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THE CHRONICLE

Volume 42, Number 2

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, September 10, 2015

City looking at options after Liberty Street Market closed



The Liberty Street Market consists of two shelters on Liberty Street. This shot shows the structures before a fence was erected around them prior to the market's opening last year.

After opening in October, vendors and customers dwindled

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The City of Winston-Salem is currently assessing what went wrong with the Liberty Street Market, which closed this summer.

The market, which consisted of two covered shelters built on a vacant lot the city owns at 1591 N. Liberty St., was shuttered after Mercedes Miller ended her company's contract to run it for the city. Mercedes-Empowers Inc. is her company. It is widely believed the low response of the market was the reason for Miller using the 10-day escape clause to end the two-year contract. The shelters are currently only being used on Thursdays for food distribution by Second Harvest Food Bank. The City's Business and Community Development Department oversees the market and is currently assessing its options for it. The market cost around \$350,000 to design and build.

When the grand opening at the market was held in October, the market was packed with vendors. Lynette Fitzgerald, of Lyn's Special Tees, who creates hand-crafted ladies' clothing from T-shirts, said the opening drew a large crowd that purchased her clothes. She said it looked like everything would get bigger and better from there. But in her two subsequent times setting up there, she found much less traffic and participa-

tion. Like many other vendors, she decided to use other venues instead.

"The concept and what it could offer the community was a great idea," she said. "I'm very, very sur-



Fuiell-Salimia



Fitzgerald

"It was a catch -22, the people would say they want the produce, we would get the farmers in there and the farmers were sitting all day and it's not like the community was running over there buying the produce."

—Ardella Fuiell-Salimia, vendor

prised it's not doing extremely well. I was looking forward to being on a waiting list to get in versus it being closed down."

Ardella Fuiell-Salimia, The Bean Lady, who sells dried heirloom beans and food made from beans, set up weekly at the market because she believed in what it could do for the community. She said after a hopeful opening, participation dropped.

"As the weeks went on and the weather changed, as the season changed, it dwindled down," she said.

The market was originally planned to be open Thursday-Saturday all year-round, but that didn't happen. Even with a glass-enclosed shelter and vendors using the electrical outlets there for space heaters, it was still very cold in the winter. Fuiell-Salimia said there was a mutual decision between management and vendors to take a winter hiatus, starting in December and returning in April, because of the bitter cold and lack of customers. The hiatus, however, had its costs for the fledgling market.

"Those few months of not being open, I think the interest that had built up from the grand opening in October, I think it had dwindled by then," said Fuiell-Salimia. "I think people went back to not knowing the market was there or that it was open or what we were even doing up there."

She said days with special activities held there got good participation, but vendor participation and customers were still down.

One of the goals of the market was to bring fresh produce to the area. Fuiell-Salimia said before the hiatus, there was produce at the market, but after the break, the farmers didn't return. She said one farmer came

See Market on A2

14th ANNIVERSARY

Police Chief Barry Rountree reflects on 9/11

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, Barry Rountree, chief of the Winston-Salem Police Department (WSPD), gave his reflections on the 9/11 terrorist attacks on America.

This Friday, Sept. 11, will mark the 14-year anniversary of the day 19 militants associated with the extremist group al-Qaeda hijacked four airliners and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States.

Rountree's reflections were part of the 9/11 Day of Remembrance organized by the Love Community Development Corporation.

During his speech to the community and members of the WSPD, Rountree asked everyone to think back to what they were doing when they got the news of the attacks.

Rountree, who has been police chief since 2004, said he can recall that he was in Raleigh attending a management course when he heard the news.

"We had just started the class when someone ran in and instructed us to turn on the TV," said Rountree. "Being in a room full of police officers, we all started to call around to see if we could find out any new information that had been left out."

"My thoughts and views on 9/11 is that it was a day of calculation, grief, courage and a day of determination."

Rountree said although the attacks were calculated and caused a lot of grief, they also showed him how much courage and determination the citizens of this country have.

"We should think about the courage and dedication of the first responders, while everyone was running away, the firefighters, the emergency EMS, and the police officers were running into the fire. That's why, in my opinion, it was a day of courage."

Over 3,000 people were killed during the attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., including more than 400 police officers and firefighters. The attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon were the worst terrorist attacks on Americans since Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Rountree believes that although the attacks were meant to destroy America, it only made the country stronger. He went on to applaud everyday citizens for their courage and determination to help fellow citizens on that horrific day.

"It wasn't only just the professionals. There were a number of citizens who risked their own lives to help others," said Rountree. "After seeing all the devastation, we as Americans became determined to become stronger and find out who carried out the attacks."

"We were determined to rebuild. I believe this is the same determination that we have right here with our citizens and first responders in Winston-Salem," Rountree said.

After Rountree's speech, Dr. Kathy Kenney gave her reflections on the day. On the morning of 9/11, Kenney was in New York City, where she was working at the time.

Kenney said it's hard to forget about the things she saw on that clear Tuesday morning, but said the attacks have taught her to become more involved in the community and in improving and securing the quality of life for all Americans.

"We shouldn't just be mourning those we have lost on this day, but we should also use it as a day and time to improve the lives of those who are still here," Kenney



Rountree

See 9/11 on A2

United Way is targeting Carver School Road area with millions in grants

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

United Way of Forsyth County and Neighbors for Better Neighborhood (NBN) are working with local residents in a 13-neighborhood area to improve their community as part of the multimillion-dollar Place Matters Initiative.

United Way selected neighborhoods in and around the Carver School Road area near the



Smith Reynolds Airport where it will be giving grants to groups to fund projects in the area. The neighborhoods are Northwoods Estate, Monticello Park, Ebony Hills, Prospect Park, Wildwood Park, Cardinal Acres, Castle Heights, Spaulding Drive, Eastgate Village, Lakeside, Dreamland, Bowen Park and Ladeara Crest.

The Forsyth United Way Director of

See United Way on A4

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