



Residents of the Salemtowne Retirement community look on as the final piece of wood is placed on the Health Care Community Center on Wednesday, July 20.



Construction workers secure the final piece of wood atop the Health Care Community Center at Salemtowne Retirement community on Wednesday, July 20. Salemtowne is a non-profit continuing care retirement community located in the northern portion of the city.



Salemtowne President and CEO Marke Steele talks about the new healthcare center during the "topping out" ceremony held on Wednesday, July 20.

Salemtowne commemorates new health care center

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Last week dozens of residents and employees of Salemtowne came together for a "topping out" ceremony to commemorate the construction of their new innovative Health Care Community Center.

"Topping out" ceremonies mark the moment when the final roofing piece is placed on top of the tallest building on a construction site. Residents of Salemtowne, a non-profit retirement community, signed the plank of wood before it was set into place atop the 127,000 square foot building which will house a variety of new health care

spaces for residents.

According to president and CEO Mark Steele, once the center is completed around this time next year, residents will be able to receive treatment from trained professionals without the hassle of leaving the comfort of their living quarters. He also mentioned the new center is three times larger than the community's current health care center.

"It's a great day here at Salemtowne," said Steele. "This healthcare center is going to offer every amenity you would have in a household. A kitchen, a living room, a dining room, these private apartments are designed to meet the needs of our residents."

During the ceremony, Salemtowne board of trustees chair Peggy Carter said she was delighted to see how far construction has come in just a year's time. Carter mentioned the completed center will be a real asset to the community.

Salemtowne is a nonprofit continuing care retirement community in Winston-Salem that promotes the well-being of its residents by providing a caring environment. Salemtowne is an ecumenical community that reflects the Moravian values of individual respect, hospitality, lifelong learning, and love of the arts.

'The Graduating Class That Never Was' plans reunion

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The 10 Atkins High Reunion Classes of 1942, 1943-44 and 1946-1952 will kick off their Labor Day Reunion by honoring a "graduating class" that never had the distinction of walking across the hallowed stage of Atkins High School auditorium.

There are many of those persons who still have some nostalgia about never getting that "diploma" from one of the state's most elite black high schools of that era. Two such persons are the Honorable Judge Denise Hartsfield and Council Woman Denise Adams, who often wax eloquently about not having such glory of that Atkins experience.

Hartsfield's father was a teacher at Atkins at that time.

A banquet along with a cap and gown ceremony is being planned for this event. It is set for Saturday, Sept. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn on Hanes Mall Boulevard. The theme for the special reunion is still being worked out by the reunion committee.

The evening will include a fashion show, liturgical dancers, line dancers, special musical selections, dancing and din-

ner. There will be a presentation of special awards to those local "alumni" and from out of state guests who formerly attended Atkins and have made outstanding and successful contributions over a span of nearly a quarter of a century.

Tickets for this event are \$30 per person or \$240 for a reserved table of eight.

The celebration will begin on Friday, Sept. 2 with registration, a "meet and greet," plus an array of fun, music and games. The Willie Mae Gray Hospitality Suite will be opened that evening and throughout the reunion celebration. The suite is sponsored by her daughter, Turquoise Erving, whose mother was a member of the class of 1944 and was one of the planners for this reunion for many years.

A Sunday worship service will be held at one of our local churches followed by an afternoon picnic at a city park to culminate the three day festivities. Annie Pearl Wilson is the program coordinator and David Peay is one of the reunion coordinators.

For celebration tickets and or more information, call Annie P. Wilson at 336-723-8149.

U.S. tentatively OKs flights to Cuba from Charlotte, other cities

BY JOAN LOWY AND SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Scheduled commercial airline service to Havana from 10 American cities, including Charlotte, won tentative government approval July 7, advancing President Barack Obama's effort to normalize relations with Cuba.

Eight U.S. airlines will begin a total of 20 round-trip daily flights as early as this fall between the U.S. and the Cuban capital, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said. It has been more than 50 years since the last scheduled air service from the U.S. to the communist island nation.

Besides Charlotte, the U.S. cities are: Atlanta; Houston; Los Angeles; Newark, New Jersey; New York; and four in Florida — Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando and Tampa.

The airlines are Alaska, American, Delta, Frontier, JetBlue, Southwest, Spirit, and United.

Foxx said the decision won't be final until later this summer in order to provide a 30-day public comment period. Last month, the Transportation Department

announced the approval of six U.S. airlines to begin service as early as this fall to other Cuban cities.

Most Americans still cannot legally visit Cuba. But the Obama administration has eased rules to the point where travelers are now free to design their own "people-to-people" cultural exchange tours with little oversight. Airlines still need to record — and keep for five years — the official reason why someone travels to Cuba, so reservation systems have been revamped to allow passengers to select one of the 12 permitted categories. They include family visits, official business, educational or religious activities.

U.S. citizens' interest in visiting Cuba has swelled since relations between the two nations started to thaw in December 2014. Nearly 160,000 U.S. leisure travelers flew to Cuba last year, along with hundreds of thousands of Cuban-Americans visiting family.

Scott Mayerowitz reported from New York.

Senior Services receives gift from Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Senior Services, Inc., announced that it has received \$2,000 from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation just in time to help provide meals for local elderly residents in need.



Senior Services will use the gift to provide food for home-bound seniors enrolled in its Meals-on-Wheels program.

"Senior Services is extremely grateful for the 2016 contribution from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation," said Richard

Gottlieb, president and CEO of Senior Services. "It is gratifying to have our Meals-on-Wheels program recognized in such a meaningful way by an organization that shares our commitment to hunger relief and believes that the nutrition needs of the frail elderly are a priority."

The seven programs under the Senior Services umbrella respond to the needs of older adults in Forsyth County, providing and coordinating services that enable area seniors to remain in their own homes for as long as possible, living with dignity. Meals-on-Wheels, one of the agency's two nutrition programs, which makes possible the home delivery of approximately 1,200 meals each weekday through a corps of more than 1,800 volunteers, will use the Food Lion gift to provide 400 hot, nutritious meals for seniors in need, along with supplemental grocery bags of shelf-stable foods, friendly visits and all-important safety checks.

Established in 2001, the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation provides financial support for programs and organizations dedicated to feeding the hungry in the communities it serves. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded more than \$9 million in grants.

Clean & Organized Closet

- Co. -

FRIDAY

Winston-Salem

336.748.1114