

Happy New Year



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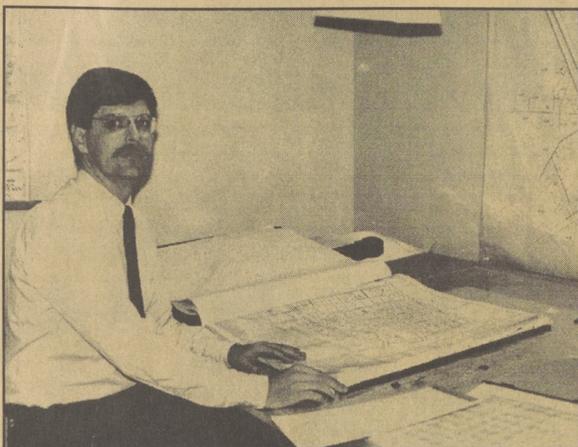
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BANNER YEAR FOR BUILDING - The city's planning director Steve Killian, above, sees 1997 as a banner year for building projects currently underway or planned for the new year.

'97 could be a big year in KM

City officials see New Year 1997 as a banner year for building in Kings Mountain.

If activity in the city's planning and codes department during the waning days of 1996 are an indication, the new year should be a busy one, according to Planning Director Steve Killian and Director of Inspections Jeff Putnam.

The current projects:
 Firestone Fibers & Textiles Company is building a 120 feet tall plant on I-85 near the city limits to manufacture and treat the textile materials they use to make tires.
 Summitt Place has submitted

revised plans for an assisted living facility across from the middle school.

Habitat Architects of Charlotte has submitted plans for a new Holiday Inn Express south of the interstate across from Falls Exxon on property diagonally across from the Comfort Inn.

The new Alexander Business Park is going up beside of City Hall downtown.

A new Doctor's Building is under construction on Highway 161 on the Fulton property beside of the ABC Store where Gaston Memorial Hospital has set up a modular office for new

doctors.

City officials have not yet received any plans but have heard rumors that Bojangles is eyeing the Fulton property for a new Kings Mountain restaurant.

White Oak Manor will be submitting revised plans for an expansion to the Planning Board on January 21. Meantime, adjoining property owners are meeting with White Oak officials to share concerns. City Council will hear a recommendation from the Planning Board at the January 28 7:30 p.m. meeting at City Hall. City planners were still wait-

ing this week for a site plan from Ingles for a proposed new supermarket targeted for the Oak Grove area. Ingles has an option to buy property at Oak Grove and Scism Roads.

What may be the city's biggest annexation in recent years will become effective June 30, 1997 - unless held up in the courts. The city is taking into the city limits major industries in the Canterbury Road-I-85 area along with properties on Second Street.

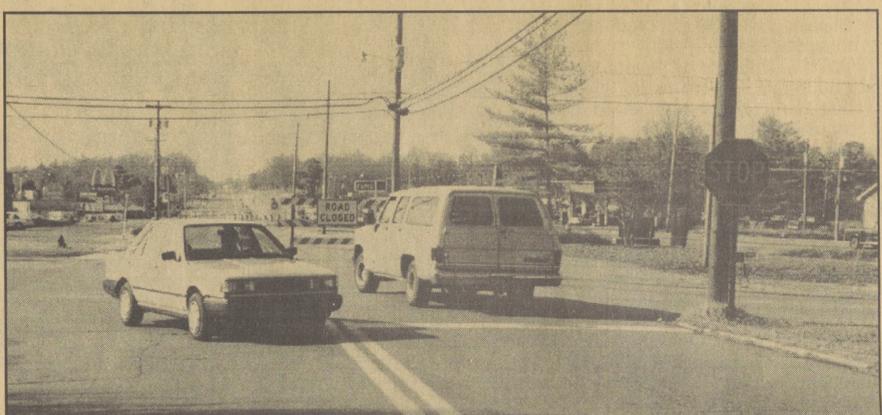
Killian said that the city made specific requests for projects to
See Building, 7-A

Wham! Look Out at Phifer Intersection

A change in the traffic pattern at the intersection of West Mountain and Phifer Road at The Armory is being closely monitored by the Kings Mountain Police Department, according to Chief Bob Hayes.

Initially, the Department of Transportation had put up three stop signs at the intersection but Hayes said motorists were confused and complained and two of the signs came down.

Monday motorists traveling that intersection had to be very cautious about the other drivers who were running the stop sign or slowing somewhat at West
See Stop, 7-A



CONFUSING - The new traffic pattern created at the intersection of West Mountain Street and Phifer Road at The National Guard Armory is confusing motorists. Drivers are running the new stop sign on West Mountain Street.

City Manager sees no major increases in 1997

No major increases in gas and electricity are projected in 1997 but Kings Mountain water and sewer customers could see an inflationary increase in water and sewer, predicts City Manager Jimmy Maney.

Maney said that both neighboring cities of Shelby and Gastonia have upped their electrical rates dramatically but Kings Mountain will continue to hold the line.

"We have positioned ourselves with a new Duke Power contract and with the new Peak Generation Plant expected to be completed in late January," said Maney.

Flatbed trucks were delivering engines to the North Gaston Street Substation site Monday morning. The engines were being set on the foundation. The \$1.8 million project is about 30 percent complete, according to Maney.

Maney said that he and his staff will be putting together a new budget format in the early days of 1997 to give City Council plenty of time to prioritize major capital needs before the annual spring retreat and work session.

The new city manager sees
See City, 7-A

top priorities as a new police station, a new fire truck, sanitation trucks and more equipment, the list is a long one.

