

COMMUNITY

SECTION B

Also Sports, Religion and Classifieds

SEPTEMBER 29, 2011



Community Calendar

Bowling fundraiser

The Bow-Tie Boyz (n Girlz) Auto Club will be hosting its Second Annual Charity Bowling Event on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 2-5 p.m. at Northside Bowling Lanes, 3550 N. Patterson Ave. The cost is \$50 for a team of four. Prizes will be given away. All proceeds will benefit the Peace Toys for War Toys Exchange program. For more information or to find out how you can help, contact Gerald Hardy at 336-692-8305.

Astronomy observation

On Saturday, October 1, from 7 to 11 p.m., the Forsyth Astronomical Society and SciWorks Planetarium will have an astronomy observation at SciWorks, which is located on Hanes Mill Road off University Parkway, or just off exit 116 on US 52. The public is invited to attend this free observation event. Inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances may cancel the observation. Call SciWorks after 5:30 p.m. on October 1 at 336-767-6730 for cancellation information. The next observation will be at Pilot Mountain on November 19.

Charter school workshop

Hazel Mack, founder of Carter G. Woodson School of Challenge, will present the workshop "Fast Tracking Charter Schools" on Monday, Oct. 3 at the Piedmont Club, BB&T Building, 19th floor, 200 W. Second St. The workshop is designed for those who want to start a charter school. There is a registration fee. To register, call 866-865-4391 or email Hmackconsulting@gmail.com.

Business events at the Piedmont Club

The Piedmont Club is hosting a free Business Expo on October 4 beginning at 2 p.m. The theme is "Building a Road to the Future." The event will feature a number of breakout sessions and at 6:45 p.m., VJ Smith, the author of "The Richest Man in Town," will give the keynote address. From 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., the Club will host the Piedmont Triad Economic Growth Summit. This program is \$20 at the door and includes lunch. For reservations, call 724-7077. The Club is located on the 19th floor of the BB&T Financial Center at 200 W. Second St.

Seniors' festival

The Senior Fun Festival for those 50 and older will be held on Monday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 14th Street Recreation Center, 2020 E. 14th St. There will be line dancing demos, games, information booths, food and free health screenings. Admission is \$3 per person.

Zumba-Thon

A Zumba-Thon will be held on Saturday, Oct. 15 at Winston Lake Family YMCA, 901 Waterworks Road, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. to raise awareness of ovarian cancer. Donations of \$5-\$10 are encouraged. For more information, call Rosemary R. Napper at 336-682-572.



Fellowship Home Executive Director Thom Elmore (back row, far right) with certificate recipients (front row, left to right) Sandy "Sam" Medlin, Kenny Montgomery, Kim Morris, (back row) Bobby Ray Barrett, Demorris Carpenter, and Tyrone Daly.

BEATING THE ODDS

Substance abuse program celebrates its many successes

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The Fellowship Home celebrated its 49th Annual Alumni Reunion Saturday - attracting many former residents who found their way to sobriety and independence at the successful halfway house.

Started in 1962 as a Flynn Home, the facility first provided a live-in treatment program for those recovering from alcohol abuse. In 1979, it was renamed The Fellowship Home and began offering programs for other types of addictions.

Thom Elmore, executive director of the Home, said the program helps residents to not only conquer their addictions but to also be self-sufficient.

"Abstinence from drugs and alcohol, just staying clean, is just half of the program," said Elmore. "The other half of this program is to become self sufficient and to be able to practice independent living."

The Fellowship Home offers a two year program for men. Residents live at the House - a stately West End home that was built in 1917 and is on the National Register of Historic Homes - for up to nine months. During their stay, they must



Mayor Allen Joines speaks at Saturday's reunion at The Fellowship Home.



Alumnus Obie Johnson shares his success story.



Piedmont Natural Gas Operations Manager Randy Bost speaks.



Alumnus Morris "Russ" Russell talks about overcoming addiction.



The Fellowship Home Executive Assistant Judy Moles lights candles in honor of deceased alumni at the vigil.



Fellowship Home Executive Director Thom Elmore speaks as Randy Bost and Judy Moles look on.

Diversity forum to feature students

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

In observance of Race Equality Week, Oct. 3-7, the Human Relations Commission is sponsoring "Changing Voices of Diversity," a forum on race relations featuring high school students in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

The forum will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 4 in the auditorium at East Forsyth High School, 2500 W. Mountain St. Triad radio personality Busta Brown will be the forum moderator.

The forum will also include a recruiting presentation by David Finn on the "Transforming Race" program at Wake Forest University. The program teams high school students with Wake Forest art students to create visual art that encourages conversations about race relations.

For more information about the forum, call CityLink at 727-8000.



