

Council approves
utility pay-back plan **3-A**

Martha Fox
100 years old
(See story below)

Clark new head coach **8-A**
at Southern Guilford

Kings Mountain Herald

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Christmas parade is Saturday

Tree lighting tonight

The Christmas season will officially open in Kings Mountain Thursday at 7 p.m. with the lighting of the community tree in front of Mauney Memorial Library.

St. Matthew's Pre-Schoolers will present a program of carols and afterwards Santa Claus will pay a visit to children in the Auditorium and refreshments will be served. The public is invited.

An early Christmas present to readers will be unlimited free books from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday.

A 111-unit Christmas parade will open the holiday season in Kings Mountain Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

Santa Claus will share the spotlight with Kings Mountain Senator J. Ollie Harris, parade marshal.

Beauty queens, the high-stepping Kings Mountain High School Band, numerous floats and the Shriner's Piedmont Pistons are among the groups expected for the annual event expected to attract hundreds of spectators.

Assistant Police Chief Captain Bob Hayes said the parade will form on York Road and Gold Street in the area of Kings Mountain City Hall, pro-

ceed on Gold Street and turn right at Fred Kiser's Restaurant on Battleground and proceed through the main part of town, turning right at the overhead bridge on King Street and disbanding on East King in the area of Kentucky Fried Chicken.

City Recreation Director Karen Byers says the weatherman is predicting perfect weather, 50 degrees and sunny, for the annual spectacle headed up by David Dellinger of the sponsoring Parks & Recreation Department.

Leading the parade lineup will be Kings Mountain Police and the N. C. Highway Patrol, Cleveland County deputies,

Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns and Sheriff-Elect Dan Crawford followed by the Crest High School AFROTC Color Guard, Grand Marshal Harris, Mayor Scott Neisler and City Council and county commissioners.

Other units will include Mauney Memorial Library float, Kings Mountain Fire Department antique trucks and three units of firemen and vehicles, Jane Campbell dancers and float, Amanda Stacey, America's Beauty Queen from Rock Hill, SC, Personnel Services Unlimited float, Alpha Kappa Alpha Queen of the Ball Heather McDonald, Bob Moody's golf carts, Little Miss

Shelby Heather Dawn Ashley, Carolina State Bank float, Kings Mountain High School Marching Band, Kings Mountain High School cheerleaders, Kings Mountain Middle School cheerleaders, KMHS homecoming float, Boy Scouts of Troop 91, Cub Scouts of Pack 95 and Oak Grove Volunteer Fire Department.

Also: First Union National Bank float, FHA of KMHS float, Second Baptist Church GA's, Cub Scout Pack 92, Bynum Chapel Church float, Century 21 Hometown Realty float, Mark Towell and race car, Jerry Oliver Jr. and race car, White Plains Shrine Club float, See Christmas, 12-A



OLLIE HARRIS

Johnnie Caldwell KM's first arson investigator

Johnnie Caldwell, the Kings Mountain Fire Department's first state-certified arson investigator, takes his firefighting responsibilities seriously.

The Kings Mountain native grew up wanting to be a fireman but couldn't sign up until he was 18 in 1973.

Now Assistant Chief of the Volunteer Department of 20 men, he has fought small and big house fires and high dollar fires like the Parkdale Mill blaze in 1987 that took firemen 12 hours to control.

He recently completed the state requirements as an arson investigator, the Kings Mountain department's first.

"We are very proud of Johnnie," said Fire Chief Frank Burns.

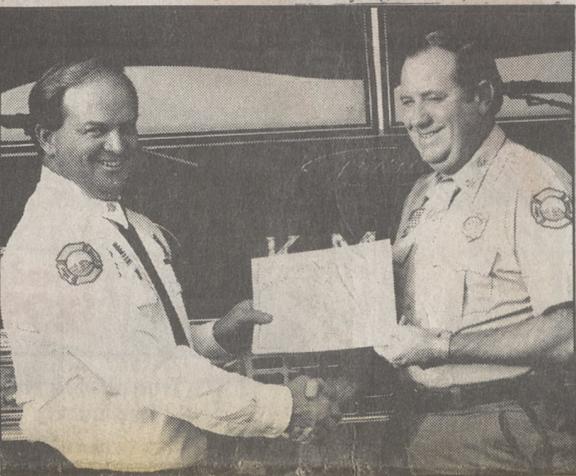
Johnnie's son, Johnnie II, also fights fires with the all-volunteer Bethlehem Fire Department and his stepson, Eddie Parker, is a Kings Mountain volunteer fireman.

