Duke To Help Needy

Duke Power Company's Community Challenge Heating Fund, designed to help needy Piedmont Carolinians pay their winter fuel bills, has been increased to $150,000 this year, Cary B. Diggs, Bessemer City Branch Manager said today.

Community service organizations designated by the utility will seek matching funds on a three-to-one basis from local sources. "This brings the potential total of the fund to $600,000 systemwide, "Diggs said. Those organizations will specify who is eligible for assistance, he explained, and it will not be necessary to be a Duke Power customer. The total of $600,000 is up from a half million in each of the past two years.

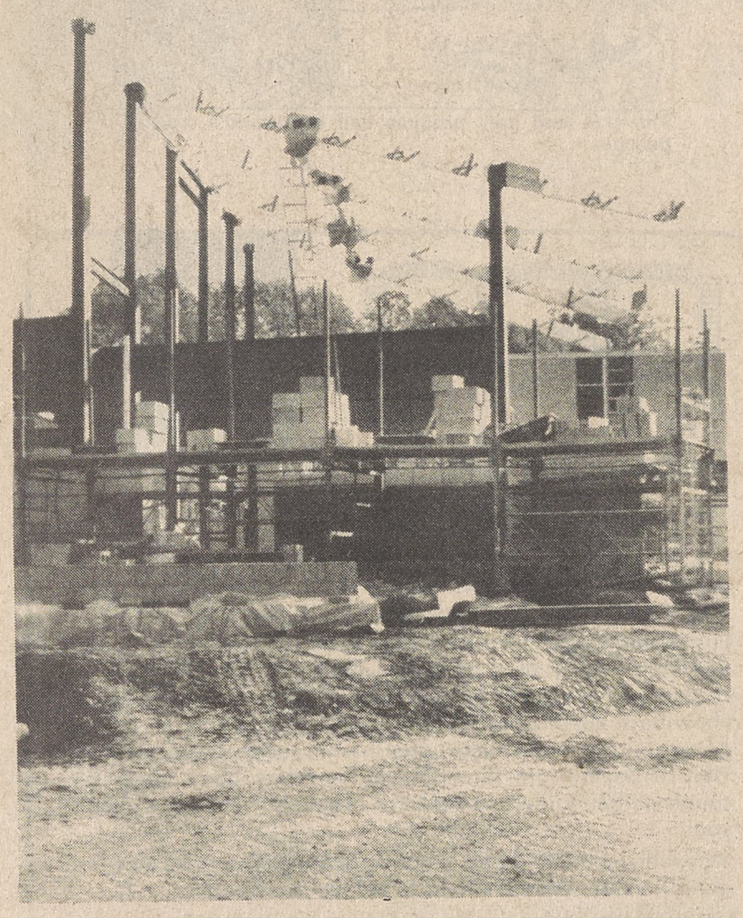
"Donations to the fund will then be used to pay for residential heating, whether provided by electricity, natural gas, oil, wood, kerosene or other sources, he said.

The $150,000 "seed money" up from $100,000 the last two years comes from Duke Power stockholders, and the challenge period for organizations to seek matching funds runs November 1 through January 31. This program was received very favorably and was quite successful in its last two years, the winters of 1982-83 and 1983-84, Diggs said.

"Many families still face a grim winter even though the economy continues to improve," Diggs said. "Additional private resources must be called on for help. By continuing this program, our shareholders are maintaining Duke Power's tradition of citizenship and service in the Carolinas," he said.

"We are confident that businesses, individuals, churches and civic, professional and service groups will respond generously to Duke Power's Community Challenge Heating Fund," he said.

For further information on the program, contact local Duke Power offices.



BEAMS GOING UP - Members of First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain got an early Thanksgiving present last week when contractors began putting up the beams which will support the roof of their new sanctuary. The 600-seat sanctuary construction began several months ago and the church hopes to occupy it some time in 1985.

Anniversary Set

Christ the King Catholic Church of Kings Mountain will be celebrating the first anniversary of its Dedication on the Solemnity of Christ the King Sunday.

Services will be held at 8:30 a.m. Members of the parish will celebrate with a 12 noon covered dish dinner in the newly-completed Parish Activity Center of the church.

An open house for members of the community will be held on Sun., Dec. 2 from 2-4 p.m. All residents of the area are invited to tour the facilities and enjoy refreshments.

Parade On Channel 3

"The Hollywood Christmas Parade," a two-hour, star-filled spectacular ringing in the holiday season will be seen Saturday, December 1st, at 9:30 AM on WBTV, Channel 3, with Michael Landon as Grand Marshal.

