

## Greenheck, Rockwood Lithium, among new commercial, residential builders

Greenheck Real Estate Holdings bought a commercial master building permit to up-fit the interior mezzanine at the plant, asphalt the parking lot and install a new 5100 square foot concrete loading dock with drive-in concrete ramp, three dock positions and a new driveway. Choate Construction Co. of Charlotte is contractor for the new construction to cost \$451,100.

Rockwood Lithium bought a city building master commercial permit to build a 18x20 accessory building for electrical purposes at cost of \$52,500.

Contractor for the new construction is Roebuck Buildings Co. of Roebuck, SC.

Nine residents of Moss Lake bought permits for residential construction.

Jeff Latchaw, 112 N. Oakwood Dr., is building a new dock to replace the old dock at cost of \$10,500.

Joe Ross, 1226 Oak Grove Rd., is building an addition to his existing dock at cost of \$4800.

Wanda Rutherford, 148 Harbor Point Dr., Cherryville, is installing rip-rap along the northern portion of the control strip and replacing existing concrete seawall with

modular block seawall and new covered boat slip. Cost \$15,000.

Jeff Roark, 2317 Peninsula Ave., Shelby, is refreshing rip-rap as needed within projection limits at cost of \$3,000.

Brian Dwan, 3 Island View Dr., Shelby, is expanding his existing dock with no changes to the control strip. Cost \$5500.

Thomas Wilkinson, 76 Fairview Farm Road, Shelby, is building a new dock to replace existing pier and repair rip-rap as needed, cost \$20,000.

Lorraine Singalewitch, 148 North Shore Dr., Cherryville, is building a new dock to replace the old dock with no changes to control strip or existing rip-rap, cost \$6,000. Ray Workman & Sons Construction, 104 S. Watterson St., is contractor.

Anthony Everett, 3210 Sunset Dr., Charlotte, is installing rip-rap along the shoreline and removing existing dock and replacing with a 20x20 wooden dock at 125 Carroll Dr., Cherryville. Cost \$10,500.

Sylvia Hutchins, 1211 Ridgmont Ave., Shelby, is building a new dock at 121

Sunshine Lane, Cherryville, at cost of \$15,000.

Suburban Acres, 331 Oak Grove Road, is moving a 14x70 mobile home to Suburban Acres. Simmons Mobile Home Movers, 835 Poplar Springs Church Road, is contractor. Cost \$1800.

Patrick Richey, 106 Water Oak St., is building a 10x28 foot deck to the back of his home and changing out the HVAC system at cost of \$13,641. He purchased a building master residential permit.

Jeff Ledford, 1307 Merimont Ave., plans to add a 20x30 detached garage and close in the front of his existing garage. KF Davis Homebuilders & Construction Co., 822 McDaniel Road, is contractor for the construction at cost of \$20,000.

Jim Smith, 306 Childers St., is putting up a 20x21 metal storage building constructed on 4 inch slab foundation at cost of \$6,000. He purchased a commercial building permit.

Kenny Walker, 402 N. Roxford Road, is removing a wooden deck and replacing it with 16x22 concrete patio and adding a walkway across the driveway of his home. Cost is \$11,000.

Amy Rogers, 905 Rhodes Ave., is setting up a 12 x6 storage building at cost of \$2500. Steven Frye of Cherryville is contractor.

Michael Tessener, 312 N. Cansler St., is constructing a 30x30x9 garage at cost of \$10,000. Douglas Viars, 311 Walker St., bought a residential fence permit to close off access to above ground pool with 32 feet of privacy fence.

J&R Investment Properties, Gastonia, bought a residential fence permit to install a privacy fence between 902 and 900 First Streets at cost of \$500.

Ralph Johnson, 124 Ebenezer Road, is installing a 175 foot chain link fence between 124 and 122 Ebenezer Road at cost of \$1200.

Lori Oliver, 161 Crown Court, is installing 150 feet of 5 feet chain link fabric and repair existing fence at cost of \$1400. Stafford Fence Builders, 167 Crown Court, is contractor.

