

Giveaway

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The foundation held three others in Los Angeles, where the foundation and its founder are based. Los Angeles Clipper basketball superstar Chris Paul, and his wife, Jada Crawley Paul, are from Winston-Salem. Chris Paul started the foundation in 2005.

"I wanted to do something for the girls," said Jada Paul on Saturday at the event. She explained that the foundation has been providing activities for boys in the past. She said the prom is a time girls can dress up.

"It will be something they remember forever, because prom is a big deal," Paul said.

Brionna Miller's mother, Julie Miller, who attended the event, agreed that prom is a big deal for her daughter, who is in a wheelchair.

"Any kind of prom, or anything like that, she gets excited," Julie Miller said. "She likes to be involved, like anybody." Brionna, an 11th-grade student at Glenn High School, nodded in agreement when asked whether she was excited.

"She's got a few people in mind" as dates, Julie Miller said.

The Millers had finished their shopping. Carla Fulton and her daughter Charity Wagner were shopping for shoes.

Charity, a 12th-grade student at Parkland High, found out about the event through the media, her mother said. She was one of the 15 girls who were not pre-selected but attended the event. She was able to participate after the pre-selected girls were served first.

Carla Fulton said Charity still had to try on two dresses she chose from the rack of prom dresses, and would need to look at purses and maybe a bracelet.

Naomi Harrison, a 12th-grade student at East Forsyth High, was at the make-up station. She came because a teacher invited her.

"She thought it would be fun for me to come,"



Princess Wingate, a senior at Early College of Forsyth, shows off a prom dress she tried on.



Julie Miller and her daughter, Brionna Miller, show off the items they chose at the giveaway. Brionna is in the 11th grade at Glenn High.

Naomi said. She said she doesn't have a date for the May 2 prom at East Forsyth. "I might just go with friends," she said.

Jada Paul said the foundation started months in advance working with all the high schools in the area to choose four girls in need from each school to attend the event.

Foundation officials allowed 15 girls who showed up to the event to participate.

"It's been amazing,"

Jada Paul said of the event. "To see the girls excited and confident, it makes it all worthwhile."

She plans to make the Prom Dress Giveaway an annual event.

"There's something special about doing things at home," said Paul, a 2002 graduate of Mount Tabor High. "I would love to grow the event where the girls [from the public] just come in. But we have to grow to that point."

Church to host 'Many Rivers to Cross' viewing and community discussion

SPECIAL TO
THE CHRONICLE

St. Benedict's Catholic Church will host a viewing of the Henry Gates' critically reviewed "Many Rivers to Cross" Saturday, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the parish center, 1208 Hattie Ave.

First aired on PBS last year, "The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross" is a series of episodes depicting 500 years of African-American history authored Gates. The program at St. Benedict's will cover four episodes of this documentary, including, "The Black Atlantic," "Into The Fire," "Making a Way" and "A More Perfect Union," which covers 1968 to 2013.

St. Benedict's African-American Ministry is sponsoring a presentation and dialogue.

"A part of our Mission at Saint Benedict the Moor is to enlighten and create a better understanding of God's purpose for us all to unite as one," says Daisy Foster, a coordinator of the event. "The participants will be given the opportunity to put into proper perspectives facts and myths regarding the evolution of the African American from slavery to freedom."

Foster says the program is appropriate for all members of the family and will provide opportunities for engaging community dialogue.

"This activity can be a family affair. Our young audience will get a very valuable history lesson and parents will receive the knowledge needed to continue this discussion on a more intimate level in the home," she says. "There will be breakout sessions for discussion by age group. Participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the materials presented."

Professor Fred-Rick Roundtree from Winston-Salem State University will be the facilitator for this event. Admission to the program is free, however a \$5 fee for lunch is requested. Please RSVP to stbensnews@gmail.com.

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4ALL Statewide Service Day is a public service program of the North Carolina Bar Association; additional numbers provided by WBTV (Charlotte) and WFMY (Greensboro).

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TaxCredits

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\$13,000 state income tax credit combined with an equal federal tax credit. He said in his projects, keeping the historic character of the house generally doesn't drive up his construction cost.

"It almost always made sense to use it," MacIntosh said.

Many different projects have used the credit. It was used twice by Goler Community Development Corporation, which is devoted to revitalizing the historic Goler-Depot Street area that used to be the thriving economic center of the local black community.

