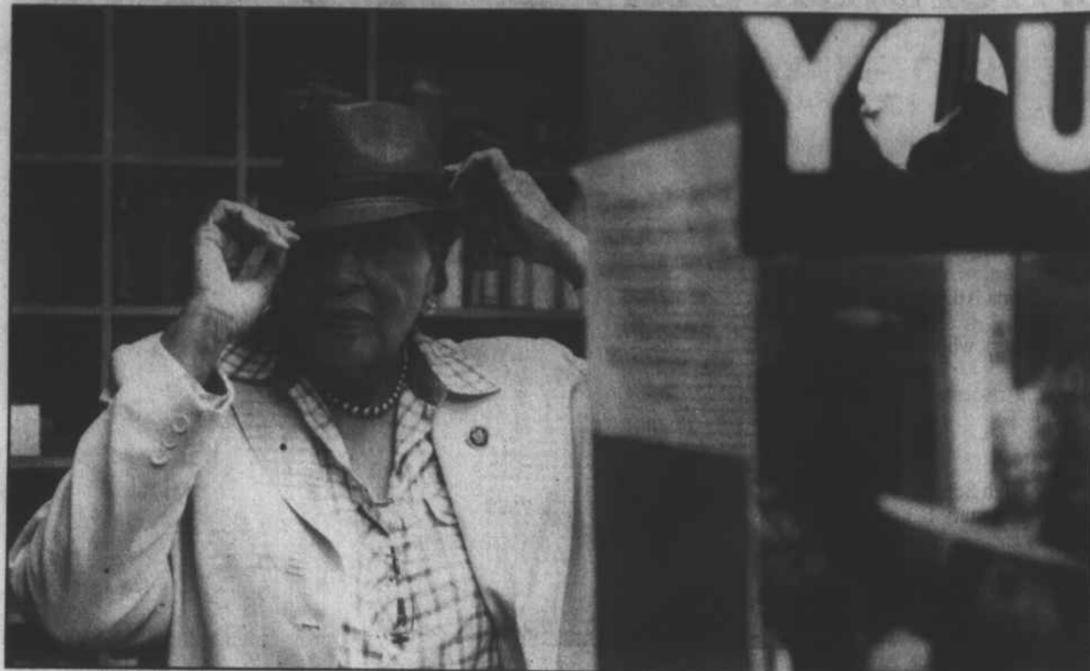


NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK



Photos by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle

U.S. Rep. Alma S. Adams (NC-12), a member of the House Small Business Committee, finds and purchases hat #912 to add to her collection while touring a minority-owned small business, Body and Soul Arts, in downtown Winston-Salem during National Small Business Week on Thursday, May 7.



Congresswoman Alma S. Adams (NC-12), left, receives a personal tour of Body and Soul Arts from minority small business owner, Dana Suggs, in honor of National Small Business Week on Thursday, May 7, at 545 N. Trade Street, Suite 12, in downtown Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Congresswoman Adams, right, chats with Suggs at Body and Soul Arts, as part of National Small Business Week appreciation.

Rep. Adams recognizes Small Business Week

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

In honor of National Small Business Week (the week of May 3), on Thursday, May 7, U.S. Rep. Alma S. Adams (NC-12), a member of the House Small Business Committee and the ranking member of the Small Business Subcommittee on Oversight, toured Body and Soul Arts, 545 N. Trade St. Suite 12, a minority-owned small business in downtown Winston-Salem.

Adams, known for her stylish hats, purchased a hat from the store.

She also met with the business owner, Dana Suggs.



The Winston-Salem NAACP Chapter will hold a third election for officers in the building above.

"I served my four years, and I think I did a good job at that."

-S. Wayne Patterson

NAACP

from page A1

"I'm surprised. That's the only comment I have," Howard said.

The chapter has seen a tumultuous last few months and have been trying to hold elections for its executive board since November 2014. Patterson originally called in the state chapter to oversee the election because of what he called violations of the organization's bylaws.

Patterson previously told The Chronicle that names of candidates were submitted after the nomination process was closed. Protocol calls for each person running for an office to have been a dues-paying member before April 15 of the election year. Patterson said that some people paid their membership dues in August, making them ineligible to seek office. Those running for office had to submit their names, verbally and in writing, to the nomination committee before the Oct. 28, 2014, meeting or an individual could have also been nominated from the floor before the nomination process being closed at the meeting.

A complaint was sent to the national office after the January state-monitored elections failed to be completed on printed ballots. The national office

overturned those results and has set up new elections.

Patterson is hoping that from here on out, members can get on the same page to do the things that need to be done.

"I was vindicated by the national office (in challenging the previous election) but because of in-house fighting among members, we can't get anything done. We should all be a part of the same team," he said of the last few months. "We can't get anything accomplished. We've yet to set up the Freedom Fund banquet for the children, which should have been done in April. School is almost out. It's a lot of things we have yet to accomplish."

As for his time served, Patterson said he feels like he led effectively.

"I served my four years, and I think I did a good job at that," he said.

Elections will be held on May 26 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the NAACP Enrichment Center, 4130 Oak Ridge Drive. The elections will be done by the state and only be open to members who would've been able to vote on the date of the originally scheduled election on Nov. 19, 2014.

