

KINGS MOUNTAIN

The Herald

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Vol. 111 No. 43

Since 1889

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KM sets Halloween Saturday

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Ghosts and goblins will be doing their Halloween thing on Saturday this year in many communities, Kings Mountain included. A favorite time for the kids, Halloween is also an evening when accidents can lurk like ghouls for the unwary. By following some common sense safety tips, and perhaps giving up freelance trick or treating for a more structured night, parents and kids can breathe easy that this Halloween will be a safe one.

For a safe Halloween, the Kings Mountain fire department offers several tips to help prevent an accidental fire.

"One of the main things people need to be careful with on Halloween is using candles," said fire chief Frank Burns. "Also, make sure that the children's costumes are fire retardant. If you are lighting a Halloween pumpkin, use a long fireplace match instead of a piece of rolled up paper."

Other tips from the Kings Mountain fire department include keeping wigs and loose clothing away from flames, never using silly string near flame, and keeping all matches and lighters away from children in general. Halloween is also a good time to change your smoke alarm batteries as well.

For safety and security, the Kings Mountain police will be putting on extra officers for Halloween evening. The police are also offering tips for a safe and fun Halloween.

"It's a good idea to wear light colored costumes and stay in groups," said Capt. Houston Corn. "Only go to houses in your own neighborhood that have their porch lights on for trick or treaters. It's also a good idea to carry a flashlight on your trick or treat rounds. If anyone has any type of problem on Halloween, don't hesitate to call the police."

Children darting eagerly from house to house present a chance for an accident to happen. Highway safety tips for Halloween include making sure that children cross streets at crosswalks, never cross between parked cars, and look both ways before crossing the road.

The goal of trick or treating is to gather as much candy as possible. Unfortunately, the chance always exists that someone might want to turn a treat into a trick. Children should never take candy that isn't in its original, sealed wrapper. It's also a good idea to have an adult check all treats before they are eaten. If something should look suspicious, call the police.

Though some hospitals have offered to x-ray candy bags in the past, the Kings Mountain Hospital will not be doing so this year.

For parents a little leery about letting their children do the traditional door to door Halloween thing, there are several alternatives in the Kings Mountain area this year. Some local churches will be having fall festivals as an alternative to Halloween.

First Baptist Church in Kings Mountain will be holding a hallelujah carnival on October 31 from 6-8 pm. The carnival will feature food, and games with a Noah's Ark theme. There will also be a hayride. First Presbyterian in Kings

See Halloween, 3A



ALAN HODGE/THE HERALD
Fallston fire chief Gene Stinchcomb (left) works the Jaws of Life rescue tool while Shelby Rescue member Keith Strickland (right) looks on. The two were participating in Extrication '99 classes held at Auto Parts of Shelby to teach fire, emergency, and rescue teams advanced crash victim extrication methods.

Rescuers get hands-on experience at Extrication '99

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Rescue and emergency workers from across the nation gathered last weekend in Shelby for a seminar that could save your life. From classroom sessions at Shelby High School, to cutting open previously crashed cars at the Auto Parts of Shelby salvage yard, Extrication '99 crews honed the skills they need to get someone out of an accident damaged auto in the least amount of time possible.

Sponsored by Cleveland Community College, the Shelby Fire Department, and Cleveland County EMS, the seminar and field work featured emergency instructors from as far away as Santa Clara, California. Cleveland County was well represented at the gathering by

instructors Chris Poole of Fallston, and Chris Poston, Kevin Gordon, and Brent Gordon, all of Shelby. Also present was Cleveland County EMS training officer Lewis Jenkins.

The range of topics that Extrication '99 addressed ran the gamut of information needed by rescue workers. Classroom subjects included kinetics of trauma, extrication tools, vehicle stabilization, and new vehicle technology.

After spending time in the classroom, Extrication '99 crews went into the field for hands-on practice in getting folks out of crashed vehicles quickly and safely. Shuttled into the bowels of the huge Auto Parts of Shelby recycling graveyard, the field exercises included ten different crash simulations with

live and manikin occupants. Crews of rescue workers rotated between the stations to get the maximum education.

Suited up in their safety helmets and overalls, the crash extrication students used tools ranging from chains and wooden blocks to the latest in extrication technology to perform their jobs. One of the tool vendors present was Shelby-manufactured Hurst Jaws of Life.

"The Jaws of Life can exert up to 28,000 pounds of spreading force and 70,000 pounds of cutting force," said Hurst representative Carl Schaapman. "The jaws operate with 5,000 pounds of hydraulic pressure."

