black Rep performer, and Artistic Director Mabel Robinson are co-directing the readings.

The "The Church Fight," a comedy written in 1925 by Ruth Gaines-Shelton for Crisis magazine; "Winning Over Bullies" by Dr. Piggott-Long; and "Limitations of Life," a 1938 piece by Langston Hughes will be read.

Student performers include Sierra Duckett, Jordan Speas, Asha Piggott, Anna Jolly, Royal Hairston, Kevin Caesar, Khalil Caesar, Gabrielle Sims, Denise Robinson, D'Arriah Ellis, Cedric Myers, Chris Goode and Adrian Quarrels.

## Big changes proposed for Peters Creek Pkwy

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

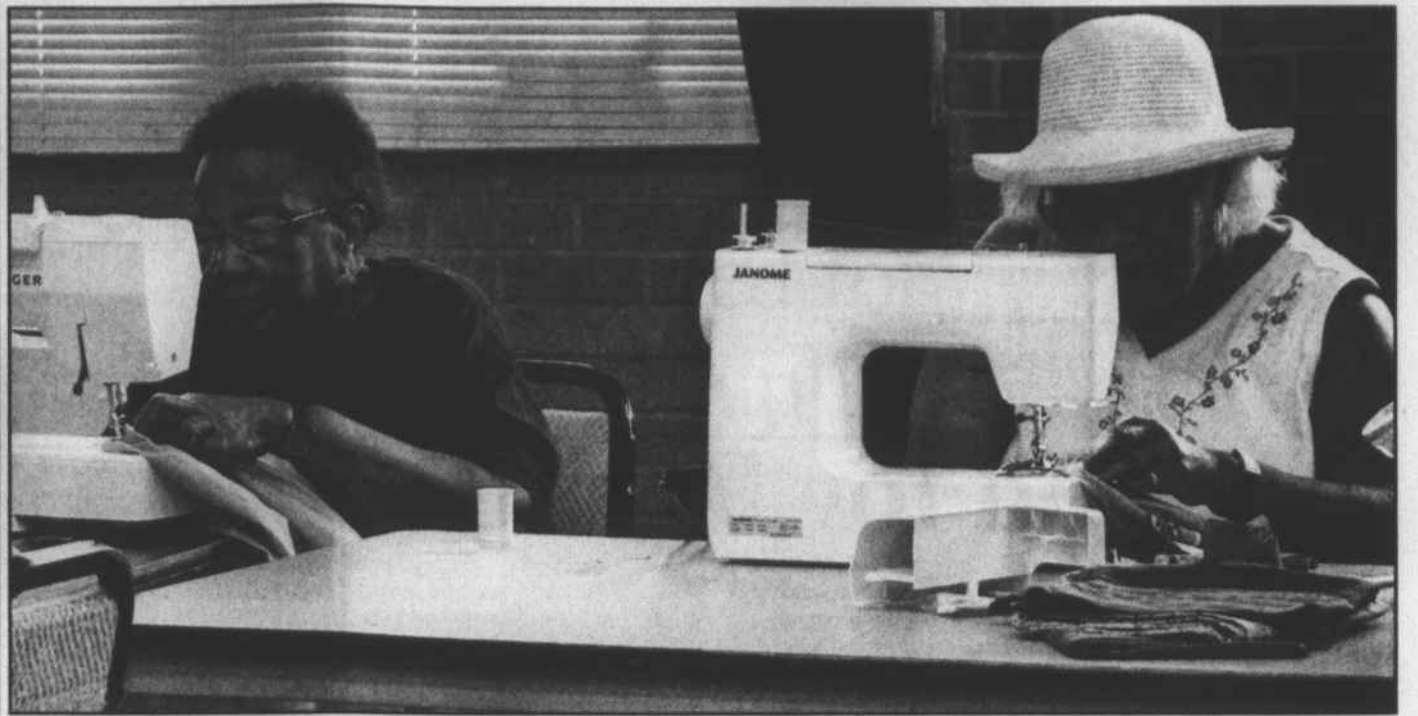
City transportation planners will hold a drop-in information session on Tuesday, June 12 to give citizens a look at proposed improvements to Peters Creek Parkway that would reduce the road to four lanes to make room for sidewalks, bike lanes and other improvements.

The session will be held from 4 to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Diggs-Latham Elementary School, 968 Hutton St. Citizens may stop by at their convenience to view the designs and talk with city staff and project team members.

As part of the proposed improvements, the existing six-lane roadway would be reduced to four lanes between Business 40 and Silas Creek Parkway. Other improvements could include sidewalks, landscaping, bike lanes and a pathway. Roundabouts at Academy Street and Link Road are also being considered.

Transportation planners have been working with the Peters Creek Community Initiative group and local stakeholders to develop an improvement plan that is compatible with the goals and vision of the Southwest Area Plan and other neighborhoods in the area.

Those who attend will learn why this study was initiated, background information about the area, previous and current plans that impact this study and various design concepts being considered.



Ridell Middleton (left) and Gwendolyn Thompson sew dresses at Mt. Zion.

### Dresses

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own style and flair to the vivid sampling of nearly 100 dresses the group churned out over a two-month period.

"It allowed each person to be original," remarked the retired educator. "You can do your own thing and let it be what you want it to be."

Griffin learned of an effort to send clothes to girls around the globe at a recent Baptist State Convention session and suggested that the Missionary Department get involved.

"The children over there, they don't even have the basic needs. This is something that we can do. We can take a dollar or two and make a child look ... beautiful," Griffin said. "It doesn't take a lot of money, just a lot of love."

More than 40 women took on the task of sewing and cutting the pillowcases, while countless others collected the materials needed to make the dresses. Members of the church's Bible study class donated a rainbow of flip flops to be sent along with the dresses. Many of the shoes are adorned with hand-knitted flowers.

Dr. Serenus Churn, Mount Zion's pastor, praised the women for their generosity and dedication to the project.

"It's a wonderful economic way for expressing our love for children in Africa and Haiti," he said. "Having been to Africa and seeing the condition of many of those young children, I know that many of these pillowcase dresses will really refresh their wardrobes and lift their spirits and be a visible sign of love from America."

Lifelong Mount Zion member Vera Stepp said the project incited a welcome revival of her creative side. After going years without picking up a needle, Stepp, a retired Winston-Salem State University administrator, became so enamored with the work that she even bought a new sewing machine.

"It was like a light bulb went off - I became excited and I wanted to get other people involved," said Stepp, who cleaned out her craft closet and donated the contents to the project. "It just spread. People were excited about

what we were doing and they wanted to be a part of it."

Elvenia Johnson, a retired nurse, said she fell in love with the hands-on nature of the project.

"Because I was involved, it's going to be more of an impact on me," said Johnson, whose 92 year-old mother contributed several dresses to the project. "We're trying to do more things to be involved in the community. We're trying to be not just hearers, but we're going to become doers... That's what's been really good for all of us in doing this - the fellowship - and it's from the heart."

In addition to the tangible cloth, ribbon and thread, the dresses were infused with love and prayers for the wearers, the women said.

"The Lord laid it on my heart, 'Don't send these dresses out without having them first dedicated,'" Griffin said of the garments, which Churn dedicated during a service last month. "...We have the blessings of the Lord upon these dresses as they go to the children."

Griffin will transport the dresses and shoes to representatives from the Lott-Carey Foreign Mission Convention in Raleigh, which will deliver them to their intended recipients.



Churn



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