

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

MRA to build 50,000 square foot plant in Kings Mountain

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

A Michigan company announced last week it will build a 50,000 square foot facility in Kings Mountain.

MRA Industries, a machine components manufacturer, will start construction on the project this month, according to president Eric Wold.

Kings Mountain officials are excited

about the announcement.

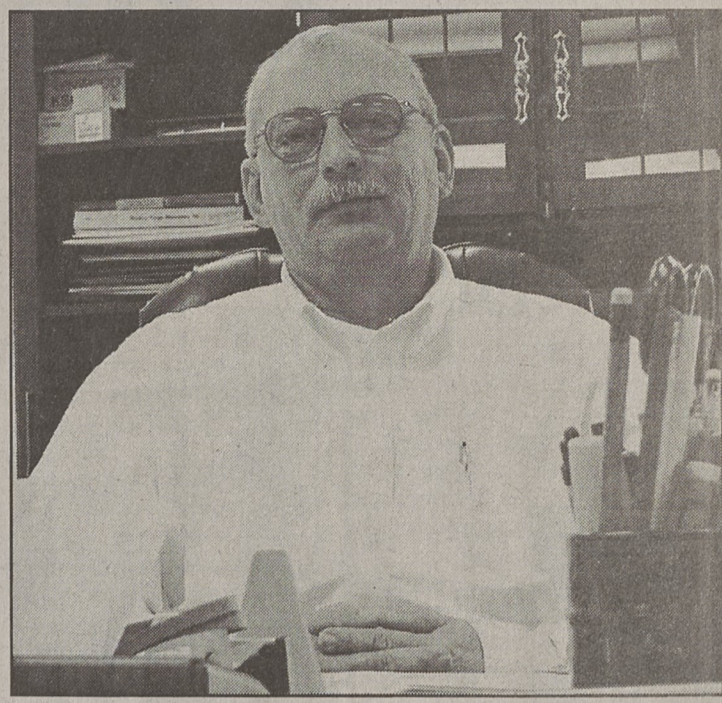
"We again thank MRA Industries for their investment and confidence in our business environment. We are very proud to have such an elite company to join our industrial community," Mayor Rick Murphrey said.

The plant will be built on a seven-acre parcel in the Cleveland County Industrial Park. Officials say construction will be complete by April 2004.

Matthews Construction of Conover will build the plant and Binswanger CBB of Charlotte will manage the project.

The company makes components for the automotive and powertrain industries. They supply original equipment manufacturers and their tier one suppliers.

MRA is a division of Anderson-Cook Incorporated.



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Jackie Barnette at work in his office at Public Works.

CEO Young hopes to change public perception of hospital

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain Hospital CEO John Young wants to tell everyone he meets about additions at the hospital.

Young has been visiting civic and church groups and other community organizations to talk about the hospital's \$8 million expansion.

Young says he hopes to change public perception of the hospital as somewhere people go when there are no other options. He believes the new additions will attract more doctors and patients.

State officials gave the hospital the

go ahead on the addition two weeks ago. Construction is slated to begin in January. The project will take an estimated 18 months. Both the surgery and emergency departments will be renovated.

The emergency department will be tripled or quadrupled. The general and ambulance entranceways will be completely separate. The emergency parking area will be enlarged also.

The hospital plans to expand its physical therapy department at a cost of \$500,000. A circular front drive will be glassed in. The administrative offices which are now on the second

floor above the front drive will become part of physical therapy. Officials have not determined where administration will be located.

The hospital is seeking a benefactor to fund a fountain in front of what will be a new main entrance facing King Street.

KMH also hopes to add a \$3.2 million MRI scanner. State officials are now considering the request. KMH is competing with CaroMont Health in Gastonia to build that unit. A decision will be reached by late February.

To schedule a presentation by Young, call 704-730-5400.

Katie's Small Wonders opens day care in Kings Mountain

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

For cousins Lynn Slycord and Shannon Greene, childcare is a family business. The two opened Katie's Small Wonders day care Monday.

They began remodeling the former Country Meadows Childcare in June, painting walls, replacing floor coverings and installing a new playground.

Katie's Small Wonders is named after Slycord's 14-month old daughter Katie. She was the inspiration for the center. After Slycord's older son Josh was born, she hesitantly returned to work but dreamed of opening her own center. After returning to work after Katie's birth, she felt the same dream. This time it came true.

Greene has two children also, Cody and Jordyan.

"We want to run this place like it's our children we're taking care of. We're picky moms," Greene said.

Slycord will run the business portion of the day care while Greene will manage the childcare program. Slycord has five years of office management experience at both Quality Hardwood Framers and McNeely Champion in Lawndale.

Greene worked for seven years in childcare though the Department of Defense while her husband served in the Navy. She is finishing up her early childhood education degree at Gaston College.

