



WANDA KYLE

Wanda Spends Her Time Helping People In Need

A substance abuse specialist is a friend in need but the main thing is being able to work together."

The speaker is Wanda Kyle, wife of Kings Mountain Police Officer Harry Kyle. She is also a founder of the local People That Love Center which may have to shut its doors due to lack of funds to pay the rent.

When Mrs. Kyle is not working the night shift at the Gaston-Lincoln Mental Health De Tox Center in Gastonia, she's volunteering at People That Love Center or working duty with the Shelby Rescue Squad as an EMT-Intermediate.

A busy woman, Wanda, also finds time to join her husband in showing their French bulldogs and taking care of two dozen bulldogs they breed at home.

For almost a year now Mrs. Kyle has been a friend in transition to clients who come to the Gaston-Lincoln Mental Health De Tox Center on Highland Avenue in Gastonia, which offers a seven day treatment program and from which clients are referred to other institutions or agencies.

Drugs and alcohol abuse are no respecter of persons, and Mrs. Kyle has counseled the very young and the very old, some of whom are referred by the courts and by other agencies.

And people come from all walks of life, the poor and the rich.

Group therapy with clients, talking with families, giving advice and helping the client to get assistance from Alcoholics Anonymous and some individual counseling are included in her job when Wanda reports to work at 4 p.m. for the second shift.

Wanda meets a lot of street people with no place to go and she says The De Tox Center, with its 13 beds, is always full of patients who can only stay seven days. Chairs in the waiting room are always full of people with no place to spend the night and offers some respite from the cold. Because the Gaston Center is now receiving involuntary commitments from both Rutherford and Cleveland Counties, the De Tox Center is running over with patients and the out patient load is always heavy, she says.

Reared in a Christian home, Mrs. Kyle said that she felt the hand of God in her calling for this particular mission in life and also with opening of the Love Center in Kings Mountain. Involved in the Storehouse Ministry of First Assembly of God, Mrs. Kyle enlisted the aid of her pastor, Rev. Elwood Barnes, and that congregation in renting the Childers building on North Piedmont Avenue. A collection for used clothes, food for the needy and fuel for the needy began in earnest nearly two years ago. Last year 817 families were assisted and additional 150 children were fed and clothed at Christmas time. In addition, Center volunteers prepared Thanksgiving dinner for the needy.

The ongoing program has received some donations from the community but is now behind several months in rent payments. "There are just so many needy people in Kings Mountain that the public doesn't know about. They are crying for help", said Mrs. Kyle.

Mrs. Kyle's experience at the Love Center and her training as EMTI with the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad, and now the Shelby Rescue Squad, has been valuable to her in her job. "We have some clients who come off the streets with seizures and withdrawal symptoms. My training as a nursing assistant and also with the Rescue Squad helps me to know what to do for them physically", she said. "My training in the church and as the eldest of eight children growing up in a Christian home helps me to know what to say to them to help them spiritually", she says. Mrs. Smith says her husband, a patrolman with the KM Police Department, is supportive of both her volunteer job and her paid job. He is also her number one fan when she shows her show dogs and she has sold dogs to buyers all over the U.S. and Canada, including American and Canadian champions. Wanda and Harry Kyle recently took their dogs to the Metrolina Fairgrounds for a dog show and to St. Louis, Mo., where a top professional dog handler in the United States watched Wanda and her French bulldog perform in the show ring. "Wanda's a natural," the judge told Harry Kyle, explaining that Wanda's dogs relax with her and perform their best.

Officer Kyle, who has been married to Wanda Elkins for 16 years and met her when he was with the Asheville Police Department, says she is also a natural at the Love Center and at the De Tox Center. "These people relax with her and she's able to help them," he said.

"You Never Fail Until You Stop Trying" is a sign on Wanda Kyle's desk at the Love Center and De Tox Center. It's her motto and she practices what she preaches every day.

INSIDE...

Obituaries3-A
Editorials4-A
Church News5-A
Sports6-8A
Club News9-10A

Classifieds12-13A
Business News14-A
Weddings2-B
School News3-B
TV Listings8-1

25¢

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First Step Toward County-Wide System?

Water Line Extensions Endorsed

Extending water lines by connecting two major water systems—Shelby and Kings Mountain—and working with Isothermal Planning Commission to apply for grant that area available was endorsed verbally by governmental and industrial officials of the county Thursday.

The result could be the first step toward a county-wide water system.

Endorsing the proposal were Shelby City Manager

Dave Wilkinson, Mayor Kyle Smith of Kings Mountain, J.D. Ellis, representing the proposed Metropolitan Water District, and all industrial representatives present in addition to mayors of Grover, Earl and Patterson Springs.

Representing the city of Kings Mountain at the meeting called by Assistant County Manager Lane Alexander were Mayor Kyle Smith, Community Development Director Gene White and Walt Ollis of the city

public works department.

