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Parrish Construction Group New Year's Resolutions Kemper Family Traditions

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up and coming

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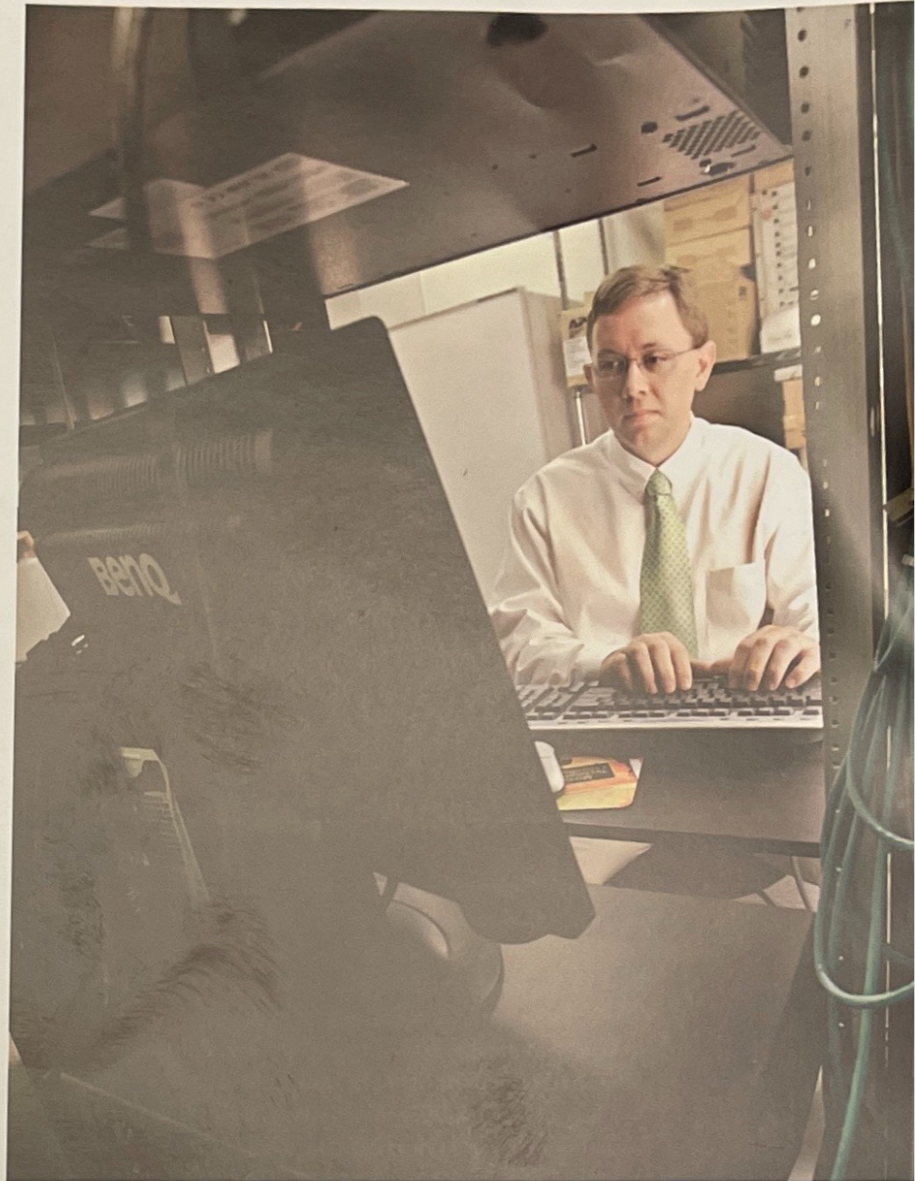
"It is fun to work in a field doing what you were born to do," says Charlie Waters, an independent informational technology consultant. At the age of 12, Waters received a Commodore-64 from his father. He never forgot the radical gift that ignited his curiosity in computer programming. "My interest in computers from an early age served as the primary catalyst in choosing a direction for my professional career," Waters says.

His old computer games may be collecting dust, but his career is up to speed. Staying current with new technology is a major part of his job description. "People look to me to evaluate current technology trends and to determine where these new technologies fit in the business environment," he says. As an independent IT, Waters is able to complete research and projects at his home office while spending the rest of his work week onsite with his business clients. "I may be assisting a web hosting client with setting up an e-commerce site one day and designing a cutting-edge network the next," he says. His flexible schedule allows him to serve many clients in the Central Georgia area.

High-tech small town is no longer an oxymoron. Waters feels that up-to-date technology is the partner to already thriving tourist attractions in Perry, such as the Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter. "With great efforts to revitalize downtown areas of small towns, I believe new technological services will enhance these areas. As Perry becomes a high-tech small town, more tourists and businesses will be drawn to the area," he says. Many local businesses are now utilizing new technological ideas, including voice, video and online services, to maximize consumer benefits and lower costs.

The information superhighway is great for work, but Waters enjoys life in the bike lane with his family. Recently he, his wife Kim and their sons, Chas and Colby, have taken up the relaxing hobby of bike riding as a way to spend time together. First Baptist Perry has also become a comfortable place to spend family time and take a break from their hectic lives. The business minded family man sees the potential for technological trends to help all parents spend more time at home. "They also enhance our quality of life by allowing would be stay-at-home parents to stay in the workforce by working at home," he says.

Working in and away from home is an area of expertise for the former Peach County schools' technology coordinator who



Making Connections: Business Owner Charlie Waters

also owns his own web hosting company, Binary Alchemy. In addition to his IT customers, Waters continues to integrate new ideas into business and education for Houston and Peach counties. His latest project is one that will reduce costs of phone calls while maximizing the time of the employee. "The new systems will allow business workers to take a call on their office phone and finish it on the road with a seamless handover between the business and cell phone services." In the meantime Waters continues living out his childhood dream and connecting the place he calls home with the rest of the world. "Within the next few years, we will all see these services available in a wireless environment, providing anytime, anywhere communication. I believe the combination of high-tech services with a hometown feel will give Perry a unique appeal, attracting young and old alike," he says.