

Ardmore group points out needed improvements

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Enticing smells of smoked sausage, hot grits and fluffy scrambled eggs were just what Ardmore/Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association needed to get residents out of bed for an open session for neighborhood improvement.

The Get to Know Your Neighbor Breakfast in the St. Andrews Middle School cafeteria offered residents the chance to discuss how they would like to enhance their growing neighborhood.

Sidewalks, park amenities and landscape maintenance were big issues brought up for Jane Baker, Charleston's director of neighbor-

hood services, to address.

With her red magic marker and paper chart, Baker wrote down everything residents wanted in the neighborhood. She placed dollar signs by items that would take a lot of money and time to achieve. The plans that didn't have dollar signs would not be expensive and would be fairly quickly completed.

Children who attended with their parents voiced their concerns as well, especially when the desire for a neighborhood park was under discussion. Some younger children wanted to see monkey bars and sliding boards, while teens wanted to see basketball and tennis courts.

One resident spoke about need-

ing more police presence in the neighborhood so that children who stand at a bus stop for school in the mornings won't have to fear getting robbed because of the recent bus stop robberies that occurred in the area.

Renae Smack, the community liaison for the Pink House, which was established for children to have a place to go play, learn and be involved in neighborhood events, implied that the purpose of the breakfast was to create one voice from the neighborhood to get things done and to bring about changes. "We want to incorporate our theme: My house, my street, my community. We want everyone to feel a part of the neighborhood and

take responsibility."

The Rev. Christian King, president of the Neighborhood Association, stated that the early event was not planned only for neighborhood needs or concerns, but to make sure each household member is making sure that his/her house is in order.

"Are you certain about the things that you are doing within your home? Are you keeping your house clean? Are you making sure that your house is going to be that spotlight for the community and other means to make sure that your house is in order? Then we look at concerns for the street and finally the community overall, then we come to our overall theme: Connecting, growing, serving."