

Kings Mountain Herald

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Council to pursue annexation

Future annexation will be one of the targets that City Council will pursue in new year 1999.

City Manager Jimmy Maney and Mayor Scott Neisler, along with Planning Director Steve Killian, met Monday afternoon with Richard Flow, consultant for Benchmark, to look at areas where utilities are now in place.

"We want to offer more city services to outlying areas and we are looking at expansion in the Canterbury Road area, Lake Montonia Road area and 161," said the mayor.

After identifying the target areas and looking at the feasibility of utility expansion and rolling services such as water, sewer, fire and police protection to these areas, the consulting group will also take a look at how the city can protect its annexation rights in the southern part of town.

City officials pinpointed on a map in the City Hall conference room the areas they hope to incorporate into the city limits and once the documents are in place Benchmark will make a presentation to the full City Council.

"This is one major target for the new year," said the mayor.

A second big project city officials hope to see completed in 1999 is the new law enforcement center on Piedmont Avenue. This week footings and part of the foundation had been poured and by next week citizens should see some of the walls going up.

Neisler said a third project should be up and going by Mountaineer Christmas December 11. He said a 8x32 foot octagon-shaped gazebo will be built by local people across the railroad track downtown in what used to be commonly known as the Ware and Sons roller mill property across from Plonk's.

Library tree lighting to open yule season

Kings Mountain area citizens will launch the Christmas holiday season December 1 with the 7 p.m. lighting of the Christmas tree on the lawn of Mauney Memorial Library.

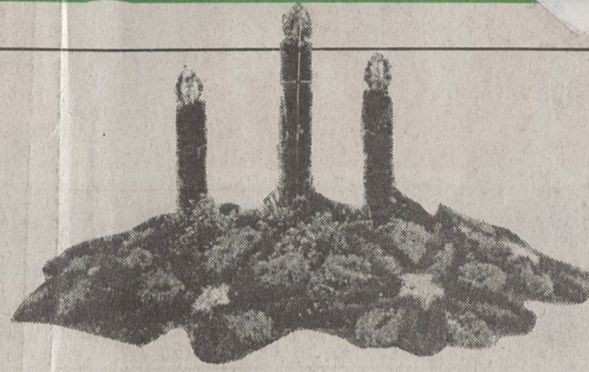
The Cryptomena Japonica tree first went up in 1992 and has towered along with services of the community library.

The green tree will sparkle with lights and will be turned on officially by Santa Claus after a program of carol singing led by children of Trinity Day School. Following the program library patrons will be permitted to select books from the discard room free of charge and refreshments and a visit by Santa Claus will be featured in Weir Auditorium. In event of bad weather, the program will be held in the library auditorium.

Children's Librarian Christy Key said the public is invited to attend the tree lighting.

Key said Mauney Memorial Library is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. She said books are circulated for three weeks and videos are circulated for one week. Materials are circulated free of charge. Other services offered in the library include computers, a coin-operated copier machine and a fax machine.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas



Grady and Katie Costner and their new Disney scene

Midpines (Little McAdenville) ready to glow Thanksgiving night

Thirteen years of work, all handmade in his shop, is sitting in Grady Costner's yard ready to sparkle with 155,000 Christmas lights on Thanksgiving night.

For the Kings Mountain man and his wife, Katie, decorating for the holidays is a present they give Kings Mountain and a present they plan to give for many years to come.

Last week Grady was finishing up a new piece, a Disney scene of Mickey, Minnie, Donald Duck, Pluto and Goofy and his Santa's house is almost ready for a live Santa to welcome his guests beginning at dark November 26.

Grady does the welding and Katie winds the lights around the finished product they have been working on for a couple of months. Some of the decoration Grady has been working on all year. Together, the couple pays a utility bill that is typically \$1,000 for the month of December.

A lot of the thousands of visitors donate to the cause, which Costner appreciates but never asked. The retired carpet and floor covering businessman says he will keep the lights on until after Christmas each night and each night Santa and his elves will be present to give treats to children.

"I got two full size lots here and

I'm going to keep going until I don't have room for more. I figure I've got a couple years of space left," he said.

A 40 feet sign that reads "Peace on Earth" was erected this week with two cast iron doves flying overhead, a crowning achievement of a yard that already has more holiday decorations than you can find in a whole subdivision. They include leaping dolphins, flamingos, peacocks, choo-choo trains, elephants, lifesize camels, candles, a six horse carousel and a stagecoach all aglow with lights and in the front and back of the house are 32 lighted Christmas trees.

Costner runs the show with two meters and seven breaker boxes, a real feat, and a wonderland for people who can turn at his house on Margrace Road at Midpines and travel all around his residence and enjoy the special beauty of the season. It is a fabulous show and something that the Costners are proud of every season.

This year Grady has redone the gazebo in his yard and added the Disney characters. Santa's sleigh has also been added with three horses and there's even the Grinch that stole Christmas and Mother Goose and her little ones, something for

everyone.

