

Judge

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about where your ticket is, but where you're going.

"Is your ticket punched? We have to ask the question 'where are you going?'," he said. "Young people don't waste your time. We don't know how many days we have, but we do know this day, and we have a responsibility every day when you are in your classes, when you talk to each other and you are working on this thing called law, get the deepest understanding that you can."

He said just being a lawyer doesn't mean you are on the side of justice but it takes effort, courage and commitment, along with an understanding and willingness to work hard. He also told the young lawyers to become a genius in their fields, posing new questions to help improve society and the industry.

"I want you to go against the grain. I want you to be the type of lawyer that when someone says it can't be done, you say, 'Let me take a look at that.' Take that chance to look. I want you to be the type of lawyer that will stand tall," Gregory said.

The event was organized by BLSA Vice President Ariana Burnette, who said that the banquet was successful.

"I've heard nothing but great feedback," she said. "Walking through the halls, a lot of professors and students said that it was one of the best banquets they've attended."

Three students were awarded scholarship monies from the organization: Correll Kennedy (class of 2017), Cheslie Kryst (class of 2016) and Nabila Abdulhafiz (class of 2015). The scholarships were presented by Judge Denise S. Hartsfield. A representative from BLSA said that they would prefer not to disclose the scholarship amounts.

The BLSA Legacy Award was presented to Tracey Banks Coan, associate law professor and assistant dean for Academic Engagement. Student members vote to recognize faculty members that have been dedicated and very involved in BLSA.

"Everybody who takes her class understands how passionate Dean Coan is about making sure that you actually understand the information and making sure you actually learn it. She means a lot to the students," Burnette said.

At the banquet, David H. Wagner Jr. was recognized, along with Terry Hart Lee. Wagner was one of the first black students to graduate from Wake Forest Law, and consistently demonstrated his commitment to education and the community as a principal and business owner. The university and the family are in talks to do something that will honor his memory and allow his legacy to continue among Wake Forest Law students.

Lee was the first female black law student to graduate from the university. She founded the BLSA chapter at Wake Forest and worked in governmental law across the nation.

The National Black Law Students Association was founded in 1968 by in an effort to articulate and promote the needs and goals of black law students and effectuate change in the legal community. The Wake Forest chapter of the BLSA is a local organization of law students affiliated with the regional and national BLSA organizations.

BLSA sponsors a scholarship banquet each year to fund merit-based scholarships that are given to one BLSA student-member in each class. Students eligible for the scholarship must be dues-paying members in their first, second or third year as a law student.

They must have met the required service hours, both pro bono and community service, to apply for the scholar-

Bonds

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the Public Safety Center, which is getting a \$10 million renovation with bond money.

Built in 1984 when the department had 263 officers, Police Chief Barry Rountree said the center is now "busting at the seams" with the current 559 officers.

Just a couple miles from the church on Waughtown Street is where the first \$2.5 million district office will be located. He said it could be finished as soon as next year.

"By having district offices, it will allow the police officers to be in the community more," said Rountree. "It'll also improve public safety by having officers in the community, so that is a big plus for us."

Also discussed was Revitalizing Urban Community Areas, or RUCA, which lends money as low interest or forgivable loans to businesses for

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the rehabilitation and improvements in selected distressed areas in the city.

The City Council is still deciding which areas will receive the \$2 million in bond funds for new RUCA loans.

Some unfinished business of the last round of the program came up recently when Southeast Plaza Shopping Center recently asked the City Council for more financial assistance. Initial RUCA improvements to the plaza included repaving the parking lot, improvements to the facade and rehabilitating areas in the back of the plaza now occupied by businesses.

On Feb. 1, the council voted 5-3 to grant the plaza owner \$825,500 to make improvements it says will help attract higher quality businesses.

The money is a combination of loan forgiveness and funds from sweepstakes business license fees.

Montgomery said it was a good investment, since he considers Southeast Plaza one of the most successful RUCA sites, because of its transformation and the amount of private investment that's occurred.

"For me, sometimes when you're looking at distressed areas, areas that are in need of assistance, it takes a little bit more than you have available to push that area where it can be truly sustainable," he said.

Montgomery said in the new round of RUCA there will be more oversight and more attention to the long-term needs for each site.

Also in the bond issues

is \$4 million for Transforming Urban Residential Neighborhoods, or TURN, which will provide financial assistance to rehabilitate single-family, owner-occupied or investor-owned properties in heavily blighted areas.

TURN will be investing as much \$800,000 in selected residential areas.

"The TURN program is not intended to defeat every issue that's in a neighborhood," said Montgomery. "Investing money in housing alone does not deal with a lot of systemic issues in neighbors, but this is part of a larger puzzle that works together to help begin to mend some of those issues we see in meetings and we see housing as a big part of that process."

In addition to the voter-approved bond issues, upcoming renovations to Benton Convention Center and Union Station were funded with limited obligation bond money, which only required council approval and not a public vote.

Union Station, located in the East Ward beside Winston-Salem State University, is a former train station that was used for years as a garage before the city purchased it.

It is slated to become a local and regional bus hub, augmenting the nearby Clark Campbell Transportation Center downtown, and is eventually envisioned to be used for regional and long distance rail service.

The project is now in the engineer and architecture stage, which should last six to eight months, said Montgomery.

"It's a very exciting project and one that's been many, many years in the works," Montgomery said.

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