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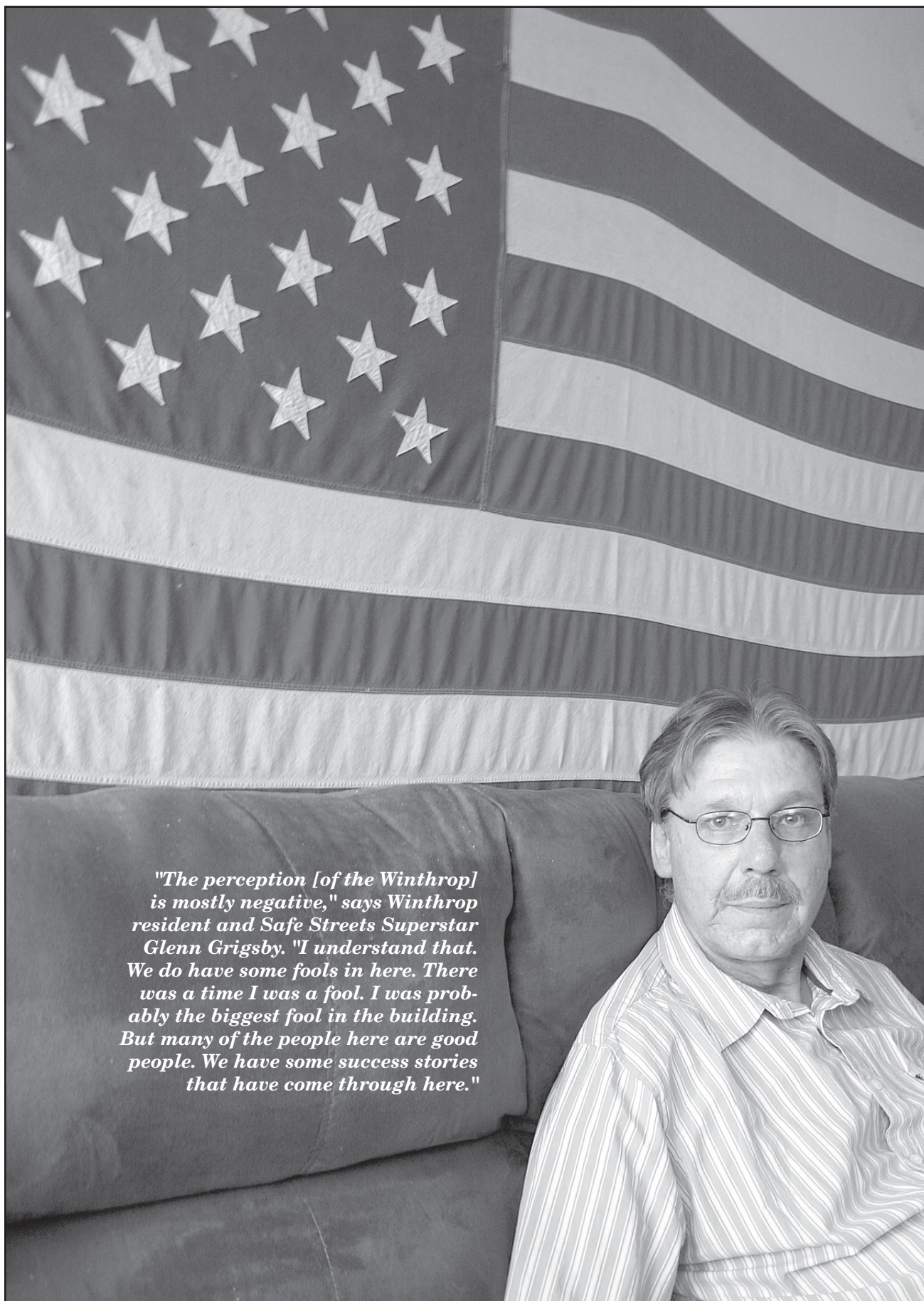
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Winthrop resident named Safe Streets Superstar



"The perception [of the Winthrop] is mostly negative," says Winthrop resident and Safe Streets Superstar Glenn Grigsby. "I understand that. We do have some fools in here. There was a time I was a fool. I was probably the biggest fool in the building. But many of the people here are good people. We have some success stories that have come through here."

Article and Photo By Todd Matthews, Editor

Safe Streets, a private, non-profit organization that unites neighbors against crime, announced Tuesday it has named Winthrop resident Glenn Grigsby as one of its annual Safe Streets Superstars.

Grigsby, two other individuals, and one community group will be honored Weds., Sept. 16 during a breakfast ceremony that will also mark the organization's 20th anniversary. The event will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 4818 E. Portland Ave. According to Safe Streets, the Superstars designation recognizes people who have shown exceptional selflessness and commitment in working to improve Tacoma and Pierce County.

The complete list of this year's Superstars includes:

- Glenn Grigsby / Outstanding Block Leader or Strategic Partner;
- Park Avenue Neighborhood / Outstanding Block Group or Coalition;
- Julia Lay / Outstanding Youth;
- Officer Don Williams / Director's Award.

The *Index* was the first newspaper to profile Grigsby as part of its ongoing series of interviews with Winthrop residents (see "A Voice From the Winthrop: After 15 years at downtown's most notorious address, Glenn Grigsby has seen it all," *TDI*, 06/16/09).

During that interview, Grigsby, 51, recalled his experience living in the 84-year-old, 12-story former historic hotel in downtown Tacoma for the past 15 years. He also spoke of his own personal transformation away from criminal activity and drug abuse to a sober life that is now rooted in neighborhood activism. To that end, Grigsby has tried to provide non-residents with a more nuanced understanding of a building that has a poor reputation (this week, a resident was charged with six counts of arson at the Winthrop). "The perception [of the Winthrop] is mostly negative," said Grigsby. "I understand that. We do have some fools in here. There was a time I was a fool. I was probably the biggest fool in the building. But many of the people here are good people. We have some success stories that have come through here."

Grigsby is the leader of the Olympus-Winthrop Guardians, a group comprised of residents from the Olympus and Winthrop hotels in downtown Tacoma. The group holds regular meetings involving residents, nearby businesses and law enforcement. It also conducts recurring neighborhood clean-ups (see "Cleaning up a neighborhood, battling a building's reputation," *TDI*, 08/25/09).

For more information about the 2009 Safe Streets Superstars, visit safest.org.