Crossroads

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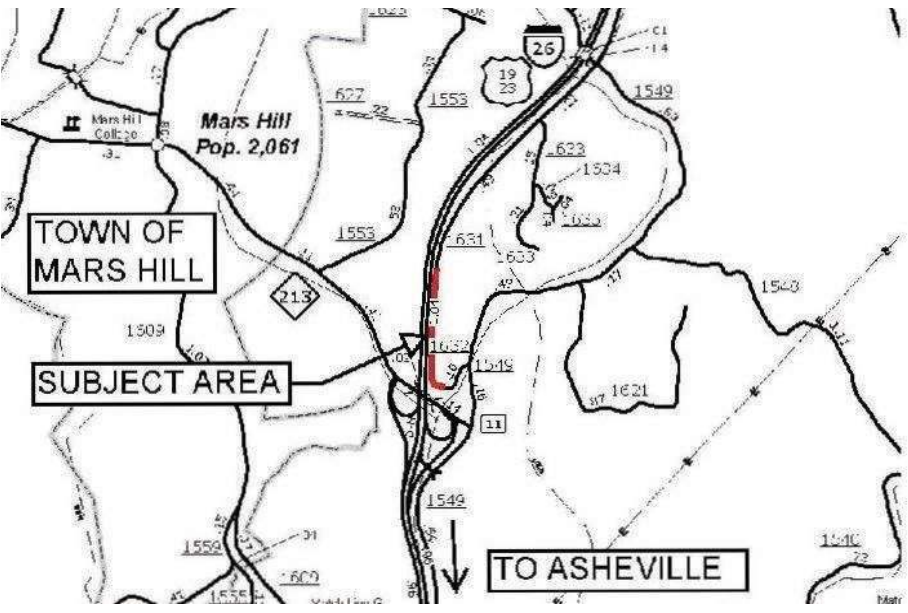
about three to four tractor-trailers a day, and I expect truck traffic to at least double in the next three to five years. With better access at exit 11, our tractor-trailers will no longer have to go through downtown Mars Hill and entangle the community there." (choose one version; both are acceptable)

Gilliam said he expected design and land acquisition for the road to begin this fall, with construction likely to begin sometime in 2019. "It's really a good thing to have this closer to being moved off the list," he said.



The red areas on the Mars Hill area map show the proposed expansion of the Crossroads Parkway beside Interstate 26. COURTESY LAND OF SKY

Housing

Continued from Page 1A
Housing

pairs to Whittington's roof and porches – repairs that she likely would not have been able to afford. "CHC's work is unique in that it nearly doubles the impact of these program dollars by leveraging an amazing network of volunteers and their in-kind contributions," Watson said.

For Jeff Brown, the director of campus outreach of Shady Side Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, volunteering with CHC underscores the importance of helping others. "I hope she knows that she's cared for and that we're here for her, not her house," he said as he put together trusses for Whittington's new roof.

Shady Side has sent groups of teen and adult volunteers to Madison County to team with CHC for about 10 years. "It's really important our young guys come away with heart of service and know it's essential in their life to be caring for other people. It's not an option whether to care or not for other people. It's a necessity of being human to look out for one another, to love your neighbor." Brown said.

"I love every aspect of helping out people," Shady Side volunteer and recent high school graduate Nathan Boyle said while taking a break from installing metal roofing. "For me, it's always been rewarding when you can stand back and look at how your team did a great job, and everything is done."

Nick Moss, a Mars Hill resident for about three years, joined the out-of-town crews at Whittington's home. He said CHC's work to address affordable housing locally inspired him to get involved. "You just help out, and these people need help," he said. "It's not their fault. They just do not have the resources that will keep them going at a steady, comfortable level."

"It can be really hard just to ask for help," Brown said, when addressing a potential barrier to getting housing assistance. "It can be a humbling thing to be forced into a situation where you have to reach out and say, 'I need help.' I'm thankful for her (Whittington) to be able to do that. I can learn from that myself."

From Whittington's perspective, the support she's received from CHC exemplifies the closeness of the community. "I've lived in Madison County all my life," she said. "I love it here. The friendliness – and in this neighborhood - they just pitch in and help you every way they can. It's amazing. I really love it."

Standoff

Continued from Page 1A

ing the exchange.

Summey said after the incident that investigators are working with the State Bureau of Investigations to determine what happened after the suspected gunman entered the CVS shortly after 12:15 p.m.

"Our officers responded fairly quickly and everything happened fairly quickly after," Summey told the Citizen Times at the scene.

Investigators are still working to establish a timeline of events and to answer some of the many questions that remain unanswered — including the identity of the suspected gunman and the reason why he allegedly entered a drug store armed — Summey said.

"We don't know what his intent was," Summey said. "We don't know if he knew somebody there. We don't know if it was a robbery. We don't know if he popped off a round when he entered the store. That's why we're investigating."

When asked about whether the suspect — who police say possessed "a handgun" —had in fact fired the weapon upon entering the building, Summey said he didn't know whether the suspect fired the weapon at all during the incident.

Police said that according to witness interviews, the suspect entered the store through the front door and went to a back room, which Summey described as a "warehouse or a break room," he said. It was there that he was confronted by six officers. Summey said multiple people called 911 to report that the suspect had a weapon.

"He produced a weapon. (The officers) told him to drop the weapon. He didn't respond. Shots were fired," Summey said describing the shooting in as much detail as he said he could.

The suspect was pronounced dead at the scene by emergency medical personnel, Summey said. Only the suspect was injured in the exchange.

Summey said that he doesn't think that there was anybody in the room with the suspect other than police when he was fatally shot. Summey didn't say how many officers fired on the suspect.

Summey said that everybody who was in the store at the time of the alleged armed exchange has since been accounted for and that the situation is "contained." He said he couldn't say whether the suspect had held anybody against their will before the police arrived. Summey wouldn't say how many people were there at the time of the shooting nor would he say how exactly how many people witnessed it.

"You can imagine a CVS on a busy road in the middle of the day is going to be busy," he said.

Summey said that the drug store did have security cameras and that investigators will retrieve the footage from them. Summey didn't know whether a camera had captured the shooting.

Investigators were interviewing witnesses behind yellow crime tape in the drug store's parking lot after the shooting.

Summey said that staff members at Veritas Christian Academy, which is not in session currently, were placed in lock down while the suspected gunman was at large. The lockdown was fairly short lived, according to Summey.

The officer-involved shooting marked the first such incident that Summey has seen at the Fletcher Police Department since he joined in 2008. He has been chief since 2010.

"I don't recall if we've ever had (an officer involved shooting)," he said while standing in a parking lot across the street from CVS. "There hasn't been one since (2008), and I would know obviously."

Fletcher is a small town situated between Asheville and Hendersonville to the south. It sits within Henderson County and had a population of about 7,200 when the 2010 census was taken.

Henderson County deputy sheriffs were on the scene along with FPD and the SBI after the incident.

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