

Kings Mountain Herald

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NC • Since 1889

United Way Day of Caring was 'awesome'

United Way officials said the outpouring of caring in Cleveland County Saturday was "awesome." More than 600 people - more than double the number of volunteers who served last year - gave of their time and talent to devote one day to make a difference in Cleveland County.

The third annual United Way Day of Caring kicked off the 1997 campaign season with volunteers working together to help others. Volunteers helped those served by the United Way as well as other county organizations whose mission is to make life better for others. The group provided more than 4,800 man hours of service to 17 organizations. The labor alone could have cost the organizations a minimum of \$24,700 at current minimum wage scale, said Janet Davis of the United Way.

Marcia Jackson, who heads up the Cleveland County Council on Aging/Senior Center's home repairs program, said the day enabled elderly Cleveland County citizens to obtain repairs and assistance they might not otherwise have been able to afford. Volunteers who constructed and repaired ramps, installed underpinning, replaced steps, and checked seniors cars for needed repairs provided an invaluable service to Senior Center participants, she said.

"For some participants, this service is almost a life-saver," Jackson said. "These are things they can't do on their own. It's a good feeling to know that so many people are being helped on this one day. I wish there were more days like this in Cleveland County where people reach out to make a difference in other people's lives."

Months of planning went into the event and volunteers had already spent numerous hours preparing for the day before the first nail was driven. C. Rush Hamrick III served as the chief volunteer in his capacity as Day of Caring Chairman. Hamrick was instrumental in bringing together a diverse group of people who, together, created what may be one of the county's largest single volunteer efforts.

See Caring, 10-A



DAY OF CARING - Sharon Eaker volunteers her time to clean out from around shrubs and flowers at Kings Mountain Senior Center during Day of Caring Saturday. Volunteers relandscaped the area in front of the building, replacing old plants with new bushes, flowers, Japanese Maple trees and mulch. Mauney Memorial Library also benefited from the volunteer effort. There, volunteers shampooed carpets and cleaned windows.

City seeks potential lake board members

Progress reports on major city projects are on the agenda for Tuesday's 7:30 p.m. meeting of Kings Mountain City Council.

Among them: Stewart & Cooper Architects of Gastonia are expected to give a report on progress and design and development stage plans for the proposed law enforcement center and also preliminary estimates for repairing Deal Street pool and renovations of Kings Mountain Community Center.

Mayor Scott Neisler will ask for the names of nominees for membership on the new Moss Lake Commission. City Council is expected to give five nominees and the Moss Lake Properties Association has been asked to supply the names of two people to sit on the new board. Neisler says he hopes that the board can be appointed as quickly as possible to get it up and running.

Engineer Al Moretz may have ready a master recreation plan to present to Council as it looks for improvements in the city-wide recreation program.

Painting and renovation of the Kings Mountain Community Center is underway. City Manager Jimmy Maney said the gymnasium floor has been stripped and workmen are ready to put the paint and sealing coat on.

Bob Thomas, the city's electrical consultant from Progressive Engineering, will make a recommendation for a new rate study.

Maney said the rate study conducted two years ago was when the city's contract was a non-coincident wholesale rate with Duke Power. With a new contract from Duke, the coincident rate could mean developing industrial rates to be competitive in the market place, he said. He said the proposed plan would also benefit existing customers as well as industrial and commercial customers based on their actual demand usage.

City Council is expected to act on several rezoning requests, including a request by Jody Champion, representing owners of Ace Hardware, on Cleveland Avenue. Champion and Paul Reynolds have a prospective tenant for the building but some property owners object because they fear increased traffic in a school zone and are concerned about permitted uses that could come from rezoning from neighborhood to general business designation.

Mike Brown's revised subdivision plat, okayed by the zoning board at last week's meeting, and Kentucky Fried Chicken's rezoning request, also a recommended for approval by the planning board, are on the agenda.

Efficiency Ruth's trademark

Efficiency in going by the book is Ruth Barnett Wilson's trademark.

The Oak Grove Community resident is a familiar and popular member of the Cleveland Board of Elections which she serves as its secretary.

Recently Wilson was part of the first graduating class of elections officials in North Carolina.

Her effort to complete the state certification program exemplified Ruth's commitment to serving the county and to improving the electoral process in the state.

"It has been a very distinct honor for me to have served the citizens of Cleveland County,"



RUTH WILSON

said Wilson. "Through what I'm charged to do, I have been able to share my feelings of democracy and to promote the importance of the use of the voting privilege as our greatest right of freedom as guaranteed through the Constitution of the United States."

