

ADD SASSY TO YOUR STEP

By Erin C. Perkins WCP Communications®

These boots are not just made for walking; they are also made for self-expression, so go ahead and put your best foot forward. At least that is what Lisa B. Gonzalez is



Alisa B. Gonzalez

doing

As the owner and creator of the unique shoe boutique "Sassy Steps", Gonzalez, 35, prides herself on offering unique styles, great prices and excellent service. "When you look good, you feel good," she insists. Sassy Steps, which held its grand opening on Oct. 28, 2006, carries ladies shoes, handbags and jewelry; everything you need to create a look that is right for you.

A fan of fashionable, yet affordable footwear, Gonzalez wanted to bring something awesome to Winston-Salem. "[Sassy Steps] is like a Rodeo Drive for Winston-Salem", she said. "We carry shoes that are not easily found in department stores. The shoes here are unique and over-the-top." The reasonably priced footwear ranges from \$55 \$150. "The ambiance of the store is amazing," Gonzales stated. There is an array of shoes from various designers that shoppers are unlikely to find in mall. There is a type of shoe for every woman and every personality. "Everyone can find something. As a woman, you wear many hats, so you can find a shoe that fits you. At Sassy Steps you

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Salem LISC, which has played a significant role in the recent infusuion of local commercial and residential development by providing millions of dollars in grants and loans, and its Community Development Partners, will hold its second

community development awards program on December 7 at Wachovia Bank. The program will recognize individuals and organizations that have been instrumental in the revitalization of low-wealth neighborhoods in Winston-Salem.

Among the honorees is Monica Lett, who has been a staple in housing development as an employee for the city of Winston-Salem. Lett has announced that she is retiring from the city after more than 20 years.

"This is an opportunity to recognize individuals and organizations significant to Winston-Salem development, especially in areas that historically have been disenfranchised," said Paula McCoy, the LISC program director. "Dr. Lett has been a champion in housing development in Winston-Salem for years, and we are proud to honor her."

Winston-Salem LISC is an affiliate of the national nonprofit organization headed by Michael Rubinger, former executive of the Pew Charitable Trusts, one of the

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W.E.M

Merry Christmas!

Kenneth Fox

WINSTON-SALEM - Winston- largest private foundations in the country. The national organization is chaired by Robert Rubin, the former secretary of the U.S. Treasury. Since the LISC opened an office in Winston-Salem in 1999, the agency has committed more than \$4.5 million in grants and loans to development organizations for community projects in struggling neighborhoods.

> In addition to Lett's honor, awards will be presented to individuals in several categories, including community development, foundation support and volunteerism. Some of the awards presented include bricks made by George Henry Black. Black made an exceptionally Important contribution to the 20th century by sustaining traditional handcrafting of bricks, when most brickmakers abandoned this practice for more efficient brickmaking machines. In the 1940s, Black established a brickyard approximately 100 feet behind his Winston-Salem residence, which he continued to operate until the 1970s. At the request of the state department In 1970, the 91year-old Black traveled to Guyana, South America, to share his age-old craft with villagers of that country. Black's handcrafted bricks created many of Winston-Salem's finest homes, businesses and churches. He is honored with a statue in front of the Forsyth County office building.

> For more information on the awards program, call the LISC Winston-Salem office at (336) 722-5400.

FAMILY, FRIENDS AND **COMMUNITY RALLY AROUND FORMER MAYOR**

By John Rave

When Kenneth Fox was elected mayor of East Spencer, a small, overwhelmingly Black town near Salisbury, the election made national news. Kenneth Fox was really Kenneth Fox Muhammad, a member of the Nation of Islam.

The fact that a member of the so-called "Black Muslim" organization could be elected to such a prestigious post raised more than a few eyebrows, way beyond the borders of North Carolina.

Five years after that historic election, however, Kenneth Fox is no longer the mayor. In fact, he no longer lives in East Spencer. Today, Kenneth Fox is behind bars, in federal custody, and serving time for a crime that

family, friends and community supporters describe as "a crime of being too trusting, too nice", and to some long time supporters, "way too Black!"

The trouble began shortly after the election in 1997. Fox, a graduate of North Carolina Central University and member of a close-knit East Spencer family, was widely known as a "brother who cared deeply for Black people and who wanted to make a difference".

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Monica Lett