Leigh Greene, 409 Marcella Dr., bought a residential pool permit for a 12x24 in ground pool and fence. Innovative Pool Designs, 531 Lake Montonia Road, is contractor for the construction at cost of \$20,700.

## VFW Ladies Auxiliary Taps Lib Hammett as President

Elizabeth (Lib) Bolin Hammett is excited and ready to travel as the incoming state president of the Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The retired customer service representative, who still works part time at Warlick-Hamrick Insurance Agency, will be packing for a number of trips she plans to take after her installation June 7 in Columbia, SC.

Hammett joined the VFW Auxiliary in 2004 in Blacksburg, SC and immediately went to work, moving through the chairs from guard, conductress, chaplain, junior vice-president, senior vice-president, to the top office in the South Carolina Department which has 5,096 members in 60 units. She is a member of Unit 3447 in Gaffney, SC and she and her husband, Clarence, and their son, Edward, reside in Blacksburg, SC.

"My husband is a Korean War veteran and my two brothers, Thomas H. Bolin of Shelby and Dennis Bolin of Gastonia, served with the Navy in Vietnam and so it was only natural that I join the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary," said Lib.

She's looking forward to visiting members in South Carolina and very excited to be able to attend national meetings beginning with the national convention in Pittsburgh, Pa. July 17-21. She has already made her plane reservation for a trip to Anchorage, Alaska in September to attend the homecoming of the incoming national president, Francisca Guilford, and the midwinter national conference Feb. 9-14, 2016 in Dominican Republic. In August she has made plans to attend a national meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota and a Southern conference of members from 15 states in Augusta, Ga. November 14-15.

"Going to Bat for Our Veterans" is her state theme and she plans to push membership all over the state of



LIB BOLIN HAMMETT

South Carolina. Since she has chaired both the legislative and scholarship committees, she plans to push Voice of Democracy contests in grades 9-12 where \$30,000 in national scholarships are available and Patriots Pen essays for grades 6-8 for which a \$5,000 national scholarship is available.

The Buddy Poppy program is another of her big interests and proceeds from the distribution of poppies are all earmarked for veterans.

Welcomed at meetings as "the lady with the smile," Lib is dedicated to the work ahead.

Growing up in Grover, Lib is the daughter of the late James Henry and Alma Turner Bolin. She has a sister, Myrtle Bolin Bowles, of Kings Mountain, and she has signed up eligible relatives and friends in the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Lib retired after 35 years service with Warlick-Hamrick but returns to town every Thursday. She has her hair styled at ScissorSmith & Company salon by Arlene McMurtry and then reports for work. Her boss, Larry Hamrick Jr., encouraged her to run for president of the auxiliary, as did her husband and son.

Lib loves to fly and often times she meets newcomers and they talk VFW Ladies Auxiliary. She always carries with her a membership application.

Lib Bolin Hammett does what she loves and loves what she does.

## QUALTECH: is different world from a typical job shop

From Page 6A

eligible for a local industrial incentive grant from both Cleveland County and the City of Kings Mountain.

Mayor Rick Murphrey was given a tour of the facility last Tuesday and was impressed with the addition underway with its high bay to house the big machines. QualTech has become the go-to source for big part machining and quick turnaround capability along the East Coast. Although QualTech's niche is large part machining, the shop also makes parts smaller than a dime and everything in between, with a list of workpiece materials that includes aluminum, cast iron, stainless steel and 4140 and 4150 steel.

"We want to be the shop that anybody can come to for anything," said Joe Latchaw.

Joe's wife, Jessica works in the office.

In 2008 when the Great Depression caused a severe slow down in manufacturing, Jeff Latchaw reached out to a former employee Eric Dechant. Eric worked for Jeff Latchaw at Time Machine Inc., Franklin, Pa., in the mid-1980s while attending high school and he kept in touch with the family after he moved out of state to work as a program manager and program specialist for FANUC. During

one of his visits, Latchaw inquired of Dechant about what he saw occurring in the industry. He recalled, "What I see is anybody who has big machines is busy but you don't see many job shops with big machines because of the investment and software required and the programming and engineering talent to run them".

