

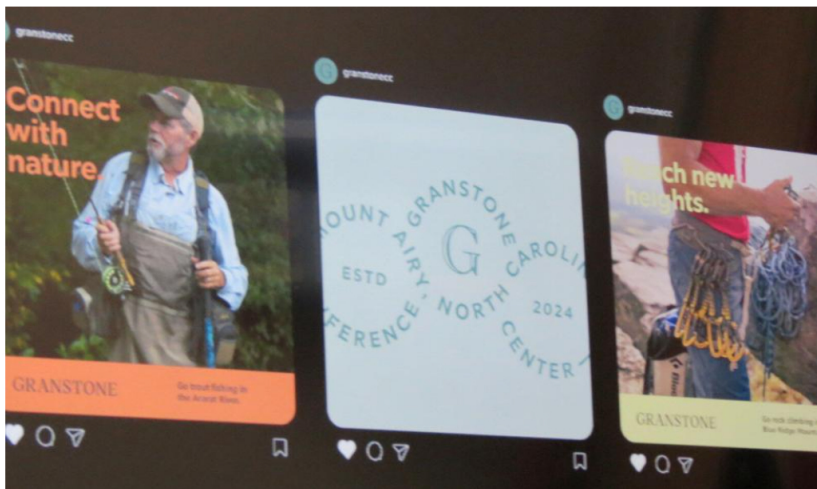
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City conference center taking shape

Tom Joyce tjoyce@mtairynews.com Feb 6, 2025 Updated Feb 25, 2025



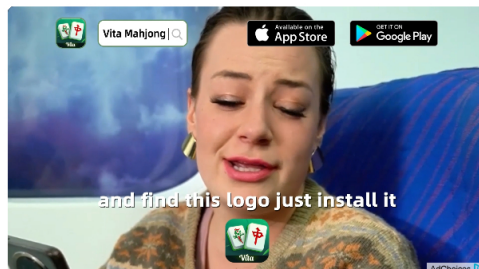
These images are part of a branding effort for Granstone Conference and Event Center, to be constructed in downtown Mount Airy beginning later this year and continuing into 2026.
Submitted graphic



Although the planned Granstone Conference and Event Center in Mount Airy is now just a concept in someone's mind, that will be changing soon.

"We hope to have a final rendering of the outside of the center by mid-February," City Manager Darren Lewis has advised in updating the project eyed on former Spencer's textile mill property downtown.

The conference center will host conventions and other large-scale gatherings in conjunction with a Balladeer Marriott hotel now being developed nearby.



"We are continuing working with Workplace Architecture on final design," Lewis added in recent days regarding the firm handling that aspect



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regarding the non-holding that aspect.



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Workplace Architecture and Design, of Winston-Salem, was awarded a contract by the Mount Airy Board of Commissioners in September to provide architectural and engineering services leading to final plans for the center.

The total estimated fee for Workplace Architecture is \$553,910, being earmarked from state funding allocated for Granstone Conference and Event Center in the \$15 million range.

"We have begun looking at interior options for flooring, carpet, etc.," the city manager related in updating other preliminary steps for the conference center.

He further mentioned that future RFPs (requests for proposals) will go out in early spring for different facets of the project.

"It is our hope to break ground on the facility by June, with an estimated construction of twelve months," according to the city manager.

That process is expected to unfold in a timely and cost-efficient manner due to the recent selection of a construction manager at risk to oversee the work.

Through a contract awarded by the commissioners last month, Blum Construction will supply construction manager at risk services to facilitate the Granstone Conference and Event Center development.

Blum will manage the entire construction project, Lewis has said, including vetting subcontractors, identifying cost-saving measures and generally making sure everything is done as planned.

"It will be a first for the city of Mount Airy," Lewis said of utilizing the construction manager at risk function for the conference center.



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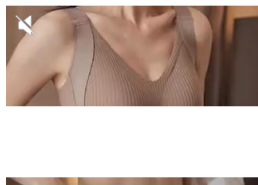
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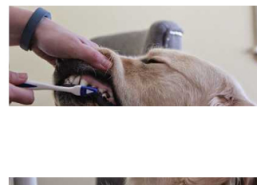
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Tonight
Mainly clear. Low 48F. Winds light and variable.

Tomorrow
Cloudy with occasional rain showers. High 59F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

RIGHT NOW
68°
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Humidity: 27%
Cloud Coverage: 32%
Wind: @ 1 mph
UV Index: 0 Low
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