National Night Out at Rosewood Park

EVERYDAY PEOPLE | By JESSE SIMON





Rosewood Civic Club members showed up in force for their National Night Out event.



Catherine Scott (center) and Paul Douglas (right) make sure that customers are served quickly and satisfactorily at Family Discount Food.

HOUSTON- The Rosewood Civic Club, in northeast Houston, sponsored the National Night Out at The Rosewood Subdivision Park, at Darien and Southhall. It was billed as an effort for neighbors to meet each other as well as members of law enforcement, who are in the community to partner with the residents.

Helen Dewey served as the mistress of ceremonies and Lester Howard Sr. is president of the Rosewood Civic Club. The organization used the opportunity to invite nonmembers to join them because, as they put it, "We have room to grow to a greater community. Together, we can make a difference."

Captain Duke of the Northeast Houston Police station stopped by to show his appreciation of the neighborhood's effort to stamp out crime. Howard said, "We are trying to give crime and drugs a going away party." Dewey said, "A highlight of NNO at Rosewood Park was a presentation to one of our entrepreneurs in the Rosewood Community. Family Discount Food and Meat Market, was the recipient of this award."

The store, at 8805 Homestead & Laura Koppe, is not only is a place where families can get all of the groceries they need, it also serves breakfast and lunch.

What made this award unique is that the owners of the store, Nathan Tran and Kim Nguyen, are erasing stereotypes that are prevalent among Blacks when it comes to Asians in the African-American community. Talk on the street and radio talk shows are replete with complaints about Asians or other races opening businesses in our neighborhoods or what they consider our territories, disrespecting us, not hiring us and



Nathan Tran and Kim Nguyen

taking the money out of the community.

The prevailing attitude is that the country favors "dirt poor Vietnamese refugees who can came to America, not speaking a word of English, become honor students, get college degrees and become rich professionals."

In this scenario, a Vietnamese couple opened a thriving business in the Black Community with 98 percent Black employees. By hiring people within the community, they show that they care, and by contributing to the ranks of the gainfully employed, they help alleviate crime in the community.

Nguyen was chosen for this award, but due to a scheduling conflict, she sent one of her long-time employees Kelvin Scott, to receive the commendation. This was further highlighted by the presentation of a certificate of appreciation, from the city, presented by Councilman Jarvis Johnson's representative, Ahmad Alaswad. The membership table was staffed by Daisy Hall, Lois Tyler, Thelma Sims and Vera Sadler. R.W.C.C. meets the first Thursday of each month from 6:30 p.m. at 7402 Homestead Rd. For more information call (713)633-1371.