



REHAB UNDERWAY—Reg Alexander of the KM Housing Rehabilitation Program and Mary Dover look over the rehab work underway at her Bennett Dr. home. The home is about 100 years old. Mrs. Dover has

lived there for 33-years. She and her late husband purchased the house from Burlington Industries after Mr. Dover retired.



A COZY KITCHEN—Mrs. Broadus Bailey shows off her kitchen at her Cloninger St. home after the rehab program was completed. New windows and wall cabinets were part of the renovation. The linoleum and

wallpaper was installed by the Bailey children. The home was also insulated and outside walls recovered and painted.

Housing Rehabilitation

Is It A 'God-Send' Or A 'Rip-Off?'

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Staff Writer

The city's housing rehabilitation program is considered a "God-send" by some and "a rip-off, another federal program down the drain" by others.

Community Development Director Arnold Gordon-Wright and Assistant Reg Alexander are feeling the pressures of coping with frustrations of running a federal program where they have to say no to so many citizens.

This is the third year of the housing rehab program, but to date only 12 homes have undergone program financed renovation to bring them up to code. The first year the rehab budget totaled \$35,000; second year, \$60,000; and the third, another \$60,000. The actual rehab budget was approved for \$140,000, but \$80,000 goes for administrative costs.

The first two years of the program saw qualified homes in various sections of the city receiving attention. But now the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has decreed all the homes considered must be within a specific target area.

This is bad news for over 100 KM home owners who already have applied and been approved under the former guidelines. The target area work becomes effective July 1, 1979 and that area encompasses a 500-home area in the northeast quadrant of the city. Wright said, if the city's Small Cities Grant application is approved, that funding will also go into the same target area. The rehab funding to date has come from the city's Community Development Block Grant program. This is the final year of the five-year program with a final total of \$338,000 spread over several programs.

The rehab program provides a maximum funding per project of \$7,500 to qualifying home owners. Guidelines also require that should a qualifying homeowner need more than \$7,500 worth of renovation done that they seek loan assistance from a bank or apply to HUD for a low interest loan to cover the overage.

Wright said to date only one of the 12 homeowners, Mrs. Linda Davis of 219 Fulton St., has obtained a bank loan to complete renovation on her home. Mrs. Davis, mother of two small children, is also the youngest citizen to have received rehab funding. The others are low-income individuals, senior citizens living on fixed incomes.

Alexander said "It is very discouraging that in its third year the rehab program has only been able to see work completed on 12 homes. With less than a one percent vacancy rate in Kings Mountain, it is evident housing is the city's number one problem."

Wright said about 70 applicants have passed all guideline criteria

before a full committee - William Grissom, Corbet Nicholson and James Childers - "but those applicants will have to be passed over because of the lack of funds or the fact they are not in the target area. We will keep those applications on file and hope that new federal programs will be created for this need."

And the news even for those in the target area is not all that hot. It could be three or four years before their homes get attention under the program.

The rehab crew receives "lots of flack" concerning the way the program has been handled, on how the applicants are selected no matter in what order they applied.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Broadus Bailey, 118 Cloninger St., was the only one out of a half a dozen applicants in the Margrace area to receive rehab assistance. Mr. Bailey is an invalid and the couple lives on monthly Social Security checks.

"The rehab committee makes selections based on the most immediate need and health hazards to occupants," Alexander said. "The committee looks at such things as insulation and wiring. The difference between our rehab program and that in other cities is that we are emphasizing codes efficiency and not just exterior appearance."

The new rehab target area runs from Battleground and Piedmont northwest to the Candler-Morris Sts. intersection, east to Gantt and Walker and across Piedmont north to Baker as far as Benfield Rd. and Piedmont, then east to Cleveland Ave., south to the community center, and west to Piedmont and Battleground.

A total of 271 homes are slated for rehabilitation in the target area, according to Wright, with 17 to be demolished and 203 to be brought up to code.

"But," Wright said, "completion of this project hinges on the city being approved for the Small Cities Grant."

Wright said he is sure there will still be cries of outrage from citizens who have applied and have been approved, but are not being selected for funding. "But, the committee has truly made every effort to examine all the applications and to determine which of them are in the most immediate need. They have also determined that only three out of all the applications made were fraudulent. The rest were legitimate - and that's what hurts when we realize there just isn't enough money to go around."

