

McKenney vehicle business growing



Going up

Ray McKenney estimates he'll be spending more than \$1 million for improvements and additions to dealerships in Gastonia and Belmont. **Southside Constructors** is handing the Gastonia project, while **Crescent Metal Structures** is in charge of the Belmont construction.



Gazette photos by John Clark

Do you have an interesting business development? You can reach Thomas J. Monigan at (704) 869-1836 or e-mail him at tmonigan@gastongazette.com.

This column: Ray McKenney starts construction at dealerships in Belmont and Gastonia so he can add Dodge to Chrysler and add Chrysler to Dodge.

Before we get rolling here today, let's set the record straight on the Web site for Maya Hospitality. That's the outfit that's renovating the Mid-Town Motor Inn with the special "Talladega Nights" rooms.

You can find out more about this and the renovations and additions to the Holiday Inn Express in Mount Holly at www.maya-hotels.com.

McKenney's construction

Earlier this year, some of you might recall a private equity group called Cerberus Capital Management bought 80.1 percent of Chrysler for \$7.4 billion.

Locally, what this did was enable dealer Ray McKenney to start offering Dodge products at his Chrysler and Jeep store in Belmont. Paul Lowrance is his business partner there.

And on the flip side, the Chrysler and Jeep products will be coming to the Dodge store in Gastonia. Jace Stowe is the business partner in that operation.

Between the two locations, McKenney estimates he's spending slightly more than \$1 million. Crescent Metal Structures of Lowell is working on the Belmont store. That includes about 5,000 new square feet.

Southside Constructors from Belmont is working on the Gastonia store. They're involved with about 3,000 new square feet and a new façade.

All these folks know each other well from previous projects. "Our customers have been good to us so we need to reinvest to make their experience better," McKenney said recently.

Thanks to Jessica Savarese from Southside, we can report the Gastonia project was designed by Priest Architecture. It includes a new 35-foot tall arched parapet wall, a new storefront and a new 1,000 square foot vehicle delivery center.

Interior modifications in the showroom consist of all new finishes, acoustical ceilings, and millwork. Renovations in the service department include a new area for vehicle write-up, a remodeled waiting room, parts display and a play area for children.

Mike Kennerly from Crescent Metal Structures is making similar improvements to the Belmont location. Crescent's project involves new storefronts with stucco trim. It will also add a new car delivery area and about a 1,200 square foot office addition.



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Word on the Street