

## WS/FCS installing new virus-fighting air filtration system

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

To help slow the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS) is in the process of installing a new cleaning and filtration system known as Bipolar Ionization at every school in the district.

According to district leaders, the process will provide continuous disinfection. The bipolar ionization process produces positive and negative ions that render any virus inactive. For the process to work, small ionization boxes have been integrated into HVAC systems across the district. Air is drawn into the ionization boxes and moved through a filter before being sent back out as clean air.

WS/FCS is the first district in the state to implement the new air filtration system.

Darrell Walker, WS/FCS assistant superintendent of operations, said other districts across the state have reached out with questions about the process. He said the filtration system will help fight the spread of COVID-19, as well as other viruses like strains of the flu and the common cold.

"We've actually been looking for some processes that we can put in place to make our buildings healthier for some time, not just COVID-19, because we have flu season and allergies and all these things that come along that can create absenteeism with our staff and students," Walker continued. "A former employee brought this to our attention so we started doing our research and we felt like it was a good way to lead into some support for our classrooms."

Ionization boxes have been installed in every el-

ementary school in the district and installation will begin in middle and high schools sometime this week. Boxes have been installed in COVID isolation rooms at every school.

The district used funding from its capital project ordinance and Federal CARES funds to complete the project. The Forsyth County Board of Commissioners provided an additional \$500,000 to complete the installation process.

"I'm really proud of the commitment of those who helped fund this project," Walker said.

"That's what made this work. We had support from our board, we've had support from our county commissioners and then we've utilized some CARES dollars. So we've had kind of three different entities feed into this opportunity, so I'm proud of the fact that we had the support to do this."

## Bohannon chosen to fill vacant school board seat

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Alex Bohannon has been chosen to fill the vacant seat on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools Board of Education.

Bohannon, a native of Winston-Salem and product of the local school system, was one of eight candidates who applied for the vacant District 1 seat left open by Barbara Burke, who was elected to serve on the Winston-Salem City Council. Other candidates included Chenita Barber Johnson, Amaris Carr, Staci Denton, Robert Durrah, and Morticia "Tee-Tee" Parmon. Two applicants were not considered for the vacancy because they don't live in District 1.

The number of candidates was narrowed to three ahead of the meeting on Tuesday night, Bohannon, Parmon and Carr, but before long it became clear that it would come down to Bohannon and Parmon. Before voting, board members had the opportunity to openly discuss their choice for the seat.

Board Chair Malishai Woodbury, who is a Democrat and the only other representative for District 1 on the board, said Parmon would be the best candidate to fill the seat. She said Parmon is a champion for the community who has shown commitment to working across party lines. Parmon filled the vacancy on the council as representative for the Northeast Ward after the death of Councilmember Vivian Burke last year.

Woodbury also discussed Parmon's efforts to help establish learning centers throughout the community and other work to uplift communities in need. "I truly believe Morticia Parmon could serve on this board, work with every last member in a cooperative, fair-minded



Alex Bohannon

Submitted photo

way, and I ask that this board consider my advocacy as a District 1 representative, as someone who lives in District 1," she said.

Elisabeth Motsinger, who is also a Democrat and the longest serving member on the board, said her vote was for Bohannon. She said Bohannon has shown just as much commitment to the district over the years as some board members and that he would bring a younger voice to the board.

She also mentioned Bohannon had gained the support of longtime board member Victor Johnson, who died last week and supported Bohannon when he ran for the District 1 seat in 2018. Johnson served on the board for more than 20 years.

"Mr. Johnson was an avid and strong supporter of Mr. Bohannon," Motsinger continued. "Alex will bring our board a younger voice, a male voice. He would be a good model for our young boys ... and I with whole heart and absolute support would hope that the board would elect Alex Bohannon to serve with us tonight."

Although Woodbury's motion for Parmon did

gain some support from the board, in the end Bohannon was chosen to fill the seat.

Bohannon is a 2017 graduate of Elon University. He currently works as a diversity compliance specialist for the City of Winston-Salem. He unsuccessfully ran for the District 1 seat on the school board in 2018. He finished with 17% of the vote, which was good enough for third behind Burke and Woodbury.

When he was asked about his plans if elected to the board during his campaign, Bohannon said the first order of business would be "to focus intensely on diversity, equity, and inclusion."

"A lot of times diversity isn't just about race and ethnicity, it also includes ability, gender and all these other identities," Bohannon continued. "With the ability piece, we have to ensure students who learn differently from the majority have as much opportunity to be successful as other children."

