

CALDWELL

From 1A

Mountain firemen and was told he'd have to wait until he was 18. Caldwell asked former KM Fire Chief Gene Tignor to put him on the volunteer list but when Caldwell reached his 18th birthday there were no vacancies on the Kings Mountain Fire Department.

Some young people might have given up on their dreams but not Johnnie. He talked with former Kings Mountain Rescue Squad Chief Delbert Dixon and joined the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad in 1968, although the dream of his life was to fight fire. At 19 Caldwell joined the Kings Mountain Fire Department as a rookie and stayed on the Rescue Squad for 10 years.

He will never forget his first call to a wreck scene. A bus and car hit in the middle of busy East King Street and the bus landed in the woods on what is now Canterbury Road. There were a number of injuries. Caldwell was asked to ride in the ambulance with one of the wreck victims to the hospital. "I had never seen anyone so torn up, bleeding and gasping for breath and there I was a young fella who could only be with him and pray," he said.

But Caldwell also has a lot of good memories of his service with both the Rescue Squad and Fire Department.

Caldwell just turned the big 50 on September 2. He celebrated with his family, a priority for him. He is married to Diane Baity Caldwell and they will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary December 20. They reside on Somerset Drive in Kings Mountain. Their family includes three children: Eddie and Doreen Parker and John and Mistee Caldwell, all of Kings Mountain, and Kim Hanline of Fort Pierce, Fla. There are five grandchildren: Kristen and McKenzie Parker, Brandi Davis, Stephen Hanline and 16-month-old Noah Caldwell.

Johnnie is the son of John and Mildred Childers Caldwell and grandson of Ethel Childers, all of the El Bethel Community, and the late J.E. Childers and the late Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Caldwell, all of Kings Mountain. He has one brother, David Caldwell, of Kings Mountain.

Johnnie graduated from Kings Mountain High School in 1970 and while in school he worked at Cooper Furniture. He attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and

earned his associate degree from Cleveland Community College. He is a city mail carrier for the Bessemer City Post Office with 29 years service. He is also active in Oak View Baptist Church where he is an usher, directs the sound system and is assistant Baptist Training Union Director.

He is active on the Cleveland County Haz-Mat Team and the Cleveland County Arson Strike Team and serves as secretary-treasurer of the Cleveland County Training Officers Association. He recently attended Fire College at Cleveland Community College with 520 firefighters. New York City fireman Dan Baron was guest speaker and related the horror of 9/11 in which 14 of his fellow firemen at Station 4 lost their lives. Baron, off duty at the time, was on his way to report for duty when the second World Trade Center tower was hit and got to his station just before it fell to help with recovery efforts.

Caldwell trains on the average of 200 hours a year, likes to keep updated on the latest in firesaving techniques and equipment.

He is a certified American Heart Association CPR and Automatic External Defibrillator Instructor, North Carolina Certified Emergency Medical Technician Instructor, North Carolina Certified Firefighter Level I and II Instructor, Certified Emergency Medical Technician, Certified Firefighter Level II, the highest firefighter certification offered in North Carolina; Certified Fire/Arson Investigator, Certified Hazardous Materials Level I, and Certified Emergency Vehicle Driver.

He is also a member in good standing with the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, The International Association of Arson Investigators, and The North Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

No one was more excited than Caldwell at the opening September 25 of the new satellite Jacob Hord No. 2 fire station in West Kings Mountain. The \$702,000 handsome facility was dedicated at a ribbon cutting and open house September 28 and serves the west side of the city, the Southwoods and high school area.

Johnnie Caldwell's volunteer firefighting career started off with his dream as a boy to ride the big red fire truck. Now that dream has become a labor of love.

ing. Moretz said that 95 percent of this cost will be shouldered by DOT.

Moretz praised city officials and management for "paying for projects as we go." He said that two 36 inch water line extensions will be paid for without bonds.

Moretz said that final construction is underway on Phase I of a sewer project on Gold Street Extension behind CVS Pharmacy.

STATION

From 1A

plete with a large TV, bedrooms to accommodate up to nine firemen, office and storage space, and rest rooms.

The fire department began staffing the facility last Tuesday night. Paid firemen will rotate their schedules between the substation and KMF, which is located at City Hall.

Burns said the opening of the station is the culmination of a long dream by the city. Firemen worked on their own time to help with landscaping and installing an irrigation system to keep the cost down, he said.

"Last September 11 changed a lot of things in regard to fire protection," Burns said, referring to the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, DC. "We're proud to have this facility on the west side of town so we can better serve our citizens."

Mayor Rick Murphrey called the new station "a great day for the city of Kings Mountain." Five of the seven city council members, including Dean Spears, Jim Guyton, Clavon Kelly, Rick Moore and Carl DeVane, were on hand for the ceremony along with

county and state representatives.

Murphrey pointed out that KMF is in its 71st year and has grown from one truck and a handful of volunteer firemen to seven full-time, four part-time and 25 volunteer firemen. The fleet now includes three engine fire trucks, one ladder truck, three brush trucks and one light truck.

