

Johnson's civil rights past honored for helping city integrate

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

School Board Member Victor Johnson Jr. is well known as a tireless advocate for kids, but few know of Johnson's past as a Civil Rights warrior.

He was honored Monday night at City Hall by the Mayor Allen Joines and the City Council for his efforts to break down the walls of segregation. In 1960, Johnson was among the group of black and white residents who forced the desegregation of downtown lunch counters.

Johnson, a lifelong educator and mentor, was one of 11

African-American students at Winston-Salem Teachers College who joined forces with ten white students at Wake Forest University in a sit-in on Feb. 23, 1960. The sit-in used peaceful, passive resistance to integrate the lunch counters. It was a unique sit-in because both blacks and whites took part.

The students faced intimidation, the threat of violence and long jail sentences, but they persisted. Three months after the sit-ins began, city officials and store managers reached an agreement on May 23, 1960 to desegregate city lunch counters. Winston-Salem is believed one of the first Southern

cities to have made that decision.

Johnson was recognized in 2000 at the "Leadership and Civil Rights" program sponsored by Wake Forest and Winston-Salem State universities, and participated in the documentary, "I'm Not My Brother's Keeper: Leadership and Civil Rights in Winston-Salem, North Carolina."

Each February, Mayor Joines honors a local African-American who contributed greatly to the success of the Civil Rights Movement. Johnson joins the ranks of past honorees like the late Carl H. Russell Sr., Nelson Malloy and Larry Little.



Saving

from page A5

deposit, she plans to add her 2008 refund to and get another credit line advanced to her. "My credit score was lower than 600 when I started, now I am at 653," according to Tawana.

For individuals who do not have a savings or refund amount to deposit into the shared secured account, Truliant provides another option - a Shared Secure Credit Builder. Truliant will advance you \$300 to deposit into your savings account. A hold is placed on the savings account until you pay back the line of credit with interest; this is the easiest way to improve your credit rating. After you repay the amount advanced to you, the line will be available to you as you wish or can leave the \$300 in your savings account and continue to use the line of credit as you need it.

This year, Twana plans to finance a car from Truliant since rebuilding her credit scores.

Marjorie Rorie is director of Community Services for Truliant Federal Credit Union, a not-for-profit, financial institution that provides affordable financial services to its member-owners. For questions, contact her at 336-293-2054.

