

## LOCAL

# KM to focus on capital improvements in '08

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Improvements to infrastructure and city property will be a big focus of City Council in the year 2008, according to Mayor Rick Murphrey.

While area cities, and states even, will likely be taking steps to ensure there's enough water to go around because of the recent drought, Kings Mountain will be continuing to work on ways to ensure there's enough water for the Kings Mountain area for more than 50 years into the future.

Early in the year the city will begin dredging the upper end of Moss Lake, but that will be just one of its emphasis on improving the amount and quality of water for years to come.

The city will be continuing preliminary work to replace the 24-inch water line from Moss Lake to town with a 36-inch line. Two phases of that project were completed several years ago. Murphrey said some right-of-way work has already taken place, and the city's plan now is to have the entire project completed in 2011.

"We'll also be continuing work on an additional impoundment," Murphrey stated, referring to the idea of a smaller lake near Moss Lake that would help take care of water needs in the future. The city will continue to work with HDR of Charlotte, the Army Corps of Engineers and the State of North Carolina on design, location and construction costs with the goal of com-

pleting the project in eight years.

Another big water project to be planned in 2008 will be repair and possible replacement of the spillway at Moss Lake.

"We have some major renovations that have to be done at the spillway and a tremendous amount of water line to install, and we're looking at a goal of 2011," Murphrey said. "This year we'll also be looking at the safety of Moss Lake to see if we can draw out more water and find out the very minimum we can send down Buffalo Creek."

The city should begin planning an expansion to the Patrick Senior Center during this year, Murphrey said.

"The usage continues to increase there," he said. "We'll be reviewing expanding out the Senior Center. We've looked at it already and will be evaluating the size, and at this time it looks like there's about \$800,000 to \$900,000 worth of expansion that will be required. We'll look at that and study the engineering with possible construction in 2009."

City Council will also continue to aggressively seek new business and industry.

"The last four to five years the city has worked with the State and County EDC and we were able to secure over one hundred million dollars worth of industrial investment and over 2,000 jobs," Murphrey noted. "We are continuing to have prospective customers visit our city. I think we'll have some announcements of new industry coming to the community."

Murphrey said the city's loca-

tion between two major highways, and its rates make it very attractive to industry.

"And there are not many communities with the population of Kings Mountain with hospitals, senior centers, recreation and quality of life programs like we have," he said. "They all come together for a very good package in promoting the town. It's really an easy community to sell."

Other projects for 2008 include:

- Putting in new sidewalks from Cansler Street and King Street to Phifer Road.

- Renovations at Mauney Memorial Library.

- Working on the city's wholesale contract with Duke Energy. The current rate is good through December 31, 2008 and the city hopes to soon finalize an agreement for 2009.

- Expansion of infrastructure to the new Ingles Market on Shelby Road, Kings Crossing sub-division, Horizon Travel Plaza, and Beason Creek sub-division.

- Expansion of lighting on King Street and Waco Road.

- Installation of underground lighting on Mountain Street and additional lighting on King Street and Waco Road.

- Repainting poles and traffic signals in the downtown area.

- Upgrading of the SCADA System which monitors all components of the electric and gas systems.

Looking back to 2007, Murphrey said the city was able to accomplish a lot due to a

"team effort" by members of City Council.

Some included:

- New lighting and poles at City Stadium.

- Setting up an "Energy Depot" online to help residential customers reduce their energy demands.

- New welcome banners on King St. and Highway 161.

- Repaired and repainted the city's water storage tanks at Pubic Works and on Grace St.

- Adopted an overlay ordinance to protect and enhance the main corridors coming into town.

- Signed an energy performance contract with Siemens that should save the city over \$3 million over a 12-year period.

- Purchased additional land

near Patriots Park which will allow future expansion of the popular downtown park.

- Received a Community Development Block Grant of \$400,000 to install sewer in the Westover area and a \$700,000 grant for sewer and housing rehabilitation on Galilee Church Rd.

- Had over 50 new residences and five new commercial customers tap on to the gas system.

