

MECHANICS AND FARMERS BANK BUSINESS OF THE MONTH WINGS-TO-GO

By Paula McCoy

As a spin off of the "Church of the Month" Mechanics and Farmers Bank announces the "Business of the Month" as an attempt to acknowledge the entrepreneur spirit and minority business owners that are making a difference in the City. "Small businesses equally need to be recognized," says John Jackson, branch manager, "we want to give them their fair share".

Mechanics and Farmers recognizes WINGS-TO-GO as their first business of the month.

Entrepreneur Julian Harding didn't have a history of business in his family background, nor did he have any prior business experience, but that didn't deter him from starting a new business venture, WINGS-TO-GO. Harding used good business savvy learned from his business education at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU). With this know-how, he teamed up with a seasoned entrepreneur, Reginald Phillips, who unlike Harding has owned several businesses. Phillips, along with his mother, formerly owned a multi-cultural gift shop and presently owns a cleaning business. This dynamic duo opened WINGS-TO-GO in September 2003 at Hanes Mall and haven't looked back.

WINGS-TO-GO is a business franchise that offers chicken wings and much more. A clean, sit-down family restaurant features video games and entertainment as well as an adult sports bar – a little something for everyone!

Harding graduated from WSSU in 1998, majoring in Business with a concentration in Marketing. "I've always wanted to be in business for myself," says Harding, who was inspired by his parents. "They were not business owners, but their careers restricted their freedom; I want to be able to control my time and being in business for myself provides that," Harding states. Harding grew up with his parents in the Washington, DC area. His parents, Avon and Deloris Harding worked in government jobs. Harding's father worked for the CIA and his mother worked on Capitol Hill. "Seven o'clock was a good time for them to arrive home from work," says Harding. After Harding's parents retired, they moved to Winston-Salem.

"Mechanics and Farmers Bank was instrumental in making our plans a reality," Harding explains. The bank provided technical assistance and helped Harding and Phillips find additional financial resources such as Self Help Credit Union and Micro-Enterprise Loan Program (MELP). "The biggest thing for entrepreneurs," advises Harding "is to make sure you are prepared and deal with a strong and caring bank like Mechanics and Farmers." Having a solid business plan was one of the things that sold the bank on the partners' concept. The WINGS-TO-GO business owners also rely on a good financial management firm. These ingredients make for business success.



Staff, Kinard Burgess (front), (left-to-right) Michael Ireland, Julian Harding (owner) and Grady Rodney.

Salem College
Center for Women
Writers Presents

Rita Dove



A Poetry Reading
Thursday, April 22
7 p.m., Hanes Auditorium,
Salem Fine Arts Center
Co-sponsored with the Forsyth County Public Library

Poet, short story writer and novelist, Rita Dove was the first African American and the youngest poet to be appointed Poet Laureate of the United States in 1993. Ms. Dove served two consecutive terms as Laureate and Consultant in Poetry at the Library of Congress.

Among the many prizes awarded her work was the coveted Pulitzer Prize in

Poetry for her collection of poems, *Thomas and Beulah*. Her other books include, *Yellow House on the Corner*, *Grace Notes*, *Selected Poems* and *On the Bus with Rosa Parks*, which in 1999 was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year.

Dove is Commonwealth Professor of English at the University of Virginia and lives in Charlottesville.

For more information call 917-5313
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