Bob Eubanks and Lee Meriwether co-host the glittering holiday event, featuring scores of popular celebreties including Olympic Gold Medal winner Peter Vidmar, Morgan Brittany, Joey Lawrence, Buddy Ebsen, Lou and Carla Ferrigno, Dick Van Patten, Casey and Jean Kasem, Rick Dees, Barbara Eden, Ken Kercheval, Paul Williams, Dack Rambo, Carol Lawrence, Sid Caesar, Larry Manetti, Chuck Connors, Steve Allen and Jayne Meadows, William Shatner, Danielle Brisebois, Christopher Atkins, Norm Crosby, Billy Dee Williams, and the Beavers: Jerry Mathers, Barbara Billingsly and Tony Dow.

In addition, dozens of colorful floats, equestrian units and marching bands will herald the arrival of good ol' St. Nick.

Shop And Mail Early

The Postal Service is cooperating with the business community of Kings Mountain in urging customers to shp early and mail early for the holidays.

Postmaster Fred Weaver asks holiday shoppers to mail early this year and to make certain that mail is address correctly (including zio codes) and packages are wrapped correctly so that cards and parcels reach their destinations in plenty of time for the holidays.

"Normally, we handle about 21,000 pieces of mail a day including cards, letters and packages, but during the holiday season volume goes up to about 35,000 pieces," Weaver said. "We in the Postal Service take pride in carrying your messages of love and joy. Mailing early helps us deliver the messages on time."

The key to successful holiday mailing is to mail early and correctly. Weaver says that includes planning now for gifts that must travel long distances by Christmas.

"Many overseas mailing dates, including those for the armed forces overseas, occur this month. Mailers can get specific information on the international dates by calling us here at 739-5616," Weaver said.

"Customers should also take care to write legible zip coded addresses for both the address and the return address," he added. "And remember that the use of zip codes following the name of the particular city and state will aid us in processing the mail.

"Last year, our customers helped us tremendously. They mailed early in the season and early in the day. We hope they will choose to cooperate with us again this year, so we both will have an enjoyable holiday mailing season."

Energy Assistance Available

The North Carolina Department of Human Resources reminds citizens that November 30 is the deadline to apply for the federal Low-Income Energy Assistance program.

The program provides a one-time payment to help eligible low-income households pay their heating bills this winter. It is not designed to pay all of a household's heating bills, but to provide some relief from the high cost of energy.

It is estimated that some 180,000 low-income households across the state are eligible for the Low-Income Energy Assistance program this year, according to Bonnie Cramer, assistant director for program administration in the Division of Social Services.

"With the application period more than half complete, we feel there are eligible people, including the elderly and disabled, who have not yet applied," she pointed out. "I hope families will apply as soon as possible at their county department of social services."

Cramer said that elderly or handicapped individuals may send a representative to apply for them or call their county department of social services to make other arrangements.

To be eligible for the Low-Income Energy Assistance program, households must need help with their heating bills, have incomes at or below the 1981 poverty level, and have financial resources of $2,200 or less.

The size of the payment a family receives will depend upon the number of people in the household, their combined incomes, the region of the state where they live, and the type of heating fuel they use.

Open Gate Club Meets

The Open Gate Garden Club met Wednesday at 3 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Eugene McCarter.

Members were served delicious refreshments as they arrived.

Mrs. Tom Trott presided over the business session, which was opened with the reading of the Club Collect.

Mrs. McCarter had as her guest Mrs. Kathy Booth who gave the program on "Holiday Table Decorations."

WKMT DEVOTIONS

Rev. Elwood Barnes, pastor of First Assembly of God in Kings Mountain, will lead morning devotions each day at 9 a.m. next week on Radio Station WKMT.

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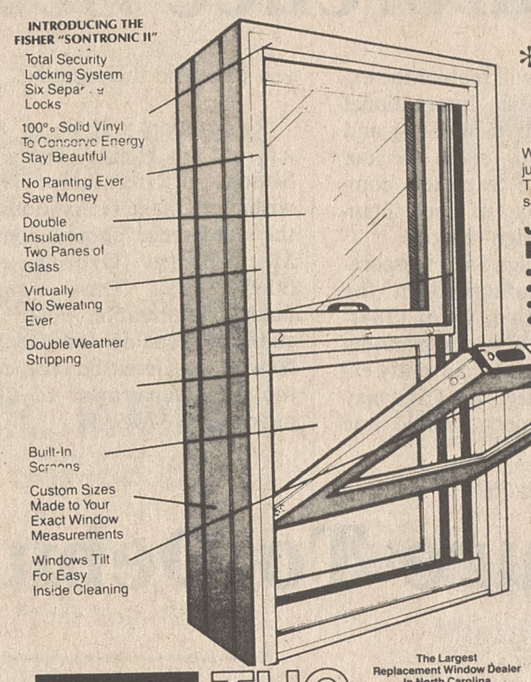

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