



# Kings Mountain Herald

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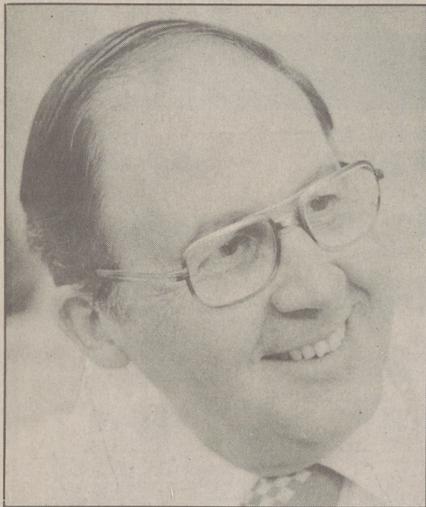
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KINGS MOUNTAIN

3086

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WILSON GRIFFIN

## Billboards Banned

Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night banned new off-premise advertising billboards within the corporate limits and extra-territorial jurisdiction.

The action by Council will not affect existing billboards but will prohibit construction of more.

No one spoke in opposition to the new ordinance during public hearing.

Wilson Griffin, chairman of the Planning & Zoning Board, said the new sign regulations come at the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Board. The city has a moderate amount of billboards now and the action is just a step to stop new construction before billboards become a problem in the city.

"We've been concerned about our thoroughfares and especially the proliferation of signs along the U. S. 74 by-pass and that was the reason for the recent 180-day moratorium asked by the Planning Board on new bill-

boards," said City Manager George Wood. The moratorium would have expired Dec. 13.

Wood said the new rule covers only advertising billboards that are located off the advertiser's property. It would also leave untouched those billboards already in town.

"We're not forcing anyone to do away with existing signs," Wood said.

The amended ordinance spells out that display lighting of outdoor advertising signs shall be shielded so as to prevent the direction of such light into any structure used primarily for residential purposes and no rotating, revolving, or intermittent lighting devices shall be attached to, or made a part of, any outdoor advertising sign.

The ordinance also states that no person shall construct or maintain any sign within 600 feet of the near-

est edge of the right-of-way of the primary highway system without first obtaining a permit from the N. C. Department of Transportation as required by the North Carolina General Statutes and that no person shall construct, relocate, erect, alter or otherwise maintain a sign (except for directional information signs; temporary real estate signs; temporary construction signs; memorial plaques, cornerstones, historical political signs) without first obtaining a permit from the administrative official of the city. Nonconforming signs which are destroyed or damaged by 50% or more of their value shall not be rebuilt or repaired except in conformance with the new ordinance.

In other actions, Council:

See Ban, 3-A

## Spark Plug

### Denise Buchanan Heads Dropout Prevention Effort

At Kings Mountain Senior High School the program is called "Spark Plug" and it is geared to helping "at risk" students stay in school.

Denise Buchanan, English and math teacher of exceptional children, says the program, in its first year, is definitely working.



DENISE BUCHANAN

"We can see a big difference already in the 50 sophomores, 30 juniors and 20 seniors who were identified early this year and adopted by 20 teachers who discreetly serve as a support group. Each teacher offers special help to one to six students.

"At risk" students are those who have low CAT or low competency test scores, were retained once or more and came from the 9th grade with little or no units and must carry a maximum of six units each year to graduate in the 12th grade. Referrals by teachers last spring identified the group as potential drop-outs.

"Helping kids feel better about their lives is one aim of the program too," says Buchanan who said kids need a special contact person at school to steer them in the right direction, if for instance there is drug suspicion, if the student has failed a grade or has been active in -school and out-of-school suspension programs.

"Our teachers get together for brainstorming sessions to help one another and we keep progress charts on each student, even though the student is not aware he or she is being signaled out for special attention," she said.

At KMSHS, the student population is 783, including 298 sophomores, 256 juniors and 229 seniors. Next year the high school population will also include freshmen.

See Spark, 6-A

## A Real YAP-per



YOUTH ASSISTANCE-Melanie McDaniel, Executive Director of Youth Assistance Program of Cleveland County, Inc., above, presents a set of friendship hearts and graduation certificates to Kings Mountain volunteer Ronnie Hawkins and his youth match Eric. Three Cleveland County matches were honored Monday.

## Ronnie Hawkins Is Cited For Youth Volunteer Work

Ronnie Hawkins, Kings Mountain funeral director, was honored for his volunteer service with The Youth Assistance Program of Cleveland County, Inc. Monday night when he and his successful youth "match" were presented a set of friendship hearts and graduation certificates.

The local "match" was one of three cited during the program by Tip Boinest, Chairman of the YAP

Board, and Melanie McDaniel, Executive Director.

The three matches were Christie Lane and Susan, Randy McSwain and Todd and Ronnie Hawkins and Eric. These matches have been together an average of four hours per week for one year.

In October 1989, YAP celebrated a successful match between Glenn Hairston and Joey.

The Youth Assistance Program

of Cleveland County, Inc. is a Governor's One-on-One Volunteer Program.

McDaniel said YAP is dedicated to serving the youth of Cleveland County. Volunteers are needed to work one-on-one with troubled youth to provide a positive role model. McDaniel invites interested volunteers to call 482-2315 or 482-3144.

The awards ceremony included dinner at Western Steer in Shelby.

## United Fund Inches Closer To 1990 Goal

Kings Mountain United Fund inched closer to its \$121,500 goal this week as the big industrial division topped its goal with pledges of \$91,237.00 or 115% of goal of \$79,700.

