

City

Continued from Page 1

New Year 2011 is an election year for Kings Mountain. Terms of Mayor Rick Murphrey, Mayor Pro-Tem Rodney Gordon, Ward I Councilman Rev. Howard Shipp, Ward 5 Councilman Rick Moore, and At Large Councilman Houston Corn are expiring.

New Year 2011 will see the opening in mid-January of one new restaurant downtown (Center Street Tavern and Smokehouse) and two others (Old Stone Steakhouse and Battleground Bar and JAX Back Street Tavern) with more jobs coming, not only for construction workers, but also full time employees.

One of the "biggies" that the city is involved in, along with the county, is its fiber optics project. RST Communications started laying its fiber-optic network underground in February.

This system will one day provide ultimate broadcasting services for cable television, and internet with ultra high speed connectivity, and among other high tech accomplishments energize a 260-plus acre data center in King Mountain.

Infocrossing, a part of Wipro Ltd., nicknamed the Microsoft of India, has purchased the former Chris Craft building from Atlanta based T5 Partners, and technology may sprout five or six new data centers in the near future off Countryside Drive. City and county leaders and Gov. Bev Purdue, present for the industry announcement, called it a new route for the future.

The mayor said that over the last 10 years grants totaling \$5 million have been awarded to bring jobs, rehabilitate and replace wastewater collection lines. And in the last year with the collaboration and leadership of Mountaineer Partnership Inc. and a city Main Street designation, over a half million in grants have been awarded for reuse/rehabilitation and new business.

During the past year the city annexed 149 homes and 482 acres in six separate annexations, awarded industrial incentive grants to new industry Solaris and longtime industry Patrick Yarns, and awarded seven facade grants for downtown revitalization.

The City of Kings Mountain was also recipient of grants, including a major 911 up grade at the Kings Mountain Police Department, a fire department grant, also bicycle route planning and three walking routes.

Residential areas saw growth in 2010 - at Crocker Ridge, Eagle Gate, Hall Crossing and the addition of 94 units of housing - Cleveland Falls and Cleveland Ridge (across from Mountain Rest Cemetery) and Cherokee Street Apartments.

Hospice House opened on Kings Mountain Boulevard, a much needed facility for the Kings Mountain community, and Duke Power Training Center at Cleveland County Industrial Park head a long list of newcomers to the community expected to open up a wide area of Southwest Kings Mountain for business in the years to come. Patriot Jack's opened in the old Herald building, Park Yarn and STI expanded, the old Sadie Mill was sold, and small businesses got a shot in the arm with grants and incentives.

Solaris Industries, an international tubing company locating at 133 Industrial Drive, will bring a potential of 40 jobs in the next three years to Kings Mountain and taxable investment of \$3.2 million. Qual-Tech, at the end of Quality Lane on York Road, is investing over \$2 million in state-of-the-art equipment, creating five new jobs for skilled workers and expecting to hire 25-30 employees in the next 18 months.

A new lithium hydroxide plant to produce very high purity lithium materials for next generation transportation batteries is proceeding from preparation to construction by Rockwood Holdings Inc. at Chemetall Foote in Kings Mountain. A total federal (stimulus funds) grant of \$28.4M went to Foote in 2009.

Southern Power is progressing in construction at its site off Grover Road to supply both potable and raw/gray water for the production of electricity.

Downsizing happened for numerous Kings Mountain people as they moved into smaller quarters and into new apartments currently leasing space.

"Going green" became popular.

The City of Kings Mountain will begin New Year 2011 with "single stream" recycling in January after receiving a \$100,000 grant. The mayor said the blue containers are here but as of this week a new garbage truck had not arrived. The mayor said that city crews will begin the new recycling with one of its older truck models.

He said the new year will also see improved street lights - from mercury vapor to sodium - to become more energy efficient. The city is also partnering with industries like Patrick Yarns who are interested in generating electricity with solar energy. Council recently adopted a regeneration electric rate and Patrick will be selling back the kilowatts it produces to the city.

The mayor is obviously proud that the city has enjoyed a perfect audit for 11 years in a row and mayor pro-tem Gordon said that in spite of a struggling economy the City of Kings Mountain, under the leadership of Sellers and council, had retained its 200 member staff of employees without a layoff or furloughs. Sellers has continued to freeze hiring and made cuts internally, praising the employees for team work.

Two areas of the city were named on the National Register of Historic Places - the Margrace Village area and West End (west Kings Mountain) areas of town.

As an economic development tool, the city also maintains a website which maps available industrial sites.

Christmas came in July for 22 families on Grover Road as the city awarded contract for a new water line to serve residents whose wells dried up. The city applied for and got a grant to take clean water to that area of town.

Kings Mountain Rescue Squad broke ground for a new home on Shelby Road, a project that has been in the making for 20 years.

MLK observance in KM Jan. 17 at Joy

The City of Kings Mountain will host the annual Martin Luther King Day observance on Monday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m. at the Joy Performance Center in downtown Kings Mountain.

The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Lamont Littlejohn of Mount Calvary Baptist Church.

A rendition of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered originally at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, will be performed by Lester Williams.

Guest soloist will be Shana Adams and guest choir will be Mount Calvary Baptist Church featuring Lyrical dancers. Donna Huie-Brooks will be emcee.

A look back at 2010

We had our share of crime

Several stories caught our attention in 2010, including stories of crimes and unfortunate accidents.

An early morning fire on Sunday, Jan. 31st, gutted the chapel of J.W. Gill & Sons Funeral Home, extensively damaging the interior of the building. Eighty percent of the structure was reportedly destroyed.

The fire started in a front room around a space heater, which malfunctioned, causing it to overheat the wall behind the heater, according to Chief Frank Burns. No one was in the building at the time.

