



Courtney Omega Taylor-Porter with volunteers Antoine Pouncey and Pheon Alford at the Dewey's holiday store downtown.



Moravian Stars decorate downtown lamp post for the holiday season.



Photos by Todd Luck

Mast General store is ready for the holidays.

New Dewey's store joins downtown for the holidays

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

A new Dewey's store raising money for Positive Image Performing Arts (PIPA) is among the many options shoppers will have downtown this holiday season.

Dewey's set up the store and provided all the goodies for sale, including Moravian cookies, gingerbread and other holiday favorites, for PIPA, which provides dance lessons for youth. The Photographer's Place owner Charlie McCullough donated his lobby for the effort allowing it to be transformed into a small Dewey's store. PIPA actually had its first studio at the location in 2005, using studio space donated by McCullough, when it had 17 students. It now has 170 students at its current Patterson Avenue location.

PIPA Founder Courtney Omega Taylor-Porter said that 30 percent of sales will benefit PIPA and be used to help students and their families go to national and regional competitions. She said the organization has tried a variety of fundraisers in the past, including taking orders for Dewey's products last year.

Porter said that she believes taking the fundraising to the next level with the store will be

successful.

"Dewey's has a name everyone knows and, actually, mouths water when you hear the name," she said.

The store will be open until December 24, and has free samples and a variety of packaged goodies for sale, some of which are under \$5. It can also deliver orders for those wanting holiday treats for an office party or event. Anything not in the store, like Dewey's popular cake squares, can be ordered and picked up at the store.

The store will be manned by parent volunteers working in three-hour shifts like Pheon Alford, whose nine year-old daughter Jamia Ross has been in the program for three years.

"Dance is her passion and I would like to fulfill her passion, so whatever I can do along the way, I'm willing to do it," she said.

Downtown is a prime place to shop during the holidays with more than 75 stores and galleries to choose from. During the holiday shopping season, retailers commonly have extended hours, offer specials, put up holiday decorations, and some even hire additional staff.

Black Friday and Small Business Saturday, which happens the next day, are huge for downtown retailers. The Winston-Salem

Chamber of Commerce gives local retailers Shop Local shopping bags, signs and even doormats provided by American Express, which sponsors Small Business Saturday nationally. Chamber CEO Gayle Anderson said it's important to support local retailers instead buying things online.

"If you buy locally, those are your friends and neighbors who have jobs," she said.

Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership President Jason Thiel said that Christmas is huge downtown, as the Jaycees holds its holiday parade on the first Saturday in December, which ends at Corpening Plaza for the City Tree Lighting Celebration. He said even on days without such festivities, downtown is a prime choice for gift givers.

"I think it's specialty retail shops, they're wanting special gifts, sometimes that's in the form of art, sometimes it's in the form of other things," he said.

Both Thiel and Anderson said that they think Mast General Store will attract a lot of shoppers downtown who will be visiting other shops and businesses. Mast General Manager Zach Lail said he's looking forward to Mast's first holiday season

in downtown Winston-Salem.

"We're privileged and honored to be part of this downtown community," he said. "We like it not to just be about us but about downtown as a whole, part of the bigger picture that is downtown."

For Black Friday, Nov. 27, and Saturday, Nov. 28, Mast will be giving out a coupon for 30% off of one item. Mast will have Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus at the store on Dec. 4-6. For the

month of November, the store is also doing its Share the Warmth campaign collecting gently worn coats, jackets, gloves, hats and blankets to be given to The Children's Home and Winston-Salem Rescue Mission.

The Dewey's holiday store, 620 W. Fourth Street, is open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and on Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. For special orders, email pipartsws@gmail.com or

text (336) 327-0369.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be at Mast General, 516 North Trade St., on Dec. 4 from 5 - 9 p.m., Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Dec. 6 from noon - 2 p.m.

For an interactive map of downtown businesses, visit <http://www.downtownws.com/places>.

