

# Winston Lake saga continues

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

The YMCA of Northwest North Carolina is looking for partners to help run the Winston Lake branch on Waterworks Road that serves those who live in the East Winston community.

According to President and Chief Executive Officer Curt Hazelbaker, board members have had discussions with a number of non-profit organizations and representatives with the city to help with the overall finances of the branch.

Last month *The Chronicle* broke news that board members were looking to close the entire portion of the building where the pool is located, cut hours and transfer staff members. The proposed changes are expected to help Winston Lake overcome a yearly shortfall of \$400,000.

Senior Vice-President and COO Darryl Head also noted the branch needs an additional \$500,000 for repairs that have to be completed in the next five years.

While hours' changes and staff changes will be implemented May 21, the pool will remain open while board members seek partners to help with the upkeep. Partnership discussions began after a number of members said they wanted the pool to stay and the city to step in.

Hazelbaker said if the association agrees with a partnership with the city, the branch would be run similar to recreation centers in the area. He also assured members that although the pool may close, the branch would not be closing.

"The Winston Lake

branch will not be closing," he said. "We are doing everything we can to keep a presence in the East Winston community."

During a recent meeting with members, Hazelbaker discussed the financial reasons that led to the proposed changes at the Winston Lake branch. According to Hazelbaker, the association has lost \$389,000 in 2015. The loss is a combination of membership rates and program revenue at all branches in the system.

The budgeted loss for 2016 is \$696,000. Hazelbaker said \$389,000 of the loss is Winston Lake alone. While a number of Ys in the system have seen a decline in income, Winston Lake has seen an annual loss of more than \$350,000 for five years in a row.

Lack of participation in a number of programs over the years has led to a number of programs being removed from the branch which is believed to be the reason for the loss at Winston Lake. Since 2011 more than five programs have left the branch, including the after-school program, summer camp program and others.

"That played a big part in the proposed changes," he said. "The current way we operate is not sustainable."

Hazelbaker noted that board members usually don't make financial information public, but following the backlash from members, he felt the need to make the information available to the public.

"This isn't information that we usually share with our members," he said. "We wanted to make sure the members here at Winston Lake understand how and why we decided

to make these changes."

While a number of members applauded Hazelbaker and other board members for their transparency, a number of members urged the board to consider the community that the branch serves. Members mentioned that Winston Lake is different from any other branch in the system because of the number of minorities that use the facility.

Cynthia Curtis said when making plans for the future of Winston Lake, the diversity of the members should be taken into account.

"As they are contemplating the future of Winston Lake, they have to take into the consideration of the diversity that exists here," said Curtis. "This branch is unlike any other and should be treated as such."

Winston Lake branch's roots date back to 1924 when a branch opened on Depot Street to serve African-Americans in the city before moving to its current location in 1985. Many of the current members say the friendships they made at the original branch on Depot Street have grown and carried over to Winston Lake.

Tarshalla Sitton said although she uses a number of different branches across the city, Winston Lake is different because of the relationships the members have built over the years.

"Winston Lake has a different feel than any other YMCA in this system," said Sitton. "It's like a family here."

"If they continue to take away programs and things like the pool, I fear that feeling may leave as well. This branch should remain the way it is."



Photo by Tevin Stinson

More than 400 people registered to participate in the 2016 Hammerbird 5K on Saturday, April 30. The event is designed to help local families purchase affordable housing.

# Hundreds participate in Hammerbird 5K

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Last Saturday hundreds of residents from Winston-Salem battled rain and strong winds to participate in the third annual Habitat for Humanity Hammerbird 5K. While there are dozens of 5Ks held throughout the area, Hammerbird is unlike any other in the region.

The 5K started at Kimberly Park Elementary School and made its way through the historic Boston-Thurmond neighborhood. As they ran and walked through the streets, participants passed by more than 70 homes that have been built or renovated by Habitat for Humanity.

The first person to cross the finish line was Anderson Ward, who finished the course in just under 18 minutes. Not too far behind Ward was Molly Nunn who finished the course at the 18:13 mark.

While a number of participants like Ward and Nunn competed in the 5K to compete against other runners, longtime volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Laura Spedding said she signed up for the 5K this year to help local families in need.

According to representatives from Habitat for Humanity, proceeds from the race benefit Habitat for Humanity's mission of helping local working families purchase their own affordable, high quality, energy efficient homes.

Spedding, who only ran a mile, said although she didn't finish the race, it feels good to help those in need.

"This is a wonderful event," said Spedding. "Even with the rain, this shows how much people really care about each other in this community."

For more information on the Hammerbird 5K and to see the results from the event, visit [www.habitatforsyth.org](http://www.habitatforsyth.org).

What's Happening NOW in City Government

# CityNOW

PUTTING THE STONE OF STRENGTH



## 16th Bethabara Highland Games & Celtic Music Festival

May 14, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Historic Bethabara Park

- Scottish Heavy Athletics
- Scottish Fiddle Competition
- Main Stage Music
- Border Collie Demonstrations
- Highland & Irish Dance
- Celtic Vendors Row
- Bring a picnic or visit our food vendors



Complete information and event schedule at [BethabaraPark.org](http://BethabaraPark.org)

# Buy local! Buy fresh!

## BUY AT THE FAIRGROUNDS FARMERS MARKET



### MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS!

May 7: Flower vendors providing FREE flowers to the first 100 mothers

### COMING JUNE 4!

### Very Berry Baking Contest!

For more details and contest application visit Fairgrounds Farmers Market on Facebook

## WINSTON-SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT

# YOUTH CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY



June 20-24 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily

A free program for teens age 16 or older who are interested in learning about the Winston-Salem Police Department or a career in law enforcement. Applications due May 30.

APPLICATIONS AND COMPLETE INFORMATION AT [WSPD.ORG](http://WSPD.ORG).

# May is Historic Preservation Month CELEBRATE OUR HISTORY!

- Lunch & Learn lectures at Old Salem Visitors Center
- Local Historic Marker Unveilings
- Special programs at New Winston Museum
- Family Day at Rural Hall Train Depot & Railroad Museum

COMPLETE CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT [CITYOFWS.ORG/HRC](http://CITYOFWS.ORG/HRC)



## BE A LIFE SAVER FREE Hands Only CPR Class taught by Winston-Salem Firefighters

• SATURDAY, MAY 21 AT 10 A.M. CARL RUSSELL AND GEORGIA TAYLOR REC. CENTERS

• SATURDAY, JUNE 25 AT 10 A.M. POLO PARK AND 14TH ST. REC. CENTERS

Sign up at the recreation center of your choice.



SHOWING THIS MONTH ON TIME WARNER CABLE CHANNEL 13 OR 74.3 AND AT&T UNIVERSE CHANNEL 82.

- Fair Housing Screenings
- Salem Lake Groundbreaking
- Special Olympics Spring Games

- REQUEST A SERVICE
- REPORT A PROBLEM
- MAKE A SUGGESTION

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