

Forest Park hosts second annual Career Fair

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Feb. 26 marked the occasion of the second annual Career Fair at Forest Park Elementary

School. About 75 representatives of professions (ranging from mayor of Winston-Salem to judge of the U.S. Middle District Court to community

leader) and the five major educational institutions of the city were present to share their life experiences with the students. Planned to occur during Black

History Month, this event brought out retired educators who are dedicated to giving to children and committed businesspersons from diverse backgrounds.

Students in kindergarten through second grade hosted such luminaries as Dr. Brad Braxton of WFU; William Sturdivant of the Office of Community Safety; Dr. Rosa Jones, retired counselor; and Miss Greensboro, Adrienne Perry. Beginning at 9 a.m., these classes rotated among a stellar variety of speakers who whetted their appetites and stimulated new dreams.

The main event began at 1 p.m. in the gym for the upper grades, 3-5.

Different stations were displayed for varying categories: education, medical, ministry, Fortune 500, private entrepreneur, legal, etc. The students interacted with the presenters to obtain information about needed preparation and, in some cases, to learn of dreams deferred.

Many of the presenters fellowshipped among themselves

and joked about looking for jobs. They were as enthused as the students and all expressed a desire to return. Several of them committed to providing mentoring opportunities for the students.

Special recognition goes to Judge James Beaty Jr., Mayor

Jack Cavanagh, attorney Michael Grace, Vincent O. Parker, Daisy Chambers, Annie Hairston and Virginia Wiseman, among others.

Much effort had been extended to ensure that the children found role models that looked like themselves.



Major Jack Cavanagh, left, and Gary Kellogg, a representative of Coca-Cola.

Smoke alarms

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in the region since November, half of them children.

This winter has produced an unusually high number of fires, Red Cross officials say. The recent tragedies have led the agency to bulk up its fire prevention and safety programs.

The Red Cross received 1,000 smoke detectors last week donated by the Lowes Home Safety Council, an arm of Lowes Home Improvement. Lowes and the Winston-Salem Fire Department have been invaluable partners with the

Red Cross in an ongoing effort to outfit every house and apartment in the area with a smoke alarm.

According to Red Cross figures, one-third of homes involved in fires are not equipped with smoke detectors or have detectors that do not work.

Smoke detectors have been proven to save lives. Conversely, houses without detectors are likely to suffer the greatest damage to property and human bodies, said Bill Mangan, director of emergency services for the local Red Cross.

"One of the big problems has been in the past that a lot of people have not had smoke detectors,

so there have been a lot of fatalities," he said.

The smoke donated detectors will be available free of charge to those who qualify because of income and physical reasons. The Red Cross had already begun giving away detectors a few hours after Lowes officials dropped them off.

The agency is distributing words of advice as well. Mangan says detectors should be placed close to bedrooms so that they can be heard in case of emergencies. The Red Cross is also urging residents to check their detectors frequently. Mangan says batteries should be changed each time

clocks are adjusted for daylight-saving time.

Mangan says the local Red Cross may take its fire safety message to the streets in the future. The smoke detectors are only a small part of the larger picture, he said. Residents need to be educated about the ways fires can start so that proper household precautions can be taken, Mangan said.

"(The smoke detectors) are only a patch on a much larger problem," he said.

To find out if you or someone you know meets the criteria for a free smoke detector, call (336) 724-0511.

CIAA

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the tourney managed to generate about 42,000 fans the last year it was held in Winston-Salem.

Winston-Salem hosted the CIAA tournament for a record six years straight. The city lost out to Raleigh narrowly in 1998, when

bids were due from several cities.

Bids are due again and Winston-Salem once again wants to be in the running for the 2003-2005 tournaments. Entrepreneur and developer Don Angell is heading the city's efforts to attract the tournament again. He is already getting support from people like Harold Martin, the chancellor of Winston-Salem State University,

the only CIAA school in the Triad. By contrast, the Triangle, the popular name for the Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill area, has three CIAA schools.

Raleigh is looking to keep the tourney around for as long as possible. CIAA fans and teams pumped more than \$8 million into the city's economy during the last tourney. That figure was also up

from last year, according to the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"The tournament continues to grow and Raleigh has capacity for continued growth," said David Heintz, president and CEO of the Raleigh CVB. "The tournament, the fans and everything surrounding the event have been so beneficial to the area."

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