ARTivity on the Green, Winston-Salem's first and only "art park," opened on Saturday, May 9, as visitors of all ages enjoyed an afternoon of live music, food trucks on Liberty Street, and all-day mural paintings by 11 different artists. Located between Sixth and Seventh Streets, ARTivity Park is a testament to the 'artistic nature and innovative spirit already native in the city of Winston-Salem, thanks to the private funding of AFAS—Art for Art's Sake.

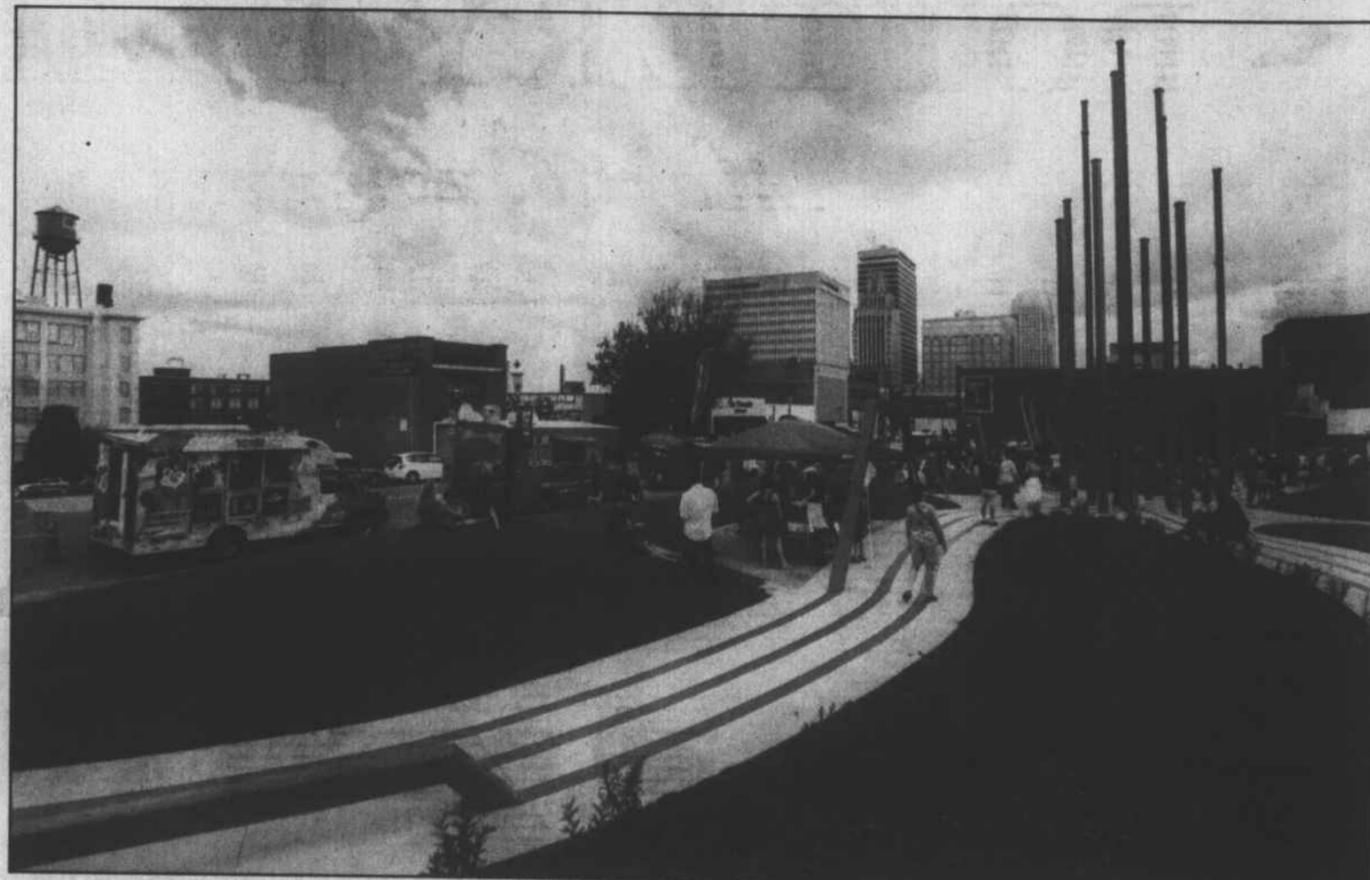
The Green

from page A1

member uses spray paint and then goes in with brushes for fine details on his murals. He's done several murals, including ones in a tattoo parlor and coffee shop. He said he was honored to be among the initial artists chosen for the park's wall.

"It's an amazing park," he said. "It's cool to have something like this locally."

Next May the wall will be painted white and a new crop of mural artists will have their chance to cover it. Knabb said those wish-



ing to be considered should go to AFAS' website to become a member and mention they're interested in working on the park's mural wall in the comments section.

Among the many atten-

dees where Elliot Strunk, his wife Betsy and eight-year-old son Evan.

He's ringleader (creative director) at Fifth Letter, a graphic design firm just a block down on Trade Street. He said he

liked having a park so close to the office. He thinks there should be more green spaces in the city, so everyone can have a park within walking distance.

"Personally I'm looking forward to it because it

gives me a chance to get out of the office and walk a block if I need to sit and brainstorm or get my team out of the office for something fun, it's like our backyard," he said. "It's our new creative backyard."

Activity on the Green will be open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and parks rules don't allow for alcohol, weapons or skateboarding. For more information on AFAS, visit [theafasgroup.com](http://theafasgroup.com)



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