As it turned out, Jeff Latchaw had a line on a big machine, a new Okuma VTM-120YB, a unique machine he bought in mid 2009 and then purchased a building in Kings Mountain, NC later that year to house it and QualTech was born.

Joe Latchaw had graduated from Penn State in plastics engineering and had been working for eight years in Charlotte as a plastics engineer for John Deere at the time and resigned to become president/co-owner of the new job shop in Kings Mountain. Dechant made the jump to parts manufacturing in mid-2012, becoming vice-president and co-owner of QualTech.

By 2009 the shop even received an order before it was open for business and still preparing the building.

The rehab on the QualTech building involved fixing roof leaks, securing doors, tearing out carpeting and organizing the building while installing about twice as much air conditioning as



Eric Dechant and Mayor Rick Murphrey note the high bay which is necessary to take care of the huge machines.

Photo by DILLON LACKEY

was needed based on the square footage - because temperature has a bigger impact on large parts than small ones and this would allow better control of these parts and their tolerance.

The Okuma works well with another machine purchased by QualTech - a Honor Seiki VL-125CM 4 axis turning lathe which was demonstrated to the mayor during the tour.

Everything takes a lot of expertise at QualTech and to make sure mistakes aren't made, QualTech spends a lot of time planning jobs to make sure the part programs have all the needed information, also providing illustrations for operators that indicate how a part needs to be positioned in the machine, De-

chant pointed out during the tour with the mayor.

Dechant explained, "I have talked to quite a few machinists who are general job shop-type machinists, operating small 3-axis milling machines and 2-axis turning machines. When they walk into our shop, they go, 'Oh boy!'" They're frightened a little bit by these machines. But he added that the shop has attracted skilled employees, including a father-son team, James and Josh Guerard, and Patrick Hamm who was hired directly out of high school who have all been with the company from nearly the beginning.

QualTech is a very different world from a typical job shop.

## Budget work session set for May 18

City Council will get their first look at a proposed city budget for 2015-16 at a budget session May 18 at 5 p.m. at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center.

Council set the date for the budget session at last Tuesday's meeting and also approved the following consent agenda:

+Resolution 15-08 authorizing execution of rental and lease agreements for one year or less by the city manager and/or designee of the city manager.

+Resolution 15-09 between the City of Kings Mountain and Cleveland County in which the city manager would designate one or more inspectors from Cleveland County to serve as a member of the city's inspection department for an extended period April 28-June 30. The county would be compensated at a rate of \$65 for each service call.

+set public hearing for May 26 for discussion of an industrial incentive grant to QualTech.

+set public hearing for May 26 on request from Roger Woodard Ministries Inc. to rezone a portion of property located at 206 W. Ridge Street from Heavy Industrial to Residential R-6.

+ set public hearing for May 26 for a request by Philip Bunch (agent for Peggy Levergood) to rezone her property located at

923 Cleveland Avenue from R:S-8 to Neighborhood Business.

+set public hearing for May 26 for request by Gayle and William Phillips to rezone property at 1737 Bethlehem Road from residential 10 to Conditional Use R-20.

Special presentations and recognitions by Mayor Rick Murphrey included certificates to Danny Robinson, gas mechanic I, 5-year service with the city; and David Warlick, Police Officer/K9, 5 years service with the city; awards to three firemen - Eric Carroll, Tyler Walker and Noah James Allen - for completing Fire Academy Class 12 at Cleveland Community College, and Richelle Meek, for completing training program for grade III Biological water pollution control system operators.

The mayor also proclaimed s National Day of Prayer May 7; National Police Week May 11-17; and National Public Works Week May 17-23.

During citizen recognition Beauford Burton, Adam Forcade, and Debbie Keeter reiterated their opposition to a proposed casino/resort.

The Council took the occasion to thank Ellis Noell on his retirement as Director of Special Events and Public Relations and the audience gave Noell a standing ovation.

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