



**Parson Of The Hills
Serves The Needy**
■ Page 1-C

**Hugh Falls Sunday
School Teacher For
55 Years**
■ Page 12-C



**Plato Goforth Was An
Original Mountaineer**
■ Page 8-A

— Since 1889 —

Kings Mountain Herald

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA 25°



HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS - Santa Claus reaches into his bag of goodies for some candy to throw to youngsters lining the parade route in Sunday's annual Christmas parade in downtown Kings Mountain. Santa will be making his rounds again early Christmas morning with lots of toys for good girls and boys. More parade pictures are on page 1-B.

Bond Referendum Vote Set Feb. 7

City Council, at a called regular session at city hall Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., held a public hearing on the Feb. 7, 1989, \$9.2 million bond referendum and adopted bond orders and the final resolution officially setting the procedure, as required by law.

The city fathers also got a jump on the contemplated expenditures for water, wastewater and electrical "catch up" and expansion efforts by approving a utilities committee recommendation, proposed by Consulting Engineer David Pond at a meeting with the committee on Dec. 7th, to contract now for design work for:

1) the proposed 2.0 MGD (million gallon per day) expansion and sludge-handling facilities at the Pilot Creek WWTP (waste water treatment plant) located on Potts Creek off US-74 east of the Buffalo Creek bridges.

2) the proposed 5.0 MG (million gallon) finished water storage tank to be located off NC-161 north of the city.

The vote was 6-0 with all members present. The council authorized Mayor Kyle Smith, who presided, to sign the contracts. The action allows W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc., engineers to continue design work already undertaken in the general process of planning the upgrading of the services.

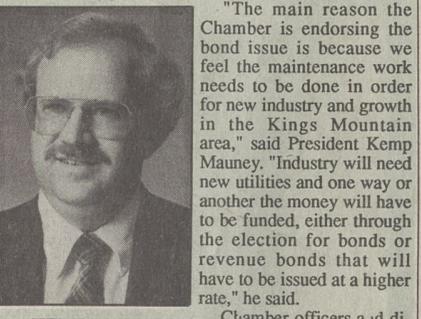
"Kings Mountain is operating under a judicial order of consent," Pond said during the public hearing, "and that means the city and the court have agreed to a schedule to improve wastewater disposal and treatment or the judge will begin collecting daily fines for continued violations."

The court order was served last spring, Pond said, and resulted in a shut-down of the city's ability to hook-on new customers seeking sewer service. Emergency repairs of some \$100,000 were made, he said, and the moratorium has been lifted.

"These projects to be paid for by the proposed general obligation bonds will only bring Kings Mountain's sewer operations up to present day standards required by law," the representative of the

Chamber Endorses Idea

Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce Monday endorsed the Feb. 7 bond referendum which seeks \$9.2 million for upgrading city utilities.



"The main reason the Chamber is endorsing the bond issue is because we feel the maintenance work needs to be done in order for new industry and growth in the Kings Mountain area," said President Kemp Mauney. "Industry will need new utilities and one way or another the money will have to be funded, either through the election for bonds or revenue bonds that will have to be issued at a higher rate," he said.

Chamber officers and directors met for a business meeting to set the annual banquet for Jan. 23, 1989 at 7 p.m. at Holiday Inn. They also approved three new directors, including Lyn Cheshire, David Faunce and Joe Andrews. Other officers are Bobby Maner, First Vice President; Dr. Grady Howard, Jr., Second Vice-President; and Lucille Williams, Secretary. Other directors are Will Herndon, Ernest Rome, Claude Suber, Jonas Bridges, Carl Plonk, Bobby Maner, John Henry Moss, Louie Sabettie, Vickie Smith, Ruby Alexander, Grady Howard, Jr., John McGinnis, Rick Keever, Glee Bridges, and Odus Smith. Mayor Kyle Smith and Grady Howard, Sr., are honorary members.

Mrs. Vickie Smith announced that speaker for the January banquet will be Paulette Purgason, Public Relations Co-ordinator for Charlotte's Douglas International Airport.

Turn To Page 6-A

Santa Claus Has Helpers

Santa Claus will have many helpers this season as various churches and individuals plan special projects to help the less fortunate.

Kings Mountain ministers will be ringing bells in the shopping centers Friday and Saturday from 3 until 9 p.m., an annual invitation to citizens to help stock a Helping Hand Fund which is an on-going year-round project for the needy. The Helping Hand Fund also operates a Food Bank at the Community Center and Diane Davis distributes the staple food items from 2 until 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Local churches provide food certificates to needy persons to visit the food bank.

People That Love Center on North Piedmont Avenue will spread Christmas cheer to several hundred children this season but need the support of local gifts. Mrs. Wanda Kyle, Center operator, said that good, used toys are needed as well as money to buy food and fruit. Since Kings Mountain Fire Department is not conducting its Toys for Tots program this year, the Love Center is the only location in town where toys will be available to area needy, said Mrs. Kyle. Persons wanting to make donations to the Center may do so on Thursday and Friday from 10 to 12:30 and between 3 and 5 p.m. On Saturday the Center will open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. and all day beginning Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Gifts will be distributed to the needy on Dec. 23, said Mrs. Kyle.

In addition to the toy collection, the Love Center will be distributing food to 20 families and to a number of senior citizens. "Any donation will be appreciated," said Mrs. Kyle.

Mrs. Kyle said volunteers are needed to staff the Love Center during the holidays. She acknowledged the assistance of Boy Scout Troop 441 who helped out during the Thanksgiving holiday when the Center served a hot turkey dinner to needy families.

