

The W-Times

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Rally Calls For an End to Senseless Gun Violence



Karen Cuthrell addressing crowd



Nykia Stinson encouraging the crowd



Micha James reminding the community it takes a village

W TIMES STAFF

On Sunday, Oct. 17 The Women's Gun Violence Prevention Coalition, hosted a rally to call for an end to senseless gun violence. During the "Our Opportunity to Love Rally" several individuals, called for community leaders

and elected officials to do their part to help uplift underserved youth. To date, there has 29 homicides in Winston-Salem and hundreds of shootings. The Women's Gun Violence Prevention Coalition, which was started earlier this summer in response to a string of shootings

that involved young people, put the rally together in less than 30 days. Organizers said the rally was a chance to strategize and have a serious conversations about the rise in violent crime. When addressing the crowd at Blum Park, Karen Cuthrell, a member of the coalition and other speakers said the community has the power to stop the violence but they need more resources and support. "We don't want anymore of our citizens dying. We don't want any more of our babies going to jail...we're here today and we have the power to

stop it," Cuthrell said. Effrainguan Muhammad, a local activist and director of 10KFearless, an initiative that focuses equipping youth with conflict resolution skills, said, the only way to stop the violence is with love. "It's our responsibility to make our neighborhoods a safe and decent place. This love that we have here we need to take it to the streets," Muhammad said. For more information on the coalition visit "Women's Gun Violence Prevention Coalition" on Facebook.



Effrainguan Muhammed and David Villadda, long time community activists, explaining the work that is still needed

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Fall Festivals Coming Up



SPECIAL TO W TIMES

Recreation & Parks and the Winston-Salem Police Department

are holding fall festivals this week and next.

A fall festival for adults age 50 and up is being held 10 a.m. to 2

p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, at the Brown and Douglas Recreation Center, 4725 Indiana Ave. There will be games, bingo, live music, line dancing, antique cars and more. Admission is free.

The annual "Trail of Treats," a Halloween-themed community resource fair for elementary-age children and their families, will be Saturday, Oct. 23, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Bolton Park, 1590 Bolton St. More than 25 booths operated by non-profits, community and youth organizations and county agencies will offer games and activities for kids while parents and caregivers learn about resources for their children, such as music programs, scouts and after-school programs. Children are encouraged to come in their Halloween costumes. The movie "Monster House" will be shown at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Five city recreation centers will hold free fall festivals from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, October 28. Kids age 3 and older are invited to dress up in their Halloween costumes and

come to the Carl Russell, Hanes Hosiery, South Fork, William R. Anderson Jr. and Sprague Street centers for games, food, activities and costume contests. Children ages 3 to 10 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information call CityLink 311.

On Saturday, Oct. 30, the Winston-Salem Police Department will partner with the Winston-

Salem Police Foundation and Galilee Missionary Baptist Church to hold a free candy giveaway during a Public Safety Drive-Through Fall Festival, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the church parking lot at 4129 Northampton Drive, Winston-Salem.

This is a drive-through event only; children will not be allowed to walk up. In addition to the candy

distribution, a variety of public safety vehicles will be on display. Kids are encouraged to come in their Halloween costumes.

The Winston-Salem Police Foundation is providing monetary support to purchase candy for the event. Also participating in the festival are the Winston-Salem Fire Department and the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office.

N.C. HOPE Program marks first year with more than a half-billion in rent and utility awards

More than \$461 million already paid to landlords and utilities statewide



SPECIAL TO W TIMES

The N.C. Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions (HOPE) Program marked its Oct. 15 one-year anniversary with more than a half-billion dollars in pandemic relief funds awarded to North Carolina landlords and utility companies on behalf of vulnerable families. In total, HOPE has awarded \$520.2 million to 135,213 families with more than \$461 million of that amount already paid to landlords and utility providers across the state. The HOPE Program continues to rank #2 in the nation for number

of households served, while North Carolina overall ranks #6 for spending of federal Emergency Rental Assistance money. The HOPE Program supports housing stability during the pandemic by preventing evictions and utility service disconnections.

"In its first year, the HOPE Program has helped more than 135,000 North Carolina families stay safe and warm in their homes during the pandemic," said Governor Roy Cooper. "HOPE will continue to pay landlords and utility companies to keep low-income renters in their homes with the lights on as we

recover in the months ahead."

In addition to supporting safe housing during the pandemic, the HOPE Program has provided an economic boost to landlords who experienced financial setbacks due to COVID-19. During the second phase of HOPE that began May 17, the program has mailed checks to 30,727 landlords and more than 5,500 landlords have contacted HOPE to refer tenants. The program continues to accept landlord referrals of tenants struggling to pay rent due to the pandemic. Landlords may submit tenant names and contact information through the HOPE Program website or by contacting the HOPE Call Center at 888-9ASK-HOPE (888-927-5467). A program specialist will then follow up with the tenant to help start the application process.

HOPE is still accepting applications for rent and utility bill assistance from low-income renters in 88 counties. Applicants can apply online at HOPE.NC.gov or call 888-9ASK-HOPE (888-927-5467) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Both English- and Spanish-speaking representatives are available to assist callers.

The HOPE Program is managed by the N.C. Office of Recovery and Resiliency, a division of the Department of Public Safety. To learn more, visit HOPE.NC.gov.

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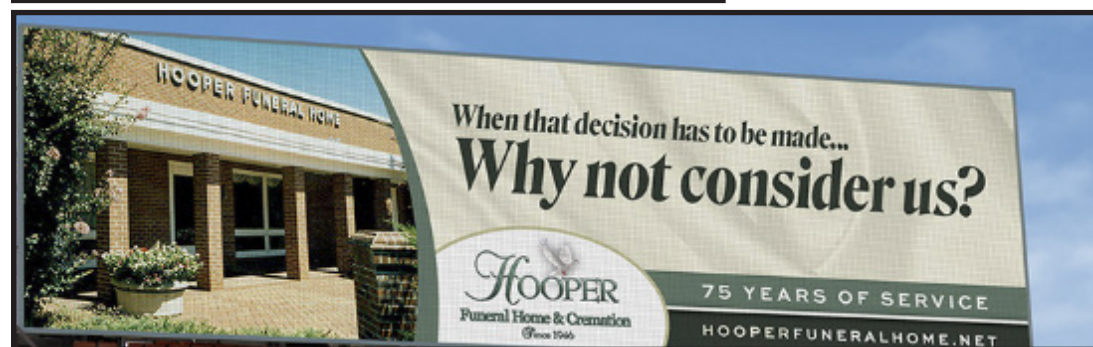
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