



Photos by Todd Lack

Bill Hayes and Tim Grant chat during Grant's retirement celebration held last week at City Hall.

Tim Grant

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tor of city planning, said Grant did "miracles with stretched thin resources" during his tenure.

Recreation and Parks Commission Chair Jim Conrad called him a "giant of Winston-Salem."

"He knows this city like no other person there is," said Conrad.

Beth Hopkins, a retired Wake Forest law professor and tennis enthusiast, praised Grant's work to restore tennis courts.

"Without Tim, our courts would look like cow pastures," she said.

Bill Hayes, a retired WSSU athletics director and football coach who worked with him at WSSU, said Grant was always dedicated and professional.

There has been no shortage of accomplishments during Grant's tenure in charge of local parks, including expanding greenways by four miles and expanding the park system by 241.9 acres. Recreation and Parks also expanded summer camps to 12 sites, added

22 new playgrounds, built the city's first outdoor skate park and implemented pet waste stations downtown and in parks. He's also overseen the \$30.5 million 2014 recreation bond whose projects, which are currently in construction or breaking ground soon, will transform the city's parks.

However, Grant said he takes even more pride in running a department that listened and worked with the residents it serves.

"That's the only legacy I'm concerned about," said Grant "I hope that every citizen felt they were a part of our department."

Grant spent well over an hour with a line of well wishers at the event that included co-workers, friends and residents he's served. There were many hugs, laughs and even a few tears. Grant said he was humbled and moved by the experience.

"Everyone who came through here I have a special relationship with, and I hope in a small way I left something with them, because they certainly left something with me," he said.

Grant's retirement plans include golfing and spending more time with his family, including his wife, Vicki, and his two daughters, Aja and Niya.



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

Victor and Crystal Davidson, left, and Lewis and Mary Green, right, are the owners and operators of the Black Dollars phone app.

App

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The app is free to download and to register a business and is free of charge. Davidson said navigating the app is very easy. All the user needs to do is enter a ZIP code and search radius to bring up the business or product the user is searching for. Davidson and Green also vet the businesses on their app to ensure they bring the highest quality to the consumer.

"What separates our business from similar apps is our rating system that allows past consumers of that business to go online and give a rating about the business," said Green. "We in turn examine the reviews and slot the company on our site based on the feedback."

With only 2 cents of every dollar an African-American spends in the country going to black-owned businesses, apps such as Black Dollars have an opportunity to bring that amount up drastically.

Green wanted to convey to African-Americans that if every black person thinks about shopping black-owned businesses 50 percent of the time, they can save the community, the businesses and the people.

Dr. Rebecca M. Clayborn has her business, Makidada clothing store in Alexandria, Virginia, on the app so that customers can find her. She said she believes African-Americans hold the power to create opportunity for ourselves and others and Black Dollars shares in that mission.

"The ripple effect that Black Dollars will create shapes the community by providing avenues of social and economic empowerment," Clayborn stated.

The app can be downloaded in in the Google play store. Call the businessmen at 877-651-0311, or go to www.blkdollars.com

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