

Chamber launches Certifichcks

Program designed to encourage shoppers to support local businesses

BY SANDRA ISLEY
THE CHRONICLE

At a loss for what to buy that special someone this holiday season? Maybe you should consider Certifichcks, the newest initiative launched by The Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce in an effort to support the "Don't Pass the Buck, Buy Local" program.

The chamber introduced its latest initiative by presenting The Salvation Army with \$250 in Certifichcks at Hanes Mall last Thursday. Even though the unveiling of the program took place at the mall, Gayle Anderson, president and CEO of the chamber, said that Certifichcks will be accepted at businesses throughout the city, including restaurants, retail shops and grocery stores.



By purchasing Certifichcks, shoppers will strengthen their local economy. Anderson said, "We want to encourage people to buy locally instead of getting on the Internet or shopping by catalog. By doing so, we keep jobs here." They are like gift cards but with one big advantage. Certifichcks have no fees attached them and retain their full face

value. There's no expiration date. They work just like cash. Many gift cards deduct fees from the card's value for service charges.

Ashi Gwyn, a fifth-grader at South Fork Elementary, will be the recipient of the Certifichcks donated by the chamber to The Salvation Army. Gwyn, who's being reared by her father, Robert Gwyn, recently had a

tumor removed. Col. Jack Waters, area commander for The Salvation Army, said that the organization is enormously grateful for the gift.

Certifichcks can be purchased from the chamber's Web site at www.winstonsalem.com, by calling 887-770-GIFT, or at the chamber offices at 601 W. Fourth St.

Free eye screenings for those with diabetes

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Forsyth County residents who have diabetes and are uninsured or on Medicaid are invited to participate in free eye screenings to detect diabetic retinopathy, the leading cause of preventable blindness in adults.

The screenings, which will be conducted from Dec. 5 through March 31, are part of a project called "I SEE IN NC," which will determine if early screening using a special camera and images transmitted over the Internet can detect the disease early enough to prevent blindness.

"Medicaid patients are rarely screened and are at risk of becoming blind," said Ramon Velez, M.D., M.S., of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, who is conducting the research.

The project will screen about 3,000 North Carolinians and mail the results to participants' primary-care physicians, who can refer patients who need treatment to eye specialists.

The screenings are open to

adults over age 18 and to children over age 12 who have had diabetes for at least five years. Preliminary results from pilot testing of the high-tech approach showed that among diabetic patients screened, about 15 percent required urgent referral to an ophthalmologist and more

than 40 percent had some degree of diabetic retinopathy — changes in blood vessels in the retina.

Screening locations are:

- Dec. 5 to Jan. 13, 2006: Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, Outpatient Department Clinic, seventh floor Janeway Tower.
- Jan. 18 to March 3, 2006: Downtown Health Plaza, 1200 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.
- March 6-31, 2006: Forsyth County Department of Public Health, 799 N. Highland Ave.

For more information, to register or to see if you are eligible, contact Ron Gaskins, M.P.A., associate project manager, at (336) 480-6934 or rgaskins@wfbmc.edu.



Velez

News Clips

Bell ringers to perform

The Wake Forest University Student Handbell Choir will perform its fourth annual "Carols of the Bells" concert at 8 p.m. Nov. 30 at Wake Forest in Davis Chapel in Wingate Hall. The concert is a benefit performance to raise funds for Brenner's Children's Hospital. Donations will be accepted, and all proceeds will go to the hospital.

The concert will feature eight Wake Forest student bell ringers performing traditional Christmas carols, including "Jingle Bells," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," and the "Ukrainian Bell Carol," as well as an arrangement of "The Phantom of the Opera" by Douglas Wagner.

The Wake Forest Handbell Choir is a student-led group that features eight to 16 bell ringers who traditionally perform three times a year for the "Carols of the Bells" benefit concert, the university's annual Christmas Candlelight Lovefeast and for a spring hymn concert.

McGee, Folwell to tackle health issues

W.C. "Bill" McGee, a two term Republican Legislator from Forsyth County's District 75, has been appointed to the Health Care Study Committee in the N.C. House of Representatives.

