

PEOPLE COME FROM ALL OVER TO SEE CHRISTMASTOWN U.S.A.

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DELORES WHITE'S 'FED UP'

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA 25¢

He's Bought 24 In 24 Years

Buying New Car Tradition For KM's Lawrence Etters

Buying a new car is an occasional experience for most people, but for Lawrence Etters it is a tradition. Etters took delivery this week of a 1989 Thunderbird from Wade Ford. It marked the 24th consecutive year that Etters has bought a new Ford, and all have been ordered from his hometown dealer.

"When I find something I like, I stick with it," said Etters, "and when I am for something, I am for it 100 percent."

The Kings Mountain native ordered his first new car in 1965, a Ford Mustang 2+2 fastback from Southwell Motor Company, at that time the local Ford dealership. Window sticker price was \$3,011. Each year he continued ordering a new car and trading in his old one.

"I decided after I got my first car paid for that I would continue buying a new one every year as long as I could afford it because they were under warranty and all I had to do was change the oil," he said.

Etters, a bachelor, says he hasn't made a car payment since 1968. He trades in his year-old car and pays the difference on the new model.

"One year we gave Lawrence back money and a new car," laughs Wade Tyner, who bought the Kings Mountain dealership 18 years ago. "Lawrence traded in a 1976 Thunderbird on a new '77 model, which had been down-sized. It turned out that he got \$300 back with his trade-in, plus a new car."

"The tax people didn't understand that," adds Etters. Each June, Etters picks up the new car information from Wade Ford, and a day or two later comes back with his order. "By ordering every year, it doesn't take long to do it," he says.

The most mileage Etters has ever put on a car was 13,000 on a 1983 Crown Victoria. The least, 5,800, was on a 1980 Thunderbird. "I don't drive many miles, but I like to enjoy it when I do," he said. The longest trip he has taken was to Miami and back to Kings Mountain.

Except for a three year enlistment in the military, Etters has called Kings Mountain his home. He still lives in his home-place at 709 Harmon Road. He graduated from Kings Mountain Central High School in 1957.

An avid NASCAR fan, Etters has permanent seats at Charlotte Motor Speedway. He closely follows the racing circuit and is a loyal Bill Elliott fan, who races for Ford.

"I am a Bill Elliott fan 100 percent. I admire his style of racing," says Etter who records on his VCR all of Elliott's televised races. "I have his first win in 1983 at Riverside on tape," he said.

Etters has also saved every window sticker from each new car. The variety of Fords he has ordered include one Mustang, six Torinos, one Fairlane, one Taurus, six Crown Victorias and nine Thunderbirds. He usually orders blue or gold and likes his cars "loaded, except for a sunroof."

Does Wade Ford have other customers like Lawrence?

"I have some commercial customers who have bought more cars, but I don't know of anyone who has been 100 percent Ford each year like Lawrence has," Tyner said. "Lawrence and I have a special relationship that I cherish very much," he added.

Etters works as a lab analyst at Foote Minerals. He hasn't missed a scheduled work day since he started with the company in 1964. "I really enjoy my job, it is interesting," he said.

Of all the cars he has owned, which one has he enjoyed the most?

"None of them have stood out better in my mind, but after I have driven this new one 100 miles this week, this '89 is head and shoulders above the others I have owned," Etters said.

Ford has completely re-designed this year's Thunderbird, and Etters thinks the aerodynamic style of the car make it unique.

"These things you see and read about quality aren't hype. They are there, and they are continuing to make improvements, and pay attention to quality control," he said.

So what kind of car will Lawrence Etters buy next year?

"It will probably be a Thunderbird," Etters says with a smile.



WINDOW STICKERS — Lawrence Etters, left, and Wade Tyner look over the original window stickers Etters has saved from each new car he has ordered. Etter has ordered a new car each year for the past 24 consecutive years.

City Has Not Heard From Suit

Kings Mountain has not yet been served papers involving a lawsuit filed one month ago in U.S. District Court in Asheville naming the city, the former mayor and two city employees in a discrimination lawsuit.

A story concerning the lawsuit appeared last week in the Herald outlining the charges filed by a former city employee. However, since the action was filed Nov. 7 in U.S. District Court in Asheville the suit has not been served on current or past city officials.

"As of this morning, neither I nor the mayor or the city clerk have received the paper work," said City Manager George Wood.

The action was filed by attorney Geraldine Sumter of the law firm of Ferguson, Stein, Watt, Wallas & Adkins of Charlotte on behalf of Patsy Jean Parker, a former aerobics and fitness instructor employed by the city. The lawsuit states that Parker was discriminated against by former mayor John Henry Moss, city employee Clyde Parrish and former city recreation director George Adams.

Generally, a plaintiff filing a lawsuit has 20 days to see that the complaint is served against the defendants. Usually the suit is sent by certified mail or is served by another person who is not involved in the lawsuit.

The case is currently in limbo since the 20 day period has expired. The plaintiff must now show cause as to why the complaint could not be delivered. If the reason is acceptable to the court, an extension will be granted if requested by the plaintiff. If the extension is not granted the case would be dismissed, requiring it to be refiled if Parker and her attorneys decided to pursue the action.

Currently there is approximately a five to six months waiting period from the time a case is filed until it actually comes to trial.

If the case is served against those named in the action, the city will have approximately 30 to 60 days to file its initial response, and from that point will go to discovery motions and findings prior to the trial date.

KM Schools May Re-Line Boundaries

The Kings Mountain District Schools Board of Education is beginning preliminary discussions on possible re-districting of elementary schools attendance zones to bring a more-balanced racial enrollment to the five schools.

At its regular monthly meeting Monday night at the Kings Mountain High School cafeteria, the board discussed five possible re-districting ideas and voted to have a lengthy work session in January to go into more detail.

