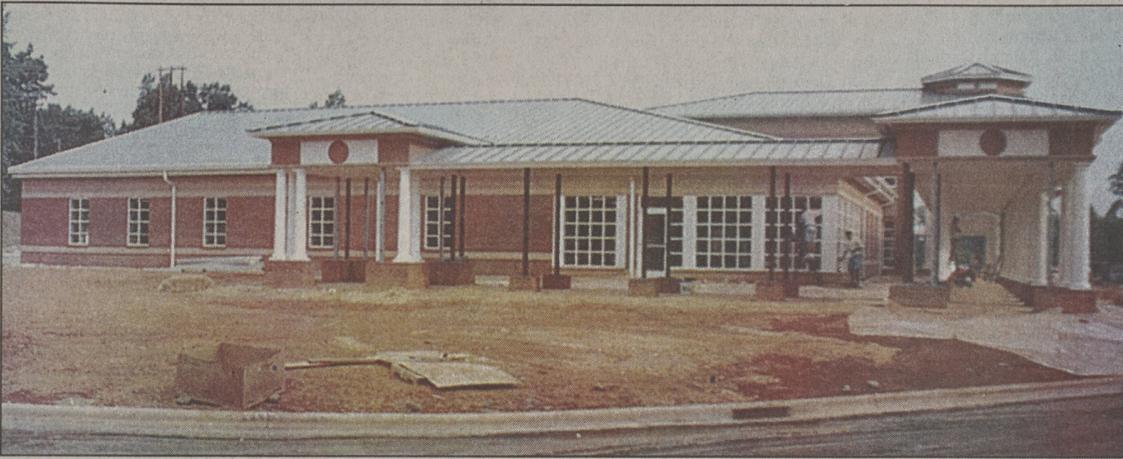


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"This is like a welcome center to Kings Mountain"
 -Aging Director Monty Thornburg



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
 The new H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center is nearing completion on East King Street at Canterbury Road. The Kings Mountain Senior Center, which is now located in the old Southern Railroad Depot, will be moving into the new building sometime in October.

Second to None

New KM senior center nearing completion

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Pinnix Construction is putting the finishing touches on the new \$2.75 million H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center on East King Street, and as soon as paving, landscaping and traffic signalization projects are complete senior citizens on this end of the county will have a facility that is second to none.

Aging Director Monty Thornburg and Mayor Rick Murphrey estimate that senior citizens will occupy the building sometime in October. A formal dedication and open house will be held for the 16,806-square foot facility which sits on a 7 1/2-acre tract owned by the City.

The spacious building has been in the planning stages for almost two years. It started off as a 12,000-square foot, \$1.3 million facility but Mayor Murphrey said since the Center is the first thing people will see as they come into town off the Interstate, city officials wanted it to be a "showplace."

That concept, of course, increased the price but by

adding features not in the original design it also increased the opportunities available to senior citizens and the community at large.

"This is like a welcome center to Kings Mountain," says Thornburg. "This is something that can be used by the whole community."

"If you're going to do something like this, you need to do it right," Murphrey added. "You want to build it for the future."

"When we started to design the building, we wanted to do something everybody can be proud of," the mayor added. "We wanted to make a statement that we're a community of caring people."

The new center, named for deceased Kings Mountain businessman and community leader H. Lawrence Patrick, will allow senior citizens to utilize the building all day if they wish. Currently, because of limited space (4,000 square feet) at the old Southern Railroad Depot on N. Battleground Ave., programs have to be scheduled into certain time slots.

"Senior Citizens can come here early in the morning to

take advantage of new exercise rooms and programs, eat lunch, and then stay the rest of the day for more activities, if they want to," Murphrey said.

The spacious new building is impressive, to say the least. While the outside architecture,

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GARY STEWART / HERALD
 Mayor Rick Murphrey and Aging Director Monty Thornburg in front of new senior center on King Street.

KMBPA letter may violate election laws

By GARY STEWART
 Editor of The Herald

Whether or not a letter sent out to members of the Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association by its president and City Council candidate, Bernice Chappell, violated State elections rules had not been determined at The Herald's deadline yesterday, but it has drawn the ire of a couple of Council candidates.

In the letter inserted into the monthly newsletter packet to the 74 KMBPA members, Chappell mentioned that she and Board member Gary Cooke were candidates for City Council, and promised that she would do "the best job I can for all the people of Kings Mountain if I am elected."

