

Black History Special Section Inside



CIAA®

coverage

See Page B1

WSSU March
school of the month

Give
Online

Foundation

THE CHRONICLE

Volume 41, Number 25 — WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — THURSDAY, February 26, 2015

Liberty CDC will dissolve

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Six months ago, James "Jim" Shaw announced that he would be resigning as president and chairman of the Liberty Street Community Development Corp.

In August, Shaw announced that his last day with the CDC, a private nonprofit that works to revitalize the Liberty Street Corridor, would be Oct. 31, 2014. The board was supposed to meet the following month to discuss finding his replacement.

Now, the 10-member board has decided to dispose of the assets and debts before dissolving Liberty CDC altogether.



Shaw

"We are not looking for an executive director and do not anticipate doing so," said Vice President and acting Chairman Stan Senft. "In my opinion we are not doing enough work up there to justify hiring an executive director who would spend the bulk of his or her time raising money to pay their salary. It makes no sense."

He said that he discussed all of the options with the nonprofits' founders and that they agree makes no sense.

Board member Carrie Vickery said that the board is trying to do the responsible thing.

"It would be easy to say 'Ok, let's just string the CDC along even though it's not pulling its weight or doing as much as we should be for the sake of appearances' and that's not the route we are taking," she said. "We decided that the best thing for the community is to funnel those dollars elsewhere."

She said that the nonprofit did attempt to look for other options before making that decision.

"One of the thoughts we had originally was could we combine with another CDC. That was a conversation we

See Liberty on A7

PROM DRESS GIVEAWAY

Paul foundation moves generosity to Winston-Salem



Charity Wagner tries on shoes.



Photos by Donna Rogers

Charity Wagner, a senior at Parkland High School, asks about shoes to go with prom dresses she likes. She'll try them on later. Her mother, Carla Fulton, looks on.

Jada Paul visits hometown to start giving students prom dresses

BY DONNA ROGERS
THE CHRONICLE

At first, it was hard to figure out what was happening in the large room at the Marriott in downtown Winston-Salem on the morning of Saturday, Feb. 21.

Some girls were looking at shoes, purses and other accessories.

Some girls were getting their faces glamorized.



Jada Paul, a 2002 graduate of Mount Tabor High, came to town for the first Prom Dress Giveaway sponsored by the Chris Paul Family Foundation.

Some were standing in lines holding dresses, waiting to try them on.

Others were looking at dresses on racks.

Everyone appeared to be having fun.

What was going on was a Prom Dress Giveaway sponsored by the Chris Paul Family Foundation. The experience was totally free for the 65 girls — 50 pre-selected and 15 who

attended after hearing about the event. They had the opportunity to choose new and vintage gowns, shoes, jewelry and accessories.

The event featured a fashion show with models from the dance team Scarlet Lace, from Winston-Salem State University; makeup demonstrations; motivational speakers promoting education, self-esteem and healthy lifestyles; prizes; giveaways; food; and beverages.

This was the first Prom Dress Giveaway the foundation has sponsored in Winston-Salem.

See Giveaway on A2

Efforts underway to renew expired historic tax credit

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

As of this year, North Carolina no longer has its long-standing Historic Preservation Tax Credit, which was credited by many for spurring growth in downtown Winston-Salem and beyond.

First enacted in 1998, the credit offers tax breaks for rehabilitating historic buildings. It expired at the end of 2014 as part of a tax reform bill passed with Republican support designed to eliminate tax breaks and lower the tax rate overall.

Republican Gov. Pat McCrory has proposed a new historic tax credit that would offer smaller incentives to bigger projects with an overall cap on the program, and restoring the also eliminated tax break for movies made in the state. House Rep. Ed Hanes of the 72nd District is among the Democrats sponsoring an omnibus economic development bill to bring back the full, unaltered historic tax credit, along with other measures like re-establishing the movie tax credit and earned income tax credit.

"Our job should be to help everyone and that's what the Historic Preservation Tax Credit does," said Hanes.

According to the N.C. State Historic Preservation office, nearly \$300 million of rehabilitation work has been done in 39 completed commercial projects in Forsyth County since 1998. Nearly \$16 million of rehabilitation work has been done on 124 non-income producing residential projects in Forsyth. Though

expired, work done through the end of last year still counts for the credit. Construction or new projects this year do not.

City Council Member Jeff MacIntosh said Winston-Salem has a high number of historic districts and properties. He said the tax credit often makes restoring buildings financially feasible when it wouldn't otherwise be. He said it's been vital to projects that have helped revitalize



Washington

downtown, like turning the Nissen Building into apartments in 2006 and transforming an empty tobacco plant into 525@Vine, a laboratory and office complex in the Innovation Quarter, which opened last year. He said without it, many developers will look to other states that offer the credit.

"It's been so beneficial to Winston-Salem," he said. "The bottom line is that so much restoration work, all that money in the ground, wouldn't have occurred at all without this credit."

He's personally used the tax credit several times on qualifying houses. He and his wife, Susan, specialize in buying old homes, restoring them, then reselling them. He said one house, which took about \$65,000 worth of work to restore, gave him a

See Tax Credits on A2

Activity on the Green designed to spruce up Liberty Street area

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Many downtown residents have kept a close eye on the construction that's transforming a dilapidated parking lot in the heart of the Arts District into an outdoor space that will be just as unique as the area around it.

In May, residents will get a chance to see just how much.

The art-themed park, between Sixth and Seventh streets, will be called Activity on the Green and is made possible through a grant from the Thomas J. Regan Jr. Foundation to Arts for

Arts Sake (AFAS). Opening day is expected to be on May 2, complete with a ribbon-cutting and food trucks.

The local nonprofit initiates or supports a wide variety of free special events and programs designed for residents to enjoy and create local art.

"It dresses up Liberty Street, which is in dire need of dressing up," said Harry Knabb, chairman and CEO for AFAS. "There will be a place to go in the afternoons and for residents in the area to have some green space."

Councilman Derwin Montgomery said that the park is just another great amenity that adds to the

area. He also believes that it's just the beginning of an overhaul of Liberty Street.



Montgomery

"The Liberty Street area is the next frontier of development in the area. This is leading the way along that corridor. It is going to bring a much-needed sense of activity," he said. "Activity is going to be symbolic of the art and activity that will be happen-

See Park on A3

004*003*****FIRM ECRLOF 0318A**C016
ADMINISTRATION
FORSYTH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
201 N CHESTNUT ST
WINSTON SALEM, NC 27101-4120 01

Personal, convenient, secure, professional self-storage.

MOVE IN SPECIAL

\$25

for first month

ASSURED STORAGE

of Winston-Salem, LLC

(336) 924-7000

www.assuredstoragews.com

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-3pm
Gate Hours: 5am-10pm
4191 Bethania Station Road • Winston-Salem

6 8907632439 7