Maney said the city wants to see a new industry on the I-85 corridor next to Firestone so that utility revenue can be generated for the city and that's one of his goals for the new year.

"The wet industry days of dyeing and finishing have gone south of the border and Kings Mountain's direction in the future will be toward high tech and in encouraging the entrance of plants that develop specialized parts for the industry in place," said Maney.

"This is not to say that we won't welcome any industry and are constantly getting inquiries and responding to them and working closely with Cleveland County Economic Development Director Steve Nigh," he said.

Maney said the city will be looking at more computerized billing at City Hall and update its present billing system to increase efficiency. He is still interviewing for the position of Finance Director and also look-

KM Schools will seek public input on facility needs

What does the Kings Mountain School District plan to do with \$6.1 million in construction money from the state in the future?

That's the question that residents of the Kings Mountain-Bethware-and Grover areas will be asked at public meetings which will begin early in 1997, according to Ronnie Hawkins, chairman of the Kings Mountain Board of Education.

"We want to know what direction to take and will encourage public input," said Hawkins who predicts that 1997 will be a good year for Kings Mountain

Schools.

With recent passage of the school and road bonds by voters, Hawkins said Kings Mountain will use matching funds and the money due from the state for either new construction or for repair of current schools.

Hawkins says he is already getting input from some citizens who like the idea of a new school for all children in Grades 5-6 to free up all the fifth grades at East, West, North, Grover and Bethware Schools, reduce the population at the middle school and eliminate some of

the traffic on Phifer Road to the middle and high schools.

Other ideas come from those who prefer a new school for grades K-5 somewhere between the communities of Grover and Bethware.

And others are suggesting expansion at current schools and using the money for repairs.

"There are a lot of things to consider and that's why we need to get public input at meetings that start with the new year," said Hawkins.

Hawkins said a new program in the works is called Character Education. Dr. Jane King is

chairing the committee which begins regular meetings in January. The committee is charged with suggesting how teachers can teach such traits as honesty and student behavior in the classroom.

A third committee begins meetings in January on the new school calendar with an eye to keeping the calendar as is or presenting two calendars to give parents a schedule of events a year in advance.

The Kings Mountain Board of Education meets January 13 at 7 p.m. at the school administration building on Ridge Street.

Engineer's analysis on industrial park on board agenda

An engineering analysis of the two parcels of land that the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners is eyeing for an industrial park will be on the agenda for Tuesday's 7 p.m. meeting of the county board in Shelby.

David Pond, of the W. K. Dickson Company of Charlotte, will present his findings as item 13 and the last item on the board's agenda.

County Chairman Jim Crawley said it is unlikely any action will be taken on the report.

Crawley said the board has taken an option on both the 235-acre Grier Plonk property west of Kings Mountain and the 329-acre property of Sheby Loan Company off Southern Road in Shelby.

The county's options on the two pieces of property runs out January 28.

Crawley said that the board could hold a special meeting if it decides to make a decision on either parcel of land before the options run out.

Last August the Cleveland County Economic Development

Commission recommended the Plonk property as the No. 1 choice of three for a county-financed park and the county board accepted that recommendation by 4-3 vote. The project stalled after several meetings in which citizens and some county commissioners objected to county dollars financing the project.

Since that time three new commissioners have been seated on the seven-member board.

"I hope that we can move forward for the whole county," said Crawley, the new chair-

man.

Budget amendments, a request for a grant endorsement, public hearing on the Creekview Glen project, and a pawnbrokers ordinance are also on the agenda for the first meeting of the board of the new year.

The board is expected to draft a code of ethics and to hear a policy regarding educational incentives for law enforcement officers. Board appointments will also be made.

The commission meets in the County Administrative Offices



PLANT GOING UP - Workmen for McDaniel Construction Company hoist the equipment for a \$1.8 million Peak Generation Plant going up at the city's Gaston Street Substation. The engines were being set on the foundation Monday.

KINGS MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

KM's Belle Ruff Barker celebrates 90th birthday

Belle Ruff Barker, 90, celebrated her birthday Sunday, greeting guests at Kings Mountain Baptist Church and reminiscing about "the good ole days."

Mrs. Barker, a Kings Mountain resident for 24 years, who underwent a total knee and hip replacement, remained in her easy chair for most of the two-hour reception hosted by her daughter and son-in-law, Tom and Barbara Tindall.

She wore a two-piece candlelight dress with a corsage of red roses. Nearby were albums of

family pictures which included pictures of D. W. and Belle Barker's 50th wedding anniversary celebration in 1974.

Although she has continued to maintain her own residence on Shelby Road, Mrs. Barker makes her home with her daughter and family and attends Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

Although she confesses that her memory is "a little fragile" she loves to talk about life in Troutman where she and her

See Barker, 8-A



MRS. D.W. BARKER



MRS. CARL MAUNEY

Catherine Herman Mauney celebrates her 90th birthday

At the age of 90 Catherine Herman Mauney drives her car, walks up to three miles a day, never misses a Sunday at church and still has a green thumb.

Known by many Kings Mountain people as the woman who grew the beautiful roses at the rock house on East King Street, Mrs. Mauney shared the bounty of her gardens and her knowledge of horticulture for over 60 years before she retired three years ago to Covenant Village in Gastonia.

Now, instead of tending gardens in her yard, she is caretaker of the flowers which adorn the beautiful facility.

"This is my new home now and I love it here and have so many friends," she said this week as she talked about life in Kings Mountain and the occasion of her 90th birthday.

December 14, 1996 was a special day for Catherine Mauney. She celebrated her birthday surrounded by all 36 members of her family who traveled from
See Mauney, 8-A