Though technology can work to the advantage of rescuers, it can also present problems as Extrication '99 instructor Assistant Chief Harold Pool

from Pensacola, Florida explained.

"The new cars have several features that make training sessions like this one very important," Pool said. "In some new cars the gas cylinders for air bags are located in door and roof pillars - places we used to be able to just cut away to get a victim out. Another problem area is the fact that batteries are being located under seats and even behind wheels. We often need to unhook a battery to disarm air bags and the places they are being put now makes the job difficult."

Everyone of the 150 EMS, fire, and rescue workers who attended Extrication '99 knew that one day, what they learned in the sea of crashed cars in Shelby would come in handy.

"The true test of this training

is when the crews actually have to use it to save a life," Pool said. "The crews are here to learn the fastest, safest way to get someone out of an accident scene."

Even though most of the Extrication '99 attendees were from Cleveland County, several came from other towns. Rick Cauthen made his way to Shelby from Beaver Lane, N.C.

"Extrication '99 is a good way to gain a wide range of experience in a two-day seminar," Cauthen said. "I can take what I've learned here back to Beaver Lane and share the knowledge with my co-workers."

No one knows when they may have need of the training that Extrication '99 provided. One thing that is knowable, however, is that the course will save many lives in Cleveland County and elsewhere.

Council, School Board elections Tuesday

Kings Mountain and Grover citizens will go to the polls Tuesday to elect mayors, city council members and two members to the Kings Mountain Board of Education.

Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. Election results will be tallied at the Cleveland County Board of Elections and posted at the Cleveland County Volunteer Fire Department in Shelby.

Unofficial election results will also be posted on the Internet at www.co.cleveland.nc.us.

Both Kings Mountain and Grover are assured of having new mayors. Kings Mountain Mayor Scott Neisler is not running for re-election, and Grover Mayor Max Rollins opted to run for one of the Town Council seats.

Neisler's decision not to run

again for mayor also assures that Kings Mountain will have new faces on the Council.

Current Council members Norma Bridges and Rick Murphrey are seeking the mayor's seat along with former Mayor Kyle Smith and Ted Chandler and PeeWee Hamrick.

Two people have an easy ride into the new Kings Mountain administration. Current Ward 3 Councilman Clavon Kelly is unopposed for his second term on Council; and former Councilman Dean Spears is running unopposed for the Ward 4 seat.

Gene White, the current Councilman representing Ward 4, is running for one of the two At-Large seats, along with incumbent Bob Hayes, Al Frank Brackett, Kenny Bridges, former Councilman William R.

Grissom, Curtis Pressley and Wayne Worcester.

Ward 1 Councilman Phillip Hager faces opposition from Rev. Howard H. Shipp.

In Ward 2, incumbent Jerry Mullinax faces the same two men he defeated two years ago, former Councilman Jim Guyton and Danny Navy.

There is a two-man race in Ward 5 between Jim Norris and Carl B. DeVane. That ward was assured a new representative when Murphrey elected to run for Mayor.

Current Councilman W.D. "Bill" Favell seeks the mayor's seat in Grover, along with former commissioner Robbie Sides. Bill Willis filed to run for the office but announced last week that he was withdrawing from the race. However, since ballots had already been printed,

his name will still appear.

Jack Herndon and Robert L. Hunt are running for two full-term Council seats, and current mayor Max Rollins and Chuck Potts are seeking an unexpired term which ends on December 1, 2001.

Incumbents Shearra Miller and B.S. "Sonny" Peeler are opposed by Stella N. Putnam for the two inside city seats on the Kings Mountain District Board of Education. Although the seats are designated as "inside city" seats, all voters living in the Kings Mountain School District may vote in this election.

Area polling sites are:

Bethweare - El Bethel United Methodist Church fellowship hall, 122 El Bethel Road.

Grover - Grover Town Hall, 207 Mulberry Road.

Kings Mountain #1 - Second Baptist Church, 120 Linwood Road.

Kings Mountain #2 - Kings Mountain Community Center, 208 N. Cleveland Avenue.

Kings Mountain #3 - National Guard Armory, 200 Phifer Rd.

Kings Mountain #4 - American Legion Post 155, 613 E. Gold St.

Oak Grove - Oak Grove Baptist Church fellowship hall, 1022 Oak Grove Rd.

Waco - Waco Town Hall, 200 A.W. Black St.

Bethweare/Oak Grove area voters are reminded that the Oak Grove precinct is new. It was formed from the precincts of Waco and Bethweare. Waco's polling place remains the same, but Bethweare's polling site has been changed to El Bethel United Methodist Church.

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