

# The Element

April 2024



### ALBEMARLE SEES POSITIVE RESULTS FROM PIT DEWATERING PROCESS ►

Albemarle secured a North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality permit and began dewatering the existing Kings Mountain Mine pit on April 5. Albemarle project engineer and Shelby native, Brayden Beaver, sees this process firsthand.



### ALBEMARLE DONATES \$1 MILLION TO CLEVELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE ►

Albemarle announced a \$1 million donation to Cleveland Community College for the purchase of equipment, supplies and facility improvements to benefit workforce training programs, strengthening a pipeline of skilled and diverse workers for the region.



### ALBEMARLE TO SPONSOR "SENIOR DAYS" AT KINGS MOUNTAIN FARMERS' MARKET ►

As a presenting sponsor of the Kings Mountain Farmers' Market, Albemarle is partnering with Patrick Senior Center for "Senior Days" on the first Saturday of each month.



### Upcoming Events *Calendar* ►

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KINGS MOUNTAIN!

On May 4, Kings Mountain is turning the BIG 1-5-0! Join us at Mountain and Cherokee Streets at noon as Albemarle helps celebrate the Big Birthday Bash in downtown Kings Mountain. There will be an artisan market, antique car show, carnival rides, games, contests, fair food, live music and more! For more information about this event, visit [KingsMountainEvents.com](https://KingsMountainEvents.com). We can't wait to celebrate with you!

[More upcoming community events ►](#)

Sign up for future newsletters! ►



Visit the *Albemarle Kings Mountain website* ►

# Engineer with Shelby Ties

## *Gratified by Dewatering Results*

Albemarle began dewatering the Kings Mountain Mine site on April 5. By the following Monday, Albemarle Project Engineer, Brayden Beaver, was on site observing the process. “You can see from top to bottom everything in the [creek] water now,” he said.

For the duration of the dewatering process—about 18 months—Brayden and his team will be making sure all the pumps are running well and that the flow rate is optimized. Throughout the month of April, the water treatment plant has generally been safely discharging about 2.4 million gallons of processed water into Kings Creek each day.

Born and raised in Shelby, and a graduate of Crest High School, Brayden didn’t think there were a lot of “big” engineering opportunities in the area. After graduating from Western Carolina University with a degree in mechanical engineering, he was prepared to commute from Shelby to Charlotte for a role in the engineering industry. But alas, his career path kept him a little closer to home.

“A few years ago, a friend who had been an engineer for a long time talked to me about Albemarle’s Kings Mountain project and asked if I’d be interested,” he said. “I told him it sounded cool, but we hadn’t had any ‘big’ engineering projects in the area in a long time, so I didn’t know if and when it would come to fruition.”

Brayden’s role with Albemarle was realized in July 2023, when he accepted an engineering position to manage the electrical installation for the project’s mine pit dewatering process. As the new year rolled around, he found his duties shifting to the water treatment plant and piping that would convey the water. Going forward, his primary role will be to expand electric installation throughout the site so electrical powered equipment can be used as the mine site expands instead of diesel-powered equipment.

“We’ll be working on this [expansion preparation] as the pit dewaterers to keep it running smoothly,” he said.

### Pit Dewatering is a Go

The State of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality approved a permit to dewater the mine pit at the Kings Mountain Mine site. Pit dewatering is a critical part of the proposed mine’s revelopment and allows the project team to conduct the necessary pre-feasibility studies and mining. Albemarle anticipates it will take up to 18 months to safely dewater the 1.3 billion gallons of water that have accumulated since the mine closed in the 1990s. In compliance with the permit, Albemarle is treating the water at an onsite water treatment facility before it is discharged into Kings Creek. The rate of dewatering and quality of water released will meet the regulatory standards to preserve the integrity of Kings Creek and the river basin.

Albemarle uses a pump system to draw water from the mine pit and convey it to an onsite water treatment facility before it’s safely released into Kings Creek.



Until the pit is drained completely, there’s not much that can be done operationally, but, Brayden and his team can ramp up the prep-work to ensure the site is prepared for activities as soon as the water has been completely removed.