Caldwell is also active on the Cleveland County Arson Strike Team and the Cleveland County Hazardous Material Team.

His role on the county teams are also strictly volunteer.

A Bessemer City mailman, Johnnie answers fire calls at all hours of the night and is up at 6 a.m. to start his mail route. He has delivered mail for 23 years as a city carrier in Bessemer City and before that worked at the old Margrace Mill.

He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. See Caldwell, 10-A



Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns, left, presents a certificate from the state to Assistant Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department Johnnie Caldwell after Caldwell completed the six-year requirements as an arson investigator, the city's first.

Guyton: I am tired of city run around

An obviously upset Councilman Jim Guyton said Tuesday that he is tired of getting the runaround from city officials when he asks for printouts of expenditures, including copies of telephone bills from cellular phones in cars used by department heads and line item expenditures in the Recreation Department.

Guyton said a Special Activities fund in the City Recreation Department should have included a \$1500 donation to the Kings Mountain Optimist Club for league and official's fees, a customary city policy.

Guyton said that Councilman Rick Murphrey read from his copy of the Special Activities budget and printout during Tuesday's meeting after Optimist President Jeff Putnam said he had found no record that city officials had budgeted the \$1500 in the past year or in previous budget years.

Putnam, the city's building inspector, said he had researched the minutes of meetings and found no record of a \$1 a year lease contract the Optimist Club has with the city for use of City Stadium for tournaments but he had seen a copy and confirmed the lease and the annual \$1500 donation in a telephone call to former Recreation Director David Hancock.

City Attorney Mickey Corry confirmed that he had drawn up the lease contract several years ago.

The board, after much discussion, voted unanimously to make the donation and stated support of the Optimist program, an ongoing youth training program for years in Kings Mountain. Local Optimists spent \$20,000 in two seasons for a new scoreboard and a storage building at City Park where the club sponsors youth tourna-

Manager to have control of phones

A flap over which city department heads will get a cellular telephone in their automobiles ended in a 4-3 vote Tuesday by City Council which left the decision up to the city manager.

"Why are we even considering this agenda item?" asked Councilmen Ralph Grindstaff, Rick Murphrey and Dean Spears, agreeing that the board usurping Chuck Nance's authority.

"This is getting technical," said Grindstaff. "We're not here on a day to day basis, this decision is up to the city manager."

"I agree with Ralph, leave it up to Nance," said Murphrey.

But Councilman Jim Guyton said he had asked the item to be placed on the agenda simply because he thought the nine free telephones should go to those who worked out in the field. Guyton had questioned previously Finance Director Maxine Parson's use of one of the phones in her private car.

"People who work in offices should not have a car phone," said Councilwoman Norma Bridges.

Guyton said that nine telephones had been assigned to department heads for use in the field to be used for city business only. He said he had been asking for printouts of local and long distance calls made from the cars and had not received them.

Bridges then made a motion that the telephones be assigned to the nine department heads originally assigned telephones, including city manager Nance, naming each with the exception of Parson, the former interim manager who had been assigned

See Phone, 6-A

KM department heads must live in city limits

City Council reverted to an old policy Tuesday night and made it mandatory that new department heads hired "from this day forward" reside within the city limits.

The action was unanimous but both Councilmen Rick Murphrey and Phil Hager voiced objections, saying the rule would restrict the pool of applicants.

But Councilmen Jerry White and Jim Guyton strongly disagreed.

"Taxpayers pay their salaries

and they should be a taxpayer themselves," said White, who said when he joined the city police department some years ago that he was forced to move inside the city because of the policy.

Prior to the meeting Councilwoman Norma Bridges said that many of the city's highest-salaried department heads live outside the corporate limits. "They should have to pay city utilities and taxes like the rest of us," she said.

In another change in policy,

the board reversed its 4-3 decision to cut Christmas bonuses of volunteer firemen and reserve police officers, apparently bowing to pressure by citizens. The volunteer firemen and policemen will receive \$65, instead of \$25, a policy which had been in place and cut during a budget session. School crossing guards will receive a week's pay, \$58, and part-time employees will receive the customary \$25.

