

Repair Affair to benefit low-income seniors

Applications for assistance, volunteers accepted through Sept. 9

By Meaghan Downs
Staff Writer

If the Repair Affair doesn't use it, they lose it.

The National Association of Realtors and the Kentucky Housing Corporation have made \$4,600 available for Anderson County citizens for the first Repair Affair community service event Oct. 8 at 7:30 a.m.

The purpose of the Repair Affair, committee members said, is to assist low-income senior citizen homeowners in keeping their homes in healthy and safe conditions.

Individuals eligible to apply are senior citizens 62 or older who own their homes, with applications being accepted based on income and number of household members.

Committee members, occasionally with the added professional expertise of a contractor, will do an initial site visit evaluation before purchasing supplies for the work needed on individual homes.

Local real estate agent Jackie Nick-

ell said the repairs would include work like cleaning gutters, some roof repair and handicap ramps.

"It's necessary repairs, this is to reach out to folks who don't have the money to get their houses ready for winter," Nickell said.

A committee of real estate agents including Nickell, Steve Cornish, Melinda Earlywine and Mike Inman, only learned of the grant funds this summer, at one of the first meetings of their informal committee, formed this June.

"We didn't know we had that amount of money earmarked for Anderson County," said Cornish.

He said they were aware of the Repair Affair event, held regularly in Lexington, through the Lexington Board of Realtors.

It will be the first of its kind in Anderson County, and Nickell said she hopes it becomes an annual event.

"I think the community and church response will be fantastic," Nickell said. "I think it will grow."

The committee also encourages Anderson County residents 14-years-old and older to sign up to volunteer at

the Repair Affair, and are also accepting donations for the Oct. 8 event.

"The more money we can get together, the more houses we'll be able to help, the more people we can reach out to," Nickell said.

The deadline for volunteering or applying for repair work is Sept. 9.

Applications either to apply for repair or to volunteer are available at area churches, the Senior Citizens Center, the health department, Community Action, Open Hands Pantry or the sheriff's department.

Individuals interested in making donations or volunteering can also contact committee members Melinda Earlywine, 502-680-6634; Jackie Nickell, 502-545-1323; Steve Cornish, 502-680-7430; or Mike Inman, 859-351-9929.