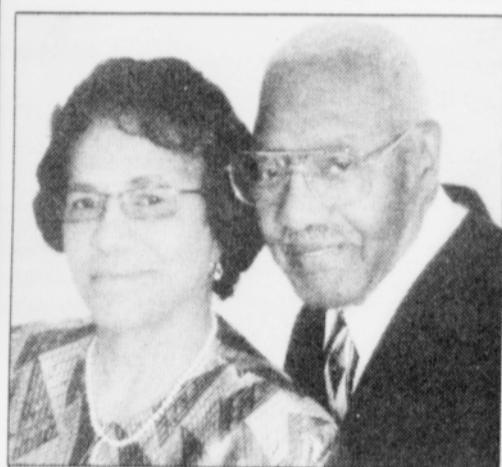




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GOSPEL BLOCK PARTY IN HONOR OF MOTHER MARY PARKER

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Pastor Mark Hardy and Others
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Time: 1:00pm till 7:00pm
The Block will be held on
13th and Ainsworth

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Undaunted

continued from page 3

and salad.

Stephanie Andersen, the manager of a Quiznos sandwich shop in the complex, said that the constant smoke is a health issue, particularly for people with bad allergies.

Varnado said that he's working on making upgrades to his equipment to decrease the smoke. He also has a big folder documenting correspondence between him, the landlord, and city bureaucrats- all of which proves, according to Varnado, that he's not doing anything wrong.

Brad Nase, who manages the property, said that Varnado is making upgrades to the barbecues, which he said are already making a difference.

Andersen said that she wants

to have a more cordial relationship, and hopes that this will resolve the issue.

But in the meantime, Varnado said he's been viciously abused by people bothered by the smoke.

"It's just been nasty people everyday," he said.

Varnado, who is African American, said that he suspects the harassment is racially motivated, and will continue even if the smoke issue is resolved.

Andersen said that she hasn't heard anything about the escalation of the harassment, and denies that there is a racial component to the conflict.

But despite the problems, Varnado said that business has remains solid, and he is undaunted by the conflict.

"I'm going to keep on cooking," he said.

No Sanctuary

continued from front

waiting for them to commit a crime.

"That's a powerful tool," he said.

The New Columbia Homeowners Association supports the new ordinance, as does the housing bureau and the city Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

However, City Commissioner

Randy Leonard expressed misgiving about this approach.

"These folks aren't going to just say, well, I'm going to quit robbing people and hanging out with gangs," said Leonard.

He brought up how the city has tried prostitution-free and drug-free zones that banish anyone from them that is suspected of the prohibited activity. He said that such individuals just migrate elsewhere, and a better approach has been to get them into treatment.

"My issue, and my sole issue, is what I don't like to see us do is make one community feel better to the expense of another community," he said.

Leonard, however, ended up voting with the rest of City Council in favor of the ordinance given the community's unique challenges.

Ida Cunningham, a resident of New Columbia who lives across the street from McCoy Park, told City Council that the neighborhood has come a long way, but still has to grapple with old problems.

"Because once upon a time it was Columbia Villa, and it was a bad zone territory, a bad zone territory," she said.

Cunningham said the park is where she takes her puppy on walks and sees kids playing.

She said that a shooting occurred in front of her house in the park. She later found out the people involved didn't live in New Columbia, and wants the park to remain safe.

Nick Fish, the commissioner in charge of the parks bureau, said he appreciated the concerns raised by Leonard, and would report back to City Council in six months on how the exclusion is working.

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