Alexander said he feels "that citizens in the community should be making themselves heard concerning housing. Maybe it is ultimately up to them. If they talk long and hard enough, perhaps rehabilitation will become the top priority in Kings Mountain."



Photos by Tom McIntyre

THE WORK HELPED—Broadus Bailey, an invalid living on Social Security with his wife, commented that the rehab work on their home helped them cut their heating bills by half.

60 Foote Employees Receive Safety Awards

Sixty employees of Foote Mineral Company won awards for safety at the semi-annual safety barbecue recently and Operations Manager W.E. Cooke presented awards to employees for outstanding work records for two years, five years, 15 years and 25 years.

Personnel Manager Larry W. Wood said the program featured an afternoon of good food, fellowship and the recognition of employees' safe work record without a lost-time accident.

The awards were presented to the employees by the supervisor of their work area. Porta-Pig Catering Service served barbecue with all the trimmings.

Johnny C. Jones and William J. Turner won 25-year safety awards and Ronald K. Ballery, W. Roy Duncan and William L. Ethers won 15-year awards for safety to lead the honored group. Receiving five-year awards were Harold C. Thrift, Robert K. Hamrick, David C. Pruitt, J.C. Jamison, Horace D. Moore, Dwan W. Thornburg, Kenneth B. Plumley, Denise B. Bolin and Harry R. Hughes.

Two-year safety award recipients are Manning E. Carroll, Jr., Irene W. Brittain, Clarence L. Hoyle, Louise L. McCraw, George . Oaks, Otis E. Moss, Eugene Johnson, J.T.

Jackson, Dean Ayers, Frankie Bess, Wilbert L. Biddix, Billy Bridges, Danny R. Bryant, Daniel R. Cochran, Larry B. Deaver, Robert H. Dixon, James L. Evans, Laura D. Greene, C. Elaine Guin, Leroy Hammett, John R. Hamrick, Phillip R. Harris, John S. Putnam, Robert E. Hand, Ernest F. Hector, William E. Jenkins, David M. King, J. Dennis Martin, James E. McClain, Jerry F. Morgan, Louise Roberts, Marlene C. Smith, Debra W. Sizemore, Donald W. Whitworth, Jerry F. Wylie, Richard L. Sutherland, Jerry Webster, Cecil V. Sipe, William J. Bruggess, Betty S. Garrett, Benjamin F. Brown, Jr., Charlene Y. Sellers, John Costner, Jr., Martha B. Davidson, Charles D. Griffin and Joan S. Stewart.

Local NCAE Dinner Is Set

The Kings Mountain Chapter of the North Carolina Association of Educators will hold its end of school luncheon Fri., June 8.

The noon luncheon and meeting will be held in the Kings Mountain Senior High cafeteria, according to Gary Shields, local NCAE president.

Scouts Receive National Honor

Meets Thursday

The Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners will meet Thurs., May 31 at 7:30 p.m. at city hall.

This new date for the regular second monthly meeting of the board was set due to Memorial Day coming this past Monday.

The postponement announcement came last Thursday, too late for inclusion in last Thursday's Mirror-Herald.

Summer Story Hour

Summer Story Hour will begin at Jacob S. Mauney Memorial Library June 13th and continue through Aug. 15th.

Story Hour will be conducted for young people 5-10 from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays, according to Hazel Fryer, librarian.

Prizes will be given for best attendance.

Charity Horse Show

The 11th annual Shelby Junior Woman's Club Charity Horseshow will be held Sat., June 2.

The shows are at noon and 6:30 p.m. at Blanton Memorial Stadium, Shelby Senior High.

The show will include English, Western and game points and high point trophies will be awarded.

All proceeds go toward the club's charity projects.

Tickets are \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children in advance and \$1.25 and 75 cents at the gate.

For entry information, call Mrs. Kathy Holbrook at 482-4182, or Mrs. Dina Jones, 482-8187.

Bike-A-Thon Postponed

Because of unseasonably chilly weather Saturday, the Kings Mountain Police Department-sponsored Bike-A-Thon was postponed.

Chairman Robert Dodge said the event will be rescheduled in about six weeks.

Eleven bikers reported to the Kings Mountain Senior High parking lot to compete in the 10-mile event.

Chairman Dodge said that bikers interested in participating in the Bike-A-Thon are encouraged to obtain sponsors and vie for prizes in the event. All proceeds are earmarked for St. Jude Children's Hospital.