Teen Center, Continued

Grant funding was awarded from the Blanche and Julian Robertson Family Foundation in support of the new Center. The $50,000 grant will provide staffing, an ID card maker, cameras, new computers for the computer lab, new furniture and other recreation supplies for the free youth program. Also, members will receive a renewable picture ID that will allow them to ride Salisbury Transit buses at no charge.

"On behalf of the City of Salisbury, I would like to thank the Robertson Foundation for its generous gift to help make this worthwhile project possible," said W. Lane Bailey, Salisbury city manager. "I’d also like to thank Nick and his parks and recreation team for developing solid recreational programming for our youth."

"This is a truly exciting time in Salisbury," said Jason Walser, executive director of the Blanche and Julian Robertson Foundation.

"Many great things are happening in our community, and the Robertson Family Foundation is proud to be able to help launch this new program, which we think will impact many youth in Salisbury for years to come. We appreciate the dedication of city leaders who are working to create as many opportunities for our community’s youth as possible."

The free program will be open year-round after school with extended hours in the summer. The Miller Recreation Center will still be utilized during the day for senior programs and community meetings.

EVENT CALENDAR: MARCH

Ring in Spring at the Bell Tower
Celebrate the warming weather by getting a free photo with the Easter Bunny at the Bell Tower! Spring crafts, snacks and family-friendly fun will also be available. While you’re in the downtown you can spend the afternoon shopping and strolling through the downtown boutiques and gift shops.
Saturday, March 24 – from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m
Bell Tower Park, corner S. Jackson and W. Innes

EVENT CALENDAR: APRIL

City Council Meetings
Attend public city council meetings to find out what’s happening in your city.
Tuesday, April 3 and 17 - starts at 5 p.m.
City Hall, 217 S. Main St.

Earth Day at the Greenway Exploratory
Several FREE interactive environmental education stations will be established along the Greenway to teach our community the importance of natural resources and to conserve these resources. Learn from some of the area’s top environmental professionals!
Friday, April 20 - starts 9 a.m.
Precott section of the Greenway

Touch-A-Truck
Participants of all ages will have a FREE opportunity for a close-up and personal, hands-on educational experience. Explore a wide variety of vehicles and occupations.
Parking lots are encouraged!
Saturday, April 14 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
City Hall, 217 S. Main St.
Herman Peterson, Tonya Cross and Melissa Summers were honored by their peers at the EDK Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 22.

Peterson currently serves as a senior Army ROTC instructor at West Rowan High School. He is also the owner and director of Kiddle Land Kindergarten "where he has mentored youth of all ages and many adults," according to his nomination form.

A native of Spring Lake, N.C., Peterson is a graduate of Winston-Salem State University, and served more than 20 years in the U.S. Army. He has held positions at Ft. Bragg, Walter Reed Medical Center and Ft. Sam Houston Medical Academy.

Nominator Kimberly Geter summarized, “Some of his significant contributions are educating and being a role model for children at the Kindergarten. As an instructor, he has been directly responsible for numerous cadets receiving scholarships, college admittance, entrance in the military and the work force. His ROTC program has donated more than 30,000 hours of Community services over the last decade.”

Cross is active in the arts and community service in Salisbury. She is head of The Vue Toast Planning, which she states “has consisted of creating spaces that were either non-existent or marginalized.”

A registered pharmacist, Cross was a liaison and coordinator for Living Books Documentary that told the stories of Shuford Memorial School alumni. She coordinated the local art exhibit: Young Black Man Goin’ Uproot, which featured artwork, poems, and photos of local youth that were a reflection of African American activist Nikki Giovanni’s poem Ego-Frapping. In addition, Cross started the Peace Circle, a monthly community conversation that addresses social issues that affect the local community. “Collaborating with other community organizers to create a safe non-judgmental environment for people to speak their truth and actively listen to the truth of others has had a positive ripple effect,” said Cross.

She has been married to her husband Michael for 24 years and together they have three adult daughters Deserie, Cierra, and Gabrielle.

Summers, a 2004 graduate of North Rowan High School, is president of the Thelma Smith Foundation South Branch, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. In 2008 Summers’ aunt and her husband incorporated the Thelma Smith Foundation Inc. in Brooklyn N.Y., named after Summers’ uncle’s mother, Thelma Greene Smith who passed away in 2004. A year later, Summers’ aunt and uncle named her as the marketing and media executive for the Thelma Smith Foundation South Branch — an umbrella extension under their original organization. In 2012 her uncle passed away, leading Summers to take the reigns of the Foundation and create her own 501 (c) (3). To date, the organization has held a number of services and programs, including a mentoring program, food pantry, clothing pantry, the Thanksgiving Feed a Family and Secret Santa.

As a CNA, Summers had an opportunity to advance her love of service by attending to many sick and young children, adults and elderly patients. She saw that through being a CNA she was able to communicate and build a bond with her patients, their families and her staff members to work together to ensure that her patients needs were met at all times.

This award is named in memory of Elizabeth “Libby” Koonz who was one of the organizers who re-established the Human Relations Council in 1985.

The Salisbury Human Relations Council (HRC) was created to identify concerns in the area of human relations, make recommendations regarding issues and engage in activities, which shall be deemed best to the community for all citizens.

Cemetery Clean Up

The annual cemetery cleanup is scheduled for March 12-16 in preparation for the seasonal cemetery mowing in early April. Residents are asked to remove flowers, gifts and other mementos off of their plots before Monday, March 12. Anything on plots during the week of March 12-16 will be removed and discarded.

Residents can return their flowers/ decorations on Saturday, March 17. Each year, the cemetery staff completes a cleanup typically two weeks before Easter. The cemeteries are Chestnut Hill, Memorial Park, Oakwood, Union Hill, Gilchrist, Old English, Old Lutheran and Downtown.