The study committee will address the affordability, accessibility and quality of health care, and will make recommendations for legislation that will be debated and voted on in the 2006 session of the General Assembly. There will be 50 committee members and six sub-committees. McGee has been appointed to the Subcommittee on the Cost of Insurance for Employees and Employers.

Republican Rep. Dale Folwell also has been appointed, and will serve on the Subcommittee on the State Health Plan. Recent studies indicate that 559,000 fewer North Carolinians, a 6.7 percent increase in the number uninsured, have health insurance than four years ago. A decline in workplace coverages is largely responsible for the trend.

"I look forward to participating in this all-important

study," McGee said. "This is one of the most critical issues facing the people of our State."

Salem College Dance Company to present fall concert

The Salem College Dance Company will present its fall concert on Dec. 2-3 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. in the Drama Workshop, located in the Salem Fine Arts Center. Admission is \$3.

Directed by Assistant Professor of Dance Heidi Godfrey, the concert will feature pieces choreographed and performed by students. Special guest artists are the Alban elved dance company, led by artistic director Karola Löttringhaus, and the Mereminn Dancers, directed by Lacy James.

A reception will follow each performance.

24-hour animal adoption marathon

The Forsyth County Animal Shelter Friends of the Shelter will hold a 24-Hour Adoption Marathon beginning Dec. 3 at 8 a.m. and ending at 8 a.m. on Dec. 4. It will take place at the Forsyth County Animal Shelter, 1200 Fairchild Road. Shelter staff and volunteers will be on hand for the 24-hour adoption marathon to kick off the national "Home 4 the Holidays" campaign. There will be holiday decorations and good cheer as the staff and volunteers work to place all of their homeless pets into homes just in time for the holidays.

Associated Artists to open new gallery

Associated Artist of Winston-Salem will open its Associated Artists Gallery on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 11:30 a.m. AAWS will open the new gallery with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception. Winston-Salem City Council member and downtown advocate Wanda Merschel will cut the ribbon and speak. The new gallery is at 301 W. Fourth St. in the Chatham Building situated on the corner of Fourth and Cherry streets, downtown Winston-Salem.

The first exhibit in the new gallery will be Up Close and Personal, an exhibition of fine art by exhibiting members. The show will be on view to the public on Dec. 1 after the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The public is invited to the free gala opening reception on Dec. 2, 5 - 8 p.m.

Associated Artists of Winston-Salem is a nonprofit organization of more than 650 members. Supported by membership dues and individual donations, AAWS also receives operating assistance from the Arts Council of Winston-Salem / Forsyth County.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.associatedartists.org.

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Saturday 7am-noon only!

50% off

Reebok® athletic shoes. Shown: women's Stride. Reg. 39.99, sale 19.99. After noon, 29.99.

Saturday 7am-noon only!

99.99 sale, each

Audiovox® handheld portable DVD/CD kit, save \$40. Accessories included. #57295/D1420HPP/Pink, #57285/D1420HPS/Silver. After noon, 139.99.

Saturday 7am-noon only!

60% off

Kids Play® sets. Shown: snowman set. Reg. 30.00, sale 12.00. After noon, 15.00.

Saturday 7am-noon only!

70% off

Gold and silver chains. After noon, 60% off. See below for details.

Saturday 7am-noon only!

50% off

NEW! Harvard® electronic single shootout basketball game. Includes 3 balls. Reg. 119.99, sale 59.99. #25622. After noon, 79.99.

Saturday 7am-noon only!

16.99 sale

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Saturday 7am-noon only!

79.99 sale

Sylvania® 19-in. TV, save \$20. #49285-6419TEY. After noon, 99.99. TV screens are measured diagonally; reception is simulated.

Saturday 7am-noon only!

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LOWEST PRICE EVER! Craftsman® black limited edition 5-drawer tool center. Reg. 139.99, sale 79.99. #59790. After noon, 99.99.

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McGee