Brown



Photo courtesy of L. Tran
Charlotte activist Loan Tran

Forum to discuss bullying in schools

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Interfaith Voice and the Winston-Salem chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will host "The Language of Bullying" on Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. at Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University.

The program will address the language and effects of bullying from the perspectives of a student and a parent as well as what we can do to prevent bullying in all of its forms inside and outside our schools.

Panelists will be Loan Tran, a Charlotte high school junior and GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) Student Media Ambassador; Ana Tampanna, the parent of a former student who experienced bullying; and Dr. Corliss Thompson-Drew, lead psychologist for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Simington will also attend. In addition, the

Konnoak Elementary Step Team will perform as they work to stomp out bullying in their own creative way.

"Most of us grew up in a smaller, less complicated, non-wired world. The opportunities that exist for kids to be bullied today aren't just in classrooms, or on a bus or playground, but are now 24 hours a day through texting, email and social media," said Thomas Farmer, president of PFLAG Winston-Salem. "Many of us grew up hearing 'sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.' Sadly, we know all too well that this is not really the case. The number of students being bullied, resulting in serious negative psychological and physical outcomes, is a travesty. We must work together to protect all children, no exceptions."

Interfaith Voice is made up of a group of local places of worship. It seeks to be an affirming voice of the faithful, standing in solidarity with the LGBTQ community.



Farmer



Simington

Reunion

from page B1

attend individual therapy sessions, along with Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

Residents must find employment during their stay. They pay rent to stay at the Home and must establish and maintain a savings account - money they will need when they leave the Home to find places of their own.

Once clients complete the residential portion of the program, they receive up to 21 months of aftercare, which includes continued sobriety services and other forms of case management.

The Fellowship Home has an overwhelmingly high success rate. Most of the men who have entered its doors over the decades have maintained clean, sober and self-sufficient lifestyles.

"We take broken individuals and plant the seeds and return whole individuals to the community a great deal of the time, not every time, but a great deal of the time," said Elmore.

Many of those individuals spoke Saturday, telling current and former residents and their family members how the Home helped them.

Alumnus Obie Johnson was homeless when he arrived at the Home in 1981. He said the program's rules were lax back then, so much so that it wasn't unusual to find beer bottles under residents' beds. But management changed during his stay



Photos by Todd Lank

The Fellowship Home is based in a house that was built in 1917.

and brought a new focus on recovery. Over the years, the Home has added programs and services. Johnson - who now works in homeless outreach with the PATH Program at Wake Forest Baptist Health - said the changes have made the Fellowship Home a halfway house that is second to none.

"I have the opportunity to be exposed to a lot of halfway houses across the state of North Carolina and I'm very proud to say this is the best halfway house in North Carolina," he said.

Alumnus Morris "Russ" Russell lived underneath a bridge in Greensboro before coming to Winston-Salem. He was so desperate, he planned to walk up I-40 and rob everyone he found if he wasn't accepted into the Home, which is so popular that it often has a waiting

list. He was admitted and was so impressed with his recovery efforts that he was named the house manager.

"Everything that happened all my life had happened because of my inability to accept personal responsibility," said Russell, who is now a certified peer support specialist at Insight Human Services and Continuing Care Services. "And here at the Fellowship Home, I learned to become accountable and start taking responsibility for my own life."

Alumni Committee Chair Jimmy Price, who has been clean and sober for 11 years, is another success story. He now works as a facilities manager at the Salvation Army. He also has his own business, A Step Above Cleaning Service, which often hires Home residents.

"The Fellowship Home,

for me, has made me a more responsible and productive member of society," said Price.

Current Home resident Culter Snody is now seven months into the program. This is his second time in a residential treatment program to conquer his battles with alcohol and prescription drugs. He believes The



Board Chair Robert Fly

Fellowship Home will succeed for him where the other program failed.

"This place is special; it's a lot different," said Snody, who works as a cook at Sweet Potatoes and plans to move into his own place next month. "It has a peace to it and it's very recovery-centered. It's definitely done a lot for me. I don't know where I'd be without being accepted into this house."

Along with the testimonials, attendees heard from Mayor Allen Joines and Fellowship Home Board Chair Robert Fly. Certificates were given to many of the Home's success-



Fellowship Home Lead Case Manager Vanessa McLain speaks.

ful alumni, including Russell, Demorris Carpenter, Kim Morris, Richard Good, Tyrone Daly, Bobby Ray Barrett, Kenny Montgomery and Sandy "Sam" Medlin. A candlelight vigil was also held to honor alumni who've passed away.

The reunion ended with a cookout feast that included hot dogs, hamburgers, ribs and chicken - all of which volunteers from Piedmont Natural Gas helped prepare.

For more information, visit www.thefellowshiphome.org.

11 AM - 5 PM SATURDAY, OCT. 1 WWW.GoExpoWS.com

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