

Folks In Southeast Charlotte Get A Free Ride

By Audrey C. Ledato
Post Staff Writer

No, Charlotte Transit is not using your fare increase to give a free ride to folks in southeast Charlotte. In fact, Charlotte Transit isn't paying their way at all.

On Monday, a new, free, "Uptown Connection" express bus service was implemented for people living in the Randolph Road area.

According to Nancy Durham, information and Ride Share manager for the Charlotte Dept. of Transportation, representatives of the uptown business community approached

Charlotte Transit about providing additional express bus service so their employees could avoid the hassles of driving and parking.

Uptown businesses are putting up \$89,000 for the one-year experiment. An additional amount in excess of \$30,000 is coming from a state grant.

"This will cover all operating expenses for a year," Durham said. In addition, she explained, although the first four months of the demonstration project will be free to riders, Charlotte City Council specified that, by the end of the project, fares will be the same as for other express routes. Durham said that the plan is to

institute fares in 25 cent increments.

She emphasized that this program is totally self-supporting. "None of the money that normally goes to operate Charlotte Transit is going for this," she said.

The free express service runs every 10 minutes from 7 to 8 a.m. and from 4:40 to 5:50 p.m. Eight buses are involved, with seven on the road and one to spare.

Durham called the experiment "a great learning experience for us." Among the things Charlotte Transit hopes to learn are the impact of fares on ridership, the impact of frequency of service, and how well this type of

service works for getting people around major construction projects.

Commuter parking is available at Calvary Church and at several other park and ride lots along Randolph Road. On the first morning of the project, about 100 cars were left in the lot after the hubbub of opening ceremonies had died down, Durham said.

It is only coincidence, she maintained, that most Charlotte Transit fares went up this month. Local fares are increasing from 60 cents to 70 cents. Express fares are going up to a dollar from 85 cents.

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In The Charlotte Post

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John Crawford
Youth Services Director

John Crawford Honored At Annual Dinner

On September 5, the Metrolina Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers will sponsor its 3rd Annual Centie J. Williams Community Service Awards Dinner. The award is presented to those social workers and or human service workers who have made meritorious contributions to the black community as well as the larger Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. This awards dinner is an opportunity for the organization to say to those men and women throughout the community that their efforts are appreciated and that we honor them for their selfless acts of compassion and concern.

Mr. John T. Crawford is the Community Service Award recipient for 1986. Mr. Crawford works with the Housing Authority of the City of Charlotte as Youth Services Director. Throughout his employment history, Mr. Crawford has held positions which have allowed him to touch the lives of numerous youth. His work with youth in this community has helped them to have a better opportunity to realize their full potential.

The featured speaker for the event will be Arthur Griffin Jr. Mr. Griffin is a noted community leader. He has served on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board and currently sits on the Mecklenburg County Human Services Council. Griffin shares John Crawford's enthusiasm for serving the youth of our community. Barrie Long, a mezzo-soprano, will provide musical selections for the event's entertainment.

The Community Service Awards Dinner will be held at McDonald's Cafeteria at 7 p.m. We encourage you to join us as we say a special "thank you" to John Crawford.

Tickets for the event are \$15 and reservations must be made by August 28. Reservations can be made by calling Sharon Plummer, chair of the planning committee at 596-0967 or Iris Carlton-LaNey at 596-7121.

Youth Invited To Run State Government

If you are a high school student and you would like to try your hand at running state government, Youth Involvement Day is designed for you.

During Youth Involvement Day, October 27, students will "pair up" with top state officials and work alongside them for the day.

Activities will begin October 26 with a workshop on government followed by dinner and a dance sponsored by the Raleigh Youth Council. The next day students will meet their state government counterparts at breakfast, after which they will leave for a day of work.

For application forms and information, contact the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office, 919-733-9296, or write the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office, 121 W. Jones St., Raleigh, N.C. 27603-1334. Deadline for applications is September 12. Participants will be selected by a committee.

The cost of attending Youth Involvement Day is \$39.25, which includes lodging, two meals and administrative costs.

Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."
Mark 16:15

"Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."
Luke 14:23

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