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Liberty Street Market is revived

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

The City of Winston-Salem is looking to pump new life into the Liberty Street Farmers Market. The market officially opened in 2014 but hasn't been open consistently since 2016, until now. Last week the Urban Food Advisory Council held a grand re-opening for the market located in the heart of a food desert.

A food desert is an area that has limited access to healthy and affordable food. And according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in order to qualify as a food desert in urban areas, at least 500 people or 33% of the population must live more than one mile from the nearest large grocery store.

To address food deserts here in Winston-Salem, in 2017 the Urban Food Advisory Council (UFAC)



Photos by Tevin Stinson

The Liberty Street Farmers Market, 1551 N. Liberty Street, will be open from 4 to 6 p.m. every second and fourth Friday through the end of October.



Granville Farms Inc., was one of several vendors that participated in the grand re-opening of Liberty Street Farmers Market.

was formed to initiate and promote food access throughout the city with particular emphasis on the urban core. Megan Regan, UFAC chair, said the council has been working since its inception on evaluating the Liberty Street Market.

The market, which cost the city \$350,000 to design and build, is comprised of two covered shelters and parking lot. As mentioned earlier, city officials held a grand opening for the market in 2014, but since then many have questioned why it was even built.

Earlier this year the council received a grant

to open the market every two weeks for three months. Regan, who is an economics professor at Wake Forest University, said the grant specifies that the farmers must produce within a five-mile radius of the market. So after reaching out to local farmers and deciding what day and time would work best, the council got to work advertising for the grand re-opening.

"Our goal is to address the food desert situation in this part of town as well as use this space for what it was designed for," Regan said while speaking

with The Chronicle during the grand re-opening last week.

Regan said as we continue to try to navigate through uncertain times, people are paying more attention to issues such as food insecurity and now more than ever communities need to take a serious look at ways to create sustainable neighborhoods.

"Right now with COVID-19 there is stronger awareness of food safety and security provided by small scale local farmers ... as well as really needing to take a look at sustainable

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Kellie Easton running to fill spot as NAACP president with Carlisle stepping down

Grassroots organizer looks to keep local NAACP relevant

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Community activist and grassroots organizer Kellie Easton has put her name in the running to become the next president of the Winston-Salem Chapter of the NAACP. Easton said when she received

word that current president Rev. Alvin Carlisle wasn't running for re-election, she decided to step up and accept the challenge.

"It was always one of my goals but I didn't think it would happen now, so when I learned Carlisle wasn't running, then I gave it some thought," Easton continued. "But I think what really confirmed it for me was reading an article that Melissa Harris-Perry wrote about how to save the NAACP from irrelevance."

In the opinion piece published in the New York Times, Harris-Perry, a professor at Wake Forest University, discussed



Submitted photo

Kellie Easton

several changes that need to happen to ultimately save the organization that was founded in 1909 to

advance justice for African Americans. Easton said at a place in time where there is a huge disconnect between young people and the older generation and some of the traditional organizations, with her experience working with up-and-coming grassroots organizers and local organizations like the NAACP and others, she has what it takes to keep the local chapter of the organization relevant for years to come.

"I have a very solid relationship with a lot of the elders in the community, while at the same time I'm very active in the grassroots community and so I think we all want the same

things but we just haven't been able to bridge the gap," Easton said.

Easton said to stay relevant the organization must be able educate the community and have the ability to apply pressure to the power structure. "I feel like that has a lot to do with the roots of the organization and that's exactly what I feel is needed now," she said.

A native of Winston-Salem and graduate of Morgan State University, Easton is most known throughout the community for her work with Action4Equity, a grassroots organization geared

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