

LOCAL

COUNCIL

From 1A

Completing the main water line project from Moss Lake to town and back, as well as downtown revitalization, and economic development are among the top priorities of the office-seekers.

"My main priority for a long time has been the water line," Spears said. "We have a five-year plan now. If we can get some of that in place it would be big. Then, I'd like to see the downtown grow and do better. I don't know how we can help that a whole lot, but it can be helped by the merchants association. Then, I'd like to see us maintain the same tax base."

"I'd like to see the water line completed," Shipp said. "That's right up there with downtown revitalization as my major projects. And I have some people in Ward 1 that live on Lake Montonia Road. We were able to get them water down there but we haven't been able to get them their sewer and I'd like to see that happen. I'd also like to keep the city's economy on firm footing. We've been getting a good budget report ever since I've been on the Council and I'd like to see that continue so we can keep the city financially stable."

Moore, who previously served four years at-large, said one of the reasons he is running in Ward 5 is to fight for sewer services on the west end of town.

"There are people still on septic tanks and the city needs to go ahead and run sewage out there," he said.

Also, Moore advocates a lower property tax, lower utility rates and annexation of the Cleveland County Industrial Park.

"When I was on the board previously we looked at that and the county came in and asked us to give them a five-year option on not doing anything so they could get the industrial park going and filled up. It looks like it's time to start looking at that. If we don't, then eventually to have the services that people expect in this town they're probably going to raise fees and

taxes, and I'm against that. If the city is going to run services out there, then everybody that's in the city limits should receive those services too."

Butler, completing his first term representing Ward 2, spoke highly of the success the current Council had creating jobs during the past two years.

"I'd love to see Chris Craft, Indian Motorcycle, Telerx and the other industries get going good," he said. "It's been a good two years. I've learned a lot and there's a lot more I'd like to do for the next two years. I believe we're getting in good shape and I just want to keep it going."

Mullinax, completing his fourth term in Ward 3, said even though employment opportunities have increased during the past two years "I hope it can be even better to create a better quality of life for the citizens of Kings Mountain."

Mullinax said he stands on his record. "I pledge to keep a close count on wasteful spending and improve the quality of life and infrastructure...make things work for the citizens and not against them. I pledge to continue moving forward with progress and continue the growth of Kings Mountain."

Continuing a strong economic program is important to Gordon, who is completing his first term as Ward 4 representative.

"When you start talking about economic development and making Kings Mountain a better place to live, it takes time," he said "Two years is really not enough time, in my opinion, to close out a lot of deals."

"A lot of things have changed. Kings Mountain is not a textile town anymore and finding our place in society and in the community is really what we want to do - try to move in the right direction. A lot of good things are happening."

"I feel honored to be able to serve," he said. "I've always said I'm a businessman. I'm not a politician. The city is big business and I'm committed to run the town like a business."

He said he feels the current board is proactive, not reactive, and he likes it that way.

Grapevine gets rent incentive grant

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Mountaineer Partnership, Inc. announced recently that The Grapevine, A Unique Marketplace, at 225 S. Battleground Avenue, has received the first Rent and Utility Incentive Grant.

"Downtown revitalizers" started the grant program in May to help attract and support new commercial enterprises, who either wish to start-up, relocate or expand into the Municipal Service District of downtown Kings Mountain.

The Grapevine, which opened on April 25, 2007, received a rent incentive grant of up to \$1,500 to offset the costs of rent over the next three months. MPI is offering two grants to the downtown business sector. One grant is worth a maximum of \$1,500 and will be used to pay the business'

rent over a three month period. The other grant, worth a maximum of \$500, will be used to pay the business' utility bills over a three month period.

"It is the Mountaineer Partnership's way of saying that downtown wants new businesses and that we support their endeavors," said MPI Executive Director Caroline Dover. "Not only is it an important recruitment tool, it gives downtown Kings Mountain the edge over other downtowns in the area."

According to the Rent & Utility Grant Incentive Program, it is designed to "encourage a mixture of professional, retail, and restaurant/entertainment businesses that compliment the daytime work force, as well as nighttime visitors. Any applicant is eligible for the Rent & Utility Incentive Program; however, they must be located in the MSD." Details of the program

further state that, if approved, "the applicant must sign a letter of intent to remain in the downtown district for at least one year."

If the contract agreement is broken by the business, for instance they decide to close down before 12 months, they may be liable for repayment of the grant. Although the grant will provide monetary assistance, no money will change hands between the grant-recipient and MPI. According to the guidelines of the grant program, MPI will make the rent payments directly to the landlord or mortgage company and will make the utility payments each month directly to the city of Kings Mountain.

The Grapevine Marketplace sells gently used teen and 20-somethings clothing, as well as handmade jewelry, pottery, and vintage recycled decor.

Grapevine owner Wanda Garcia said, "I am very pleased with the reception that I have received from the Kings Mountain community, and, with the Partnership's help, I will continue to thrive as I expand my business."

For more information about Grapevine, visit grapevinemarketplace.com. To apply, pick up an application on-line at mtnpartnership.com or swing by the MPI office on Battleground Avenue.

According to MPI, "The city of Kings Mountain offers three separate grants for properties located in the Downtown MSD: a Facade Grant, Utility Abatement Grant, or a Downtown Incentive Grant (based on job creation)." For more information, contact city Director of Planning Steve Killian at (704) 734-4596.

FOOD INSPECTIONS

Cleveland County Health Department food inspections. **Denotes 2 extra points when an employee attended a food-handling class. SF denotes that the facility is smoke-free.

- Restaurants
Linwood Rest., Cleveland Ave., Kings Mountain, 92.
Swooger Shack, Shelby Rd., Kings Mountain, 97 SF.
New China, E. King St., Kings Mountain, 84.5.
New China, E. King St., Kings Mountain, re-inspection, 92.
The Oasis Cafe, Cleveland Regional Hospital, E. Grover St., 100** SF.
Wal-Mart Deli/Bakery, 99** SF.
Wal-Mart Produce, 100** SF.
School cafeterias
KM Middle, Phifer Rd., Kings Mountain, 99**SF.
KM Intermediate, KM Blvd., Kings Mountain, 99.5** SF.

Summer Specials advertisement for Quadra-Fire featuring wood stoves, pellet stoves, gas fireplaces, and Sofpools. Includes images of products and promotional text like 'Purchase A Qualifying Quadra-Fire Wood Stove or Fireplace and receive a FREE STIHL Chainsaw'.

Essure advertisement for permanent birth control. Includes a photo of a woman, text describing the procedure, and contact information for Women's Care in Kings Mountain and Boiling Springs.