It used the credit to transform an abandoned tobacco factory into Gallery Lofts, an 82-unit apartment complex that stays filled to capacity. The CDC also used it to restore Craver Apartment Building, which was built for black families just before World War II. Goler CDC Chair Michael Suggs said the credit provided equity for the projects, which would've been unfeasible without it. He said he fully supports bringing the tax credit back.

"I think it's a great idea," he said. "It has the potential to restart development in Winston-Salem."

While it's been used to convert other old factories Washington into lofts, it's also been used on smaller projects. When Walter Roy Little, a barber and owner of Purrfect-Cut Barber Shop, decided to finally convert the long abandoned top floor of his building into lofts, he found out it would qualify for the credit. Builders took special care to keep the 1923 archi-

"That could help us significantly in financing the project,"

—Barry Washington

ture intact as they converted it into the four apartments that make up Ella's Lofts. Construction was completed by last summer, and only a month after their dedication, all four units were filled. He said he hopes the credit will help with the expensive project.

Local church, Wholeman Ministries, was also planning to use the credit in its \$631,000 Homes 4 Our Heroes project to restore five houses on Cameron Avenue for homeless veterans. Most of the work on the first house was done before this year, with the finishing touches being scheduled for this week. The others have yet to be completed. Wholeman Pastor Barry Washington said the houses were built between 1938 and 1940 using bricks by the historic local brick mason George Black.

Washington checked with the city and state about using the credit, and preserved the front of the houses to meet its qualifications. He hasn't applied for the credit yet and wasn't aware it had expired, but hopes it is restored.

"That could help us significantly in financing the project," he said.

To have qualified for the historic tax credit, a building had to be listed in, or had the potential to be listed in, the National Register of Historic Deeds, or was located in a registered historic district. It had to be certified as a historic

structure by the state, which required a payment of a \$500 to \$2,500 fee, depending on the cost of the project. The repairs had to be consistent with the historic nature of the building and, were applicable, its historic district. Only rehabilitation costs to the structure counted toward the credit. Other expenses involved in the project, such as landscaping, paving and acquisition costs, did not.

The tax credit provided 20 percent tax credit for rehabilitation costs for income-producing historic properties, which combined with a 20 percent federal historic tax credit. There was a 30 percent credit for non-income producing properties, which don't qualify for a federal tax break. Those rehabbing a historic factory, such as a tobacco or textile plant, could've instead used the Mill Rehabilitation Tax Credit, which is part of the historic tax credit program. In Forsyth, a tier-three county (meaning its among the top 20 counties in the state economically), the mill credit would result in a 30-percent tax credit on rehabilitation costs on an income-producing structure.



Macintosh

PUBLIC NOTICE:

NCDOT TO HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON THE SALEM CREEK CONNECTOR PROJECT IN WINSTON-SALEM, FORSYTH COUNTY

TIP Project No. U-2925

The N.C. Department of Transportation will hold an informal project update meeting regarding the ongoing Salem Creek Connector Project in Winston-Salem. The project is currently under construction.

The meeting will take place on March 12 from 4 until 7 p.m. at the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church - Fellowship Hall, 144 Fitch Street, Winston-Salem.

The purpose of this meeting is to update the community on the progress of the Salem Creek Connector Project and to explain what to expect in the future. Citizens may stop by at their convenience; there will not be a formal presentation. Maps will be available to review and NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and receive comments. Written comments or questions can also be submitted at the meeting or later by March 26th.

NCDOT is constructing a new 1.1-mile, four-lane road with a median from Martin Luther King Jr. Drive south of Winston-Salem State University to Rams Drive (formerly Stadium Drive) at the Wake Forest Innovation Quarter. A new diverging diamond interchange will be built at U.S. 52, and the current interchange at Rams Drive will be removed. A roundabout will be built at Salem Avenue and City Yard Drive and nine bridges mainly over parts of Salem Creek and U.S. 52 will be built. The nearly \$69 million project started in December 2013 and should be completed by summer of 2016.

Project information is also available online at www.ncdot.gov/projects/salemcreekconnector

For additional information, contact Jeremy Guy, Resident Engineer, 1151 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27101, by phone at 336-747-7950 or by e-mail at jmguy@ncdot.gov.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Anamika Laad at alaad@ncdot.gov or 919-707-6072 as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

NCDOT will provide interpretive services upon request for persons who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English. Kindly request it prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.