"The fire department has continued to serve the city well during this time," he said. "We have doubled our square miles and one of our main objectives in building this substation was to have adequate fire protection for all of our citizens, and also to reduce the response time on this side of town."

"Our fire department is committed to excellence," he added. "When the alarm goes off the never hesitate to risk their own lives to protect the property and lives of others. They are the very best and we're proud of all of them."

Ken Newell of Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects, who designed the building, called the new department one of the most "first-class" facilities in the state.

"This station should serve Kings Mountain well for many years to come," he said.

REQUEST

From 1A

Larry Smith spoke against the rezoning from residential to conditional use at Tuesday's meeting but Scism said all his immediate neighbors, most of whom are relatives, support the idea. Scism and his wife own a home beside the store building in which Scism operates Kings Mountain Urns.

Childers said the planning board expressed concerns about the rezoning since the property is currently zoned residential with a non conforming use and the area is residential and agricultural.

Scism said his father, the late Raymond Scism, owned and operated a grocery store at the site for 50 years. One former industry, across the road from the Scism site, is closed.

"A crematorium is a service that people fear but many people are using this service because of the economy and because cemeteries are running out of space," said Scism, who said funeral services are not included in his plans for the crematorium. The free standing metal building would be built a the back of the 150x200 foot lot with parking spaces in the front of the building. The building would include a small office, a viewing room with a plexiglass window overlooking the crematory where a family could observe the process. Estimated cost of the new construction, including the state of the art equipment, is \$150,000.

Scism said he observed the Power Pack II Cremation System he wants to install in operation in Hudson, Florida. The equip-

WATER

From 1A

horse" to start on the project immediately until a new water line from the water plant at Moss Lake to the city is completed. Two phases of the water line project have been completed with city officials paying "as they go" and no bond money required. But Ollis said with the sluggish economy and with the cutoff of state funds to municipalities that phase 3 of the water line project could take longer to complete. "We can't get more than eight million gallons to town now and if we complete only a mile of pipe a year that could take about five years," he said this week. Kings Mountain is running a 36 inch line from the Kings Mountain water plant to Kings Mountain, seven miles from the lake.

If Shelby, as it proposes, runs a 36 inch line to the Big Broad, Southwest of Shelby, that is approximately 11 miles," says Moretz.

"Shelby is wise to begin looking at alternative sources for water because their flow is not sufficient to cover the future," said Moretz. "Kings Mountain built Moss Lake in the 1960s and exceeded our needs at the time but where would we have been without the lake during this severe drought?"

Ollis said this area has already seen more rain in September in four years and this is the fifth year of the drought. With recent rain, Moss Lake is up about three inches but the rain fell and ground just "sucked it in," he said. The lake was down four feet, seven inches, he said.

Ollis said he visited sev-

eral areas during the severe drought conditions and looked at the First Broad and said "it was scary."

Ollis, recognized as the water authority for the City of Kings Mountain with 25 1/2 years experience, says Kings Mountain has proven that it can put in a line into the Cleveland County District and supply water to its neighbors at any given time. He said the Cleveland County Sanitary District has more options for water than any of the other providers in the county. "Shelby has two options in my opinion, the Big Broad and Kings Mountain."

Moretz said that currently the city has three connections on the county system. "Because Shelby needed water we first started pumping one million gallons and then two million when we put in an eight inch line along the creek from Copeland Industries," he said. "We are planning an expansion of our treatment plant but at this time we could not take care of all water Shelby needs."

Moretz said Kings Mountain has one booster station on Highway 74 across the road from Crocker Ridge Road pumping water from the plant to the booster station and the rest of the way to town to the storage tank. Moving water from Point A to Point B would require another booster station.

Ollis said the average flow of water from the water plant in September was a little over four million gallons a day. Kings Mountain customers and Grover use approximately five million gallons. The city's treatment plant can treat eight million gallons of water a day.

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CITY

From 1A

at Moss Lake is approximately seven miles from town.

Other projects on the drawing board, some of which are in design stage, include:

+Design of a 16-inch water line on Kings Mountain Boulevard. These improvements are on the same side of the road as the new Kings Mountain Intermediate School and run from 74 Business to Phifer Road.

+A 36 inch water line from Cansler Street to Oak Grove Road. This line will run off the end of a 16 inch line across the 74 Bypass and connect to the end of a 12 inch line on the South side of US 74 (Countryside Road.)

+Pioneer Utilities of Gastonia is the low bidder for sewer main extensions on Floyd and Second Streets. Cost of the Floyd Street extension is \$162,534.90 and will serve the new Blachford RF Corporation which has relocated to 707 Broadview to manufacture a wide range of highly engineered floor covering. Cost of the Second Street extension is \$24,612.50.

+Development of a utility plan for relocation of utilities at Highway 161 and Interstate 85 interchange because of Department of Transportation restructur-

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A part of life

The end of life is a part of lie. As people, we go through our lives with the knowledge that a lifetime doesn't last forever. This knowledge is probably our greatest fear. Most of us just avoid the subject at all costs and live with the fear. As funeral directors we have to face it head on. As a result we are released from the fear. Life is a beautiful thing. There's nothing to fear. Just like the seasons of the year, autumn turns to winter but spring always follows.

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