

Initiative boosts Brooklyn spirit

Continued from page 1A

University Park Neighborhood Association and chairman of New Brooklyn's stakeholder committee. "What we're trying to do is focus on how to revitalize that area. Rarely do these people have a chance to sit down and discuss how all this impacts on the area."

Although Beatties Ford Road is historically underserved, there are signs of growth. A shopping center at



Mitchell

the corner of Beatties Ford and LaSalle includes a Food Lion supermarket and post office as anchor tenants. New homes are being built for working-class families.

And churches are driving development. Friendship Missionary Baptist Church plans to provide housing and amenities on 110 acres across from its sanctuary on Beatties Ford Road. The United House of Prayer for All People bought the property where the former McDonald's Cafeteria, Fun City amusement site and hotel sat beside Interstate 85. The restaurant is being upfitted; the hotel has been converted into housing for the elderly, and Fun City is slated for single-family housing.

University Park Baptist Church added AmeriCare at The Park, a community-oriented healthcare center.

"This is churches making our communities better," said City Council member James Mitchell, who represents the area and launched the initiative earlier this year.

While corridors like Plaza-Midwood and South End are flourishing with shops, restaurants and new housing, northwest Charlotte is trying to catch up. The area closest to uptown, anchored by Johnson & Wales and Johnson C. Smith universities, is in the process of major revitalization programs. Further out, however, growth has been slower.

"There are still a whole lot of things you have to trek outside the immediate area for," Alexander said, noting that amenities like sit-down

HBCU fair

Thinking about enrolling at a historically black college, or sending your student to one?

Mount Carmel Baptist Church is hosting its second annual HBCU College Fair Saturday at 10 p.m. Representatives from more than 30 colleges have confirmed their presence, including Hampton University, Morehouse College and Savannah State University. North Carolina HBCUs will also be represented, including Johnson C. Smith University.

"It's grown tremendously," said the Rev. E. Shon Hagwood, an associated minister at Mt. Carmel and organizer of the fair. "Last year, 25 institutions showed up. This year we have at least 30 institutions and we may get as many as 50."

The fair has also been extended to students beyond the Charlotte area.

"We want to reach as many people as we could and we sent letters to as many churches and institutions in the southeast as we could," Hagwood said.

For information, call the church at (704) 394-3525.

Herbert L. White

dining are in short supply.

NBI also connects communities to city staff members to discuss matters ranging from building codes to applying for neighborhood grants.

"We're making sure we reach out to developers and make sure we're on the same page," Mitchell said. "We want to make sure the city is engaged, that we have correct zoning on the ground so we can have the kind of corridor we want."

Bringing disparate groups together — including five community development corporations — better serves the overall community, said Powell, a former president of the Historic West End Business Association. Sharing information benefits everyone.

"That was a problem for a long time," she said. "It was like the right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing. There is strength in numbers."

And the collective will to bring ideas that will make northwest neighborhoods more than an afterthought.

"Nothing happens unless it's pushed. That's the Charlotte way," Alexander said. "Unless something else is done, you're not going to be able to realize that potential. This shouldn't be the Bermuda Triangle of Charlotte."

Adds Powell: "We're trying to say someone's accomplishing something. People are always saying 'they're not doing anything.' But we're 'they.'"



IT'S MY CONTRIBUTION. CATS
CHARLOTTE AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM



Air. We breathe it. We share it. And keeping it clear and clean is a responsibility we share as well. Whether we're using the electric leaf blower, walking more, or refueling our vehicles after 6p, every effort to reduce ozone translates as a breath of fresh air.

Personally, I'm driving less, carpooling more, and riding CATS. It's my contribution.

What's yours?

Breathe easier. Ride CATS.

704.336.RIDE

WWW.RIDETRANBIT.ORG



He has his father's eyes, his grandmothers looks, and he has lead in his blood from the house we live in.



If you live in a home built before 1978, it may have lead-based paint inside or on the outside of the house. One out of 11 children in the country has lead poisoning in his or her blood, is your child one of them?

Lead poisoning in children, even in low levels, may cause development problems, learning disabilities and hearing problems.

Have your child and your home tested for lead poisoning. It's free for those who qualify.

Call the LeadSafe Charlotte Hotline to get more information about lead-based paint poisoning now.



CHARLOTTE.

Be Lead Safe!

LeadSafe Charlotte Hotline Spanish - 704-336-3500 English - 704-336-2114