The letter did not mention any of the other candidates. The packet did include a separate sheet that listed all of the candidates in the November 6 election, but the name of mayoral candidate Jim Belt was listed as John Belt, and the name of At-Large candidate Jerry Mullinax was listed as Jerry Hamrick.

Chappell is a candidate for one of two At-Large seats, and Cooke is running against incumbent Clavon Kelly, Ken Hamrick and Wayne Worcester

in Ward 3.

Chappell is on vacation in Montana but called The Herald and said she made a mistake and will be apologizing to the other candidates in next month's newsletter.

"When I was getting ready to leave town I was finishing up the newsletter, and I realized after I mailed it that I left them out," Chappell said.

Chappell said she writes a monthly letter to the KMBPA members, and the letter was intended to announce her candidacy. She said she included Cooke at the end because she had "extra space."

"I really feel terrible about it," she said. "I knew when I left town it wasn't going to look good. I was just in a hurry to get out of town."

"I'm new at politics," she added. "It was a complete oversight on my part and I'll correct it. I have a lot of apologizing to do."

Rick Moore, who is in the At-Large race with Chappell, incumbent Gene White, Mullinax, and Glenn Carroll, is the owner of Timms Furniture and is a member of the KMBPA. He called the letter a "dirty tactic."

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County asks KM to donate building

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

Jobs could be coming. After a four-hour discussion Friday at City Hall with county leaders and John Barker Realty, the city voted to sell its approximately \$230,000 interest in the building formerly occupied by ABB Combustion.

Barker Realty was representing Clancy and They's, who is currently paying the bonds on the ABB building.

City of Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey said the

figure was the difference between two separate appraisals.

One of the hurdles to finishing a deal is that the building's lease rate would be well above the current market value for the space.

In 1984, the building was expanded to bring more jobs to the area with the financing coming through the Kings Mountain Development Corporation, which allowed tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds with a

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BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD
 Randy Conner prepares a board for further use during the Project Playground first build day.

Playground construction underway

By BEN LEDBETTER
 Staff Writer

Regardless of Tuesday's rain and mud, the Project Playground Committee's first build day went on as planned at its Cleveland Ave. site.

The city has earmarked \$250,000 for the construction of a playground at the site of Jake Early Field, which is on YMCA property.

The Project Playground committee has also raised money for additional equipment for the site.

The new playground, which is expected to be completed by Sunday, will have a separate area for younger children and older children.

A pirate ship with a moat, xylophones, a model village, slides and other play equipment are some of the things that are scheduled to be part of the playground.

Earlier this year, city officials toured Kings Mountain elementary schools with a representative from New York firm Leathers & Associates to solicit ideas for a design.

Leathers & Associates supervises builds of community-funded playgrounds.

"I really thought people's spirits were going to be dampened," Committee Volunteer Chairman Michelle Lynch said. "But they have just been willing and ready to work. I'm actually very shocked."

Lynch said the rain from Monday night and Tuesday Morning kept her up all night thinking about the rain's effect on the build. "I'm going strictly on adrenaline," Lynch said. "I'm getting my second wind."

Lynch was in charge of signing people in and making sure they get to their respected

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KM man murdered after concert

Kings Mountain Police and State Bureau of Investigation are interviewing a host of residents this week hoping to learn something about the early Sunday morning shooting death of a mentally handicapped 19-year-old.

Justin Wade Braswell of 105 Herman Court, was shot in the lower back while walking from a late Saturday night concert at City Hall to his grandmother's house on North Carpenter Street.

Braswell, a student at North Shelby School which serves Cleveland County students with special needs, was alive when

police arrived on the scene but was pronounced dead on arrival at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

According to Detective Maurice Jamerson of Kings Mountain Police Department, Braswell was walking on Ridge Street near the intersection with North Carpenter Street when he was shot.

Jamerson said KMPD received a call from neighbors in reference to a possible drunk man lying in the roadway. When police arrived, they found that Braswell was not drunk but had been shot. EMS arrived moments later.

"He was alive at the time," Jamerson said, "and he mentioned to one of the officers something to the effect that the 'brown people' did it." Jamerson said he found out later from talking to Braswell's family that he referred to Black people as "brown people."

Jamerson said police have also learned that Braswell recently was involved in an altercation with "a couple of Mexicans" in the area, and police are checking that out also.

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