

Ebbs Chapel VFD Holds Open House, Ramsey Is Guest

The new Ebbs Chapel Volunteer Fire Department on Punchedon Fork Road in the Upper Laurel community held its open house Oct. 25, with comments delivered by House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey.

Anthony Willis, accompanied by Susie Jenkins at the piano, began the ceremonies by singing "The Star Spangled Banner."

Vernon Ponder, chairman of the fire department's Board of Directors, was master of ceremonies for the event. He introduced Wayne and Shirley Willis, donors of the property on which the fire department is located.

Ponder also expressed the gratitude of the community to the Willises for their generosity. He also introduced the members of the board, the firefighters and the Ladies' Aux-

iliary.

Debbie Hensley — one of two lady firefighters — presented Fire Chief Bill Stockton a plaque in appreciation of his four years of work and dedication as a chief.

Stockton invited anyone interested in joining the fire department to come by any Monday at 7 p.m. when the meetings are held.

Ramsey, in his comments during the ceremony, spoke of the importance of community volunteer fire departments.

Of the more than 1,200 fire departments in the state, all but 75 are volunteer, Ramsey. He also told the audience that the state will complete the paving of the department's parking area in the spring.

Refreshments were served by the Ladies' Auxiliary.



House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey and Vernon Ponder, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ebbs Chapel Volunteer Fire Department, chat during a recent open house.

Volunteers Needed For Madison's Elderly

The face of the American population is rapidly changing. People older than 75 make up the fastest growing segment of our population. Many of these people live on limited incomes.

The Senior Companion Program of Land-of-Sky Regional Council is beginning its third year of operation. The council has secured many volunteers in the four counties it works in, but needs people in the Madison County area.

The program utilizes age 60 or

older low-income adults to provide in-home care for other senior citizens so they can remain in their homes and not be institutionalized. The council furnishes a non-taxable stipend for volunteers to work 20 hours a week. On-the-job insurance coverage is provided. After training they are assigned to an agency which provides the clients.

For more information or to apply, call Juanita Storm at the Land-of-Sky Regional Council office 254-8131 or Lucille Burnette at 649-3630.

Buncombe Blood Drive Passes Goal

Health occupations students at North Buncombe High School and instructor Beth Rogers recently sponsored a blood drive with the American Red Cross.

The bloodmobile was set up in the auxiliary gym of North Buncombe

High School. The original goal was 75 units of blood, but, by the end of the day, a total of 91 units had been collected from students and faculty.

Another blood drive will be held in January.

Weekend Fire Destroys Unoccupied House In Walnut-Brush Creek

By EMMA LOU WAMBLES
A weekend fire claimed an unoccupied home in the Walnut-Brush Creek area.

The Sunday afternoon fire destroyed the Belva Roberts homeplace on Barnard Road.

A passer-by informed Allen Stines, a nearby neighbor, that the unoccupied home was on fire.

Stines said that when he arrived on the scene, one whole back corner of the house was engulfed in flames.

The Marshall Volunteer Fire Department, which received the call at 4:56 p.m., dispatched three fire trucks and a rescue squad vehicle to the scene. Several forest-firefighters and two deputies with the Madison

County Sheriff's Department assisted.

The house was destroyed by the blaze. Firefighters, who battled the flames for three hours, were able to contain the fire to the immediate area and keep it away from surrounding woods.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The fire was the second major blaze in a week in the Walnut-Brush Creek area. A barn on lower Brush Creek Road burned Halloween night, apparently the victim of an arsonist.

The barn, part of the Bobby McClure estate, contained 800 sticks of tobacco, some hay and a farm trailer belonging to Lathern Franklin of Brush Creek were destroyed.



Ebbs Chapel Volunteer Fire Department held its open house last month.

Upper Laurel, Walnut Creek To Be Judged

By EMMA LOU WAMBLES
Upper Laurel and Walnut Creek, along with 32 other Western North Carolina communities all previously named as county winners, are being visited by a team of area judges this week.

These judges determine which communities have made the most improvements during 1987.

Upper Laurel is representing Madison County in Division "C" (more than 200 families). Walnut Creek was the county winner in Division "B" (100-200 families).

Ninety-five communities in 16 WNC counties and the Cherokee Reservation participated in the 1987 competition of the Western North Carolina Community Development Program.

The purpose of the program is to encourage residents of communities to work together on projects for improvement. "There is no limit to what a community can do - if it wants to," is the slogan it promotes.

The program has a long history of accomplishments by the young people in the communities, also. The Upper Laurel youth are Madison County finalists this year. These youth were visited Thursday by a team of area judges who select the most outstanding youth programs in WNC.

Upper Laurel youth are among 11 finalists in WNC competing for five top awards.

Another contest scheduled for area judging in which Madison County has entries is the Man and Woman of the Year. Gladys English and the Rev. Cline Hensley of Upper Laurel will compete for top honors in this contest.

Winners in all phases of the community improvement program will be announced at the 38th annual awards luncheon of the Western North Carolina Development Association on Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville.

Community judging within the county and the awards program which acknowledges all winners proceeds the area judging and area awards program.

The annual Madison County Community Awards Program took place Thursday night at Madison High School.

Choice Placements of Farm Credit Services in Marshall represented 12 donors as he presented awards to the following list of winners:

BEAUTIFICATION
First place - Upper Laurel; Second place - Mars Hill; Third place - Walnut-Brush Creek; Fourth place - Upper Laurel; Fifth place - Marshall.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Division "C"
First place - Upper Laurel; Second

place - Mars Hill; Third place - Marshall.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Division "B"
First place - Walnut Creek; Second place - Walnut-Brush Creek.

YOUTH
First place - Upper Laurel; Second place - Walnut-Brush Creek.

WOMAN AND MAN OF THE YEAR
Gladys English of Upper Laurel, the Rev. Cline Hensley of Upper Laurel.

Guest speaker Marilyn Cole, area specialized Agent, informed the group that its sense of pride in accomplishment was shared by 15,000 other volunteers involved in WNC cleanup programs.

Cole encouraged more of the same because of the impact these

beautification projects have on the appearance and potential of WNC.

Results of the elections for officers for the Madison County Community Development Council were: president - Marian Wallin of Marshall; vice-president - Ralph Ramsey of Walnut Creek; and, secretary - Emma Lou Wambles of Walnut-Brush Creek.

Deborah, Karen and Michelle McKinney of Marshall provided the entertainment for the evening. The Rev. Cline Hensley delivered the invocation. Members of the Marshall Community Development Club hosted the covered dish supper.

Earle Wise, county extension chairman, offered special recognition of the following donors who made the awards possible: Asheville Federal Savings and Loan; Deringer

Manufacturing; Farm Credit Service; First Citizens Bank; Wachovia Bank; First Union National Bank; MicroSwitch; Marshall Glove; Bowman Funeral Home; Home Electric and Furniture Company; O.A. Gregory Oil Company, Inc.; and, Arbee Manufacturing.

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