

GARDEN

Trees in memory of Margaret Tate

Three crepe myrtle trees have been planted in the City of Kings Mountain's Cherokee Street public parking area memorializing charter Open Gate Garden Club member Margaret S. Tate.

A small sign marks the island which is planted in memory of Mrs. Tate.

The club took the parking lot on as a project in 1990 with Ethel McGinnis chairing the committee. Other committee members included Annie B. Roberts, Linda Rome, Kathleen Walker and Audrey Dickey. Phyllis Carpenter now chairs the committee.

Originally the committee along with President Selena Trott had flowers blooming in the parking lot islands though the weeding and watering became too much for the club.

Members have crepe myrtle planted each year and plan to continue until all

islands have trees.

Prior to the project, large orange dumpsters filled the lot. Area merchants agreed to purchase roll out trash containers which the city agreed to pick up daily.

The club was honored in 1992 by the Garden Clubs of North Carolina and by the City of Kings Mountain for beautifying the area.

The club sponsors a booth at the Cleveland County Fair and the Kings Mountain Woman's Club Fall Festival floral show. Several blue ribbons have been awarded through the years.

The club started over 50 years ago. The 19 members share hostess and programming duties for meetings. Program topics have included flowers, trees, recycling, butterflies and the Department of Transportation wild flower project.



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Margie Bridges and Betty Alexander, front, and Jessie Collins, back, with trees planted in memory of Margaret Tate.

TIPS

From 2B

*Annual herbs can be harvested until frost.

*Perennial herbs can be clipped until late August. Stop harvesting about one month before the frost date. Late pruning could encourage tender growth that cannot harden-off before winter.

*Harvest tarragon or lavender flowers in early summer and then shear the plants to half their height to encourage a second flowering period in the fall.

Preserving Herbs

Herbs acquire their fragrance and flavor from oils that evaporate into the air when the leaves are crushed. Ideally, you should use fresh herbs for cooking, but it is possible to retain some quality for later use. There are several methods to preserve herbs.

Freezing is one of the easiest methods to preserve herbs. Rinse the herbs quickly in cold water, shake off the excess, then chop coarsely. Place generous pinches of herbs in water-filled ice cube trays and freeze. Transfer herb-cubes to plastic bags or air tight plastic containers. Another method for freezing is to spread the herbs loosely onto a cookie sheet to

freeze, then transfer the herbs into a large plastic bag and seal. When they thaw, herbs will not be suitable for garnish, but can be used in cooking. Do not re-freeze herbs after thawing.

Drying is the traditional method of herb preservation. If the herbs are clean, do not wet them. Otherwise, rinse dust and dirt from the foliage, shake off the excess water, and spread the herbs out to dry on paper towels or dishcloths until all surface moisture has evaporated. Remove any dead or damaged foliage. Then, tie the stems into small bundles with twine or string and hang them upside down in a warm, dry, airy place out of the sun. Be sure to make small, loose bundles and allow for good air circulation around each bunch.

UV rays from the sun and moisture from dew and frost can discolor and severely reduce the quality of many herbs. Thus, it is best to dry herbs indoors in a large empty closet, attic, or unused corner of a room. Drying herbs look quite attractive drying in a kitchen or pantry. If none of these places are practical, herbs can be dried in a barn, shed, or (least desirable) under the cover of a porch. Sage, thyme, summer savory, dill, and parsley are easy to dry. Basil, tarragon, and mints

may mold and discolor if not dried quickly.

An alternative to hanging herbs to dry in bunches is to spread the herbs out on window screens. Suspend the screens over sawhorses or the backs of chairs. Turn the leaves often to ensure even drying.

To air dry herbs with seeds, tie the herbs in small bundles and suspend inside a paper bag with holes punched in the sides. Suspend the bag in a dark area with good air circulation. Collect the seeds when they are dry, and store in rigid light-proof containers.

