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THE CHRONICLE

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Kwesi Pitt, 4, takes a break from a day full of exploring downtown Winston-Salem's newest piece of art, ARTivity on the Green. Created out of private funding through sponsor AFAS, Art for Art's Sake, it is a must-see green space, built for all to enjoy.

Photos by Erin Mizelle for the Winston-Salem Chronicle

Mists and crowds greet opening of ARTivity on the Green

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

ARTivity on the Green, a new park downtown on Liberty Street, opened to the public on Saturday, May 9. People filled the park, located between Sixth and Seventh streets beside Top Tier CrossFit.

The park is owned and operated by Arts for Arts Sake (AFAS), a local nonprofit group that promotes the arts.

AFAS Chair Harry Knabb said the group purchased a gravel parking lot with a grant from the Thomas J. Regan Foundation and transformed it into a park of green, grassy hills and bright red arches.

"We broke ground in December, it's now May, so five months later, this went from a gravel cement parking lot into what you see today," he said. "It's for the community. We want you all to enjoy it, to have fun."

The park includes an area with white arches that have seats and built-in easels that can act as a stage for performances. Both tall red arches that are lit at night and lower red ones that patrons could sit on are scattered across the park. All of its walkways lead to 13 towering red masts that give off mist several times a day, which Knabb said was a novel take on the normal water fixtures found at



Marshall Lakes, right, paints an original piece from start to finish during the grand opening ceremony of Winston-Salem's first and only "art park," on Saturday, May 9.

parks.

Knabb said AFAS will maintain the park with the initial grant funds and then look to corporate donors to fund the upkeep. Though it's AFAS' first park, the group has been very visible around downtown with outdoor art installations, Arts on Sunday festivals, an arch at the intersection of Sixth and Cherry streets and its own Red Dog Gallery on Trade Street.

The park received high praise from city officials. Derwin Montgomery was impressed at the speed it was built. He said the park

was an excellent bridge between the nearby Innovation Quarter and Arts District downtown.

"It is a place where people can gather, a place where we believe we can come together and convene and celebrate one another," he said.

Mayor Allen Joines said AFAS has given Winston-Salem a great gift with the new park, which was appropriate since the city's birthday was on May 13 (the day it was incorporated in 1913).

"You've given us a heck of a birthday present, so thank you very much," he said.

Saturday's opening showed many ways the park could be used, with food vendors lining the street and the Rainmaker band playing blue grass music in the stage area. Artists had their easels out, painting. A mime and a living statue entertained attendees who sat on the grass and enjoyed the warm day.

A wall separating the park from neighboring businesses on Trade Street became a giant canvas as 10 artists created murals to cover it and children used an 11th section to put their hand prints on. Mural artist Jeff Beck of Greensboro spent all day perfecting his bright pink octopus that now adorns the wall. The AFAS

See The Green on A2

Patterson won't run for NAACP president

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will have to shorten its ballot for the May 26 vote.

Current president and local attorney S. Wayne Patterson announced Thursday, May 7, that he will withdraw his name from the election, citing that he needs to focus on the opening of his third law practice in Lavonia, Georgia. He has two other practices, one in Winston-Salem and the other in Atlanta.

"I have three law firms now and I just can't do it. I will no longer have the time to give to the NAACP as president," he said. "I'm going to give the individuals who wanted to be president the opportunity and move forward."



Howard



Patterson

Patterson said that he will continue to remain an active member in the organization, on the local, state and national levels.

"Wherever I can assist the NAACP and the state and local conference, I will," the attorney said. "They will still see me involved, and I may continue as legal redress chair."

Patterson's challenger for the presidency seat, Isaac "Ike" Howard, did not know of the decision when The Chronicle called him on Friday afternoon.

See NAACP on A2

Residents defend master plan, demand economic development at public hearing

BY CHANEL DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

At the May 4 Winston-Salem City Council, meeting many residents spoke against the rezoning of 939 Cleveland Ave., which The Salvation Army wants to turn into its family shelter. During that public hearing, one found out quickly that it had less to do with The Salvation Army and a whole lot more to do with economic opportunities, or the lack thereof, in the area.

One of the biggest contributing factors to the discourse was that the shelter would go against the area's Cleveland Avenue Neighborhood Initiative Master Plan.

"When we look at this issue today, I think that there is a larger issue that we are talking about and discussion that really has very little to do with the rezoning. It has to do with specifically with our community, east of Highway 52, and the investment that has and has not been made. It's talking about economic development, it's talking about investments, it's talking about jobs, it's talking about how we decrease the concentration of poverty in our com-

See Residents on A5

City sets recruitment fair to help organize neighborhood groups

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Neighborhood groups have been meeting all over Winston-Salem this year, trying to organize residents to help improve their neighborhoods.

Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods and the S.G. Atkins Community Development Corporation are some of the groups working with residents to improve neighborhoods.

Now the city of Winston-Salem is providing

some organization by way of a special recruitment fair Saturday, May 16, to encourage city residents to form neighborhood associations and Neighborhood Watch groups, and to help residents join existing organizations.

Those who attend the fair, which will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., should enter through Gate 9 on 27th Street to get to the

Grants help neighborhood group. See page A5

Neal Bolton Home and Garden Building at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds.

Neighborhood Watch groups fight crime by organizing neighbors to keep an eye on one another's properties and report suspicious activity to the police. Neighborhood associations are organizations that organize residents in a neighborhood and advocate for them.

Representatives from the Police and

See Groups on A5

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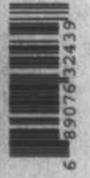
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