## Engineer with Shelby Ties Gratified by Dewatering Results (Cont.)

“We can plan out our supplier bid packages going forward and look at long-lead items and equipment that will need to be sourced,” he said. “We are beginning early works prepping, including submitting many of our environmental permits and further developing the site layout.”

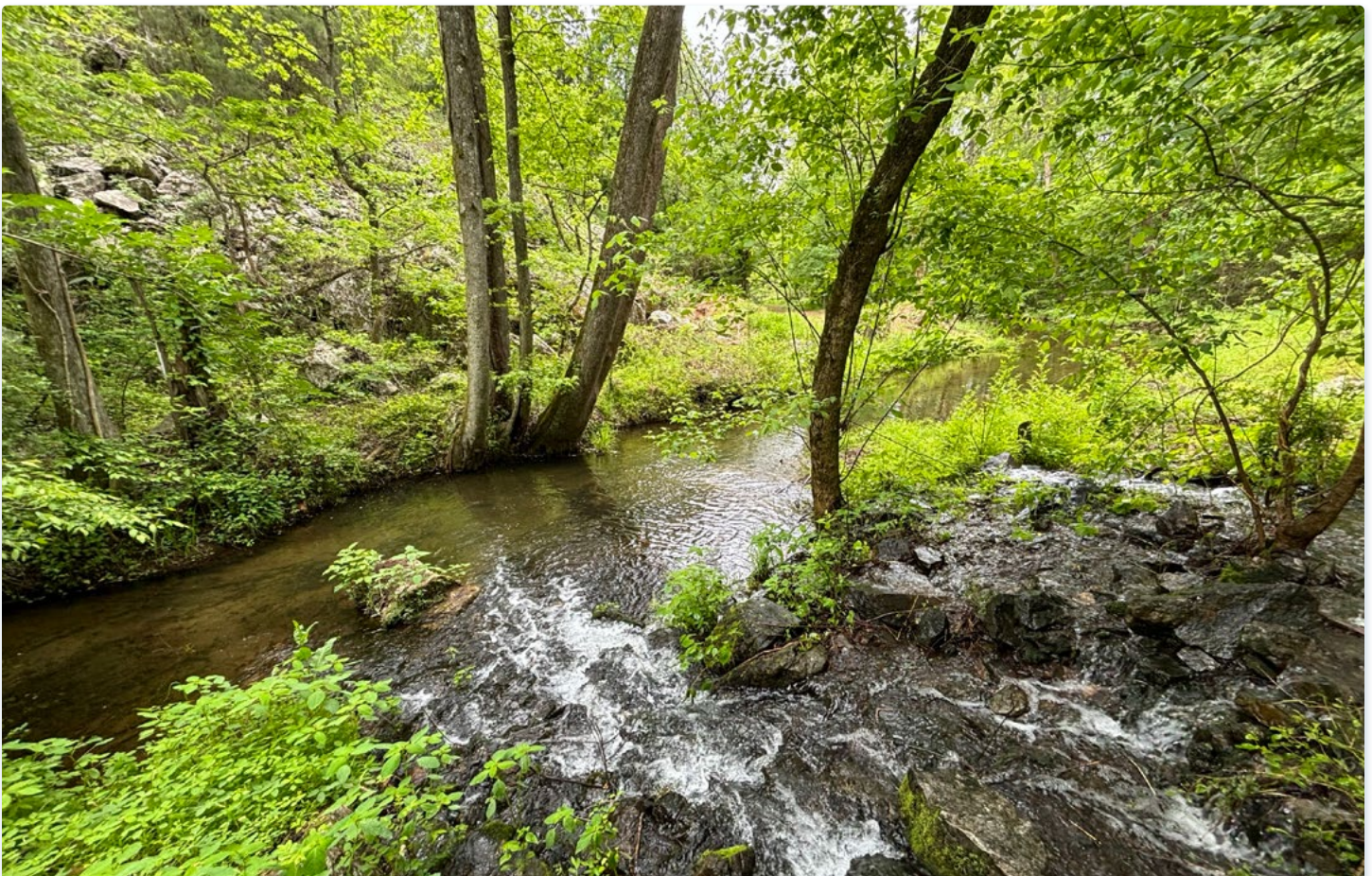
Brayden also mentioned a few pre-feasibility studies that wrapped up recently, including the geotechnical drillings and core sampling. The results will be used to map the lithium deposit and analyze data to determine additional infrastructure needs for the site, such as concrete and landscaping.

