

**NAACP**

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ty can come together and find solutions to the issues that impact everyone.

"Hopefully, the NAACP can be that mechanism that makes sure community and those in political power are working together," Carlisle said.

To focus on his new position as president, Carlisle said he will no longer serve as the third vice president of the Ministers'

Conference of Winston-Salem & Vicinity. Carlisle said although he will still be an active member of the organization, his main focus will be reviving the local NAACP branch.

The Ministers' Conference will hold elections to replace Carlisle and other officers on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

Bishop Todd Fulton, president of the Ministers Conference, said as president of the local NAACP branch, Carlisle will galvanize the community and bring structure back to the organization. Fulton mentioned

Carlisle has a track record of bringing people together.

"Reverend Carlisle is a real community organizer. Throughout my tenure as president he was there by my side every step of the way," said Fulton. "I'm confident he has what it takes to turn the local NAACP branch around and bring this community together."

Many of the local branch members seem to be confident in Carlisle's ability to lead as well. When Carlisle first announced he would be throwing his hat in

the race for president longtime branch member Jimmy Jordan said Carlisle was the right man for the job.

"I think Reverend Carlisle has what it takes to turn this chapter around," said Jordan. "We need to get more going and I think Carlisle will do that for us."

The local NAACP branch will hold the last meeting of the year on Tuesday, Dec. 27. New officers will be sworn in during the meeting on Jan. 31.



Shelia Bailey looks through the selection of greens at the Village Town & Country Produce Store on Saturday, Nov. 26, during the Shop Small Bus Tour.

Photos by Tevin Stinson

Eager shoppers board the bus on Saturday, Nov. 26, during the Shop Small Bus Tour hosted by the Winston-Salem Black Chamber of Commerce.



Randon Pender, president of the Winston-Salem Black Chamber of Commerce, served as the tour guide during the Shop Small Bus Tour last weekend.

**Tour**

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pers to take a chance, and shop small not only during the holiday season but year-round.

"We aren't trying to tell anyone how to spend their money, but we want the people to know there are options," she said. "You don't always have to go to the big name stores to find quality products. There are a number of small businesses in this area that many people don't even know about, and we hope to change that."

Along the way, the bus made a number of stops so those on the tour could shop and explore. One of the first stops on the tour was at the newly opened Village Town & Country Produce Store, which specializes in providing fresh fruits and vegetables at a price cheaper than most grocery stores.

While boarding the bus after buying a bag of fresh greens at the Ogburn Station store, Shelia Bailey applauded the Black Business Chamber for put-

ting the event together.

"I think this is just wonderful," she smiled. "I am really enjoying this."

The tour also made stops at Zael's Florist, Popcorn Fanatic, Body and Soul, Kingz Convenience Store, and Malone's Restaurant for lunch. A number of business owners and entrepreneurs even took the time to personally thank shoppers for 'stopping by.'

The owner of Kingz Convenience, Keith King, said he was grateful for the support from the Black Business Chamber and the busload of shoppers. King mentioned his store, located near the bus station downtown, has been in the same spot for a decade.

"I am really thankful for the Black Business Chamber and everything they do to support minority-owned businesses in the area," said King. "It really means a lot to know that you have the support of the community."

When measuring the success of the tours, Pender said a number of people have requested that tours

be held throughout the year. She said they are now looking to hold a tour in the summer to accommodate those who are out of town during Thanksgiving each year.

Andrew Lindsay, Black Chamber member and owner of AKS Gifts & Promotional LLC, said the event has grown to become one of the organization's biggest events. He said the event is so important because if we don't support our minority-owned businesses, they will go away.

"The more businesses we have in our community, the stronger it will be," continued Lindsey. "If we're going to have strong communities, we have to support our businesses."

"For us to be successful, we have to support each other, family supporting family," he said.

For a complete list of minority-owned ventures highlighted during the Shop Small Bus Tour contact the Winston-Salem Black Chamber of Commerce website, [www.wsblackchamber.com](http://www.wsblackchamber.com).

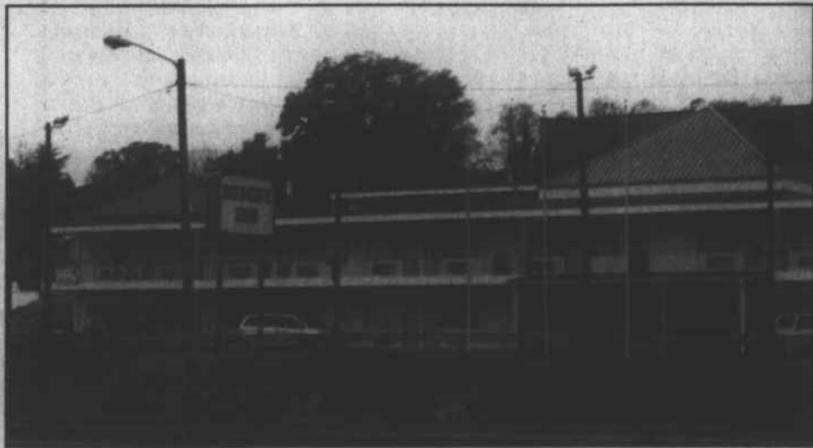


Photo by Todd Luck

The Shalom Project's Peters Creek Community Initiative would like to put workforce housing on the site of the Budget Inn.

**Housing**

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who work downtown or who work in our community," said Mitter.

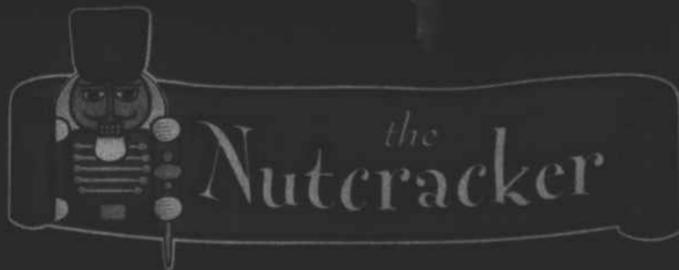
"We've developed an awful lot of high end lofts and that kind of stuff, which is great, but we also need to create housing for folks who are working there who can't afford that. So this is a missing piece, I think, in the housing picture around down-

town."

The city grant, along with a \$5,000 BB&T grant and possible additional funds, will pay for a feasibility study by the National Development Corporation, which will work in collaboration with the North Carolina Housing Foundation. The study will begin this month and is expected to last six months. It will be used to determine what form the project will take, including how many units of housing might be put on the property.

**"Enchants and enthralls...  
The Nutcracker sweeps us up in a spell..."**

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