Dr. Robert McRae said the public would be informed of the work session, which would be an open meeting. It will be held January 10 at the Superintendent's Office.

The main school which will have to have attendance zones re-drawn is East Elementary, which has a student population of 263, of which 56 percent are minorities.

Assistant Superintendent Larry Allen said he had met with elementary principals as a group—and in some cases individually—to discuss reorganization of schools to bring about a more racially balanced enrollment. Principals identified the residence of all of their students on a map of the school district, and based on the spot-map information, suggested the following scenarios for the board to consider. (Board members said they would consider those five scenarios, and possibly others, at the January work session.)

Those possible solutions include:

- 1 - Expanding the East attendance area to include the residences between Piedmont Avenue and Southern Railroad. Students residing in Pine Manor Apartments would be moved to North School. The result would be that East would receive some more non-minority students. Minority enrollment at East would decrease from 56 percent to 38.2 percent and North's minority percentage would increase from the current 26 percent to 37.7 percent.

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GROVER FABRIC TO DECORATE QUAYLE OFFICE - Elizabeth Weaving employees of Grover are excited about the rush order they shipped this week to Vice President-elect Dan Quayle. Chris Stryker, left, and designer Laura Allred display the burgundy pattern selected by Quayle's wife, Marilyn.

Quayle Office To Have Grover Touch

Everybody at Elizabeth Weaving in Grover thought it was a joke: a rush order for upholstery fabric for Vice President-elect Dan Quayle's Washington office.

"We thought they were just pulling our leg," plant manager David Godbold said, recalling the telephone order which came at 3:30 p.m. Friday to Chris Stryler from the company's representative Don Green at Waverly Fabrics in New York City.

"Do you have 130 yards of the Erica upholstery material in a solid burgundy background with a navy blue and teal pattern that looks like flowers?," asked the caller.

They did and workers at the Caveny Road plant which manufactures upholstery fabric put in about eight hours overtime over the weekend making the upholstery pattern which was shipped out in two rolls Tuesday to Synthetic Finishing Co. in Hickory. Synthetic Finishing will apply backing, and Scotchguard to protect against stains, to the fabric.

From there, the fabric goes to Waverly Corp., the New York furniture maker working with Quayle's wife, Marilyn, and a Virginia interior decorator to redo the

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Employees To Get Extra Vacation Day

City Council in regular session Tuesday night at City Hall spread Christmas cheer (granting employees an extra-day vacation) and accolades of approval to employees for superior work attitude, outlook and performance for the past several months.

"City employees richly deserve a pat on the back, all the way from the manager on down," Fred E. Finger, District 5 Councilman said as he made a motion, passed unanimously, to compliment staff and workers.

Councilman Finger's approbation came at the close of a fast-paced 18-minute session with all council members present.

Employees were voted the extra day "for this year only" and will not work on Dec. 24th or Dec. 26th. Bonus was paid to employees last week, those with the city a full year receiving a week's pay and others being rewarded at one-twelfth rate for each month worked.

Mayor Kyle Smith set the staccato pace after he opened the meeting with the invocation.

Indicative of the pace was quick approval of a request by Michael E. Brown, developer of Brown

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Bond Referendum Public Hearing Set

City Council will conduct a public hearing Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall for a Feb. 7, 1989, bond referendum which seeks \$9.2 million for upgrading utilities.

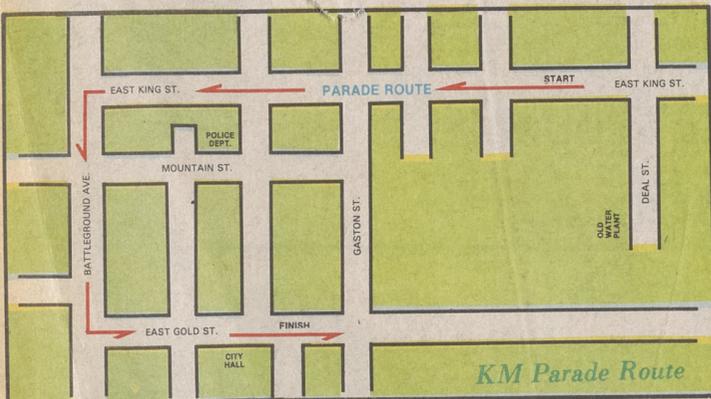
The public is invited and encouraged to attend the meeting.

City officials say the improvements are necessary and that many items in the improvements package are state ordered.

The estimated pay-back on the \$9,230, 200, bonds, if passed by voters, is \$18 million over 20 years.

A rate study is currently underway to determine adjustments in water and sewer rates to be phased in over a period of time to help repay the bonds the city hopes to issue.

"We invite the community to attend Tuesday's meeting and give their input," said Mayor Kyle Smith.



Christmas Parade Is Sunday At 2 P.M.

Santa Claus is coming to town Sunday at 2 p.m. in a 103-unit Christmas parade.

The parade will form on East King Street, branching off on Deal, Carpenter and Dilling Streets and will follow the traditional route, proceeding from King to the overhead bridge and turning left on Battleground Avenue. The parade will continue down Battleground, turning left on East Gold, beside KM Farm Center, and disbanding at the site of the new Post Office.

James Fulgham, Potentate of the Charlotte Oasis Temple, will serve as marshal for the parade. Shriners units, cars and clowns will be featured with Fulgham.

Leading off the parade will be units of the N. C. Highway Patrol and Cleveland County Sheriff's Department followed by Kings Mountain Police Chief and Kings Mountain Fire Chief and by Kings

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COMMUNITY FACTS

Kings Mountain Elementary Schools MINORITY ENROLLMENT OCTOBER

School	Total	% Minority
Bethware	445	14%
East	263	56%
Grover	395	30%
North	357	26%
West	284	23%

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