

# THE CHRONICLE

History | Heritage | Culture

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## WSPD, Police Foundation continue annual book bag giveaway

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Police Department and the Winston-Salem Police Foundation helped hundreds of students prepare for the start of the 2021-2022 school year last week when they distributed book bags filled with school supplies at five different locations.

The Winston-Salem Police Foundation, a charitable non-profit, independent organization designed to provide funding that can be allocated to help strengthen community and police partnerships such as mentoring programs and community outreach events, started hosting the book bag giveaway in 2016. Every year more than 1,000 book bags are distributed. And this year, officers handed out 1,400 book bags.

Officers with the WSPD began the day at the Winston Mutual Building and made stops at Reynolds Commons, South Fork Elementary School, Easton Elementary School, and Atkins High School, located on Old Greensboro Road, to distribute the book bags to students. Each of the book bags was filled with notebooks, pencils and other school supplies.

Retired Chief Barry Rountree joined the officers at Winston Mutual Building. Rountree, who is a founding member of the Police Foundation, said it was good to see the tradition continue.

"We started the foundation to help the community, so it feels good to see this tradition continue," Rountree said. "We love to sponsor events like this to get the officers out in the community to help build strong community relationships."



Photos by Tevin Stinson

Last week officers with the Winston-Salem Police Department (WSPD) distributed 1,400 book bags filled with school supplies. Officers distributed book bags at five different locations.

## Door left open as to future of Hanes-Lowrance campus

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Last week members of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS) Board of Education decided to maintain the former campus of Hanes-Lowrance Middle School, located on Indiana Av-

enue, instead of donating the property to the City of Winston-Salem. But district leaders did leave the door open for partnering with the city to bring some much needed resources to the community.

Here's what we know: last month Winston-Salem City Councilmember Barbara Hanes Burke held a press conference to ask WS/FCS to gift the former campus of Hanes-Lowrance to the city. Burke discussed plans to transform the facility into a "one-stop community center" that would offer several different programs and resources.

"We would like the school to be repurposed and turned into a one-stop transformational, transitional community center," said Burke during the press conference held outside City Hall.



File photo

Hanes-Lowrance Middle School, located on Indiana Avenue.

WS/FCS hasn't used the facility on Indiana Avenue since 2015 when the school board voted to move students out of the building after parents raised concerns about chemicals underneath the school and surround-

ing neighborhoods, even though tests conducted by the city proved the school was safe. Earlier this year the board discussed moving the bus maintenance facility to Indiana Avenue.

The maintenance facility, which is currently

located on Lansing Drive, was sold to TW Garner Foods. Hanes Burke said the people who live in the community have let it be known they don't want the maintenance facility in their neighborhood.

During a school board

meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 10, assistant superintendent Darrell Walker said the district is no longer looking to move the maintenance facility to Indiana Avenue. To move the facility to Indiana Avenue, the property would have to be rezoned for industrial use. Burke, who represents the Northeast Ward where the facility is located, has said on record that she would not approve rezoning of the property.

"Right now the rezoning issue is not on the table, but at a district staff and meeting with Mrs. McManus, we have identified several different capacity needs within the district, from a program perspective," Walker said.

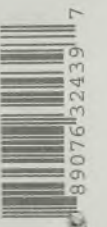
After a brief overview of district needs, Walker suggested that the dis-

See Hanes on A2

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