Other people in the Midpines Community have taken up Grady's love for decorating and some day he hopes that every house will be lit up just like a little McAdenville.

"People tell us they enjoy our decorations more than McAdenville sights and they don't have to drive as far," said Costner.

Scott Murray, Richard Proctor, Tommy Hudson, Larry Bridges and Junior Murray have all got on the house and yard decorating bandwagon in the community and every year they add a little more splendor to their decorating.

"Our kids are grown and married but our grandsons, Jason Murray, 13, and Josh Murray, 11, help out as elves," said Mrs. Costner who works at Wix Corporation and comes home to help her husband assemble 3/8 inch steel rods to fashion his masterpieces. And Katie strings all the lights, a big job. Costner retired about six years ago and started his first Christmas decorating project with "just a few lights."

Now the Costners boast the granddaddy of all holiday decorations and opens them to the public from 5:30 until about 10 p.m. every night beginning Thanksgiving until after Christmas.

1,800 names required for ABC petition

Anti-alcohol forces will probably need a total of 1800 names of registered voters on a petition for a vote on alcohol sales, Mayor Scott Neisler said this week.

Meantime, local ministers are getting ready to mount a drive to secure the names for the petition to present to City Council to call for a vote to ban the sale of alcohol in any form in Kings Mountain.

"We have contacted the Board of Elections and as soon as we get the go ahead we will proceed," said Rev. Doug Allen, president of the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association and pastor of Penley's Chapel Church.

"We have a lot of work to do but we are getting ready to do it," said Allen.

Kings Mountain recently annexed several areas which means that the Board of Elections must verify those annexed areas, said Allen.

Allen said it will probably be after the holidays before the petition effort swings into high gear.

City Councilman Gene White, a leader in the petition effort, said once the Board of Elections gives the petition to a steering committee that the group will have 90 days to complete the petition. "This would probably be about March 1," said White, who estimates that the work on the petition will probably get underway in late December or about January 1. "The voter rolls have to include the newly-annexed area and right now the Board of Elections Director Debra Blanton, her staff, and Becky Cook, former KM Board of Elections Director, are working to verify the names."

White said that organizational materials are being assembled and once the steering committee is appointed and the go ahead is given by the Board of Elections that the petition effort will start.

See Petition, 3A

Kathryn Champion to ride in 51st Carrousel Parade

Kathryn Elizabeth Champion will represent Kings Mountain High School in the 51st Carolinas Carrousel Parade Thanksgiving Day in Charlotte.

The parade begins at 1 p.m. and will include over 100 units. The Pride of Providence Marching Band from Providence Senior High in Charlotte will lead the parade as the 1998 Honor Band, and John Montgomery Belk, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Belk, Inc., will be the Grand Marshal.

The parade will begin on North Tryon and 11th Street, proceed on Tryon to 3rd, right on 3rd, right on College, left on 2nd, and ends at 2nd and McDowell.

Crowning of the Carrousel Queen will take place Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 8:15 at the Pepsi Coronation Ball in the NationsBank Corporate Center's Founders Hall. Fifty-six high school seniors from the Metro area are competing for \$8,100 in scholarships. Adult tickets are \$13 and children under 12, \$7.

See Champion, 3A

Rotary notes 40th birthday

By Alan Hodge

Local civic, professional, and business leaders gathered Thursday evening as the Kings Mountain Rotary Club celebrated its 40th Anniversary.

Held in the banquet room of the Ramada Inn in Kings Mountain, the gala affair was a tribute to the Rotary theme of "Service Above Self."

Many special guests attended the banquet including original Kings Mountain Rotary charter members E.W. Griffin, Jr. and Tom L. Trott. Trott took his experience as president of the Bennettsville, S.C. Rotary and put it to good use when he came to Kings Mountain and organized the local chapter.

Eighty two years old, Trott retired just two years ago from his own insurance agency. Griffin and Trott men recalled the early days of Rotary in Kings Mountain.

"We had to get 20 members signed up to get our charter," said Trott. "I just went around town and told people what Rotary was all about, and we soon had the number."

"I was in the Jaycees and other organizations," said Griffin, "I always felt a sense of civic responsibility, so having Rotary in Kings Mountain was important. My drugstore customers always understood when I took time off for Rotary."

Following the hard work put in by Trott and Griffin, Kings

Mountain Rotary was officially chartered on November 19, 1958.

Over the years, Kings Mountain Rotary has done much good work in the community. A college scholarship program for deserving Kings Mountain High School students has seen over \$90,000 distributed over the past 20 years. Other projects by Rotary have sent two members to Panama to work with polio victims. Local representatives have also traveled to Japan and France. The local club also has many Paul Harris Fellows and Paul Harris Sustaining members.

Illustrating the diversity of

See Rotary, 3A



KINGS MOUNTAIN ROTARY CELEBRATES 40 YEARS-Rotary International District Governor Maynard L. "Frosty" Rich (center), presents Kings Mountain Rotary president Steve Padgett (left) with a plaque congratulating the local chapter on 40 years of service as Larry Hamrick looks on.

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