



JACKIE PITTMAN

New Summit Place director likes Kings Mountain

Jackie Pittman, the first administrator of the new Summit Place, is excited about the upcoming March 22 grand opening and ribbon cutting and she says the welcome mat is out for all Kings Mountain citizens to visit the new assisted living facility across from the Middle School on Phifer Road.

Since Feb. 4 Pittman has registered seven residents and they are becoming acclimated to their new home and love it, she says.

Another goal in the not too distant future could be the opening of "The Terrace," for up

to 33 alzheimer patients who will be living in a secure environment.

"We want to meet the needs of the community," said Pittman, a Kings Mountain native who has been associated with Edencare Senior Living Services, Alpharetta, Ga., for 15 years.

Pittman, the daughter of Kenneth and Letha Metcalf of Kings Mountain, brings wide experience to her job of running an assisted living facility. A former licensed nursing home administrator, she opened Courtland Terrace at Gaston

Memorial Hospital, was a social worker in a longterm care facility and also worked for the Department of Social Services. She comes to her present position from Aaron Enterprises of Hendersonville.

As a young girl Jackie grew up with two grandmothers living at various times with her family and can associate with the pressures of a family caring for the elderly and the traumatic experiences senior citizens face when they pull up roots.

"I enjoy the geriatric population and I think my calling is what I am doing," said Pittman

who wanted to be a nurse when she was a student at Kings Mountain High School.

Traveling for four years in her job, she opened retirement communities in the two Carolinas and Florida but she says she's delighted to be back home in the Oak Grove Community. The family moved recently from Hendersonville.

The new facility will accommodate 66 residents, offers physical, patient and speech therapy, three meals a day, transportation to medical doctors or for shopping excursions for residents and a variety of

recreation programs, including exercise. Most residents take their own furniture. The bedrooms are spacious with private bath and plenty of closets. Small living rooms and recreation areas are located on each wing. A large living room and dining area provides a comfortable atmosphere for family and other visitors.

"We can provide as little or as much as a resident needs," said Pittman.

Pittman is married to David Pittman and they have two daughters, Caren, a junior at Gardner-Webb University, and Caroline, a sophomore at First Assembly in Gastonia. Jackie earned her undergraduate degrees at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and UNC at Charlotte and her health care administration certification from UNC at Chapel Hill.

She welcomes volunteers and said that the most recent volunteer group comes from the Middle School where students have started visiting with the resident on a regular basis. She said educational programs will be available through Cleveland Community College and Sunday School will also be available at the site for residents.

Association to improve downtown park

The Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association continued its quest to revitalize the downtown area by planning improvements to the new park on Gold Street in Kings Mountain.

Completely funded by the association's treasury, the yet unnamed park is at the forefront of a drive to improve the quality of life in Kings Mountain.

"This is going to be a park for the citizens," said Mike Neely of Ashley's Antiques, who is determined not to let the park become an eyesore.

The park sits on city-owned land, but the city council has approved the association's proposed improvements and usage of the land. Plants and materials such as shrubs, trees, perennials, annuals, and bags of humus and compost, have marked the beginning of planned improvements for the park. Cliff Laurich, association member and owner of Cejay's Landscapes, did the planting. Bulbs and compost were donated by Hometown Hardware and Great Southern Grading.

Laurich said the association is hoping to install a 1,600 square foot gazebo, which will have a walking path leading to it. He said they hope to have church singings, high school band competitions, plays, as well as other events at the park.

"I'd like to see a 'business after hours,'" said Neely. "What happens here is that people get together, mingle, network and make a tighter connection within the community."

Tim Miller, owner of Bridges Hardware, heads the committee overseeing the construction of the park. The committee plans either a brick side walk or possibly a brick wall where people can etch a brick in honor of someone.

"We're trying to get everybody involved so that they will have a reason to come down," said Neely.

Neely said that the Cleveland County Builders Association has agreed to perform the labor on the gazebo if the Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association provides materials.

Furthermore, a manufacturing plant which owns some tree-covered land adjacent to the park has told the association they can use that land in addition to the land allotted for the park.

The association is asking for donations from businesses and individuals to help make the dream of a beautiful downtown park a reality.

A membership drive has begun, headed by Gary Cooke, David McAnelly, Joe Smith and Ellis Noel. The drive will target three main areas: retail, professional and industrial. Membership fees are currently \$35. If interested, call Mike Neely at 730-9400. The Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association's meetings again at the First Charter National Bank at 7 a.m., March 17. Chamber of Commerce President John Godbold will address the members.

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2 for \$3

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