

CONOVER NEIGHBOR



December 2015

26th Annual Christmas in the Park

On December 8th, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., the City of Conover will hold its twenty-sixth annual “Christmas in the Park” in the Downtown Park Gazebo. This year’s community event will feature choruses from local schools, hayrides by Foothills Antique Power Association and the Annual Tree Lighting.



The Conover Fire Department will provide hot chocolate, coffee, cider, and cookies. As always, we expect Santa to stop by sometime around 7:00!

Come join us in the Downtown Park located behind the Post Office on 2nd Avenue NE for this annual Conover tradition.

Santa Cops



This Christmas the Conover Police Department will be accepting donations of new toys and clothing for boys and girls up to age 14. The collection points will be at Conover Police Department, Conover City Hall, Conover Hardware, Untouchables, Dollar General, The Green Room, Billy’s BBQ, 3M, Hwy 55 Restaurant, Newton-Conover Middle School, Lyle Creek Elementary, LaBella Vita Hair Salon, and CVS in Conover. Donations will be accepted through December 15, 2015. Families of students in the Newton-Conover School System are eligible to apply. Rock Barn Golf & Spa recently held their 6th annual golf tournament in which participants donated toys to the Santa Cops program. Thank you Rock Barn and all participants! If you have any questions please call the Conover Police Department at 828-464-4698 or visit

www.conovernc.gov/santacops

Planning Ahead:

City Hall closed for Christmas Holiday December 24, 25 & 28, 2015 and New Year’s Day Friday, January 1, 2016

City Council: Meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Conover City Hall

Planning Board: Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Conover City Hall

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

GKN Sinter Metals to Create 55 New Jobs, Invest \$19.8 Million in Conover



The City of Conover is pleased to announce the expansion of GKN Sinter Metals, LLC. GKN will invest \$19,811,000 at its manufacturing facility at 407 Thornburg Drive SE in Conover. The company will also create 55 new jobs over the next five years, and retain 83 existing jobs. The average wage of all new jobs created will meet or exceed the county average wage. GKN Sinter Metals manufactures sintered cam shaft caps and transmission ends for OEM manufacturers such as GM, Ford and Fiat Chrysler.

"It is always gratifying to support our existing industries," said Randy Isenhower, Chairman of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners. "GKN has been a great corporate citizen and has continued to invest in Catawba County, expanding at GKN Driveline in Maiden and now at GKN Sinter Metals in Conover. This nearly \$20 million expansion will bolster our network of automotive suppliers and strengthen our reputation as a leader in high-tech manufacturing."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$109,500, and the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority has awarded the City of Conover a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$600,000 to support the building of an industrial access road and extension of public water and sewer lines to support this project.

"Conover is proud to partner with GKN, an existing advanced manufacturer committed to job growth and higher than average wages," said Conover Mayor Lee Moritz, Jr. "Competing and winning this expansion with its 55 new positions and retaining 83 jobs is a true blessing. I am proud of our City Council's leadership and our close partnership with the Economic Development Partnership of NC, Catawba County and the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation who all played a key role. This is a big win for our citizens."

"The Catawba County EDC has always been committed to retaining our existing industries and helping them grow," said Catawba EDC Board Chair Dan Timmerman, Sr. "It's been a privilege to work with GKN on this expansion and we look forward to assisting them in any way that we can as they continue to contribute to the Conover and Catawba County communities. This will also strengthen our targeted recruiting efforts in the lightweight auto parts sector."

GKN employs more than 55,000 people globally and operates in more than 30 countries, with more than 2,500 employees in North Carolina. In addition to the facility in Conover, GKN Driveline in Maiden employs 830 people manufacturing and assembling axles and transmission units for GM, Ford and Chrysler Fiat. With this expansion, GKN is expected to become the third largest manufacturing employer and the largest manufacturing taxpayer in Catawba County. Candidates interested in jobs with GKN can visit www.gkn.com.