Governor McCrory announces \$1 billion reserve in unemployment trust fund

SPECIAL TO
THE CHRONICLE

Raleigh, N.C. - After paying off a \$2.8 billion debt to the federal government in May 2015, Gov. Pat McCrory and the Division of Employment Security (DES) announced that the unemployment trust fund reserve has reached \$1 billion. It's the first time that the trust fund has exceeded \$1 billion since May 2001.

By reaching this mark, the 20 percent state unemployment insurance tax surcharge that N.C. employers have been paying for 10 years will be discontinued. These savings, along with receiving the full Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) credit, will save

employers more than \$600 million in taxes during 2015-2016.

"This money can be used to hire more workers, which will ultimately add more money to the trust fund so we don't get into another borrowing situation," said McCrory. "We have paid off the debt five years early and reached an important balance in our trust fund at the right time to bring certainty to North Carolina businesses."

From 2011 to 2014, North Carolina businesses paid \$1 billion in penalties and interest due to this debt to the federal government.

"No Governor or General Assembly in North Carolina history has ever inherited such a broke and broken unemployment system," said DES Assistant

Secretary Dale Folwell. "The trust fund has gone from bankruptcy to solvency in 30 months. Thanks to changes in policy, process and the innovative ideas from DES employees, I'm certain that North Carolina will never have to deal with this again."

Commerce Secretary John Skvarla said reforms in North Carolina's unemployment insurance program sets the stage for more robust economic growth.

"We care about the success of all business across North Carolina," said N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla III. "This tax relief is an important milestone that could lead to more jobs and business growth in our great state."

Wake Forest® Baptist Health BestHealth™
In partnership with MEDCOST

December community health seminars, screenings and events

Visit WakeHealth.edu/BestHealth for class descriptions and other events. Events are FREE of charge and require registration, unless otherwise noted.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

Advance Directives \ 2 to 4 pm
Wake Forest Baptist Health Medical Plaza-Country Club, 4610 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

Blood Pressure Screening
1 to 2 pm
Fatigue and Weight Gain: Is It My Thyroid? \ 3 to 4 pm
Wake Forest Baptist Health Medical Plaza-Country Club, 4610 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

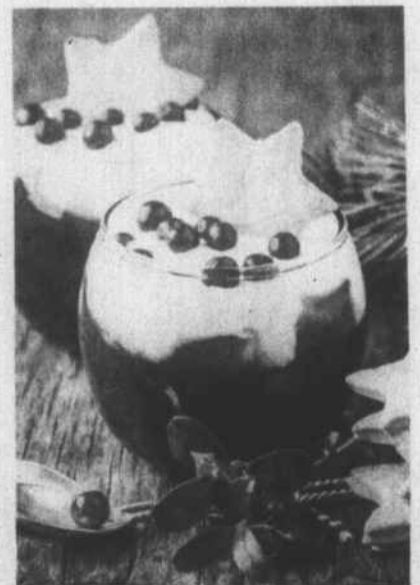
Healthier Holiday Desserts
5:30 to 7 pm
Wake Forest Baptist Health Medical Plaza-Country Club, 4610 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Breast Health in the News: What Do I Need to Know? \ 5 to 6 pm
Wake Forest Baptist Health Davie Medical Center, Plaza 1, 4th floor, Conference Rooms 1 and 2, Highway 801 N, I-40 (Exit 180), Bermuda Run

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Ring in My Ears: Tinnitus
2 to 3 pm
Blood Pressure Screening
4 to 5 pm
Wake Forest Baptist Health Medical Plaza-Country Club, 4610 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Resistance Bands \ 5:15 to 6:15 pm
Wake Forest Baptist Health Medical Plaza-Country Club, 4610 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

Zumba \ 9 to 10 am
Wake Forest Baptist Health Medical Plaza-Country Club, 4610 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Calorie Crusher \ Noon to 1 pm
Wake Forest Baptist Health Medical Plaza-Country Club, 4610 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem

To register, call or visit:
336-713-BEST (2378) \ WakeHealth.edu/BestHealth