Kings Mountain Baptist Association is operating a New Toy Store this season for the area needy who can receive information from local churches. Various churches are contributing the new toys, as well as donations to buy new toys, and the facility is open from 9

Turn To Page 6-A



MUSIC MAN-Tony Blanton plays the Balalaika, a Russian guitar. He plays more than 60 instruments, many of which are homemade.

Tony Blanton: A Novelty Act

Tony Blanton is a music maker. His music doesn't always come from traditional instruments, or from the classics. In fact, he is 180 degrees from what most people would consider conventional.

"It all started in 1976 when I got laid off work," said Blanton from his home on Crow Road near Shelby. "I didn't have no money to do anything, so I started trying to play."

And play he has, learning to bring tunes from 60 different instruments, 25 of which he made.

Blanton, who has never studied music, discovered his grandfather's fiddle. "I learned 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' the first day," he laughs. From there Blanton's unusual experiments with musical instruments began, and it has grown into a sideline that is taking up a bigger portion of his life.

He is currently performing in 10 annual music shows throughout the region, and is also being called on to perform for various groups around the area. Last week he was in Kings Mountain and played for the Board of Realtors during their annual Christmas banquet.

Has Blanton had a life-long love for music?
"No, not really," he said. "When I was growing up about all you ever heard was the Beatles, and I really

didn't care for that. It just sort of happen, when I found out that I could make music."

Blanton, who terms his show a novelty act, usually performs by playing instruments alphabetically. "It's the only way I can keep up with them," he smiles.

It usually begins with an autoharp, then to a Balalaika, a Russian guitar -like instrument, next a banjo and then through a variety of instruments many of which the audience has usually never seen.

Blanton plays a beautiful melody from glasses filled with water. He also plays a handsaw, a balloon, a piece of water hose in a plastic bottle, and even a straw.

He has appeared before a variety of civic groups and has been on several regional television stations and was once on NBC nightly news. "I have learned that people do enjoy what I do, and I am learning more and more what they like." He first started performing in 1985.

He says that he is waiting to be discovered and is now working for the Fire Service "counting trees."

Performing in bib overalls in a very casual manner is Blanton's style. "I think I would fit in real good on 'Hee Haw,' but I don't believe I would go over on 'Lawrence Welk,'" he laughs.

KM Homes Get New Roofs

Insurance claims may top \$1 million from the May 17 hailstorm which damaged approximately 3,000 homes in the Greater Kings Mountain area.

Bob Maner, owner of B. F. Maner Agency, said that the hailstorm swiped the south side of the city and that the average claim is between \$1500-\$2000. Replacing some roofs were much higher, he said, noting that one claim for a cedar shake roof amounted to \$20,000 and another big claim for replacement of a high quality roof was \$13,500.

Linda Bennett, claims representative for Warlick-Hamrick Insurance Agency, said her firm was also hard hit by claims for roof repairs following the storm. "We'll still be paying for several more months and are

working to get them settled," she said. Mrs. Bennett says she has no actual count of the number of households affected by the storm but "it's a whole lot and damages are in the thousands of dollars."

Maner said his firm has handled 500-600 claims filed on homeowner's policies and that the money paid out by local insurance companies for new roofs will approximate a million dollars. Maner's figures also include residents in Grover who suffered storm damage and some home owners in Earl and the Ebenezer section off Cherryville Road.

Maner said the storm touched down in the south end of the city in the area of the Kings Mountain High School on Phifer Road and on York Road near his

business. Most homes with roofs 10-12 years old got new roofs, said Maner. Also Princeton Drive residents near the Margrace area of the city got new roofs, he said. The Quail Run Community was also heavily damaged by the hail and most roofs in that section had to be replaced, he said.

Maner said that his projection of the damages to this area also include conversations with other insurance carriers of homeowners insurance who service this area.

Maner agreed with Mrs. Bennett that it will several months before the final figures can be tabulated.

A total of 103 roofing permits were issued by the Kings Mountain Codes Department for the period May-November.

INSIDE

- Classifieds 13-B
- Community News..... 14-C
- Editorials 4-A
- Food 10-C
- Lifestyles 1-C
- Obituaries 3-A
- Religion 9-B
- Schools 3-B
- Sports 7-A

44

PAGES TODAY

DWI Arrests Increase 50 Percent

A 50 percent increase in arrests of drunk drivers has been the result of a new DWI Task Force which began operation Nov.1 following a \$69,989.57 grant, which includes \$8,609.75 from the city and the remainder from federal funds.

Captain Bob Hayes, who heads up the project for the Kings Mountain Police Department, said the grant also supplied a new 1988 Ford Crown Victoria fully equipped and a computer for the operation. Mrs. Marty Blanton serves as project analysis secretary.

The grant period is for one year and employs off-duty personnel who are full-time police officers to operate the DWI enforcement program on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

During the first month of operation Hayes said a total of 164.5 patrol hours were manned by project per-

sonnel and the number of DWI arrests by project personnel totaled 23. The number of speeding arrests by project personnel totaled 23. The number of seat belt citations by project personnel totaled six. All other arrests by project personnel totaled 42. The special Task Force investigated 33 accidents involving 13 injuries including three which were alcohol related. Alcohol related property damages amounted to \$7,000.

Patrolmen working the Task Force drove a total of 2,080 miles during the month of November.

Police use roadblocks, radar and moving patrol to remove drunk drivers from the highway which is the major goal of the DWI Task Force and have seen a large increase in DWI detection and arrests since the program began a month ago.

COMMUNITY FACTS

