



Mayor Pro Tempore Burke addresses reception guests.

Photo by Chanel Davis



Photos by Todd Luck

Tandice and Josue Jean Baptiste

# Burke recommits to La Deara

BY CHANEL DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke asked La Deara Crest Estates residents to give thanks to those who have paved the way and to help guide the generation that will next walk down the path. She delivered those charges on Tuesday, Dec. 16 during a holiday reception she hosted at the apartment complex off 25th Street.

"We need to work hard to uplift the children in the area," said Burke. "Whether we give birth to them or not, we have a responsibility to help guide and lead them so that they can be productive," she said to a group of teenagers at the event. "We want to lift you, not stand on the side and say what you ought to be doing, but we want to make ourselves useful and resourceful for you to be the productive people for the future."



Jones

Burke announced that she would create a fund to help students cover the costs of class trips and other education- or work-related expenses. Those who benefit from the fund must have at least a C grade point average and



Vivian Burke with Emma Westbrook.

regularly attend school.

Burke is credited with helping to turnaround La Deara, formerly Fairchild Apartments. She worked to bring together Liberty East Redevelopment, a private contractor, and the City of Winston-Salem to renovate the 249-unit complex and provide families with guidance at the Naomi W. Jones Resource Center.

"The property had that stigma to it," said Naomi Jones, president emeritus of Liberty East Redevelopment. "Sometimes when you give something a new name and change the street names, it puts a different light on things."

Jones said that Burke's dedication to the area goes deeper than making sure there are livable homes in the area.

"She wants to make sure that these young children have a

decent place to go, to make sure that they are studying and trying to do something positive in the neighborhood to make things better for the children and adults too," she said.

Ike Black knows this firsthand. The former parole and probation officer works at the center part time as the resource service coordinator and says Burke's concern for the community is authentic.

"When she speaks, she follows it up with action and any support and resources that I need," he said. "I know that there are people out here like Mrs. Burke that care. Those are the type of people I'm trying to reach to come in here to work with the youth."

Emma Westbrook, 81, has lived in the La Deara Crest area for more than 20 years. She says Burke stops by often, without notice, to check on and chat with residents.

"She always comes around unexpectedly. She's like popcorn: she'll pop up anytime," Westbrook said.

During the reception, Burke honored Marty Tennille, and her husband, Ben, founders of H.O.P.E. of Winston-Salem, a nonprofit dedicated to providing children and families with nutritious and healthy meals.

The couple visits the area in their mobile food truck every Sunday, providing lunch for roughly 50 to 60 children and giving out bags of fresh produce.

## Kwanzaa

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ing that "Black Lives Matter" remind him of those that brought Civil Rights victories to bear in the past.

"Millions of Americans have now taken to the streets and to social media, not because the problems that have caused the outrage just began yesterday, but because difficult circumstances present a once in a lifetime opportunity to bring about historic change, and that time is now," he said.

Wake Forest University Religion Professor Stephen Boyd, who accepted a Kwanzaa Unity award, said he is hopeful that the fledgling new justice movement will have legs and success.

"In Africa, there's a proverb that when spiders unite, they can tie up a lion," he said. "And that's where we are right now; we're in the face of a lion, and it looks fierce and it looks like it's going to win, but it will not."

Boyd, a former Urban League Board member and a founder of Communities Helping All Neighbors Gain Empowerment (C.H.A.N.G.E.), has penned a book about the wrongful conviction of Darryl Hunt and is co-chair of the Silk Plant Forest Truth Committee, which found the conviction of Calvin Michael Smith lacked credible evidence. A unity award also went to Anderson Alumni Association Diggs-Latham Male Mentoring Program, in which alumni of the now defunct Anderson High School mentor students in



Deloris Wylie gives Stephen Boyd his award.

grades 2nd through 5th at Diggs-Latham.

The kick-off event was replete with festive Kwanzaa traditions. Program participants marched in to the sounds of African instruments and ended the program with their hands joined while chanting "Harambee!" The traditional Kwanzaa greeting "Habari Gani" could also be heard. Performers include members of Authoring Action, mime performer Antwan Scriven and the Otesha Creative Arts Ensemble.

Among those taking it all in were Tandice and Josue Jean Baptiste of Atlanta who were in town to visit Tandice's family. It was Josue's first Kwanzaa, while Tandice has attended local Kwanzaa events for most of the last decade.

"It's always a nice activity to come to - after Christmas, just because it focuses so much on family and rebuilding," she said. "It removes you from the materialistic aspects of the holidays."

The final day of Kwanzaa, focusing on Imani (Faith), is being held today (Thursday, Jan. 1) at 4 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1075 Shalimar Drive.

# Free Health Screenings

Saturday, January 10th, 2015. 10am-4pm  
Downtown Health Plaza

1200 N Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Join us to receive free health screenings and to learn more about health and wellness! Physicians from Wake Forest School of Medicine will be present. Kids are welcome!



- Hearing
- Vision and glaucoma
- HIV and syphilis
- Blood pressure
- Cholesterol
- Diabetes (blood sugar)
- Skin Cancer (Dermatology)
- Asthma (lung function)
- Physical therapy / Mobility
- Bone density (osteoporosis)
- Body mass index (BMI)
- Oral Cancer Screening
- Nutrition and healthy eating
- Flu vaccines
- Physician consults

For a complete list of what will be offered, including information on activities for kids, directions to the Downtown Health Plaza, and how to contact us, please visit us on the web at : [www.wakehealth.edu/STHF](http://www.wakehealth.edu/STHF) See you at the fair!

