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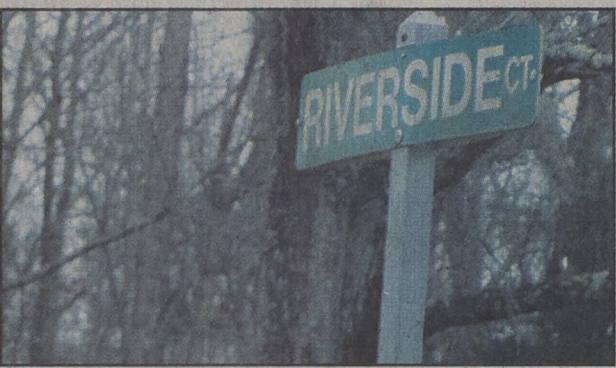
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## Joint hearing set for new data center incentives



*County, city leaders to meet  
Tuesday on incentives for  
'big' new data center*

**EMILY WEAVER**  
Editor

Kings Mountain City Council and the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners will meet in a joint session Tuesday afternoon for a public hearing regarding incentives offered

to attract a "big" data center, rumored for 100 acres in T5 @ Kings Mountain's server farm off of Countryside Road and Riverside Court. An announcement with state officials on exactly which company will occupy the new data center could be held as soon as next Wednesday.

The public hearing is set to be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, in room 1139 of the Cleveland Community College, 137 S. Post Rd., Shelby.

City and county leaders have been tight-lipped about the identity of the new industry, codenaming the efforts to attract the company as "Project Cardinal". Economic development

See **JOINT HEARING, 5A**

## 5 file for reelection

North Carolina assured of its heaviest political turnover in years

**ELIZABETH STEWART**

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Five Kings Mountain residents - Ronnie Hawkins, Johnny Hutchins, Mary Accor, Tim Moore and Bonnie Reece were among the first candidates to file for reelection to public office Monday as candidate filing opened at noon for a host of local, state and national offices.

Hutchins, Hutchins and Accor seek reelection to the county board of commissioners where three seats are up for grabs in November. Hutchins

serves as chairman and Hawkins as vice-chairman of the five-member board. Accor and Hawkins are also former board chairmen.

Moore is running for his sixth term in the N.C. General Assembly, representing the state's newly redrawn 111th House District, which includes portions of Cleveland County. He presently serves as the House Rules Committee chairman, as chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Family Law and chairs the study

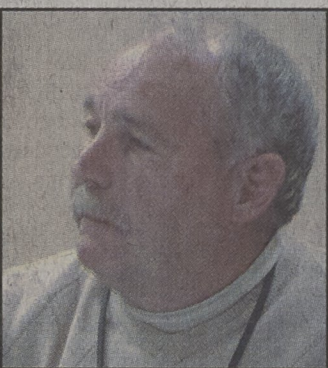
See **FIVE, 5A**



ACCOR



HAWKINS



HUTCHINS



MOORE

**SKY'S THE LIMIT**

## Business Showcase opens Tuesday

"The Sky's the Limit" is the theme for the 14th annual Kings Mountain Business Showcase sponsored by Cleveland County Chamber to kick-off Tuesday, Feb. 21, at a reception from 5:30-8 p.m. at Kings Mountain City Hall and run through March 16.

Highlight of the event is the recognition of "Outstanding Kings Mountain Business Person for 2011" who will be presented a plaque. Food, music by Rob Elmore, and door prizes will feature the opening event to which the public is invited.

Last year 50 businesses took part in exhibits which showcased their businesses with 2,000 visitors enjoying four weeks of a variety of exhibits. Forty-four businesses had registered this week for the showcase. Local Chamber Director Shirley Brutko said she expects more to register by week end.

See **SHOWCASE, 5A**

## ME AND MY SHADOW



City electrician Josh Conrad, right, shows Boy Scouts Eddie Grabert, left, and Hunter Cooke some of the tools they use on the job.

## Scouts tour city departments

**EMILY WEAVER**  
Editor

In a tradition that began over half-a-century ago with the city and its Boy Scouts, nine young men cast their shadows behind city officials Friday morning, getting a closer look at how the city runs. Shortly after 9, sitting inside the council chambers of city hall the Scouts listened as Mayor Rick Murphrey explained the mechanics of Kings Mountain and all its important parts.

And then to the important envelopes, each one bearing the

See **SCOUTS, 3A**



Left to right, John Bridges, Paul Pillado and Eddie Grabert sit in the councilmen seats inside council chambers. Photo by DON CRAWFORD

## Hamrick a Main Street Champion

**ELIZABETH STEWART**  
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Kings Mountain businessman Larry Hamrick Sr., 80, is a North Carolina Main Street Champion for 2011.

He was honored for "exceptional contribution to the downtown revitalization process" and nominated for the prestigious award by The Mountaineer Partnership Inc., which he helped to establish and led as president from 2005-2008.

President of Warlick-Hamrick Insurance Agency in Kings Mountain for 45 years, Hamrick has long been active in the religious, business and civic life of the community. He holds 40 years of perfect attendance at Kings Mountain Rotary Club. As a leader in Central United Methodist Church he serves on numerous boards and committees.

A former chairman of the board, he served 10 years on the trustee board at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

Hamrick is married to the former Evelyn Spencer and they have two sons: Larry Hamrick Jr. and wife, Florrie and Methodist ministers Rev. Patrick Hamrick and his wife, Rev. Laura Beaver Hamrick of Grand Rapids, Mich. The three grandchildren are Lindsay and Molly Hamrick of Kings Mountain and Dunn Hamrick of Grand Rapids, Mich.

In recommending Hamrick for the Main Street Champion award, The Mountaineer Partnership Inc., wrote: "From his first visit at the age of five to the present day - 75 years later - downtown Kings Mountain has played a significant role in the life of Larry Hamrick Sr."

In addition to manag-

ing downtown business clients in his insurance agency, he helped establish the Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association, the Municipal Service District and The Mountaineer Partnership. Most recently he was a leader on MPI's Turning Point fundraising campaign and served on the board while also contributing financially to downtown projects. In 2006, Hamrick was honored with the "Gateway Award" for his contribution to downtown Kings Mountain.

"While downtown Kings Mountain may have changed over the last 75 years, Larry's dedication remains constant," said the certificate presented to Hamrick.

Main Street is a downtown revitalization program for smaller towns based on economic development within the context of his-



LARRY HAMRICK, SR.

toric preservation.

"Main Street champions go the extra mile to restore vibrancy and vitality to the hearts of the communities they love," said Suzanne Amos, president of The Mountaineer Partnership.



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