Ruth believes in training and for that reason she has assisted Director of Elections Debra Blanton in training local elections officials. They are trained in not only the local rules but the state and federal elections laws, rules and regulations.

There are 4,318,008 registered voters and over 2300 active

See Wilson, 9-A



FAIR TIME - The 73rd Cleveland County Fair opens today and runs through October 4 at the Fairgrounds on Business 74 in Shelby.

73rd Cleveland County Fair opens Thursday at 2 o'clock

The 73rd Cleveland County Fair opens today and runs through October 4 at the fairground at 1751 East Marion Street in Shelby.

Opening ceremony is Thursday at 5 p.m. at the performing arts stage. Gates open at 2 p.m.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and \$1 for children age 6-12. Persons under age 6 and over 75 will be admitted free.

Reithoffer Shows will be celebrating their 22nd year at the Fair.

The fair will host three special days for special groups. Seniors Day will be Tuesday,

Sept. 30 with all senior citizens admitted free until 7 p.m. Special free entertainment is planned on the midway and the grandstand. Preschool children and nursing home residents will be admitted free on Wednesday, Oct. 1 and Thursday, Oct. 2 from 9 a.m.-12 noon. Special entertainment those days begins at 9:30 a.m.

Special activities include: (Midway stage #1) Thurs., Sept. 25 - The Fantastic Shakers, 7:30 and 9:30. Fri., Sept. 26 - Lightning Heart, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30. Sat., Sept. 27 - Ocean Blvd., 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.

See Fair, 9-A

Oak Grove to celebrate centennial

The Centennial celebration of Oak Grove Baptist Church will begin Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Bruce Hancock, a former pastor and pastor of First Baptist Church of Camden, SC, Thomas Hinton of Lenoir, a Minister of Music and son of the late Russell Hinton, a former pastor; and Leland Kerr, Director of Missions for the Kings Mountain Baptist Association, will join Pastor Ron Caulder in the pulpit for special remembrances of the church life.

Special music will be directed by Bob Webster, Minister of Music; Annette Webster, organist; and Marty Blanton, pianist.

The opening of a 1953 cornerstone and the placing of numerous historical items in the cornerstone will be held immediately after the worship hour.

Louise Wright, chairman of the historical committee, said items to be placed in the new sealed cornerstone will include a church directory, a new hymnal, coins, a copy of The Kings Mountain Herald, a copy of the church budget, 100th anniversary bulletins and any other items that members take to church to be included.

"We will have a group picture made around the cornerstone and then go to the fellowship building to cut a 100th anniversary cake before enjoying a covered dish luncheon," said Wright who invites the public to attend.

Other members of the historical committee working for months on the celebration are Barbara Champion, Annette Webster, Wanda Hamrick and Della Bell.

The stately church with its

white columns and its beautiful stained glass windows is expected to be filled by more than its 500 plus members Sunday morning.

Caulder, who has served 11 years and holds the distinction of holding the second longest tenure of pastor, said the distinct sense of community is one of the congregation's strengths. The church has the unique character of its founding families, according to Champion who said J. C. Blanton was the first pastor in 1897. The new sanctuary was built in 1953 and the parsonage was built in 1957. The fellowship hall was built in 1966. An annex was provided by the Carl Champion family in honor and memory of loved ones and a complete renovation took place in 1979-1980. But nearby, the 100-year-old cemetery got a new sign for the

Centennial celebration. Tombstones date back to 1898 and historical notes in the church history reveal that the old church was in the center of the cemetery. The present church was built on what used to be Oak Grove School which the church bought and then tore down to build the church.

"Our vision is to build a family life center because our ministry to the community is family oriented," said Caulder. He said a new educational unit will probably also be in the planning stages soon since the church has 25 acres of land and plenty of room for growth.

"I had rather see the congregation add an educational unit and a family life center in the future instead of another sanctuary," said Caulder, who said that when churches grow they

See Church, 9-A



HISTORY MAKING DAY - Sunday will be a red letter day at Oak Grove Baptist Church as members of the 100-year-old congregation observe a Centennial celebration. Rev. Ron Caulder, left, pastor, Barbara Champion and Louise Wright put the finishing touches on church bulletins and historical materials.

A Bumper Pumpkin Crop IOA



New drug store opens in Kings Mountain3A
Overmountain men begin march to battleground7A

Win \$50 Each Week In The Football Contest Pg. 5B



SUPPORT SHRINERS AT BARBEQUE SALE SATURDAY IN KINGS MOUNTAIN 6A