

## CMS Public Schools To Greet 82,000 Students

Charlotte-Mecklenburg's approximately 82,000 public school students will return to the classroom for the 1976-77 school year on Monday, August 30.

Monday will be teacher-pupil orientation day; all students will be in school for approximately three hours. Tuesday, August 31, will be the first full day of classes for all students.

Schools in each of the system's 10 areas have worked out bus routes and opening and closing schedules; students will be notified when to report for orientation.

Students and parents who have questions about bus routes and opening-closing times for individual schools should call the school to get that information.

Regular yellow school buses will operate on Monday. Cafeterias will not be open on Monday but will serve meals on Tuesday.

School officials again remind those who have recently moved to a new address during the summer to register their children at the proper school before August 30.

School assignments can be obtained by calling the Information Center at 332-5114. Once school assignments have been determined, parents should call the school to make arrangements to register their children.

All CMS schools will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6, for the Labor Day holiday. Students will also get a holiday on Monday, Sept. 17, for a teacher professional day.

Following is the full 1976-77 school calendar: Nov. 1-2 - Aug. 30 - Teacher-Pupil Orientation Day. Aug. 31 - First Day of 180-day school term.

Sept. 6 - Labor Day holiday. Sept. 17 - Student holiday (for teacher professional day).

Nov. 1-2 - Student holidays (for teacher professional days). Nov. 25-26 - Thanksgiving holidays.

Dec. 20-31 - Christmas holidays. Jan. 27-28 - Student holidays (for teacher professional days).

March 4-7 - March break. April 6-11 - Easter holidays. June 10 - Last day for students.

Make up snow days in priority order:  
No. 1: June 13  
No. 2: June 14  
No. 3: March 7  
No. 4: April 6.

### State Rates

City Transit System Tops

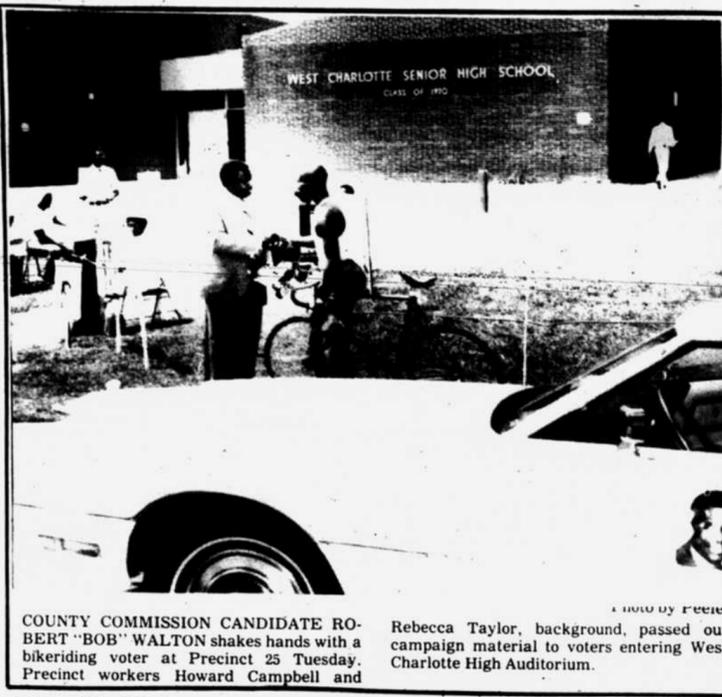
Continued from page 1

In FY-76, Charlotte recovered 75.5 percent of its operating expense from the farebox. The next best ratio of operating revenue to operating expense is Raleigh's 59.6 percent. (Raleigh has 38 cents of revenue per passenger while Charlotte is second highest in the State with 36 cents).

Charlotte Transit's revenues are based on a 40-cent fare but revenue per passenger is reduced somewhat by the more than 5,000 elderly and handicapped who are entitled to half-fare passage under the Council-approved T.A.P.E. program.

The City's Transit Planning Office attributes Charlotte Transit System's good showing to a strong core of regular riders (4 percent of the population) and to continuing efforts in cost control. The Transit Planning Office points out, however, that increasing ridership by making the System more useful to more citizens will require more planning, more services, more supervision, which will mean more Federal, State and City aid.

For prompt subscription service call Rex Hovey: 392-1306.



COUNTY COMMISSION CANDIDATE ROBERT "BOB" WALTON shakes hands with a bikeriding voter at Precinct 25 Tuesday. Precinct workers Howard Campbell and

Rebecca Taylor, background, passed out campaign material to voters entering West Charlotte High Auditorium.

### First Six Years

## Medicaid Expenditures

### Increased By 131 Percent

RALEIGH—Total payments for health services provided for low income North Carolinians under the state's Medicaid program have increased by 109 percent during the first full six years of the program's existence and total expenditures increased by 131.6 percent.