With only about \$3,000 to go in a campaign which sought a 5% increase over 1989, chairman Ruby M. Alexander said that plans for a big victory celebration will be made by United Fund Board of Directors Dec. 18 at a meeting called by UF President Bob McRae at noon at Holiday Inn.

Ernest Rome, chairman of the industrial committee which includes Maude Norris, also of Anvil Knitwear, Mikie Smith of Commercial Intertech, Lavon Strickland of Parkdale and Marlene Reynolds of Glen Raven Mills, said that employees at 31 Kings Mountain area industries were contacted about giving to the United Fund and that from most industries the contributions were larger this year with several plants giving over \$5,000.

Leading the industrial gifts were Commercial Intertech with \$18,478.32; Mauney Hosier/Cleveland Hosier with \$13,200; and Anvil Knitwear with \$10,635.88. Also making sizeable contributions were Reliance Electric, \$8,750; Spectrum, \$6,542; Sadie Mills, \$5,848 and Parkdale Mills, \$5,026.

"We are so pleased with the response by industry," said Norris, noting that some industries increased their contributions five times over their giving in 1988.

"We have had so many people working this year to make this drive a success and I just can't praise them enough," said Mrs. Alexander.

Two other divisions in the campaign, the schools and advance gifts, are also over the top. J. C. and Edie Bridges, co-chairmen of the advance gifts division, reported \$5488 or 112% of goal and Ronnie Wilson, schools chairman, reported \$7375 or 105% of goal.

"We think that all our divisions will be over the top by this Friday," said Alexander who encourages those people who had not made a donation to do so while encouraging division leaders to wrap up the campaign this week.

The Dec. 18 meeting of UF directors will also include a report from the nominating committee, audit report and campaign summary.



## Tree Lighting Slated Friday

The lights on the traditional Christmas tree at Mauney Memorial Library will be turned on Friday at 6 p.m. to officially open the yule season in Kings Mountain.

Electrical crews from the city, assisted by the five school children who won prizes for drawing the prettiest tree, will turn the switch which lights up the 40-foot tall tree, a landmark which almost came down last year but remained standing after citizens protested the Library board's decision that the tree had outlived its usefulness. The pine tree withstood Hurricane Hugo in September when the storm uprooted a big oak beside it and tore down many other trees on Piedmont Avenue.

City Utilities Supt. Jimmy Maney will present certificates from the city to the five K-1 art winners from East, West, North, Grover and Bethware Schools.

"This is just something the city wanted to do to get us in the holiday spirit," said Maney who invites the public to attend.

Electrical crews put up Christmas decoration on downtown streets this week and holiday greetings at entrances to the city.

The traditional holiday parade, sponsored by the City Parks and Recreation Department, will be held on Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. and feature Santa Claus as the star.

## Chamber Seeking Director

Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce will begin interviewing soon for an Executive Director, a new position.

President Bobby Maner said the Chamber has received two dozen applications and will soon begin the task of interviewing and then narrowing the list for the final selection.

"We are elated that so many people are interested and have sent resumes," he said in a newsletter to members of the Chamber. "I'd like to think from all these applications that we will find Kings Mountain a good one."

Maner said the Chamber has unanimously endorsed the Crisis Ministry underway by the KM Ministerial Association to provide a direct source of help for needy citizens. The program will offer financial help,

medical assistance, counseling and education through other groups, food and clothing and plans to hire a full-time director to run the program at the Community Center. A food bank currently operates at the Community Center.

In the membership letter, Maner reported that both political forums sponsored recently by the Chamber gave the voters in the KM city election and District School Board election an open look at the candidates and their views. "I think we did just that and we'll pledge to continue it in the future elections to come," he said. Maner said the City Council forum came on the heels of Hurricane Hugo and was not as well attended as the School Board forum which was a packed house.

## Stocking Fund Is Growing

Donations to the Kings Mountain Empty Stocking Fund almost doubled this week, with \$860 now in the fund at Home Federal Savings and Loan.

Donations last week totaled \$405. The previous total was \$455.

Marian V. Canipe of Charlotte donated \$10 after reading recent stories about needy people in the Herald.

"I am a former resident of Kings Mountain and a subscriber to the Kings Mountain Herald," Mrs. Canipe wrote in a brief letter accompanying her donation. "As I am still concerned for the local citizens there, I was heart broken after reading the recently published stories of so many people in need.

"I sincerely hope that my donation will help bring some measure of happiness to these deserving people.

"I will be watching the new totals in the paper each week with great interest."

The Empty Stocking Fund was organized recently as a special Christmas division of the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association to help insure that needy people--particularly children--in the greater Kings Mountain area have a merry Christmas.

Donations may be made in memory or in honor of someone or may be made anonymously if the donor does not want his or her name published in the paper. All donations are tax deductible and may be taken by Home Federal Savings and Loan and deposited in the special account there, or they may be mailed to the Empty Stocking Fund, P.O. Box 1491, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086.



### Empty Stocking Fund

Last week's contributions:

- Anne and Dmitri M. Pouchak, \$10.00
- Arnold and Marian V. Canipe, Charlotte, \$10.00
- Anonymous, \$100.00
- Anonymous, \$100.00
- Anonymous, \$100.00
- Anonymous, \$25.00
- Anonymous, \$50.00
- Anonymous, \$10.00

Last week's total, \$405.00  
Previous totals, \$455.00  
Grand Total, \$860.00