He encourages anyone interested in seeing the dewatering process to sign up for a water treatment plant tour led by Albemarle’s Cindy Estridge.

“We want people to see it and ask questions—get involved,” he encourages. “I’m excited for the questions that the public asks. These efforts help to build a better understanding of what we’re doing with the community. If you have the time in your schedule, come check it out!”



**You can check the dates and times of upcoming tours,** or visit [\*Albemarle’s Kings Mountain website\*](#) for more information on the dewatering process.



Throughout the month of April, the water treatment plant has generally been safely discharging about 2.4 million gallons of processed water into Kings Creek each day.

# Albemarle Donates \$1 Million to Cleveland Community College

Albemarle has donated \$1 million to Cleveland Community College (CCC) for the purchase of equipment, supplies and facility improvements to benefit workforce training programs the CCC is developing to support regional industries and projects, including the proposed redevelopment of the Kings Mountain Mine. The programs are designed to support the growth of businesses and strengthen a pipeline of skilled and diverse workers for the region.

The equipment and facility improvements will be an integral part of CCC's Heavy Equipment Operator Program and support apprenticeship programs Albemarle is developing for several electrical and process operations roles. In addition, Albemarle employees are expected to benefit from customized training programs for the mine's mineral processing facility. These programs are designed to allow both students and incoming Albemarle employees to learn and train on state-of-the-art equipment and simulators.

"A skilled and capable workforce is one of the most critical ingredients needed as we work to strengthen our U.S. supply chain of lithium," said Ellen Lenny-Pessagno, Global Vice President External Affairs and Sustainability. "We are fortunate to have CCC's experienced faculty and resources right here in the community that can be leveraged to build a pipeline of talent."

"We are grateful to Albemarle for this significant investment," said Dr. Jason Hurst, President of Cleveland Community College. "Not only does it benefit the delivery of workforce training programs, but it also provides Cleveland Community College with the means to develop new and innovative training programs and apprenticeships that support local and regional businesses. CCC has high-quality, professional instructors eager to deliver training with the proposed new equipment. Albemarle's commitment to this community, and its community college, is unique and much appreciated."

The donation builds upon \$5 million of announced funding to CCC as a subrecipient of the U.S. Department of Energy's \$150 million grant to the Kings Mountain Mine project. The overall grant is anticipated to support part of the construction cost for the mine's mineral processing facility and CCC's portion of the grant is expected to fund the development of a customized operator training program for the planned facility.

Albemarle expects the proposed mine and mineral processing facility to require a workforce of more than 1,000 construction jobs and an additional 300 full-time, skilled roles. The current Kings Mountain site has more than 440 employees.

Since 2016, Albemarle has committed over \$1 million dollars to community initiatives in the region with a focus on health, social services, educational and cultural initiatives intended to strengthen the Kings Mountain and surrounding communities.



# Moon Pies and Smiles

## *Light up the Solar Eclipse*

Strangers chatted like old friends on April 8, as they sat on picnic tables and portable chairs on a warm, sunny day. They were all waiting to watch what a sign posted near the entrance of the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail deemed, "Astronomy Event."

While a fortunate swath of the United States witnessed a total solar eclipse, those around Albemarle's bucolic Kings Mountain site witnessed a partial eclipse of approximately 80%–85%.

When viewed through complimentary protective glasses distributed by Albemarle, approximately 100 spectators were treated to what looked like, at its 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time peak, a giant glowing banana.

In addition to glasses, Albemarle provided participants with bottles of water, bags of chips and, of course, mini-Moon Pies. Nearby Mauney Memorial Library also provided eclipse-related activity books for kids.