- Worked with Gateway Trails to connect the future trail to the three area state and national parks.

- Upgraded lighting at Patriots Park, Public Works, Margrace Road, Phifer Road, West Gold, I-85, and Highway 161.

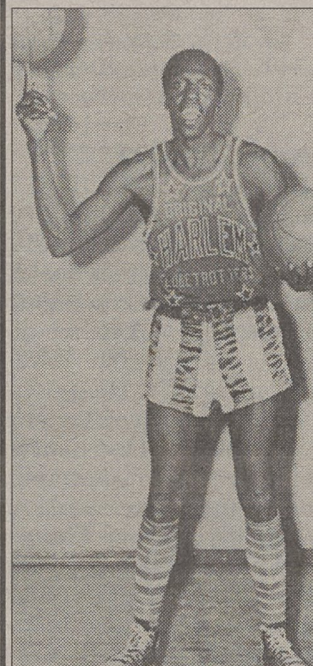
## MEET THE GREATEST BASKETBALL PLAYER OF ALL TIME!

Gastonia, NC • Harlem Globetrotter Meadowlark Lemon Will Be At Kia of Gastonia This Saturday

Growing up in North Carolina during World War II, Meadow Lemon dreamed of being a comedian or a basketball player. The Harlem Globetrotters allowed him to be both at the same time. Lemon joined the Trotters, basketball's slap-happy road show, in 1954 and played several thousand games over the next 25 years while acquiring the nickname "The Clown Prince of Basketball."

Deft ball-handling and hook shots from half court were highlights of Lemon's act. As the Globetrotters' center, he was the hub of their frenetic passing game and led many stunts, including a medicine ball-basketball switch, the rubber-banded foul shot, plays from football and baseball formations, and a water-bucket trick that ended with Lemon dousing members of the audience with confetti.

Wilt Chamberlain, Lemon's teammate for one season in the late 1950's, said that Lemon was the most incredible athlete he'd ever seen because of Lemon's ability to swish 30-foot hooks "as if he had a magnet drawing the ball to the basket."



Meadowlark Lemon  
Center, Harlem Globetrotters  
Basketball Hall of Famer

Born April 25, 1933, in Lexington, South Carolina, Lemon was raised in Wilmington, North Carolina, where he was the best basketball player the town had seen until Michael Jordan came along three decades later. Lemon made all-state in football and basketball at Williston High School. His intrigue with the Globetrotters began when he saw the film *The Harlem Globetrotters*.

He wrote the team to request a tryout even before finishing high school. Before he got the chance to try out, though, he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952 and served two years in West Germany. During one of the Trotters' visits to Europe, he contacted Globetrotters owner Abe Saperstein, who allowed him to practice with the team.

In 1954, Lemon officially joined the Globetrotters and eventually added "lark" to his first name. During a quarter-century with the Trotters, Lemon played a grueling schedule lasting eight months and nearly 300 games a year. His teammates included luminaries such as Marques Haynes and Curly Neal as well as a host of sidekicks with names like Tarzan, Goose, and Showboat. He retired from the Globetrotters in 1979 and was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2003.

## Legion to help disabled vets

The American Legion has partnered with the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes in an effort to distribute \$500 grants to service members who have a 30 percent or higher disability rating as a result of injuries sustained while serving in the theaters of operations for Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom. The American Legion will distribute a total of \$500,000 to veterans meeting the criteria.

The applicants need to address a letter with his/her name, mailing address, street

address, phone number requesting a \$500 grant. The applicant should send a copy of DD 214 and letter verifying at least 30% service connected disability. A scanned letter and DD 214 is acceptable for e-mailing purposes.

The above information should be e-mailed, due to first come, first served, to Frank Stancil, Department Adjutant at ncl legion@nc.rr.com; faxed to 919-832-6428, or mailed to The American Legion, Department of North Carolina, P.O. Box 26657, Raleigh, NC 27611

(phone 919-832-7506).

For more information call Carol McCraw at Cleveland County Veterans' Service office at 704-484-4803.

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