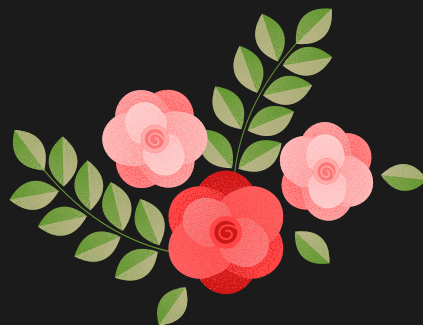


North Fontana Concerned Citizens Committee

- In the 1970s, Jessie Turner incorporated the Concerned Citizens for the Development of North Fontana as a non-profit organization.
- Concerned Citizens organization advocates for the needs of the Black community in North Fontana.



JESSIE M. TURNER

North Fontana activist

By ED TIEDGEN
Fontana Herald News
Staff Writer 2-22-01



In the nearly three decades that Jessie Turner lived in Fontana, she served as a strong advocate for the people, fighting hard on behalf of the citizens of North Fontana. While many may have perceived her as feisty and stubborn, many others remember her as a dedicated and hard-working person who helped to bring pride and many needed programs to the North Fontana area. Later, because of her many contributions, the Jessie Turner Community Center on the corner of Citrus and Highland avenues was named in her honor.

Residents have lived in North Fontana (generally considered to be the area above Baseline Avenue) for decades, but this area has only been a part of the City of Fontana since the late 1980s, when it was annexed from the county. When Turner came to North Fontana in the late 1950s, she found a predominantly black population that was in need of activities and programs. She started fighting for a Head Start program by attending county board meetings.

"I remember my brother and I marching, fasting and sleeping on the courthouse steps in San Bernardino alongside my mother," said Ellen Turner, Jessie's daughter. "When I asked my mother why we were marching, she told me 'for freedom'. Freedom so that little black kids could participate in the Head Start program."

In 1965, her goal was accomplished when the North Fontana Head Start (now called the Dorothy Grant Head Start) began. The program is still in existence in the same building located near the Jessie Turner Center. San Bernardino

County built this center (originally called the North Fontana Community Center) in the late 1970s. Turner served as a member of the county's advisory commission of the North Fontana Parks and Recreation District for five years. It wasn't until 1983, two years after her death, that the center was named in her honor.

"The North Fontana Community Center being named after Jessie Turner was the greatest honor, because the people she loved and worked for came together as one and requested that the County Board of Supervisors do this for the community," said Ellen Turner.

Jessie Turner felt the people of North Fontana were often neglected and discriminated against, and she herself was the target of death threats. It was no secret that during the early years of Fontana, there were distinct racial lines in the community. Black people lived predominantly in the area north of Foothill Boulevard, while Hispanic people lived mostly in the southern part of the city.

People with a white European heritage were primarily residing in the central part of Fontana. While Jessie Turner lived in Fontana, the Civil Rights Movement was in full swing, and Fontana was affected by the racism that plagued much of the nation. Many of the concerns she fought for had often been raised previously by others in the community. Turner struggled with county officials to get a bus route established in North Fontana. This not only helped with transportation issues,

Continued on Next Page



Black History Parade host since 1965



Community Events

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
NORTH FONTANA
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
PRESENTS

B-BALL AGES 9+
BARBECUE & BASKETBALL

TOURNAMENT

DONATIONS WILL SUPPORT
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SAT. JUNE 26, 2021

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A Day of Fun, Food, Male Bonding & Mentoring...
See You On the Court!

Meat and beverages provided. Please provide sides
for your guests including an Ez-up, table and chairs.

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REGISTER YOUR TEAM AT
CONCERNEDCITIZENS4NOFONTANA@GMAIL.COM

Paypal: 909-333-9950

GENERAL ADMISSION \$7
TEAM OF 2 \$25

The 2019-2020 52nd
Miss Black Awareness
Scholarship Pageant

Celebrating... Sweet Honesty, Grace, & Integrity

Saturday, December 14, 2019 @ 6:00pm
(Doors open to the Public at 5PM for FREE Keepsake photos to be taken before Pageant)

Located At:
Cypress
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Community Center
8380 Cypress Ave.
Fontana, CA 92335

MCC/Special Guest
Performance By
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5 Division 5 Crowning 1 Night Only!

Presented By
Concerned Citizens for the Development of North Fontana
& The North Fontana Black Awareness Parade Committee

\$15 Tickets in Advance \$20 At the Door
Available tickets can be purchase from the Contestants or
online paypal.com/concernedcitizens4nofontana@gmail.com

909.333.9950 or 951.221.7469
www.missblackawarenesspageant.webs.com
www.blackawarenessparade.webs.com

- In 1970, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors adopted North Fontana as the North Fontana Parks and Recreation District.
- The Board of Supervisors appointed the Black Awareness Parade Committee members as District Commissioners, with Jessie Turner as Chairperson.
- Other community services include Thanksgiving baskets, providing employment assistance, and housing assistance.

Jessie Turner Legacy






- Fontana established the Jessie Turner Community Center in honor of her decades of leadership.
- Her memory lives through her daughter Ellen Turner, who operates the Concerned Citizens organization today.



Upcoming Events



Thank you, Concerned Citizens for the Development of North Fontana for fighting for the community for decades.




 North Fontana Black Awareness Parade Committee Present


BLACK HISTORY MONTH
 "The Sounds of Music"
 Parade and Expo

Sat. February 25th 2023

LIVE MUSIC • FOOD • GAMES

10 a.m. Parade Summit & Citrus
 12p.m. Expo Home Depot parking lot
 3-7p.m. Jazz Fest Miller Park Amphitheater

15th San Bernardino County Black History Month parade and Expo sponsored by the city of Fontana, Home Depot and the Concerned Citizens for the Development of North Fontana. The Expo will follow the parade in the Home Depot parking lot on Sierra Lakes gateway.
 for more info and vendor applications call 909-333-9950


BLACK HISTORY MONTH
www.blackawarenessparade.com

Made with PosterMyWish.com



Credits

Read more about Jessie Turner here:

<https://blackvoicenews.com/.../breaking-ground-fontanas.../>

<https://www.latimes.com/.../la-xpm-2006-feb-19-re-guide19>

San Bernardino Sun, July 31, 1982

Concerned Citizens for the Development of North Fontana (webs.com)



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