

Ponderosa Neighborhood Holds Significant "Piece" Of History

By Joe Brown
Post Staff Writer

This week's neighborhood leader was not elected or appointed by the residents. He just took the initiative and responsibility out of concern for his neighborhood. Without any officers or staff, Harvey Pettis has been organizer of the Ponderosa Neighborhood for nine years.

"Well Dave Howard of the City's Planning Commission was looking for someone to take the responsibility in getting information to the neighborhood residents," explains Mr. Pettis.

"I wanted to make sure the neighborhood did have that literature."

The Ponderosa neighborhood holds a significant piece of history. It was originally built in 1963 for predominantly white families. As desegregation increased the following years, white families moved out; giving black families more room to move into the area. The Ponderosa was one of the few neighborhoods that represented the first home ownership made available to blacks.

Mr. Pettis had lived in the neighborhood for seven years before moving, but says he sees a major change taking place in the homes itself.

"Most of the families are selling their homes and buyers are renting them out. The neighborhood is losing its homes and more (homes) are becoming rentals," Mr. Pettis points out.

C.C. Cameron To

Receive 1986

Society's Award

John M. Belk, Chairman of the North Carolina Public Service Award Society's Banquet, announces that the 1986 recipient of the Society's award will be C. C. Cameron, Executive Assistant to the Governor for Budget and Management.

Proceeds from the event, to be held May 19 at the Charlotte Convention Center, will benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Prior to Cameron's cabinet level position in Governor Martin's administration, he served for many years with the First Union Corporation in various positions which included: Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and President. He retired from the Corporation in January, 1985. Cameron has received numerous honors as a financial and civic leader. In 1975 he was named Charlotte Man of the Year. In 1981 he was Chairman of North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry, and has been a leader in education and arts activities both locally and statewide.

Previous recipients of the N.C. Public Service Award include: former Governor Robert W. Scott; the late Senator B. Everett Jordan; the late Senator Sam Ervin Jr.; R. Phillip Hanes Jr.; Dr. Leo W. Jenkins; the late Norma P. Cates; Bob Timberlake; Senator Jesse Helms; William and Ida Friday; Richard Petty; former Governor James B. Hunt Jr.; Bishop William R. Cannon; and Listen B. Ramsey, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Billingsville School

If you're interested in learning more about topics such as Japan, sign language, computers and rocket building, then Billingsville Elementary School is the place to be Friday, February 28, from 1-2 p.m. Parents, teachers and community volunteers have gotten together to provide a variety of mini-courses from which students can select each Friday during February. A total of 21 courses are offered. For more information, contact June McKinney, assistant principal, at 375-1158.

Betsy Haley, CMS testing specialist, will visit Newell Elementary School during Parent Information Night Thursday, February 27, at 7:30 p.m. to answer parents' questions about achievement test scores. Barbara Keelan, coordinator of the After-School Enrichment Program, and Glenda Manning, Chapter I community assistant, also will be on hand to talk with parents. For more information, contact Sharon Canipe, principal, at 596-1451.

Educational Values

March 5, 13 and 24 are the remaining dates for parents to explore the traditional educational values at Hawthorne Traditional Junior High School.

Any parent with a child currently in the sixth grade is invited to come out and take advantage of the scheduled events. The school tour hours are from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Housewarming are scheduled for February 27 - March 20 from 7:30-9 p.m.

Refreshments will be served and members from the Hawthorne PTA, Hawthorne faculty, and Hawthorne student body will be present at all events to answer any questions.



Harvey Pettis
.....Neighborhood leader

"If the property value is not monitored for the rentals, the value of the house may suffer."

The neighborhood consists of about 160 homes in which 20 percent are low-income families. It is located within the boundaries of Kenhill Drive and Markland Drive. The area itself offers two sections; the apartments and homeowners' area with the exception of the rental homes increasing each year.

Mr. Pettis is very concerned about the neighborhood establishing its own organization. He says the primary need is for the neighborhood organization to develop and establish officers.

"It would be nice if the City could send someone to help the neighbors set up an organization," Mr. Pettis asks. "They need assistance in developing their own voice."

The neighborhood leader states a message to the residents of the Ponderosa. "It is very important that you organize because there are plans being made city-wide that are

going to affect you," he urges.

"If you don't have an organization to watch the City planners, it could be a strong impact on you."

When asked does he see a neighborhood organization for the Ponderosa in the future, he replied, "There isn't going to be anything unless someone takes the initiative."

Mr. Pettis works as a City real estate agent.

Accident Rate Drops

After increasing slightly during November and December, the school system's rate of accidents decreased during January. Through January, there were a total of 83 bus accidents, compared to 104 for the same period last year. Of this year's accidents, 25 were due to the bus driver's negligence, 45 were due to the negligence of the other driver, three were due to both drivers' negligence and 10 were due to other causes.

The school system's goal is only one bus accident per every 100,000 miles driven by buses. The rate so far this year is 0.64 per accidents per every 100,000 miles. That rate not only meets the system goal, it exceeds it. This is the first year that the school system has met the goal.

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Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.

Psalms 55:22

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Psalms 34:7



What Are Your Suggestions For Community Development Funds

The City of Charlotte will receive a Community Development Block Grant in the approximate amount of \$2,870,000 July 1, 1986 of this year for the Community Development Program. The Community Development Block Grant is a major source of money made available by the federal government to assist local communities in achieving the primary objectives of developing and maintaining decent housing and expanding economic opportunities, principally and primarily to benefit persons of low and moderate income.

Community Development funds may be used for the following types of activities in those instances where other program requirements are met:

- Acquisition of property for rehabilitation, preservations, clearance, or other public purpose.
- Public improvements/facilities including: parks and playgrounds; street improvements, including curbs and gutters and sidewalks.
- Rehabilitation of buildings and improvements including assistance to privately owned residential and non-residential properties; public or private entity owned or acquired properties for use or resale in the provision of housing; public housing modernization.
- Economic development including the acquisition of property for economic development; assistance to

neighborhood based non-profit organizations, local development corporations, and small business investment companies under certain circumstances to carry out neighborhood revitalization and economic development activities.

- Public services including those concerned with health, education and employment.

The above are examples of eligible activities and do not constitute a complete list of all the criteria for qualification as eligible under the Community Development Program.

Citizens are encouraged to submit proposals on community development and housing needs for the City. These may be presented soon at a formal Public Hearing or mailed to Mr. J.W. Walton, Director, Community Development Department, 301 South McDowell Street, Suite 510, Cameron-Brown Building, Charlotte, North Carolina.

If additional information is needed,

please contact:

Mr. Richard Woodcock
Community Development Department
301 South McDowell Street, Suite 510
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
Phone: (704) 336-2016

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