

The Mt. Vernon festival name game

By Karen Sottosanti

Those mourning the demise of the Comin' Home festival, held on Mt. Vernon Avenue each July for 10 years, might yet get their annual block party. It just won't be Comin' Home.

Instead, it'll be Homecomin'.

Chad and Dorita Brown, owners of the IGA at Mt. Vernon and North Champion Avenue, plan to hold the Mt. Vernon Avenue Homecomin' Block Party 1999 on July 30 and 31 in the grocery store's parking lot. Chad Brown said the festival will

include entertainment such as games and gospel groups.

Brown said the block party is not meant to replace Comin' Home, the African-American heritage festival that wasn't held in 1998 or this year because of permit and money problems.

"In no kind of way are we trying to compete," Brown said.

Then why are the names so similar?

"We were trying to figure out what to call it," he said, "and we were on the neighbors' porch across the street, and they came up with the idea." Brown said

he might change the name to the Mt. Vernon Avenue Reunion next year to ensure people aren't confused.

Comin' Home festival chairman Lawrence Auls said he supports Homecomin' and doesn't think its organizers are trying to co-opt the festival, but, "I really don't want them to use that name, because it creates some confusion."

Brown said he hopes Comin' Home is held again next year, but he plans to continue holding Homecomin'.

"We think the neighborhood can support two events," he said.