

Public Schools

**Open Doors
To Community**

Over the past few years, public schools across the state have opened their doors to the community for all kinds of activities -- not only in the summer but after school, at night, and even on weekends for people of all ages. It's a result of the 1977 Community Schools Act which the General Assembly passed to encourage greater community involvement in schools and greater use of the school facility.

Lots of good things are surfacing that can be traced to the community school concept. Where there are community school programs, school vandalism has declined over the past few years. School bond issues are being voted on by adults without children in the schools. Community colleges are able to offer more courses and recreational departments and cultural arts can provide leisure activities because they have the facilities they need. In many instances, senior citizens can attend school activities free of charge and eat in the school cafeteria.

Some 121 of the 144 local school units - 1,152 designated community school sites - now participate in the program. When a school unit develops a plan for community schools, it applies to the State Board of Education for funding.

When the plan is approved, a community school coordinator is hired to set up a local advisory council and oversee the program. The plan for each unit contains programs and activities according to its own needs and resources and includes educational, recreational, social and cultural experiences.

The State Department of Public Instruction's Division of Community Schools provides state-level leadership to the community schools program.



Catherine Stroud, Mildred Nix and Fay Jones discuss final plans for the Fairview Homes 40th Anniversary and Reunion celebration. (Photo by Teresa Burns)

Anniversary Celebration

Fairview Homes To Embark

On An Embracing Adventure

By Teresa Burns
Post Staff Writer

Fairview Homes is about to embark on an embracing adventure. Both past and present residents will unite to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the homes Saturday, October 4 in the ball field of Oaklawn Community Center.

From 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. registration of former residents and visitors will be taken. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. speeches, awards, entertainment, games and information booths will be presented. In case of rain the event will be held Saturday, October 11.

The speakers will be Charles McCullough, Rev. Johnnie Wallace Jr., and Betty Harris. Awards will be given to people who have lived in Fairview Homes 35-40 years. Music and entertainment will be provided by present and former residents. Apple bobbing, pin the tail on the donkey, the Penny Game, the Potato Game and more will be played to keep the adults as well as children active. Information booths

including voter registration, sickle cell, Urban League, Planned Parenthood, etc., information will also be available.

Clean-up of the area has been planned from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. And at 5 p.m. a disco will begin. Refreshments, some provided by various donating companies, will be available at 1940 prices. Contributions are still needed, however, to defray the costs.

This is the first time an anniversary has been celebrated at the Fairview Homes. A forty-member task force, which meets every Thursday, is responsible for organizing this event.

According to Mildred Nix, coordinator of the Task Force committees, a member of the Crime Prevention staff and a former resident of Fairview Homes, more than fun will be produced at the reunion.

"Hopefully, the residents will see that this is home and the community at large will see that there is still pride in the community," Ms. Nix began, "Most

of the problems are caused by a few people."

Fay Jones, game coordinator at the anniversary celebration, believes the reunion will enhance community relationships. "I think this will give the community a better working relationship." She feels that this may be the beginning of making Fairview Homes the place it once was.

The anniversary activities will also be a time for relaxation and for past and present residents to get to know each other, Catherine Stroud announced. Ms. Stroud, information booth coordinator, continued, "For so long Fairview Homes has been looked at negatively by the Charlotte population; now it is time to change that image... Basically, we want to help ourselves with outside help to get us started... We can take it from there."

Past and present residents are invited to participate. For more information, contact Mildred Nix, 334-8875. See FAIRVIEW on Page 8



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