The two talked with the



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Cousins Lynn Slycord (left) and Shannon Greene have opened Katie's Small Wonders Day Care.

Herald last week. At that time, five children were enrolled. The seven-member staff was eager for Monday.

"We are so looking forward to the kids," Slycord said.

The center will serve children six weeks through five years old.

Slycord's daughter helped hire the employees. Potential workers were introduced to her. How they interacted demonstrated care giving skills.

"You have to be able to get on the children's level," Green said. "It takes a special person to work with children."

They looked for workers who will sit in the floor to read books, play with the children and generally enjoy their charges.

"Children learn through their environment, interactions with the people around them," Greene said. "We want a positive place where children can explore and learn about the world

around them."

The family based program will include prayer and Bible stories.

The center received a superior health rating and is licensed by the Department of Child Development. They accept DSS childcare vouchers. The center is open Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Katie's Small Wonders is located on El Bethel Road. For more information, call 704-734-4746.

Christmas party set at KM senior center

The annual Senior Center Christmas party will be held Friday, Dec. 9 from 2-4 p.m. in conference rooms I and II of the H. Lawrence Patrick

Senior Life and Conference Center in Kings Mountain.

Special entertainment will be provided and refreshments will be served. Door

prizes will be awarded. For more information call

the Patrick Center at 734-0447.

Lil Bit O' Magic
Web Site Development
Computer Repair
704-739-1105
gary@lbn.net
lbn.net
"Everyone Needs A Lil Bit O' Magic"

"HOME. AUTO. LIFE. ME."
TALK TO A REAL, LIVE PERSON WHO'S IN THE SAME PHONE BOOK AS YOU.
308 E. King Street
Kings Mountain, NC
Ric Francis
704.739.1820
Allstate. You're in good hands.
Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Allstate Indemnity Company and Allstate Life Insurance Company. Home Office: Northbrook, Illinois. © 2002 Allstate Insurance Company.

Jackie Barnette is Roads Scholar

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

After five years of continuing education, Kings Mountain's public works director has earned the designation Advanced Roads Scholar.

Jackie Barnette has attended classes in storm water drainage, detention basin design, communication, trenching, flag instructor training, geosynthetics, the Americans with Disabilities Act, management and supervision, tort liability and writing skills.

"It helps me better my knowledge of the job and serve the citizens better," he said.

Barnette is one of 39 public works professionals across the state to have completed the coursework.

Eight city workers have completed basic Roads Scholar training. Some of that coursework includes asphalt pavement maintenance, technology and inspection, excavation safe-

ty, maintenance and repair of utility cuts, snow and ice control, soil fundamentals, vegetation management and work zone safety.

Barnette also holds the basic Roads Scholar certification.

The program is a joint effort of the state Technology Transfer Center and N.C. State University. Classes were held in Raleigh, Asheville, Hickory and Charlotte.

Barnette has served as public works director since 1996. He first came on board with the city in 1985 as garage superintendent.

The Kings Mountain native enjoys riding his 1500 Kawasaki Vulcan in toy runs and to the mountain and beach.

Read your hometown local newspaper weekly.

CHRISTMAS TREES
CHOOSE AND CUT
4' to 10' Virginia Pine, Leyland Cypress, Red Cedar, Carolina Sapphire
Prices Starting at \$10.00
Also Fresh Wreaths, Red Velvet Bows
Opening Thanksgiving Day
8:00am til 5:30pm
Thurs., Nov. 27 Fri., Dec. 5
Fri., Nov. 28 Sat., Dec. 6
Sat., Nov. 29 Sun., Dec. 7
Sun., Nov. 30
HWY. 55 CHRISTMAS TREE FARM
Take Hwy 161 toward York, then take Hwy. 55 West at McGill's Store, 3 miles to Farm • (803) 222-2025

The Herald
Published every Thursday
Periodicals postage at Kings Mountain, NC 28086
USPS 118-880 by Republic Newspapers, Inc.
Postmaster, send address changes to:
P. O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Phone (704) 739-7496 • Fax (704) 739-0611
Office: 824-1 East King Street • Kings Mountain, NC 28086
E-mail: kmhnews@aol.com
Mike Blanton.....Publisher
Gary Stewart.....Editor
Andie Brymer.....Staff Writer
Lisa Upton.....Advertising Representative
Shelley Campbell.....Composition Manager
Mail Subscription Rates
Payable in Advance. All Prices include 6% NC State Sales Tax.
Gaston & Cleveland County 1 Year \$27.00 6 Months \$17.50
Other NC Counties \$28.50 \$19.25
Outside NC \$33.50 \$21.25
Republic Newspapers, Inc.
NATIONAL NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION Member North Carolina Press Association