In 1970-71, the first full year of the Medicaid program in the state, health care providers were paid a total of \$93.9 million. With increases in health care costs, services and recipients, this amount escalated to \$196.5 million for fiscal year 1975-76. Total expenditures including provider costs settlements and administration went from \$94.5 million to \$218.9 million for the same period.

In an effort to curb the state's escalating costs of Medicaid, the state entered into a contract with Health Application Systems last year to administer the program on a period premium basis putting a ceiling on the costs to the state. In recent months the company has said the costs have escalated beyond expectations, and negotiations are currently underway with the state to decide what action will be necessary to solve the problem.

Funds to pay for Medicaid services come from federal, state and county tax revenues. Currently, the federal government pays 68.03 percent, state 27.17 percent and counties 4.8 percent.

Inpatient hospital care accounts for the largest expenditure. Hospitals received \$30.6 million in 1970-71 and this amount increased to \$55.1 million in 1975-76.

Nursing homes received \$16.4 million in 1970-71 and \$25 million in 1975-76. This is not the whole picture, however, since the state started paying Intermediate Care Facilities which is another level of care in 1973-74. This is a facility that cares for people who need a lower level of care than a skilled nursing home. Many nursing homes converted some of their beds to this type care. An additional \$23.3 million was paid in 1975-76 to general Intermediate Care Facilities.

Prescription drugs accounted for expenditure of \$14.5 million in 1970-71 and increased to \$25.4 million in 1975-76.

Next in line is payments to physicians which went from \$14.5 million to \$22.2 million. Dental bills increased from \$6.6 million to \$8 million.

These were not the only services provided by Medicaid, but those that accounted for the vast majority of the costs.

North Carolina has one of the most comprehensive Medicaid programs in the country in the number of services provided and the people who are eligible. Very few limits are placed on the amounts of services compared to some states. Approximately half the states are experiencing financial difficulties with their Medicaid program and are looking at ways to curtail rising expenditures.

In North Carolina, any resident is eligible for Medicaid who receives a monthly public assistance check under the Aid to Families With Dependent Children program.

## Reading Program Is Effective

Results of a recent evaluation of the state's Primary Reading Program funded by the 1975 General Assembly have revealed that students who participated in the program achieved significantly higher reading achievement scores than students in matched comparison classes.

According to State Superintendent of Public Instruction A. Graig Phillips, these results can prove to be of significant benefit to primary grade children in Charlotte-Mecklenburg County-City Schools because they show us where to allocate our State resources to best assure that every child in North Carolina learns to read.

The Primary Reading Program was established in 1975 to identify more effective means of teaching reading to children in grades one through three, said Phillips. The initial appropriation of \$750,000 provided resources to fund 117 primary grade classes.

Each of the 117 classes in forty schools throughout the state were provided money for a teacher aide, inservice training for the classroom teacher and aide, supplies and materials, comprehensive testing, and extra consulting services. Teachers are encouraged to use adult volunteers in the program, said Phillips, although no money was provided for that phase of the program.

One month after the 1975-76 school year began, students participating in the primary Reading Program were tested with nationally normed tests to find out the level of achievement at which they were entering the program. Seven months later, after having the advantages of the new program, the students took the same nationally normed tests to measure any gains they might have made. Students in matched comparison classes who did not have the advantages of the Primary Reading Program also took the tests.



Diamia Croslin ...Receives new honors

### Diamia Croslin

#### Selected Best

#### Director

by Sidney Moore Jr. Post Staff Writer

Back to school means the end of summer programs sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

To end this summer season, the commission sponsored its annual awards program Thursday, August 12. Diamia Croslin, 38, of 1331 Orvis Drive was presented the Leadership Award for "Best All-Around Playground Director."

Croslin, a second year veteran of playground summer work, was one of two directors to receive this award. The commission named a male and a female recipient.

The award winning director worked in Dalton Village this year. Her stint with the program last year was spent in Double Oaks.

She said the 8-week program is enjoyable work. "They were such sweet people," Croslin said. "I enjoyed them very much."

A number of activities made up the summer program.

Each week, said Croslin, children were taken to different recreation events. These included a track meet, checker tournament, volleyball, table tennis, skate board contest and a hoola-hoop and frisbee contest. Most of these events were held at the Hawthorne Community Center, sponsored by the city.

Croslin led arts and crafts sessions about three times each week. Such sessions at the more than 100 community parks led to exhibits at the Charlottetown Mall and Freedom Mall Shopping Centers.

Four baseball teams were organized by Croslin for play at Independence Park.

Dalton Village park also had regular sessions of singing and story telling. And of course, there was hopscotch, jump rope, jack stones and croquet.

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