Officials of Grover Industries, Minette Mills and Hoechst Celanese were also present to ask for help in obtaining more water for their operations.

Also present were representatives from Isothermal Planning Commission, Cleveland County, Shelby, Earl, Grover and Patterson Springs, in addition to representatives to the proposed Piedmont Metropolitan Water District.

During the meeting, the county proposed a 6.7 mile extension of the Kings Mountain water system from north of Grover up Highway 226 to Lavender Road and west of Earl. The county also wants to extend the Shelby water system some 5.5 miles beginning at the intersection of highways 74 and 180 down Highway 180 to Highway 198 and to Lavender Road. This 12.2 mile extension would

Turn To Page 11-A

City Manager Interviews Set

Kings Mountain commissioners will begin interviews Tuesday night for the city manager position.

Mayor Kyle Smith said four candidates will be interviewed on Feb. 23, Feb. 25, March 1 and March 3 at the city hall. The

his office narrowed the field of 31 applicants to four.

Smith also said the city is ready to hire an outside management team to organize the city's work force and pay scale. Last week, Woody Underwood and Roger Scott of the N.C. League of Municipalities returned for a meeting with city commissioners with a list of firms who do organizational studies.

The selection of the outside management team may be on the agenda for consideration by commissioners at the March 8 meeting. A league-contracted project could cost between \$18,000 and \$20,000.



Photo by Lib Stewart

AARP CHAPTER CHARTERED - Kings Mountain AARP Chapter received its official charter Tuesday. President Ruth Gamble, right, accepts the charter from Assistant State Director Ray Neatherly, center, as Charles Walker, treasurer, looks on. The local chapter doubled its membership in 1987 with 87 members.

Bomb Blast Damages Car, Store

Fran Black, acting codes officer at city hall, heard the Saturday night blast several blocks away at her home on Monte Vista Drive.

What it was was a bomb exploding in a 1977 Datsun parked across the street from

Griffin Drug Rite on West Mountain Street. The owner of the vehicle, Todd Allen Cloninger, 22, of 415 Fulton Drive, was inside the pool hall when the explosion occurred, heavily damaging his car and blowing out the glass in the door and windows of

Griffin Drug Store, 129 W. Mountain Street.

Investigators with the Tobacco and Firearms Control were still investigating the incident, according to the Kings Mountain Police Department.

Ptl. Charles Bundrick in-

vestigated for KMPd. The bombing occurred at 9:30 p.m.

"We had our television on in our living room and the noise was so loud that we could hear it over the noise of the television set," Mrs. Black said.

Committees Look At Sewer Plant Sites

Steering committees for the proposed \$26 million Crowders Creek waste treatment plan have looked at three potential plant sites and are presently investigating potential right-of-way.

Gene White, Director of Community Development for the City of Kings Mountain and a member of the committee representing the city,

gave the progress report this week.

White said that lead agency for the project—the city of Gastonia—met with J.N. Pease Engineering representatives this week to finalize the engineering study contract. The \$1 million contract was being presenting to the city of Gastonia Council for approval.

White said that Gastonia Public Works Director Sam Wilkins is in process of formulating proposed local agreements with the municipalities involved, including Gastonia, Kings Mountain, Gaston County and Bessemer City.

The regional plant would open 64 acres of southwest Gaston County to residential

and industrial development and would treat wastewater for Gastonia, Gaston County, Kings Mountain and Bessemer City.

With the possibility of a \$14 million grant, the four municipalities would share in the cost of the remaining \$11 million.

Earliest construction could start in February 1989.

Lenten Services Scheduled

Community Lenten services will be held each Wednesday during Lent, beginning Wed., Feb. 24 at Central United Methodist Church.

All services will be held at Central each Wednesday from 12:05 until 12:30 p.m., with different preachers from downtown churches bringing the messages.

The services will center on the theme of the "Fruit of the

Spirit" and will be taken from Paul's letter to the Galatians.

After each service, there will be a light meal in the fellowship hall. Donations will be received at the door of the fellowship hall to cover the cost of food.

The worship leaders for the services include:

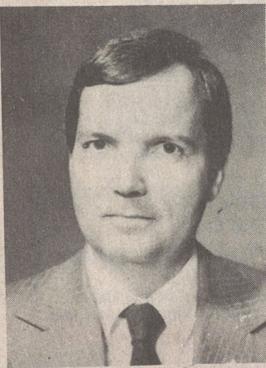
Feb. 24 - George Auman liturgist, Eric Faust preacher.

March 2 - Harwood Smith liturgist, Philip Squire preacher.

March 9 - Tom Hudson liturgist, Bob Collins preacher.

March 16 - Bill Tyson liturgist, George Auman preacher.

March 23 - Eric Faust liturgist, Bill Tyson preacher.



DR. ERIC FAUST