

LOCAL

# Gateway Trails coming to life

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The ground is stirring around Martin Marietta's property at Quarry Road and Battleground Avenue. The white picket fence has been repainted. A new sign will go up soon.

In bold letters, the four foot by eight foot double-sided sign will read: "Kings Mountain Gateway Trail; FUTURE SIGHT."

After the sign is up, a large gate will be added to the side road entrance - the gateway to a trail that will one day lead a biker, hiker, runner or walker from downtown Kings Mountain to three national and state parks, one of which the town's own namesake, Kings Mountain National Military Park.

Over the past year, members of the Kings Mountain Gateway Trails, Inc., have seen a surge in activity. Their dream is slowly becoming a reality. HadenStanziale Consultants have joined forces with Gateway Trails, Inc., to speed that dream to life. They have designed parking, rest room, and picnic areas for the trail head.

Martin-Marietta submitted a memorandum of understanding to the Gateway Trails on Tuesday afternoon, outlining that they

will let them use their land when the time comes. It was signed with gusto by Gateway President David Ozmore, Vice President Shirley Brutko, Secretary Rosemary Suess and Treasurer Mitch Johnson.

But Martin-Marietta may offer more than just their land for the trail. They may provide boulders to adorn part of the access area.

With the help of Crowder's Mountain State Park, Gateway Trails was able to do a global GPS survey of the land. The survey lets them pinpoint the exact trail.

Brutko said that they are looking at grant possibilities and may be in-line to receive a \$500,000 matching grant. "We've been given close to 5 miles for Phase 1 of the trail," she added.

Ozmore said that Phase 1 is a \$1.5 million project. They have plans to start a large fund raising effort this fall, which will continue through 2008.

But with everything lining up, there is still something missing - the public's input. Gateway Trails has planned a public meeting on October 22 at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Center at 6 p.m. "This will be a time for the public to give their input," Brutko said, adding that they want as many people to attend as



Ellis Noell, left, and Bobby Horne stand at the former entrance to Martin Marietta, which will become the trail head for the Gateway Trail.

possibly can. After all, the trail is for everyone.

A groundbreaking for the trail head at the corner of Battleground Avenue and Quarry Road is set for November 15 at 4 p.m. Gateway Trails will be recognizing both mining com-

panies, Martin-Marietta and Chemetall Foote, at the groundbreaking for their efforts in this long project.

Immediately following the groundbreaking, Gateway Trails will have another public meeting from 5 p.m.-until at the Joy

Performance Center. Both of the meetings will be led by HadenStanziale Consultants and Gateway Trails, Inc.

Many of the grants available are based on public participation.



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

Todd Martin, left, was sworn in recently as Grover's second police officer. He has joined the force part-time. Left-right: Martin, Mayor Robert Sides, and Chief Tommy Carroll.



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