

# COMMUNITY

SECTION B

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JULY 2, 2009



## Community Calendar

### B-PAL gala honoring Burke

On August 22, B-PAL will celebrate its 30th anniversary by honoring Dr. Vivian H. Burke. The gala will be held at the Benton Convention Center, beginning with a meet and greet at 5 p.m. The gala starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and available at Special Occasion, TES Engraving, the LaDeara Crest Community Center Office, the Delta Arts Center and Ervin's Beauty Salon. For more information, contact Naomi Jones at 336-724-3759 or Evelyn W. Sanders at 336-785-4272.

### Harry Potter event

In celebration of the release of the latest Harry Potter movie, The Children's Museum of Winston-Salem will host a Potter-esque House Cup Tournament. Young attendees will take part in a sorting ceremony, design a Hogwarts castle, attend Hogwarts classes, take the Bertie Botts challenge and go on a golden snitch hunt. There will also be pizza, salad and dessert. The event is \$10 per member and \$12 per non-member. Pre-registration should be done by July 10 by calling 336-723-9111. The event is recommended for ages 5-10.

### Substance abuse help

If you or a family member is struggling with substance abuse HELP is a phone call away. The Twin City Area Narcotics Anonymous Helpline can be reached at 800-365-1035 or online at [www.tcana.org](http://www.tcana.org). For meeting schedules and additional information for this 12-step Recovery Program, please call the number or visit the Web site.

### 'Color Purple' in Charlotte

A bus trip to see the play, "The Color Purple" in Charlotte on Saturday, Aug. 29 at 2 p.m. is being planned. The trip is \$103.25 per person and includes transportation, a ticket to the show, a snack and a stop at Concord Mills. For more information, call 336-785-4272 or e-mail [evelsdrs@aol.com](mailto:evelsdrs@aol.com).

### Scales Campaign launch

The Committee to Elect Donald L. Scales, an East Ward candidate, to the City Council, is inviting the public to attend the official kick-off for his campaign on Monday, July 6 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Rupert Bell Park. There will be food and entertainment from acts like The Boss Drummers, Christina Perrin, the Fletchers, Freedom Steppers, Vessels of Praise and the Mt. Olive Baptist Church Choir. For additional information, contact Dion Owen at 336-918-9437.

### Trip to WSSU game in NYC

A trip is being planned to the WSSU/Morgan State game at New York's Giants Stadium. The Urban League Football Classic will be on Sept. 19. Trip-goers will spend three days, two nights in NYC. Call 336-749-1192 or 336-722-9668 or email [triad-travelersgroup@gmail.com](mailto:triad-travelersgroup@gmail.com) for more information.



Bishop John Huntley, second from left, with garden volunteers Russell Johnson, Jermaine McCoy, Cleo McCoy and Tony Wedderburn.

Photos by Todd Luck

## A GROWING MINISTRY

*Church's garden is enjoyed by all in the neighborhood*

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

Alpha & Omega Church of Faith is a little place of worship with a big garden.

For the past four years, the small church on the corner of Gray Avenue and 16th Street has been tending a garden on land across the street from the building. In that time, it has grown from a small, personal garden into an expansive community one.

At least 500 families have been fed by its harvest, which includes zucchini, squash, okra, tomatoes, peas and towering stalks of corn. The church's pastor, Bishop John Huntley, takes great pride in the garden that he helps cultivate.

"I think over the years we have proved ourselves that can't nobody grow a garden like we do," said Huntley with a grin and a laugh.

Alpha & Omega originally purchased the land with the intent of building a parking lot, but when the church couldn't raise the funds to have the area paved, it abandoned that idea. Instead, Huntley planted a small garden there and vowed to live a healthier life by eating the vegetables he grew. He allowed others in the East Winston community to use some of the space to grow things of their own. Before Huntley realized it, the garden had taken on a life of its own and had ballooned in size.



The garden sprouts from an acre of land across from the church.

The church uses some of the vegetables harvested for its events, such as the upcoming week-long meeting of Churches of Faith from around the country. But many of the vegetables are picked by people in the neighborhood for their own use. The vegetables are free to those who need them, Huntley said. He does ask that those who use the garden inform the church so they can help people maneuver through the maze of green.

"We just love to grow it



This zucchini was recently plucked from the garden.

and see it grow," said Huntley. "So if they come and ask us for it, we'll give it to them for free."

Cleo McCoy, whose parents were share-croppers, has taken an active role in maintaining the garden.

"As a girl coming up, we always had our own garden, so I knew all about the garden: what to plant, when to plant," said McCoy.

She estimates that the garden is nearly an acre in size now. It's used year-

See Garden on B10



The growing garden yields produce year-round.



Bishop Huntley stands in his pride and joy.

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