

Eclipse

First look

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THE CHRONICLE

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Parties come together



Isaiah Fletcher, third vice president of the Forsyth County Democrats, ignites the crowd at a candlelight vigil in Merschel Plaza on Sunday, Aug. 13.



More than 300 people gathered in downtown Winston-Salem on Sunday, Aug. 13 for a candlelight vigil.

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

The unrest in Charlottesville, Virginia, over the weekend has spurred much reaction across the nation and in Winston-Salem.

Mayor Allen Joines on Tuesday released the following statement about the events in Charlottesville over the weekend: "Our city stands with Charlottesville Mayor Mike Singer and his strong leadership as he and his community fight against hate and bigotry. Such actions have no place in our society and must be condemned immediately when they occur. The citizens of Winston-Salem and I are in

solidarity with the people of the great city of Charlottesville."

On Wednesday night, the Ministers' Conference of Winston Salem & Vicinity and Della Brook Presbyterian Church co-sponsored a memorial service for Heather Heyer of Charlottesville, who died on Saturday during unrest there.

Rev. Dr. Lamonte Williams, president of the Ministers' Conference of Winston Salem & Vicinity, said that the faith community of Winston and Vicinity desires to stand in solidarity on the same day with the family and friends of an activist who stood for justice and was slain while stand-

See Vigil on A7

Charlottesville can happen here, religious leaders say

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

The searing images of Neo-Nazis and white supremacists battling on the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia, with counter-protesters on Saturday, culminating in the tragic murder of a young white woman

when a car driven by an alleged Nazi sympathizer slammed into an unsuspecting crowd, are still in the minds and hearts of most African-Americans almost a week later.

"The hate and violence we've witnessed in Virginia is reprehensible and has no place in our society," said U.S. Rep. Alma Adams (D-12-NC). "As a nation, we

Adams

See Charlottesville on A7

HIDDEN TOWN

Old Salem's enslaved and free Africans come to light

This is the first of a three-part series.

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Before Old Salem was restored and turned into one of the most highly acclaimed historic districts in the country, Salem was a budding town that was quickly becoming the central town of Wachovia. Although the early Wachovia Moravians viewed the ownership of enslaved people with apprehension, by the end of the 18th century the number of free and enslaved blacks in Salem continued to grow.

While it is well noted that following the Civil War, freed Africans established the first school for black children, the neighborhood of Happy Hill was established, and the legacy of St. Phillips Moravian Church will live on forever. But, not much else has been recorded about the lives of Africans in Salem during the 18th and 19th centuries.

That is until now. Through continued research, Old Salem Inc. has worked to understand the complicated use of enslaved Africans and their contributions to the growth and development of Salem, all while going unnoticed

in the spaces they lived, worked and played: spaces hidden in plain sight, known as Hidden Town.

Over the next two weeks, The Chronicle will feature a series of articles that will go back in time and tell the untold narratives of Africans in Salem from the inception of the town itself, the Jim Crow Era, and into the 21st century. Since December 2016, a committee of scholars has used resources within Old Salem Museum & Gardens, the MESDA Research Center, the Anne P. and Thomas A. Gray Library and countless other sources to help unveil the secrets of Hidden Town.



Photo submitted by Old Salem Inc.

Members of the Hidden Town Project Committee discuss the project during a recent meeting. The committee, co-chaired by Franklin Vagnone, Cheryl Harry, and Martha Hartley, has been discussing the project since December 2016.

In the early stages of research, the committee found out that the Old Salem Hidden Town Project might be one of the most important archeological sites of the urban enslaved in the country.

During an interview, earlier this summer, Old

Salem Inc. President and CEO Franklin Vagnone said the project has already received attention from the International Chipstone Foundation, a foundation devoted to promoting the study of American material culture. Vagnone said the overall goal of the Hidden

Town Project is to bring lives, names, families, and legacies to life.

"This Hidden Town Project will never end because research will just continue. As far as we're concerned, this is not dead. This is not history. Our

See Hidden on A7

City might help turn former Church's Chicken into Zesto

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem City Council may help fund the transformation of the former Church's Chicken on New Walkertown Road into a new Zesto eatery.

The building, located at 2600 New Walkertown Road, has been vacant since the

Church's Chicken there closed a couple years ago. 2600 NWR, LLC is requesting \$260,000 in Revitalizing Urban Commercial Area (RUCA) funds from the city to upfit the facility into a Zesto franchise location. Zesto is a fast food chain that specializes in hamburgers and ice cream that currently has no locations in the state.

2600 NWR, LLC, which will purchase the property, was started by Goler Community

Development Cooperation to request the RUCA funds, which are used to revitalize commercial property in certain areas of the city. The \$260,000 will be evenly split between a low interest loan and matching loan. The item was unanimously approved in the finance committee this week and will be on the council's consent agenda on Monday, Aug. 21.

See Zesto on A7

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