



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD
Johnsie Reavis, treasurer of the Southern Arts Society, accepts the check from Mary Anne Hendricks, the first person to donate to the fund to renovate the depot. Pat Childers, fundraising chair of the Southern Arts Society, looks on. The three women are standing in front of the design for the new Kings Mountain Arts Center, which will be located in the depot.

DEPOT

From 1A

floor will be hardwood, although a couple of areas will have to have tile. The building will be painted with Victorian-era colors. "This is one of the best things that could come to Kings Mountain," said Reavis. "It is truly exciting. I'm looking forward to what we can do for the community. It's been a dream, and it's coming true. By bits and pieces, it's coming true." The depot will be open to the public as an art center once it is completed. People will be able to come and look at the galleries and learn about art. "A lot of people don't like art unless it looks like a picture, and some art doesn't," said Childers. She said she hopes the center will help foster an appreciation of art in Kings Mountain citizens. Reavis said she hopes the depot will appeal to the railroad buffs in town, as well. "We think we'll see them down there. We encourage them to come and see the changes," she said. Many of the remnants of the depot are still there. For example, the old bay window, which was used to watch for trains, is still there. "Everyone has some kind of memory of the railroad and depot," said Reavis. She said some people still remember coming to the depot to see soldiers off during wars. Southern Railway quit using the depot in the late 1960s. In the mid-1970s, the depot was converted into a senior center under the direction of John Henry Moss, who was mayor at the time.

throughout the year. The workshops will be run by volunteers from the art society. "We're all volunteers. There's no one that is paid," said Childers. "It will remain that way." The Southern Arts Society members have explored all types of art, said Childers. Most of the members do water media more than any other type of painting, although a few enjoy working with pastels, oil, and collage, as well. Reavis and Childers said they enjoy water colors the most since oil takes so long to dry, but they have experimented in all the different media. Children tend to enjoy collage more than any other type of art, said Reavis. Several of the members also enjoy pottery, which is why the group hopes to invest in a potter's wheel and a kiln for the pottery studio soon. The pottery studio is already cleaned up and available for the group members to use for their meetings. They began to use the building in February. The society is asking for donations in order to help fund the renovation project. One hundred percent of the money donated will go to the project, said Childers. "It's going to be just wonderful for kids. Uppermost in our plans is the children," said Reavis. Both she and Childers have grandchildren who love to paint, she said. She said that she has watched many elementary age children paint. "They love to paint, but they don't get to do it as long as they would like," said Reavis. "Maybe we can help in that area." She said she has seen the work of the high school art students, as well. "They are good," she said. The Southern Arts Society gives scholarships to students from every school in the county who want to go to art school. In fact, the

society has never turned down one child who has asked for help to go to art school, said Reavis. The society has even put some adults through art school. One woman was a single parent who wanted to become an art teacher but could not afford the school. The society was able to provide scholarships for her. The society also tells the scholarship recipients each year that if they get to college and need financial help, they can call the society. The students usually write letters and come back to visit the society, said Reavis. "We are paid back just by their thankfulness," she said. "It's worth everything. It's just great." She said she wishes that more organizations would give scholarships. She acknowledged that several civic groups in the area give general scholarships, but none of them focus on one particular area of study, she said. "We would love to have it open by September," said Reavis. However, the society will only be able to work with the money they have. If donations come in quickly, they will be able to work much faster.

City reports sewage spill

The City of Kings Mountain had a sewer spill Friday on Crocker Road between Beason Creek and El Bethel Road. According to Dennis Wells of the Kings Mountain Water and Sewer Department, approximately 5,100 gallons spilled into a drainage ditch when a 10-inch force main ruptured, but did not make it into Beason Creek. City staff repaired the line and the system is now flowing properly, Wells said.

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WHITE

From 1A

In 1974, White took a political science class at Cleveland Tech and met some officers, who encouraged him to get involved in the reserves. Although he did not apply to be in the reserves until 1976, he was intrigued by the idea. He said he has now worked under six police chiefs. "I've enjoyed helping out the city," he said. Usually one or two reserves work at a time at the main police department, and three are usually stationed at Moss Lake, he said. Both Shelby and Cleveland County have reserves, as well. "They're something the city can't do without," he said. White said he enjoys the people that he works with at the police department more than any other part of the job. He said he also enjoys meeting the different people who come through the police department. "You meet a whole lot of different people. Some you can help. Some you can't," he said. Now that he is retired, White enjoys spending time with his two grandsons: Dustin, age 2, and Christopher, age 8. Both live in Kings Mountain and spend a lot of time with him. White met his wife, Shirley, in high school. They were part of the first class to graduate from the new Kings Mountain High School in 1969. They got married in 1970. The couple has two kids: Scott White, who lives in Polkville, and Sharon Parker, who lives in town. White said he sees his kids two or three times each week. He and his wife have been married for 32 years. "I don't love nobody else," he said. "My wife kept me going and all." He said he appreciates the support his wife has shown him through the years. For the last few years before he retired, he had to drive to Greensboro each morning, meaning that he spent four hours on the road

each day. His wife worked for the government full time and still found time to do the cooking and the cleaning when she got home. In 1971, White was drafted into the army and spent 11 months in Vietnam. Although he has been safely at home for over 30 years, he said he is still haunted by the memories of his time in the war. "I seen a lot of stuff over there," he said. "It was something you'll never forget." With the recent conflicts in the world, White said that he feels for the people who have been sent overseas to fight. "I feel for the people over there," he said. "You really don't know what you're getting into." Although his time in Vietnam was difficult, White said that he would defend his country again if he was needed. "I went to serve my country, and if they called me today and asked me to serve again, I would go. I'm sure that's why they [soldiers overseas right now] are there, too." White is the son of Raeford, Sr. and Frances White, who still live in Kings Mountain. His wife's parents still live in Kings Mountain, as well. His sister, Lori Henderson, lives here also. Henderson was born while White was serving in Vietnam, making them 20 years apart in age. Mr. and Mrs. White attend Kings Mountain Baptist Church. White serves as a deacon and as a member of the building and personnel committees at the church. He said his parents always took him to church as a child, but he stopped going for a while. Six or seven years ago, he decided to come back to church, he said. "If people'd go to church, it'd be a whole lot better world," he said. He said he has seen a lot of people who could benefit from church during his time on the reserves. He said the church has also helped him deal with all that he experienced during Vietnam. White's hobbies include deer-hunting, fishing, and playing in the church league volleyball game.

MANAGER

From 1A

national trade publications and has had 69 people apply. Although no one already employed by the city has applied, many applicants with a wide range of skill levels have shown interest in the job. The applicants have been from all over the United States and have anywhere from zero to several years of experience. Whoever is chosen will need to have utility experience. Kings Mountain is one in eight cities in North Carolina that sells four utilities. The Council has indicated that they

would like to have a North Carolina person, preferably from this area, take the position, said Murphrey. Good communication skills are also a priority for the job since the city manager deals with so many people in the course of a day. The applicant screening began on February 4 and will continue for as long as it takes to choose a person for the job. In other business, the Council voted unanimously to approve a budget amendment in the water and sewer fund in the amount of \$45,000 for the Compact School Road water line extension. The city will be reimbursed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the project.

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