

Habitat holds second meeting

By Jen Osborn
Assistant editor

More than 20 people were on hand last week for the second meeting designed to bring Habitat for Humanity housing to Hoke County residents.

"The meeting was again a time to work toward developing a local Habitat for Humanity affiliate," said Don Shields, pastor of Sandy Grove Methodist Church, the group that is trying to organize a local Habitat for Humanity.

The meeting was held at the First Baptist Church in Raeford on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

Right now, Shields said, there are about 40 people on the mailing list who have expressed an interest in helping with Habitat for Humanity. But he said once things are organized he feels more people will become involved when it's time to actually build a home.

So far, Shields said the local group is well underway and hopes that by early 1997 Hoke County will be approved and certified to have a Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

Shields said local interest in Habitat for Humanity became stronger recently when part of the Fayetteville District of the United Methodist Church wanted to build a Habitat for Humanity house in Hoke County. However, since there is no local Habitat for Humanity organization, legal issues kept the house from being built.

"One has to happen before the other can," he said. "So we took on a mission to be a catalyst to help for the Hoke County Habitat for Humanity affiliate."

Meanwhile, Shields said a steering committee of 12 people will be organized in November and they will

"This is not a place for people who want their name on a committee. This is a working group." — Don Shields

select a board of directors. After that, five committees will be selected to be in charge of site selection, development (public relations and fund raising), family nurture (a liaison between the Habitat for Humanity and the family selected to receive a new home), building and a family selection committee.

According to Habitat for Humanity International regulations, the steering committee and the board of directors must be economically, socially, racially and ecumenically diverse.

Local need

The slogan for Habitat for Humanity International says it provides simple, decent, affordable housing where people can live in dignity and safety—something Shields and other organizers feel is necessary for Hoke County residents.

"The need is here and also the time is right," Shields said.

Shields explained that Habitat for Humanity, now celebrating its 20th anniversary, is a highly effective group that has a proven track record of helping people help themselves. In fact, it's not a hand-out, he said, but it is a hand up. Just as important is Habitat for Humanity's ethic of people working together and cutting across racial, social and financial lines.

"That's one of the things that attracted me to it," Shields said. "With this community being tri-racial, this is a good way to build unity in the community."

Shields said Habitat for Humanity is also a group that matches the Christian philosophy and words with actual deeds. Now local volunteers working toward the affiliate are also joined and supported by the Raeford Ministerial Association, an ecumenical group of clergy from throughout the county, Shields said.

Although many people have expressed an interest and Shields said many people have told him they've been waiting for a Habitat for Humanity group to get started in the area, right now the administrative efforts may be keeping the organization small.

"That doesn't attract as many people, but it has to be done," Shields said.

However, Shields also said that those who are involved are hard workers who have jumped right in and aren't afraid to get things done.

"The people who come to meetings are the people interested not just in coming to learn more," he said. "They really want to be involved."

In the future, those that want to stay involved in Habitat for Humanity, in administrative work or otherwise, should be prepared to put forth a little elbow grease.

"This is not a place for people who want their name on a committee," he said. "This is a working group."

Anyone interested in working toward or with the Hoke County Habitat for Humanity affiliate may contact Shields at 875-4318.

Business of the Week



Photo by Kristin Guthrie

Johnson Company employee David Hayes, left, helps customer J.E. Douglas get the proper shade of paint.

Store continues tradition of service

By Kristin Guthrie
Staff writer

Opening in 1930, The Johnson Company is one of the oldest businesses in Hoke County.

It was originally started in the Raeford Hotel building under the name of Johnson and McNeill, named after the owners, J.S. Johnson and J.L. McNeill.

After McNeill sold his portion of the business to Johnson in 1936, Johnson decided to move the business to its present location at 110 E. Central Ave. The move brought another change—the business was renamed to The Johnson Company.

In the early 1940's, the business was taken over by J.S. Johnson Jr. and Agnes Mae Johnson Campbell. Today, Campbell and Jean Johnson Kelly claim ownership of the store and its warehouse, acquired in 1963 and located next to the present day store.

Just as the location and the own-

ership of the business have changed, so too has its merchandise. The business has changed to meet the needs of the time. Beginning as a farm supply store, the store had all the materials needed to keep a farm running.

However, Hoke County's small farms have been consolidated over the years and now there are more owners who purchase their supplies directly from a distributor rather than going through a middle man.

Today, the store has decreased its farm supplies and added more inventory for the do-it-yourself homeowner. From paint to hardware to garden supplies, animal feed, fertilizer and more, the business has changed its stock.

Some things still remain the same. The Johnson Company still has many of the same farm supplies to offer today's farmer and they still have the insurance company they started some 50 years ago.

"We have one of the oldest insurance agencies in Hoke County," said

employee Margaret Johnson.

According to General Manager Julian Johnson, insurance is one-half of their business and the other half is paint, hardware and lawn and garden merchandise. Of course, spring is the busiest time of the year for many home projects, but the first of the month is also quite busy with payments being made on insurance policies.

To serve the customers, the employees include Julian Johnson, general manager; John Hayes, insurance salesman; Patsy Steadman, bookkeeper; Simid Peterkin and Clarence Edens, two part-time warehouse workers; William Davis, part-time retired employee and Margaret Johnson, part-time.

They are open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., closing at noon on Wednesday, and closed on Saturday and Sunday. Their phone number is 875-3550. Call or stop by to see what they have to offer.

News-Journal Weather Watch

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	Wed-Thu	Thu-Fri	Fri-Sat	Sat-Sun	Sun-Mon	Mon-Tue	Tue-Wed
Precipitation (inch)	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	02.22	00.04
High Temp.	76(15:142)	83(13:399)	65(16:135)	68(15:593)	69(14:231)	64(04:089)	66(13:209)
Low Temp.	66(08:067)	52(06:532)	44(06:499)	45(08:012)	55(08:013)	56(08:017)	59(07:358)
High Avg. Wind	6(10:161)	13(22:372)	14(09:271)	13(15:011)	12(09:182)	17(04:179)	18(08:370)
High Wind Gust	10(02:059)	23(02:073)	26(09:485)	22(15:019)	20(14:229)	31(04:236)	31(08:375)
High Wind Dir.	NNE	NNE	NNE	NNE	NE	NNE	NNE
HighBarom.	30.21(08:212)	30.31(07:531)	30.38(07:573)	30.39(08:529)	30.30(08:010)	30.05(08:440)	29.79(07:445)
Low Barom.	30.03(05:58)	30.01(14:50)	30.30(08:01)	30.27(05:08)	30.02(06:21)	29.33(07:56)	29.32(08:35)
High Humidity	91(03:245)	88(08:022)	88(15:394)	48(07:019)	67(06:456)	92(06:066)	90(08:014)

Remarks: All readings recorded downtown. Readings are for previous 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m.

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HOKE COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

Annual Plate Sale

Friday, October 18th

11 a.m. - until

Hoke County Rescue Base, Adams St.

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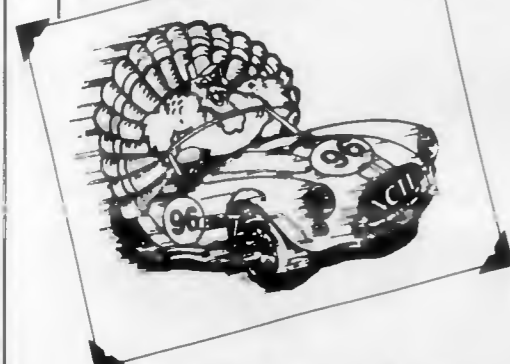
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