

# H. Patrick Lawrence Center offers unique activities

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Of The Herald Staff

While both senior centers in Cleveland County offer some of the same services, there are things available from only the

city-funded Kings Mountain facility.

One of the things unique to Kings Mountain's facility is a ceramics shop. Kings Mountain also has subsidized transportation.

To use the transportation, which is funded through a grant, a citizen must be 60 years old and a resident of the current Kings Mountain School District.

The center contracts with the

Transportation Administration of Cleveland County (TACC) for that service.

Transportation is an important service, Thornburg said.

"Transportation is a big need," he said. "You can have all the services in the world and a nice senior center, if you can't get there it's not going to do any good."

But the two centers do share some services.

Kings Mountain Aging Director said the Council on Aging and Kings Mountain share money for health screenings. With that money, the COA has four health fairs in the county, with one of them being in Kings Mountain.

"We're not competitors," Thornburg said. "We work really well together and we complement one another."

The COA Senior Center serves all of Cleveland County and the Kings Mountain Senior Center serves the KM school district.

But while health and transportation are common services which can be associated with Senior Centers, other services are also offered.

Tax assistance, nutrition, and legal services are part of the Patrick Center's offerings.

Thornburg said volunteers come in and do tax returns at no cost for seniors. Those are done by appointment only.

While an outside group also comes in and performs certain legal functions at no cost, staff at the center can also do certain legal tasks.

Thornburg can do power of attorney, living wills, and health care powers of attorney. He said the center also has access to notaries.

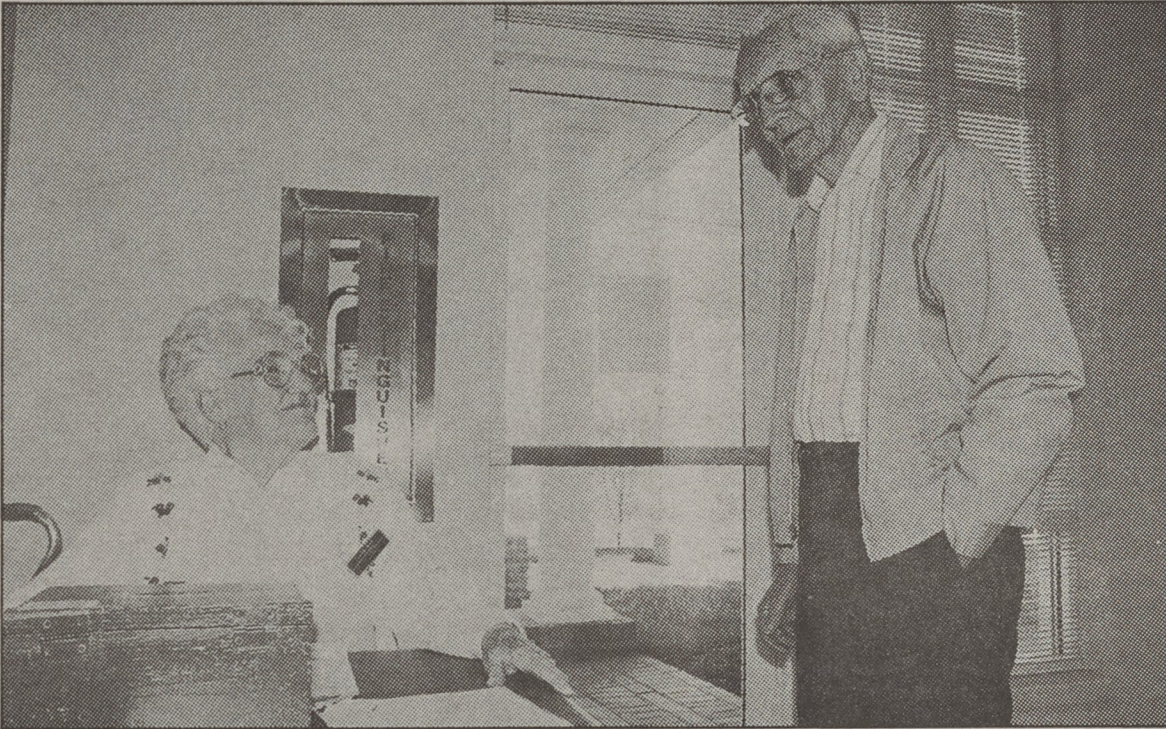
One of the center's seasonal programs is the Operation Cool-Off program, which consists of loaning fans to seniors during the summer. Thornburg said he also receives air conditioner donations also.

A program to help seniors with insurance questions, Seniors Health Insurance Program (SHIP), is another program offered at the Patrick Center.

The program trains volunteers to help seniors with their insurance problems such as Medicare and Medicaid. They also help seniors find a supplemental policy to fit their needs.

Carolyn Bell, at the Patrick Center, is a certified SHIP counselor.

See KM CENTER page 6



**BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD**  
Lucille Wells, left talks with Kenneth Kitzmiller at the Patrick Senior Center in Kings Mountain.

*The strength of  
a family's love*



*We see families come together to help each other through difficult times. We see the compassion. We see courage. We see the love. The strength of a family's love in*

*one of the most powerful forces in life. In these times we live in, strong families are vital to our community. Spend time with your family.*

**Carpenter's Funeral Home**

1100 E. Main St., Cherryville, NC  
704-435-6711 704-435-6848

Carroll Carpenter John Porter Edna Smith

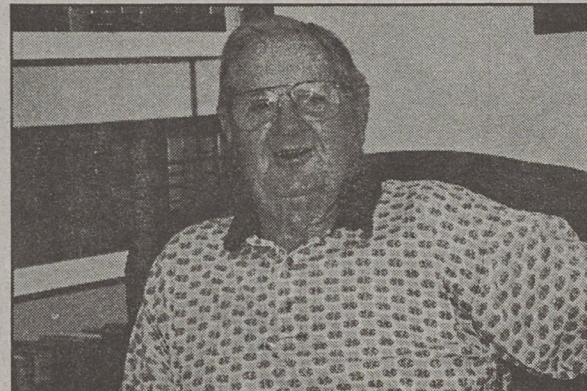
**Under New Management**

**SUMMIT PLACE**

assisted living

Managed by Beacon Communities

**Kings Mountain's Premiere  
Assisted Living Community**  
*Formerly Eden Gardens*



I am sure if you have visited Summit Place Assisted Living since 1998, you have met my sister-in-law Margaret Tate. She feels so secure at Summit Place and enjoys the many activities that are tailored to each resident's individual interests. She enjoys the meals and is always telling me, "if you want something special cooked, just tell them."

I have been pleased with the staff and the care they have given Margaret since she has been there.

- Thom A. Tate

Also Available

**"The Parks"**  
**Our Specialized Alzheimer's Unit**

1001 Phifer Road • Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
704-739-6772 • 1-800-795-7866