Councilman Ralph Grindstaff suggested that all volunteers be

treated alike and asked if there were other volunteers besides firemen and police.

Personnel Director Winston Bagwell said there were no other volunteers. He said part-time employees like school crossing guards receive a week's bonus or \$58 at Christmas time.

"I was not here last year and it appears there was some confusion as to what transpired in the budget session about the holiday pay," said City Manager Chuck Nance.

Former chief takes possession of controversial truck

City Manager Chuck Nance said Wednesday that as far as he is concerned the recent controversy surrounding the purchase by Ex-Chief Warren Goforth of a Chevrolet Suburban seized in a drug raid is apparently over.

Goforth picked up his truck at City Hall Monday.

"He owns the truck," said Nance.

Goforth bought the truck from a Shelby used car dealer

November 11 after he and Det. Sgt. Billy Benton traded in the truck and another city vehicle for a third car to be used in undercover work by the Kings Mountain Detective Division.

Nance said the purchase stirred questions among some City Council members and he questioned the Chief who said, that under law, the trade-in was legal because it had been over two years since city police con-

fiscated the Suburban, discovering drugs in the gas tank.

Nance said he had also conferred with several law enforcement agencies who had handled similar transactions.

Goforth resigned November 17 due to what he called continuing political pressures from some members of City Council. Nance tried to persuade him to stay on the job.

Nance announced the resig-

nation in a statement to the media on November 18.

Goforth called a press conference November 19 after rumors had circulated about the truck trade and defended his actions.

He told The Herald last week that the real reason he resigned was because of pressure by some members of City Council for two years.

See Truck, 6-A

See Guyton, 7-A

Council spot zones property

City Council spot zoned a piece of property on East King Street 6-1 Tuesday over the objections of residents and the Planning and Zoning Board but denied by 4-3 another piece of property on Waco Road which they also said was clearly a case of spot zoning.

City Attorney Mickey Corry said that it's confusing but spot zoning is not necessarily illegal.

Zoning matters dominated a nearly three-hour session of City Council.

City Planner Gene White explained that the King Street property owned by Brenda and Jim Belt, and which the board rezoned, carries a less restrictive use in a more suitable area while the area up for rezoning in the Pauline Mill area, which was not rezoned, carries a more

restrictive use and is in a light industrial zone.

"Are you saying that General Business designation down grades the property?" asked Councilman Jerry White.

"It's a matter of what is less restricted or more restricted," said White.

Tom Trott opposed the rezoning of the Belt property which faces his property on East King Street. Brenda Belt asked for rezoning to GB so that she could rent the property which at one time has been a used car lot. Jim Belt said the property has deteriorated because each time a person gets in the business he has to have a privilege license and is told the zoning has to be changed to accommodate the business.

See Zoning, 7-A

Kings Mountain People

Martha, 100, still having fun

By ELIZABETH STEWART
of The Herald Staff

A century of living has not diminished Martha Norment Fox's big smile and quick wit on a face that sparkles with few wrinkles.

Fox has outlived her spouse, seven siblings and most of her other relatives and she can't believe that she's 100 years old.

"Time just passes by too quickly," said Fox, who became a resident of White Oak Manor six years ago after the death of her husband, Leander, a brick mason.

On her 100th birthday Friday she received letters of congratulations from President Clinton,

Governor Hunt and Senator J. Ollie Harris.

Fox also opened gifts from families of many residents of the Kings Mountain facility and shared punch and cake with her friends.

"I haven't missed out on anything," said Fox, who sings in the choir for every church service at the facility and is practicing for the Singing Christmas Tree that the 16 WOM-KM Singers will perform at two Christmas programs on December 21 and 22.

Martha loves to sing old favorites like "White Christmas" and "Silent Night." She also likes gospel music and she claps

her hands and taps her feet to the music of "I Can't Live Without You Holding My Hand" and "Sweet Hour of Prayer."

Christmas was always a special time for Martha, growing up in a big family in Gaston County.

Her favorite Christmas was the year Santa Claus brought her a baby doll which cost 39 cents at the 5&10 Store and peppermint candy sticks. She said her mother told her Santa came down the chimney and she stayed outside for a long time that Christmas Eve looking for the jolly old man in the red

See Martha, 10-A



MARTHA FOX