Volunteers used colanders set up at a table to show how an object's shadows changed as the eclipse occurred. Residents from the Patrick Senior Center were bussed to the site and were able to catch a glimpse of the spectacle through a telescope. As one resident turned from the telescope to point out the small specks of dirt on the lens, local astronomer Don Brooks from the Cleveland County Astronomical Society highlighted that the dark dots were actually sunspots on the distant star's surface.



**Big shoutout to Albemarle's Community Affairs team in Kings Mountain**  
*for pulling off an event that was—dare we say—out of this world.*



# Community Events *Recap*

## First Compact Community Meeting is a Success!

On April 6, Albemarle team members attended the first meeting of the Compact Community, hosted by the Compact Men's Club. The event, held at the Oates Homeplace at the corner of Compact Rd. and Kings Mountain Blvd., was designed to encourage community homeowners to take advantage of programs to improve their homes, connect to city water and educate about available tax savings.

At the meeting, neighbors were able to meet and network with each other and learn more about the Homestead Tax Exemption, local real estate and meet the Albemarle team. The Compact Men's Club provided lunch for the attendees.



## Albemarle and Patrick Senior Center bring “Senior Days” to Kings Mountain Farmers’ Market

As a presenting sponsor of the [Kings Mountain Farmers’ Market](#), Albemarle is partnering with Patrick Senior Center for “Senior Days” on the first Saturday of each month. A limited number of vouchers will be available to seniors (ages 55 and up) to spend at the Kings Mountain Farmers’ Market.



Transportation to the Farmers’ Market will be provided to seniors who meet the following guidelines:

- Age 55 and older
- Patrick Senior Center participant with a signed liability waiver on file
- Do not drive or have transportation to the Farmers’ Market
- Live in 28086 ZIP code area in a residence accessible by the Senior Center bus

To sign up, call the Patrick Senior Center, (704)734-0447 by noon on the Friday before Senior Day. Each bus can transport a maximum of 12 riders, so claim your spot before it fills up!

The Kings Mountain Farmers’ Market will run from May 4 through September 28, in the former Wells Fargo bank parking lot at 125 S. Battleground Avenue, from 8 a.m. to noon.

# Community Events *Recap*

## Albemarle Co-Sponsors Kings Mountain Earth Day Celebration

On April 20, The City of Kings Mountain in partnership with the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail, Albemarle, and Metal Recycling Services, celebrated Earth Day at the Gateway Trail.

Attractions included a petting zoo, wood working, food vendors, upcycle artisans, live encampments, music jamboree by the Dancing Fleas and a special production from Bright Star Theatre Group.



Attendees witnessed the release of **200 Painted Lady butterflies** *back into their natural habitat, supporting the environmental cause to save our pollinators.*



## Albemarle Supports Healthy Kids Day

On Saturday, April 20, Albemarle participated in the Kings Mountain YMCA Healthy Kids event at Davidson Park. Approximately 400 people were in attendance for soccer games and the YMCA event. In addition to talking with community members about the Kings Mountain Mine project, Albemarle representatives handed out apples, oranges and sunglasses to parents and children.



### Upcoming Events *Calendar* ▶

#### **KINGS MOUNTAIN MINE TOUR: APRIL 30, MAY 7, 15 AND 28, AND JUNE 11 AND 20**

The 45-minute tour includes history, geology, and current information on the pre-feasibility studies that have been completed, with plenty of opportunities to ask questions. Tour attendees will meet at the Albemarle Project Center (129 W. Mountain Street), and travel together by van to the mine site. Times vary and registration is required, contact Cindy Estridge at [cynthia.estridge@albemarle.com](mailto:cynthia.estridge@albemarle.com). Be sure to check out [our website](#) to get the latest tour dates and times!



**Visit the Albemarle Kings Mountain website** ▶

**Tell us how we're doing** ▶

**Sign up for future newsletters!** ▶

Albemarle leads the world in transforming essential resources into critical ingredients for mobility, energy, connectivity and health. We partner to pioneer new ways to move, power, connect and protect with people and planet in mind, enabling a more resilient world. Our global headquarters is approximately 35 miles from Kings Mountain in Charlotte, NC.

For more information visit [albemarlekingmountain.com](http://albemarlekingmountain.com)

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