Shamar Javon Byers, 30, of 111 School St., was arrested and charged with murder Jan. 4th, in the death of 42-year-old John Allen Pettis that occurred in the Long Branch community.

Within hours after the Movie Gallery was robbed on Feb. 12, Kings Mountain Police had identified and arrested three suspects. Brothers Brandon Scott Mills, 22, and Stephen Edward Mills, 24, and Kylie Ann Dorman, 22, were arrested and charged in the robbery. In June, Cleveland County Superior Court Judge Forrest Bridges sentenced Brandon Scott Mills to six-to-eight years in prison; Dorman was given a five-month split sentence; and, Stephen Mills, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon was also given prison time for the robbery.

In an unrelated case, Judge Bridges also sentenced Drayshawn Raymond

Banner and Samuel Aleko Jenkins, both 16, to prison for the October 2009 robbery of Scott's Jewelry and the assault on the 77-year-old jewelry store owner.

In March, Stacey Hopper, 22, of Grover, was arrested for hauling nearly 600 pounds of marijuana along an interstate in Louisiana. Police allegedly found 583 pounds of marijuana in a U-Haul truck Hopper was driving.

Grover Police Department netted a substantial drug bust for the town on the night of March 19th, during a traffic stop. Police pulled over Marquis Lebrone Adams, 33, of 529 Crocker Rd., after they say he failed to stop at a stop sign on Laurel Ave. A search of the vehicle allegedly led officers to over a pound of marijuana, loaded guns and cocaine.

In a tragic case, Joseph Crosby was arrested and charged with the murder of his wife, Gaylain Degree Crosby, who spent her 23-year career counseling those in trouble. Cleveland County Sheriff's deputies said that Joseph Crosby called 911 in the wee hours of Aug. 14, to report that he "may have killed his wife". Family and friends were shocked at the news and saddened at the loss of the couple.

Three women - a mother and two daughters - were jailed on felony drug charges in October, the second drug bust to land a total of six in jail in two weeks. Peggy Strickland Jones, 71, Lisa Jones, 43, and Penny Jones Perry, 49, were arrested at their home on Oak

Grove Rd., where more than 300 pills of Xanax, as well as opium, pill crushers and hand scales were allegedly seized.

Eleven people faced a total of 38 felony drug charges in a sting operation codenamed "Operation Fall Harvest" carried out in November. More warrants are pending. The sting targeted sellers of narcotics and Police Det. Sgt. Lisa Proctor said the operation could not have been completed without the help of Kings Mountain citizens who have joined together with police in a crack-down on illegal drugs.

KM Police identified the two men they suspect were behind the Fidelity Bank heist on Nov. 22. Warrants were issued for 32-year-old Philip A. Purdue, of 212 Johnson St., Buffalo, NY, and 19-year-old Gregory K. Young, of 135 Butler Ave., Buffalo, NY, for armed robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery.

Purdue allegedly entered the bank and, wielding a black, semi-automatic handgun demanded money from the teller who complied, according to KMPD.

He reportedly left on foot before hopping into a metallic blue, 80's model Oldsmobile.

Anyone with any information about the whereabouts of these two men is still encouraged to call the Kings Mountain Police at 704-734-0444 or CrimeStoppers at 704-484-TIPS.



The newly sworn officers of the Stateline Masonic Lodge #375 in Grover are: front row, left to right, MC Pruette-treasurer, Keith Clark-senior warden, Max Brooks-master, Rodney Paulson-junior warden, Royce Peeler-secretary; second row, Colton White-steward, Henry Wedford-senior deacon, Robbie Philbeck-junior deacon, Jordon Perice-chaplain; back row, Michael Morris-tyler, Ronnie Dixon-steward. The Stateline Masonic Lodge has over 60 members and has been active in the community over 100 years.

Gregory to return to Joy in January

James Gregory, billed as the Funniest Man in America, returns to the Kings Mountain Little Theatre and Joy Performing Arts Jan. 20 for two shows at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Gregory is returning to Kings Mountain by popular demand. His first show last January was a sell-out and a second show was held to accommodate overflow crowds.

The Joy Theatre box office on Railroad Avenue is open on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5-8 p.m. beginning Dec. 27. James

Gregory tickets remain available for both shows. General admission tickets are \$25. Reserved seating tickets are \$35 and VIP table seating tickets are \$50. Kings Mountain Little Theatre accepts cash or checks.

Gregory, a stand-up comedian for over two decades, has continued to set attendance records in most of the venues he performs with little national exposure.

He has performed for over 300 corporate clients, appeared live on over 200 radio shows including the "John Boy and Billy Show" in

Charlotte. His critically acclaimed One Man Show "Grease, Gravy and John Wayne's Momma" was sponsored by HBO and featured at the US Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen. This same show had a month-long run at the Hudson Theatre in Hollywood. He has appeared in concert with Randy Travis, Reba McEntire, The Judds and George Jones, among others.

His unique brand of humor packs in the crowds. The absence of vulgarity sets him apart and his stories are carefully crafted art.

"I have lived long enough to know people know life," Gregory reflects. "My comedy is based on my life experiences. It's real, it's funny and the audience loves it. That's why I am still in business."

ATTENTION
If you have requested copies of the Herald be saved for you, but you have not picked them up, you must contact Kathy at 704-739-7496 if you still want them. If we do not hear from you by Friday, January 7th, they will be discarded. Thank you.

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Kings Mountain Herald

The Kings Mountain Herald,
The Cherryville Eagle,
& The Banner News
WILL BE CLOSED
Friday December 31st
in observance of New Year's Day
Deadline for all Display and Classified Ads for the week of January 5th will be at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, December 29th!
All offices will re-open with regular hours on Monday, January 3rd