Bohannon is expected to be sworn in during the board work session on Feb. 9.

## Comfort food soothes the soul

BY MARTHA MURPHY

Nationally recognized author Alan Wolfelt once said: "Food is symbolic of love when words are inadequate."

Food is shared according to complex social values and structures. With or without words, food is a vehicle for expressing friendship, concern, happiness, and love—as when one gives or receives a box of chocolates on Valentine's Day.

In the absence of social connections during the global pandemic, and given how the pandemic has disrupted food production systems, people are finding unique ways to connect to food sources, especially local ones. A new generation of home cooks is emerging as evidenced by empty spice racks and baker's yeast boxes on grocery store shelves.

One of the anticipated outcomes of the pandemic will likely be a renewed commitment to supporting local farmers and food producers, a movement that has already arrived in Winston-Salem.

Recently, the Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership, at the suggestion of a local bartender, started promoting support of locally owned businesses, including restaurants, through the "Take Out Pledge WS" campaign. The partnership is encouraging residents to patronize a local business twice a week.

As it turns out, Arbor Acres in Winston-Salem was ahead of this buy-local curve when, during the height of the pandemic last year, the retirement community's Dining Arts Department made a commitment to support local food vendors and farmers.

Arbor Acres, as part of



Submitted photo

Using bacon purchased from Heritage Farms in Goldsboro and smoked on site, Arbor Acres Executive Chef Daryl Schembeck prepares Stuffed Shrimp & Crab.

its employee benefits program, provides employees with a free lunch every day. Starting last April, Arbor Acres ordered in special appreciation meals each week from local restaurants as a thank you to employees. From Duck Donuts to The Porch to Taqueria Luciano's Food Truck, employees were treated to delicious food options from more than 15 area establishments as a way to support local businesses and show that Arbor Acres cared about them.

Response was so positive that the Dining Arts staff started searching for ways to extend support of local food vendors who could also contribute to the menu offerings available to residents.

One of the first relationships developed was with Faith McKnight, owner of Sweet Truth Bakery & Catering in the Thurmond Boston neighborhood of Winston-Salem, right around the corner from Arbor Acres. Faith continues to bake and deliver each week her specialty "scratch" seasonal cakes and pies to the delight of residents.

Based on enthusiastic responses to Faith's home-cooked baked goods, Arbor Acres started searching for new opportunities

to partner with local businesses and develop long-term relationships in support of "Stay Local, Eat Local."

After a great deal of research, phone calls and socially distanced site visits, Arbor Acres has formalized relationships with additional small businesses. Camino Bakery in Winston-Salem provides baked goods, such as cookies and quiche. San Giuseppe's Salami Co. in Elon supplies cured meats and ham. A variety of cheeses are now coming from Fading D Farms in Salisbury, Goat Lady Cheese in Climax, Ashe County Cheese in West Jefferson, and Red Clay Gourmet Cheese in Winston-Salem. Pork from Heritage Farms in Goldsboro, chicken from Joyce Farms in Winston-Salem, and fresh vegetables from Patterson Farms in Mount Ulla and My Local Greens in Burlington help round out each meal.

In times of uncertainty, we take comfort in knowing that no matter from where it comes, food has the power to soothe the soul.

Martha Murphy is the marketing arts specialist for Arbor Acres Retirement Community, [www.arboracres.org](http://www.arboracres.org).

## ATTENTION CONTRACTORS, SUPPLIERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS!



Participation goals have been established to ensure that small businesses owned and controlled by social and economically disadvantaged individuals have an opportunity to participate in transportation-related contracts in Winston-Salem and the surrounding area.

The goals were set under the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program of the U.S. Department of Transportation and will apply to all federally funded transportation contracts for Winston-Salem, the Winston-Salem Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Winston-Salem Transit Authority.

Join an online meeting to learn more about the goals and how you can participate in the DBE program. You can join the meeting on Mac, PC or mobile device.

### Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Stakeholder Meeting

Thursday, February 4, 2021  
10 a.m. – Noon EST

This meeting will be held using GoToWebinar.

A link to register for the meeting is posted at [tinyurl.com/DBEMeeting](https://tinyurl.com/DBEMeeting)

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Marlene Davis, DBE Liaison, Title VI Coordinator at 336.747.6875 or [marlenedg@cityofws.org](mailto:marlenedg@cityofws.org)



Winston-Salem

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