Microwave drying is a quick and easy method to dry small amounts of herbs. Lay a single layer of clean, dry leaves between dry paper towels and place them in the microwave for 1 to 2 minutes on high power. Drying will vary with the moisture content of the herb and the wattage of the microwave oven. Let the leaves cool. If they are not

brittle, reheat for 30 seconds and retest. Repeat as needed. Thick leaved herbs may need to be air dried for several days before microwaving.

Conventional ovens can also be used to dry herbs. Spread the herbs on cookie sheets and dry at the lowest temperature setting possible. Home food dehydrators also do an excellent job of drying herbs. Follow the directions provided with the dehydrator.

Herbs are sufficiently dry when they are brittle and crumble easily. When the leaves are dry, separate them from their stems and package the leaves in rigid containers with tight fitting lids. Glass or hard plastic are best, although heavy-duty zip-lock plastic bags can be used. To preserve full flavor, avoid crushing the leaves until you are ready to use them. Store dried herbs in a cool, dry place away from sunlight, moisture, and heat. Many herbs can be kept for a year if stored properly.

HERBS

From 1B

Germander, lavender and green and grey santillina can be coaxed into knot gardens. These are best viewed from a second story porch or other elevated location. Pennyroyal and rue are

natural pesticides. Rue planted beside roses can reduce aphids.

Some gardeners create themed gardens with their herbs. Often culinaries are planted together. Other groupings include tea, bee and butterfly attracting, apothecary and herbs mentioned by Shakespeare.

FOOD INSPECTIONS

Cleveland County Health Department inspected the following food-handling facilities during the week ending April 23.

**Denotes 2 extra points when an employee attended an approved food-handling course.

Restaurants

- AMF Shelby Lanes, E. Dixon Blvd., 96.5
- Burger King, E. Dixon Blvd., 94**
- Curveview Quick Stop, Fallston Rd., 86.6**
- Drewery's Grill, Polkville Rd., 90.
- Carousel Ice Cream, Cleveland Mall, 98.5
- Hallelujah Acres Cafe, S. Post Rd., 95.
- Hardees, Boiling Springs, 95**
- KFC/Taco Bell, Boiling Springs, 98**
- Nakata Japanese Steakhouse, E. Dixon Blvd., 90.
- McDonalds, Shelby Rd., Kings Mountain, 95.5**
- Patellis Pizza, S. Lafayette St., 96.5.
- Red Wok Express, E. Grover St., 95

RR Stores Inc., Bethlehem Rd., Kings Mountain, 95.5.

- Riverbend Snack Bar, Longwood Dr., 98.
- Sonic Drive-In, Earl Rd., 93.5.
- Southern Charm Rest., Stony Point Rod, 99.
- Southern Style Rest., Fallston Rd., 99**
- Stateline Grocery, S. Lafayette St., 93.5.
- Subway, E. College Ave., 98.
- Subway, York Rd., Kings Mountain, 96**
- Subway, KM Truck Stop, Kings Mountain, 98.5.
- The Diner, Dixon School Rd., Kings Mountain, 95.5.

Food stands

- Fastop Market, E. Dixon Blvd., 90.
- Foothills Buffet Style, Casar Rd., 96.
- Mooresboro Quick Stop, 95.
- One Stop, E. Dixon Blvd., 98.
- One Stop, Fallston Rd., 96.
- One Stop, W. Dixon Blvd., 98
- White's Kitchen, Casar-Lawndale Rd., 98**



ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD
Kings Mountain resident Elaine Ross talks with City Councilman Howard Shipp during customer appreciation day last Thursday. Council members, the mayor and employees served refreshments to the public in the city hall lobby and gave away letter openers and shoe shine kits.

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ALL CHILDREN AGES 8-12 ARE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER. ESSAYS MAY BE HAND WRITTEN OR TYPED. ESSAYS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5PM MONDAY MAY 3 AT ARNOLD'S JEWELRY, 226 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, SHELBY, NC 28150. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, YOUR MOM'S FULL NAME AND A DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER.

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