

# Pine Knolls Center Changes Locks

The unexpected locked doors at the Pine Knolls Community Center have left many users surprised.

By KATE HARTIG  
Staff Writer

On Friday nights, the children of the Pine Knolls Community Youth Council still have their meetings - outside of the locked community center where they used to meet.

"The kids sit outside almost all night long," said Sis Rose, a Pine Knolls resident. "It's breaking my heart to see them sit out in the cold when they could be in the center."

Margaret Cheek, another resident, said the closing of the community center sparked concern from residents who were not informed of its shut-down.

"The center has been closed since Jan. 10," she said. "It was shut down without the community residents knowing about it."

The center, located at 107 Johnston St., is part of an organization devoted to cleaning up the Pine Knolls neighborhood which became known for drugs and related crime in the early 1990s.

Ted Parrish, Pines Community Center Inc. board member, said the center was

briefly shut down to make repairs after a rental disagreement provoked a visit from Chapel Hill inspectors.

"The center is absolutely not shut down," Parrish said. "It is available to anyone who wants to use it. We do not choose to keep the center door open if it is not fully supervised."

However, before Jan. 10, the Family Resource Center housed in the Pine Knolls center ran daily operations.

The FRC, one of the Orange County Family Resource Centers, provided family support services, such as youth groups, community watch, after-school programs and tutoring. The centers are a branch of the Chapel Hill Training Outreach Project.

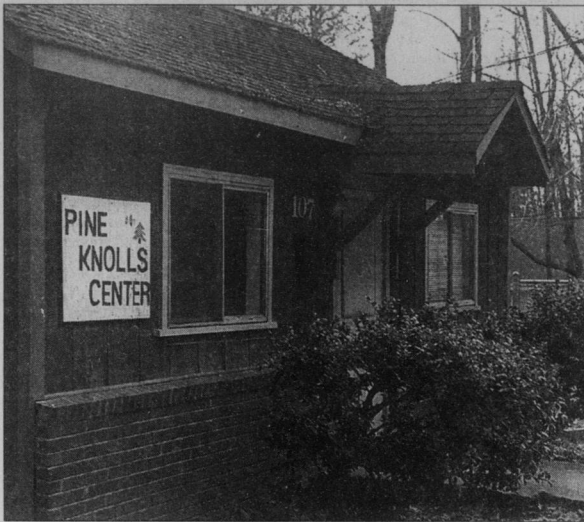
Karen Stegman, FRC coordinator at Pine Knolls, said she came to work one morning and the locks had been changed by the community center.

"We are continuing to work with families, visiting homes and offering transportation - we are trying to be as creative as possible," she said. "We were given no notice, and I don't want the community to think we abandoned them."

Cheek, a center volunteer, said that without the center it was hard for them to keep the community programs going. "It's our job to take care of the community," she said. "And that's real hard without the center."

*"The kids sit outside almost all night long. It's breaking my heart to see them sit out in the cold..."*

Sis Rose  
Pine Knolls Resident



DTH/KATE MELLNIK

Starting March 6, two students will begin volunteering full-time at the Pine Knolls Community Center to keep it open daily.

But, starting March 6, two N.C. Central University students are volunteering to keep the center open daily.

Parrish said they would make a needs assessment and then define the programs based on the community's wants.

Since the center has been closed, Parrish said children from the area have been bused to programs at the Chapel Hill-Carrboro YMCA on Airport Road.

Glenda Andrews, director of the YMCA, said the children were enjoying the after-school programs, the pool and other facilities.

"The children have been relocated from the center and incorporated into our after-school programs," she said. "It has been a relatively easy transition. It's

been a real pleasure having them here." Parrish said the center would be unlocked some afternoons until the N.C. Central students were available.

"If anyone comes to me and says they want to use the center, they can," he said. "The center is not closed."

Rose said the programs offered at the center benefited her children.

"I really think that what was going on with the center was great ... it kept children focused," she said. "What I don't understand is why the PCC and FRC can't work together to have a nice center and make our children happy."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

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## IN THE NEWS

### Conservatives Unite, Help Bush Win Virginia

ARLINGTON, Va. - George W. Bush forged a winning coalition of Republican regulars and the religious right Tuesday to deal rival John McCain a resounding defeat in Virginia. Even as next week's 13-state presidential showdown loomed, the Texas governor declared, "We are one step closer to having a united party."

The seesawing Republican presidential race was fought also in North Dakota and Washington state, but Bush won the bulk of the day's delegates, 56, in the capital of the old Confederacy.

"I've proven I can bring Republicans out in big numbers," Bush told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. In a slap at McCain, who blasted evangelical leaders Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell on Monday, the governor told supporters in Cincinnati, "We are expanding our base without destroying our foundations."

McCain congratulated Bush, but dismissed the victory as part of "a Southern strategy" for a candidate who won't win elsewhere. Looking ahead to next week's "Super Tuesday" voting, the Arizona senator told The AP: "We have a broad section, a cross-section of America voting all on the same day." The Texas governor won because Republican voters overwhelmed independents and Democrats who crossed party lines in support of McCain, a warning sign for the Arizona senator as he prepares for New York, California and Ohio and 10 other states conducting GOP contests.

One day after McCain labeled certain evangelical leaders "agents of intolerance," religious conservatives accounted for 20 percent of the Virginia vote. They backed Bush 8-to-1, prompting the governor to say, "The voters of Virginia rejected the politics of pitting one religion against another."

McCain's best showing was in the

Washington suburbs, the most moderate region in the state, according to surveys of Virginia voters conducted by Voter News Service, a consortium of the AP and television networks. Bush beat him elsewhere.

On the Democratic side, Bill Bradley and Vice President Al Gore squared off in Washington state. No delegates were at stake, but the former New Jersey senator hoped for a symbolic victory to breathe life into his troubled campaign.

No Washington results were available at press time.

### Bowe to Serve Time For Kidnapping Wife

CHARLOTTE - Former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe was handed a 30-day prison sentence Tuesday for kidnapping his wife and children and ordered to get treatment for brain injuries suffered in the ring.

Bowe, 32, could have been sentenced to 18 to 24 months in federal prison for the abductions Feb. 25, 1998. But U.S. District Judge Graham Mullen said Bowe's head injuries persuaded him to be lenient.

"Without this brain injury and substantially reduced capacity, this matter would not have happened," Mullen said. He also said statements made by family members convinced him Bowe never intended violence.

Bowe had pleaded guilty in June 1998 to a federal interstate domestic violence charge as part of a plea bargain. He initially faced federal kidnapping charges.

Besides the 30-day sentence, Bowe must serve four years' probation and six months' house arrest after he is released from prison.

### Gifford to Leave Show To Pursue Acting Jobs

NEW YORK - Kathie Lee Gifford surprised viewers of "Live With Regis & Kathie Lee" Tuesday by announcing she is breaking up the act.

She said she's leaving the show this summer and ending her 15-year run as sidekick to Regis Philbin, who stuck by her through tabloid scandals, bad wardrobe days and endless talk about her son, Cody.

"It's the right time," said Gifford, 46, whose contract ends in August.

Gifford, who recently performed a fill-in role in the Broadway musical "Putting It Together" and was guest host last week for David Letterman's "Late Show," said she missed singing and acting.

- Associated Press

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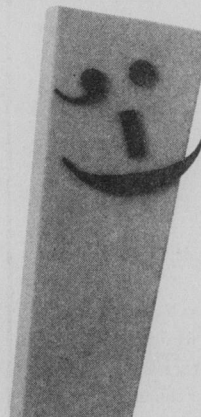
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